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Good News You Can Use - October 9, 2025 - Vol. 11, No. 10 - Canton, Mississippi

'Genuine Always': Dr. James Coleman leads G.A. Carmichael with commitment to community care



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

For Dr. James L. Coleman Jr., healthcare is about more than treatment. It's about trust.

For more than nine years, Coleman has dedicated his career to G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, guiding the Canton-based organization with a steady belief that when staff grow, patients thrive. A proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., he brings the values of leadership, mentorship and community uplift into every decision he makes.

That philosophy is rooted in both his own journey and the legacy of Dr. George Albert Carmichael, the health center's namesake. Dr. Carmichael, a pioneering Black physician and fellow Kappa, spent more than 50 years knocking on doors and opening pathways to care in Canton. Today, Coleman carries that mission forward, ensuring those doors remain open for generations to come.

At the heart of his leadership is a mantra: "Educating and Elevating, Because Better Teams Create Better Care." Coleman said that at G.A. Carmichael, building people is central to building healthier communities

"One of my leading mantras related to GA and our staff is this: 'At GA, we build people,'" he said. "Many at GA came to our organization without degrees, without skill sets, and without training in a specific area,

but they have been given opportunities to grow. Because they've been helped and built, the expectation is to return that back to our patients in the provision of quality care."

That investment in staff development has translated into broader services for families across central Mississippi. Under Coleman's leadership, G.A. Carmichael has expanded OB/GYN,

dental, internal medicine, pharmacy and behavioral health care. Schoolbased health centers bring care directly to students, while programs such as the 340B Prescription Program, a Sliding Fee Schedule and a dedicated outreach team ensure that no family is left behind.

Coleman said it's hard to single out one community partnership as most impactful because each meets a different need.

"Our partnership with schools allows us to keep well children well and help sick children become well. often without parents having to leave work," he explained. "Our partnership with the City of Canton helps cut costs for businesses and employees by expanding care in non-traditional ways. And our national research collaborations allow us to show the importance of partnerships and share best

practices more broadly. Because each targets a different population, they all carry equal importance."

Those partnerships have placed G.A. Carmichael at the forefront of research and innovation. Through

the Jackson Heart Study Community Engagement Center, the organization became one of the first federally qualified health centers in the nation to receive a major National Institutes of Health research contract.

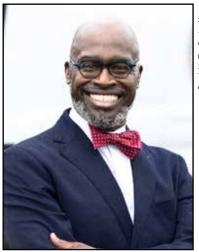
Looking ahead, Coleman said his focus is on helping Mississippi rewrite its health story.

"The most important change I hope to see in the next five years is helping well citizens stay well and helping sick people become well and maintain their status of being well," he said. "We have created a new Office of Population Health that will examine disparities, seek funding and build partnerships to invest in the health of our population."

the health of our population."

The motto "Genuine Always" serves as both a promise and a philosophy, Coleman said. It represents care delivered with dignity, respect, privacy and accessibility — no matter a patient's income or circumstances.

"Our motto 'Genuine Always' is a pledge that every patient at G.A. Carmichael will experience care that is authentic, compassionate and grounded in trust and dignity," he said



James L. Coleman Jr.





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Junior Auxiliary of Madison County donates hygiene items to CHS students



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Students at Canton High School (CHS) received a boost of support this fall, thanks to a donation from the Junior Auxiliary of Madison County.

The organization donated personal hygiene items to CHS students, helping ensure scholars have access to basic necessities that contribute to their well-being and confidence in the classroom.

District officials expressed gratitude for the Junior Auxiliary's continued

commitment to supporting students and families in the community.

"We are incredibly thankful for their kindness and generosity," a school spokesperson said. "This type of support plays a vital role in helping our scholars feel confident and prepared to succeed."

The Junior Auxiliary of Madison County is known for its service projects that support children and education across the region. Their donation to CHS reflects an ongoing partnership focused on meeting the essential needs of students.



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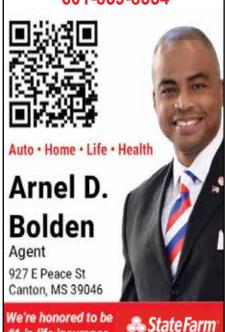
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Volume 11, Issue 10 Circulation 6,000

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

For submission information, email news@cantonnews.net

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Letter from the Editor: The God Who Sees Me

By Courtney Warren

When our spiritual life director at school, Mr. Gilreath, asked for volunteers to speak at chapel, I didn't hesitate. I love talking to our students. I love the microphone, I love sharing stories, and, more than anything, I love listening to theirs. I love when students stop by my classroom to tell me about soccer tournaments, visits to grandparents, new books they're reading, and weekend plans. I write it all down in my planner, because those little details matter. They make you feel seen.

That word seen—is why I chose my chapel theme. We've looking been at the different names of God in Scripture, and the moment I saw "El Roi," I knew it was mine. In Hebrew, Ro'iy can be translated "shepherd," but also as "seeing," "looking," or "gazing." El Roi means "The God Who Sees Me"

It's a name I con-

nect with deeply, because so many moments in my life have made me feel unseen or unheard.

I still remember kindergarten with Mrs. Cindy. She had a blue fuzzy rug with an apple painted on it. I didn't like the rug, because it clearly had not seen a washing machine in decades, and I didn't like the apple, because it was painted with 90s globby paint one finds at the Walmart, but I liked school, I liked Mrs. Cindy, and I loved being read to while we sat on the apple rug. She wasn't quite as cool as Mrs. Turner, who had a spider collection in her classroom, but I was given Mrs. Cindy as my teacher, so you take what you can.

When I was in Mrs. Cindy's kindergarten class, I vividly remember feeling like my legs were going to burst. They were wiggly, and I needed to move them. I couldn't help it. I took to my feet. I didn't move an inch from my desk, I simply stood up and continued cutting out whatever project she had us working on.

Sarah Karafa was sitting to my right, and the love of my life, Cam Short, also a lefty so it was clearly meant to be, sat to my left. I remember Mrs. Cindy asking me what I was doing

and why I was standing.
I said, "I'm crazy cutting. My legs are crazy with wiggles." She stared at me and told me to sit on my bottom or she'd call my mother. I sat on my bottom and she still called my mother.

I don't remember what happened when I got home, and I don't have many more memories of that class. But I remember being told to sit and be guiet. All the time.

Now, many of my students know my arch nemesis comes in the form of an elderly blonde woman who lives in South Georgia named Linda Johnson. She was my fourth-grade teacher at Westwood Academy. That is her government-given name, and no, she has still not accepted my friend request on Facebook.

I was sitting at my desk, a desk directly beside Linda's desk, when I



Special to The Canton News

yawned. It was a simple moment. Linda Johnson was across the room, standing behind the love of my life, Cam Short, and she stopped teaching. She dropped the chalk as if she'd been burned, and she turned to me with fire in her eyes that can only come from the depths of.... fourth-grade teacher

Why, you may ask? Because when I yawned, I made a sound that I had heard all of my life. A yawning sound many of us are accustomed to.

Linda Johnson, chalk now on the carpeted floor, turned to me and, from across the room, said, "Courtney Stevens, that is the most disrespectful thing I have ever heard in my life. You stop trying to draw attention to yourself; no one wants to hear you."

On September 14, 2015, there was a school shooting at Delta State University. I was the first reporter on the scene, as I was a senior staff reporter for The Bolivar Commercial at the time. Because it was a small town and I had relationships with the first responders, I was led behind the yellow tape and received inside information long before Fox News, CNN, and even the New York reporters who flew in later that day.

However, despite knowing what truly transpired, the TV reporters latched onto a rumor that the shooting had happened because of an affair between the shooter's girlfriend and the victim. It wasn't true.

I worked all day long to put those words out in the world. I worked for

the next month to ensure that people knew the truth, but I was one person. They had mics, they had live TV broadcasts, and I had only an iPhone and not a single hope of anyone hearing what I had to say. As a matter of fact, just last year that tragedy got brought up in conversation, and the person I was speaking with still thought the shooting was due to an affair. They didn't know the truth. I hadn't been heard.

Different stages. Different settings. Same feeling: unseen. Unheard. Told

to be smaller, quieter. Maybe you've felt that way too.

That's why El Roi resonates with me. In Genesis 16, Hagar, a young Egyptian servant cast out by her mistress Sarai, was alone in the wilderness, pregnant and hopeless. She wasn't Jewish. She didn't worship God. And yet it wasn't the gods of Egypt who met her there. It was the Lord. The angel of God asked her, "Where have you come from, and where

are you going?" and then blessed her. Hagar named God "El Roi"—"The God who sees me"because she realized she had been seen by the One who matters most.

That's powerful. It means our worth isn't in how many followers we have, how many people clap for us, or how often we're invited in. We're seen by God Himself.

I've been a teacher for ten years now. I know that sometimes it feels like what I say goes in one ear and out the other, but last year I got a note from a student that reminded me why I do what I do. It said that Mrs. Warren always listens. That hit me. It made me realize why I try so hard to remember birthdays, soccer games, and grandparents' names—because I know what it's like not to be seen, and I never want my students to feel that.

We all crave that. As Zoey from Huntrix sings, "Why do I cover up the colors stuck inside my head?" We shrink ourselves because we want to be accepted, but God already sees the colors inside of us.

When we truly see God, we no longer need to be seen by everyone else. And when God sees us, we can finally start seeing others.

That's the message I want to leave with you this month: You are seen. You are wanted. You are heard. Your story matters. Your life is like a home video God proudly shows His friends. He says, "Look at my child—do you see him? Do you see her?"

You're seen. El Roi. The God Who



Canton Career Center Sept. Student of the Month

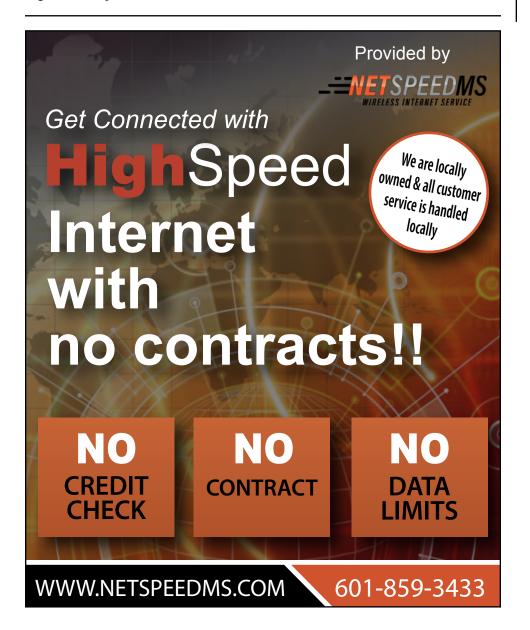


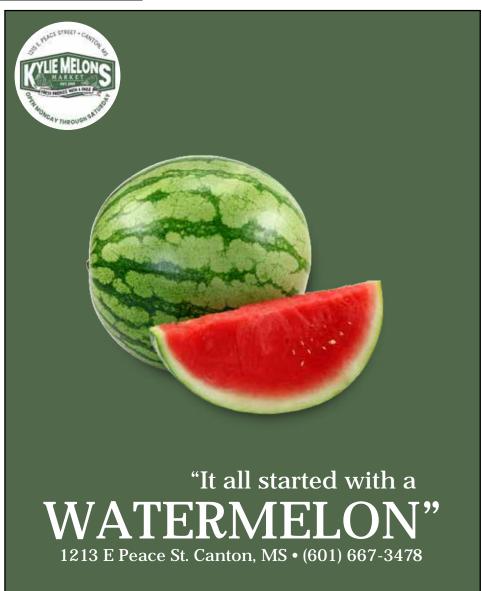
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Pictured (I–r): Wayne Day, Collision Repair Instructor at CCC; Trenice Mayfield, Student at CCC; Jan Collins, MCBL&F; and Michael Ellis, Director at CCC.

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Canton Public School District, on behalf of Madison County Business League & Foundation member Barnett's Body Shop, presented the Canton Career Center September Student of the Month award to Trenice Mayfield. Mayfield is a high school junior enrolled in the Collision Repair Program. She aspires to attend college and pursue a career in either the automotive industry or the healthcare industry. The purpose of the Student of the Month program is to connect businesses and industries with students while promoting the skills needed to strengthen Madison County's workforce.









Goodloe Elementary students attend ribbon-cutting at Mississippi Children's Museum



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Students from Goodloe Elementary School in Canton had the opportunity to witness innovation up close while assisting during a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Mississippi Children's Museum, held in partnership with Nissan.

The event marked the launch of a new interactive exhibit designed to

inspire curiosity, creativity and real-world learning. One of the featured experiences includes the all-electric Nissan ARIYA, allowing children to explore the world of electric mobility in an engaging, hands-on environment.

The partnership between the museum and Nissan aims to introduce young learners to concepts of innovation, industry and future-focused technology. Through immersive exhibits, the collaboration encourages students to imagine their roles in shaping the world of tomorrow.

Goodloe Elementary officials said they were honored to take part in the celebration and are excited about the educational opportunities the exhibit offers for scholars.

"This is an incredible experience for our students," one school representative said. "It not only sparks their imagination but connects them to emerging technologies in a way that is accessible and inspiring."

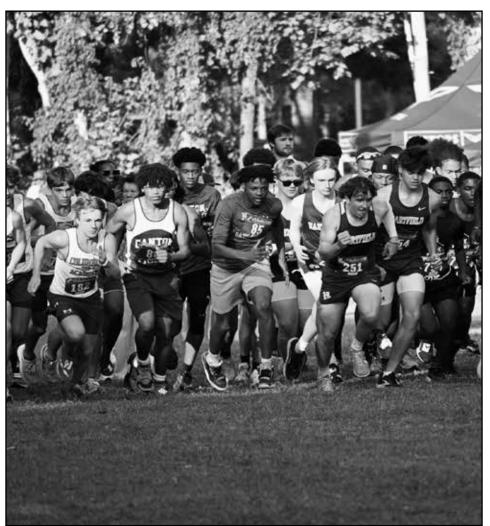
The Mississippi Children's Museum continues to serve as a hub for experiential learning across the state, with community and corporate partnerships like this one playing a key role in expanding access to STEM-based education.







CHS cross country team delivers strong performances in early season meets



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The Canton High School cross country team has started the 2025 season with a series of impressive showings against some of the state's top competition.

On September 7, the Tigers competed at the cross country meet hosted by Mississippi College, where Jaheim Dudley led the team with a 22nd-place finish out of 166 runners in their division. Coaches say the performance highlighted the team's growing strength and depth.

Just days earlier, at the Jackson Academy/Jackson Prep Invitational, Dudley posted a state-qualifying time of 19 minutes, 31.10 seconds,

finishing 27th out of 169 runners. Teammates Abraham Johnson and Giancarlo Rosales also placed in the top 100, finishing 58th and 66th respectively, helping the Tigers secure 12th place overall.

The team continued to build momentum at the MHSAA Red-White-Blue Run on September. 11. Dudley finished 48th, while Rosales crossed the finish line in 64th among 154 runners in the 6A/7A division. Both runners expressed gratitude for the unique experience and extended thanks to the Mississippi National Guard for hosting the event, which challenged their endurance and fostered a sense of community among participants.

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Luckett of CHS selected for 2025–26 **Madison County Youth Leadership Class**

Special to The Canton News

Alexandria Luckett, a dedicated junior at Canton High School, has been selected to represent her school in the prestigious 2025–26 Madison County Youth Leadership (MCYL) Class.

The announcewas made ment by the Madison County Business League & Foundation in partnership with the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA). Each year, one junior from every public, private and parochial school in Madison Countyincluding Jackson Academy and Jackson Prep—is chosen to participate in the program. All par-

ticipants are residents of Madison County, highlighting the region's investment in its future leaders.

The MCYL program aims to provide students with a deeper understanding of local career opportunities while developing their leadership skills. Throughout the program, students engage with community and business leaders and gain valuable experiences designed to prepare them for impactful roles in the community.

In addition to leadership development, participants who successfully complete the program are awarded a scholarship, underscoring the program's commitment to fostering the next generation of Madison County leaders.

'We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Alexandria Luckett for remarkable this achievement," said a Canton High spokesperson. "Her

selection reflects her dedication and potential to make a positive impact in our community.

The 2025–26 MCYL class recently kicked off with orientation, setting the stage for an exciting year ahead.







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MCBLF Announces 2025-26 Madison County Young Professional Committee

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The Madison County Business League & Foundation is proud to announce the 2025-26 Madison County Young Professional (MCYP) Committee and Officers. This group plans all events and activities for over 250 young professionals who work for companies that are members of MC-BL&F. They also volunteer for reality fairs, career fairs with our Madison County Schools and philanthropic projects in the metro area.

The mission of the Madison County Business League & Foundation Young Professionals is to provide young professionals and entrepreneurs with the opportunity to build relationships, serve the community and engage with business, political and civil leaders; thus, investing in the professional development of Madison County's future leaders.

Front Row (I-r): Noelle Hunsinger, Amerigo Char Saltine; Hugh Warren, Jones Walker; Melody Rosenbaum, Citizens National Bank; Ron Dixon, Atmos Energy; Jamie Lake, BankPlus; Peyton Brown, Cadence Bank; Katie Hutson, Harper Rains Knight Company; Wes Neely, Guaranty Bank.

Middle Row (I-r): Andreau Brown, MCEDA; Claire Williams, Balch & Bingham; Betsy Dowell, Century



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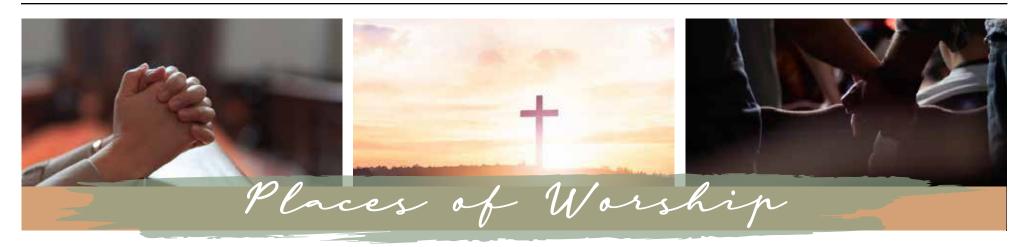
Construction; Ellis Wise, MCBL&F; Bethany Stanfill; Karolina Simmons, Renasant Bank; Bradley Barnes, Adcamp; Katie Schipper, St. Dominic; Landon McCaskill, Brasfield & Gorrie; Kelsey Tartt, Service Specialists; Garrett Clarke, Waggoner Engineering; Mary Morgan Agostinelli, Andercorp; Brady Power, Trustmark Bank; Elizabeth Purcell, Story Financial Partners; William Bettis, Butler Snow; Rebecca Hoda, BCI; Caroline Runion, Amazon

Web Services; Amanda Green, Nissan North America.

Top Row (I-r): Joe Jackson, Alliant Construction; Wilson Nichols, Argent Wealth; Ben Lane, C Spire; Jarrett Taylor, Neel-Schaffer; Carter Clarke, Tellus Operating Group; Whit Kendall, Adams & Reese; Matthew Bishop, Bishop Law Group; Sean Doran, Phelps Dunbar; Kyle Williams, Brunini; Sammy Brown, Brown Legal Group; Blake Johnson, Marsh McLen-

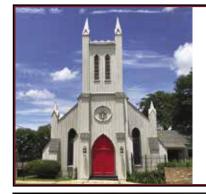
nan Agency; Justin Egger, AJ Construction.

Not Pictured: Kyle Ketchings, Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush; Jeanna Upchurch, AT&T; Matthew Majure, Capitol Resources; Amanda Wyrick, Community Bank of MS; Emily Harrison, MCEDA; CJ Fisher, Origin Bank; Daniel McDonald, CRH/APAC; Anna Haygood, PriorityOne Bank; Brady Anderson, BMSS; Wesley Self, Wages Civil; Lauren Scheel, Entergy.











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Local newspapers keep communities strong

By Guest Columnist Dean Ridings, America's Newspapers

Strong communities don't just happen. They rely on connection - residents knowing what's going on, businesses reaching the customers who keep them open, and citizens having the facts to make good decisions. Local newspapers provide that connection in ways no other source can.

In today's fractured media environment, trust is the rarest commodity. Confidence in "the media" is low. Only 18% of Americans say they trust news on social platforms, and fewer than one in four trust cable networks. But nearly two-thirds say they trust their local newspaper—more than double the confidence placed in most other outlets.

In an era when anyone can post anything online, that clarity makes newspapers stand apart.

Newspapers provide the facts that keep civic life running: City budgets, school board debates and local elections that rarely make national headlines but matter most to daily life. They also highlight the stories that make a community feel connected: high school sports, neighborhood events, new restaurants and profiles of people who make a difference.

Your local newspapers have evolved to meet readers where they are - on websites, mobile apps and email newsletters. What hasn't changed are the standards. Accuracy, ethics and accountability still guide the work. That combination of modern delivery and traditional integrity is why people continue to turn to their

The same trust strengthens the local economy. Research shows consumers act on newspaper ads more than on ads delivered by TV, radio or digital platforms. People see local business advertising as part of the same reliable package as the news. For a small business competing with national chains and online platforms, no other channel delivers the same impact. When residents trust the paper, they trust the businesses that support it.

The absence of a local paper leaves a mark. Voter turnout declines. Fewer residents attend public meetings. Government oversight weakens, and borrowing costs rise. Small businesses lose their most effective way to reach local customers. And, without a trusted source tying

things together, misinformation and partisan spin spread faster, fueling confusion and division.

The opposite is true when newspapers are strong. Residents are better informed, more engaged and more connected to each other. Businesses grow, because they can reach customers in a trusted environment. Communities share a common set of facts that helps debate happen on the issues - not on whether the information is

But this role depends on support. Subscriptions, advertising and community engagement make it possible for newspapers to continue earning the trust that communities depend on. A strong local

newspaper doesn't solve every challenge a town faces, but it makes civic life, local culture and the local economy all work better. Healthy communities are stronger when their local newspaper is strong. Supporting the paper is one of the most direct ways residents and businesses can invest in their own future.





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Canton officials press utility leaders over rising bills



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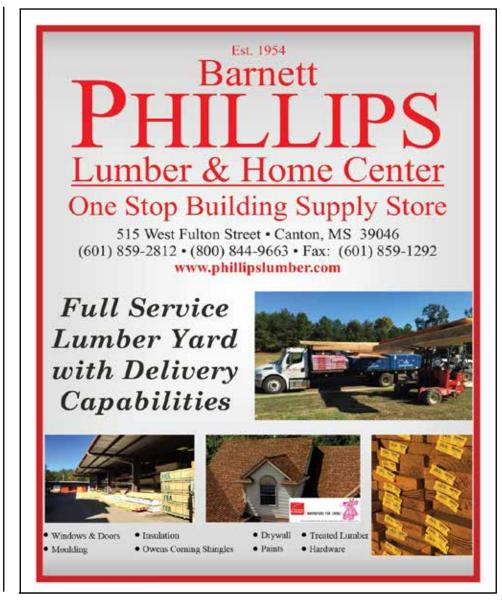
City leaders are vowing to press for relief as Canton residents grapple with steep increases in their utility bills.

Mayor Tim Taylor, Rep. Johnathan McMillan, Alderman Lafayette Wales and City Clerk Dr. Chuconna Anderson met recently with Canton Municipal Utilities leadership

to address what they described as "skyrocketing" charges that have placed heavy burdens on families, especially seniors and residents on fixed incomes

Taylor said the City will "keep pressing until a fair solution is reached."

Another meeting with CMU officials has been scheduled as City leaders continue negotiations.





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CPSD hosts McKinney-Vento training to support students experiencing homelessness



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District's (CPSD) Office of Federal Programs recently hosted a districtwide training session focused on supporting students experiencing homelessness.

The training, held as part of CPSD's ongoing commitment to equity and access, featured guest presenter Tiffany Jones, McKinney-Vento manager for the Jackson Public School District. Jones led the professional development session, offering guidance and best practices for implementing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The session was open to a broad range of school personnel, including Title I contacts, counselors, front office staff, registration teams, bus

drivers, cafeteria workers and others who play a role in student enrollment and day-to-day support.

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law that ensures children and vouth experiencing homelessness have equal access to a free and appropriate public education by removing barriers to enrollment, attendance and academic success.

District officials said the goal of the training was to ensure that all staff members are well-informed about the challenges these students face and the resources available to

CPSD extended its appreciation to all participants for their dedication and for making a difference in the lives of students and families across the district.



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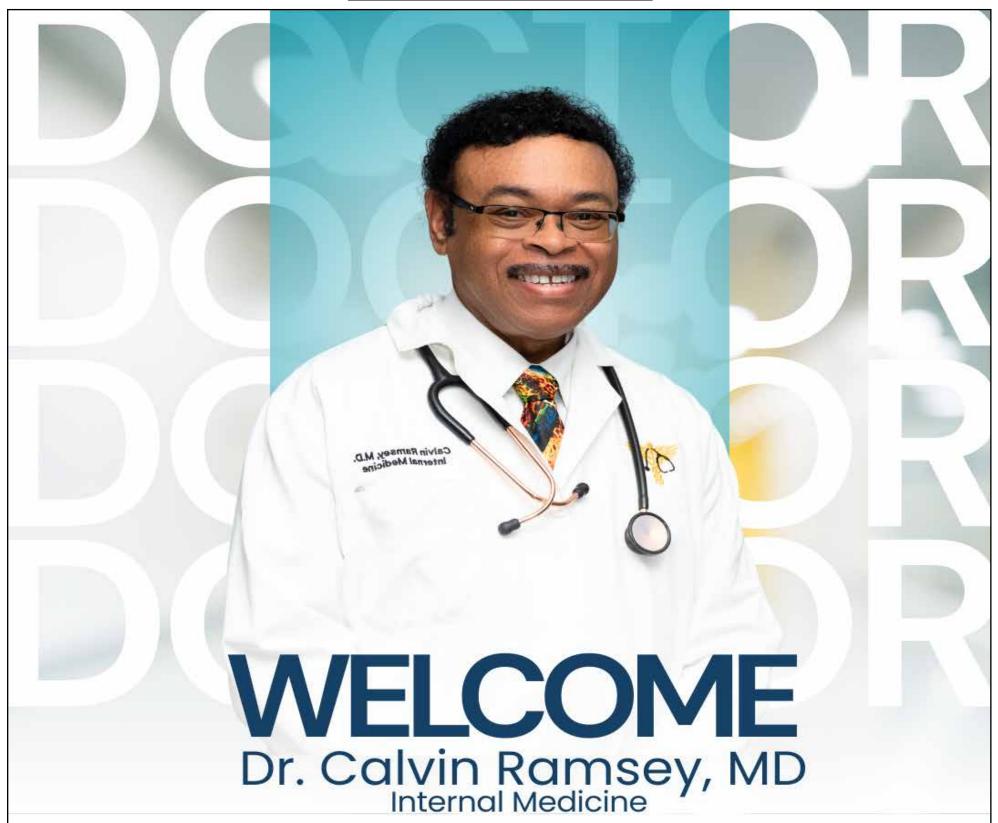


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CA boys cross country earns 23rd at MTC



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The Canton Academy boys cross country team finished 23rd overall at the Memphis Twilight Classic, with several runners posting competitive times against a large regional field.

Brayden Armstrong led the Panthers, crossing the line in 22 minutes, 13.58 seconds to secure 157th place. Close behind, Ian Whittington finished 161st in 22:16.12, and McCoy Rather was 162nd in 22:16.69. Eli Brock added a 238th-place fin-

ish with a time of 24:12.55, while Kort Lyon rounded out the team in 265th, clocking 25:18.77.

The Memphis Twilight Classic, one of the South's premier evening races, featured a large and competitive field of high school runners. The Panthers' performance highlighted their depth, as three runners finished within seconds of each other in the middle of the pack.

Canton Academy will continue its season with upcoming meets as the team builds toward postseason competition.







Canton leaders hold roundtable on future of Head Start



Special to The Canton News

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Canton officials joined federal and community partners recently to discuss the future of Head Start programs in Madison County, focusing on funding and long-term support for early childhood education.

Mayor Tim Taylor took part in a roundtable with Dr. Laurie Todd Smith, deputy secretary for early childhood development, representatives from Friends of Children of Mississippi and other local leaders. The discussion centered on funding, expectations and strategies to strengthen early childhood education in the community.

"Investing in our children means

investing in the future of Canton," Taylor said, adding that the city is committed to working with local, state and federal partners to expand opportunities for young learners.







Canton Academy Announces 2025 Homecoming Court



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Canton Academy has announced its 2025 Homecoming Court, highlighting students from across multiple grade levels who will be recognized during the school's annual homecoming festivities.

The court includes representatives from grades six through twelve, along with a flower girl and crown bearer.

Representing the lower grades are Ally Jerome, 6th grade junior maid; Hartleigh Hollingsworth, 7th grade maid; Josie Stribling, 8th grade maid; and Allibrier Townsend, 9th grade maid

From the upper school, Amber Martin was selected as the 10th grade maid, Sterling Belle Brock as the 11th grade maid, and Tillie Oglesbee, Sophie Rainey, Mackenzie Turner and Emily Dearman as the 12th grade maids.

Rounding out the court are Kathleen Evans, flower girl, and Torin Bowering, crown bearer.

The Homecoming Court will be presented during Canton Academy's homecoming celebration, where one senior maid will be crowned queen.

Madison County Youth Leadership Steering Committee announced



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (I to r) are, front row: Kacie Sanford, Renasant Bank; Andreau Brown, MCEDA; and Dr. Bronwyn Martin, Holmes Community College; and back row: Chamar McDonald, Neel-Schaffer; Ellis Wise, MCBL&F; Dr. Mary Johnson, MCCSA; Melanie Greer, EXIT Realty; Pat McNulty, Ballew Wealth; and Jan Collins, MCBL&F. Not pictured is Rochelle Thompson, American Lung Association

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The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA has announced its 2025-26 Madison County Youth Leadership Steering Committee. The Committee plans engaging and informative program days for the MCYL class and supplies leadership skills training to the students. The Madison County Youth Leadership's mission is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the careers available in Madison County in an environment that develops their leadership skills and encourages graduates to take their knowledge and their experience into the community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole.



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Canton Academy cheer squads compete at MAIS Cheer Competition



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Canton Academy's cheer squads made a strong impression at the recent MAIS Cheer Competition.

For the first time in several years, the elementary, junior high and varsity cheer squads all participated and delivered fantastic performances. Judg-

es offered many encouraging and positive comments about the routines.

The cheerleaders thanked their coaches, parents, and supporters for their love and encouragement. One judge noted, "Watch out for the CA cheer squads in upcoming competitions. These girls have a bright future!"







CA alum completes flight training



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Lane Martin, a Canton Academy alumnus, recently completed helicopter flight school with the Army National Guard in Enterprise, Alabama, where he trained to pilot Blackhawk helicopters.

After finishing the rigorous flight program in July, Martin returned to Madison County. He is preparing to rejoin his medevac Guard unit in Jackson as he considers his next steps in both his

military and civilian careers.

Reflecting on his high school years, Martin said his favorite memory was returning from basic training between his junior and senior years and playing in his first football game the next day, enjoying time on the field with friends.

Offering advice to current students, Martin encouraged them to "make a plan—one for after graduation, but while you are in school, really enjoy it—friends, sports, family. Take advantage of every opportunity you can."









CA names Rotary Students of the Month



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Canton Academy students Sophie Rainey and Mackenzie Turner, September Rotary Students of the Month, are pictured with Rotary Vice President Tommy Sullivan, In His Steps Agape Camp Director Daryl Jones, Rotary President Webster Ford and In His Steps Executive Director Jasper Bacon.

Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy students Sophie Rainey and Mackenzie Turner were recognized as the school's Rotary Students of the Month for September. The announcement came during Tuesday's Canton Rotary Club meeting, which also featured a presentation from In His Steps Ministry about its Agape Camp program.

Students and Rotary members heard from Daryl Jones, Agape Camp director, and Jasper Bacon, executive director of In His Steps, who shared updates on the ministry's work to support youth in the Canton community.



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Canton Tigers show promise, face early tests in 2025 football season

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The Canton High School Tigers began the 2025 football season with a promising start under new head coach Dameon Brown, splitting their first two games as they prepared for district play.

The Tigers opened the season on August 29 with a 35–28 road win over Velma Jackson. In Brown's debut as head coach, Canton overcame a scoreless first half to explode offensively in the second. Sophomore Jayden Cration provided the spark, with a pivotal 60-yard touchdown reception on a screen pass, putting the Tigers on the board and shifting momentum before halftime.

Canton's offense caught fire in the

third and fourth quarters, eventually building a 35-12 lead in the final period. Though Velma Jackson

mounted a late comeback with two quick scores, the Tigers recovered an onside kick in the closing minutes to seal the win. The defense, which held Velma Jackson scoreless for most of the first half, bent but didn't break, as the Tigers notched their first victory of the season.

Coach Brown, a Canton alumnus, said before the season that discipline and fundamentals would be key areas of focus for the team. The Tigers showed flashes

of both in their opener but also revealed areas for improvement—partic-

ularly in closing out games and avoiding costly turnovers.

In their home opener on September 5, Canton hosted Terry High School, but fell 43–13 in a lopsided contest. The Tigers struggled to contain Terry's offense, allowing six touchdowns. The loss dropped Canton to 1-1 on

the season. Through two games, the Tigers had scored 48 points while giving up 71

As of mid-September, Canton had not yet begun district play, leaving their region record at 0-0. The team will look to rebound as they move into the heart of their schedule and continue building under Coach Brown's new leadership.

Despite the early challenges, the Tigers' performance—especially in their season-opening win-offered glimpses of a competitive team capable of growth. With a young roster and new coaching direction, Canton will aim to tighten its defense, sustain offensive momentum, and turn early lessons into late-season suc-





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