



THE CANTON NEWS

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Canton News
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Canton unveils marker honoring March Against Fear

Special to The Canton News

A new marker was recently unveiled at McNeal Elementary School in Canton to commemorate the city's role in the 1966 March Against Fear.

The event, organized by the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau, highlighted a pivotal moment in civil rights history. On June 23, 1966, civil rights marchers arrived in Canton and attempted to set up tents on the grounds of McNeal Elementary School. According to the newly-installed marker, the group was tear-gassed by the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Despite several injuries, the marchers returned the following night and continued their journey toward Jackson.

The March Against Fear began in 1966 when civil rights activist James Meredith set out to walk from Memphis to Jackson to challenge voter intimidation and inspire civic engagement. After Meredith was wounded in an assassination attempt on June 6, leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr. and Stokely Carmichael, joined the effort and continued the march.

The text on the marker reads: "In 1966, civil rights activist James Meredith began the March Against Fear from Memphis to Jackson. On June 6, Meredith was wounded in an assassination attempt. Martin Luther

King Jr., Stokely Carmichael, and other activists continued the march. On June 23, the marchers arrived in Canton and tried to erect tents here on the grounds of McNeal Elementary School, where they were tear-gassed by the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Despite several injuries, the marchers returned the next night and then continued the march toward Jackson."

Canton Tourism issued a statement in conjunction with the event:

"Canton remembers. Canton honors. We honored history at McNeal Elementary with the unveiling of the March Against Fear marker, a permanent tribute to the brave voices who stood for justice — right here in Canton. Thank you to all who made this moment possible."

"The unveiling of the March Against Fear marker at McNeal Elementary School was more than a ceremony — it was a moment of reflection, gratitude and remembrance. We are honored to permanently recognize the courageous actions of those who walked before us and to share this history with future generations in Canton."

The marker stands as a lasting reminder of the events that took place in Canton and serves as an educational resource for the community.



all photos Special to The Canton News



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Agape Camp celebrates first overnight camps, marking milestone for Canton youth

Special to The Canton News

For more than thirty years, In His Steps Ministries, Inc. has faithfully served the Canton community through Christ-centered programs for children, youth and families. This summer, the ministry marked a significant milestone: the launch of its first-ever overnight Agape Camps.

Founded by Rev. Jasper and Carolyn Bacon, In His Steps Ministries is a Christian 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to help marginalized youth know Christ and live productive, God-honoring lives. The organization serves through four core ministries: Intervention (support for incarcerated youth), Prevention (long-term academic enrichment), Family Services, and Camping and Sports Ministries.

The vision for a Christian camp was planted in Rev. Bacon's heart as early as 1979. After decades of prayer and planning, In His Steps acquired a twenty-acre property in 2019, located just 0.2 miles from its main campus. Since then, over \$2 million has been invested in the site's initial development. Following three years of day camps, this summer's shift to overnight programming marked a powerful new chapter.

On June 1–4, the first-ever Agape Boys Overnight Camp welcomed boys ages nine to fifteen to a packed week of spiritual growth, fun activ-

ities and lasting friendships. Two weeks later, on June 15–18, Agape Girls Camp I followed, with a similar schedule and joyful energy. Campers memorized key Bible verses such as Romans 3:23 and John 14:6, learned about the gospel through the 4 Spiritual Laws, and engaged in outdoor activities like fishing, archery and water games.

One camper shared, "It was good to learn that God loves us, even if we make mistakes." Others enjoyed interacting with exotic animals, forming new friendships and experiencing what for many was their first time staying away from home in a Christ-centered environment.

Agape Camp counselors included dedicated mentors like Master Davis, Zion Booth, Jayden Jones, and Jordan Johnson for the boys, and Taeria Gladney, Sonya Bolls, KeAsia Fatemi, Londria Hinton, Aria Jones, and Shrena Seals for the girls.

The summer programming continues with more to come in July.

Upcoming camps include:

Agape Boys Camp 2 (June 29–July 2)

IHS Girls Math Camp (June 30–July 2)

IHS Soccer Camp (July 9–11)

Agape Girls Camp 2 (July 13–16)



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With each camp, In His Steps continues to invest in the spiritual and personal development of Canton's youth.

"This is more than just a summer camp," a staff member shared. "It's about building a foundation in Christ and creating lasting change in the lives of children."

For more information or to support the ministry, visit www.InHisSteps.org or follow @InHisStepsMS on social media.

Organizers say Agape Camp is more than a camp — it's a movement of faith, fun, and transformation. And as the ministry says: God did it — and the best is yet to come.

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Juneteenth celebrated by Cantonians with cleanup day, 5k, block party



All photos Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Residents of Canton came together to celebrate Juneteenth with a weekend of community-focused events, including a citywide cleanup, a 5k run/walk and a festive block party.

The celebration kicked off Friday morning with a Community Impact Day. Volunteers gathered across all wards to pick up litter, spruce up parks and help beautify the city. Organized in partnership with local civ-

ic leaders, the effort underscored the importance of unity and pride in the community.

That evening, the celebration continued with a lively block party in downtown Canton. The square was filled with music, food vendors, family activities and fellowship. Attendees enjoyed live entertainment and dancing as the community came together to mark the end of slavery in the United States and reflect on prog-

ress and purpose.

Juneteenth, observed annually on June 19, commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Texas were informed of their freedom—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.

Canton's Juneteenth events emphasized both service and celebration, offering a space to remember the past while building a stronger, more connected future.

Canton Public School District announce new partnership with Elidr for food services



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The Canton Public School District (CPSD) has announced a new partnership with Elidr as its official Food Management Service Company, promising expanded food choices and improved meal offerings for both students and staff. Elidr North America, through its

K-12 by Elidr division, provides food services to school districts across the country, focusing on nutritious, student-approved meals and customized dining programs that meet local needs. For more information, contact CPSD, or visit <https://k12byelidr.com/>

Five Madison County seniors awarded inaugural Young Leaders in Volunteerism scholarship



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Pictured (l to r) are Amari Alexander, Mary Michael Cook, Kiersten Levy and Ameila Rose. Not pictured is Mary Pyatt Cocke.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Chamber of Commerce recently announced that five outstanding Madison County high school seniors have been selected as the inaugural recipients of the Young Leaders in Volunteerism scholarship. The scholarship, made possible through proceeds from the 12th Annual Dragon Boat Regatta, recognizes students who have demonstrated ex-

ceptional commitment to community service and leadership within Madison County, in addition to academic achievements. The 2025 recipients are Amari Alexander, St. Joesph Catholic School; Mary Michael Cook, Madison-Ridgeland Academy; Mary Pyatt Cocke, Germantown High School; Amelia Rose Cook, Canton Academy; and Kiersten Levy; Germantown High School.

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Lloyd Farms: A family's unexpected journey into Corriente beef

By Guest Columnist Savannah Lloyd

Lloyd Farms is a small-batch Corriente beef producer located right here in Canton, Mississippi. We're a family of five—Cassidy and me, along with our kids Cooper (8), Maggie (5), and Gaines (2).

This journey began in 2023, and, honestly, it happened by accident. We had a small herd of Corriente steers and asked a couple of friends if they wanted to go in with us to finish and process a few for beef. We weren't exactly sure how the meat would turn out, because of their small and athletic build, so we started doing some research on the breed.

We found out that Corriente cattle were the first cows brought to the Americas by Spanish conquistadors in the 15th century—long before the United States existed. They were ideal for early settlers and explorers, because they were hardy, tough and non-selective grazers. These cows will eat just about anything—leaves, brambles, vines—and they're easy on the land. They're friendly, easy keepers and very agile. You often see them in rodeo events, because they're quick and smart, and they definitely keep us entertained.



Special to The Canton News

The Lloyd Family on their farm

When we got those first steers back from the processor, we immediately started selling shares of beef. We knew right away that this was something we wanted to share

with our community. We have some friends over in Arizona at Rancho Rio and Capital Farms who are doing the same thing on a much larger scale. They've been a great source

of information and encouragement as we try to bring this breed back into the beef industry. As far as we know, we're the only Corriente beef farm in Mississippi, and one of only about a dozen in the country.

We're a small producer, selling around 1,000 pounds of beef a month. We only sell direct-to-consumer, to keep costs low and make our beef accessible. Getting high-quality, lean beef into the hands of people—regardless of their budget—is important to us.

In addition to beef shares, we also sell our "Cowboy Cut" ground beef by the pound. It's a primal blend that's rich and flavorful but still very lean, with only 5–7% fat. Even if a family can't afford to stock their freezer for six months, they can stock it for a week with our ground beef and feel good about what they're feeding their family.

We're just a regular family with two full-time jobs and kids in every activity, but this has become our passion and our "why." It motivates us every day, and we're so thankful for all the support we've received. Meeting our customers, shaking their hands, and seeing the people who keep our dream going means the world to us.



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Alpackin' Up: Canton Garden Club at Patina Farm

By Guest Columnist Jessica Stein

For the final meeting before summer break, a huge turnout of nearly thirty members of Canton Garden Club convened at the wondrous Patina Farm on Virgil Road at the old East Cameron Plantation. Patina Farm spans 1,300 acres with gorgeous groves of pines and oaks, in addition to the multitudinous animal habitats and garden spaces. A paradise crafted by Beth and Bob Lloyd, the two have woven a love of beauty through caring for nature's gifts.

Beth tends alpacas, mini goats, donkeys, chickens, rabbits and a host of game birds. As a result, Patina offers a gift shop full of alpaca fiber crafts and other farm goods. The landscaping contains a wonderland of different species, including a cutting garden and raised vegetable garden.

Before wandering the tempting grounds, members met for business and the annual club plant swap. Six guests joined the group, adding to the festive atmosphere. Nostalgic, we waxed over the awards and considerations the club has won over the last three years, including the Community



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Service Award from the City of Canton, three different Keep Mississippi Beautiful awards (Circle of Excellence, 2nd Place Affiliate, and 1st Place Civic Award), and

two Garden Clubs of Mississippi Awards (Highest Membership Increase and Continuous Supporter since 1936). Club membership has continued to grow in this time

along with our mutual enthusiasm for spreading gardens, community and joy through the streets of Canton.

We feel proud of the visible impact we made this year through multiple events from the square to the outdoor education pavilion. After reflecting, we unanimously elected new officers from proposed nominations. We so loved how faithfully Susan Buttross served as president and look forward to the next two years with Wanda Baldwin.

While the club may be pausing for the summer, committees are still active, especially the steering committee for Upstairs Downtown, happening this November atop the second stories of Canton Square. The event currently seeks sponsors and volunteers as we hope to add new locations and increase turnout. This evening out not only provides a memorable night to kick off the holiday season, but also helps the Garden Club fundraise for beautification projects around town. We hope to see you there!

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Old Jail Farmer’s Market remains success



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

The Old Jail Farmer’s Market has had a successful summer as they share local fruits, veggies and other goods with Cantonians.

Canton’s Old Jail Farmers Market was recognized in 2025 by the Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson as a certified farmers market in Mississippi. It is the only certified farmers market in Madison County.

In 2025, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) has certified thirty-two farmers markets in twenty-five counties as part of the Mississippi Certified Farmers Market Program. The program serves as a marketing initiative designed to identify and promote markets where producers of Mississippi-grown produce and other agricultural products gather to sell their goods directly to consumers. Sales of food products that

are grown, made, or processed in Mississippi and sold from Certified Farmers’ Markets are exempt from sales tax.

In order to be recognized by the Mississippi Farmers Market Certification Program, local farmers’ markets must be identified and approved as locations where Mississippi farmers gather to sell their Mississippi-grown produce and other agricultural products. By shopping at one of the state’s certified markets, consumers can be confident that they are purchasing both fresh and nourishing food.

The Old Jail Farmers Market is located at 234 East Fulton Street and is open Thursdays from 4 until 7 p.m. For more information about Old Jail Farmers Market, follow them on Facebook, or call 601-519-9671.

To find a complete list of farmers markets across the state, visit www.MSFarmersMarket.com.

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Letter from the editor: I'll tell you all about her

By Courtney Warren

I believe it was a year ago when I last wrote about my grandmother. She is my favorite lady, and I still have the opportunity to tell her that, only it looks a little different now.

She's been in a nursing home for a few years, and, with that in mind, my mom and grandfather asked that I come to the family home in Albany to help go through her things.

We spent a week looking through treasures. See, my grandmother kept absolutely everything. She had clothes that she was wearing in photos of me learning to walk, she has shoes that my mom wore in high school, and every single letter we ever wrote to her. And the jewelry, oh man. Six drawers of jewelry, and then we turned around only to find more hanging in one of her closets.

The week was pretty emotional for my mom because, while my grandmother is still living, she's not the Grammy we have always known. Several times as we went through items, I turned to find mom with quiet tears rolling down her face. She'd quickly wipe them away, as to not make my grandfather sad; but through all of this, we encouraged her to tell us the stories. Grammy doesn't have a single item that doesn't include a story.

I was lucky enough to have my best friend travel with me, so, when the days got too hard for my mom, Lindsay and I sat alone on the plushy carpet as we went through old letters and cards. Grammy loved a good card. She had hundreds of them packed away, empty and ready to send to us. She took notes during her phone calls, so she'd be able to easily recall conversations. While they weren't journal entries, they felt like them, and I cherished every time I saw my name written in her cursive.

The next day, we found another box, but this was even older than the others. In it were love letters between her and my grandfather, acceptance letters to colleges I never knew she applied to, and newspaper clippings from all over the South as she toured during her pageant days. For the first time, I was getting to truly see evidence of all of the stories she told me.

I knew I worshipped her, but I was seeing how she was adored by so many that came before me—and for good reason.

There is a song that played over and over in my head throughout the week. I didn't dare play it around my mom, but, when I was safe in the car with just my best friend to see, I played it at full volume.

There's a particular kind of heart-



Photo courtesy of Laura Davis Stevens

Cherry Fortenberry during her pageant days

break that comes when someone you love slowly fades before your eyes—not because they've left this world, but because a part of them is slipping away. This song captures that feeling with stunning tenderness. It's written like a love letter to someone who no longer remembers who they used to be. The lyrics reflect on old stories once told a hundred times, on the light they used to carry, and on the pain of watching that light dim.

Still, there's hope woven in, too—a promise to remember, to remind, and to keep telling their story, even when they can't.

I wanted to share some of the lines with you:

Fought one hell of a fight, lived one hell of a life/You always lit a room, now the light has gone with you/You might not recognize her, staring in

cont. on page 11



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Huntley receives NCBW, Central MS Chapter scholarship

Special to The Canton News

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. - Central Mississippi Chapter recognized Monica Huntley as one of ten scholarship recipients during their 2025 Scholarship and Awards Program, held at Tougaloo College. Huntley is a 2025 graduate of Canton High School and plans to attend Jackson State University in the fall. Pictured (l to r) are First Vice President Luigia Hodge, President Rita Wray, recipient Monica Huntley and Scholarship and Awards Chair Katrina B. Myricks.

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On the shelf: learn something new with non fiction recs

By Courtney Warren

I love reading fiction. It has become my escape from the world, and I know many can relate to the magic of storytelling. However, I feel nonfiction often gets a bad rap, so let's highlight some nonfiction books.

Wild, by Cheryl Strayed

This is easily one of my favorite nonfiction books. According to the publisher, at twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered, and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State—and she would do it alone.

Told with suspense and style, sparkling with warmth and humor, *Wild* powerfully captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her. This is such a beautiful story, and

I gift it to people all of the time. It truly reminds us the power of nature (for me, I was able to connect God to this healing) and how we can find ourselves by letting go.

Careless People: A cautionary tale of power, greed and lost idealism, by Sarah Wynn-Williams

This one was recommended to me by my best friend, Lindsay. According to the publisher, from trips on private jets and encounters with world leaders to shocking accounts of misogyny and double standards behind the scenes, this memoir exposes both the personal and the political fallout when unfettered power and a rotten company culture take hold. In a gripping and often absurd narrative where a few people carelessly hold the world in their hands, this

eye-opening memoir reveals what really goes on among the global elite.

Sarah Wynn-Williams tells the wrenching but fun story of Facebook, mapping its rise from

stumbling

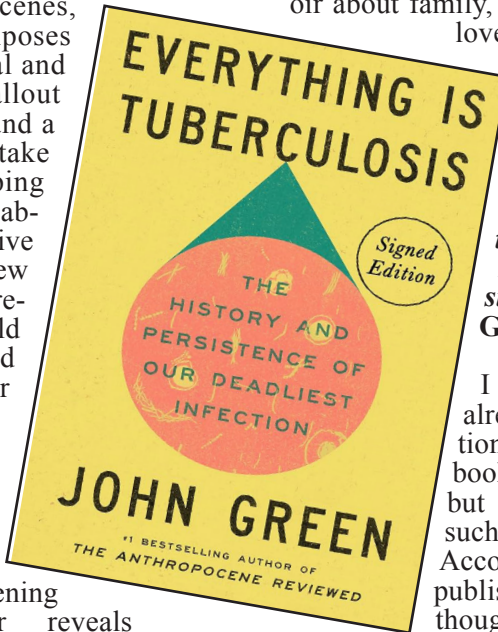
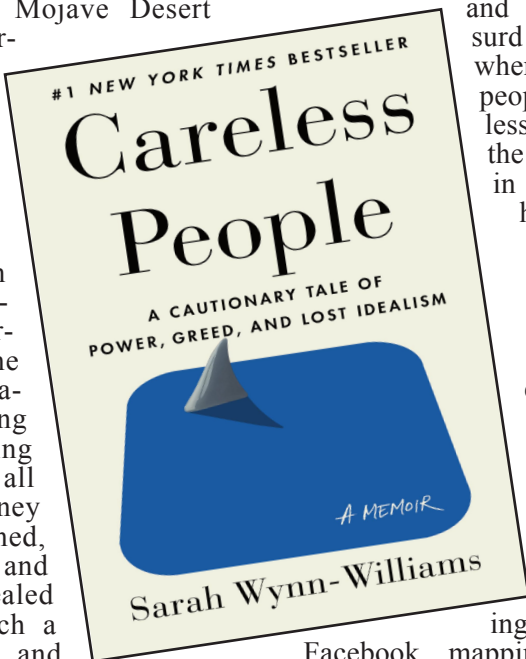
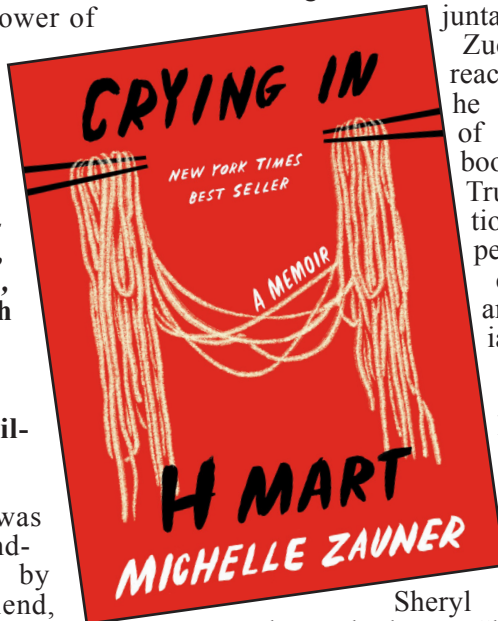
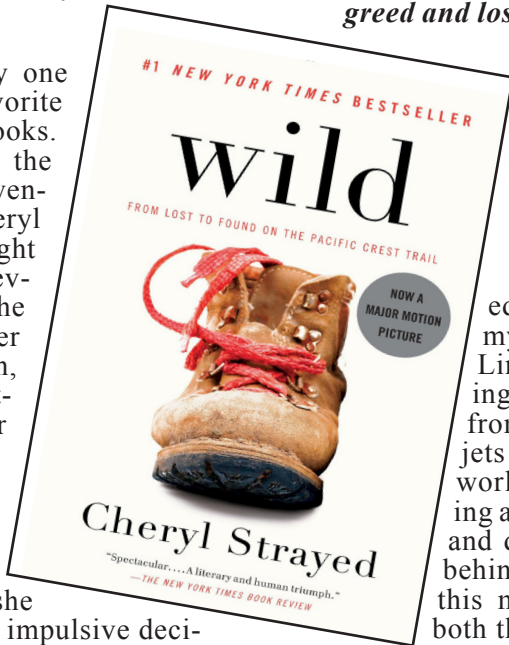
encounters with juntas to Mark Zuckerberg's reaction when he learned of Facebook's role in Trump's election. She experiences the challenges and humiliations of working motherhood within a pressure cooker of a workplace, all while Sandberg urges her and others to "lean in."

Crying in H Mart, by Michelle Zauner

Another Lindsay recommendation. This one is an unforgettable memoir about family, food, grief, love and growing up Korean American.

Everything Is Tuberculosis, by John Green

I know I've already mentioned this book, before but it's been such a big hit! According to the publisher, in this thought-provoking work, John Green examines the history and impact of tuberculosis, intertwining medical insights with personal narratives. *Everything Is Tuberculosis* offers a unique perspective on the disease and its societal implications, making it a compelling read for nonfiction enthusiasts.



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cont. from page 8

Letter



Cherry, renamed Grammy, with myself and my brother Jack

Photo courtesy of Laura Davis Stevens

the mirror/But I'll tell you all about her.
How do you take someone so big, so bright, so full of life, and put all of that magic into the contents of a plastic tub? How do you close the pages of a scrapbook and tuck it away knowing it contains over 75 years of joy, heartache, and someone who is tough as nails but was always still the most graceful one in the room?
Time and time again I found notes she'd written for my mother: "Laura, you are our pride and joy." We made a pile of them for my mom to

read later.
When I tuck my daughter in at night, I say the same things to her. "You're my sweetheart. You're my pride and joy." But instead of hugging me and saying she loves me, she's always repeated it back to me. "Mommy, you're my sweetheart. You're my pride and joy."
Her phrases are still being spoken, even if she isn't the one to speak them. Cherry Fortenberry Davis. She's my pride and joy. And, even though she may not recognize herself, I am happy to tell you all about her.

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ON THE TABLE

This Father's Day, I found a new summer staple—thanks to my mother-in-law and her unexpectedly amazing pasta salad. I know, "pasta salad" doesn't always sound exciting. But this one? It's bright, flavorful, and, honestly, kind of addicting. I've already made it twice since Sunday.

The secret, she told me, is in how you cook the pasta. You don't want it completely done—just a little under. Then you pour the warm noodles straight into the dressing and let them sit. The pasta absorbs all that flavor as it finishes softening. Trust me, it makes all the difference. And be sure you get the right one from Kylie Melons in Canton!

Then come the veggies: artichoke hearts, red onion, olives, bell pepper... crunchy, tangy and colorful. It's the kind of dish that tastes even better the next day (if it lasts that long). Whether you're headed to a cookout or just trying to make lunch a little more exciting, this dish is a keeper. It's light but satisfying, easy to prep ahead, and endlessly customizable. Just be warned—you might find yourself going back for thirds, too.

SUMMER PASTA SALAD



INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound rotini or bowtie pasta
- 1 (12 oz) jar marinated artichoke hearts, chopped
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 cup black olives, halved
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 yellow or orange bell pepper, diced
- Vito's Salad Dressing (purchased from Kylie Melons!)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Optional: crumbled feta, fresh basil or cherry tomatoes

PREPARATION

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta until just shy of al dente (about 1–2 minutes less than package instructions).
2. Drain and immediately toss the warm pasta with the Italian dressing in a large bowl. Let it sit for at least 20–30 minutes, stirring occasionally to help it soak in the flavor.
3. Once the pasta is cool, add in the artichoke hearts, red onion, olives and bell peppers. Stir to combine.
4. Taste and season with salt and pepper, as needed. If you'd like, stir in extras like feta cheese, fresh basil or sliced cherry tomatoes.
5. Chill before serving, or enjoy at room temperature.

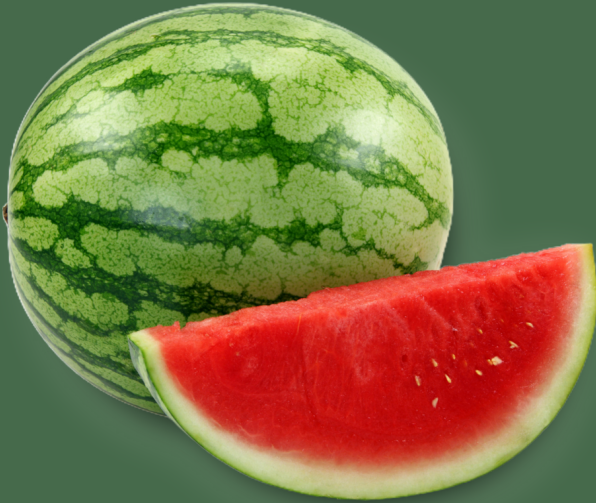


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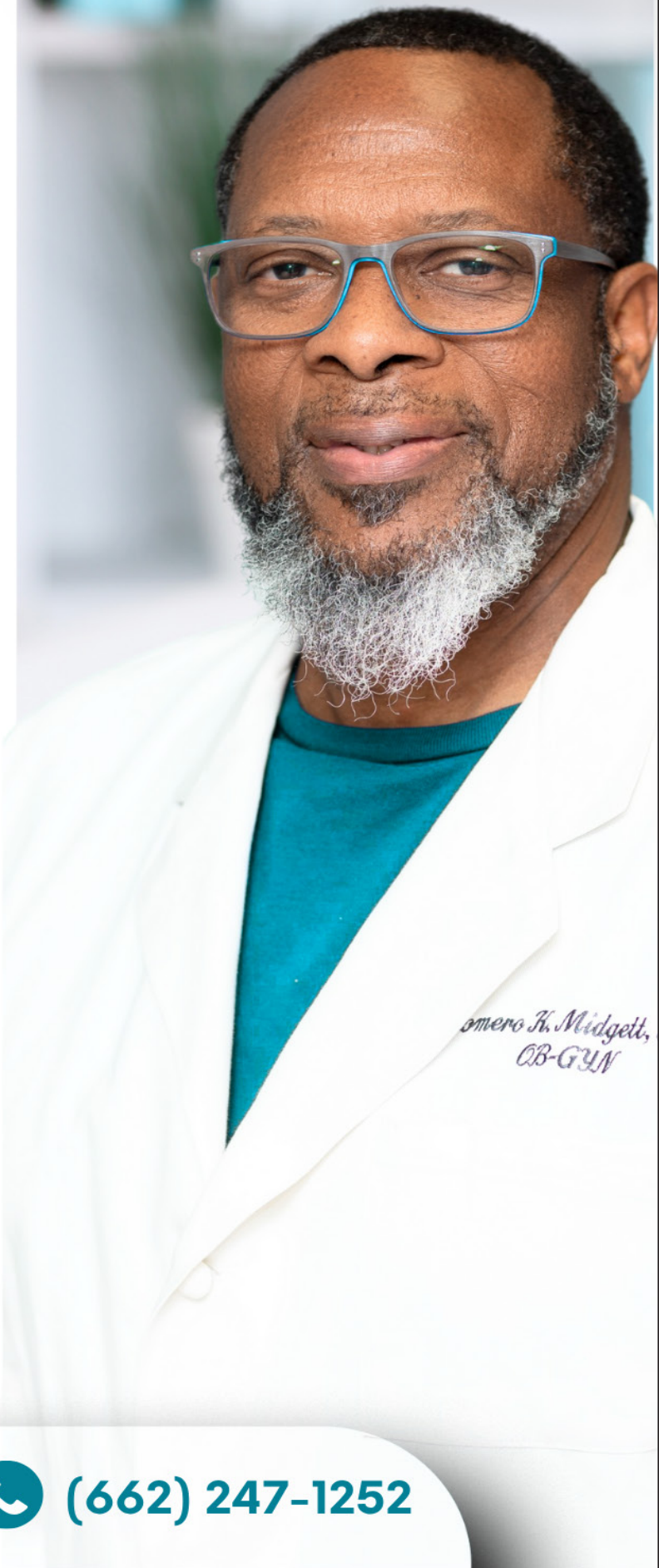


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Stay safe in the heat this summer, experts warn

Special to The Canton News

As temperatures rise across the country, the National Weather Service (NWS) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) are urging residents to take precautions to protect themselves and others from the dangers of extreme heat.

Heat is the leading weather-related killer in the United States, resulting in hundreds of fatalities each year. It can cause serious health problems, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke, and worsen existing medical conditions.

According to The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment, several populations are especially vulnerable. These include:

- Young children and infants, whose bodies aren't as efficient at regulating temperature.
- Older adults, especially those with pre-existing conditions or limited mobility.
- People with chronic health issues, who are more susceptible to complications during heat waves.
- Pregnant women, for whom extreme heat has been linked to low birth weight, preterm birth,

and other serious outcomes.

Officials urge residents to check on neighbors, friends and family members in these high-risk groups, particularly if they lack air conditioning. In addition, NHTSA is highlighting

in the United States.

Since 1998, more than 1,000 children have died in hot cars. On average, one child dies every ten days in the U.S. from heatstroke after being left in or gaining access

children's body temperatures rise three to five times faster than adults, even a mild day can be dangerous. Nearly a quarter of these deaths occur when children climb into unlocked cars without supervision.

To help prevent tragedy, NHTSA urges parents and caregivers to remember the mantra: Once You Park, Stop, Look, Lock.

Always check the entire vehicle — especially the back seat — before walking away.

Never leave a child in a car, not even for a minute.

Always lock your car, and keep keys out of reach to prevent curious children from climbing inside.

"Parents and caregivers think this sort of tragedy could never happen to them," said one local official. "Sadly, 'never' does happen. It doesn't matter your background or how attentive you think you are. During moments of stress or a change in routine, these tragedies occur."

For more information on heat safety and preventing vehicle-related heatstroke, visit www.weather.gov/safety/heat

As summer heats up, officials urge everyone to stay cool, stay alert, and stay safe.

YEAR-ROUND: NEVER LEAVE KIDS IN CARS!



Roughly a third of child hot car deaths occur outside of the summer months.



Check the backseat year-round. Hot car deaths have occurred each month of the year.



Lock parked cars year-round. Deaths have occurred due to a child entering a parked car.



Be on guard even if it's not hot outside. Hot car deaths can occur even when the outside temperature is below 70°F.



weather.gov NOAA

Special to The Canton News

the grave dangers of hot cars, which remain one of the deadliest heat-related threats to children. Vehicular heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related death for children fourteen and younger

to a vehicle. In 2024, thirty-nine children died this way — up from twenty-nine in 2023.

Internal vehicle temperatures can soar up to fifty degrees hotter than outside air temperatures. Because

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Ratliff named Hinds IDEAList for spring



Special to The Canton News

Hinds Community College IDEALists for spring 2025 include (l to r), front row: Kathy Jones of Raymond, Catherine Odom of Pearl, Shirley Henderson of Clinton, Robyn Burchfield of Clinton and Jim Harper of Vicksburg; and back row: Elmira Ratliff of Canton, Deshanna Dixon of Utica, Matthew Campbell of Vicksburg, Omarr Conner of Ridgeland and Talinceya Finley of Richland.

Special to The Canton News

Hinds Community College recently named the spring 2025 honorees of the IDEAList employee recognition, which honors employees who represent Hinds’ college values of Integrity, Diversity, Excellence, Accountability, Leadership and Stewardship. Elmira Ratliff of Canton was among those recognized. Ratliff

serves as academic dean for the Utica and Vicksburg-Warren campuses. She has worked at Hinds nearly ten years. She graduated from J.Z. George High School in Leflore County, Alcorn State University, Mississippi College and earned her doctorate at the University of Mississippi.

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Set your thermostat to the highest comfortable temperature. The smaller the difference between the inside and outside temperatures, the lower your energy usage and bill will be.

Close blinds, shades and curtains to keep the sun out and the cool air in. Also, close air conditioning vents in rooms that are not in use.

Buy a programmable thermostat. A programmable thermostat can help manage costs, is controllable, and can help monitor usage.

Seal cracks and holes around doors, windows and ductwork. Weather stripping and caulk will help keep the cold air in and the hot air out.

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Canton approves city improvements, grant funding and travel authorizations

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Mayor and Board of Aldermen convened for a regular meeting on June 17 at City Hall, approving a series of financial transfers, grant agreements, infrastructure upgrades and city event amendments.

Among the key actions taken was approval of a resolution to close out FEMA Grant DR-4528-DR-MS and authorization to accept a hazard mitigation grant, DR-4576-0049, in coordination with the Mississippi Emergency Agency.

The board amended the Juneteenth 2025 usage agreement, removing the Community Center Freedom Luncheon, approving street closures on Hickory Street for a Youth Day event on June 19, and supporting in-kind city services and signage placement for the celebration.

Financial approvals included multiple fund transfers: \$55,078.06 and \$38,540.09 from general funds to sinking funds for April and May respectively, and \$52,456.61 from the Fire Rebate account to the general fund for a loan payment on the Rosenbauer pumper fire truck. Related payments were authorized to Trustmark Bank.

Emergency services received several upgrades. The board approved a \$14,760 purchase from Jackson Communications for emergency lights on three fire department vehicles and granted approval for the Fire Department to host its annual Fire Academy for Kids, scheduled for July 14-18.

Additional infrastructure actions included permanent easement approvals to prevent creek embankment erosion, ad-

vertising for roof repairs at the Multipurpose Complex, and payment to Canton Paving, LLC to resurface and restripe the City Hall parking lot.

Public safety measures were adopted, including a moratorium on block parties, installation of security cameras and internet at city facilities, and the placement of no parking signs on Bob White Drive.

In sanitation services, the board approved payments to Ingram for assembling and distributing 3,500 rollout carts and to Lane Line, LLC for retracing rumble bars on Old Canton Road.

The board also approved multiple financial and banking upgrades, such as new reconciliation and positive pay services for city accounts.

Tourism funding included a \$26,004 payment for Flea Market advertising,

and property insurance coverage was renewed for \$107,250 through Fisher Brown Bottrell.

Travel authorizations were granted for elected officials and staff to attend upcoming municipal conferences in Greenville, Tunica, and Biloxi, including the Mississippi Municipal League and Mississippi Black Caucus events.

Sergeant Jeremy Gooden was approved to serve as acting chief of police from June 16 to June 19.

The board also approved minutes from more than two dozen previous meetings, ranging from October 2024 through June 2025.

Several matters, including personnel, litigation, land transactions, and public safety issues, were moved into executive session.

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