



THE CANTON NEWS

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Luckett begins tenure as Canton police chief focused on trust, community

Special to The Canton News

Eugene Luckett, Canton's new chief of police, says his first priority is building trust within the police department and throughout the community as he begins his new role.

Luckett said he is "deeply honored and grateful" to have been chosen to serve Canton and described the responsibility of being entrusted with a community's safety as one of the greatest responsibilities a person can be given.

"What attracted me to Canton is the people and the potential of this community," Luckett said.

He pointed to Canton's rich history, strong sense of identity and residents who care about their community as reasons he wanted to become part of the city.

"I didn't come here believing that I had all the answers," Luckett said. "I came here willing to listen, learn, build relationships, and work."

During his first year, Luckett said he plans to focus on strengthening the department while establishing clear expectations for officers.

He said officers need the leadership, training, equipment, support and accountability necessary to perform their jobs effectively. Professionalism, integrity, accountability and respect, he said, should serve as the foundation of

the department.

At the same time, Luckett wants residents to view the police department as an organization that serves the community.

"My first year will be about listening, evaluating, strengthening, and building a solid foundation for the future," he said.

Luckett identified crime, youth, drugs, property crime and the resources needed to address those issues as some of the challenges facing Canton.

But he said public safety requires more than responding to crimes after they occur.

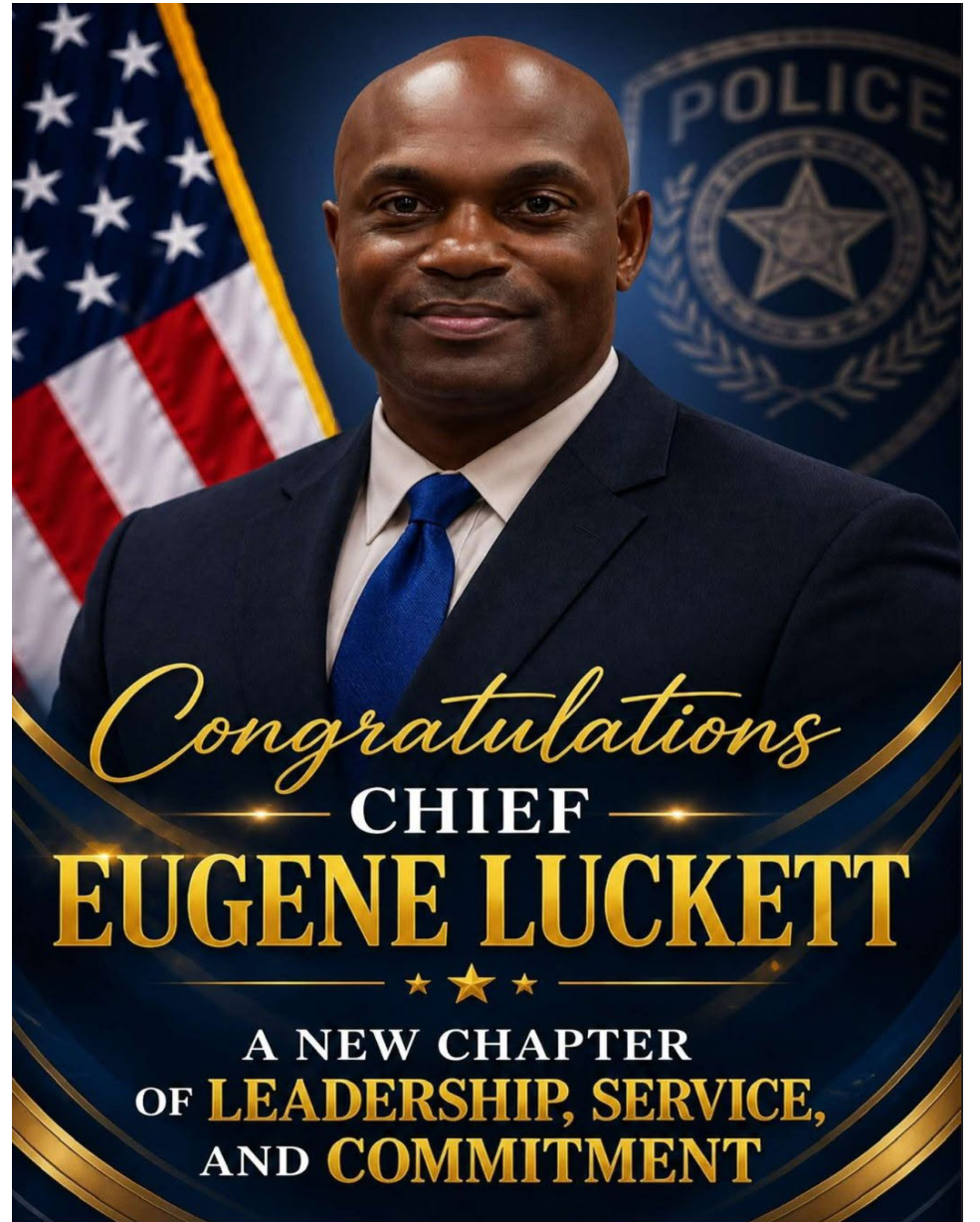
"We have to look beyond the immediate incident," Luckett said.

He said law enforcement must work with families, schools, churches, businesses, community organizations and residents to address issues that contribute to crime and create positive opportunities for young people.

"Law enforcement cannot solve every problem by itself," he said.

The department also will examine potential changes in training, technology, policies, procedures, community engagement, recruitment and officer development. Luckett said any changes should be intentional and meaningful rather than made simply for the sake of change.

cont. on page 5



★ A VISION FOR THE FUTURE ★

BUILDING TRUST

Strengthening relationships within the department and throughout the community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Working together with families, schools, churches, businesses and residents.

OFFICER DEVELOPMENT

Recruiting, training and retaining officers who are prepared and supported.

COMMUNICATION & PRESENCE

Being visible, listening and engaging with the community in positive ways.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Encouraging residents to work with police to help keep Canton safe.



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Canton Career Center automotive students gain hands-on experience



All photos Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Students in the Canton Career Center’s Automotive Services class are gaining hands-on experience as they prepare for careers in the automotive industry.

As part of the program, students wear professional work attire, including coveralls and appropriate safety gear, while learning the skills and procedures used in real-world automotive settings. Students conduct thorough

pre-inspections of vehicles, checking brake systems, electrical components and engine conditions. The hands-on training gives students practical experience with vehicle maintenance and allows them to develop confi-

dence and precision in their work. Dressed in their new jumpsuits and safety gear, the students are gaining valuable career-ready skills while preparing for the demands of the automotive industry.

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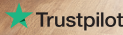
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From the Desk of Mayor Tim Taylor

September 2026 — Investing in our students, supporting our athletes, and strengthening our community

Special to The Canton News

As we welcome the month of September, I want to take a moment to celebrate one of the most important times of the year in our community, the return of our students to school.

The beginning of a new school year represents a fresh start, new opportunities and the chance for our young people to learn, grow and pursue their dreams. I encourage every parent, guardian, teacher and community member to continue supporting our students throughout the school year. Academic success requires a partnership between our schools, families and the entire community.

Supporting Our Student-Athletes

September also brings the excitement of high school football season. Friday nights are once again filled with the energy, pride and tradition that make high school athletics such an important part of our community.

As Mayor, I encourage the citizens of Canton to come out and support our young athletes. Let's fill the stands, cheer responsibly and show our students that their community believes in them.

I want to extend my sincere support to the Canton Public School District and Canton Academy as they begin another athletic season. To our coaches, athletic directors, teachers, parents, volunteers, and, most importantly, our student-athletes, thank you for representing our community.

Athletics teaches our young people much more than how to win a game. It teaches discipline, teamwork, per-

severance, leadership, accountability and how to overcome adversity. These are lessons that will serve our students long after their playing days are over.

To all of our Canton student-athletes, work hard, stay focused, respect your coaches and teammates, take care of your academics and represent your school and your community with



Mayor Tim Taylor

pride.

Let's make this a great season for Canton!

A Cleaner Canton Starts With Us

As we continue our efforts to make Canton cleaner, safer and more beautiful, I am excited to announce that our next Citywide Community Cleanup will take place on the third Saturday in September.

I encourage residents, churches, civic organizations, businesses, youth groups, families and community lead-

ers to come out and participate.

These cleanup efforts are about more than picking up litter. They are about taking ownership and pride in the community we call home. When we work together, we demonstrate that Canton belongs to all of us, and that each of us has a role to play in making it better.

I want to thank Dr. Andre Hines, Director of Keep Canton Beautiful, for her continued leadership and commitment to keeping our city clean and beautiful.

For additional information or to participate in the upcoming cleanup, please contact Dr. Hines at mzandre@aol.com.

I encourage everyone to participate, bring a neighbor and help us continue building a culture of community pride.

Together, We Can Make a Difference

As we move into the fall season, let us continue to support our children, our schools, our athletes and one another. Let's attend the games. Let's encourage our students. Let's support our teachers and coaches. Let's volunteer in our neighborhoods. And let's continue taking pride in the appearance of our city. The progress of Canton depends on all of us.

As your Mayor, I remain committed to working with the Board of Aldermen, our schools, City employees, community organizations, businesses, parents and residents to create opportunities for our young people and build a stronger Canton for generations to come.

Let's continue to move Canton forward, together.

Mayor Tim Taylor - City of Canton

CHS freshman wins *Running Wild* movie poster competition

By Courtney Warren

Canton High School freshman Dominic Paschall, 15, won first place in the Canton-Madison County Historical Society's *Running Wild* movie poster competition held this summer.

The competition was organized by the Historical Society's Acknowledgment and Ordinance Committee and invited local students to create an original poster commemorating the 100th anniversary of *Running Wild*, a silent motion picture filmed in Canton during the summer of 1926 using local residents as cast members and extras.

Paschall, who is a wide receiver for the Canton High School Tigers football team, received a \$100 first-place prize and a one-year honorary membership in the Canton-Madison County Historical Society for himself and his family.

Paschall said he plans to use his prize money toward obtaining his learner's permit and taking driving lessons.

Historical Society officials praised



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Pictured (l to r) are Paschall's mother, Amber Oscar-Smith; Theresa Kelly-Reed, co-chair of the Acknowledgment and Ordinance Committee; Paschall's younger brother, Ricky, 4; Paschall; Canton-Madison County Historical Society Treasurer Laurie Dinkins, who presented the \$100 prize; and Brenda Hyde, co-chair of the Acknowledgment and Ordinance Committee.

Paschall for his artistic talent and character and welcomed him and his

family as honorary members of the organization.

Letter from the editor: Check under the covers

By Courtney Warren

I have the pleasure of running the middle school library at my amazing school. It has been so much fun watching the amount of books on the shelves grow and learning what our students enjoy reading.

With that being said, I do run into a challenge.

Our students are high level readers, which means I have to be mindful of what books my students are bringing into the room. We have seen such an uptick in smutty books. For those that are unfamiliar with that term, it means sexually explicit. We are seeing this more and more in the young adult (YA) genre, because YA does technically go into the early years of college.

However, because I have advanced readers in my classroom, I often struggle to find books that are appropriate for them, interest them and challenge them all in one go.

Imagine my excitement when I stumbled across a book that was labeled a “clean, Christian thriller.” Perfect! My kiddos love reading spooky books, so to read this would be spooky and I wouldn’t have to worry about sexually explicit material or obscene language had me so excited. I ordered the book immediately. When it came in, I told the

kids how excited I was about finding a clean thriller, and that I was going to take it home to read so I could hype it up the following Monday.

Man, was I in for a thriller! The premise of the story is that a woman moves to a house in Maine with her wife and baby after having a falling out at her former job as a homicide detective. While she is in this house that she bought sight unseen, she begins to experience paranormal activity, including hearing voices and seeing the ghost of a young girl. Seems great right? I wanted to know who the young girl was, why the main character was drawn to this house and how her family would be involved.

Now, prepare yourself, because I’m going to include spoilers. I didn’t get a thriller. What I got was kidnapping, child abuse, sexual abuse and more. The whole kit and caboodle! It was an absolute mess, and, as I read the book, I basically sat with my mouth open the entire time, shocked that someone could label this a clean thriller.

It makes it so clear that we can’t blindly trust what one person deems clean or appropriate for someone else. While this one was way way off base, it reminds me of the importance of movie and TV ratings. Even



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though something says it might be okay for my child, it doesn’t mean it is.

The same goes for books and for ratings. As we continue into 2026, and soon 2027, with so many new movies, books and albums releasing, it’s a good reminder that just because one person labels one clean

or appropriate, doesn’t mean it will work for others.

I am so glad that I took a look at this book, and, while I rated it very low on the star scale, I rate it even lower on the self-representation scale, because what the heck! I wanted ghosts! Instead, I got nightmares.

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State Farm begins issuing \$70.5M cash back to Mississippi drivers

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State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (State Farm Mutual) has begun issuing payments to qualifying auto customers as part of its one-time \$5 billion cash-back dividend. The rebates were first announced in February 2026. Mississippi policyholders who had an active policy as of December 31, 2025, will receive a share of more than \$70.5 million, averaging about \$124 per vehicle.

“Keep an eye out for information about your dividend payment,” said Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney. “If you already have an email address registered with State Farm, you’ll receive instructions on how to log into the dividend payment portal and choose how you’d like to receive your payment. If you don’t have an email address on file, State Farm will automatically mail you a check. Because the distribution covers more than 49 million auto vehicles, the payment process will take several months to be completed nationwide.”

State Farm customers are reminded to carefully review a sender’s email address and any website address before opening a link.

The State Farm dividend payment selection email will come from donotre-

ply@e.sfdividend.com.

The State Farm Dividend Payment Portal powered by Verita can be accessed at sfdividend.com.

The Dividend Customer Contact Center can be reached at 1-888-808-9532.

State Farm will not ask customers to pay a fee to receive a dividend payment. Customers are reminded to not pay a fee, payment or send money.

State Farm will not ask customers for a personal email password, banking password, digital-wallet password or any other personal password. Customers should not provide personal passwords.

“This is exactly the kind of outcome we want to see for Mississippi consumers. An average refund of about \$124 per vehicle is meaningful for families, especially at a time when the cost of insurance and everyday expenses continues to put pressure on household budgets,” said Deputy Commissioner David Browning.

Dividend payments are retrospective and do not affect future auto rates, which are based on expected future costs and monitoring trends to appropriately match price to risk.

Find more info from State Farm at newsroom.statefarm.com/state-farm-mutual-begins-issuing-dividend-payments/.

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cont. from front page

Luckett

He also hopes to strengthen community-oriented policing and provide officers with more opportunities to interact with residents outside of emergency situations.

“I want our officers to know the people they serve, and I want the people of Canton to know the officers who protect them,” he said.

Communication and presence will be key parts of that effort.

Luckett said officers should be visible in the community by attending events, visiting schools, talking with business owners, meeting with neighborhood groups and simply having conversations with residents.

“You can’t build a relationship with people if they only see you when something has gone wrong,” he said.

He also said officers must be willing to listen to residents and understand that community members may see issues from a different perspective than law enforcement.

Residents, Luckett said, play an important role in public safety because police officers cannot be everywhere at once.

“Residents know their neighborhoods, their businesses, their schools, and their communities,” he said. “They often see things that law enforcement

may not see.”

He encouraged residents to communicate with the department, report suspicious activity, provide information and participate in community meetings and initiatives.

“Public safety is a shared responsibility,” Luckett said.

Recruiting and retaining officers will also be a priority. Luckett said he wants the Canton Police Department to be a place where good officers want to work and stay.

He said officers should feel respected, supported, challenged and valued while being held to a high standard of accountability.

Training will be an important part of that effort, he said, as law enforcement continues to change.

“I want officers who understand that wearing this uniform is more than having a job. It is a calling and a responsibility,” Luckett said.

Looking five years into the future, Luckett said he wants the Canton Police Department to be viewed as a trusted partner in the community.

He wants residents to know that when they call, officers will respond, listen and treat them with dignity and respect.

He also wants officers to feel proud to wear the uniform and for the depart-

ment to be known for professionalism, integrity, accountability, compassion and excellence.

“I want to look back five years from now and know that we didn’t just respond to problems — we helped build solutions,” he said.

Beyond the uniform, Luckett said he wants residents to know that he is someone who cares deeply about people and about doing things the right way.

“I believe in treating people with respect regardless of who they are or what circumstances they may be facing,” he said. “I believe in accountability, but I also believe in compassion.”

He added that leadership does not mean having every answer.

“Sometimes leadership means being willing to say, ‘I don’t know, but I’ll find out,’” Luckett said.

As he begins his tenure, Luckett offered a simple message to Canton residents: “Thank you.”

He thanked the leaders who believed he could serve in the position and the residents who have allowed him to become part of their community.

“I did not accept this position simply to hold the title of Chief,” Luckett said. “I accepted it because I want to serve.”

He acknowledged that the department will face challenges and difficult days and that not everything will always go as planned. But he promised to show up, work, listen and give Canton his best.

His commitment, he said, is to “serve with integrity, lead with purpose, and work alongside the people of Canton to make this a safer and stronger community.”

For Luckett, success ultimately will not be measured by recognition or the number of accomplishments attached to his tenure.

“Success is measured by the impact we make on people’s lives,” he said.

If residents feel safer, officers feel supported, the department is stronger, relationships between law enforcement and the community have improved, and young people see positive possibilities for their futures, he said, he will consider that success.

“I want to leave behind something that is bigger than me,” Luckett said. “I want to build a department that can continue to serve Canton long after my time as Chief is over.”

“At the end of the day, the badge isn’t about me,” he said. “It’s about the people I have been entrusted to serve.”

Tower Loan to host inaugural golf tournament benefiting Palmer Home for Children



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Tower Loan will host its inaugural golf tournament benefiting Palmer Home for Children on Thursday, September 17, at Country Club of Canton in Canton, marking a new addition to the company's longstanding annual giving campaign.

Now in its ninth year supporting Palmer Home, Tower Loan has raised more than \$400,000 for the organization through the generosity of its employees, vendors and community partners. This year, Tower has set a goal of raising \$70,000 during its annual giving campaign, which runs through October 30.

The inaugural golf tournament expands those fundraising efforts and brings to life an event Tower Loan has envisioned for several years. With the tournament still a month away, [at press time] \$30,300 has already been raised through the event and contributed to Palmer Home, putting the tournament close to its \$35,000 fundraising goal.

"Supporting Palmer Home has become an important tradition at Tower Loan, and this tournament is an opportunity to take that support even further," said Michael Scarborough, director of marketing at Tower Loan. "We've talked about hosting an event like this for several years, so it's exciting to see it come together with the support of our employees, vendors and community partners. Our hope is to build on that support and make this an event we can continue for years to come."

The tournament will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m., followed by a

9 a.m. shotgun start. Lunch and an awards presentation will follow play. Team registration for the inaugural event has already reached capacity, while hole sponsorship opportunities remain available. Tower Loan is also accepting raffle item donations.

"Tower Loan's continued partnership with Palmer Home for Children is helping to create lasting impact in the lives of children," said Drake Bassett, President & CEO of Palmer Home for Children. "The Driving for Hope Golf Tournament is a wonderful opportunity to bring the community together and raise awareness of our mission to care for vulnerable children in need of a loving home. We are thankful to Tower Loan for helping us share this mission and for investing in a brighter future for the children entrusted to our care."

Although based in Mississippi, Palmer Home for Children serves children and families beyond the state through Campus Care, Foster Care, Family Care and Transitional Care, providing safe, supportive environments tailored to the individual needs of those it serves.

In addition to financial support, individuals interested in furthering Palmer Home's mission can explore opportunities to serve as mentors. Palmer Home is also currently seeking houseparents to provide care, stability and guidance to children living on its Hernando campus.

Businesses and individuals interested in supporting the golf tournament through a hole sponsorship or raffle donation can contact Michael Scarborough at mscarborough@towerloan.com.

Rev. David Lowery retires after 32 years of ministry



Special to The Canton News

After 32 years of serving as a Methodist pastor, the Rev. David Lowery is retiring. Lowery has served as pastor of First Methodist Church and Thornton Chapel in Canton for the past 11 years. During his time in the community, he has been involved in numerous local ministries and has enjoyed serving alongside members of the Canton Christian community. Lowery and his wife, Joy, are moving to their new home in Covington County, outside of Collins.

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Healthcare professionals inspire Canton Career Center students

Special to The Canton News

Students in the Canton Career Center’s Health Science class recently welcomed two healthcare professionals from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

Megan Bass-Kendrick, a certified registered nurse anesthetist who holds a Ph.D., and Megan Harris, a registered nurse and critical care unit manager, spoke with first-year Health Science students about their careers and the skills needed to succeed in the healthcare field.

The professionals emphasized the importance of medical terminology, strong academic performance and effective communication. They also discussed essential workplace skills, including professionalism, teamwork, dependability, time management, empathy and maintaining a positive attitude.

Students learned about a variety of healthcare career opportunities and were offered job-shadowing opportunities to gain firsthand experience in medical settings.

One of the presentation’s key messages was the importance of learning to “pivot.” Bass-Kendrick and Harris encouraged students to



Special to The Canton News

view setbacks as opportunities to adjust their plans rather than reasons to abandon their goals.

They emphasized that success requires effort, consistency, com-

mitment and perseverance and encouraged students to continue moving forward when challenges arise.

The Canton Career Center ex-

pressed appreciation to Bass-Kendrick and Harris for taking time to educate and encourage students and provide insight into careers in healthcare.

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On the agenda in Canton



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Mayor Tim C. Taylor and the Canton Board of Aldermen addressed municipal infrastructure projects, City investments, public safety upgrades and commercial zoning developments during their regular August meetings at Canton City Hall.

Public works and capital planning represented major focal points for City leadership. The board authorized a final payment of \$154,936.67 to R&C Services for completed drainage repairs along Adeline Street and Johnson Street while approving final contract close-out documentation. To guide future projects, the City adopted a new Canton Transportation Plan created by Waggoner Engineering and DRMP Inc..

Alderman actions also included approving up to \$150,000 across two task orders with Waggoner Engineering for planning, compliance and expansion studies at the City landfill, alongside an \$8,500 agreement to update the Gateway Park concept for a state grant re-application. Interlocal agreements with Madison County were also accepted to help fund local street paving, including improvements in the King Ranch Road area and Kingston Place Subdivision.

Public safety departments received funding authorizations for key equipment and facility needs. The City awarded a \$363,553 contract to Ready Power, LLC for generator installation at the Canton Fire Department. The board approved \$10,251.00 from the Central Fire

District Account to purchase three sets of turnout gear from Ten-8 Fire and Safety, LLC, authorized the surplus of old fire hoses and exercise equipment, and approved donating the surplus fitness gear to the Jackson Public School District Police Department. The Canton Police Department received approval to purchase a vehicle from Rogers Dabbs for \$52,790.

To address city growth and blight, officials acted on numerous building and zoning matters. Resolutions were considered for the removal of dilapidated structures at 350 Cisne Avenue, 1031 Little Street and 830 Fulton Street.

The board granted zoning approvals and special exceptions for projects including a Veritas Federal Credit Union site plan, an Airbnb, a licensed childcare center, a veterinary hospital, campus expansion for In His Step Ministries, Inc., and multiple convenience store and gas station proposals.

Administrative decisions rounded out the agendas. The board evaluated an employment agreement for City Attorney Kimberly Banks, Esq., agreed to partner with Looped-In for fixed asset services at \$20,000 initially and \$15,000 annually, and approved restoring a downtown mural on Mitch Tanner's building at Liberty and Center Street. Additionally, \$1,000 municipal donations were authorized for both the 100 Black Men Annual Mentoring and Scholarship Banquet and the Canton Gospel Music Association's 22nd Anniversary Celebration.

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From GED graduate to entrepreneur

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The Canton Public School District High School Equivalency Program welcomed DeCedric Harvey, a Canton native who now lives in Irving, Texas, where he owns I-55 Trucking Company. Harvey's visit was especially meaningful to students because he is also a GED graduate. He shared his personal journey, including the challenges he faced and the determination it took to reach his goals. Harvey encouraged students to believe in themselves, take advantage of opportunities and always strive to do their best. His message resonated with students, particularly because he had followed a path similar to the one many of them are currently on.



The HSEP program expressed appreciation to Harvey for returning to his hometown and sharing his experiences with students. "Representation matters," the program said in a statement. "Sometimes the most powerful motivation comes from someone who has been where you are and can show you where you can go." Harvey is also the father of Da'Meeria Harvey, HSEP's math and science instructor. The program said it appreciates the continued support of families who believe in its mission and give back to the community. The Canton Public School District HSEP program describes its mission as "Harnessing Students' Excellence and Potential."

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



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First Baptist Church of Madison donates school supplies to Nichols Middle School



Special to The Canton News

First Baptist Church of Madison provided school supplies to students at Nichols Middle School, helping students prepare for the upcoming school year. The donation included supplies for students as they begin classes and was made as part of the church's effort to support the school community.

Nichols Middle School expressed appreciation to First Baptist Church of Madison for its generosity and for helping students start the school year prepared to learn and succeed. The school thanked the church for investing in its students and supporting the Nichols Middle School community. "Tigers on the Rise!"

CCC student named Advanced Manufacturing Student of the Month



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

De'kyiah Handy has been named the Canton Career Center's Advanced Manufacturing Student of the Month. The Student of the Month program is sponsored by the Madison County Business League & Foundation and connects local businesses and industries with students while recognizing student achievement and promoting skills needed to strengthen Madison County's future workforce. Nissan sponsored this month's award. The company is a member of

the Madison County Business League & Foundation and supports workforce development initiatives for the next generation of Madison County workers. Those pictured are Michael Ellis of Canton Career Center; Lindsey Fordis, Advanced Manufacturing COE teacher with Nissan; Shirley Danzy, workforce development with Nissan; Jason Derryberry, workforce development with Nissan; Clifton Goodloe III, director of operations with Nissan; and Handy.

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Jewel Williams Memorial Scholarship presented

Special to The Canton News

The family of the late Jewel Williams recently presented the Jewel Williams Memorial Scholarship to La’Garius Adams, a graduate of Germantown High School, in recognition of his academic accomplishments and commitment to pursuing higher education.

Chiquita Hampton, niece of the late Jewel Williams, presented La’Garius with a \$2,500 scholarship on behalf of the Williams family. The scholarship will assist La’Garius as he begins the next chapter of his educational journey at Mississippi College this fall.

La’Garius plans to pursue studies in biology and pre-medical sciences, aspiring to build a career in the medical field. His academic goals and dedication to his future exemplify the qualities the Williams family sought to recognize through this scholarship.

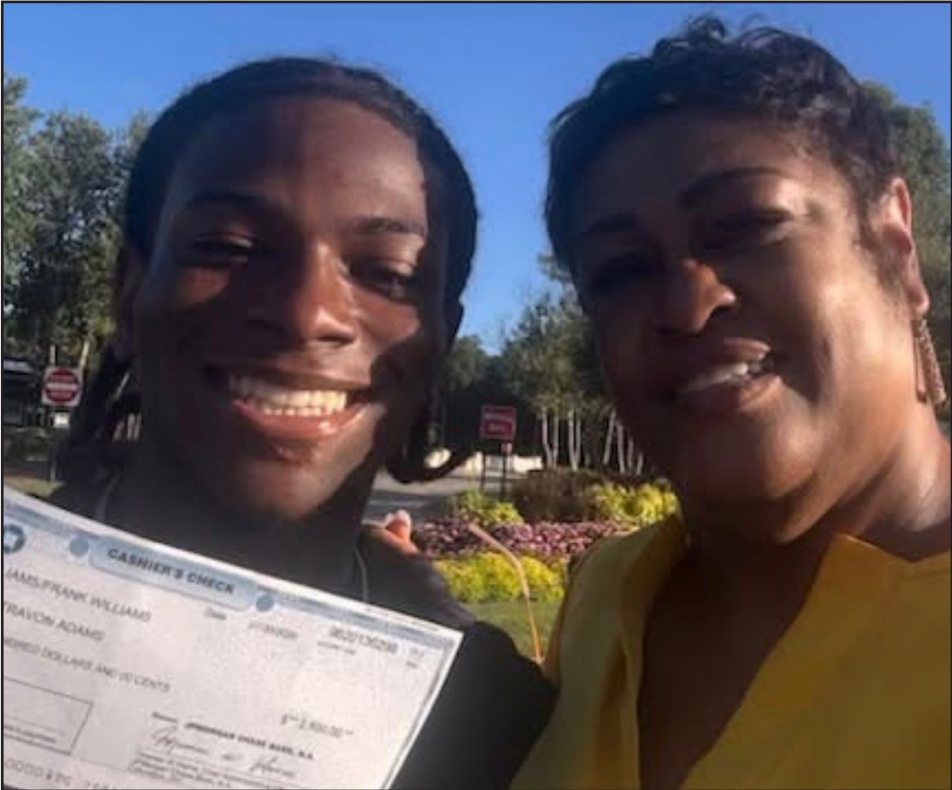
Jewel Williams was a trailblazer, community leader, and strong advocate for education and opportunity. She made history as the first Black woman to serve on Canton’s Board of Aldermen, breaking barriers and opening doors for others who would follow. Her commit-

ment to public service reflected her belief in the importance of community involvement and the power of individuals to make a positive difference.

Williams was remembered as a person who believed in the power of education, the importance of community and the potential of young people to make a difference in the world. Her legacy continues through her family’s commitment to encouraging and supporting the next generation, ensuring that her spirit of service, leadership, generosity and investment in others lives on.

The Jewel Williams Memorial Scholarship was established as a way for the family to honor Williams’ legacy by investing in the education, aspiration, and future success of deserving young people. Through this scholarship, the family continues her legacy of making a positive difference in the lives of others.

“The family is extremely proud to support La’Garius as he begins this important chapter of his life,” said Chiquita Hampton. “We hope this scholarship will help him achieve his educational goals and remind him that his community and the



Special to The Canton News

Williams family are proud to stand behind him.”

The family of Jewel Williams says it extends its congratulations to La’Garius Adams on this signif-

icant achievement and wishes him continued success as he begins his studies at Mississippi College and pursues his academic and professional goals.

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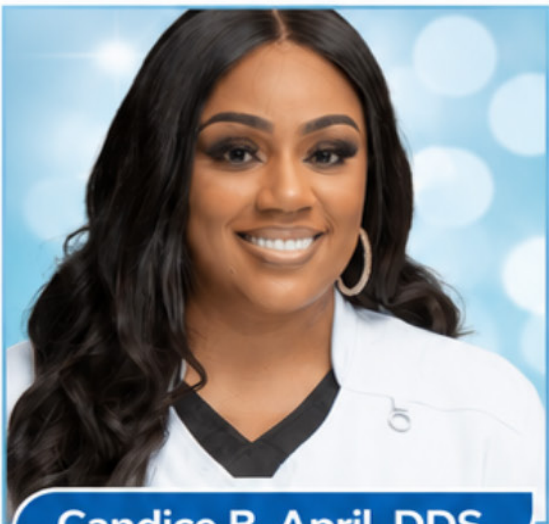


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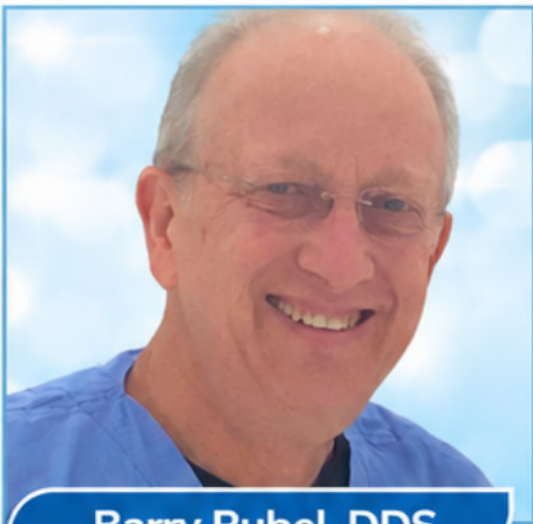
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First benefits from data centers appear in Entergy Mississippi customer bills

Special to The Canton News

New revenues from Mississippi data centers, like Amazon's, are a primary reason why Entergy Mississippi customers won't see their rates increase this summer. The Mississippi Public Service Commission recently approved a rate plan that keeps Entergy Mississippi's rates well below the national average and prevented what otherwise would have been a \$4.87 per month increase in July, compared to June rates.

Eliminating this increase is an early sign of how data centers are directly benefiting customers. It also represents the first of more than \$2 billion in projected savings for Mississippi customers over the next two decades, thanks to Entergy's Fair Share Plus Pledge announced in March.

As data center customers ramp up their operations, Entergy Mississippi expects to flow more benefits back to customers. For example, Entergy Mississippi recently filed for an additional \$0.41 rate reduction that, if approved, would become effective in October. This decrease is related to the ad valorem tax adjustment and is due in part to data center revenue. Flattening rate increases helps offset increases in other areas, espe-

cially fuel that is tied to the price of natural gas.

"At a time when our company is having to replace half-century old power plants to keep up with the energy needs of our almost half-million customers, these data center revenues are providing enormous benefits by covering much of those costs that our other customers would otherwise have had to bear alone," said Haley Fisackerly, Entergy Mississippi president and CEO. "And while we also work to strengthen our power grid against more extreme Mississippi weather for the long term, data center revenues are making those investments more cost-friendly for our customers, too."

Despite the significant costs required to generate power, maintain infrastructure and provide electrical service at a time of increased residential, commercial and industrial electricity demand, Entergy Mississippi's annual rate plan takes effect during the July billing cycle, offsetting those costs and keeping rates flat this summer, when customers' energy use is at its highest.

Company officials say the plan also helps them to begin delivering their Superpower Mississippi cost-saving actions that provide customers with



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more and better power at a lower cost, including:

- Cutting outages in half: The addition of new, large customers into the company's service area, such as Amazon, allows them to invest 50% more in reliability to help cut outages in half by 2030. These improvements come at no

additional costs to customers. Approximately \$18 million of the incremental \$300 million for reliability projects that were announced last year was included and approved in the formula rate plan.

- Modernizing their generation

cont. on page 15

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Nissan Canton to host first Recycling Roundup Sept. 19

Special to The Canton News

Nissan Canton will host its first Recycling Roundup on Saturday, September 19, offering area residents a free opportunity to dispose of a variety of hard-to-recycle household items.

The drive-thru, drop-off event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Nissan Training Center, Gate 1, at 300 Nissan Drive in Canton. The event is free and open to the public.

The Recycling Roundup is being held in partnership with the Tennessee Environmental Council, which organizes events designed to keep recyclable materials out of landfills and provide communities with convenient disposal options for items that may not be accepted through regular curbside recycling programs.

A wide variety of materials will be accepted during the Canton event, including electronics, batteries, ink and toner cartridges, medications, clothing and shoes, household goods, furniture, certain appliances, scrap metal, glass bottles and jars, tires, recy-

clable paper, cardboard, plastics and aluminum cans. Confidential paper shredding also will be available on site until the shredding truck reaches capacity.

Residents may bring up to eight tires per household at no charge. Additional tires will be accepted for \$1 each. Rims also will be accepted.

Organizers are asking participants to follow preparation guidelines for certain materials. Batteries should have their ends taped before drop-off to help prevent fires, and leaking batteries will not be accepted. Clothing and household goods intended for donation should be clean, gently used and placed in bags or boxes.

Some materials will not be accepted, including household hazardous waste, sharps such as needles and razors, gasoline and other petroleum products, propane and oxygen tanks, ammunition, explosives and radioactive materials. Restrictions vary by recycling category, so residents are encouraged to review the complete collection list before arriving.

The roundup is designed as a convenient drive-thru event, allowing participants to bring eligible materials to the Nissan Canton site for collection by participating recycling organizations.

According to the Tennessee Environmental Council, recycling roundups help reduce reliance on landfills and illegal dumping while ensuring collected materials have an appropriate recycling destination. Materials collected through the program may be refurbished, processed into new materials or reused for other purposes.

The event is intended for residents, and materials from businesses will not be accepted. While there is no general admission or drop-off fee, the Tennessee Environmental Council suggests donations of \$10 to \$20 to support its efforts.

For a complete list of accepted and prohibited items, preparation instructions and additional event information, visit the Nissan Canton Recycling Roundup event page.

ACCEPTED DURING THE EVENT

- Electronics
- Batteries (with ends taped)
- Ink and toner cartridges
- Medications
- Clothing and shoes
- Household goods
- Furniture
- Certain appliances
- Scrap metal
- Glass bottles and jars
- Tires and rims*
- Recyclable paper
- Cardboard
- Plastics
- Aluminum cans

*Residents may bring up to eight tires/household. Additional tires will be accepted for \$1 each.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Confidential paper shredding also will be available on site until the shredding truck reaches capacity.

NOT ACCEPTED

- Household hazardous waste
- Sharps, such as needles and razors
- Gasoline and other petroleum products
- Propane and oxygen tanks
- Ammunition
- Explosives
- Radioactive material

VISIT FOR MORE INFORMATION

tectn.org/get-involved/recycling-roundups/nissancantonrecycles/

In His Steps Ministries celebrates summer staff, volunteers and interns



Special to The Canton News

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In His Steps Ministries is celebrating the staff, camp staff, interns, volunteers and supporters who helped make a successful summer possible.

The ministry expressed its appreciation for those who invested in the lives of students throughout the summer while also serving as part of the ministry's mission.

"We are so grateful for the amazing group of people God has blessed us with to serve and carry out His mission at In His Steps," the ministry said.

In His Steps Ministries also thanked

everyone who participated, volunteered, prayed and invested in the ministry throughout the summer, noting that their support makes an impact in the lives of students and families.

As the organization prepares for the upcoming school year and its After-school S.P.A.S.E. program, ministry leaders are asking the community to continue praying for In His Steps, its staff and volunteers, as well as the students and families it serves.

The ministry said it is excited for what God has in store for the coming school year.

cont. from page 14

First

fleet: Entergy is building three combined cycle combustion turbine natural gas plants – in Greenville, Vicksburg and Ridgeland – with a combined capacity of over 2,100 megawatts. Accelerating the replacement of retired plants saves an estimated \$1.3 billion in materials and equipment costs to build new power plants now, compared with building them on their original schedules. And modern natural gas plants are 40% more fuel efficient than older plants, allowing Entergy to bring cleaner and more cost-effective power generation to Mississippi.

- Reducing projected bill impacts: The company's diverse generation portfolio gives them flexibility to lessen the impact on customers' bills if one fuel source spikes in price. By adding advanced power generation to their fleet, they expect to pass on to customers an estimated savings of \$700 million in future fuel costs. Customers would have shouldered the costs to make these upgrades, but instead, expected bill increases will be lower than they otherwise would have been because Amazon and other large

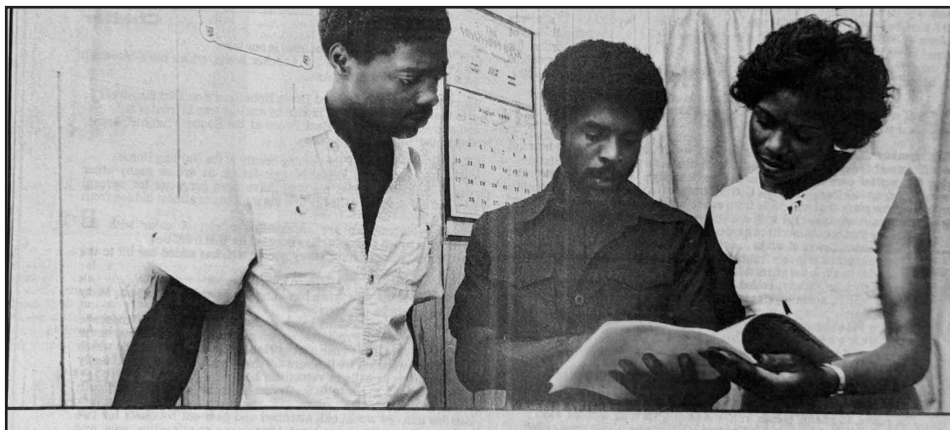
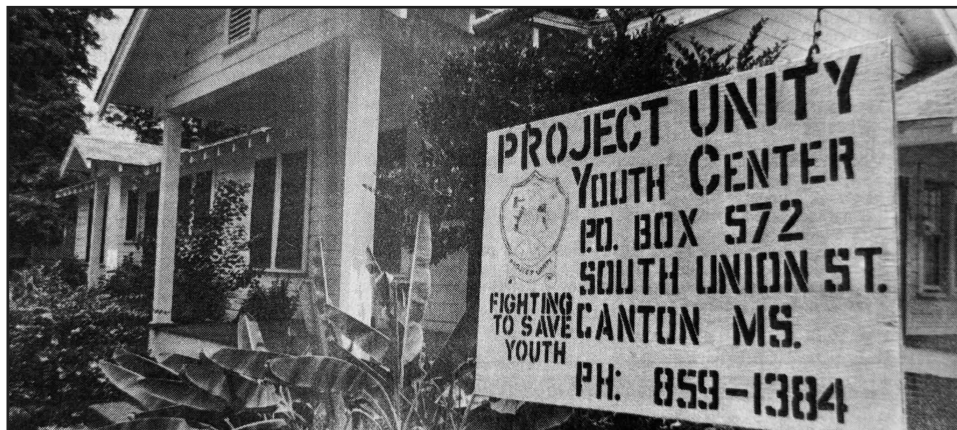
industrial customers are paying 100% of their own costs to be on the grid, plus bringing these added benefits for all customers.

As the summer heat continues to rise, customers are reminded that bills are not only impacted by rates, but also energy usage. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, cooling costs can account for more than 20% of a typical household's electric bill during the year — and even more during Mississippi's hottest months. For tips on how to save money and energy, customers can visit billtoolkit.entergy.com/mississippi.

"During these months of high temperatures, securing rate stability right now is perfect timing for our residential customers, when they need it most," Fisackerly said.

"It is important to remember this has been a team effort. These benefits our customers will see on their power bills would not have been possible without Governor Reeves' help in recruiting one of the world's leading technology companies to our state, the Mississippi Legislature's review and approval of it, and the guidance and oversight of the Mississippi Public Service Commission," Fisackerly said.

Back in time: Project Unity Youth Center made impact



All photos Special to The Canton News

*Courtesy of The Canton-Madison County
Historical Society*

In 1980, a Canton program was working to give troubled young people a second chance - and 46 years later, its home on South Union Street still bears the Project Unity name.

The Project Unity Youth Center opened on February 1, 1980, under the leadership of Walter Jones, head of Madison County's juvenile services program. By August 1980, some 45 young people - 33 of them juvenile offenders - had already gone through the program.

Jones and Dorothy Mabry, head of the Madison County Volunteer Division, were described as the two main

forces behind Project Unity.

Their goal was to reach young offenders early and address the circumstances contributing to their problems rather than simply punish them.

The program included counseling, home visits, help finding employment and referrals to programs such as the Job Corps.

"I'll make a home visit to assess the home environment and see what the problem is and then seek a solution," Jones told the Madison County Herald.

Volunteers were central to the effort. Jimmy Mabry served as a volunteer, while Valerie Massey was the organization's secretary.

Cleothus Cratin, soon to be ordained a minister and someone who had himself experienced both the juvenile system and jail, headed the Youth Enrichment Program.

In the 1980 photograph, the center operated from a modest house on South Union Street, identified by a large hand-painted sign carrying the words:

"FIGHTING TO SAVE CANTON YOUTH."

Forty-six years later, the building is still standing. The accompanying photographs taken in August 2026 show the former youth center much as it appears today.

Weathered and partly overgrown, the building remains remarkably

recognizable from the 1980 photograph - and a sign in the yard still carries the Project Unity name.

The old and new photographs offer a rare opportunity to see not only a surviving Canton building, but a physical reminder of the people who worked there nearly half a century ago: Walter Jones, Dorothy Mabry, Jimmy Mabry, Valerie Massey and Cleothus Cratin, and their effort to provide another path for Canton's young people.

Historic photographs and information: Madison County Herald, August 14, 1980. Contemporary photographs: August 2026 by Canton-Madison County Historical Society President John J. Kennedy.





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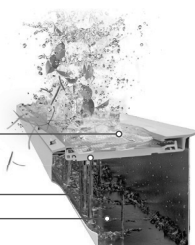
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ON THE TABLE: Mom’s egg drop soup

By Courtney Warren

Now that we are back in school, the sicknesses have been running amok. After only two weeks of classes, I found myself in the doctor’s office testing positive for both Strep and COVID. What an adventure! So naturally, once I was sequestered in bed, left to fight off of the fever, I knew I needed the meal that always made me feel better. My mom made homemade egg drop soup for us when we were younger, and it was the absolute best.

I know it’s still summer, so it feels weird to think about soup; but, trust me, when you’re deathly ill and can barely move, Mom’s soup really does the trick. I do tend to pair it with a ginger ale, but I think that’s just a me thing. Either way, enjoy this month’s recipe, and I hope everyone stays healthy!



MOM’S EGG DROP SOUP

Special to The Canton News

ingredients

- 4 cups chicken stock (about 1 liter, organic or homemade preferred!)
- 1/2 teaspoon sesame oil
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon white pepper
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch (mixed with 1/3 cup water)
- 3 eggs (lightly beaten)
- 1 scallion (chopped)

Preparation:

1. Bring the chicken stock to a simmer in a medium soup pot. Stir in the sesame oil, salt, sugar and white pepper. Taste the soup, and adjust the seasoning, if needed.
2. Next, add the cornstarch and water mixture. Make sure the cornstarch and water are mixed well, as the cornstarch settles very quickly. Stir the soup continuously as you drizzle in the slurry, or you’ll get clumps of cooked starch in your soup. Use more or less starch if you like a thicker or thinner soup. You can also add the starch in a couple of small batches, let the soup simmer for a couple of minutes, then check to see if the consistency is to your liking.
3. This recipe calls for the egg to be lightly beaten, which results in both white and yellow egg swirls. The speed at which you stir the soup when adding the egg also determines whether you get large “egg flowers” or small egg flowers.. Use a ladle to stir the soup in a circular motion, and slowly drizzle in the egg until you have added it all.
4. Ladle the soup into bowls, top with scallions, and serve!



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“Cotton was our life”: Eileen Wymann preserves a piece of Canton’s history

Guest Column, Courtesy of the Canton-Madison County Historical Society

Mrs. Eileen Wyman is a familiar and beloved figure to many in Canton.

For years, countless locals have depended upon her remarkable skill as a seamstress.

Cotton was also an important part of Mrs. Wyman’s life and her family’s story, providing their livelihood for decades and, as she remembers, helping sustain not only her family but much of the community around them.

Recently, during a visit arranged by Historical Society member Beth Riddell MacNeill, Mrs. Wyman shared photographs, keepsakes and memories from her late husband Howard Wyman’s 49-year career with Federal Compress & Warehouse Company.

As we talked, Mrs. Wyman put it simply: without cotton, she and her family would not have survived. And cotton, she reminded us, meant a great deal not only to her family, but to the entire community.

When we arrived, Mrs. Wyman had already written down her memories for us and presented the handwritten page as a keepsake. At the top, she had given her recollections a simple but fitting title:

“Cotton was our Life”

“When the Federal Compress and Warehouse closed in Canton, my husband Howard Wyman, brought home these pictures that were left behind.

After serving in U.S. Army during Korean War he returned to his job at Federal Compress and Warehouse in Sikeston, MO.

We married in 1956 and started our family of 4 children. The fall of 1966 he was sent to Holly Springs, Ms to “help out” The children and I relocated in 1967. We lived there 22 years before transferring to Canton, MS.

He retired end of 1999 after 49 yrs.

All plants are now dismantled.”

Eileen Wyman

Mrs. Wyman also donated several pieces of this history to the Historical Society.

Among them is a miniature Mississippi cotton bale, still bearing its original souvenir tag; a framed 1903 photograph of the Canton Public Square, crowded with wagons loaded with cotton; and a framed collection of historic clippings telling the earlier history of the Canton Cotton Warehouse Company, which was chartered June 23, 1888.

The company grew far beyond cotton storage, eventually operating an ice factory, bottling plant, sawmill



Special to The Canton News

and peanut factory.

Its compress was built in 1891, and the company even established Canton’s first telephone system, building lines throughout the county before selling the telephone operation in 1899.

Still hanging in Mrs. Wyman’s home are reminders of Howard’s long career, including his retirement recognition from the Canton plant, signed by his coworkers and honor-

ing his remarkable 49 years of service to Federal Compress & Warehouse.

We are grateful to Mrs. Wyman for preserving these pieces of Canton’s past and for entrusting some of them to the Historical Society so that they can be preserved for the future.

And a special thank you to Beth Riddell MacNeill for bringing us together and making this visit possible.

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Canton Academy K4 students learn about community helpers



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Canton Academy K4 students recently learned about community helpers and received a special visit from one of their classmates' parents. K-9 Sgt. Connor Smith, the father of K4 student Miller Smith, visited the class with his K-9 partner, Kelly. Smith spoke with students about his

work and the role of K-9 officers in the community. The visit gave students an opportunity to learn about public safety and the important work of community helpers. The class thanked Smith and Kelly for visiting and sharing their time with the students.

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CA K4 students learn about firefighters during Community Helpers Week



All photos Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy K4 students enjoyed an exciting visit from

the Canton Fire Department on Wednesday as part of the school's Community Helpers Week. Students had the opportunity to

learn more about the important work firefighters do to serve and protect the community. Canton Academy expressed its

appreciation to the Canton Fire Department for its continued service and dedication to the community.

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