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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Good News You Can Use • November 7, 2024 • Vol. 10, No. 11 • Canton, Mississippi

Mr. Millet: The Barefoot Butter-Eating Man

By Guest Columnist Amelia Rose Cook

When the question “What is your lifestyle?” is asked, the same answers are usually given: having a healthy lifestyle, a busy schedule, a lot of school-work, the list continues. Everyone has somewhat of the same lifestyles, with a little tweak of their own personal liking to get through their day smoothly. But then there is Mr. Millet, the Canton Academy Art and Life Skills teacher, the man who defies the norm.

In the eighth grade, I moved from the coast to Canton, Mississippi. As I walked through the doors of Canton Academy on my first day, I wondered what my teachers would be like. I began to have conversations with students and found an opportunity to ask what I was most curious about: “Who is y’all’s favorite teacher?”

As I listened to everyone’s answers, the same name was repeated: “Mr. Millet!” They explained to me that we would not be able to have him until our junior year, but that he was everyone’s favorite, anyway.

I asked for a description of him, so I could get an idea of what he was like.

“He’s tall and thin with white hair and wears neon green and black track shoes,” one student said.

I responded, “Oh! He’s the track coach, too? That’s cool.”

“Oh no,” another student said. “That’s just what he wears if he’s not wearing any shoes.”

I thought to myself, Who wears track shoes as regular shoes? And what did they mean “if” he wears shoes? I was in for a treat when I met Mr. Millet for the first time.

As I grew older, I watched Mr. Millet. Without even being in his class, I knew he was an interesting guy. He laughed at almost anything, and everyone greeted him when they passed him in the hall. He was just known as the type of guy everyone loves.

My junior year came, and I was so excited to finally have him as my teacher.

“Welcome, juniors! I’m Mr. Millet, your Art and Life Skills teacher,” he said on the first day of school. I looked down and dropped my jaw as I saw his bare feet. Those students were right.

He explained what we would all be doing throughout the year and what field trips we would be taking. That is when he got right into it. He opened the cabinet behind him and pulled out a glass bottle of olive oil and a Styrofoam cup. He poured about two tablespoons of the oil into the cup and went back to the cabinet to get hot sauce. He then poured the hot sauce into the cup and began to drink it.

I stared in amazement and asked what in the world he was doing.

He explained, “Drinking olive oil helps your skin age slower, and drinking hot sauce helps build your immune system.” But that was just the start of it.

As we went on throughout the year, I saw Mr. Millet doing even crazier things. I would run into him running backwards in the hallways because he claimed it “helps with his back posture.”

I would see him eating sticks of butter at break or lunch, because he claimed it was “the best fat you could eat for your body.”

He would watch yoga, breathing and meditation videos, because he claimed it “brought him closer to Earth.”

There were instances when students from other schools had heard about him and asked me if he was even real. They could not believe that this man was walking the halls of Canton Academy.

Mr. Millet is nothing short of interesting. He is always doing something new and different from any other person that I know. However, what I admire most about him is that he does not care what other people think about him.

While I always enjoy seeing the odd things that he does, I watch his character. He is one of the most interesting, uplifting and high-spirited people that I have ever met. Without Mr. Millet, I would not be able to not care what other people think of me.

When I asked someone why they thought he does all these things and how he can live life not caring what others think of him, they answered, “Amelia, it’s not as hard as it seems. As you grow up, you will find your purpose in life. Mr. Millet has found that his purpose is to make other people smile. If it’s because they are making fun of him, at least he’s doing my job. Three years from now, he probably won’t even remember what their first names are. Mr. Millet lives in the present and does what he wants to do.”

He has had such an impact in my life, from his barefoot-butter eating lifestyle to his unawareness of him being a role model in my life.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Amelia Rose is a senior at Canton Academy. She is the daughter of Jay and Kristi Cook.



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Dairy-Free Peppermint Chocolate Fudge

The Canton News

Here's a delightful holiday treat that's dairy-free, delicious, and easy to make—Dairy-Free Peppermint Chocolate Fudge! It has a rich, creamy chocolate texture with a festive peppermint twist. Perfect for sharing!

Tips

- *Storage: Keep in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 1 week.*
- *Optional Topping: Sprinkle a little sea salt on top before chilling for a sweet and salty twist.*

Enjoy this creamy, dairy-free fudge with all the holiday spirit!



Ingredients:

- 2 cups dairy-free chocolate chips
- 1 cup full-fat coconut milk (from a can, not coconut beverage)
 - 1/4 cup coconut oil
 - 1/2 cup powdered sugar (sifted)
 - 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp peppermint extract (add more to taste if desired)
- Crushed peppermint candies or candy canes for topping

Preparation:

1. Prepare Pan: Line an 8x8-inch square baking dish with parchment paper, leaving some overhang for easy removal.
2. Melt Chocolate: In a medium saucepan, add the chocolate chips, coconut milk, and coconut oil. Melt over medium-low heat, stirring constantly until smooth and fully combined.
3. Add Flavorings: Remove from heat, and stir in the powdered sugar, vanilla extract, and peppermint extract. Mix until smooth.
4. Pour and Set: Pour the mixture into the prepared baking dish, spreading it evenly. Sprinkle the crushed peppermint candies on top for a festive look.
5. Chill: Refrigerate for at least 2 hours or until firm.
6. Cut and Serve: Once set, lift the fudge out of the pan using the parchment paper. Cut into squares and serve!



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Volume 10, Issue 11

Circulation 6,000

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The Canton News is published on the first Thursday of each month in Canton, Mississippi.

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Spann living life to the fullest after kidney transplant

By Guest Columnist Matt Batchelor

Sheila Spann, PharmD, competes in Transplant Games in the United States and around the world — essentially the Olympics for transplant patients. She also likes to skydive and hunt, and that's



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in addition to her day jobs as a pharmacist and diabetes educator just outside of Jackson.

None of this would have been possible if an organ donor hadn't given her a kidney in 2011, when she received a transplant at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She celebrates that day in August as her second birthday, a reminder of the extraordinary life circumstances she has overcome.

Around 1996, Spann was diagnosed with lupus, an autoimmune disease that attacked her kidneys and sent them into failure. Right around that time, her husband died of a massive heart attack, leaving her a single mom to seven-year-old son John and six-year-old daughter Christina.

By 2008, Spann was on dialysis, first at a center, then doing nightly dialysis at home. She felt bad every day and didn't enjoy all the physical activities she does today.

"I just knew I had to go to dialysis and get dialyzed," she said.

"Because I knew, if I didn't do dialysis, I was going to die. And I was not going to do that. I was going to do everything I could to get that kidney. I had two kids. I was not going to fail. I just owe it all to God, because he made it happen."

To find a kidney, Spann got herself placed on transplant lists at multiple centers, including the Vanderbilt Transplant Center. She remembers the day in 2011 she took a call from nephrologist Heidi Schaefer, MD, professor of medicine and now medical director of Adult Solid Organ Transplant. A matching kidney had been found.

"Sheila, this is a good kidney," she recalls Schaefer saying.

Spann dropped what she was doing and drove to Vanderbilt for her new kidney.

"I've been feeling great," she said. "I go to the gym every day. Weights, run ... I feel good, and I believe if I can stay active, I'm going to live as long as I can."

After she shared her transplant story on Facebook, one of the managers of Team Mississippi of the Transplant Games of America saw it. She was invited to join the team.

In 2022, she competed in San Diego, and, the following year, represented the United States at the World Transplant Games in Perth, Australia. She just competed in the national Transplant Games in Birmingham, Alabama, and is training to join the World Transplant Games in Dresden, Germany, next

year.

Schaefer has watched her patient prosper.

"I have cared for Sheila for many years and always enjoy hearing about her successes as a transplant Olympian in a variety of different events," Schaefer said. "She is truly an inspiration and a testament to the life-changing gift of organ transplantation."

Spann competes in several sports, including pickleball, golf, discus throwing and darts. She came in first for women's golf doubles and placed third in a 5K, competing against women in her age category.

"I just like the adrenaline," she said. "I guess that's why I do it."

In recent years, she has taken up skydiving and hunting (she shot her first buck and doe this year.)

She said she loves her dual jobs — working as a pharmacist and managing her own diabetes education clinic.

"I love what I do, and I love helping people," she said.

All this was possible, she said, because of one person who decided to become an organ donor.

"If we didn't have donors, we wouldn't be able to compete," she said. "I give back to my donor just by participating."

She shares her story to inspire others who might be waiting for a kidney transplant.

"Just stay focused; stay positive, because it's going to happen," she said. "Just be ready."

To learn more about becoming an organ and tissue donor, visit BeTheGiftToday.com.

Canton Garden Club: a tour of Georgetown



All photos Special to The Canton News

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

Recently, the Canton Garden Club ventured off campus for a tour of Georgetown — a family retreat. The Madison County estate of Georgetown is a recreation of a Tennessee farm for the Arnold family to enjoy.

The tour began in the main cabin after a business meeting and refreshments provided by hostesses Kathy Ozborn, Cheryl Melvin and

Patty Clark. The whole campground is positioned around a scenic small lake, with music playing from hidden speakers throughout. Music can be heard everywhere.

Two smaller cabins, one named for the grandkids, sit across the grounds. A pretty white church with custom-designed stained-glass windows sits across the lake from the cabins. And then more: a little red barn and an outhouse. Both are re-

ally storage sheds, but their facade completes the historic look.

It had the feel of a beautiful and lush secluded property, but, in reality, it fronts Livingston Road and has subdivisions on each side. The Ridgeland bike trail runs through the property, but one gets the feel of farm living. Four guests joined the tour. Next month, we look forward to a demonstration in cement bowl-making.

Nissan's Supervisor Amanda Green recognized at SAC



all photos Special to The Canton News

Nissan Canton Paint Versatility Supervisor Amanda Green was recently named a Stars of Automotive Manufacturing winner at the 2024 Southern Automotive Conference (SAC). Green and two Nissan Tennessee employees received their awards recently in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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Letter from the editor: I want my child's testimony to be boring

By Courtney Warren

This week, we are having a mini "spiritual emphasis" week. It's been so great to have chapel each day and watch our students take notes during the sermon after we sing and praise God.

Now that we are in a "house system," we leave chapel and break into groups based on our houses. Today, as our house leader led the discussion about sharing the Gospel through the story of love, division, the cross and choice, I had a thought. I could see the wheels turning in the heads of our students as we talked about sharing a testimony.

I asked them, "Who feels like their testimony is boring, and they don't have anything to share?"

Almost every person in the room raised their hands.

That's my goal. I want my child to have a boring testimony. I want her to not be able to tell people a moment where she didn't know the love of Christ. I want her to be able to look back on her childhood and think of security, her loving parents, her warm home, her amazing school.

So often, we think that, in order to share the gospel, we have to have this traumatic past or experience. Those stories have such an impact - as they should! When we see God move in

big ways, it's such an inspiration!

However, as a parent, I don't want to give Him a reason to move in a big way other than in overflowing blessings.

Am I being a helicopter parent? Yep. I'm not even remotely ashamed.

I will absolutely be a helicopter parent when it comes to the testimony of my child. I want her to come into any battle with the tools that she needs, the scripture memorized and the prayers ready.

Right now, her favorite song includes the lyrics, "I could never bow to a king without a crown."

I want her to keep requesting those songs. I want her to keep learning scripture. I want her to keep asking for prayer and believing in the power of talking to God.

I want her to watch movies like the new *Haunted Mansion* and immediately point out that the spooky voice is a liar, because the devil is a liar, and that's clearly not the voice of God.

I want her testimony to be boring. I want her testimony to be evidence of the generational faithfulness of God.

That starts with her daddy and me. It starts with us pouring the love of God into her. It starts with us showing her His kindness, bringing her to church, creating a community for her. It starts



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with us showing her how a husband should love his wife, how a wife should love her husband, and how parents should love their children.

A part of me wishes this for all children. I wish that all of our babies could have boring testimonies because they

are so wrapped up in God's word and love. I know that can't be the case. However, I do have that prayer.

I pray for more boring testimonies.

Bore me to tears, friends.

Because, even if your testimony is boring - your God certainly is not.



Why you need dental insurance in retirement.

Medicare doesn't pay for dental care.¹

As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. If you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.

The best way to avoid large dental bills is preventive care. Experts recommend checkups twice a year.

Previous dental work can wear out.

Your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.²

Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.

Unexpected bills, like \$190 for a filling, or \$1,213 for a crown³ can be a real burden, especially if you're on a fixed income.

When you're comparing plans ...

▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services.

▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles.

▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits.

Simply put — without dental insurance, there may be an important gap in your healthcare coverage.

1 "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2024. 2 "Aging changes in teeth and gums", medlineplus.gov, 4/17/2022. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2020 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2020, American Dental Association.

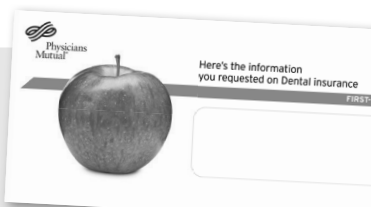
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Year-long initiative begins to empower youth with digital skills using STEM



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In a groundbreaking effort to boost digital literacy among students, SR1 has launched the C.O.O.L.™ Kids Learn to Code initiative, a year-long program that began in September 2024. This initiative will also offer weekend classes and summer programming in 2025, aiming to teach coding in an age-appropriate way. The focus is on enhancing critical thinking and preparing students for future careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

The program's primary goal is to empower students through hands-on activities that teach coding concepts, while encouraging them to solve real-world problems. Using educational tools such as Scratch, Python and basic data science platforms, students of various age groups will build confidence in navigating technology and developing essential programming skills.

"It's about more than just coding. It's about showing these kids how technology can be used to solve problems," said Vickie Liou, instructional designer at SR1. "We're preparing them for a world where digital literacy is key to success."

The program integrates fun and interactive coding sessions with lessons designed to foster collaboration and critical thinking. Students will tackle real-life challenges; using the coding skills, they will learn to address problems across subjects like math, science and literacy. This interdisciplinary approach is designed

to help ensure that coding is not just a standalone skill, but rather an integral part of the students' overall learning experience.

In tandem with the C.O.O.L.™ Kids Learn to Code initiative, SR1 College Preparatory and STEM Academy has launched a parallel program designed specifically for its youngest learners. The Code and Go Mouse Robot program, also led by Vickie Liou, introduces K-2 students to coding in a playful yet educational way, guiding a robot mouse to its cheese target while teaching foundational programming skills.

"It's just a tool to help our students build both the hard and soft skills they need to succeed," Liou explained. "By making learning fun and interactive, it motivates our students to explore programming, experiment and collaborate with their peers."

The Code and Go Mouse Robot kit turns abstract coding concepts into concrete, hands-on learning experiences. Even simple tasks, like setting up programming challenges, become valuable moments of skill development. The curriculum also blends STEM with other subjects, allowing students to use the robot mouse to solve not just programming challenges, but also problems in math, literacy and science.

"I can't wait to see how our scholars grow through this experience," said Liou, expressing her excitement for the program's long-term impact.

For more information visit www.SR1Tech.org or www.SR1CPSA.org.

Canton Lions learn about mammoth tusk



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are Lion Daniel Logan, speaker Eddie Templeton, Lion Gary Teasley and Lion Al Salmi.

Special to The Canton News

Eddie Templeton, a recent guest of Lions, shared his story of finding a seven-foot mammoth tusk. Attendees said he was very entertaining, and several club members stayed around to

visit one-on-one after his presentation. The Lions' mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities. Canton Lions are supporters of White Cane, Mid-South Lions, Leader Dog and Addie McBryde.



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2024 CPSD Homecoming

All photos Special to The Canton News

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Canton Public School District recently enjoyed district wide homecoming festivities. Congratulations to CHS 2024 Homecoming Queen Chelsea Grant! Congratulations, Markayla Parker, Homecoming Queen 1st Runner-Up!

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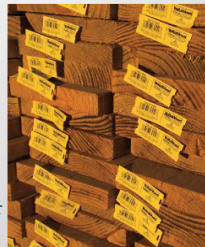
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CA students dissect mussels



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Canton Academy senior marine biology students have been learning about phylum mollusca and recently had the opportunity to dissect mussels in order to identify the features of bivalve mollusks. According to the Nation-

al Ocean Service, like fish, bivalve mollusks breathe through their gills. As filter feeders, bivalves gather food through their gills. Some bivalves have a pointed, retractable “foot” that protrudes from the shell and digs into the surrounding sediment, effectively enabling the creature to move or burrow.

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Kinsley Pierce earns Student of the Month



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Pictured (l to r) are: MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins, health science instructor Shirley Jones, Sunshine Children's Clinic pediatric doctor Vig Vibha, CCC student Kinsley Pierce, and Charmaine Pierce.

Special to The Canton News

Recently Dr. Vig Vibha with Sunshine Childrens Clinic presented the Canton Career October "Student of the Month" award to Kinsley Pierce. Pierce is a second year health science student at the Career Center. She is a member of HOSA and has committed

to participate in the HOSA Leadership Conference. Pierce hopes to one day become a pediatrician.

The purpose of the Student of the Month award program is to connect MCBL&F businesses/industries with students promoting skills needed to fulfill the Madison County workforce.

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Taylor receives Hinds CCC Foundation scholarship



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The Hinds Community College Foundation recently recognized 2024-25 scholarship recipients, donors and other honorees at a reception at the George-Oakes Building on the Vicksburg-Warren Campus. Among those being recognized was Aireanna Taylor of Canton, who received the Bobbie B. Anderson Nursing Endowed Scholarship. Pictured with her is Jane Skinner.



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Active shooter drill a success



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Recently, the Canton Public School District (CPSD) Security Department held an active shooter drill. According to CPSD representatives, Chief Robert Jackson, III aims to establish a secure environment for students, staff and all stakeholders and is dedicated to fostering a positive relationship

with the community where students live. By cultivating strong ties with the community, Chief Jackson and his team can maintain vigilance and stay alert to any potential threats in and around local schools. Chief Jackson says he finds fulfillment and enthusiasm in his role by prioritizing community engagement and school safety.

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On the shelf: Gifting Christmas stories for the holidays this year

By Courtney Warren

My new favorite gift to receive is a book that has been chosen for me by someone who loves me. My students do this for me all the time! They hear of books they think I'd like, or they have read a book they love and want to share the story with me. I have a shelf of books at home with handwritten notes in the front pages from students about why they want me to read this story. What a treasure! Nothing shows love more than telling someone they thought of you. You were considered.

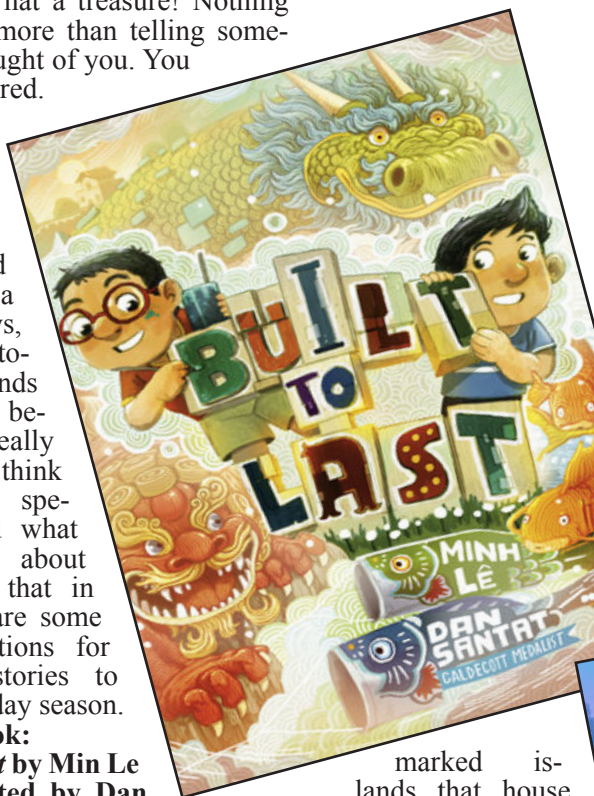
So, I have started the tradition of gifting stories to my loved ones with a note that says, "Here is a story that reminds me of you because..." It really causes me to think about them specifically and what I appreciate about them. With that in mind, here are some recommendations for wonderful stories to gift this holiday season.

Picture Book:
Built to Last by Min Le and illustrated by Dan Santat

I am a sucker for anything Dan Santat. He is a phenomenal illustrator and tells stories through his pictures.

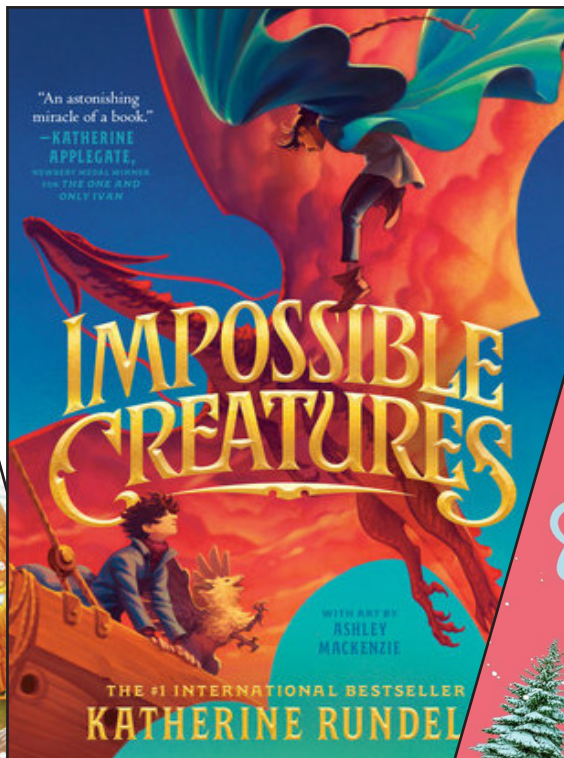
According to the publisher, two kids build entire worlds out of blocks, cardboard and imagination, from boats attacked by a sea creature to a castle crumbling into the ocean. And they don't mind when these creations break apart and CRASH to the floor. In fact, they think it's pretty funny! Every time a creation falls apart, they pick up the pieces and keep building bigger and better.

But when their latest masterpiece tumbles down in spectacular fashion, the boys aren't laughing anymore. Have these two friends reached their breaking point?



Middle Grade:
Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell

This book is everywhere! The story is spectacular, and it has been flying off of my shelves. Life changes forever when he finds out about Archipelago, a group of un-



Finley Brown returned to her hometown of Christmas, Oklahoma, from boarding school, she expected to find it just as she left it. Christmas hasn't changed much in her sixteen years.

But, instead, she returns to find that her best friend is dating her

paradise on her grandmother's doorstep.

It's up to Finley to make sure he gets the Christmas he was promised. This is Finley's Christmas. It's about home and family and friends and finding her place, and, along the way, she also finds the best Christmas present of all: love.

Adult:
The Christmas Tree Farm by Laurie Gilmore

These books are really cute cozy romance stories. They are definitely in the adult category, so I don't

recommend gifting these books to any teens.

According to the publisher, Kira North hates Christmas. Which is unfortunate, since she just bought a Christmas tree farm in a town that's too cute for its own good.

Bennett Ellis is on vacation in Dream Harbor taking a break from his life in California. And, most importantly, taking a break from his latest run of disastrous dates.

After a run in with Kira in her fields, Ben has no intention of offering to help the grumpy owner set up her tree farm, despite the fact she's clearly got no idea what she's doing.

Kira knows she should stop being so stubborn, but her farm is not all cute and cozy like people always show on social media; it's borderline dangerous with no heating, and she'd rather no one saw it.

But, somehow, fate finds Ben at Kira's farm once more, and, as Kira watches him swing an ax at the first tree, she finds herself appreciating his strength and questioning why she refused help in the first place...



marked islands that house magical creatures. On the same day, he meets a girl named Mal, who is on the run. The two team up for a crazy adventure and search for clues behind the island's weakening magic.

Young Adult:
So, This Is Christmas by Tracy Andreen

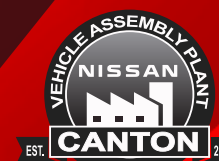
My students are absolutely loving romance novels right now. I have heard good things about this one and added it to my own list!

According to the publisher, when

ex-boyfriend, her parents have separated and her arch-nemesis got a job working at her grand-

mother's inn. And she certainly didn't expect to find the boy she may or may not have tricked into believing that Christmas was an idyllic holiday

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“Hello Pancreas” - a global call for awareness

Special to The Canton News

The World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition (WPCC) is launching a global awareness campaign, "Hello Pancreas," to shed light on the often-overlooked organ and its vital role in human bodies. The campaign aims to educate the public about the symptoms of pancreatic cancer and the urgency of early detection and treatment.

In addition, 2024 marks the ten-year anniversary of World Pancreatic Cancer Day, which is always on the third Tuesday in November (this year on November 21) and is a global day of awareness for the world's toughest cancer.

Pancreatic cancer is a devastating disease that has a profound impact on individuals and their families worldwide. Despite being the twelfth-most common cancer globally, it remains the third leading cause of cancer death in very highly developed countries. The disease is particularly insidious due to its often vague and nonspecific symptoms, which can lead to delayed diagnosis and reduced survival rates.



The five-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer remains tragically low at nine percent, globally, making it the major cancer with the lowest survival rate. The statistics underscore the urgent need for increased awareness, research and improved treatment options.

Current estimates indicate that there are approximately 500,000 new cases of pancreatic cancer diagnosed annually worldwide, resulting in about 470,000 deaths. Unfortunately, both incidence and mortality rates are projected to increase in the coming decades.

One study demonstrates there are variations in the incidence rates of pancreatic cancer by geographic location in Mississippi. In the data analysis of the Mississippi public health districts, the worst-hit areas include the rural communities in the rural-urban regional analysis, the Delta region among the cancer coalition regions, and the Central District (incidence rates) and North District (mortality rates).



WPCC urges Mississippians to use November 21 to say “Hello Pancreas” to invite everyone to learn more about their pancreas and help to create a global conversation about pancreatic cancer.

Key symptoms of pancreatic cancer include:

- **Abdominal pain, often described as a dull or aching pain**
- **Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)**
- **Weight loss**
- **Loss of appetite**
- **Nausea and vomiting**
- **Fatigue**
- **Dark urine and pale stools**
- **Back pain**

Early detection matters - patients diagnosed in time for surgery are more likely to live five years and beyond.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these symptoms, it is important to consult a healthcare professional promptly.

For more information about WPCC, visit WorldPancreaticCancerCoalition.org

Happy Thanksgiving

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piggly wiggly | 110 East Academy Street, Canton, MS | Phone: 601-509-4527 | Store Hours: Mon. - Sat. 7am-8pm Sun. 8am-7pm

Canton to unveil second MS Freedom Trail Marker

Special to The Canton News

The Mississippi Humanities Council, in partnership with Visit Mississippi, recently announced the unveiling of its second Mississippi Freedom Trail marker in Canton, in honor of Flonzie Brown Goodloe Wright, the first African American female elected to public office in the State of Mississippi. In 1968, she was elected as Election Commissioner in Madison County.

This marker will serve as a powerful reminder of the courage, resilience and dedication of Dr. Wright, whose office was located inside of the Historic Madison County Courthouse. The position of Election Commissioner allowed her to correct many voting injustices throughout the state as she fought to serve the citizens of Madison County.

A ceremony will be held on Friday, November 8, at noon, outside the Historic Madison County Courthouse, located on Peace Street. The event will include re-

marks from The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson, US Representative, District 2; Mr. Karl M. Banks, vice president, Madison County Board of Supervisors; Mrs. Alice Scott, first Black and female Mayor of Canton & former election commissioner, Madison County; Mrs. Betty G. Robinson, first Black bank teller and 1971 candidate for Circuit Clerk, Madison County; Mayor William Truly, City of Canton; Mr. Billy J. Wells, Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau and Film Office representative, and Mr. John Travis Spann, program and outreach officer for Mississippi Humanities Council. The unveiling ceremony will be free and open to the public. A reception will follow the ceremony



Flonzie Brown Goodloe Wright

inside the historic Madison Canton Courthouse.

The Mississippi Freedom Trail was established in 2011 to commemorate Mississippi's pivotal role in the U.S. civil rights movement. More than 40 existing markers throughout the state highlight the people, places and events that were instrumental in this period—from the years leading up to the historic movement to the years Mississippi served as ground zero in the national fight for equality.

The Mississippi Freedom Trail is administered by Visit Mississippi, the official tourism organization dedicated to promoting the state to visitors across the U.S. and the

world, in partnership with the Mississippi Humanities Council. Support for this collaboration is made possible by a State Tourism Grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The EDA State Tourism Grants, issued in 2021, totaled \$510 million in direct awards to help states invest in marketing, infrastructure, workforce and other projects to rejuvenate safe leisure, business and international travel.

The Mississippi Humanities Council is a private non-profit corporation funded by Congress through the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council creates opportunities for Mississippians to learn about themselves and the larger world and enriches communities through civil conversations about the state's history and culture.

The Madison County Board of Supervisors collaborated in conjunction with the Mississippi Humanities Council to unveil the marker.

For more information, visit www.mshumanities.org.



Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Wesco Insurance Company
 800 Superior Avenue, East 21st Floor
 Cleveland, OH 44114

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total Assets | \$2,227,056,326 |
| Total Liabilities | \$1,627,612,416 |
| Capital Stock | \$5,000,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$594,443,910 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$599,443,910 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$2,227,056,326 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Westchester Fire Insurance Company
 P.O. Box 1000
 Philadelphia, PA 19106

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Total Assets | \$258,365,404 |
| Total Liabilities | \$204,011,618 |
| Capital Stock | \$5,000,100 |
| Surplus Funds | \$49,353,686 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$54,353,786 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$258,365,404 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Westfield Champion Insurance Company
 One Park Circle
 Westfield Center, OH 44256

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Total Assets | \$8,505,912 |
| Total Liabilities | \$84,462 |
| Capital Stock | \$3,000,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$5,421,450 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$8,421,450 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$8,505,912 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Westfield Premier Insurance Company
 One Park Circle
 Westfield Center, OH 44251

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Total Assets | \$8,415,094 |
| Total Liabilities | \$52,043 |
| Capital Stock | \$3,000,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$5,363,051 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$8,363,051 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$8,415,094 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Westfield Touchstone Insurance Company
 One Park Circle
 Westfield Center, OH 44251

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Total Assets | \$8,384,605 |
| Total Liabilities | \$37,600 |
| Capital Stock | \$3,000,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$5,347,005 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$8,347,005 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$8,384,605 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
West American Insurance Company
 175 Berkeley Street M09G
 Boston, MA 02116

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Total Assets | \$55,477,323 |
| Total Liabilities | \$3,954,738 |
| Capital Stock | \$3,100,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$48,422,585 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$51,522,585 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$55,477,323 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Western National Mutual Insurance Company
 PO Box 1463
 Minneapolis, MN 55440

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total Assets | \$2,027,670,593 |
| Total Liabilities | \$1,147,663,454 |
| Capital Stock | \$ |
| Surplus Funds | \$880,007,139 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$880,007,139 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$2,027,670,593 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Westfield Insurance Company
 One Park Circle
 Westfield Center, OH 44251-5001

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total Assets | \$3,331,213,510 |
| Total Liabilities | \$2,124,194,469 |
| Capital Stock | \$8,220,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$1,198,799,041 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$1,207,019,041 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$3,331,213,510 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Westfield Select Insurance Company
 One Park Circle
 Westfield Center, OH 44251

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Total Assets | \$28,380,409 |
| Total Liabilities | \$48,350 |
| Capital Stock | \$5,000,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$23,332,059 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$28,332,059 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$28,380,409 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Westguard Insurance Company
 PO Box AH
 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0020

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total Assets | \$1,358,592,895 |
| Total Liabilities | \$236,590,164 |
| Capital Stock | \$4,200,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$1,117,802,731 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$1,122,002,731 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$1,358,592,895 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
West Bend Insurance Company
 1900 South 18th Avenue
 West Bend, WI 53095

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total Assets | \$4,296,289,137 |
| Total Liabilities | \$2,822,880,532 |
| Capital Stock | \$ |
| Surplus Funds | \$1,473,408,605 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$1,473,408,605 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$4,296,289,137 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Western Surety Company
 151 N. Franklin Street
 Chicago, IL 60606

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total Assets | \$2,126,616,005 |
| Total Liabilities | \$653,365,853 |
| Capital Stock | \$4,000,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$1,469,250,152 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$1,473,250,152 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$2,126,616,005 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Westfield National Insurance Company
 One Park Circle
 Westfield, OH 44251-5001

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Total Assets | \$853,672,116 |
| Total Liabilities | \$495,139,357 |
| Capital Stock | \$3,000,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$355,532,759 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$358,532,759 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$853,672,116 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Westfield Superior Insurance Company
 One Park Circle
 Westfield Center, OH 44251

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Total Assets | \$8,557,587 |
| Total Liabilities | \$88,197 |
| Capital Stock | \$3,000,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$5,469,390 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$8,469,390 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$8,557,587 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Property & Casualty Insurance Companies
Abstract of the Annual Statement
 As of December 31, 2023
Westport Insurance Corporation
 1200 Main Street, Suite 800
 Kansas City, MO 64105

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total Assets | \$1,050,574,101 |
| Total Liabilities | \$893,079,361 |
| Capital Stock | \$6,345,000 |
| Surplus Funds | \$151,149,740 |
| Total Capital & Surplus | \$157,494,740 |
| Total Liabilities, Surplus & Other Funds | \$1,050,574,101 |

Mississippi Insurance Department
 I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct abstract of the above-name company filed with the Mississippi Insurance Department showing the condition of said company on December 31, 2023.
Mike Chaney
 Commissioner of Insurance

Canton Academy cross country goes the distance



Special to The Canton News

Recently, the Canton Academy girls cross country team placed AAAA State Runners Up while the boys finished 3rd in AAAA Boys State. All MAIS Runners are Ian Whittington, Harper Lampkin, Mary Alice Holmes and Sterling Belle Brock. Coach Ben Williams and his teams had a great season.

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|--|---|

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Christmas Carnival planned for sickle cell warriors

The Canton News

The Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation (MSCF) is hosting a Christmas Carnival for sickle cell warriors and their families on Saturday, December 14.

Coordinating the event this year is Tobi Breland, nurse practitioner at Children's of MS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (CCCBD) and MSCF board member, and Shelley Martin, registered nurse at CCCBD.

"Last year, we were able to bring back this event, which we had been unable to hold because of the pandemic. It was so exciting to see the turnout of families who were able to enjoy a day of holiday cheer and fun, thanks to the Foundation," said Breland.

"Sickle cell is a prevalent genetic blood disorder with many possible complications," said Breland. "We plan the event to provide some

holiday fun for families who deal with the effects of it daily."

The carnival will feature lots of games, inflatables, face painting, balloon twisting, food, a cake walk and a special visit and gifts from Santa. Parents are invited to snap a photo of their youngsters with the Jolly 'Ol Elf.

Set for 10 a.m. until noon at the First Baptist Church of Jackson's Christian Life Center at 431 North State Street in Jackson, the event is free, but is limited to children with sickle cell disease and their immediate family only.

"I'm excited to see those who live with this disease come together and enjoy some holiday cheer and time together with family and those who share their same struggles," said Martin.

For more information, email MSSickleCellFND@yahoo.com.



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MADCAPP receives table donation



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Recently, Broadmoor Life Group built and delivered picnic tables to Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty (MadCAAP)'s for the

B.A.S.E. Camp after school program. The kids love having an outdoor space to enjoy snacks and make crafts.



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SAFETY AFTER THE STORM

After a storm has passed, naturally thoughts center on getting back in, surveying the damage and getting your life back together as quickly as possible. But beware: the time after the storm can be more dangerous than the storm itself. Your safety is important to us!

- Stay away from downed power lines and areas of debris.
- Don't walk in flooded areas or standing water.
- Look for electrical system damage once power is restored.
- Stay alert for natural gas leaks.
- Check for sewage and water line damage.

'Tis the season in Canton MS



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Halloween is over, and it's time to trim the tree! Canton is preparing for holiday traditions. Mississippi's original City of Lights prepares to shine this holiday season. The 2024 Canton Christmas Festival will kick off soon on the Historic Canton

Square. Canton invites everyone to bring their families and make Christmas memories again in the City of Lights. For more information and for a complete schedule of festivities and map of the festival, visit www.cantontourism.com, or call Canton Tourism at 601-859-1307.



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Cantonians urged to get fall/winter vaccinations to fight respiratory viruses

Special to The Canton News

As what is historically the respiratory virus season approaches, the Mississippi State Department of Health encourages everyone to get appropriate updated vaccinations to avoid severe outcomes such as hospitalization and death.

The rates of respiratory viruses such as influenza, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) and COVID tend to increase during the fall and winter months as more people gather indoors.

All individuals six months of age and older are recommended to get updated flu and COVID vaccines each season. Protection against RSV is recommended for babies and older adults.

Thanks to the wide availability of

effective vaccines, the risk of severe illness from both the flu and COVID were cut nearly by half in fall 2023. More than 98% of the U.S. population now has some protective immunity against COVID. The first immunization against RSV for older adults, pregnant women and young children also became available last fall.

Vaccinations are currently available through primary care physicians, clinics and pharmacies around the state. Healthcare providers can determine the number and type of doses for each age to provide the best protection.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released updated recommendations this year to bring a unified approach to addressing risks from a range of respiratory viral illnesses.

The recommendations include:

- Staying up to date with vaccinations to protect against serious illness, hospitalization and death. This includes flu, COVID-19 and RSV, if eligible.
- Practicing good hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes, washing or sanitizing hands often, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.
- Taking steps for cleaner air, such as bringing in more fresh outside air, purifying indoor air or gathering outdoors.



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