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Canton Public Schools announces higher accountability scores and two A-rated elementary schools

Special to The Canton News

Canton Public School District increased its reported accountability score by 40 points, from 576 in 2025 to 616 in 2026, while retaining its C rating under Mississippi's higher accountability standards. Six of the district's seven schools posted higher point totals, and every school retained or improved its letter grade. Goodloe Elementary School advanced from B to A, joining Canton Elementary School as an A-rated campus.

These results come as the Mississippi Department of Education raises the requirements for earning A–F grades beginning with the 2025–26 school year. School officials explain that maintaining a rating under higher expectations is an achievement worth recognizing.

Goodloe Elementary recorded the district's largest school point gain, adding 78 points to reach 482 and earn an A. Canton Elementary added 62 points, rising from 471 to 533 while maintaining its A rating. Both schools earned A ratings under the more rigorous grading requirements.

Progress also appears behind unchanged letter grades. RB Myers School of Arts and Sciences added 62 points, moving from 391 to 453 while retaining its B. McNeal Elementary gained 50 points, rising from 387 to 437 and maintaining its B. Officials explain these higher totals deserve recognition, even though the schools did not move to another letter-grade category.

Huey Porter Middle School increased its score by 11 points, from 394 to 405, and maintained its B rating. Nichols Middle School gained nine points, moving from 277 to 286 while retaining its D. Nichols' higher score is a step forward, with further improvement still needed. Canton High School maintained its C rating at 636 points, one point below its previous total of 637.

The district's area accountability comparison places Canton Elementary, Goodloe Elementary and Huey Porter Middle in the upper half of their respective comparison groups among schools in the metro area. Canton Elementary stands among the area's higher-scoring elementary campuses; Goodloe's A rating and area standing add to the district's elementary strengths. Huey Porter's standing reflects a competitive position among middle schools in the area.

Canton Public School District's Board of Trustees Chair, Mr. Johnny Brown, expressed the following sentiments about the district's performance: "As Board Chair, I want to express how proud the Canton Public School District's Board of Trustees is of the continued progress our district is making in academic performance. These results reflect the hard work, dedication and commitment of our students, parents, teachers, school leaders and district staff. While we celebrate the progress we have made, we also recognize that our work is far from finished. Academic excellence is not a destination, but a continuous journey of improvement. We are committed to our responsibilities as a Board, which are to maintain high expectations, provide the necessary support, and ensure that every student has access to the opportunities and resources needed to succeed."

Accountability Results at a Glance

School or district	2025 score / rating	2026 score / rating	Point change
Canton Public School District	576 / C	616 / C	**+40**
Canton Elementary School	471 / A	533 / A	**+62**
McNeal Elementary School	387 / B	437 / B	**+50**
RB Myers School of Arts and Sciences	391 / B	453 / B	**+62**
Goodloe Elementary School	404 / B	482 / A	**+78**
Nichols Middle School	277 / D	286 / D	**+9**
Huey Porter Middle School	394 / B	405 / B	**+11**
Canton High School	637 / C	636 / C	-1

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Men of Epsilon Kappa Kappa lead mentoring session in Canton



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The Men of Epsilon Kappa Kappa (EKK) participated in Session 2 of the "Choose To Grow" mentoring program on October 22 at In His Steps Ministries in Canton.

During the session, EKK mentors focused on the program's eight foundational values, encouraging Ambassadors and GEMs to develop strong character, make positive choices, and treat others with dignity and respect.

The mentoring program reflects the organization's commitment to nurturing confidence, inspiring personal growth and helping young people become the best versions of themselves.

A bit of history: Graham donates vintage suitcase

Courtesy of the Canton-Madison County Historical Society

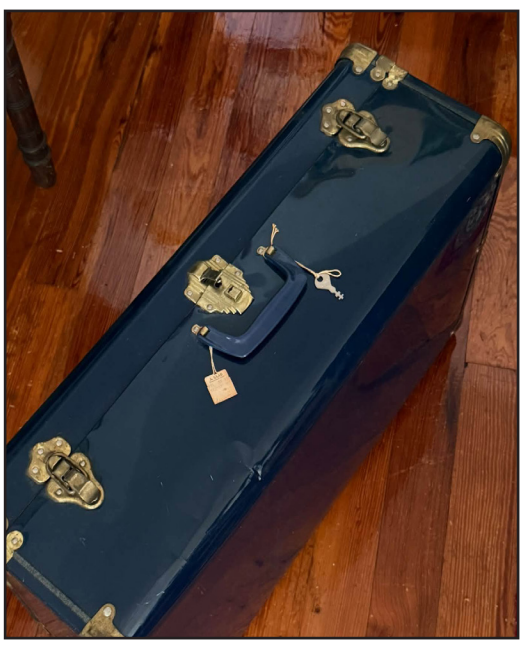
Another piece of Canton history has found a new home with the Canton-Madison County Historical Society.

Betty Cook Graham recently donated this vintage suitcase, which came from the Semmes Street home of her mother, Jean Watts Cook.

Betty's friend, Charles Riddell, helped bring the suitcase to the Historical Society.

What makes the suitcase particularly special is the small paper tag that remains tied to its handle. Printed across the top are the words "A. SAAB Department Store. $6.95." And the suitcase's key is still with it.

A. Saab Department Store's large storefront once faced the Canton Square, but the Saab name could be seen beyond the walls of the store: One action-packed photograph from our archives captures young Canton Little Leaguers celebrating on the field in uniforms emblazoned "A. SAAB STORE."



Special to The Canton News

Betty's donation also included three vintage yardsticks advertising former Canton businesses - H. T. Watts Lumber Co., Harreld Chevrolet Company, and Economy Furniture Co.

Like the Saab suitcase, these everyday objects offer small reminders of businesses that were once familiar names in Canton.

The Canton-Madison County Historical Society sincerely thanks Betty Cook Graham for preserving and donating these pieces of Canton history, and Charles Riddell for helping bring them to us.

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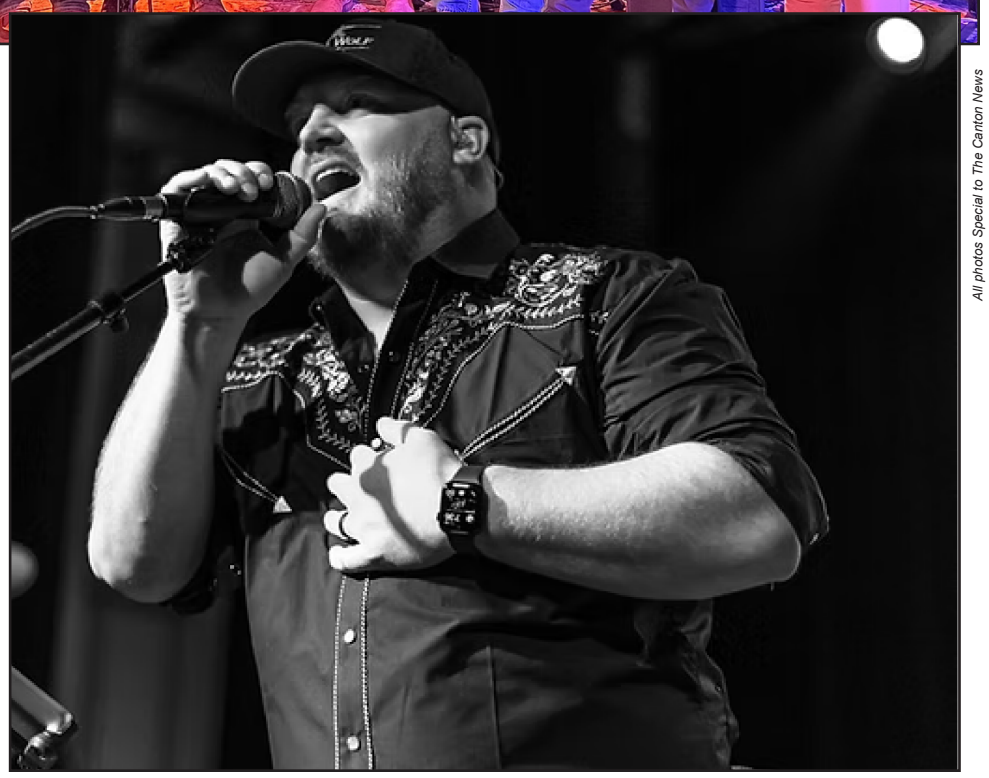
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Canton native Brett Warren shares his love of singing with HonkyTonk Playboys





All photos Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

For Canton native Brett Warren, singing is more than a talent — it is a way to celebrate friendship, share his love of music and, most importantly, worship God.

Affectionately known as "Dobber" to his Canton family and a graduate of Canton Academy, Warren has found a way to bring his love of singing to the stage as the lead singer of the HonkyTonk Playboys, a Jackson-based country cover band known for its high-energy performances and crowd-pleasing mix of '90s country hits, boot-stomping anthems and sing-along heartbreakers.

While Warren spends his days coaching football, music has always held a special place in his life. He also sings at First Ridgeland Church in Ridgeland, where he uses his voice in worship — an opportunity he considers one of the greatest blessings of his talent.

"I love getting to sing with my friends, celebrate great music and enjoy the good times that come with it," Warren said. "But as much as I enjoy performing, what means the most to me is using my voice to worship God and give glory to the One who gave me this gift in the first place. Music is a blessing, and there's nothing better than using that blessing to celebrate Him."

That love of music carries over to the stage with the HonkyTonk Playboys, where Warren joins a group of seasoned musicians who share a passion for country music and putting on a show. The band grew from a simple idea: bring some of the best musicians in the Jackson area together on one stage, and let the music speak for itself.

The group's sound celebrates the spirit of '90s country — loud, honest and made for the dance floor. With a full band featuring keyboards, drums, bass, guitar, fiddle and pedal steel, the HonkyTonk Playboys deliver the familiar songs and lively performances that keep audiences singing along.

The band has performed at events throughout the area, including WellsFest at the Ag Center in Jackson, the Red Beans and Rice Festival and Jackson Academy's Blue and White Night.

The musicians also recently recorded and produced Jackson Academy's new fight song and accompanying video, "Raider Nation," showcasing their talents beyond the country music stage.

The HonkyTonk Playboys lineup includes Austin on keyboards and vocals, Bobby on drums, Warren on vocals, David on bass, Donnie on guitar and vocals, Matthew on fiddle, Nick on guitar and vocals, and Thomas on pedal steel.

For Warren, performing with the band offers a chance to share the joy of music with friends and audiences while celebrating a gift he believes comes from God. Whether he is singing country favorites under the lights or lifting his voice in church, his passion remains the same.

And for his Canton family, seeing "Dobber" share that talent with others is a hometown story worth celebrating.

To learn more about the band and see their next performances, visit www.honkytonkplayboys.com/. To worship through music with the Warren family, visit Apostolic Lighthouse Church in Canton or First Ridgeland Church in Ridgeland.











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Homecoming '26









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Canton Public School District celebrated homecoming with a parade featuring school spirit, community pride and Tiger pride throughout the city. Students, staff and community members came together to celebrate the tradition and show their support for Canton schools.

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CPSD Canton High School names 2026-27 Royal Court

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Canton Public School District celebrated student achievement, leadership and school pride during Canton High School's coronation ceremony, recognizing students representing academics, athletics, career and technical education, fine arts and student organizations.

The ceremony featured the presentation of the High Court, Higher Court and Highest Court for the 2026-27 school year.

The High Court included representatives from Canton Career Center programs and student leadership organizations.

Mr. and Miss Basketball were Braylen Reaves and Miyonna Bush. Kylei Rogers was named Miss Flag Football, with Marquis Wolfe serving as escort.

Bryson Orr was named Mr. Student Ambassador, and Za'leah Prophet was named Miss HOSA. Kyrie Lucas and Savannah Villalpando-Cruz were named Mr. and Miss TSA, while Nathan Nichols and Kamille Brooks received the titles of Mr. and Miss SkillsUSA.

The Higher Court recognized students from each grade level, athletic programs, performing arts and extracurricular organizations.

Jaylen Garland and Erin Lamb were named Mr. and Miss Senior; Jefferson Solano and Londyn Harris, Mr. and Miss Junior; Demondric Griffin and Joey Prayer, Mr. and Miss Sophomore; and Tristan Brown and Celyria Griffin, Mr. and Miss Freshman.

Athletic representatives included Tristian Carpenter as Mr. Baseball, Shamiley Jones as Miss Softball, Jeremiah McGee as Mr. Football, Kamberly Douglas as Miss Cheer and Aeriell Wallace as Miss Volleyball, with Demonta Tompkins serving as escort.

Abraham Johnson and Keniya Sims were named Mr. and Miss Track and Field, while D'Avain King and Amanda Adams were named Mr. and Miss Powerlifting.

Other representatives included Kamerion Baldwin and Ke'Asia Adams as Mr. and Miss Band; Michael Pierce and Jayla Dillon as Mr. and Miss JROTC; and Samiyah Ratliff as Miss Majorette, with Leland Gardner serving as escort.

The Mr. and Miss Homecoming contestants were Jordan Sanders, Jaylnn Dunigan, Makayla Richardson, Juantarious Green and Kevin Roberts. Jeremiah Cross was listed as an escort.

The ceremony's highest honors recognized the students selected to represent Canton High School for the 2026-27 school year.



Special to The Canton News

Derrick Huntley and Za'nyriah Prophet were named Mr. and MissnCanton High School.

Derrick Huntley and Za'nyriah Prophet were named Mr. and Miss Canton High School. Ethan Nichols and Janyla Williamson were named first alternates, while Jamarian Worthy and Alexandria Luckett were named second alternates.

Canton High School's Tigers also celebrated a victory on the football field, defeating the Ridgeland Titans 36-27. The win improved Canton's overall record to 7-1 and its district record to 2-1.

The coronation and football victory highlighted a busy time for the Canton school community, celebrating student involvement, school spirit and accomplishments across academics, athletics and extracurricular activities.

Canton Career Center announces 2026-27 Royal Court



Special to The Canton News

Pictured are Mr. and Miss Canton Career Center: Cazaelin Simpson (left) and Kathryn Richards (right).

Special to The Canton News

Canton Career Center's Royal Court participated in Canton High School's coronation ceremony.

The students represented Canton Career Center during the event. The school announced the members of its 2026-27 Royal Court:

- Mr. and Miss Canton Career Center: Cazaelin Simpson and Kathryn Richards
- Mr. and Miss SkillsUSA: Nathan Nichols and Kamille Brooks
- Mr. Student Ambassador and Miss HOSA: Bryson Orr and Za'leah Prophet
- Mr. and Miss TSA: Kyrie Lucas and Savannah Villalpando-Cruz

Canton Career Center congratulated the students on their honors and expressed pride in their accomplishments, leadership and representation of the school.

The school looks forward to a successful year for the members of the Royal Court.



Letter from the editor: Lord, I'm so thankful for her

By Courtney Warren

Normally during the Thanksgiving season, I tend to write my column about my daughter. She was born on Thanksgiving, after all. However, this season I want to share someone else I am incredibly thankful for. My sweet grandmother Cherry Davis passed away a few weeks ago, and I feel it would be incredibly selfish of me to not share her with everyone.

Several years ago, I wrote a column about her where I shared that she had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, which ultimately led to the end of her life. Throughout that transition, we all struggled watching her light dim. There is something extraordinary about the sort of grief that happens in slow phases. But, I'm not going to write about those moments; instead I want to tell you about the before.



All photos Special to The Canton News



Long before I was born, Cherry Davis was (and until the moment she went to see Jesus) known for being the most beautiful one in the room. She was the epitome of grace and elegance, and everyone was invited to sit at her table. You were always included when Cherry was there.

She competed in the Miss Junior Miss Mississippi pageant in 1962 and won, then went on to represent her state at the Miss Junior Miss American pageant, where she absolutely stunned the audience. Her talent? FIRE BATON. It was incredible! I was able to see a video of her performance and was absolutely stunned. My grandfather grins every time he talks about the night of the competition, because the entire crowd was chanting "Mississippi! Mississippi! Mississippi!" Can you imagine? I know her heart soared that night.

After her pageant days, she went on to teach and coach other dancers and performers, including my own mother. Grammy to me, and Mrs. Cherry to others, she was a force to be reckoned with. She loved fiercely and was the biggest cheerleader for her friends and family.

At the Delta State University graduation ceremony, we were told that we shouldn't cheer until all of the names were called. Well, you and I both know that no one actually follows that rule. I was seated on the floor, rather than the stands of the coliseum, because I covered it for the newspaper, and my sweet husband was set to walk the stage and graduate that day. Grammy chose to sit beside me, and, rather than be gun shy when they called his name, we both snuck out air horns from our purses and made the loudest racket I think that gym has ever seen. People stared, but Brett Warren knew exactly where his wife and Grammy were.

Speaking of Brett, another of my favorite stories is the first day of orientation at DSU. Grammy and Mom had dressed me up just like their doll, as they do, and we attended the first round of sessions at orientation in 2008.

As I sat in Ewing Hall, a tall guy walked in through the doors. I didn't pay much attention, but Grammy sure did. She said "Oh, Courtney Gale, now I know we are here for an education, but I think I also just found your husband." She did. In 2013, I married exactly who she picked out on that first day of college. She always did know what was best for those around her.

She spent many of her days hunting and fishing with my grandfather, and while she could shoot a gun and cast a reel just as well as the next person, she also taught me to always have clean linens, fresh lipstick, and plenty of shelf space for decor. She loved popcorn and sour candy. She wore loafers and sweater sets all the time. She had frosted hair and could make the best soppy butter toast with eggs.

She was there the day Berit was born. As a matter of fact, she is the one person who never left my side the moment she arrived at the hospital.

She took out a subscription to every paper I ever wrote for, including this one, and told me she "absolutely licked the page cover to cover" because my writing was so incredible – even if the article was about cleaning up your grass clippings from the street. She answered the phone "Hello, my darling angel, has anyone told you how breathtaking you are?"

If she only knew experiencing her was truly what was breathtaking.

Even in her final months, she was full of joy. While she couldn't talk to me, she let me snuggle her and tell her all about the Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce wedding, laughing at all the right parts.

My incredibly selfless mother sat with her every day when she wasn't working at the hospital as a nurse, and I can only imagine how she feels after losing Grammy. She was my Grammy, but she was her momma. No one on this planet loved bigger than Grammy. I have found so many notes lately, tiny scraps of paper that she once touched and wrote in cursive, "Laura, you are our pride and joy," as if this was such an important fact she was desperate to cling to it, to remember it, to be able to say the words to her daughter over and over before she lost the ability. Every moment she could, she told the people around her how much they mattered.

Once again, I'm out of words and have lost direction of this column. Dear readers, I fear we are starting to get used to that, aren't we?

But as we live our busy lives, as we scroll on our phones, as we click through the channels, take a minute to tell someone how special they are. Tell them they are breathtaking. Tell them for me, and tell them for Grammy.




Canton Made, Nissan Proud.

2026 Annual Vision Awards celebration includes passing of the gavel



Special to The Canton News

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Each year at the Annual Vision Awards Celebration, the Madison County Business League & Foundation celebrates the ceremonial passing of the gavel from the outgoing Board Chair to the newly elected Chair.

The organization offered a thank you to Sam Kelly for his dedicated leadership and service as Chair during the 2025–26 year, and congratulated Deborah Martin on being elected to serve as Chair for 2026–27.

Green and Richardson named King and Queen



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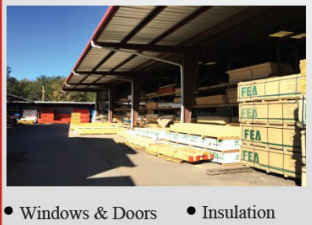
Juantarious Green and Makayla Richardson were named Canton High School's 2026-27 homecoming king and queen. The two students were also elected prom king and queen.



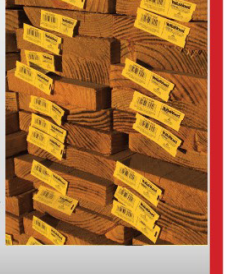
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Clark Beverage Group honored with 2026 Vision Award



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Pictured (l to r) are: Jan Collins, MCBL&F; Morgan Clark Schnur, Clark Beverage Group; Robert Clark, Clark Beverage Group; and Joey Deason, MCEDA.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation recently presented its 2026 Vision Award to Clark Beverage Group. The organization says that, as a family-owned business, Clark Beverage Group exemplifies the lasting impact of investing in both business and community, helping drive economic growth and opportunity in Madison County.

The Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) and the Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) created the Vision award in 2010 as a means of recognizing and thanking certain stand out Madison County businesses for their contributions to the community, including their unique or remarkable accomplishments, their investments in people and the resulting impact that their operations have on the local area economy.

Robert Clark and Morgan Clark Schnur accepted the award on behalf of the company, and award presenters said they are proud to celebrate the family's legacy of leadership and commitment to making Madison County a place where businesses and families thrive.

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City of Canton Police Department announces promotions





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The City of Canton is congratulating two members of the Canton Police Department on their new leadership roles.

Johnathan Sims was promoted to sergeant on Monday, October 19, 2026.

Ken K. Brown was sworn in as assistant chief of the Canton Police Department.

The City thanked Sims for his service and commitment to the community and welcomed Brown to his new role, wishing both continued success as they serve Canton residents and help lead the department.



Lake named 2026 young professional of the year



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Pictured (l to r) are: Sam Kelly, Brunini Law; Jamie Lake, BankPlus; and Katie Hutson, Harper Rains Knight Company.

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Canton Public School District celeThe 2026 Young Professional of the Year Award was recently presented to Jamie Lake with BankPlus, recognizing her dedication, leadership and positive impact on Madison County. Award presenters say they "are proud to celebrate Lake's contributions as part of the next generation of leaders shaping the county's future and helping make Madison County a place where business and community thrive together."

The mission of the Madison County 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. The award recognizes an outstanding young professional who demonstrates exceptional leadership and teamwork while serving on the Madison County Young Professionals Board of Directors.

Canton students explore higher education opportunities during Tougaloo College visit



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Students in the Canton Public Schools District High School Equivalency Program and at the Canton Educational Services Center recently visited Tougaloo College for an educational experience designed to expose them to opportunities in higher education.

During the visit, students toured the campus, learned about the college's history and traditions, and gained insight into the academic and extracurricular opportunities available to college students.

The experience allowed students to see college life firsthand while exploring academic programs, campus activities and the importance of setting educational goals beyond high school.

The visit was designed to encourage students to consider higher education as they pursue their academic and career goals.



Press Release

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2026

Public Meeting: Watershed Planning for Bear Creek Supplemental Watershed

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is preparing a watershed plan for the Bear Creek Supplemental Watershed in Canton, Mississippi.

The flood prevention measures developed for this watershed were originally designed and constructed to provide flood protection for local residents, agricultural lands, and public infrastructure. Over time, these measures have become inconsistent in providing adequate flood protection. Evaluation of additional flood control measures is necessary to ensure that consistent flood protection is provided to residents and properties within the watershed. Watershed planning is authorized by the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Pub. L. 83566), as amended.

Additional flood protection measures may be necessary due to threats to public safety and the risk of property damage brought on by large-scale flood events. The watershed plan will consist of engineering and planning analyses for the watershed project and will evaluate potential alternatives for increased flood protection. Through the evaluation of alternatives, NRCS will determine the appropriate level of analysis required for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

A public meeting will be held on Monday, November 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Canton City Hall, 226 E. Peace St., Canton, Mississippi. All residents and stakeholders within the watershed are encouraged to attend and learn more about the watershed planning process taking place over the coming months. For those unable to attend in person, questions or comments can be submitted to bearcreekinfo@waggonereng.com. For additional information regarding the meeting please contact Asishana Ajayi at (601) 355-9526.



Canton Flea Market celebrates 61st annual event

Special to *The Canton News*

The 61st annual Canton Flea Market Arts and Crafts Show brought shoppers and visitors to The Square to browse unique finds, handmade crafts and local treasures. The beloved tradition continues to showcase Canton's charm, bringing the community together for a day of shopping, fellowship and small-town hospitality.

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Howdy, Canton — thank you for taking care of my Grandheathen

By Guest Columnist Ricky Swindle



Special to The Canton News

Howdy, friends!

That's how my column begins in our hometown newspaper, The Panolian, and I reckon there's no better way to start this one.

My name is Ricky Swindle. I'm the owner of a 51-year-old family tire store in Batesville, Mississippi, and I freelance write for The Panolian as a hobby. For twenty years, I also hosted a Saturday radio program called The Local Yokels Show, where I played nothing but Mississippi artists, whether they were famous or not.

I'm pretty involved in my community, too. I'm a member of the Batesville Civitan Club, Panola Lodge No. 66 F&AM and a Wahabi Shriner. I've spent plenty of time at the Wahabi Temple in Jackson, so you might say I've made a few friends along the way.

But this past Friday night, October 9, I was six hundred miles from home, visiting my Grandheathens in Fischer, Texas. That's what I call my grandchildren, and, by the way, I'm the only one who gets to call them that!

I was at Canyon Lake High School watching my 16-year-old Grandheathendaughter cheer for the Canyon Lake Hawks. Meanwhile, my oldest Grandheathenson, Levi Hughes, was playing football for North Delta Academy in Batesville against Canton Academy.

I couldn't be at Levi's game in person, so I was watching it on my phone while keeping an eye on the action in Texas. That's when I noticed North Delta's linebacker No. 42 was having trouble.

That was my boy, Levi Gunner Hughes.

I watched his mother and father standing on the sideline, and I knew something wasn't right. I tried to call and text, but there was no response. Here I was, six hundred miles away, and one of my Grandheathens was down. There wasn't a thing I could do but pray for Levi.

A few minutes later, one of our school principals, Nikki Mills, called me.

"Mr. Ricky, Levi is down, and an ambulance is on the way to take him to UMMC," she told me. She said my daughter Jennifer would update me as soon as she could.

Jen later told me about the trainers, coaches and medically trained folks who came out of the home stands to help our boy. She said that all you could hear throughout that stadium, on both sides, were prayers being sent up for No. 42, Levi Gunner Hughes.

Players, cheerleaders and coaches from both teams were praying. Even the game officials joined in.

cont. on page 15

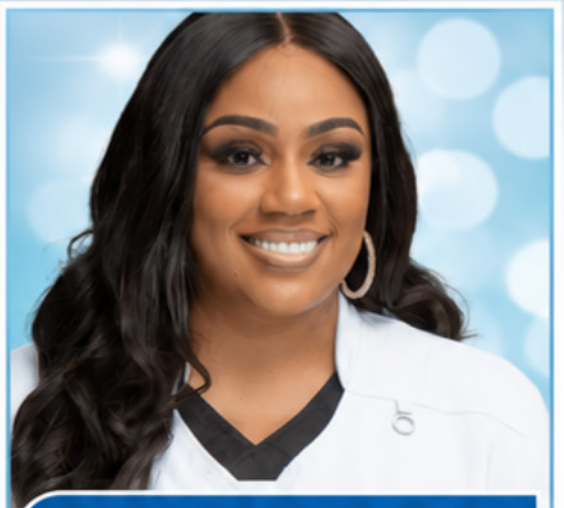


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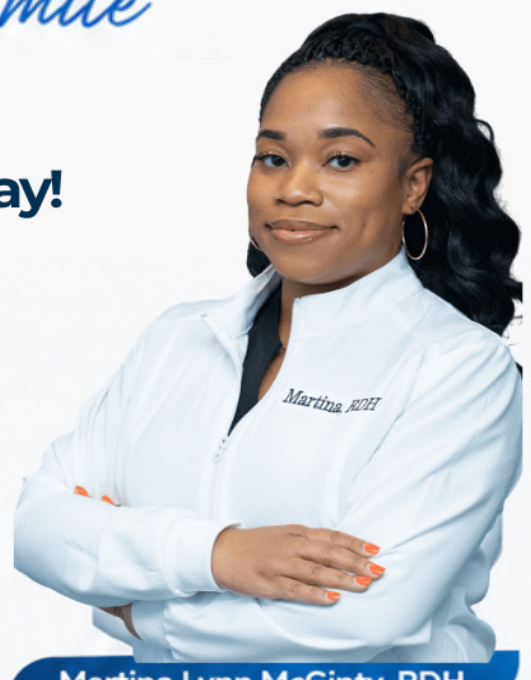
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Martina Lynn McGinty, RDH

CA hosts Panther Palooza







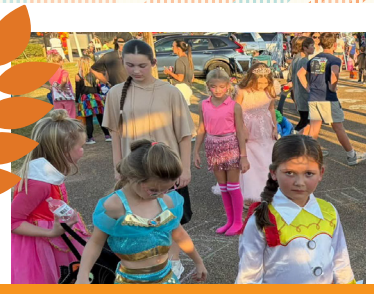


All photos Special to The Canton News









Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy hosted its annual fall festival, Panther Palooza, bringing together students, families and the community for an evening of fun and fellowship. Hosted by the Canton Academy Parents Association, the event celebrated school spirit and provided an opportunity for families to make lasting memories while supporting the school.



Howdy

cont. from page 12

Now, folks, just let that sink in for a minute.

These were people from Canton, Mississippi, many of whom had never met my Grandheathen, asking the good Lord to put His hand on him. They weren't worried about which team was winning. At that moment, they were worried about a young man who needed help.

Jen also told me that Canton's head coach was standing near Levi's feet. He told him, "42, we know exactly who you are. That's why we didn't run the ball your way all night."

Levi is an intense player, and that coach had noticed. He told Levi they were proud of him.

The medical folks on the sideline feared he might have suffered a serious spinal injury. But those prayers never stopped.

After a battery of tests at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, the doctors couldn't find a broken or damaged bone in my boy's body. They had initially been concerned about several possible injuries involving his spine and vertebrae, but those fears did not materialize.

Levi did suffer a concussion, and he will have to follow the protocol prescribed by his doctors. But, Lord have mercy, it could have been so much worse.

My daughter told me, "Daddy, that was a miracle in that stadium. Levi was in a bad, bad way, and by the time he got to Jackson, he was OK."

Now, I know there are different ways folks look at things like this. But you aren't going to convince our family that those prayers in Canton didn't mean something. We believe the good Lord heard every one of them, and we are mighty grateful.

In the days since the injury, the kindness has continued. Canton's headmaster, coach and game officials have reached out to Jennifer to check on Levi. The headmaster told her that night, "Whatever that young man needs, we are here for him."

That means a lot to this old boy.

You can learn a lot about a community by watching how its people treat someone else's child when that child is hurt. Canton showed us something special that night. Those folks care about those young people, whether they're wearing their school colors or somebody else's.

Canton, Mississippi, you have a whole lot of folks in Batesville who appreciate you.

Levi will follow his doctors' instructions and complete the concussion protocol before making any decisions about returning to football. With only two regular-season games remaining, followed by the possibility of the playoffs, Friday's injury could bring his high school football season to an end. We'll take things one day at a time and let the doctors guide the way.

And, let me tell you something else about this Grandheathen of mine.

He's a good kid, folks. One of his teammates, Walt Sanders, broke his leg in two places a couple of weeks ago on a play involving Levi. Jennifer told me Levi said to her yesterday, "Momma, I prayed after Walt got hurt, and I asked the Lord, if anyone else has to get hurt, let it be me."

That's the kind of heart this boy has.

He made a 33 on his ACT, and he's receiving college interest from schools as far away as Yale University. We figure he may wind up being a Rebel and staying just twenty minutes from home. Football is fun for him, but academics are serious business, and we couldn't be prouder of that.

Whatever happens on the football field, Levi has a bright future ahead of him. We're just thankful he's here to keep working toward it.

I've always closed my Panolian columns with the words, "Take care of yourself, folks." Sometimes I add a little something about taking care of your neighbor, too.

This time, I want to thank a whole community for doing just that.

To the players, cheerleaders, coaches, officials, school administrators, medical personnel and everyone in that Canton stadium who stopped what they were doing to pray for my Grandheathen, thank you. Thank you for caring for a young man you knew as an opponent on the field but treated like one of your own when it mattered most.

On October 9, 2026, Canton, Mississippi, showed this family what compassion, kindness and faith look like. You gave a worried grandfather, six hundred miles away, a reason to be thankful beyond words.

Canton will always hold a special place in our hearts.

God bless y'all.

And, as always, take care of yourself, folks.



A season of thanksgiving, gratitude and community

By Mayor Tim Taylor

Dear Citizens of Canton,

As we enter the month of November and begin preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday, I am reminded that even during life's most challenging seasons, there is always something for which we can be thankful.

We cannot ignore the realities many families are facing today. From the rising cost of gasoline and unbelievably high grocery bills to the increasing cost of everyday necessities, making ends meet has become more difficult for many households. These challenges are real, and I understand that families across our community are making tough decisions as they work to provide for themselves and their loved ones.

Yet, even in the midst of uncertainty, gratitude has the power to change our perspective. Being thankful does not mean that we overlook our struggles or pretend that everything is perfect. It means that, despite our circumstances, we remain mindful of the blessings we still have.

Be thankful for the family and friends who stand beside you. Be thankful for the roof over your head, the food on your table, the strength to face another day and the neighbors who are willing to lend a helping hand. Sometimes, the greatest blessings are not the things we can purchase, but the love, kindness, health, hope and fellowship we share with one another.

As Mayor, I am thankful for the people who make Canton more than a place to live. Our city is a community built on resilience, tradition, faith, hard work and the willingness of people to look out for one another. I am grateful for our residents, our local businesses, our community organizations, our churches and the dedicated City employees who continue to serve our community. Each of you plays an important role in making Canton a place we can proudly call home.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I encourage every family to find meaningful ways to share gratitude. Check on an elderly neighbor, support a local business, donate to a family in need, share a meal, or simply take a moment to tell someone how much they mean to you. We never know the burdens another person may be carrying, and a small act of kindness can make a tremendous difference.

Let us also remember that not every family will approach this holiday season with an abundance of resources. Some will be grieving loved ones, some will be facing financial hardships, and others may be quietly struggling with circumstances we cannot see. May we be intentional about extending compassion, patience and generosity to those around us.



Special to The Canton News

This November, let us focus not only on what we wish we had, but also on what we already have to be thankful for. We may not be able to control every challenge facing our households or our nation, but we can choose gratitude, practice kindness and strengthen the bonds that unite us as a community.

On behalf of my family and the City of Canton, I wish you and your loved ones a safe, peaceful, and blessed Thanksgiving. May your homes be filled with love, your hearts with gratitude and our community with a renewed spirit of unity and generosity.

Let us continue to look out for one another, lift one another up, and remember that when we stand together, we are stronger.

Happy Thanksgiving, Canton!

With gratitude and appreciation,

Mayor Tim Taylor- City of Canton, Mississippi

READ OUR LATEST
Columnist
Janiece Austin



Janiece Austin is the author of the newest blog on www.CantonNews.Net.

In 2025, she was selected to serve on the 2024-2025 Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Mississippi Teacher Advisory Council.

She loves spending time with family and friends.

Her passion is reading and bringing people all walks of life together

Scan here to see her latest blog!

If you are interested in advertising on Janiece 's Blog. Email Janiece at: austin.janiece@yahoo.com

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Mary Alice Holmes named Canton Academy homecoming queen



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Mary Alice Holmes was named homecoming queen at Canton Academy (CA), earning an honor she said she will always cherish.

Holmes expressed her gratitude to the school and the people who have supported her throughout her time at Canton Academy.

"Thank you, Canton Academy, for giving me this amazing opportunity!" Holmes said. "I couldn't be more grateful for everyone who supports me in all that I do. I wouldn't trade these memories for anything."

Having attended CA since elementary school, she also reflected on the friendships and experiences that have made her years at the school special.

"I'm so thankful for the people and memories that have made my time at CA so special," Holmes said.

Holmes' recognition as homecoming queen marks a memorable moment in her time at Canton Academy, where she celebrated the honor alongside the school community.

CA students spread holiday cheer through Operation Christmas Child



Special to The Canton News

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Canton Academy students across all grade levels recently participated in Operation Christmas Child, packing shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts for children around the world.

The boxes were packed and prayed over before being prepared for shipment, helping spread joy and share the spirit of Christmas with children in need.

The school thanked all students who participated in the project and helped make the effort possible.





Canton Academy students attend MSU Wood Magic Science Fair





All photos by Dominique Belcher

Special to The Canton News

Students from Canton Academy recently explored the science of forestry and forest products during a visit to Mississippi State University's Wood Magic Science Fair.

Third-grade teacher Jenny Howell and fourth-grade teacher Carol Furr brought their classes to the event Tuesday, Oct. 27, at MSU.

Hosted by the university's Department of Sustainable Bioproducts in the College of Forest Resources, the annual event introduces students to the science behind wood and forest products. Students learn about wood's properties and its role as a renewable, recyclable, biodegradable and durable resource.

The event was sponsored by the Mississippi Lumber Manufacturers Association, the Mississippi Forestry Association, MSU's Forest and Wildlife Research Center and the College of Forest Resources.

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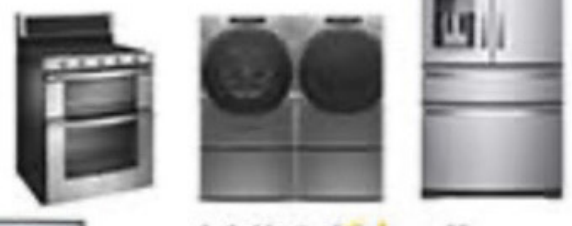
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5:00-9:00 P.M. Nightly
CLOSED: November 30th - December 3rd

Around the Historic Canton Square

RUDOLPH'S PLAYGROUND
18 FOOT WALK THROUGH GIFT BOX
TOWERING 3 STORY CHRISTMAS TREE
SNOWMAN 16 FOOT WALK THROUGH
CATERPILLAR 32 FOOT LONG WALK THROUGH

Christmas Interactive Village
Rudolph's Barn - Frosty's House - Rudolph's House

Mrs.Clause Storyteller Extraordinaire
A Canton Christmas Festival Treasure!
Find her in the Canton Welcome Center

Children's Rides
Old Fashion Carousel, Antique Cars, and Sky Race

Christmas Animation Museum and I Spy
Canton History Comes Alive with Christmas Magic!
Look for the Elves' Top 10 Favorite Toys

Christmas in Whoville Display
Look for The Grinch in Cindy Lou Who's house

Fire Truck and Train Rides
Take a Magical Ride Around the Square

Santa's Reindeer Round Up
Find all of Santa's reindeer team

THE CANTON CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CELEBRATES AMERICA 250

Look for patriotic displays around The Square.

FESTIVIAL ACTIVITY INFORMATION LISTED BELOW

Sing-A-Long Fest with the Best
Join our magical cast of characters for carols, pictures, and your favorite family holiday traditions!
Nov. 27-29, Dec. 4-6, and Dec. 11-23
Performance Times: 6:30 PM and 8 PM

Photos with Santa
One-on-one time with Santa and have your picture taken!
Nov. 27-29, Dec. 4-6, Dec. 11-23

Carriage Rides
Cozy up with a stroll around the Historic Square driven by horse-drawn carriage!
Nov. 27 and 28, Dec. 4 and 5, Dec. 11-23

Merchants Open House Weekend
Shop for gifts and antiques around the Historic Square.
Friday, Nov. 27 and Saturday, Nov. 28
Friday & Saturday: 10AM-9PM

20th Annual Holiday Sip N Cider
December 11: 5-9PM
Participating merchants offer Christmas Hot Cider.
Annual fun competition for our visitors.

NOW UNTIL DECEMBER 23RD, 2026

CA girls MAIS cross country meet



Special to The Canton News

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Canton Academy's girls' cross country team finished as state runners-up at the 2026 MAIS Cross Country Meet.

The team competed in a close race, capping off a season of hard work and dedication. The school congratulated the athletes on their accomplishment and recognized their efforts throughout the season.

Canton High School Pens and Crows



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

The Pen and Prose Society at Canton High School delivered a performance during its second annual Night of Pens and Crows on Oct. 27, at the CHS Auditorium.

Under the leadership of Mrs. T. Greenwood, students showcased their creativity, passion and storytelling abilities during the event, titled "At the Creepy Cafe: Student Stories Brewed With a Touch of Terror."







