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## Mississippi's largest economic development project breaks ground

Special to The Canton News

Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) recently announced that Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS) is constructing multiple data center campuses in two Madison County industrial parks. With a planned capital investment of \$10 billion, AWS is the largest economic development project in Mississippi's history. Additionally, the company will create at least 1,000 new jobs in Madison County.

The new technology-centered campuses will signal a new chapter in Madison County's technological landscape.

MCEDA and Madison County say they have strategically prepared its sites over the past five-plus years for speed-to-market, allowing the County to land this economic development project. They say the county is an ideal space for technological development and its forward-thinking approach, as showcased by the

County's readiness for AWS.

AWS is the world's most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud. These data centers will enable customers of all sizes and across all industries, such as healthcare, manufacturing, automotive, financial services, public sector, telecom and more to transform their businesses. Millions of customers—including the fastest-growing startups, largest enterprises, and leading government agencies—are using AWS to lower costs, become more agile and innovate faster. The new data centers will contain computer servers, data storage drives, networking equipment, and other forms of technology infrastructure used to power cloud computing.

Governor Tate Reeves said, "Mississippi has done it again. This record-shattering \$10 billion private sector investment will not only create 1,000 high-tech, high-paying jobs for Mississippians, but it will

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## Pharmacy graduate Victoria Green makes good on a promise

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Family is everything to Victoria Green, a Canton native who recently graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Doctor of Pharmacy.



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As a young adult, she took pride in assisting with

the care of her maternal grandmother, riding the bus to her grandmother's house every day to make sure she took her daily medications.

"That hands-on experience introduced me to the world of medications, how they work and the posi-

tive impact they have on health and well-being," she said. "I realized I wanted my future career to revolve around medications, improving health outcomes and healing people."

She made a promise to herself that she would pursue a career in pharmacy for her maternal grandmother. She shared her ambitions with her paternal grandmother, who beamed with pride at the idea of Green becoming the first doctor in the family.

"I began this path for one grandmother and will continue it in honor of another," Green said. "Throughout my profession, I will always carry the love and inspiration of them both as they watch over me from above."

Pursuing her chosen field at the UM School of Pharmacy felt natural, offering her the chance to study in a nationally-ranked program close to home. Laying eyes on the

Ole Miss campus and visiting the pharmacy school sealed the deal.

In her time as a student, Green has cultivated a reputation as a leader with a servant's heart, a strong work ethic and a sunny personality that is infectious to those around her.

"When I had Victoria on rotation with me, she greeted me with a smile every day and asked how I was doing," said Jamie Wagner, clinical associate professor at the Medical Center campus. "She always remembered what I had going on in my life and asked for updates about people, stories and just me in general."

"Her care and concern for others extends beyond her required duties as a pharmacist and are just innate to her. She cares with her whole heart, and you really feel that she cares about you. She is definitely one of a kind."

Green credits her positive, can-

do attitude to her parents, praising them for keeping her motivated and uplifted.

"Remembering my purpose – to help patients and make a difference in their lives – helps me stay focused and optimistic, even during challenging times," she said. "Having a strong support system, whether it's friends, family, peers or mentors, is invaluable."

As the first in her family to pursue higher education, Green said her unique journey has been full of both challenges and opportunities. Navigating the college applications and financial aid processes, for example, felt overwhelming, but she knows the importance of her journey extends beyond herself.

"As a first-generation student, I'm eager to serve as a guide and inspiration to younger generations of my family as they embark on their educational journeys," she said.

cont. on page 3

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# Canton High School announces top ten scholars



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Recently, Canton High School announced the Class of 2024 Top Ten Scholars. These scholars included Valedictorian Caitlin Nelson, Salutatorian Tyra Sims, Jaquavian Ratliff, Tammyiah Sutton, Kelsey Sutton, Emilyyah Sutton, Ariaunna Luckett, A'miya Williamson, Markiyah Harris, Sabraida Harris and Kaniyah Hawkins.



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cont. from front page

# Mississippi



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result in our state remaining at the forefront of innovation. Mississippi is building a business climate that is ripe for further growth, especially in the technology sector. On top of that, we're doing what it takes to prepare our workforce to take on these high-paying jobs of the future. There really is something special happening here in

Mississippi, and the world is noticing."

Madison County Board of Supervisors President Gerald Steen said, "As the largest capital investment in the state's history, this is an extraordinary win for Madison County and all of Mississippi. The quality planning and preparedness of Madison County and my

colleagues at the Board of Supervisors have put into economic development allowed us to achieve a win of this size. We, the Board of Supervisors, are grateful for the work of MCEDA, the Business League and all our partners who worked to land this project. This project will continue to take Madison County to the next level."

cont. from front page

# Pharmacy

"My family is incredibly proud of me and excited to have their very own doctor in the family."

Green's service involvement has included extensive work with the Jackson Free Clinic, Magnolia State Pharmaceutical Society Community Health Fair, Mississippi Science Fest and the Caring Hands Clinic.

"My experiences have deepened my commitment to advocating for underserved patient populations and serving others with hospitality and optimism," she said. "The joy and fulfillment I feel from helping those in need is indescribable."

Her leadership roles have included serving as a pharmacy ambassador, pharmacy class president, class vice president, community service co-chair on the Jackson campus, pharmacy services co-director for the Jackson Free Clinic and membership chair for the UM student chapter of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Service and leadership have always been central to Green's life.

"Since high school, I've taken on leadership roles that have improved my skills in communication, patient interaction and cooperation," she said. "To me, leadership is about fostering connections and building relationships with people from diverse backgrounds."

"Leadership offers a platform to drive innovation within an or-

ganization and promote personal growth. Embracing these values has not only led to fulfilling experiences and meaningful relationships, but has also allowed me to leave a lasting legacy."

Green's career interests lie in ambulatory care and academia. She is passionate about collaborating with other health care providers to provide comprehensive care to underserved patients with chronic conditions.

Equally important to her is educating future generations of pharmacy students and serving as a mentor.

"I look forward to contributing to the advancement of pharmacy education and moving the profession of pharmacy forward," she said.

Green sang the praises of her own mentors and influences, such as her adviser, Katie McClendon, saying McClendon has demonstrated daily her genuine care for Green's well-being and future. She also shouted out professors Amanda Capino, Rebecca Heath, Ha Phan and Wagner.

"These extraordinary women not only guided me through the residency application and matching process, but also helped me recognize my potential and value," Green said. "They have all played an essential role in sharpening my clinical skills, patient care abilities and professional development. Each of them took the time to understand

me as an individual, making their support even more impactful."

With so much knowledge and experience under her belt, Green feels qualified to offer some sage advice to students just starting pharmacy school. Her biggest piece of wisdom is to stay engaged and build relationships, and she encourages students to network and embrace the multitude of volunteer, leadership, research and social opportunities that pharmacy offers.

"Each experience contributes to your growth as an individual and health care professional," she said. "It's perfectly OK not to have a clear direction in which area of pharmacy interests you the most initially."

"Take advantage of each learning opportunity and trust that you'll discover the path that's right for you along the way. You've got this!"

As for Green's next step, she will complete a community-based residency at ARcare in central Arkansas, where she will have opportunities to work directly with patients in the clinic, assist in the pharmacy and engage with pharmacy students in the classroom.

"We are so proud of Victoria and excited to see the impact she has on patient care," said Donna Strum, dean of the pharmacy school. "She's worked hard and left quite a legacy in the School of Pharmacy."

P.O. Box 1163  
Canton, MS 39046  
601-667-4667



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**Publisher**

Clay Mansell  
ClayMansell@CantonNews.net

**Editor in Chief**

Stephanie Tracy

**Editor**

Courtney Warren  
News@CantonNews.net

**Office Manager**

Doris Bynum

**Distribution**

Ben Barnett

**Sales Representatives**

Clay Mansell  
Lori Lycette  
Courtney Warren

**Graphic Designer / Layout**

Megan Moss  
Designer@CantonNews.net

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For submission information, email  
news@cantonnews.net

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# Nelson and Sims earn Canton High School val and sal



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CHS Valedictorian Caitlyn Nelson



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CHS Salutatorian Tyra Sims

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Recently, Canton High School's Caitlyn Nelson and Tyra Sims were named valedictorian and salutatorian of the 2024 graduating class.

Nelson is Miss Canton High School and said her motto is, "Hard work beats talent, when talent fails to work hard."

"I plan to attend the University of

Mississippi in the fall and major in kinesiology. After graduating from Ole Miss, I will attend medical school," said Nelson.

Sims, salutatorian, said her mot-

to is, "God's promises may be delayed, but not denied."

She also said, "I plan to attend Holmes Community College and Texas A&M to major in pre-law."

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# Remember When: Remembering local servicemen

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

Recently, I was a little early at a close neighborhood church, M.T. Hope, so, just passing the time, I walked through part of the cemetery. It was interesting, as I saw gravemarkers of veterans from World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam.

This brought to mind several people that I knew or know with service from World War II up to the Taliban Conflict. Very few are family members.

In the past, I have written about Hubert Davis and Harold Tyner. Floyd Davis, a shoe repair man with his shop in the Hollow, went to church with my family. He served in the South Pacific. I am not sure if the medical profession recognized post traumatic stress disorder following World War II, but he would have been a classic example. He was in foxholes when the enemy would charge at night using knives to slice and kill.

A lot of former students at Canton Academy would remember Lynn Castons, the custodian, for years. He was in the Navy and served in the North Atlantic protecting the shipping lanes. His

story was about being ordered to de-ice the ship's rigging. It was cold, hard, dangerous work that the sailors were almost passive about performing. While de-icing one day, they saw another ship, with the ice weight making it unstable, turn turtle (capsize), with the loss of everyone on board.

J.B. Yeates, a Chinese immigrant, served in World War II, also. It was told that, when he enlisted, he said, "This country has been good to me. I will help protect it."

Robert Peterson served and was killed in Vietnam.

Charles and Gerri Leon met during their military service and raised their family in the neighborhood. A family story says an uncle was on his way by bus to serve when World War II was declared over. The bus turned around and took them home. Soldier Colony was so named because farms were sold to veterans after the war. Old Yazoo City Road was lined with farms owned by Veterans like LL Lynch, Leo Lynch, and George Heindel. Those are just the few names that come to mind.

If there is a point to this, it is the lack of recognition of past and present service officers that keep you and me safe. We recently rec-



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ognized Memorial Day. I normally go to the courthouse War Memorial and read each name. A thank you and a prayer pretty much concludes my tribute. I have also considered going out to the Canton Cemetery, walking around, and

saying thank you to the individuals and their families.

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

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## Warren and Cration become state champs



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Canton High School Tigers Cameron Warren and Jayden Cration are the MSHAA 5A State Champions in

high jump and long jump. Warren placed second, and Cration placed third in the 5A high jump. Cration placed fifth in the 5A long jump.

## Anderson graduates with USM Citizen Scholar distinction

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The University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Center for Community Engagement (CCE) has recognized fourteen graduating seniors who completed requirements for the USM Citizen Scholars distinction, a recognition for students demonstrating significant involvement in community engagement.

The Citizen Scholars program recognizes undergraduate students who have made significant contributions to their communities by incorporating service and community engagement into their academic experience. Students who earn 100+ service hours, participate in a community-engaged learning experience, and complete a reflective exit interview are eligible to be recognized as Citizen Scholars.

Cal'Detria Anderson, an elementary education major from Canton, completed one hundred seven service

hours through volunteer work with organizations such as Rowan Elementary and Tender Hearts Montessori Academy. Anderson's community-engaged learning experience was a practicum with Bellevue Elementary School.

"The Citizen Scholars program recognizes students who already have a deep commitment to serving others, and, in addition, introduces them to the many different ways they can use their unique skills and passions to positively impact the community," said Christy Kayser, director of CCE. "It is always amazing to see the breadth of the activities that students are involved in and what they choose to do for the community-engaged learning requirement."

Students in the program can volunteer with a variety of community-based organizations to earn their one hundred service hours. They may also choose from several options on how to satisfy the community-engaged learning requirement, such as interning with a nonprofit organization, enrolling in two service-learning classes, or implementing a leadership project that benefits the community.



Cal'Detria Anderson

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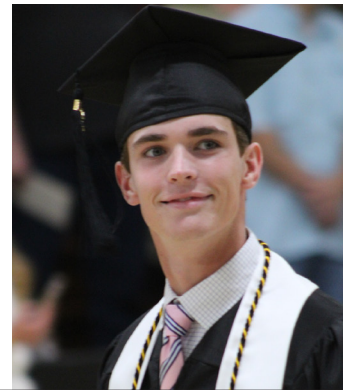
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# Congrats 2024 Graduates!

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# May named banner bearer for UM School of Journalism and New Media



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Keely Lauren May of Canton was designated banner bearer for the School of Journalism and New Media at the University of Mississippi for the recent commencement weekend.

May, who graduated from UM with a Bachelor of Arts in public policy leadership and a Bachelor of Science

in integrated marketing communications, was among the nineteen students who were named class marshal or banner bearer for their respective college or school.

Students chosen for the honor excelled in their studies and led the graduating class of their college or school into Morning Convocation on May 11 as part of the university's 2024 commencement exercises.

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# HINDS CC CELEBRATES GRADUATES

Hinds Community College awarded 1,270 credentials to 972 graduates in four ceremonies held over three days, which means many graduates earned more than one credential. Among the graduates, 448 graduated with honors, including 260 cum laude, 3.2 - 3.59 GPA out of 4.0; 152 magna cum laude, 3.60 - 3.99 GPA and 36 summa cum laude, with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Cantonians who were among those who graduated included:

- Mareco Baldwin
- Cason Derryberry
- Zan Ellis
- Timeia Golston
- Aaliyah Handy
- Lacey Hankins
- Cameron Hill
- Joshua Hopkins
- Steven Johnson
- Kcy Jones
- Elsabado McNair
- Alaela Middleton
- Angela Reed
- Bradford Smith
- Deneka Vanburen
- Millicent Vance
- Brad Williamson

## Hinds names President's Scholars

President's Scholars are those with a cumulative 4.0 grade point average. Students from Canton who were named President's Scholars included:

- Lauren Blount
- Shavaria Jones
- Eric McLendon
- Will Reilly
- Kamari Williams
- Brad Williamson

## Hinds names Deans' Scholars

Hinds Community College has announced the Deans' Scholars for the spring 2024 semester. Deans' Scholars are those students with a cumulative 3.5 to 3.9 grade point average. Cantonians on the Dean's Scholars list included:

- Madison Bullock
- Ziyad Ghoneim
- Andrew Hankins
- Lauren Hanks
- Jeremiah Harris
- Cameron Hill
- Kcy Jones
- Remy Jones
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# Canton Police Department thanked



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The City of Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau recently presented the City of Canton Police Department with goodie bags to thank them for their service. Included were gifts and coupons from local restaurants. Pictured is Sergeant Tanya Jackson.

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# Warren named one of the Herzog Foundation Teachers of Year



all photos courtesy of Madison-Ridgeland Academy

*Special to The Canton News*

With a surprise video and standing ovation from her middle schoolers, Cantontian Courtney Warren says she was delighted to learn that she was recently named one of the Herzog Foundation's 2024 Teachers of the Year. Warren teaches middle school literature, Spanish, and creative writing at Madison-Ridgeland Academy.

"I can't even begin to explain how blessed I feel. To get this award means I was nominated by both my school and my church, so to know that they think highly enough of me to do so is an honor in itself," said Warren.

Warren has been teaching for eight years and has been a middle school teacher for four.

"I have to give credit for that middle school push to two people. Michele Carter and Ron Jurney sat me down one summer, while I taught at Canton Academy, and said I would be moving to the middle school. I cried! I thought I'd never be a good middle school teacher. I'm so grateful they made me do it anyway, because I can't imagine

myself teaching any other grade. I've found my place. Coach Jurney gave me the push and didn't waiver, while Mrs. Carter held my hand and encouraged me every step of the way. She still does."

Warren added teaching the Patriots has been a life changing experience.

"Teaching at MRA is a dream. I love every single student I have, and the administration and faculty are some of the most amazing people I've ever met. Our school truly is an example of what it means to give our students a Christian-based education. My principal, Ben Haindel, is the most encouraging leader I've ever had. He is always excited to come to school, to see our students, and to cheer on his teachers. Honestly, all of our administrators are like this. They are incredible. I'm proud to say I teach here, and even more proud to say my own daughter is being educated here," said Warren.

MRA Middle School Principal Ben Haindel said, "I believe the secret to Courtney Warren's success is her ability to form meaningful relationships with her students and her enthusiasm

and passion for teaching that she brings to her classroom every minute of every day. She is one of a kind, and we could not be more proud of this recognition as a Herzog Foundation Teacher of the Year. We are fortunate to have such amazing teachers, like Courtney Warren, at MRA."

"In Christian schools, exceptional teachers abound, and our twelve Teachers of the Year stand as shining examples," said Herzog Foundation President Darrell Jones. "Selected for their remarkable dedication and innovative teaching methods, each recipient embodies excellence in the classroom."

Warren was showered with love on announcement day by her students, faculty, and administrators at MRA. She said, "One of my favorite parts of the entire experience was that the students and teachers were with me in Duese Hall. They cheered and were so excited. Mr. Land, our head of school, has a tradition of ending all pep rallies with Two Bits. He got the middle school students to say 'two bits, four bits, six bits a dollar, all for Mrs. War-

ren stand up and holler!' I will always remember that I got my own two bits from them!"

Each year, the Herzog Foundation recognizes twelve Teacher of the Year Award recipients, who will be recognized Fall 2024 at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.

Nomination criteria includes: Each nominee must be a K-12 teacher in a Christian five-day school or hybrid school in the U.S. Each teacher nominated must have served in K-12 Christian education for at least one year. The nominee must have plans to continue teaching after receiving the award. The teacher must have demonstrated excellence in promoting Christian education to students. The teacher must be highly respected by students, parents, colleagues, and the community. The school and teacher must align with the Herzog Foundation mission: Herzog Foundation exists to catalyze and accelerate the development of quality Christ-centered K-12 education. Its vision is for families and culture to flourish through quality Christian education.

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# Mabry and Dill earn Canton Academy val and sal



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CA Valedictorian Anna Claire Mabry



Special to The Canton News

CA Salutatorian Hannah Dill

By Courtney Warren

Recently, Canton Academy's Anna Claire Mabry and Hannah Dill were named valedictorian and salutatorian of the 2024 graduating class.

Mabry has been a CA Panther since the second grade. In addition to being crowned 2024's Miss Canton Academy, Mabry received the distinguished CA Citizenship Award in junior high and high school, was a senior homecoming maid, was voted Most Dependable and Most Likely to Be President, and has maintained a 4.0 GPA while playing tennis and serving as co-captain of the cheer squad. She helped revive CA's Fellowship of Christian Ath-

letes chapter and is FCA President, has served as Student Body Chaplain, and was the 2023-24 Student Body President and National Honor Society President. Mabry was also selected as Canton Academy's 2024 High School Heisman scholarship recipient.

Mabry will attend Mississippi State University in the fall, majoring in marketing and minoring in communications. When asked what her favorite things are related to school, she said, "I love my sweet friends, and I am thankful for all of my teachers who have taught me and encouraged me during my time at CA. I will cherish all of the memories I have made along the

way."

Anna Claire says she will miss cheering for the Panthers and getting to say, "Good morning, Canton Academy!" on the morning announcements. She also said, "Most importantly, I will miss my sweet CA family and the classrooms and halls that hold so many precious memories of mine." Mabry's favorite memories are cheering the Panthers to a victory in the State Championship game and winning the coveted banana at cheer camp.

Salutatorian Hannah Dill is a Miss Canton Academy nominee, junior and senior homecoming maid and 2024 Prom Queen. She was school representative for the Madison

Civinettes and the MadCAAP chair for the Civinettes. Dill was co-captain of the varsity cheer team and All-American cheerleader. She will attend Mississippi College in the fall and pursue a career in dental hygiene.

When asked what her favorite thing about CA is, Dill said, "I found my best friends there." She says the things she will miss the most are Friday night lights, spirit train with her team, and Mrs. Blake-more. Dill's favorite CA memory is cheering at the state football championships, particularly her junior year. "The stands and the field were electric! Such a memorable experience," said Dill.

# DAR presents scholarships to local seniors



all photos Special to The Canton News

Canton's Doak's Treaty Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently presented two Madison County High School seniors with the DAR Good Citizen's Award for 2024. Students receiving this award are recognized for exhibiting good citizenship and patriotism. The recipient for Velma Jackson High School was Ca'Niyla Banks, and the recipient for Canton Academy was Anna Claire Mabry.

# UMMC seeks participants for autism research study

Special to The Canton News

Researchers in the world's largest study of autism spectrum disorder, SPARK, are working with the University of Mississippi Medical Center and other health organizations to include more families from underrepresented groups in their research. SPARK can't advance the understanding of autism if a broad cohort of families isn't included.

UMMC's pediatric arm, Children's of Mississippi, is one of five locations in the United States dedicated to helping the study include more African American families. Increased inclusion of underrepresented groups is essential to SPARK's goal of gaining a greater understanding of the genetic causes of autism.

SPARK also seeks to support the work of all researchers and develop culturally relevant engagement across a variety of communities.

"Any individual with autism (ASD) and their family can join SPARK through Children's of Mississippi's Center for Advancement of Youth," said Dr. Gabrielle Banks, assistant professor of child development. "SPARK recruitment is active and passive. To increase the number of families in the study from underrepresented groups, our team has been making phone calls and hosting community outreach programs."

SPARK includes more than 100,000 people with ASD and 175,000 family members. More than thirty of the nation's leading medical centers have joined SPARK to help in reaching individuals and families affected by ASD.

Founded in 2011, the Center for Advancement of Youth, or CAY, offers multidisciplinary coordinated care for children with behavioral or developmental conditions throughout the state from its location in the Highland Bluff building in northeast Jackson.

Dr. Dustin Sarver, associate professor of pediatrics, forged the connections between SPARK and UMMC as a co-investigator, starting in 2016.

"We had this opportunity because of the foundation that he worked to create," Banks said.

Researcher Ayana Davis, a graduate student at Jackson State, has

in reaching out to families and creating a relationship with them based on a foundation of trust," she said.

Independent adults with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder and legal guardians of those diagnosed with ASD can join SPARK online. Joining the study requires donation of DNA through a saliva sample or a cheek swab, which can be mailed

daily lives, while others need little to no help.

About one in thirty-six children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder, or ASD, according to estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network. ASD occurs in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

Regardless of whether a family joins SPARK or is served by CAY, Davis provides them with resources in the community and state.

"While SPARK recruitment is important, it's a secondary goal," Banks said. "Connecting families to resources and giving them the support they need is primary."

The other national SPARK sites dedicated to increasing numbers of underrepresented families include Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, a partner of Emory University School of Medicine.

As one of the national sites boosting SPARK's outreach, CAY has registered an additional one hundred six SPARK participants from

the African American community so far. CAY has hosted community support programs at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church and New Horizon Church International in Jackson, and future programs are in the works.

UMMC is partnering with the Color of Autism Foundation to present a family resource fair this fall.

Joining the SPARK study is simple and free, Davis said, "and the best benefit is knowing that you'll be helping advance the understanding of autism and improve lives."

To learn more about SPARK or to join, visit [sparkforautism.org](http://sparkforautism.org), or email Davis at [adavis25@umc.edu](mailto:adavis25@umc.edu).



Special to the Canton News

been leading the UMMC SPARK outreach to families since 2022.

"We've talked with more than nine hundred families by phone," Davis said. "Connecting with patients and their families has meant listening to them and answering any questions they have. Sometimes families just need someone to talk to, and I want to be that person."

Another SPARK goal is to create a transparent and trusted research environment and experience for all participants and their families, Davis said.

Banks praised Davis' efforts to enlarge the SPARK cohort.

"She has gone above and beyond

in or dropped off at the Center for Advancement of Youth, or CAY. Davis has also picked up samples from families for SPARK.

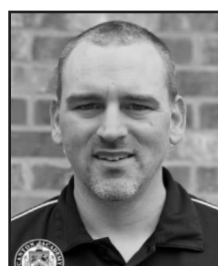
UMMC is in its second eighteen-month grant round, each funded by a \$120,000 supplemental grant.

Researchers in the genome-wide association study are looking for gene variations that may contribute to the neurological differences of ASD. Some people with ASD have a genetic condition that resulted in ASD. Other causes are not yet known. The abilities of those with ASD vary significantly. Some people with ASD need support in their

## Cheatham returns to CA as coach

Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy recently welcomed Seth Cheatham back to the CA family.



Seth Cheatham

Cheatham is a 2005 graduate of Canton Academy. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 2010 with a degree in kinesiology. He and

his wife Emily have been married for thirteen years and have two boys, Brantley (7) and Jaxson (almost 2).

Cheatham has taught and coached at East Rankin Academy, Sylva-Bay Academy and Lamar School. He will serve as junior high boys' basketball coach for the Panthers, as well as assistant varsity boys' basketball coach and assistant baseball coach.

Cheatham says, "I can't wait to get started and to be able to put back on the black and gold!"

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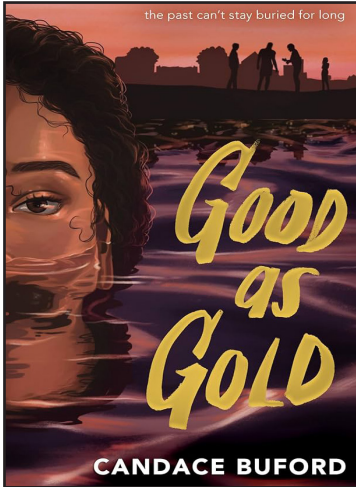


# On the shelf: Good as Gold

By Courtney Warren

When I recently went on a trip to Washington DC I was so excited to explore all of the bookstores. As we went around learning all of the historical facts we could, every single time there was a bookstore my students pointed them out. On a trip to National Harbor, as we got off the bus, we discovered a bookstore called Mahogany Books, which is

African-American owned and when you walk through the doors, it's so incredible to discover that every single book on the shelf is also written by African-Americans authors. I found several books but one that stood out to me was *Good as Gold* by Candace Buford. According to the publisher, Casey's life in Langston has been charmed. She's the queen bee of her prep school, a shoe-in for prom queen, and on her way to the Ivy League come fall. She can't wait to leave the whole town of Langston behind her. That is until her father loses his job and she finds herself on



Special to The Canton News

the brink of losing her ticket out of town.

The town of Langston is known for its picturesque lake and robust summer tourism. Everyone who lives in town has heard the rumors at some point-- there is a treasure buried deep below the surface that no one has ever been able to find. Few people actually believe in the treasure, and even fewer have searched for it. But some have tried . . .

Suddenly an outcast from her popular squad, Casey falls in with a new group of friends who are exactly the opposite of her usual crowd, but are more accepting. Together they devise a plan to find the elusive treasure, in a quest to get the money and save Casey's family and her future. But what they find is much more complicated than just a pile of gold. With thrilling twists and turns and high stakes adventure, fans of Outer Banks will devour this summer adventure.

Things to note are that this book contains some explicit language but not sexual content.

If you're a fan of a great summer adventure I highly recommend this!

# Mabry awarded Lions scholarship



Special to The Canton News

Lion Arnel Bolden recently presented Anna Clair Mabry, a senior at Canton Academy, with a \$1,000 Lions' scholarship. Engineer Chad Wages was the program and gave an overview of the Amazon project. Pictured (l to r) are Chad Wages, Arnel Bolden, Anna Clair Mabry, Joy Foy, and President Moses Thompson.



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# Cook recognized for MCYL



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Pictured are Canton Academy's Amelia Rose Cook and Jan Collins of the Madison County Business League and Foundation.

### Special to The Canton News

Recognizing the importance of quality education and a well-educated workforce in the recruitment of industry, the Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Economic Development Authority recently sponsored the Madison County Youth Leadership (MCYL) program. One of the best and brightest all-around juniors from

each of the Madison County public, private and parochial high schools, plus Jackson Academy and Jackson Prep, are selected by their administration to represent their respective schools. The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Community Trust awarded scholarships to these Madison County students for their participation in the 2023-24 MCYL program.

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# CA FIELD DAY

Special to *The Canton News*

Canton Academy held field day for some of their smallest Panthers. With Coach Lisman Walker at the helm, these baby Panthers ran, jumped, rolled, and then had sweet treats.



All photos Special to *The Canton News*



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# Canton Lions Club: June update and barbeque thank you

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

The Canton Lions would like to give a big thanks to our many friends and supporters for the success of our last chicken barbeque fundraiser held on Friday, April 26.

According to the chief cook, Danny Murphy, the cooking begins early and takes a dedicated team of strong men to cook the 400+ chickens to a tender, fall-off-the-bone good. A Lions Club team helping Danny cook included Timmy Pickett, Gary Teasley, Chan Chandler and Al Salmi, along with outside help from James Foy, Gerry Murphy, Mike Everett and Richard Case.

So many of you have purchased our tickets for the smoked chicken halves, the potato salad that gets the most

comments, and Al's baked bean for years, and your continued support is much appreciated.

This year, we had corporate sponsorships from G.A. Carmichael and from Trustmark, Bancorp South and Regions Banks. This year's ticket sales and the additional funds will ensure that the Lions scholarships to Canton schools' seniors will be available again next year. It will also allow the Canton Club to continue to be part of a global network of volunteers who contribute to White Cane and Leader Dog for the Blind programs.

Club President Moses Thompson said, "The Lions' motto is 'We Serve,' and serving in Canton where we are so supported is our pleasure."

Thank you, Canton, for another successful fundraiser.



Special to The Canton News

President Moses Thompson, Dr. James Coleman, and Lion Tamika Liddell.

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