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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Your Community. Your News. Your Paper • April 2, 2026 • Vol. 12, No. 4 • Canton, Mississippi

Canton High's Shamira Morton named 2026 Tatum and Wade/MSB Girls

Basketball Player



SHAMIRA MORTON

Article courtesy of Robert Wilson and MS Scoreboard

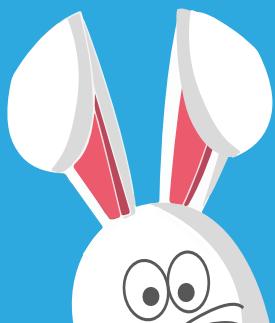
Canton High School girls basketball player Shamira Morton, a 6-foot-3 senior center and Seton Hall signee, averaged 22.9 points, 13.3 rebounds, and 5.3 blocked shots (third, sixth and third respectively in Mississippi by MaxPreps) and led Canton to a 26-5 record and the MHSAA Class 6A quarterfinals this season, despite being double and triple teamed all year. She won the Metro Jackson Player of the Year award for the third consecutive season, matching former Germantown star Madison Booker, who is now an All-American and SEC champion at the University of Texas. Booker won Metro Jackson Player of the Year from 2021-23.

Morton set school records for most career points, rebounds and blocked shots and is the first Canton girls basketball player in two decades to receive a Division I scholarship offer. She was the MHSAA Class 6A Miss Basketball as a senior and the MHSAA Class 5A Miss Basketball as a junior.

Morton led Canton to a school record 28 victories and back-to-back state runner-up finishes for the past two seasons as a junior and sophomore. She has career highs of 40 points against Ridgeland this season and Velma Jackson as a junior, 23 rebounds against Ridgeland as a junior and 12 blocked shots against Cleveland Central and Greenville as a sophomore.

Morton has had 75 double doubles and 12 triple doubles and has scored in double figures in all but one game in the past three seasons.

"What a ride it has been having Shamira as a player," said Canton coach Melissa
cont. on page 18



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Jones recognized for commitment to HOSA



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Recently, Shirley Jones, Canton Career Center's Health Science instructor, was recognized for her outstanding achievement of one hundred percent Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) participation in HOSA. HOSA-Future Health Professionals is a premier CTSO for students in health science education, enhancing classroom learning through leadership development, service projects and over sixty competitive events.

According to Canton School Dis-

trict representatives, "This honor highlights her exemplary commitment to Mississippi HOSA by fully implementing the HOSA curriculum and ensuring all of her students were actively affiliated. The award was presented at the 2026 State Leadership Conference last month.

"We are proud to celebrate Ms. Jones for her dedication to student success! Special thanks to Center Director Michael Ellis for presenting this well-deserved recognition during Canton Career Center's Focused Faculty staff meeting."

Nicholas Middle track wins big



Special to The Canton News

Nichols Middle School celebrates after earning first place overall at the St. Andrew's Invitational Track Meet, with Porter Middle School finishing second in the highly competitive event.

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CPSD celebrates Read Across America Day



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Read Across America Day was celebrated as young students returned from spring break. Through the Canton Public School District, district officials, parents, teachers, and community partners took the time to stop by and read to stu-

dents.

Read Across America Day was created by the National Education Association (NEA) in 1998 and is the nation's largest celebration of reading. While it is a year-round program, Read Across America Day is celebrated in the month of March to bring new resources and

book titles to readers in an effort to diversify their reading. According to the NEA, "Readers who feel included, recognized and a part of the world are engaged readers."

While Dr. Seuss remains a popular theme for this event, the official theme for 2026 was "Champion Kindness."



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CA students earn honors at MAIS State Reading Fair



All photos Special to The Canton News

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Students from Canton Academy earned multiple honors at the MAIS State Reading Fair, with several placing in both overall categories and character portrayal. In second grade, Luke Park-

er received third place overall in non-fiction and first place in character portrayal.

Among third-grade participants, Virginia Dare Ford earned third place overall in non-fiction, while Stock McCarty placed second overall in fiction.

In fourth grade, Collins Winters was awarded first place overall in fiction and second place in character portrayal.

School officials expressed pride in the students' accomplishments and recognized their hard work and dedication.

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CHS track makes podium at invitational



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Recently, the Canton High School track team competed in the annual Ridgeland Invitational. The girls' team achieved an impressive second-place

finish, demonstrating strong performances across multiple events. The boys' team secured third place, showcasing their competitive spirit and determination.

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Colorado estate discovery returns 1940s Canton student's story home

Courtesy of the Canton-Madison County Historical Society

The Canton-Madison County Historical Society recently received a collection of historical materials tracing the life of a former Canton student after an unexpected journey from across the country.

The items arrived in an envelope originally sent from an estate sale in Pueblo, Colorado. After rediscovering the package, the society contacted the sender, 86-year-old Patty Bedard of Bedard Estate Sales, who said she had mailed the materials approximately five or six years ago.

Bedard explained that through her work, she often encounters historically significant items. When no family members remain or when families are not interested in preserving them, she researches their origins and sends them to appropriate historical societies.

Her efforts resulted in the return of materials belonging to O'Berá Garbarino (Caruso), a Canton native whose childhood and school years are documented in the collection.

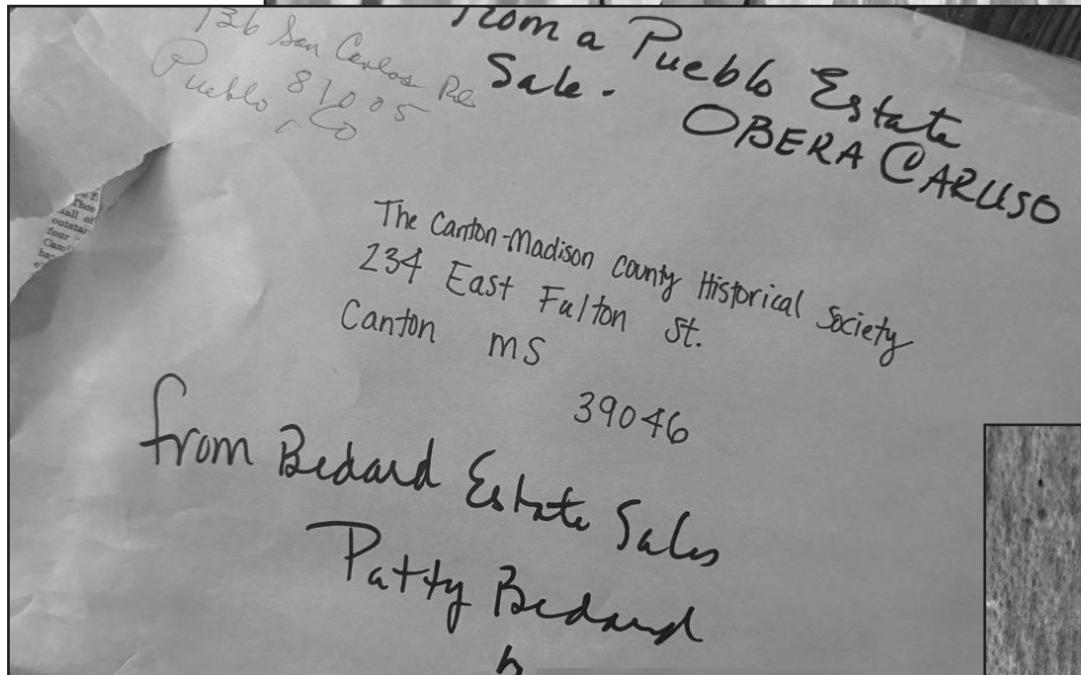
Among the items are photographs and school documents from the 1930s and 1940s, including

a studio portrait of Garbarino as a grade-school student taken at Weatherford Studio in Canton, an early class photograph, and her Elementary School Certificate dated May 31, 1937. The certificate notes she had "honorably completed the course of study prescribed... for the Elementary Schools" and had been admitted into high school.

A note on the back of one photograph indicates Garbarino was born



All photos Special to The Canton News



er who called her "a sweet girl" and expressed hope she would earn an

of 1943 and appears in several sections reflecting student life and social norms of the time. A class article noted her preference for "the best of everything," while a senior rhyme referenced her popularity and social life.

Other materials include a photograph of the Army Band of Flora, Mississippi, and a newspaper events calendar documenting a series of social gatherings—teas, luncheons, dances and parties—organized largely by mothers to honor

in April 1925, meaning she would be just shy of 101 years old today.

The materials date to the era of the Great Depression, a time when such keepsakes likely carried significant meaning for families across Mississippi.

Additional documents detail Garbarino's high school years in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Report cards and teacher notes provide insight into her academic life, with one teacher writing that she "should always be attentive in class," while another described her as having "many pleasing characteristics" but

encouraged greater interest in current events. Other remarks were more personal, including one teach-

"A" the following year.

Garbarino's own reflections were also preserved. In one, she wrote, "I really have enjoyed you teaching me this year."

In another, she acknowledged, "I don't study as much as I should. I have enjoyed studying everything that we had this six weeks."

The collection also includes her 1943 commencement invitation and senior pin, marking her graduation during World War II. That year's Canton High School senior publication, "The Helios," lists a graduating class of 55 students, with many male students already assigned to roles in the armed forces.

Garbarino is featured prominently in the publication. She was named "Most Beautiful Girl" of the Class



Canton Board addresses school board appointment and City infrastructure

By Courtney Warren

The Canton Mayor and Board of Aldermen addressed critical infrastructure projects and municipal appointments during its recent March meetings held at City Hall.

In a significant reversal during a March 12 special call meeting, the Board approved rescinding Alderwoman Janice Diamond's previous vote regarding the appointment of Kajwana Davis to the Canton Public School Board. The position was originally slated for a five-year term running from March 2026 through February 2031.

Additionally, the Board moved to authorize a resolution for a public hearing to consider amendments to the City's Unified Development Code and approved a partnership with BDO for auditing services.

Infrastructure and planning remained a primary focus as the Board authorized Waggoner Engineering to proceed with a \$95,000 hourly not-to-exceed task order for on-call planning services and enterprise GIS hosting. City leaders also initiated a re-advertisement for construction bids related to intersection improvements. This modified project scope specifically targets expanding turn radii at the intersections of Adeline

Street and Singleton, Adeline and Isabella, and Mace and Edwards. Related discussions also touched on localized flooding issues at MLK and Adeline, as well as the status of the movie theater on Hickory Street.

Public safety and community services saw substantial investment, highlighted by the approval to purchase ten new vehicles for the police department from Gray Daniels for \$51,471 each. To improve community engagement, the Board agreed to pay GO GOV \$4,300 annually for a citizen notification and alert system. The Board also authorized advertisements for several seasonal events, including a Catfish Rodeo on March 21, a Crawfish Festival on March 28, and a city-wide Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 4. Furthermore, the Board approved a one-year extension for a fire department generator grant and updated rental fees for the Canton Multipurpose Complex to a flat rate of \$850 per day starting April 1.

Administrative and financial actions included the transfer of \$728,520.54 from general funds to sinking funds, and the approval of a subgrant agreement between the City and the Canton Housing Authority. Professional development



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was also prioritized, with travel authorizations granted for Chief Otha Brown and Assistant Chief Steve Johnson to attend a summer educational conference in Biloxi, and for other officials to attend municipal clerk and congressional confer-

ences. Both sessions concluded with executive sessions to discuss various personnel matters within the police, fire, landfill, and public works departments, alongside negotiations regarding land transactions and prospective litigation.

Nissan launches Eco School with MS Children's Museum ahead of Earth Hour

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The Nissan Sustainability team recently launched an educational program called Nissan Eco School at the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson. The pilot program is inspired by a global Nissan initiative called "Waku Waku," meaning "joy," which has brought educational programming focused on sustainability to students in Japan since 2008.

Nissan Eco School is an after-school event for second- and third-grade students from the Jackson Public Schools district, supported by three employees from Nissan's Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant, each of whom leads a hands-on module from the Eco School curriculum.

The approximately 90-minute program includes lessons on water, recycling and energy conservation, including a take-home workbook.

"Nissan Eco School brings Nissan's successful 'Waku Waku Eco School' green educational programming to the North American market, and we're excited to expand Eco School to other locations across the region," said Parul Bajaj, senior manager of Sustainabil-

ity, Nissan North America. "As proud members of the Mississippi community, our Canton team is honored to bring Nissan's commitment to environmental responsibility to life for local students through fun, practical lessons about conservation and recycling."

The pilot was timed to provide green-focused lessons to students ahead of Earth Hour on Saturday, March 28, and inspires participants to take part in the annual grassroots environmental movement. Students at the Nissan Eco School were encouraged to build a blanket fort, shut off the lights and read by flashlight from 8:30

– 9:30 p.m. for this year's Earth Hour celebration. "Nissan has been a longstanding and valued partner of the Mississippi Children's Museum, helping bring science, technology, engineering, and math to life for children across our state," said Susan Garrard, President/CEO of the Mississippi Children's Museum. "The Nissan Eco School program is another powerful example of that commitment—connecting hands-on learning with real-world skills and helping prepare Mississippi's future workforce. Our team is excited to host this impactful program and welcome the participating students."



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CPSD schools come together in collaboration



Photo by Susan Collins-Smith

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Canton High School and Canton Career Center counselors recently had a collaborative meeting. Counselors, student services coordinator, assistant principal, Chief of Operations, and Center Director came together to connect, share ideas and plan for upcoming events to better support our

students. According to district representatives, "There's power in collaboration, and we're excited about what's ahead!"

The Central Mississippi PAC meeting featured groups who talked about small ruminants, wildlife, beef, forage and equine, agronomic crops, and vegetables, fruits and nuts.

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Letter from the editor: gold stars for everyone, especially the leader

By Courtney Warren

After spring break, there is something in the air, probably pollen, that makes our students go nuts. They are hardwired to be extra springy, and for some reason it seems teachers are hard wired to be extra tired.

In an effort to curb that, our principal recently went old school and pulled out a star chart.

Now, as an ADHD kid, I never got a star when I was younger. I was always the student that had my clip moved, silent lunch, laps at recess, or my mom called. I can honestly tell you I have never in my life received a gold star.

I love that something as simple as a star sticker beside our names in the teachers lounge has been able to bring about better morale.

Our principal is going back to an old school trick and has singlehandedly figured out that, because we love these gold stars, we are more likely to brag on each other.

How often do we go home and focus on the one negative thing that happened at the end of our day, rather than all of the amazing things? With the star chart, it gives us physical evidence of the goodness around us.

This shift in perspective has forced me to actively look for ways that others have stood out.

At the beginning of the year, our guided studies teacher asked what our word of the year was. I love this woman. One of her favorite hobbies is cutting your noggin open and figuring out how you work. I think it's part of what makes her such a good guided studies teacher, because she wants to explore the why behind the what.

I normally don't choose word of the year, because I have commitment issues and, frankly, I stop in leviticus in February, so a word of the year just seemed a bit much.

Anyway, because she asked, I chose the word "cheer." I wanted to focus less on myself and more on cheering on and helping other people.

With the star chart, I have had so much fun giving out stars to my colleagues and even more fun looking for reasons to give out stars.

A colleague reprinted and laminated our schedules, because the laminated one I had was outdated. Gold star.

Two colleagues locked in and figured out how to better assess student writing with the new AI features. Gold star.

Another colleague stepped up and took duty for someone, staying late on a Friday when they really didn't want to. Gold star.

All of this boils down to having a



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positive leader. He realized that the final nine weeks of school can be taxing, and he rose accordingly, continuously tells us he's proud of us (and why, which is JUST as important) and ensures that we know we are supported and there for a reason. It's those kinds of leaders you will run into battle for, you'll take an extra duty for, you'll give the last ten percent for. Because you know he appreciates it. And you know what? He

hasn't put a single dang star by his name on the star chart. And I KNOW I've given him at least two!

So, let this be my gold star for wonderful leadership.

A gold star for a positive work environment.

And an encouragement to everyone reading. Find your gold star moments in the day and cling to them. They're there, and they are worth recognizing.

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Canton High School National Honor Society induction celebrated



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By Courtney Warren

Scholars from Canton High School were recently inducted into the National Honor Society,

recognizing their exceptional achievements in scholarship, leadership, service and character. This prestigious honor highlights their dedication to academic ex-

cellence, their ability to lead and inspire others, and their commitment to serving the community. According to the NHS, by empowering, championing and rec-

ognizing well-rounded students, NHS provides schools with a values-based framework to elevate a culture of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

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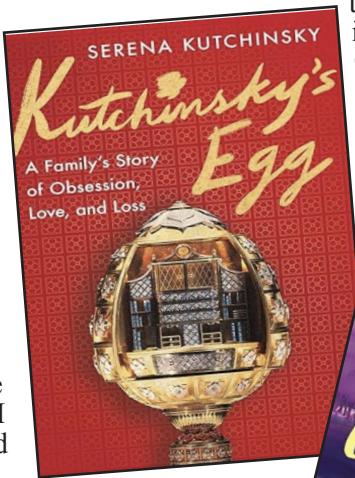
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On the Shelf: Books that make you think of Spring

By Courtney Warren

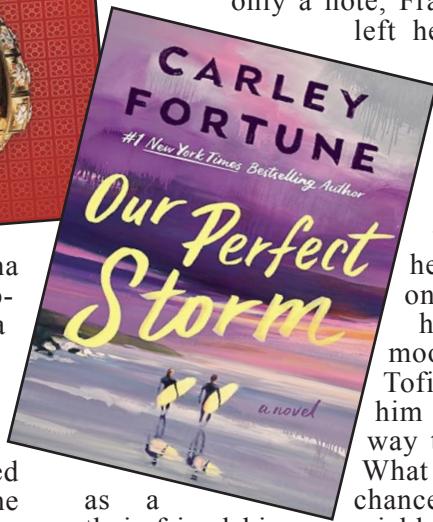
I am so glad we are finally to warmer weather! It's time to lounge outside in the sun and enjoy to beauty around us. For me, that means spending time in the backyard and at the pool with a good book. Here are two books I am excited about.



Kutchinsky's Egg by Serena Kutchinsky. According to the publisher, when Kutchinsky was a child, her life was turned upside down by her father's obsession with crafting the world's largest jeweled egg. Long after her family's jewelry firm had been ruined and her family decimated by the scope of her father's fixation, the author returns to the demons that drove him—and the mystery of the

missing Argyle Library Egg.

Carley Fortune is an author I have enjoyed reading for years. Her new book *Our Perfect Summer*, is set to be a great spring read. According to the publisher, Frankie and George have been best friends since childhood, but their relationship is strained as Frankie's wedding approaches and she's unsure if he'll even show up. After her fiancé abruptly leaves her with only a note, Frankie is



left heartbroken and confused. George convinces her to go on her honeymoon to Tofino with him as a way to heal. What begins as a chance to fix their friendship quickly becomes a journey filled with buried secrets and unexpected feelings.

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Former Miss CHS named 100th Miss Alcorn State University



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Former Miss Canton High School Erin Nichols has been named the 100th Miss Alcorn State University, marking a significant milestone in her academic and leadership journey. The prestigious title recognizes Nichols' hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence. A proud representative of Canton High School, she continues to uphold the

values of leadership and service associated with both institutions. Nichols' achievement has been met with celebration from the Canton community, as she continues to make an impact and serve as a role model for students. Her selection as Miss Alcorn State University highlights her ability to inspire others while representing the university with pride.

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Canton teen's wish comes true with visit to meet Stephen Curry



All photos Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Tyler, a 17-year-old from Canton, recently had his wish come true with a trip to California, where he met Stephen Curry in February.

The experience was made possible through a wish-granting effort aimed at creating unforgettable moments for young people facing serious challenges. Tyler's trip marked a special opportunity to meet the NBA star in person and

spend time with him during the visit.

Organizers expressed gratitude to Curry and his team for helping make the experience memorable. The visit provided Tyler with a meaningful and uplifting

moment, highlighting the impact of community support and generosity.

Those involved said they were honored to help bring the wish to life and create lasting memories for Tyler and his family.

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Canton Career Center showcases CTE programs to CHS freshmen



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Leaders at the Canton Career Center highlighted their diverse Career and Technical Education programs during a tour for ninth-grade students from Canton High School.

CCC Director Michael Ellis encouraged students to consider enrolling in courses aligned with their interests in career and technical fields.

The center offers a range of specialized programs designed to equip students with practical skills across various industries. Programs include multimedia technology, where students explore digital media production; automotive service technology, focused on vehicle maintenance and repair; and collision repair, which teaches automotive bodywork techniques.

Additional offerings include construction and carpentry, providing hands-on experience in building and craftsmanship; engineering and robotics, which emphasize design and programming; and health science, preparing students for careers in medical and health-related fields.

Law and public safety courses introduce students to the criminal justice

system and careers in law enforcement. Work-based learning opportunities allow students to gain practical experience through jobs, internships and partnerships with local businesses.

Through these programs, the Canton Career Center aims to prepare students for successful futures across a variety of professional fields.

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

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OBITUARY

Madeline Claire Phillips Morris
January 16, 1950 - March 16, 2026

Madeline Claire Phillips Morris passed away peacefully on March 16, 2026 with her loving husband, Ken, by her side.

Madeline was born January 16, 1950 to Virginia Dare Connolly Phillips and William Barnett Phillips of Canton, Mississippi.

Madeline had a wonderful childhood with her sister, Debbie, participating in Girl Scouts and enjoying summers on the swim team. During her childhood, her family attended Grace Episcopal Church in Canton. She would spend many happy times visiting family in Laurel and around Mississippi.

She graduated from Canton High School in 1968 with honors. In high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society and editor of the annual.

She attended the University of Mississippi, where she was a member of Chi Omega Sorority, Tau chapter. Madeline met the love of her life at Ole Miss. Ken always said it was love

at first sight when he saw Madeline. She and Ken were married on January 24, 1970. Madeline graduated from Delta State University in 1971 with a bachelor of science in mathematics.

Madeline was a teacher at Canton Academy, teaching Math 2, Algebra 2 and Advanced Math. Madeline loved math, and she enjoyed teaching math to others. Madeline also worked at her business, Phillips Lumber Company in Canton, Mississippi, as an interior designer. Through her business, she was President of the Ladies Auxiliary for the Mississippi Building Materials Dealer Association.

Madeline was mother to her two daughters, Davin and Claire. She loved every minute of being a mother. She was a wonderful, loving, kind, caring and supportive mother. She would wipe tears away from eyes and kiss scraped knees. She would read bedtime stories and hold their hands when they were afraid. She would fall asleep holding them when they were sick. She would bake birthday cakes and decorate them in their favorite characters. She handmade dresses with French hand sewing. She did everything possible for her children to make sure they always felt loved and adored.

Madeline was blessed with being a grandmother to her four precious grandchildren. She was called Saba

and Grandmama by Virginia Dare, Teddy, George and James. She loved getting hugs from them and encouraged them in everything that they pursued. She always told them how proud she was of them and they brought her so much joy. She loved hearing them read stories to her, and her refrigerator was decorated with their artwork. She made it fun for her grandchildren by hosting bingo just for them at her house. She was always happy to help her grandchildren with their math homework. Madeline enjoyed going to the beach with her grandchildren and seeing the shells that they would bring her.

Madeline and Ken enjoyed traveling, and they visited the Caribbean, Mexico, Europe and Ireland. They even traveled to Australia for the 2000 Olympics.

Madeline was a member of First Methodist Church in Canton, Mississippi, where she was a past kindergarten Sunday school teacher and she was also the former Blood Drive Chairman.

Madeline enjoyed playing bridge with her friends.

She was an avid Ole Miss football and baseball fan who enjoyed going to the games with Ken. If she could not attend, she and Ken were either watching the games or listening to the Rebels on the radio.

She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Doaks Treaty Chapter providing the National Defense Minute.

In her pastime, she enjoyed reading books, bird watching, a warm cup of coffee and petting their cat.

Madeline is survived by her wonderful husband of 56 years, Ken; her daughters, Davin Ford (Webster), Claire Boler (Michael); grandchildren, Virginia Dare Ford, Teddy Boler, George Boler and James Boler; her sister Debbie Walton (Mark) and many cousins, nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Visitation was held at First Methodist Church, Canton, Mississippi on Friday, March 20, 2026, from 5 to 7 p.m.

A visitation before the service was held at 10 a. m. on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at First Methodist Church in Canton, Mississippi, followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m., with graveside burial following at Canton Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First Methodist Church, Canton, Mississippi.



Special to The Canton News

Cantonian Charlie Smith inducted into Holmes Hall of Fame



Special to The Canton News

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Charlie Smith, a native of Canton will be inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame on April 9, honoring his accomplished athletic career, legacy of service and multigenerational connection to Holmes.

Smith came to Holmes from Canton High School and quickly established himself as one of the program's premier athletes. He played football under Head Coach Tommy Davis during the 1971 and 1972 seasons, earning All-American honors and recognition as one of the standout players of his era.

In addition to football, Smith excelled in track and field. In 1973, he was a member of the Holmes relay team that won the state championship while setting a state record in the 220-yard dash, a performance that highlighted his speed and competitive excellence.

Following his success at Holmes, Smith continued his football career at Abilene Christian University, where he was part of a team that won the NAIA national championship. His achievements at both the high school and collegiate levels reflect a career defined by discipline, leadership and consistency.

Smith credits Holmes with shaping the foundation of his personal and professional life.

"Some of my fondest memories were the foundational growth we experienced," Smith said. "Holmes set the foundation of who I am today. The coaches and staff were helpful in every way. We were taught discipline, leadership and understanding. I never felt like I did not belong. I still frequently recommend to students that they consider Holmes as a start to their

career."

Smith's connection to Holmes athletics continued through his family. His son, Landon Smith, played football at Holmes during the 1994 and 1995 seasons, extending the Smith family's presence in the program across generations. Even his 220-yard dash team has been recognized by the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame for their accomplishments.

Beyond athletics, Smith has remained deeply involved in his community. He has been recognized for his leadership and service, including honors as Film Coach of the Year and Parent of the Year. He has served as a superintendent adviser for the Canton Public School District and is a member of the Masonic Lodge.

Smith devoted 11 years as pastor of Mt. Zion, where he also founded the male choir, and later served at Harvey Chapel Church. His commitment to faith and education is further reflected in his academic achievements. Smith holds a Doctor of Theology degree from Slidell Baptist Seminary and a master's degree in theology from McKinley Theological Seminary.

Professionally, Smith worked for Pride Refinery and Cardox in Gluckstadt. He and his wife, Regina Smith, reside in Madison and are the parents of six children: Landon, Kimberly, Carlina, Charmane, Charnele and Chareese.

Smith's induction into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame recognizes not only his athletic excellence, but also a lifetime of leadership, service and dedication to family, faith and community. His career and continued involvement stand as a testament to the lasting impact of Holmes and the values it instills.

Local radio station WMGO changes ownership



Special to The Canton News

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Big news on The Square as local radio station WMGO was purchased by John Wallace and Ed Hutchison. The announcement marked a new chapter

for the station, which has long served the Canton community.

Pictured from left to right were John Wallace, Lindy Lusteau, Ed Hutchison and Evelyn Jones.

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cont. from front page

Canton

Word, who has been at Canton for 27 seasons and won a state title in 2013 and two state runners-up finishes in 2024 and 2025. "This season has its share of adversity, especially with injuries that seemed to make its way throughout the whole team. Shamira actually played the last three weeks with a sprained ankle, which eventually aggravated her Achilles. But no excuse. Of course, fans and our opponents didn't realize it because she continued to give us her all every night. Hopefully, her work ethic and love for the game had rubbed off on the remaining players, who had an opportunity to play with her."

"I improved on the court with expanding my game from the perimeter, being more patient, finding the gaps in other teams' defenses, because I got double-teamed a lot last year," Morton said. "This year, I struggled with finding the gaps more in defenses, because most of the teams we faced basically played us zone to keep two people on me. So, after getting advice, I started moving more and finding the gaps. My expectations for myself moving forward is to work harder than I have before. I need to improve my agility, get stronger, and improve my leadership even more from my high school years."

In addition to Morton's injury late in the season, her teammates battled through injuries, as well (Dekendra Mitch-

ell missed games with ankle injuries, Aquirana Wade missed games with a finger injury and Aeriona Wallace played all season with a torn labrum).

"Shamira is an amazing teammate," Canton junior Journey Brown said. "She's always inspiring us and encourag-



ing us to be the best version of ourselves. Her leadership and positivity have made a huge impact on our team."

"Shamira has been a big influence on our team," Mitchell said. "She leads with confidence and always encourages us to believe in ourselves. Being her teammate has helped me grow both as a player and

as a person."

"Being able to experience these few years with Shamira has opened my eyes



All photos Special to The Canton News

and taught me a lot," Canton sophomore Kyle Rogers said. "Her leadership, how adamant she is about the game of basketball, and how hard she works on and off the court have made me want to push harder every day."

In addition to Seton Hall, Morton has Division I offers from Alcorn State, Southern Miss, Memphis, SMU, Charlotte, South Alabama, Belmont, Murray State, Arkansas State, Stony Brook, and North Carolina A&T. She is the first

Canton girls basketball player to receive a Division I offer since LaCourtney Ratliff received one from Ole Miss in 2003. Ratliff played on Canton's state championship team.

Morton averaged 23.6 points (third in scoring average in Mississippi), 14 rebounds (second in rebounding average) and 5.5 blocked shots (second in blocked shots average) last season as a junior. She had 25 double doubles and five triple doubles.

Morton averaged 21.1 points, 13.4 rebounds and 5.2 blocked shots two years ago as a sophomore. She had 22 double doubles and five triple doubles.

She averaged 10.3 points, 8.4 rebounds and 3.8 blocked shots and helped Clinton Christian to a 19-15 record and a third-place finish in the MAIS Class 4A state tournament and reached the MAIS Overall Tournament quarterfinals and made fourth team All-Metro Jackson three years ago season as a freshman before transferring to Canton for her sophomore year.

Morton started as an eighth grader at Canton before transferring to Clinton Christian.

Morton is the daughter of Shameka and Dewayne Morton. Shameka played basketball at Gulfport High and Jefferson Davis Junior College, now Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Dewayne played basketball at Canton High and Holmes CC.

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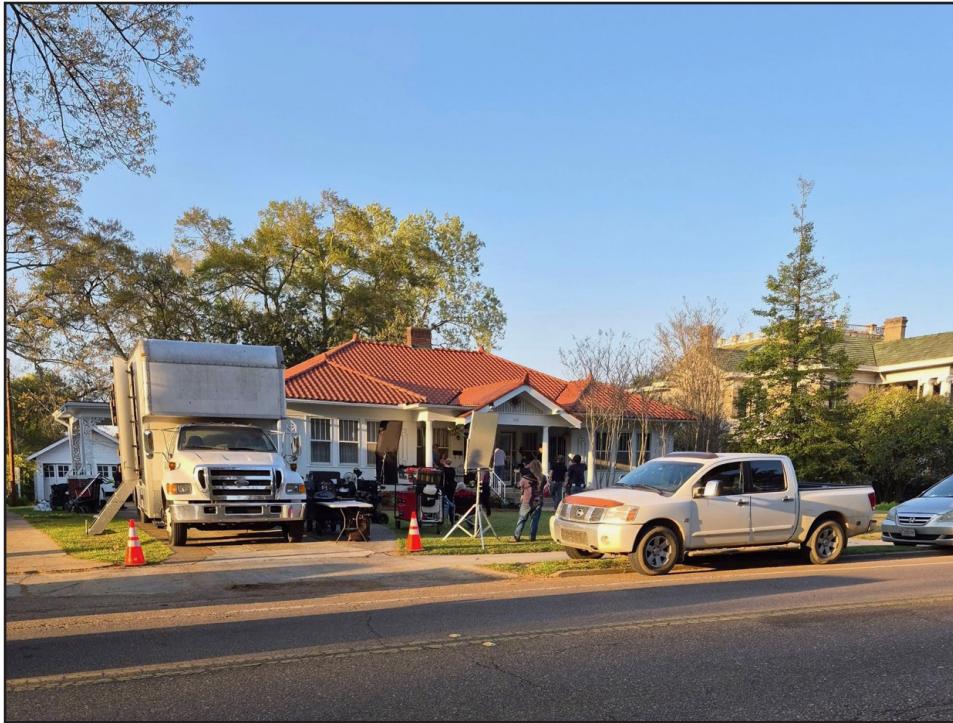
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Filming Brings Lights, Action Back to "Movie Town"



Special to The Canton News

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Canton was back in the spotlight as filming took place recently on East Peace Street. The Gager residence served as a primary set, with scenes that included simulated gunfire using

blank ammunition. Nearby residents were notified in advance to ensure safety and minimize concern.

More details about the production will be featured in the May edition of The Canton News.

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f t i

Canton Career Center, Nissan partner to launch advanced manufacturing program



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Special to The Canton News

Canton Career Center educators expressed gratitude to parents who attended the Nissan Centers of Excellence Parent Engagement Night, where the school introduced its

newest program, Advanced Manufacturing, in collaboration with Nissan.

Nissan Centers for Excellence instructor Lindsey Fordis provided an overview of the program, led an interactive demonstration and facil-

itated a panel discussion. She explained that the program is designed to prepare students for success after high school through innovation, creativity and hands-on learning experiences.

CCC Director Michael Ellis

thanked parents and Nissan for their support, emphasizing the program as a new opportunity to positively impact students' futures. He added that the Canton Career Center remains committed to fostering student achievement and excellence.

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