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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Your Community. Your News. Your Paper • March 5, 2026 • Vol. 12, No. 3 • Canton, Mississippi

Canton's newest marketplace preparing to open soon

By Lori Lycette

After the Piggly Wiggly at the intersection of Highways 16 and 43 shut its doors in 2018, 35,000 square feet of commercial real estate has been virtually unused...until now.

CantonTown, Canton's newest marketplace, featuring thirty-six vendors from all walks of life who have one thing in common...the love for all things old, unique and for some, quite eccentric.

Most of the vendors from the former Flowood Antique Flea Market have recently moved and set up shop in what was affectionately referred to as the "Big Pig" by many Cantonians for several years, and Jitney Jungle for decades prior.

"It all started when I was little; my mom dragged me around to estate sales, which led me to be a teenager collecting everything," said David Murrell, owner of CantonTown, the new marketplace loaded with vendors offering their most prized treasures from days gone by.

"When I was in high school in 1983, me and a buddy set up a booth making a killing at the A & I Building in Jackson," continued Murrell.

Murrell then officially caught "the bug." While attending Belhaven, Murrell took stuff to different county auctions.

"I then had a booth at the Fairgrounds Flea Market," said Murrell. "What didn't sell there, I sold at auction."

After working for a local television station as well as in real estate for a few years, Murrell began the hunt for a good place to open a flea market.

In July 2010, Murrell and two partners opened the Flowood Antique Flea Market. It thrived for fifteen years, until the lease ran out and wasn't up for renewal.

A longtime Canton resident, it just made sense to move the business to Canton. Murrell said he is currently leasing the building but intends to purchase it in the future.

"Canton has been my home since 1985," said Murrell. "In the late 90s, I had a store in the old Bill's Dollar Store on West Peace Street, until someone made an offer to buy it."

CantonTown is more than a flea market,

with local crafts people, antiques dealers and basic houseware resellers. Thirty-six vendor booths completely fill the building.

"All these vendors come from all walks of life," said Murrell. "Customers and vendors are all like a family. There is so much diversity down here in the flea market."

find here, from fine antiques to garage sale items, housewares," added Murrell. "We are more than a flea market - after fifteen years, it's evolved into its own entity...tools, clothing, military surplus, refurbished appliances."

Donnie Register, from Morton, and his wife, Darlene, have been dealing in antiques since 1971. **Castle House An-**

WWII clocks of all shapes and sizes - the quality got really bad after that," stated Donnie Register. Register also deals in rare coins...early U.S., European and Roman, to name a few, as well as antique maps and civil war prints.

"We also offer stained glass windows. You can usually buy the old ones cheaper than having a new one made," added Register.

When asked about the new location in Canton, Register replied, "It will be a good variety of stuff here. I think we'll be a good addition for the area."

One Wall Gallery, near the center of the back wall, is owned by artist Chuck Jett, who has done portraits at the former location in Flowood for about fifteen years off and on.

Jett says he can paint most anything - a big request is custom acrylic on canvas portraits of people and pets, but way more pets.

"I'm always here painting and sketching on stuff. I create original art for man caves, she-sheds, shops and game rooms," said Jett. "I would call it a pop culture/counter-culture vibe."

Jett has painted nose art on a WWII plane, rusted auto doors and furniture.

"If I can get paint to stick to it, I'll paint it," added Jett. "Visit my OneWallGalleryMS Instagram or Facebook page to see samples and my current inventory."

Jett also invites the community to stop by to see his work in person and commission him to paint a custom project.

Mike Page, out of Pearl, known as "The Game Store Guy," has owned and run **The Game Store MS** for the past fifteen years and is one of the largest video game dealers in Mississippi.

An antiques dealer for forty years, Page had his first booth at the Fairgrounds Antique Flea Market beginning in 1990 and then had been at the Flowood Flea Market for fifteen years.

Page's interest in video games happened totally by accident.

"I had two boys, and we'd go to garage sales," said Page. "I had been going to garage sales buying antiques and decided to buy some video games. Within five minutes, I figured out how to

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The market has items for every age group: toys for kids, video games for teenagers and young adults, housewares

tiques is the name of their business.

The Registers had a large store on State Street in Fondren for many years, before joining the Flowood Flea Market over thirteen years ago.

Known as "The Clock Man," his



Donnie Register, Castle House Antiques

for apartments or dorm rooms, as well as furnishings for older adults.

Murrell's section, the Odditorium, located at the back of the building, contains an extremely eclectic mix of oddities that he has collected over the years.

"Most anything in the world you can



Chuck Jett, One Wall Gallery

All photos Special to The Canton News

booth is easily noticed after entering the front door.

"We have owned over 30,000 pre-

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CPSD honors Glen Cotton for preserving historic Freedom House



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As part of its Black History Spotlight, Canton Public School District Superintendent Dwight Luckett Sr. recently commended Glen Cotton for restoring and preserving the last surviving CORE Freedom House in Mississippi during the unveiling of a Mississippi Freedom Trail marker at the Canton Freedom House Civil Rights Museum.

The museum, located in Canton, once served as a key headquarters for the Congress of Racial Equality during the Civil Rights Movement. Canton residents George and Rembert Washington rented the home to CORE organizer and Freedom

Rider George Raymond, who used it as a safe base for organizing protests and voter registration drives.

Cotton, the grandson of the Washingtons, led efforts to restore the home and preserve its legacy. The site now operates as the Canton Freedom House Civil Rights Museum and was officially recognized with a marker on the Mississippi Freedom Trail.

The museum offers guided tours by appointment and features photographs, articles and other civil rights memorabilia. CPSD leaders praised Cotton for safeguarding an important part of Canton's history and ensuring future generations understand its significance.

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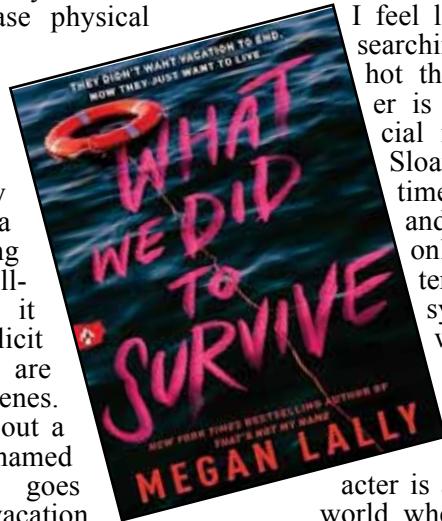
On the Shelf: books to get excited about in March

By Courtney Warren

I've gotten back into reading Advanced Readers Copy (ARC), and it has been so fun. There is a program called NetGalley where you can request these ARCs from various publishers and can get approved based on your review percentage. Here are a few I've recently read that I can't wait to purchase physical copies for.

What We Did to Survive by Megan Lally

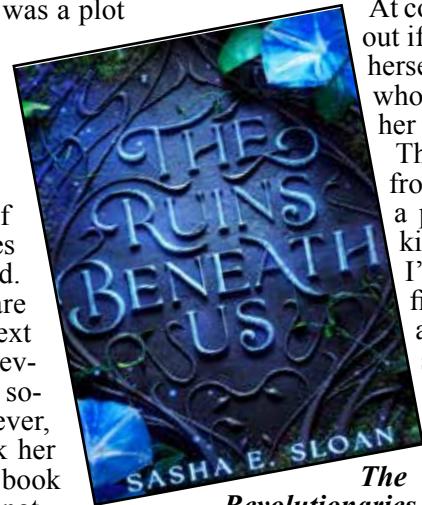
This one really threw me for a loop. It's a young adult (YA) thriller and, while it does have explicit language, there are not explicit scenes. The story is about a main character named Hannah, who goes on a summer vacation with her best friend Emmy and Emmy's brother Jackson. While at a five-star resort in Mexico, Emmy meets Ben, a super cute guy who convinces them to go sailing on their last day of vacation. However, when a storm hits, another storm also brews on the boat itself, leaving Hannah and her friends stranded and searching for answers. I loved every second of this story and really enjoyed the charac-



ter development. There was a plot twist at the end that had my jaw on the floor.

The Ruins Beneath Us by Sasha E Sloan

This was a breath of fresh air when it comes to the fantasy world. I feel like authors are searching for the next hot thing, or whatever is trending on social media. However, Sloan clearly took her time with this book and focused on not only the characters and magic system, but the world building, as well. In this story, the main character is an elf in a world where magic has been outlawed. Living on the edge of the forest with her mother, she discovers a boy on the brink of death and uses her magic to save his life. She is then thrust into the world of royalty after learning this boy is actually the crown prince.

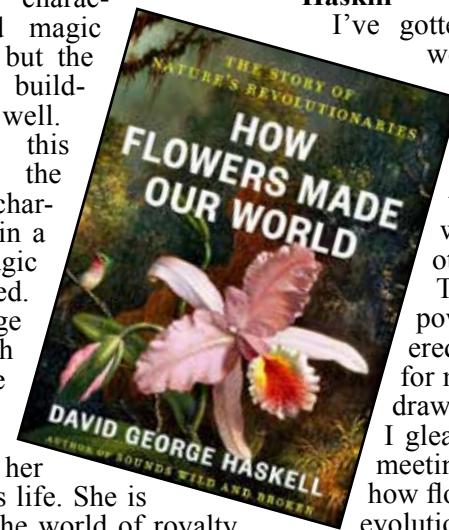


At court, she has to figure out if she is to stay true to herself and her people, who to trust, and what her true destiny may be.

This story was fun from start to finish, and a part of me wants to kick myself because I've already read the first book, and I am already wanting the second one!

How Flowers Made Our World: The Story of Nature's Revolutionaries by David George Haskell

I've gotten to really enjoy the world of nonfiction books. I feel like I close them having learned something completely new and interesting. Oftentimes, it's something I would never have known otherwise. This book is all about the power of flowers. I covered the Master Gardeners for many years, and so I was drawn to this because of what I gleaned from many of their meetings. It's an exploration of how flowers are at the center of evolution, as well as how they have transformed the world into what it is today.



Growing in the garden: Canton Garden Club update

By Guest Columnist Jessica Stein

Canton Garden Club stepped lively into the New Year with a workshop on Native Plants given by wonderful ladies from the Madison Garden Club. We also spent important time reflecting on the impact we've made in the last year and our plans for 2026.

The club hopes you had an opportunity to tour the incredible decorations around the Historic Canton Square this holiday season. Our membership helped with the lights around the square and decorated an entire balcony. One person hand-painted the teddy bears, which looked nearly fluffy enough to snuggle! We finally took the lights down after January; a morning of camaraderie and cutting zip ties. We also hope the month before you were able to explore Upstairs Downtown, the biannual event which funds many of our projects.

We speak often of our love and wishes for Canton, and have taken many recent steps to put this love into practice. Many know of our construction and maintenance of the Outdoor Education and Pollinator Pavilion across from the county co-op, as well as our faithful commitment to Keep Canton



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Beautiful's Clean-Up Days, which now happen more than once a year.

A few may know of other special plantings around the city and the summer cutting beds attended every year by the club. Our by-laws specifically promote civic beauty, and, to that end, we've taken on several new special projects. We've always maintained the beds around the square, hung holiday lights, hosted Easter bulb give-aways, and organized the continuing biannual smash Upstairs Downtown. This year, we have contracted with a landscaping company

(in partnership with municipal interests) to replace the sod outside the fence. We also purchased and filled several statement planters at the entrances to the courtyard.

In the future, look out for new banners on the light posts around town. We also have a plan to put hanging baskets of flowers on the square and refresh some of the murals. Our members are bursting with ways to express Canton through our eyes, and we can't wait to continue to take you on the journey. Your support and neighborly care make it possible!

MCBL&F and MCEDA announce Madison County Executive Leadership Class of 2026



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Pictured (l to r) are, seated: Cassandra Brown, G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center; Casey Lee, PriorityOne Bank; Hayden Kennedy, WBA Architecture; Jessica Ward, Wages Civil; and Pam Gordon, Story Financial Partners; and standing: Mitch Watkins, Nissan North America; Hugh Warren, Jones Walker; Dexter Brookins, U.S. Coating Specialties and Supplies; Michael Langdon, GranthamPoole; Sully Clemmer, Ferguson and Associates Architecture; Shannon Wells, Garver; and Mike Davis, Covenant Caregivers.

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The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) and the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) recently announced the 2026 Madison County Executive Leadership

(MCEL) Class.

The MCEL program is designed to provide MCBL&F members with an in-depth understanding of the opportunities in Madison County while enhancing their leadership skills.

Participants in the MCEL Class

will join an esteemed network of business leaders who play an active role in shaping the county's future. Throughout the program, class members will engage with influential business leaders and elected officials, gaining insight into the critical impact of infrastructure, educa-

tion, law enforcement, healthcare, public policy and overall quality of life on the county's economic landscape.

The program continues to cultivate strong leaders who are dedicated to the progress and success of Madison County.

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Canton Freedom House receives Mississippi Freedom Trail Marker



About the Mississippi Freedom Trail:
 The Mississippi Freedom Trail pays tribute to Mississippi's profound impact on the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. The statewide initiative features over 40 markers commemorating the individuals, locations and pivotal events that were instrumental in the struggle for civil rights. Administered by Visit Mississippi in partnership with the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Mississippi Freedom Trail is supported by a State Tourism Grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

All photos Special to The Canton News

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Visit Mississippi and the Mississippi Humanities Council recently unveiled a new Mississippi Freedom Trail marker in Canton honoring the Canton Freedom House.

Remarks were delivered by civil rights veterans, as well as local and state dignitaries, with a special performance by the Rembert Washington Memorial Choral.

The Canton Freedom House served as a crucial headquarters for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) during the Civil Rights

Movement. Canton residents George and Rembert Washington rented the home to CORE organizer and Freedom Rider George Raymond, providing him a safe base for organizing protests and voter registration drives.

In 1964, white supremacists fired shots into the house and attempted to bomb it. Civil rights leaders—including Martin Luther King Jr. and James Meredith—used the Freedom House as a safe place and planning site.

Today, it is the last surviving CORE Freedom House in Missis-

sippi. Restored and operated as a museum by Glen Cotton, grandson of the Washingtons, the home features photographs, articles and memorabilia. Guided tours are available by appointment.

“The Canton Freedom House stands as a testament to ordinary people who risked everything for freedom,” said Visit Mississippi director Rochelle Hicks. “Its place on the Mississippi Freedom Trail is a part of ensuring their courage and accomplishments never fade from our collective memory.”

assembled right here in central

Mississippi!”

Nissan and Habitat for Humanity International have partnered for nearly two decades, with Nissan contributing millions in funding, thousands of volunteer hours, and more than 150 vehicles to Habitat affiliates across the United States. The donation to the Metro Capital Area ReStore continues this legacy of collaboration and community investment.

To learn more about the Mississippi Freedom Trail, visit VisitMississippi.org and or listen to the U.S. Civil Rights Trail podcast.

Can I Really Afford a House? Spoiler: It's not just about the mortgage payment

C.U. Smarter: A financial education focus of Veritas Federal Credit Union, located at 276A Nissan Parkway in Canton

Buying a home is a big move—and it starts with a big question: Can I actually afford it? The answer isn't just about what you want in a house. It's about what fits your full financial picture.

It's More Than Just the Mortgage
 Sure, that monthly mortgage is a key factor—but so are property taxes, homeowners insurance, maintenance, and HOA fees (if applicable). Owning a home means owning all of it.

The 28/36 Rule

A good rule of thumb:

- Your mortgage should be no more than 28% of your gross monthly income.
- Your total debt (including the



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mortgage) shouldn't top 36%.

What to Do Before You Buy:

- Calculate your debt-to-income ratio (we can help with that).
- Get pre-approved for a mortgage to see what you're realistically working with.
- Add in all the extras—insurance, taxes, upkeep.
- Think long-term. Will your income grow? Any life changes ahead?

The Bottom Line:

Buying a house is exciting—but affordability means making sure it works for you now and later. Let's talk through your numbers and make a plan that fits your life, not just your wishlist.

Learn more or connect with us at veritasfcu.org.

Students experience government day across Madison County and Jackson



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Madison County Youth Leadership students participated in a full day of hands-on learning during Government Day, visiting local and state government offices to gain firsthand insight into public service.

The day began at the Mississippi State Capitol, where students toured the building and took a group pho-

to alongside members of the Madison County legislative delegation and statewide elected officials. The group was introduced in the Senate chamber by Sen. Bradford Blackmon.

Students also toured the Mississippi Supreme Court and participated in a mock jury trial. They heard from Justice Jenifer Branning about the court's role and responsibilities.

Lunch was held at Hal and Mal's, where students spent time with Rep. Justis Gibbs and special guest Miss Mississippi Anna Leah Jolly.

In the afternoon, students visited the Mississippi House of Representatives, where Gibbs introduced the class in the House chamber. The day concluded with a visit to the Madison County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Randy Tucker and Chief Deputy Jer-

emy Williams spoke with the group and shared insight into their roles in protecting the community.

Leaders throughout the day emphasized public service, integrity and transparency — key leadership skills highlighted during the program. Organizers expressed gratitude to the officials who invested time in the students and provided meaningful, real-world learning experiences.

LEGAL NOTICE

Texas Eastern Transmission, LP
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Docket No. CP26-75-000

Notice is hereby given that on January 23, 2026, Texas Eastern filed with FERC an Abbreviated Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Facilities for its proposed Line 31 Expansion Project (Project) in FERC Docket No. CP26-75-000 (Application). The purpose of the Project is to provide up to 125,000 dekatherms per day ("Dth/d") of additional firm natural gas transportation capacity between Texas Eastern's existing Kosciusko and Clinton Compressor Stations located in Attala County and Hinds County, Mississippi, respectively, and to provide up to 125,000 Dth/d of natural gas transportation capacity on a new lateral designed to deliver natural gas to Entergy's proposed Traceview Advanced Power Station in Madison County, Mississippi. Texas Eastern respectfully requests the Commission issue an order granting the authorizations requested by January 31, 2027, to allow Texas Eastern to complete and place the Project facilities into service September 1, 2028. Specifically, Texas Eastern proposes to:

- Construct an extension of its existing Line 31 pipeline consisting of approximately 10.2 miles of a new 36-inch diameter pipeline extension segment primarily adjacent to Texas Eastern's existing Lines 14 and 18 ("Line 31 Pipeline extension")
- Construct a new 1.6 mile, 16-inch diameter, delivery lateral extending from Texas Eastern's existing Lines 14 and 18 to Traceview station in Madison County, Mississippi ("Line 14-P Lateral")
- Install and construct related facilities for the Project including a new compressor station and new delivery meter and regulating station in Madison County, Mississippi.

Notice of the Application will be mailed to affected landowners, and municipal, state and federal governments and agencies involved in the Program. A copy of the Application and related resource reports are on file in the following public libraries. Canton Public Library, 102 Priestley St, Canton, MS 39046; Ridgeland Public Library, 397 US-51, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

For further information on becoming an intervenor in the FERC process and/or to obtain FERC's pamphlet entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline on My Land? What Do I Need to Know?" visit FERC's website (www.ferc.gov) or contact FERC's Office of External Affairs at (202) 502-6088. For more information, please contact: Brent Bockhorn, Sr ROW Advisor, Texas Eastern Transmission, LP, 832-584-8806, <https://www.enbridge.com/projects-and-infrastructure/projects/texas-eastern-line-31-expansion-project>

Goodloe speaks on career success at Spring Parent Academy

Special to The Canton News

Clifton Goodloe III served as guest speaker for the recent Spring Parent Academy held in the Huey Porter Middle School gymnasium.

A proud member of the community, Goodloe's journey reflected how family, education and community support can lead to meaningful career success. The theme was "From Our Community to Career Success: Guiding Our Children Together."

Goodloe served as director of trim and chassis at Nissan North America's Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant. He oversaw end-to-end operations for trim and chassis leadership experience across body, stamping, paint and human resources. His cross-functional background supported a holistic approach to plant performance and integration across all stages of vehicle production.

He was recognized for his commit-



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ment to people development, operational discipline and continuous improvement. Goodloe championed Lean and Kaizen methodologies, SQCTP operating frameworks and safety-driven initiatives that elevated productivity, strengthened accountability and enhanced engagement among hourly and salaried teams.

A strategic and hands-on leader, Goodloe focused on aligning organizational vision with measurable outcomes. His leadership delivered improvements in safety, quality, cost, delivery and morale while helping develop the next generation of manufacturing talent.

Goodloe holds a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University. Beyond his professional responsibilities, he remained an active community leader, youth mentor and pastoral servant committed to inspiring growth, purpose and excellence both inside and outside the workplace.

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Canton native leads breakthrough in autonomous EV technology

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Canton native Keenen Smith Sr., born and raised in the city, is gaining national attention as the developer behind HOMER, a new luxury electric robotaxi designed to help shape the future of clean, autonomous transportation.

Smith credits his upbringing in Canton for laying the foundation for his entrepreneurial journey. Growing up in the community, he says encouragement from local teachers, family members and community leaders helped shape his work ethic and ambition.

“Everything started right here in Canton,” Smith shared. “The support I received growing up gave me the confidence to think big and pursue opportunities in technology and business.”

Named in honor of Homer B. Roberts, the first Black automobile dealer in the United States, the HOMER vehicle blends electric per-



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formance with autonomous driving technology and a premium passenger experience. Smith hopes the project inspires young people from small towns like Canton to see possibilities in emerging industries.

After serving in the U.S. Army and building experience in business and technology, Smith went on to launch ventures focused on robotics and smart mobility solutions, working to bring new technology into everyday services for cities and businesses.

Despite his growing success, Smith says Canton remains central to who he is. “No matter where business takes me, Canton will always be home,” he said. “I want young people here to know that big dreams can start in small places.”

For many in Canton, seeing one of their own making strides in advanced technology offers a reminder that hometown roots can lead to global impact.

McNeal Elementary fifth graders model constellations in hands-on science lesson



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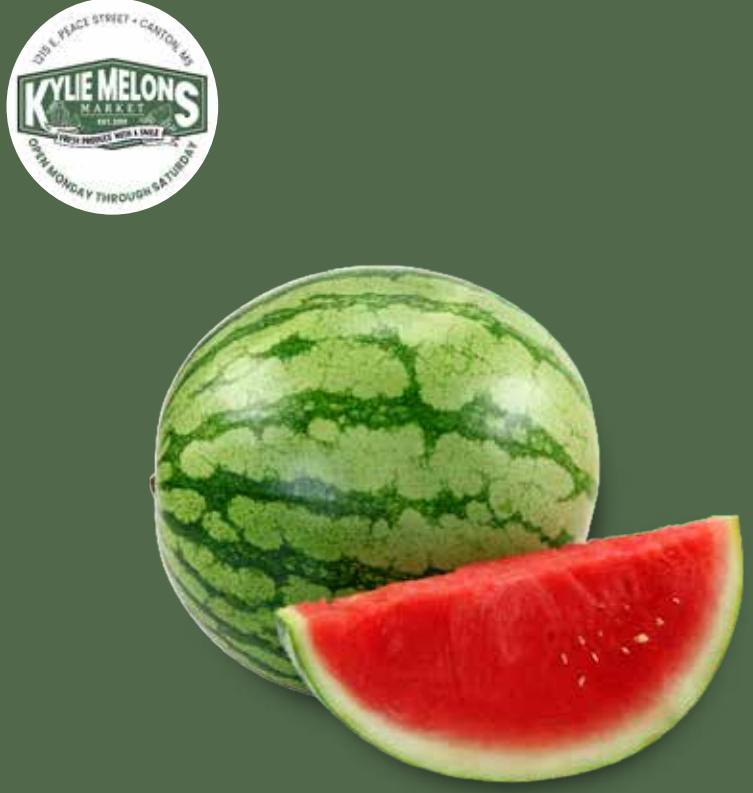
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Fifth-grade students at McNeal Elementary School recently took a hands-on approach to learning as they modeled constellations to better understand patterns in the night sky and the apparent movement of stars across Earth’s sky.

Students in Mrs. K. Smith’s class created constellation models as part of a science lesson focused on observing and interpreting celestial patterns.

Through the activity, scholars explored how stars form recognizable shapes and how those patterns appear to shift due to Earth’s rotation.

The interactive lesson encouraged students to apply critical thinking skills while engaging in collaborative learning. By physically modeling constellations, students were able to visualize abstract astronomical concepts and deepen their understanding of how stars appear to move over time.



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Students celebrate Valentine Sneakerball at Reuben B. Myers

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Students at Reuben B. Myers School of Arts and Sciences enjoyed an evening of music, dancing and festive fun during the school's Valentine Sneakerball. Dressed in their favorite sneakers and Valentine's attire, students gathered to celebrate friendship and school spirit in a fun and energetic atmosphere.



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University of Mississippi celebrates December 2025 graduates



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More than 660 students graduated from the University of Mississippi in December 2025. Undergraduate and graduate candidates received degrees from the College of Liberal Arts, General Studies program, and schools of Accountancy, Applied Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Journalism and New Media, Law and Pharmacy.

Parris Flakes of Canton is one of the December graduates. Flakes, who majored in Exercise Science, received a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from the School of Applied Sciences.

Anna Rusk of Canton is one of the December graduates. Rusk,

who majored in Marketing, received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the School of Business Administration.

Jahmari Brown of Canton is one of the December graduates. Brown, who majored in Integrated Marketing Communications, received a Bachelor of Science from the School of Journalism and New Media.

“Congratulations to our December 2025 graduates who are distinguished by their dedication to academic success,” UM Chancellor Glenn Boyce said. “They accomplished so much during their years at the university. I applaud them and can’t wait to see all the ways they will continue building their legacies that began here.”

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Madison County Community Trust Board of Directors announced



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Raymond VanNorman, Renasant Bank; Chair Barney Daly, Community Bank; and Secretary-Treasurer Cecil Harper, Harper Rains Knight Company; and back row: Brian Johnson, Marsh McLennan Agency; John Geary, Tellus Operating Group; Brad Gatlin, BankPlus; Vice Chair Wesley Goings, C Spire; and Phil Buffington, Balch & Bingham.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation supports

the efforts of its philanthropic arm the Madison County Community Trust, Inc. (MCCT), a 501(c)(3) organization that

works to enhance the educational, health and economic well-being of Madison County citizens. Through grants to schools, work-

force development scholarships and support for local initiatives, MCCT invests in strengthening the community.

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Mississippi Urban League
2548 Livingston Road, Suite 1
Jackson, MS 39213

In-person or virtual

Saturday, February 28th
Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm



Canton Public Library
102 Priestley St, Canton, MS
39046

In-person only



WELCOME

Dr. Calvin Ramsey, MD
Internal Medicine

G.A. CARMICHAEL IS THRILLED TO WELCOME DR. RAMSEY TO OUR FAMILY!

With over 40 years of experience, Dr. Ramsey is more than a physician, he is a trusted partner in health whose patients have followed him faithfully for decades. His compassionate care, deep expertise, and genuine connection with those he serves make us truly honored to now call him part of the G.A. Family.



MORE INFO



Contact Us
(601) 859-5213

cont. from front page

CantonTown

clean the games and consoles and make them work properly.”

Page told how he bought a tub full of video games for \$40, cleaned them up and eventually made a nice profit.

“I have never played video games, nor do I know how,” added Page. “I had to learn the video game business.”

Watching a grown man’s face light up with joy is one of Page’s favorite perks of his job.

“I get the satisfaction of seeing the twelve-year-old pop out of a man - the goal is to give you the feeling you had on Christmas morning as a child,” said Page.

The Game Store MS also offers stereo equipment, thousands of older CDs and a multitude of cassettes and albums. In Page’s booth, you will also find some antiques, small unique items and even chandeliers.

Everything that Page sells is in very good condition.

“The antique dealer in me makes me sell quality merchandise,” said Page. “It’s going to look good and work right.”

This line of work seems to agree with Page and is keeping his “inner child” alive and well.

“I’ll be 71 in May, and this keeps my mind sharp. I don’t price anything - I keep

everything in my head,” quipped a very energetic and confident Page.

Peggy Sue Monk, from Pearl, is the owner of a very popular spot in the flea market.

Monk’s booth is well known as the second largest rock and fossil dealer in the state. The business is appropriately named **Between A Rock & A Hard Place**.

Rocks and crystals, fossils, anime, 3D printed fidgets, new toys



Mike Page, The Game Store MS

and even vintage items can be found in Monk’s booth.

Monk’s love for and interest in rocks began at an early age.

“I was born in California and grew up in Oregon. So, rocks were everywhere. I have a wealth of knowledge about rocks, crystals and gemstones. I can pretty much identify and tell you all about your

find,” said Monk. “I have over one hundred types of rock and fossils for sale.”

Monk also offers an assortment of jewelry, including rings starting at only \$1 each.

If you’re hunting for something in particular, Monk says she will try her best to



All photos Special to The Canton News

Amethyst at Peggy Sue Monk's booth

get it in stock.

Monk had been in business for the past seven years at the Flowood Antique Flea Market, where customers often came in asking for Peggy Sue by name.

With a special tie to Canton, Monk says she is looking forward to opening day in the new location.

“I’m a retired teacher from McNeal Elementary here in Canton and can’t wait to see former students and their parents soon,” Monk added.

CantonTown is a family-friendly envi-

ronment, welcoming children and even The “Snake Man” should be on site monthly pets.

Pop-up local artists doing caricatures will be on the front sidewalk every weekend. Cantonians are encouraged to stop by, email or Facebook message if they’d like to rent a space.

Lew’s famous nut pralines, fresh popcorn, chips, candy and drinks will be available for purchase.

“There has been so much excitement from vendors and local Cantonians. People are often riding by and asking if we’re open yet,” said Murrell.

Grand opening is set for sometime in March. Food trucks will be on site, also the Star Wars group, a clown, door prizes and live entertainment are planned throughout the whole weekend.

The marketplace will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and every Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. There will be a \$1 admission.

“Every weekend, we’ll have new merchandise. We always have something new here,” added Murrell. “Come on out and see us!”

CantonTown is located at 1150 East Peace Street in Canton, inside the former Piggly Wiggly building in the 16/43 Plaza shopping center.

Stay current with Facebook page CantonTown. For more information, email cantontown@outlook.com

Check out our ads at www.pigglywigglycantonms.com and on Facebook at  Piggly Wiggly Canton MS

piggly wiggly

110 East Academy Street, Canton, MS
Phone: 601-509-4527

Store Hours:
Mon. - Sat. 7am-8pm
Sun. 8am-7pm

Canton Board of Aldermen tackle infrastructure and grants

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Mayor and Board of Aldermen convened Tuesday, February 17, at City Hall to address a dense agenda ranging from major infrastructure awards to significant federal grant acceptances. Following an invocation by Lawrence Dixon, the meeting opened with public comments from Kevin Strauss regarding GOGOV citizen notifications, along with remarks from Hurstine Watts, Nancy Pate, and Stan Beasley.

The Board moved through a series of financial and operational approvals, including the adoption of previous meeting minutes, payroll dockets and a claims docket. The Board recommended awarding the Adeline and Johnson Street Drainage Improvements Project to R&C Services, LLC for \$202,847.50, identifying them as the lowest bidder. Additionally, the City moved to finalize a \$69,060 payment to Tann, Brown, & Russ for the 2020 Audit and authorized a \$34,500 bathroom remodel at Fire Station #3 by GW Group, LLC.

Regulatory and environmental matters also took center stage. The Board considered a resolution for a site plan for a Dollar General Store on North Liberty Street and an application from First Baptist Church for a special exception to install ground signs.



Special to The Canton News

Members further reviewed financial assurance drafts for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) concerning the city landfill and ratified an ordinance for twice-a-week garbage pickup, set to take effect May 1, 2026.

The city is also poised for significant redevelopment, with the Board considering the acceptance of a \$2,200,000

U.S. Department of HUD grant for the Joe Pritchard Homes project.

Other business included the selection of bidders for side loaders via a reverse auction and the Batchelor Creek/Crisco Ditch project, as well as the approval of a Police Department Amnesty Program scheduled for March 2026.

The meeting concluded with a con-

sent agenda covering travel authorizations for City personnel and a transition into executive session. The private session was slated to cover one matter regarding supervision and finance, six personnel matters within the Police Department, three transactions involving land, and four strategy sessions regarding prospective or current litigation.

LEGAL NOTICE

I/We, the member(s) of Allen Hospitality Group, LLC

Intend to make application for a transfer of On-Premise Retail permit.

As provided for by the Local Option Alcoholic Beverage Control Laws, Section 67-1-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. If granted a transfer from David Willey, doing business as Shanks Bar & Grill, who is opening at 183 Country Club Road, Canton, Madison County. We propose to operate

Under the trade name of The Turn

Located at 183 Country Club Road, Canton, Madison County.

The name(s), title(s), and address(es) of the owner(s)/partners/corporate officer(s) and/or majority stockholder(s)/member(s)/trustee of the above-named business are:

William K. Allen, Owner, 807 W Deerfield Drive, Canton, MS 39046
Melissa K. Allen, Owner, 807 W Deerfield Drive, Canton, MS 39046

If any person wished to request a hearing to object to the issuance of this permit a request for a hearing must be made in writing and received by the Department of Revenue within (15) fifteen days from the first date this notice was published.

Request shall be sent to:
Chief Counsel, Legal Division
Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 22828
Jackson, MS 39225

Date of First Publication: March 5, 2026
This the 26 day of February, 2026

Canton Career Center hosts successful annual career fair



All photos Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Career Center hosted its annual Career Fair, providing students with opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions and gain insight from professionals across a variety of industries.

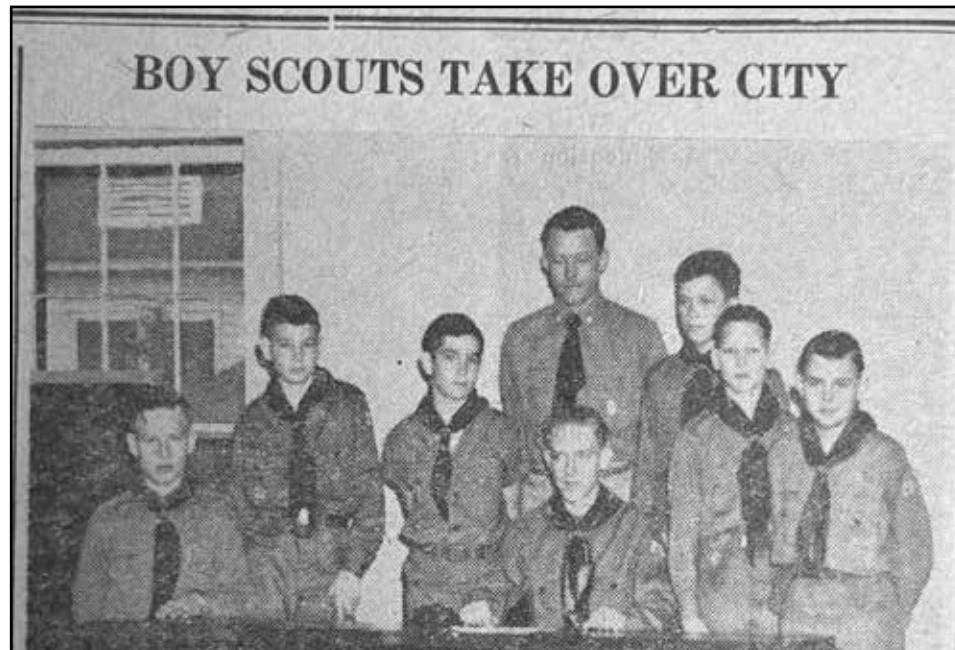
Industry representatives shared personal experiences and offered guidance on the wide range of career opportunities available in their fields. Throughout the event, speakers emphasized the importance of education and highlighted

opportunities within career and technical pathways.

Students gained practical knowledge about the skills and qualifications needed to succeed in their chosen professions. Organizers said the event helped spark enthusiasm and build confidence as students explored future career options.

School leaders expressed appreciation to the professionals who volunteered their time and expertise, noting their support plays a vital role in preparing the next generation of professionals.

Way back when: local Boy Scouts at City Hall



Special to The Canton News

Courtesy of The Canton-Madison County Historical Society

On Tuesday, February 22, 1949, the local Boy Scouts took over Canton City Hall for a day.

According to the Madison County Herald, immediately after being sworn in, the boys got straight to

work - paving streets, repairing fences, enforcing traffic laws, inspecting the fire department, adjudicating a wayward business man, and running the Mayor's court - all before it was time for dinner with mom and dad. Original photographs are from the archives of the Madison Public Library System.

FINAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION NOTICE

- *NEW HOMEOWNERS*
- *OVER 65 HOMEOWNERS (FIRST TIME)*
- *PEOPLE WHO FILED DEEDS IN 2025*
- *MARITAL STATUS CHANGE*
- *SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY (FIRST TIME)*
- *TOTAL DISABILITY VETERANS*
- *AGE 90+ HONORABLY DISCHARGED*

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN UNTIL APRIL 1, 2026

LOCATION: MADISON COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR

CANTON OFFICE - 125 West North St Room 111

MADISON OFFICE - 171 Cobblestone Drive

Office Hours 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (After hours by appointment)

Basic Information Needed When Applying For Homestead Exemption:

- Recorded Deed, Lease or Will
- Social Security Number / Date of Birth / Phone Number / Email for Applicant & Spouse
- Automobile Tag Numbers
- Settlement Statement / Closing Disclosure
- Valid MS Proof Of Identification (MS Drivers License / MS Photo ID Card)

For a complete listing of requirements visit our website @ www.madison-co.com



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PO BOX 292
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CA student advances to State after District Reading Fair Success



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Virginia Dare Ford, a student at Canton Academy, earned second place at the District MAIS Reading

Fair and first place in Character Portrayal, advancing to compete at the State Reading Fair.

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On November 11, the River of Pearls Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution joined the City of Madison at Strawberry Patch Park for the second year to celebrate and remember U.S. Veterans and active service members.

The presentation of Colors was performed by the NJROTC Color Guard Canton High School.

Sandra Dewey, Regent for the Chapter, introduced the Keynote speaker, Lt. Col. Dennis Bittle of the Mississippi National Guard, Deputy Director for Operations and Training. Kay Ewing of the Chapter and York Craig, Sr. presented Guy Hovis with the NSDAR Medal of Honor as a native-born American citizen who has displayed leadership, trustworthiness, service and patriotism. Donna Russell, River of Pearls past Regent, and Nancy Moore, Mississippi Garden Clubs Chair, presented the River of Pearls Chapter's dedication of the Gold Star Memorial Garden at Strawberry Patch Park.

Gold Star Memorial Gardens are a tribute to all Gold Star families who have lost a family member in the line of duty.



All photos Special to The Canton News

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Upper school marks Spiritual Emphasis Week



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Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy's upper school recently celebrated its annual Spiritual Emphasis Week, welcoming local churches and pastors to campus to lead students in worship and reflection.

Each day, speakers focused on this year's theme, "Run Through the Tape," based on Hebrews 12:1-2. The passage encourages believers to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer

and perfecter of faith."

Throughout the week, students heard messages centered on faith, endurance and spiritual growth. Speakers challenged students to remain focused, throw off distractions and pursue their faith with determination.

School leaders expressed appreciation to the churches, pastors and volunteers who helped make the 2026 Spiritual Emphasis Week meaningful for students.

Springtime is here
AND SO IS MADISON COUNTY CO-OP!

Knock Out Roses

Fruit Trees

Madison County Co-Op
Fertilizer • Feed • Seed • Farm Supplies
323 West Fulton Street 601-859-1271 7:30-5:00 M-F 7:00-Noon Sat

RICH HISTORY, BOLD FUTURE.

Ladies' Night Out
on the SQUARE
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Gather your friends and make a memorable Ladies Night Out in the Heart of Canton!
April 16, 2026 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Canton TOURISM
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CantonTourism.com

Canton Hometown Market

Hop 'N Shop

The Historical Canton Square, Canton, MS

Saturday, March 21, 2026 | 11 AM - 3 PM

Join us on the Canton Square to kick off Spring! This special spring edition will feature handmade goods from local artists and makers. Enjoy a festive day on the Square with family and friends—then keep the fun going by exploring our merchant stores after the market ends at 3. Enjoy one-of-a-kind finds, local charm, and all the springtime vibes Canton has to offer.

CPS and Amazon launch Think Big Corners to inspire STEM learning

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District and Amazon have launched Amazon Think Big Corners in all four of the district's elementary schools, beginning with a celebration at Canton Elementary.

The dedicated STEM mini-labs are equipped with tools such as 3D printers and coding materials, providing students hands-on opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering and math.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held recently at Canton Elementary, Jimmie M. Goodloe Elementary, McNeal Elementary and Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts & Sciences.

District leaders say the partnership will expand access to innovative STEM education and help prepare students for future careers in technology and other STEM fields.



Special to The Canton News

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St. Patrick's Day

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