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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Good News You Can Use • July 4, 2024 • Vol. 10, No. 7 • Canton, Mississippi

## Nissan's support of Mississippi's Historically Black Colleges and Universities STEM programs reaches \$2.5 million



All photos Special to The Canton News

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For the tenth consecutive year, Nissan has contributed to STEM-focused programming at Mississippi's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Continuing its long-time support of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Nissan is donating \$250,000 to Mississippi's seven HBCUs to further STEM education. Since launching the Mississippi HBCU STEM Initiative in 2014, Nissan has invested a total of \$2.5 million to support and encourage innovative program development that serves Mississippi HBCU students, helping to build the tech workforce of the future.

"It's our privilege to support Mississippi's HBCUs as they prepare a new generation to take on the STEM challenges and opportunities of tomorrow," said Chandra Vasser, vice president and chief diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) officer, Nissan Americas, and an HBCU alumnus. "Many of Nissan's Can-

ton employees are graduates of a Mississippi HBCU and are helping to shape the future of our business. We're proud to support the schools that have prepared them to make a positive impact, not only within our company, but within the communities we serve."

The seven HBCUs receiving a Nissan donation are Alcorn State University, Coahoma Community College, Hinds Community College - Utica Campus, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Rust College and Tougaloo College. Among the funded projects are:

- Alcorn State University Applied Sciences Programs and Robotics and Automation Technology Enhancements, a two-part project that provides STEM learning opportunities for middle and high school students, including STEM camps and robotics competitions, that build interest and skills in technical career pathways and advancements to robotics laboratories.

- Jackson State University Student Robotics Lab and Program, a dedicated space for students to engage in activities related to robotics and advancing technologies. Activities in the lab support senior design projects, competition preparation and student innovations.

- Tougaloo College STEM Pipeline Project, an initiative to create a pathway to educate and strengthen pre-college and college students' knowledge of advanced technology and innovation. Key activities include a research symposium, STEM workshop, and summer science and engineering program.

"As an alumnus of Alcorn State University, I am especially proud to be a Nissan employee today," said Victor Taylor, vice president, manufacturing, Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant. "I was well prepared by my alma mater to take on a STEM career in the automotive industry and to advance Nissan's vehicle electrification endeavors. HB-

CU's are a major pipeline of talent for us, and we're thrilled to support the STEM learning opportunities they offer their student body."

For more than two decades, employees at Nissan Canton have assembled high-quality, award-winning vehicles. The plant's opening in 2003 brought automotive manufacturing to Mississippi for the first time, and has since contributed to the state's economic development. Building on that rich history, Nissan Canton is undergoing a transformation to become a center of U.S. EV manufacturing that will bring all-new, all-electric models to the U.S. market.

Nissan Canton has become a central institution in Mississippi, creating more than 25,000 jobs statewide, contributing more than \$20 million to local nonprofit organizations and logging more than 12,000 volunteer hours to help build stronger communities.

The plant employs more than 5,000 people and currently produces the Nissan Altima, Frontier and TITAN.



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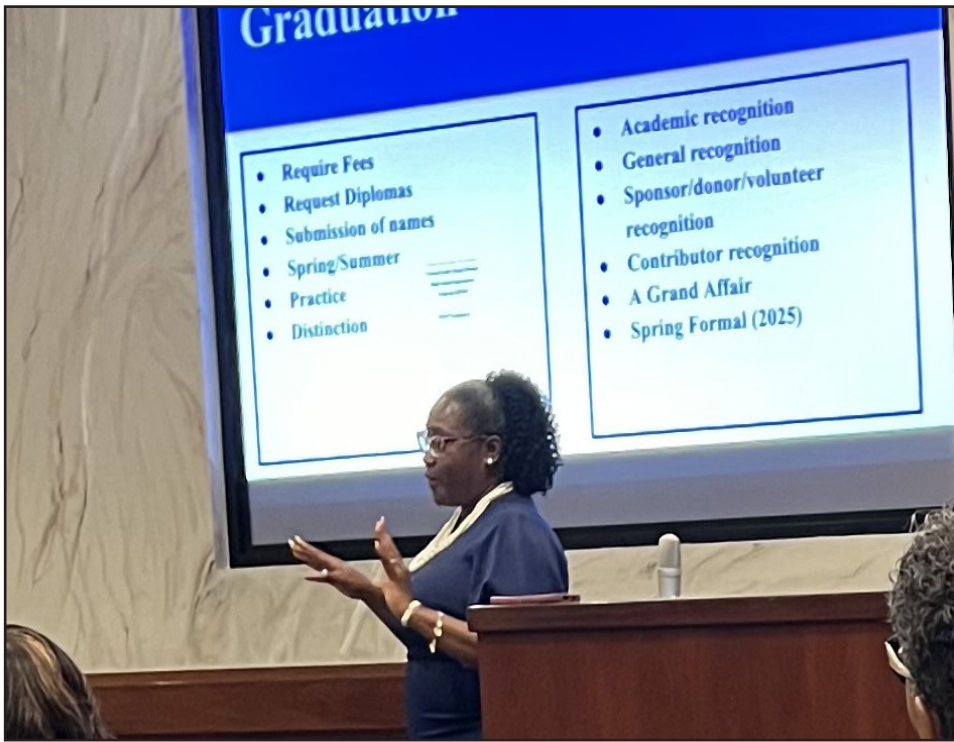
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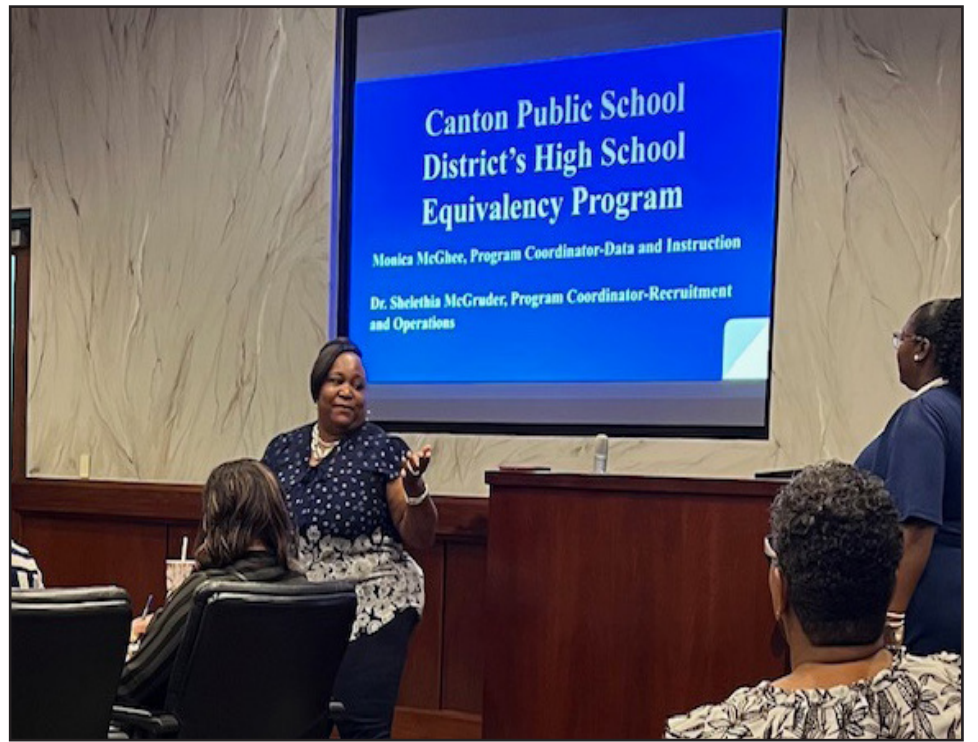


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# CPSD Equivalency Program reviewed at MDE conference



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Monica McGhee and Dr. Shelethia McGruder were recently invited to share insights and a “year in review” of the Canton Public School District’s (CPSD) completion of its first year operating a High School Equivalency Program (HSEP).

Terissa Williams, education pro-

gram manager for the Office of Compulsory School of Attendance and Dropout Prevention, invited them to speak at the “Finding the Road to Success” conference for at-risk students, hosted by the Mississippi Department of Education. Williams says she was impressed by how far CPSD’s program has come in its inaugural year.

Monica McGhee, HSEP coordinator of data and instruction, and Dr. Shelethia McGruder, HSEP coordinator of recruitment and operations, shared information about the students’ achievements, challenges faced and lessons learned. The session explored the program’s highs and lows, aiming to help educators, administrators and com-

munity members understand how to launch and sustain a successful program to provide more students with opportunities for success.

Five students completed the program. Four are enrolled in college. One student chose to take a gap year. The students passed over thirty GED tests and successfully graduated with the Class of 2024.



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# Canton mourns the loss of middle school teacher



All photos Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

The Canton community lost a beloved teacher, friend and family member when Mrs. Tyra Small-Jackson was killed in a crash on an interstate highway.

In a statement made by the Canton Public School District, the district expressed “our condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family of Mrs. Tyra Small-Jackson. We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.”

“Mrs. Small-Jackson was a loving and dedicated educator in the district who will be sorely missed in our community. She was selected as Nichols Middle School’s 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year and received numerous awards during her tenure in the district. Her beautiful spirit will forever live on in the memory and the hearts and minds of the countless lives she touched,” said the statement.

Small-Jackson dedicated her life to making sure her students felt loved and prepared for the next level.

She submitted the following biography when she was selected as the

Teacher of the Year at Nichols Middle School: “Tyra Small-Jackson is a twenty-three-year veteran teacher and a native Cantonian who has matriculated through these halls as a Mighty Tiger. She was Miss Sopho-

later named Belhaven University. While there, she was a member of BSA, the Black Student Association, a Scholar in Resident, and a recipient of Representative Bennie G. Thompson’s scholarship. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education.”

“Mrs. Jackson chose to give back to her community and began her teaching career at Nichols Middle School under the leadership of Mr. Cleveland Anderson. She has taught seventh-grade reading, fifth- and sixth-grade ELA, and eighth-grade Computer Discovery, ICT II, and Cyber Foundations II. She has worked at Porter Middle School and briefly at Canton Elementary. During her tenure, she has served on several committees and received many accolades.”

“While teaching, Mrs. Jackson furthered her education by attending Jackson State University, where she received a Master’s degree in elementary education.”

“Mrs. Jackson’s philosophy in education was that all children are unique and must have a stimulating educational environment where they can grow physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. It has always been her desire.”

more, Miss BSAP, a yearbook staff member and an editor of the *Tiger Tribune*. She was a member of the Canton High Gospel Soul Children, founded by the great Randolph Watson. Being in the choir afforded her an opportunity to travel in and out of state, perform in choir competitions, record music professionally, and also sing in the movie *A Time to Kill*. Mrs. Jackson was also a member of Mu Alpha Theta and the National Honor Society. While in Mu Alpha Theta, she was able to compete in math competitions on the local and state levels. She graduated in 1994 in the top three of her class.”

“After graduating high school, Mrs. Jackson attended Belhaven College,



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# LEARNING NEVER TAKES A SUMMER OFF!

*Special to The Canton News*

The Canton Public School District Extended School Year (ESY) program has had a successful summer so far. The ESY program provides additional educational enrichment opportunities for students.

CPSD Superintendent Gary Hannah said, "Our district determined early on that the key to increasing students' academic achievement is through extended learning time, which includes afterschool programs during the year and extended school year during the summer. We see this as a time to capitalize on the gains that students make during the school year and close any existing learning gaps before students move on to the next grade level.

"For high school students, we use this as an opportunity for students to make-up any credits that they may have missed so that they will not fall behind on their timeline for graduation. To have a successful extended school year, we need teachers who don't mind giving up part of their summer, parents who are willing to put off summer vacation, and students who can keep their engagement up past May. We owe a large part of our successes to the work that we do over the summer with our students."



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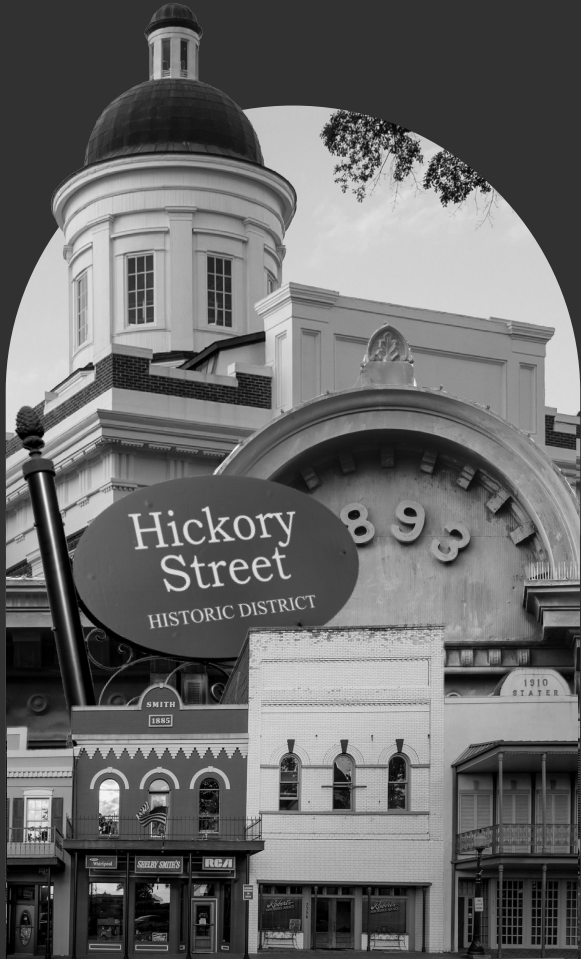
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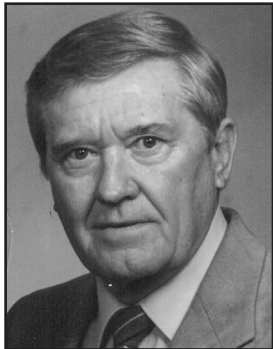
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# OBITUARY



**Robert Bennett Cochran**  
January 17, 1927 - June 18, 2024

Robert Bennett Cochran, 97 years of age, passed away

peacefully on June 18, 2024. He was a resident of the Goldton Assisted Living, Starkville, Mississippi.

Born January 17, 1927 to Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Talmadge Cochran (Elizabeth), Robert joins his wife, Norma Grace (Weeks), who passed February 26, 2023. He is survived by three daughters; Dinah Clark (Harold), Lynn Infanger (Peter) of Starkville, Nan Woods (Johnny) of Oxford; seven grandchildren and their families, Jill Holland of New Orleans, LA; Natalie Morgan Underwood of Starkville, John Infanger of Roswell, GA; Robert Infanger of Austin TX; Catherine Infanger of Winston-Salem, NC; Grant Woods of Chattanooga, TN; Michael Woods of Los Angeles, CA; and eight great-grandchildren; Susan Ann Weeks (niece) and Eric Cochran (nephew).

Robert grew up with two brothers (Byron and Winfred) in Boston and Winfield, AL. He joined the Navy at the young age of 16, then returned to Winfield High School to graduate. He attended the University of Southern Mississippi where he married Norma Grace Weeks in 1950 and began their life growing their careers in the field of education. Robert and Grace raised their three children in Louisville, MS where he began his career as the band director. He later

became an administrator as principal and assistant superintendent in his last years in Louisville. Robert and Grace moved to Meridian, MS and then to Vicksburg, MS where he served as Superintendent of the City Schools. Robert and Grace then retired to Deerfield Country Club in Madison, MS. They enjoyed traveling with the Mississippi Senior Golf Association as well as taking trips abroad and participating in the Colonial Dance Club and entertaining at home.

Robert received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, a Master of Arts from the University of Alabama, and a Doctor of Education degree from Mississippi State University. The latter degree carried an emphasis in curriculum and a minor in music education. He taught in elementary, secondary and university levels and served as a lecturer, clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor over a broad area in music education. He served as an elementary and secondary principal, a director of instruction, and had extensive experience with legislative committees and has been honored by Governors William Winter and Bill Allain.

Living into one's 90's means most of your contemporaries have passed on ahead of you but Robert Cochran will be fondly remembered by countless students who learned life lessons from him as their band director, principal and superintendent.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in memory of Robert Cochran be made to the World War II Museum in New Orleans, LA or Tunnel of Towers.

You can leave the family a condolence at:  
[www.welchfuneralhomes.com](http://www.welchfuneralhomes.com).

## First Student transportation team celebrated by CPSD



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First Student officials have recognized the Canton location for its exemplary performance in pupil transportation by presenting the Canton Public School District team with prestigious awards, including Outstanding Location Performance, Best Driver Staffing, and Location of the Year.

Rodney Harris, director of maintenance and transportation, said, "We're

looking forward to making continuous efforts to transport students safely and receive awards like these every year. Thank you, Canton team, for your service and commitment!"

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## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Low Income Home Energy Assistance

LIHEAP Program

This public hearing will be held at the Canton Public Library in Canton, MS, on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain Citizens' input into the development of the application for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.

The Madison County Citizens Services Agency of Madison County, Mississippi, is considering applying to the Mississippi Department of Human Services for this grant to provide energy assistance in Madison County.

# Canton Public School District collabs with Amazon Web



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

The Canton Public School District (CPSD) recently announced a collaboration with Amazon Web Services. District officials say they “appreciate

the company’s generous contributions to enhance the district’s STEM curriculum to prepare our students for future high-paying, high-tech careers.” In a previous *Canton News*




story, Mississippi lawmakers recently finalized a \$10 billion planned investment by Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS), an Amazon.com, Inc. company that will bring new jobs

and economic development opportunities to the state. AWS is investing \$10 billion to establish multiple data center complexes in two Madison County industrial parks.


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# Starlings create Foundation scholarship for CHS graduates

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Derek Starling, a past president of the Holmes Community College Alumni Association, and his wife, Daphenia, are establishing a scholarship at Holmes CC to return what the college provided to their whole family.

Starling, his mother Alma (who completed some continuing education classes), his brother Dwayne ('84) and sister Dianna ('80) all attended Holmes and say they are grateful to Holmes for jump-starting their success in life. The whole Starling family is from Madison County, which is one of the college's nine-county districts.

A graduate of Canton High School, Starling came to Holmes as a student athlete. He played men's varsity basketball under Coach Bennie Kimble from 1984-1986.

During Starling's time as a Bulldog, he was team captain, named to the All-Region 23 Team, MJCAA All-State and chosen to play in the MJCAA All-Star game. Other accolades he received included the Academic Award, the Sportsmanship Award, the Ras Branch Award and the Bulldog

Award.

Upon graduation from Holmes, he attended Mississippi State University and earned his bachelor's in industrial and systems engineering with a minor in mathematics. He is now the owner and principal of SOL Engineering Services, headquartered in Jackson.

Some of Starling's accomplishments include Small Business Administration's Mississippi Business Person of the Year (2015); serving on the Canton School Board for seventeen years, eight of which he served as chairman; MSU Department of Industrial and System Engineering Advisory Board member (2018-present); inducted as a Fellow into the Society of American Military Engineers (2022) and lifetime member of the Holmes Alumni Association.

In 2017, he was inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame for his basketball accomplishments, then, in 2022, he was recognized the Holmes Alumni Association as Alumnus of the Year.

The Starling family is excited about helping students at Holmes through this scholarship. The Daphenia and Derek Starling Family Scholarship will be for a



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graduate of Canton High School majoring in a STEM field. The student must be enrolled full-time and maintain a 2.5 grade point average."

"We wanted to do a scholarship, because Holmes invested into me

with a scholarship that allowed me to afford college," Starling said. "My scholarship was the beginning of my preparation for lifelong learning, and we want to give other deserving students that same opportunity.

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# BRING SOME COOL TO THE SUMMER WITH HOMEMADE POPSICLE

## The Canton News

Sometimes, the hot days of summer call for some cool treats that don't require leaving the house. Make use of some fresh summertime fruit, reusable popsicle molds (or paper cups) and the freezer in your kitchen, and whip up some homemade refreshing treats to enjoy from the cool(er) comfort of the indoors. Most popsicles take at least four hours to harden, but overnight freezing is recommended. Freeze times and number of popsicles will vary depending on the size of the molds you are using.

### Peach Popsicles

**Ingredients:**  
 1 1/4 pounds ripe peaches, (3-4 medium), halved and pitted  
 Juice of 1 lemon  
 1/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice  
 1/8 cup sugar, or to taste  
 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

**Preparation:**  
 1. Coarsely chop peaches in a food processor.  
 2. Transfer 1 cup of the chunky peaches to a medium bowl. Add lemon juice, orange juice and sugar to taste (depending on the sweetness of the peaches) to the food processor.  
 3. Puree until smooth.  
 4. Add to the bowl with the chunky peaches, and stir in vanilla.  
 5. Divide the mixture into popsicle molds (or small paper cups).  
 6. Freeze until beginning to set, about 1 hour. Insert frozen-treat sticks and freeze until completely firm, about 1 hour more.



### Key Lime Popsicles

**Ingredients:**  
 2 cans coconut milk or whole milk  
 Juice and zest of 1 lime  
 3 Tblsp. honey  
 Pinch of salt  
 1 cup chopped macadamia nuts

**Preparation:**  
 1. Mix milk, lime juice and zest and honey in a blender/food processor.  
 2. Pour into popsicle molds, and freeze at least hours.  
 3. Before eating, remove from mold and roll in chopped nuts.



### Berry Popsicles

**Ingredients:**  
 16 oz plain Greek Yogurt  
 3 Tblsp. of honey  
 1 tsp. of vanilla extract  
 4 oz blueberries  
 4 oz raspberries

**Preparation:**  
 1. Mix the Greek yogurt, honey and vanilla extract until well blended.  
 2. Add half of the mixture to the popsicle molds. Add a few whole berries in each mold, and push to the bottom of the mold with a toothpick.  
 3. Freeze the pops for about 15 minutes, just to harden them up a bit.  
 4. Meanwhile, in a blender, puree the remaining Greek yogurt and the berries.  
 5. Add the mix to the ice pop molds, and freeze at least 3 - 4 hours.

### Chocolate Banana Popsicles

**Ingredients:**  
 5 medium ripe frozen bananas  
 2 tsp. vanilla extract  
 3 Tblsp. cocoa powder

**Preparation:**  
 1. Put 2 1/2 ripe bananas and 1 tsp. vanilla extract in a food processor or a blender. Blend until smooth.  
 2. Scoop the mixture into popsicle molds, place in freezer.  
 3. Put the rest of the frozen bananas in the processor with the remaining 1 tsp. of vanilla and the 3 Tblsp. cocoa powder. Blend until smooth.  
 4. Take molds out of the freezer. Scoop the chocolate portion into the molds until molds are filled, and freeze at least 4 hours.

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# Remember When: Strawberries, ice, seeing the light

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

Right around the middle of May, a neighbor went to a local farm with a produce stand just north of Gluckstadt for strawberries. Several of his workers went along, as he wanted enough berries to make jelly for four or five households—strawberry cobblers, pies, fresh berries or whatever. Most were frozen or processed for later jelly making, but they surely tasted good fresh. My chickens enjoyed the trimmings. I was told or taught that Madison was known as the “Strawberry capital of the world.” Recently, I was told the Germans who settled in the Gluckstadt area were the first in the area to grow and sell large amounts of the berries. Over time, the growing of the strawberries moved further south until it was centered around Madison.

One of my early memories after Leon and I moved back to Canton was getting Maw to go with me to pick berries at a small patch in Madison. As a child, she and her family picked berries, at ten cents a box for family income. Today, that box would be a crate. She liked to eat the berries but she would not pick them again. That day, she picked a handful, ate



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most of them and put the rest in my basket. That was it!

At one time, there were a number of ice houses along the rail-

road tracks. I was young enough to not question why Canton had such a large ice house. As time has passed, I have learned that

ice houses were spaced along the railroad tracks. Spacing was different, but the necessity for ice to keep this chilled was as important as water for the steam engines. This was before the invention of mobile refrigeration for trains and tracks. I have discovered that a number of the ice houses did not make their ice but trucked it in. One ice house bought their ice in Arkansas. Canton’s ice was on West North Street on the west side of the tracks. After it closed, TWI used the building as a warehouse and office space. We would stop by the ice house or go by to get ice for homemade ice cream.

When my family moved from Camden to Canton in the early 1940s, we had a kerosene powered refrigerator. There was no electricity in Camden. After the move, it was converted to electricity. One time I asked a brother what was the best thing about the move from Camden to Canton. His reply was, “you could walk into a room, reach up, pull the string, and there was light.”

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *Mary Jane Boutwell is a passionate historian and is thrilled to share stories about “way back when.”*

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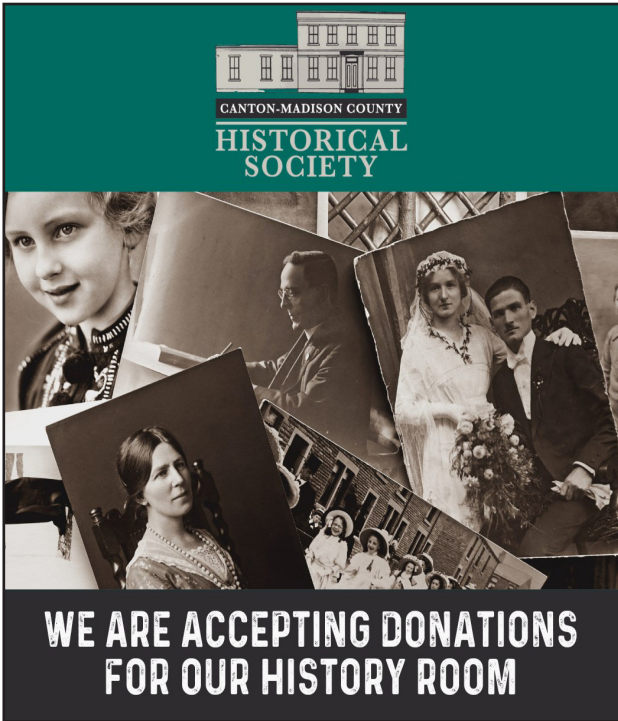
THE FORUM AT GRANDVIEW  
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# Canton-Madison County Historical Society calls for more donations

By Courtney Warren

The transformation continues at Canton Historical Society. The History Room is still under renovation, and the society is on the lookout for historical gems to fill it. They ask anyone who has a donation to please contact them. The mission of the society is to preserve the rich history of the area through the collection and maintenance of records and artifacts, through the encouragement of preservation and local historical research; to present

Madison County's history to the public by means of museums, archives, creative and educational programming and publications; and to promote cultural tourism as an effective means of communicating the lessons of history to visitors and citizens of Madison County. The jail operated until 1969, just over 99 years, and during that time, there was only one escapee. For more information about the Canton-Madison County Historical Society, call 769-218-0666.



Special to The Canton News

# From the garden: Keeping Canton Beautiful

By Keeping Canton Beautiful Club Member Jessica Stein

During the summer, the club breaks for vacation and our own gardens' maintenance. But we went out with a blast at our year-end plant swap at out-going president Riddell's house! However, a break doesn't mean idle club members. All the chapters of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, including Keep Canton Beautiful, stay busy during the summer. Members of both the garden club and beautification chapter have planted seeds in many areas around Canton with gorgeous annual flowers and perennial wildflowers. For one of their projects, they decorated the recycling area north of town by the police station. Keep Canton Beautiful wants you to know that, instead of being trash or litter, a few things can be cleaned and recycled. Most paper and cardboard, as well as some plastics and metals, can be recycled; each recycling center has different rules for what they can han-

dle. Rinsing is an important step for recycling, to keep out vermin during storage. Human employees still check each bin to make sure every item is pure and correct. Soiled items damage nearby recycling and can disgust or harm the staff. That which can't be recycled can sometimes be re-used. I often use old containers to propagate plants. Keep Canton Beautiful has also seeded the old high school five points walking track for the community to enjoy. Please stop by and smell the flowers – but leave them for everyone to enjoy! If you'd like to pick, please visit their other project at the Outdoor Classroom across from the Co-Op. Just like last year, the chapter has used personal time to plant cutting zinnias for Canton to treasure. Cut freely, just remember to share! Across the whole country next year, Keep America Beautiful will be encouraging small towns like ours to show clean, bountiful streets and yards. Can we count on you?



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# Canton owners of Twelve2 Farm sowing more than seeds



All photos Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

With a desire to grow, not only with God but with nature, Twelve2 Farm was born.

Owner Dana Nowell said, “We began as homesteaders in Canton in 2021, and my oldest daughter wanted to grow cut flowers. Her inspiration quickly spread, and we decided to start selling cut flowers. We began selling our first bouquets at the Old Jail Farmers market and the Madison farmers market in 2022.”

“After a year of visiting the markets, I realized that, while visiting markets was a fun experience, we really wanted to share the land and give our community an experience to enjoy flowers in nature. Our name, Twelve2 Farm, stands for two Bible verses: Romans 12:2 and Hebrews 12:2. Those verses talk about fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, and that we should not be conformed to this world, but be renewed by the transforming of our minds,” she said.

Twelve2 Farm supplies Kylie Melons with fresh cut flower bouquets weekly during summer and fall seasons. Primarily, they are a u-pick flower farm in north Canton and also visit the Old Jail Farmers Market in June and July.

The beginnings of the farm goes back to when Nowell and her husband met. His favorite verses were Romans 12:2 and Hebrews 12:2. As the two dated and then married, they kept those verses as their family’s verses, allowing them to lead their family.

Nowell said, “As we found the land and home we now live in (we moved here in 2021), we knew this place was such a gift from God. Originally we wanted 3-5 acres and God blessed us with the 20 acres where we live, next to one of my good friends and then we quickly met most of the neighbors who welcomed us heartily.

“We knew we wanted to share this space with others, but weren’t sure what that would look like. Eventual-

ly through farming flowers we knew that a u-pick flower farm was an incredible opportunity to share our space with others and give them a connection to nature,” she said.

Nowell explained that God led her to desire a simpler life, one more connected with nature and the outdoors. “It is through nature that I learn most about God and His plan for my life. We wanted the simpler life for our children as well and we knew that homesteading could provide that in many ways. Our home also has a pond and woods, so there’s opportunities to enjoy wildlife and space to explore. What I didn’t realize is that God has been teaching me so much through farming, and specifically farming flowers,” she said.

Through the flowers they grow, Nowell said she has learned many lessons.

“I know that flowers are meant for me because they are so delicate and beautiful and I tend to be the opposite of that. They have helped me become more patient, understand how

everyone is unique and has different needs just like flowers, and softened my heart as I see so much beauty in every bloom. And then in turn witness so many stories of others enjoying flowers, sharing flowers, and bringing others to share time among the flowers,” she said.

Nowell believes this farm is truly transformational, and “it’s because God’s working through the space here. I’m just the farmer who tends the field and plants the seeds,” she said.

“We truly desire that everyone who visits the farm experience a rest and renewal among nature as they cut flowers and relax in the country. Guests can make a reservation to come pick and enjoy time in the pavilion that overlooks the sunset and pond. We give them some instructions on how to pick flowers and allow them access to the whole field to leisurely stroll and enjoy cutting flowers,” she said.

For more information, visit <https://www.twelve2farm.com>

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# Bickham named Outstanding Educator



Special to The Canton News

Haley McHenry Bickham, a kindergarten teacher at McNeal Elementary School, recently received the Outstanding Professional Educator Award from the Mississippi Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Tougaloo College's School of Education nominated Bickham for this prestigious award.

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# HAPPY 4th of July

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# On the shelf: wrapping up the summer reading list

By Courtney Warren

Dare I say, this is the last On the Shelf of the summer. As we gear up to enjoy the month of July, it's also time to prepare for those back to school lists, including summer reading.

Summer reading can be so daunting, and I say that as a literature teacher myself who has her own summer reading (that is still sitting in my backpack, but if you're my principal - don't worry! I'll read it!)

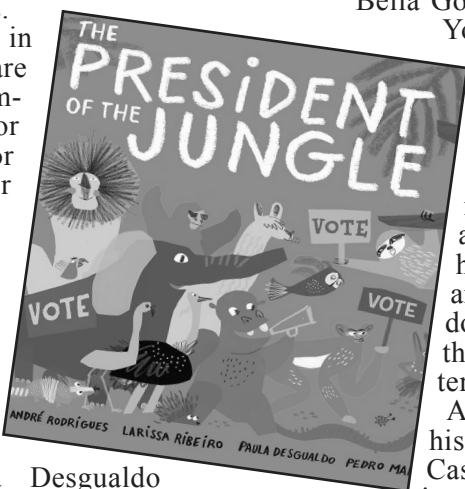
Anytime someone tells us we have to read something, we automatically don't want to do so. However, reading is so incredibly important for our students - and also for ourselves. I could add an entire paragraph about the importance of reading; but, let's be honest, this column is about book recommendations.

So, with that in mind, here are some fun summer reads for you and for your younger readers.

**Picture Book:**

*The President of the Jungle* by André Rodrigues, Larissa Ribeiro, Paula Desgualdo and Pedro Markun

Lion may be King of the jungle, but lately he only seems to care about himself. His subjects are fed up, so



they decide to try something new - hold an election! Once Owl explains the rules, the fun begins, and Snake, Sloth and Monkey all announce they will be candidates. But - oh no! - Lion is going to run, too! It's a wild campaign

season as the animals hold rallies, debate and even take a selfie or two, trying to prove why they'd make the best president of the jungle.

This funny, non-partisan story features lively illustrations, a helpful glossary and colorful characters who have an infectious enthusiasm for the election process.

**Chapter Book:**

*Shiver by the Sea* by Erin Dionne  
Bella Gossi just moved from New York City to the Massachusetts beach town of Shiver-by-the-Sea to live with her Uncle Van. Bella's excited about helping her mom fix up the old movie theater, but she's already missing her old home and her old friends; and, just driving through downtown, it's pretty clear that this place has seen better days.

After meeting Cooper and his adorable basset hound, Casper, things start looking up. But when mom tasks them with clearing out an old trunk from the theater and picking the first movie they'll show, that's when the

trouble begins. Out of the trunk pops a bat! But not just any bat . . . a kid vampire. A very hungry, very scared kid vampire, who's lost and doesn't know how to get home to his family.



Bel-la and Cooper are a little frightened at first, too, but soon they're on a mission to help Bram find his way home, because that's what real friends do.

**Middle Grade:**

*The Secret Library* by Kekla Magoon  
Since Grandpa died, Dally's days are dull and restricted. She's eleven-and-a-half years old, and her exacting single mother is already preparing her to take over the family business. Starved for adventure and release, Dally rescues a mysterious envelope from her mother's clutches, an envelope Grandpa had earmarked for her. The map she finds inside leads straight to an ancient vault, a library of secrets where each book is a portal to a precise moment in time.

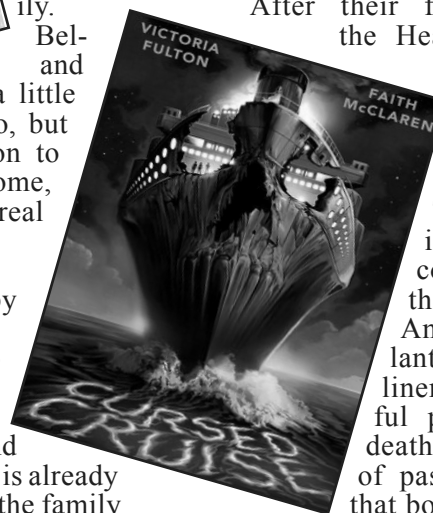
As Dally "checks out" adventure after adventure—including an exhilarating outing with pirates—she begins to dive deep into her family's hidden history. Soon she's visiting every day to escape the demands of the present. But the li-

brary has secrets of its own, intentions that would shape her life as surely as her mother's meticulous plans. What will Dally choose? Equal parts mystery and adventure—with a biracial child puzzling out her identity alongside the legacy of the past—this masterful middle-grade fantasy rivets with crackling prose, playful plot twists and timeless themes.

**Young Adult:**

*Cursed Cruise* by Victoria Fulton and Faith McClaren

After their fateful stay at the Hearst Hotel, the Ghost Gang is back with more spooks and more subscribers. They've been invited to record onboard the RMS Queen Anne, a transatlantic luxury ocean liner with a colorful past of violent deaths of hundreds of passengers—souls that bought a one-way ticket to the afterlife (and never disembarked).



When Chrissy, Chase, Kiki and Emma board the ship, they have a funny feeling they've been sucked into a ghostly time warp—a theory that takes a frightening turn when Chrissy goes missing on the first night.

Unbeknownst to the rest of the group, Chrissy has been sucked into another time by a passenger who wants the Ghost Gang to know her untimely death was not an accident and the perpetrator is still alive—and on board this ship.

## Harris to join Canton Academy

Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy recently welcomed Coach Parker Harris to the Panther family. Coach Harris will begin his twenty-fourth year coaching baseball and football, serving at Canton Academy as assistant football coach and assistant baseball (pitching) coach.

Prior to joining CA, Harris served fifteen years at Jackson Academy in various roles. He has been a head baseball coach for ten years of his career, serving in that role at Oak Hill, Washington School, Heritage Academy and Jackson Academy.



Parker Harris

Harris has served as assistant baseball coach for fourteen years of his career at Oak Hill, Lamar School and Jackson Academy. He served two years as head football coach at University Christian, assistant varsity football coach (thirteen years) at Oak Hill, Washington, Heritage and JA and was head junior high football coach at JA for nine years.

Harris is a graduate of Lamar School in Meridian and Mississippi State University. He and his wife, Laura, have one son, Lofton, who will be a senior at Canton Academy in the fall.

## Bouldin celebrated by MCBL&F



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Rickey Bouldin was recently presented with an award for his exceptional service to the Madison County Business League and Foundation (MCBL&F) leadership classes. The award was presented by Jan Collins.

Bouldin has been an integral part of over five hundred youth and executive leadership class members. He contributed to the success of the program and was a friend to all. Organization members wish Bouldin congratulations on his retirement.

# Canton Academy Panthers Cheer continues to shine



All photos Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Once again, the Canton Academy cheer squads have shown up and showed out at their annual cheer camp. At the Universal Cheerleader Association (UCA) Camp at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), the CA Panthers cleaned up in regards to awards and recognition for their spirit, dedication, and bleed-

ing black and gold. Varsity Panthers received third place for Small Group Cheer, Junior Varsity received second place overall and placed second for camp routine. Both squads received Super Spirit. All-American cheerleaders for varsity are Addison Cado, Amelia Rose Cook, Mary Alice Holmes, Maggie Penn, and Gates Welch. All-Ameri-

can cheerleaders for junior high are Emmeline Heubach, Harper Lampkin, Amber Martin, Addison Penn, Mary Fisher Penn and Addy Reams. The Pin It Forward Award is a program at the UCA camp that recognizes standout cheerleaders who portray the characteristics of leadership, spirit, commitment, kindness and motivation. Once a cheerleader re-

ceives the two pins, they will find another cheerleader who demonstrates those same qualities and “Pin It Forward.” Pin it Forward Awards were given to Addison Cado, Amelia Rose Cook, Mary Alice Holmes, Maggie Penn, Addison Penn and Gates Welch. Addy Reams was a jump off finalist.

## Beat the heat this summer

By Courtney Warren

Headlines across the country have been focusing on the rising heat waves. Canton is no stranger to high temperatures, and, while citizens may find relief from these temperatures with splash pads, pools, and ice cold sweet tea, it is important to remember heat safety. Heat is one of the leading weather-related killers in the United States, resulting in over one thousand fatalities each year, per the CDC. According to the National Weather Service, the following groups are particularly vulnerable to heat; check in with friends and relatives who fall in one of these populations, especially if they don't have air conditioning.

- Young children and infants are particularly vulnerable to heat-related illness and death, as their bodies are less able to adapt to heat

than are adults.

- Older adults, particularly those with pre-existing diseases, take certain medications, are living alone or with limited mobility who are exposed to extreme heat can experience multiple adverse effects.
- People with chronic medical conditions are more likely to have a serious health problem during a heat wave than healthy people.
- Pregnant women are also at higher risk. Extreme heat events have been associated with adverse birth outcomes such as low birth weight, preterm birth, and infant mortality, as well as congenital cataracts.

It is NEVER safe to leave a child, disabled person or pet locked in a car, even in the winter. If you have a toddler in your household, lock your cars, even in your own driveway.



Special to The Canton News

Kids play in cars or wander outside and get into a car and can die in ten minutes. What can Cantonians do to escape the heat this summer? Here are a few tips!

- Visit the splash pad at one of our Canton parks.
- Treat yourself to ice cream in one of our local ice cream shops

on the square

- Stop by the Canton library for some air conditioning, and enjoy several programs the library has to offer.
- Find a shady spot and picnic on the Courthouse lawn.
- Visit Canton Tourism for ways to volunteer in Canton or see more of the city.



# Dog owners urged to be mindful of heat's effect on their pets

By Guest Columnist Ingrid Newkirk



I was driving when I spotted a man walking his dogs. The old dog was lagging behind, his tongue lolling out and his movements slow, and as a humane officer who has seen it before, I knew he was in a quietly life-threatening condition.

I stopped and urged the man to let me drive them to the vet. He responded, "He's OK; he's just been running in the dog park." I insisted.

The vet's assistant spotted an emergency the moment we came through the door and rushed us inside, but it was too late. Despite the best efforts, the old dog died of heatstroke.

I often see people walking their dogs in the heat, seemingly oblivious to the first signs of trouble. They think that a lolling tongue and panting are "just a dog being a dog." They don't realize that, unlike humans, dogs have no ability to sweat and are trapped in what is essentially a sausage casing, having to rely on panting to try to shed the heat building up in their bodies. And, when the temperature soars, as with the current heat dome, ridding themselves of excess heat becomes impossible. Their internal temperature rises until they suffer from heatstroke.

When I politely approach someone who isn't paying attention, many say something like, "Thanks, but she's OK. I've got water in my backpack"—as if it does the dog any good there. That water needs to be on and in the dog, and the dog needs to be walked off the searing hot pavement, onto grass and into shade.

With heat advisories in effect across the country, cars are not the only dangers dogs face. Please walk them only early in the morning or late in the evening. Stay on the grass, take water breaks and be hypervigilant for signs of distress. Your dog's life may depend on it.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Newkirk currently serves as the president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.*

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# Madison County farmer travels to DC on an agricultural advocacy trip



Special to The Canton News

Luke Barr, a member of Madison County Farm Bureau was part of a small group of farmers from central Mississippi who spent three days in Washington, D.C. visiting with congressional members and regulatory agencies on the needs of Mississippi farmers. The urgent need of a new farm bill, labor regulations, and conservation funding were some of the main topics discussed. Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation is the voice of agriculture in Mississippi, and this is one of many ways that the organization accomplishes its mission.

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4

Use fans to cool off. Ceiling fans, box fans and oscillating fans use very little electricity to circulate the air, which helps you feel several degrees cooler.

5

Close blinds, shades and curtains to keep the sun out and the cool air in.



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# Goldman and Kelly pinned at Holmes Ridgeland



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (left to right) is the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2024 with their instructors, front row: PN Instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton, Hannah Alexis Rigby, Jessica Quarles, Sara Kathryn Self, Cortlyn Norris Bardwell, Shae Kelly, Alicia Goldman, Alexandria Cyrus, and PN Instructor Heather Roberts; back row: Nikeya Rogers, Megan Brittany Middleton, Kavondra McCauley, Anastasia Kelly, Destiny Janae Malone, I'Leyah Janae Green and PN Instructor Caley Stogner.



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# Canton scholars named to university honors lists

Special to The Canton News

Canton students were among a total of 13,103 students enrolled during the spring 2024 semester at The University of Alabama (UA) who were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). The students are participants across UA's more than seventy undergraduate programs. Cantonians on the dean's list included McKenzie Cox and Isaac Toles. Canton students named to the president's list include Holly McCartha and Lillian Noble.

Tennessee Tech University announced that Meallan Krauchenka of Canton was named to the Dean's

List for the spring 2024 semester. To be included on the Dean's List, students must attend the university full-time and earn a grade-point average of at least 3.1 on the 4.0 scale.

The University of Mississippi (UM) announced Canton students named to its spring 2024 honor roll lists. The Chancellor's Honor Roll, reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.0, included Ryan Augustine, majoring in allied health studies; Seth Capel, majoring in psychology; Ammar Di-

machkie, majoring in international studies; Victoria Green, majoring in Pharm.D. on the Pharm. Prct. Track; David Jenkins, majoring in public policy leadership;

Jacob King, majoring in biochemistry; Elizabeth Maxey, majoring in General Business; Allison May, majoring in allied health studies; Jennifer May, majoring in communication sciences/disorders; Zachary McInnis, majoring in Pharm.D. on the Pharm. Prct. Track; Griffin Ray, majoring in journalism; Laura Reilly, majoring in elementary education; Hugh Warren, majoring

in history; and Swayze Williams, majoring in biological science.

The UM Dean's Honor Roll is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74. Canton students included Richard Miller Burnside, majoring in allied health studies; Daylin Glover, majoring in accountancy; Aubrey Grace, majoring in dietetics and nutrition; Lauren Head, majoring in allied health studies; Darion Hunter, majoring in allied health studies; Jagger Jones, majoring in political science; Yancey Odom, majoring in sport and recreation administration; Mallo-ry Palmertree, majoring in criminal justice; Mckenzie Stanley, majoring in computer science and Madeline Strickland, majoring in accountancy.



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