



THE CANTON NEWS

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Canton News
P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Canton rolls out the red carpet for *The Girl in the River*

Special to The Canton News

Hollywood returns to Canton with a star-studded cast and major economic impact.

Canton, Mississippi, is once again in the spotlight as *The Girl in the River* begins filming in the historic city. Known for its cinematic legacy, Canton has long been a premier filming location in the state.

Mayor Tim Taylor welcomed the cast and crew to the city. "We are proud that Canton continues to attract major productions, and we thank the filmmakers for choosing our community," he said.

Canton Tourism Director Jo Ann Gordon praised the production team. "We are grateful to Andrew Stevens, Rick Moore, and Joe Lemmon for bringing the production of *The Girl in the River* to Canton. Andrew Stevens has created eight film opportunities for the City of Canton and eleven total for Mississippi. Our goal since filming the Eudora Welty documentary in 1987 is to establish Canton as the Movie Capital of Mississippi, while also building, in concert with the Mississippi Film Office, a crew base second to none," she said.



Photo courtesy by David Wiggins Photography

Gordon added, "The crew has been absolutely the most professional group of individuals and has treated Canton with such great respect and care. The continued presence of noted actors and actresses in our

community is a compliment to the people of Canton, Madison County, and Mississippi. Our locals go out of their way to welcome these celebrities with true hospitality and charm." The production, led by Stevens,

marks his eleventh film in Mississippi and eighth in Canton. The film features award-winning actress Tiffany Haddish, along with Ralph Macchio, Maggie Grace, and Devon Sawa, sparking excitement among locals.

Film productions bring a significant economic boost to Canton. Gordon noted, "We strive to attract film projects on an ongoing basis. They bring great energy and excitement, but best of all they bring economic impact, workforce development, and job creation. Many thanks to Mayor Taylor, the Canton Board of Aldermen, the citizens and businesses of Canton, and the Madison County Board of Supervisors for their continued support of Mississippi's film industry."

The movie also marks the feature film debut of European writer-director Brando Benetton, with Executive Producer Rick Moore, a Mississippi native, helping bring the project to life.

As cameras roll, Canton continues to prove it is a film-friendly destination, showcasing the city's character, talent, and hospitality to the world.





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2025

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Kayla Fowler- Youth Services Librarian

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Library Closed for Labor Day	2	3 Little Listeners Storytime Ages 0-5 / 10am	4 Mother Goose Ages 0-5 / 10am	5	6
8	9 Canton Kids: Kindness Club Ages 6-12 4:30pm	10 Little Listeners Storytime Ages 0-5 / 10am	11 Mother Goose Ages 0-5 / 10am	12	13
15	16 Teen Takeover: Video Games Ages 12-18 4:30pm	17 Little Listeners Storytime Ages 0-5 / 10am	18 Mother Goose Ages 0-5 / 10am	19	20
22	23	24 Little Listeners Storytime Ages 0-5 / 10am	25 Mother Goose Ages 0-5 / 10am	26	27
29	30				

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Letter from the Editor: Support your local library

By Courtney Warren

When I was young, we lived in a super small town in Georgia. My mom was a stay-at-home mom, also lovingly known as a stay-in-my-business mom. She was all about all the things. Because of this, my brothers and I were never bored. She drove the church van, the soccer van, she subbed at our school, she ran VBS, and she also always supported the local library.

The Hightower Memorial Library was a place of magic. It was absolutely huge—a brick building that sat on a hill with giant white columns and large windows letting in plenty of sunlight. I remember walking through the stacks and through the sunlight, watching the dust dance when I finally found a good spot on the floor.

Looking back, taking us to the library was probably a great way for mom to get a little rest, peace and quiet from the three of us. But those were some of my favorite days.

The library was divided into two sections. The left side was children, and the right side was adults. I used to feel like such a rebel, quite the grown up, when I walked over to the adult section to sort through the titles. Mom sat at a central table with my youngest brother and read while

but the sweet librarian (and I'm not telling you which location, so you can't fuss at her — that woman is a SAINT!) looked at my little girl and said, "I'm never going to keep a child

our libraries and bookstores to begin with! All because they wanted to ensure everyone had something to read, no matter their age.

Libraries are the reason that people with learning differences have the ability to listen to audiobooks for free. And some libraries, most libraries, give readers a soft place to land when they're lonely or need a break. When they're a new mom desperate for interaction but too scared to go anywhere in public, so they stroll their newborn a block down the way and walk into the library, taking the first real breath they've taken since the birth of that newborn.

But Courtney, you say, I don't read. What do I need the library for? Libraries, at their core, are about social equity. Everyone is the same in the library. Everyone matters. Everyone is on an even playing field. Where else can you find that? In the Bible Belt we'd love to say "church!" as our immediate answer...but are all churches like this? I wish they were.

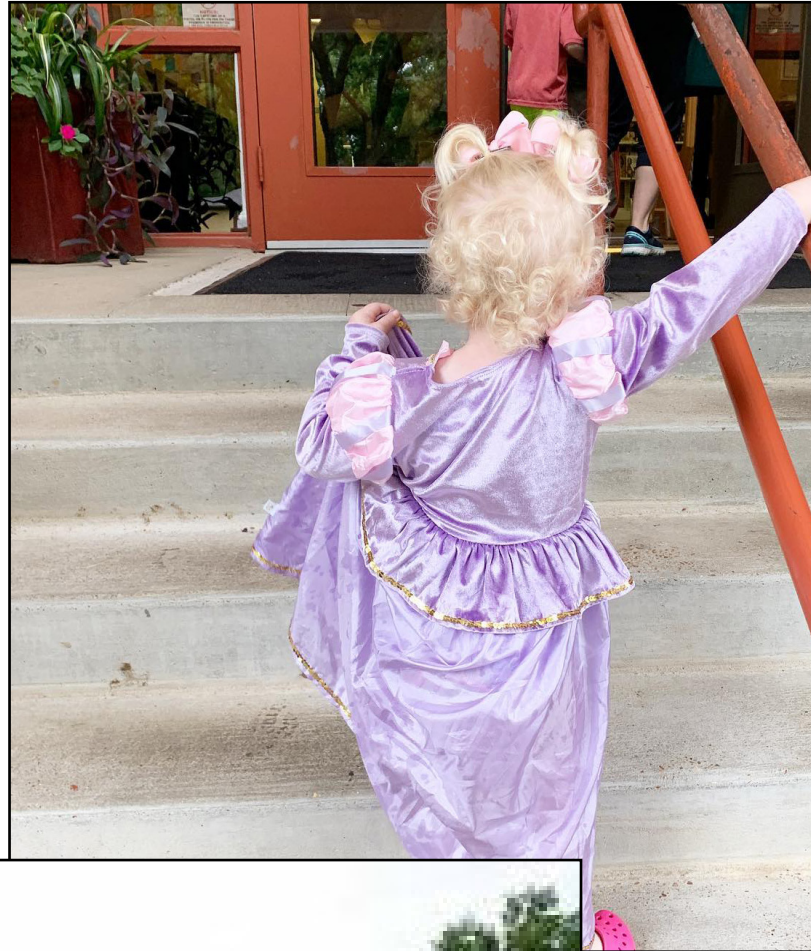
What do you need the library for? Did you know that a lot of teacher professional development is funded by our libraries? In the 2024 fiscal year, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded about \$270 million in grants to museums, libraries and states — funding that supports statewide databases, interlibrary loans and other resources that impact K-12 schools. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grants have often gone to teacher professional development workshops run by museums and non-profit institutions.

Now, you may not be able to name your favorite library to support, but I bet you can name a teacher that impacted you.

Thank a library.

Support your library.

Go check out a book. You know I always have some to recommend.



All photos Special to The Canton News

I explored.

I still love the library. I love the way the books smell, I love the way the pages turn, I love the way the plastic crinkles on the hardbacks. Did you know Lemuria sometimes sells books with the crinkly library plastic? I will buy one sometimes for solely that reason.

When Berit and I moved here, the first place we sought out was the library. I didn't know anything and felt so lonely, but I knew without a shadow of a doubt that I would be able to find peace within those stacks. I'd feel at home while she played with the train sets and the picture books. I could take a deep breath.

I will never forget the day she got her first library card. She was a few months short of the age requirement,

from reading books."

We walked out that day with a handful of books and now check them out regularly.

As I'm sure you know, our libraries are underfunded. With recent changes in D.C., that has become even more apparent. Some libraries are the only place people have access to the internet, to fax machines, to copiers. Some libraries are the only way senior citizens get opportunities to socialize. Some libraries - and librarians - are the only reason children are off of the streets and not getting into trouble.

Did you know that the entire genre of young adult literature was started by librarians? It's true! Give Anne Carroll Moore and Maragret Scoggins a Google. They are the reason we even have those sections and genres in



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Historic spotlight: Grace Episcopal Church oldest in Canton



all photos Special to The Canton News

Built in 1853, Grace Episcopal Church is the oldest church building in Canton. The Carpenter Gothic-style structure features original stained glass and has long been recognized for its architectural charm and heritage. It remains one of the most photographed churches in Mississippi and a landmark of the local community. Information provided by the Canton-Madison County Historical Society.



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Canton Mayor and Board of Aldermen/Alderwoman hold regular meeting

By Courtney Warren

The City of Canton's Mayor and Board of Aldermen/Alderwoman held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at Canton City Hall. Mayor Tim C. Taylor called the meeting to order, followed by an invocation from Pastor John Woodard. Roll call was then taken for the mayor and board members: Alderman Rodriguez Brown, Alderwoman Dr. Shannon Whitehead, Alderman Les Penn, Alderwoman Cynthia Allen, Alderwoman Janice Diamond, Alderwoman Monica Gilkey and Alderman Lafayette E. Wales were present.

The board welcomed presenters Jeff Goodwin and G.A. Carmichael before moving into official business.

Among the items considered were the approval of claims, the minutes from the July 15 meeting, and a payment of \$27,893.75 to Pinnacle

Construction Group from modernization funds for the South Madison Street Project.

The board also discussed policies and purchases related to a Fleet 3rd Eye Camera System, approving the acquisition of new equipment for garbage and boom trucks. In addition, members considered a usage agreement between the City of Canton and *The Girl in the River*, reviewed an amended fireworks ordinance, and looked at a proposal for grass cutting and beautification. Other matters included an appointment for CMU's election commissioner and authorizing changes to the Unified Development Codes for Canton.

Several significant payments and authorizations were approved. The board approved a \$223,252.14 payment to R&C Services for Canton Drainage Improvement Phase A, covering work completed between April 1 and June 30, to be paid with MCWI funds. They also approved a reimbursement of \$85.56 to Melon Garrett

for an emergency landfill purchase. Proposals from Franklin Engineers and Consultants were authorized to provide both ongoing engineering services for 2025–2026 and air compliance assistance for the landfill in 2025.

The City also accepted project closeout documents for several major infrastructure efforts, including the Parker Street and Barfield Street Improvements, Soldiers Colony Road Improvements, South Madison Street Drainage Improvements, and Canton Drainage Improvements. Additionally, Waggoner Engineering was authorized to draft a task order for repairs on Cisne Avenue and Katherine Drive, while Canton Paving, LLC received

approval to lower speed bumps on Martin Luther King and Singleton Street at a cost of \$5,400.

The consent

agenda involved the transfer of several funds. These included \$41,394.03 from general funds to sinking funds, \$852,365 from sinking funds to general funds, and \$26,200 from sinking funds to general funds. The board also approved transferring \$273,415.19 from general funds to modernization and passed a resolution regarding the transfer of Modernization Act Funds.

The meeting concluded with an executive session covering matters related to supervision and finance, parks and recreation, litigation, and land transactions. Six matters were discussed under supervision and finance, including cases of extraordinary emergency and issues involving security planning. The Parks and Recreation/Public Works Department addressed three personnel-related matters, while seven litigation issues and two matters concerning the sale and lease of lands were also considered.

The next regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/Alderwoman will take place at Canton City Hall.



Kylie Melon's Market welcomes fall with fresh mums and local flavors



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Fall is arriving at Kylie Melon's Market, where the change of seasons means a burst of color and seasonal flavor. The popular local market is preparing for autumn by stocking up on one of the season's favorite flowers: mums.

Known for their vibrant shades of gold, orange, red and purple, mums have long been a staple of Southern porches and front yards in the cooler months. Kylie Melon's Market has filled its displays with the blooms, offering customers an easy way to bring a touch of fall home.

"People look forward to mums every year," said market staff. "They're a symbol of fall here in Mississippi, and customers know they can count on us to have them ready when the weather starts to cool down."

The market is also celebrating fall with a new flavor addition that's already a hit: locally made jalapeño salsa from Haley House Creations. Perfect with chips, tacos, or just about anything, the salsa is joined by jars of their pickled jalapeños.

"You're going to love these," staff said. "Come by and pick up a jar of each!"

More than just a market, Kylie Melon's is run by a Christian family whose kindness and hospitality have made them beloved by the entire Canton community. Their store has become a gathering place where neighbors feel at home and visitors say they can see the heart behind the business.

In addition to mums and local flavors, Kylie Melon's Market continues to highlight seasonal produce, decorations and other items that capture the spirit of autumn in Canton.

Step back in time with Upstairs Downtown in Canton

By Courtney Warren

Have you ever wondered what secrets lie above the storefronts on the historic Canton Square? On Thursday, November 13, 2025, the Canton Garden Club will open the doors to history with its bi-annual *Upstairs Downtown* tour, a one-of-a-kind opportunity to explore the upper floors of some of Canton's most storied buildings.

From 4 to 8 p.m., visitors can enjoy hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and an evening of local history while touring rarely seen spaces. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the day of the event.

The 2025 tour will feature eleven historic sites:

- Trolio Hotel
- The Old Post Office
- Wohner's Corner
- Old Sulm's Loft

- Canton Square Lofts
- Sterling Hall
- Canton Elks Lodge
- The Loft
- The Crosby
- The Cantonian
- The Hesdorffer

Each building offers a glimpse into Canton's architectural heritage, from restored lofts and meeting halls to long-forgotten spaces that still hold echoes of the past.

Organizers say the event not only gives participants a rare look inside these buildings, but also highlights the importance of preservation in keeping Canton's history alive.

For more information, visit the Canton Garden Club Facebook page, or contact the Garden Club at 601-613-9411 or 601-941-5637. Details are also available through Canton Tourism at 601-859-1307.

OBITUARY

Leslie (Les) Allison Cooper
August 24, 2025

Leslie (Les) Allison Cooper, 78, passed away peacefully on August 24, 2025 in Millington, TN. Reared in Newport, AR, he built a beautiful life of over 40 years in Canton, MS.

He is survived by his daughter, Tori Lyn Cooper (Trevor Simpson) and predeceased by his lovely bride Martha Jean Swepston Cooper.

Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

<https://donate.mpbfoundation.org>

Canton mayor honors longtime WMGO broadcaster with award



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Canton Mayor Tim Scott Taylor has presented the Mayor’s Award to Angra “The Leprechaun” Lewis in recognition of his 35 years of service at WMGO radio. Lewis, known for his dedication and upbeat presence on the airwaves, has become a familiar and beloved figure in Canton. Taylor said the award is a token of appre-

ciation for Lewis’ contributions to the community and the positive impact he has made over the decades. “Mr. Lewis has served at WMGO for 35 years with dedication and joy, becoming a familiar and beloved part of Canton’s story,” Taylor said. “This award is a small token of appreciation for his many years of service and the positive impact he has made in our community.”

CANTON TIGERS JV SCHEDULE

02 SEP	FOREST HILL	29 SEP	FOREST HILL
	CANTON 6:00 PM		SOUTH JACKSON 7:30 PM
09 SEP	JIM HILL	07 OCT	JIM HILL
	CANTON 6:00 PM		HUGHES FIELD 7:30 PM
15 SEP	HOLMES COUNTY		
	S.V. MARSHALL 6:00 PM		

WIN 38-20
LOSE 12-35

8/22 @ Indianola |

8/29 vs East Rankin |

9/5 vs Tri-County |

9/12 vs BYE |

9/19 @ Centreville |

9/26 vs Winston |

10/3 vs Leake |

10/10 @ North Delta |

10/17 vs RIVER OAKS |

10/24 @ Discovery |

* 10/31 vs MANCHESTER |

2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

HOME AWAY * Senior Night # Homecoming

Esco shines bright in HSEP



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Canton Public School District High School Equivalency Program (HSEP) instructors ensure their students are spotlighted when they shine bright. With only a couple of weeks in the program, instruc-

tors say Demeria Esco has shown remarkable academic aptitude, securing exceptional scores on pre-tests and GED readiness tests. Her demonstrated leadership skills, creativity and determination to meet goals make her an exemplary student.

Ladies talk at Canton Career Center



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Canton Career Center recently hosted a “Tea” Party. Young ladies gathered to discuss etiquette, attitudes and acceptable behaviors,

under the hosting of Ms. Dedeaux and Mrs. Nichols. Topics included proper bathroom etiquette, dress code, socially acceptable behavior, respect for authority, friendships and public displays of affection.

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HSEP learns about military



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Canton Public School District proudly ensures the High School Equivalency Program (HSEP) allows students

to investigate all career pathways and ensure a bright future. Recently, Staff Sergeant Schuler visited with students and educated them on the various opportunities available in the Army.

Canton native named Top Cop



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Nelson Chisholm, a Canton resident and former Madison police officer, has been honored with the

Top Cop award. Chisholm joined the Attorney General's Office in February 2024 and serves as an investigator in the Cyber Crime Unit.



Places of Worship



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10:00 Holy Eucharist
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On the shelf: Books for fall

By Courtney Warren

I love a good summer read, but fall books are truly where I shine. I will turn the AC down in the house on purpose, so that I can get under a blanket with a cup of tea and a book. Here are a few titles to look forward to this fall.

Play Nice by Rachel Harrison

Okay, I know I said cozy, but hear me out.

I've yet to meet a Harrison book I didn't love. She does creepy fall so well! According to the publisher, Clio Louise Barnes leads a picture-perfect life as a stylist and influencer, but, beneath the glossy veneer, she harbors a

not-so glamorous secret: she grew up in a haunted house. Well, not haunted. Possessed. After Clio's parents' messy divorce, her mother, Alex, moved Clio and her sisters into a house occupied by a demon. Or so Alex claimed. That's not what Clio's sisters remember - or what the courts determined when they stripped her of custody after she went off the deep end. But Alex was insistent; she even wrote a book about her experience in the house.

After Alex's sudden death, the supposedly possessed house passes to Clio and her sisters. Where her sisters see childhood trauma, Clio sees an opportunity for house flipping content. Only, as the home makeover process begins,

Clio discovers there might be some truth to her mother's claims.

As memories resurface and Clio finally reads her mother's book, a sinister presence in the house manifests, revealing ugly truths that threaten to shake Clio's beautiful life to its very foundation.

The Battle of the Bookshops by Poppy Alexander

This one seems like so much fun for fall! I love any and all bookshops, so I'm excited for this read. According to the publisher, this is a

charming literary-themed novel about a young woman determined to save her great-aunt's beloved bookshop from extinction by the shiny new competition—which also happens to be run by the handsome son of her family's rivals.

The Academy by Elin Hilderbrand and Shelby Cunningham

Hilderbrand became an auto-buy author for me last summer when I first picked up one of her books

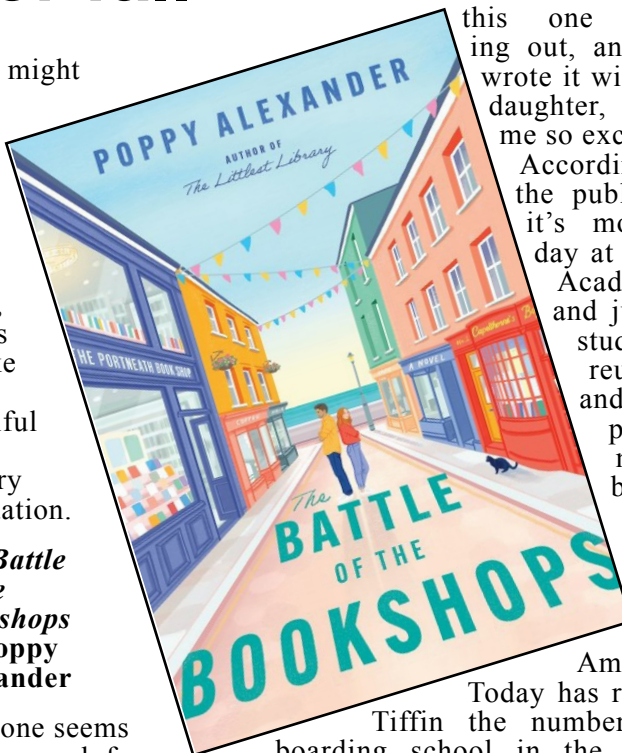
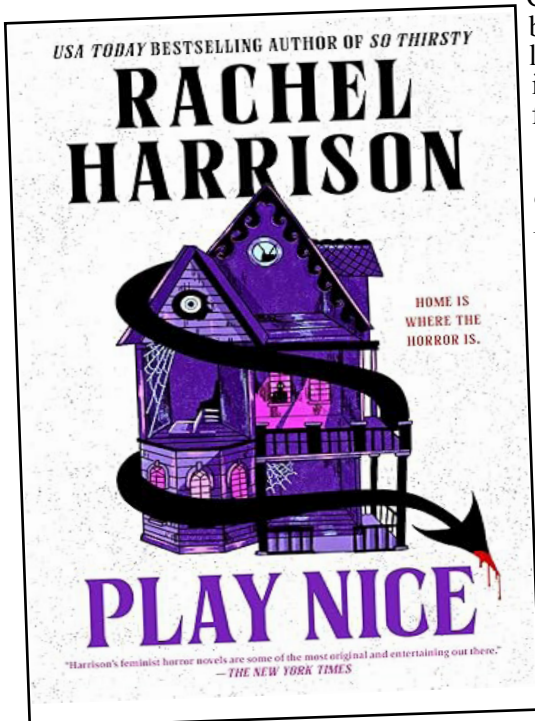
at Sundog Books while visiting Seaside.

To see she's got this one coming out, and she wrote it with her daughter, has me so excited!

According to the publisher, it's move-in day at Tiffin Academy, and just as students reunite and unpack, news breaks that

America Today has ranked Tiffin the number two boarding school in the country. The seventeen-spot leap raises eyebrows, since the dorms are outdated, the teams always lose, and the students are more social than studious. Still, the campus is beautiful, classes are small, and the dining hall boasts a New York chef,

not to mention the endless parties and Monday night piano sessions. Just as the community begins to bask in the glow of their new ranking, a mysterious app called ZipZap starts spreading scandalous blind items across campus. Suddenly, from influencer Banerjee to young teacher Sim-one Bergeron, transfer student Charley Hicks, and even Admissions Director Cordelia Spooner, no one is safe.



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McNeal Elementary students master place value with hands-on learning



McNeal Elementary's second graders are building a strong foundation in math through interactive activities. In Ms. T. Williams' class, students use manipulatives to learn place value, stacking blocks and reinforcing concepts one step at a time.

OBITUARY



Barbara Brown Puryear
April 3, 1954 - August 28, 2025

Barbara Brown Puryear was born April 3, 1954, to John Dabney and Dora Belle Wilson Brown in Memphis, Tennessee. She peacefully entered her heavenly home on August 28, 2025. Barbara was an only child, but lived across the street from her paternal grandparents and very close to two aunts and their families. She graduated from Marshall Academy in Holly Springs, Mississippi, in 1972, from the Mississippi College School of Nursing in 1976, and from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Master's in Nursing in 1978. She was also a Certified Case Manager. Barbara taught Nursing School in several states and retired from Holmes Community College School of Nursing in Ridgeland, Mississippi, in May of 2020. From the time Barbara was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, she became an advocate and educator for that disease. She encouraged all she knew to wear purple, the color for pancreatic cancer. November 20, 2025, is World Pancreatic Cancer Day; Barbara's family will

appreciate acquaintances, friends, and family members wearing purple in her honor and memory on that day. Barbara and her husband, Steve, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 28, 2025, and had a Hawaiian-themed anniversary party to celebrate. This was her 'goodbye' to friends and family. In her last two months, many friends and family visited her at home and shared a few laughs and remembered stories. This is how she wanted to say goodbye. She is survived by two daughters: Amanda Puryear Mansell (Clay) of Clinton and their children (AnnaBelle, Bentlee, and Grayson), and Erin Puryear of Gluckstadt; brother-in-law Jeff Puryear of College Station, Texas; and cousins Martha D'Angelo, Bill Maxey, Beth Elliott, Al Giles, David Brown, and John S. Brown. She was predeceased by Mr. and Mrs. John D. Brown (parents), Mr. and Mrs. John Puryear (parents-in-law), grandson Samuel Michael Mansell, and brother-in-law John Puryear IV (Corpus Christi, Texas). In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Mississippi College School of Nursing in memory of Barbara and her lifelong dedication to the nursing profession: Mississippi College, PO Box 4005, Clinton, MS 39058. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



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McNeal Elementary thanks group for Snack Shack sponsorship



All photos Special to The Canton News

McNeal Elementary School thanked the Top Ladies of Distinction Inc., Central Mississippi Chapter, for sponsoring its first Snack Shack of the school year. Students will be able to purchase snacks, and proceeds will go toward supporting the school.



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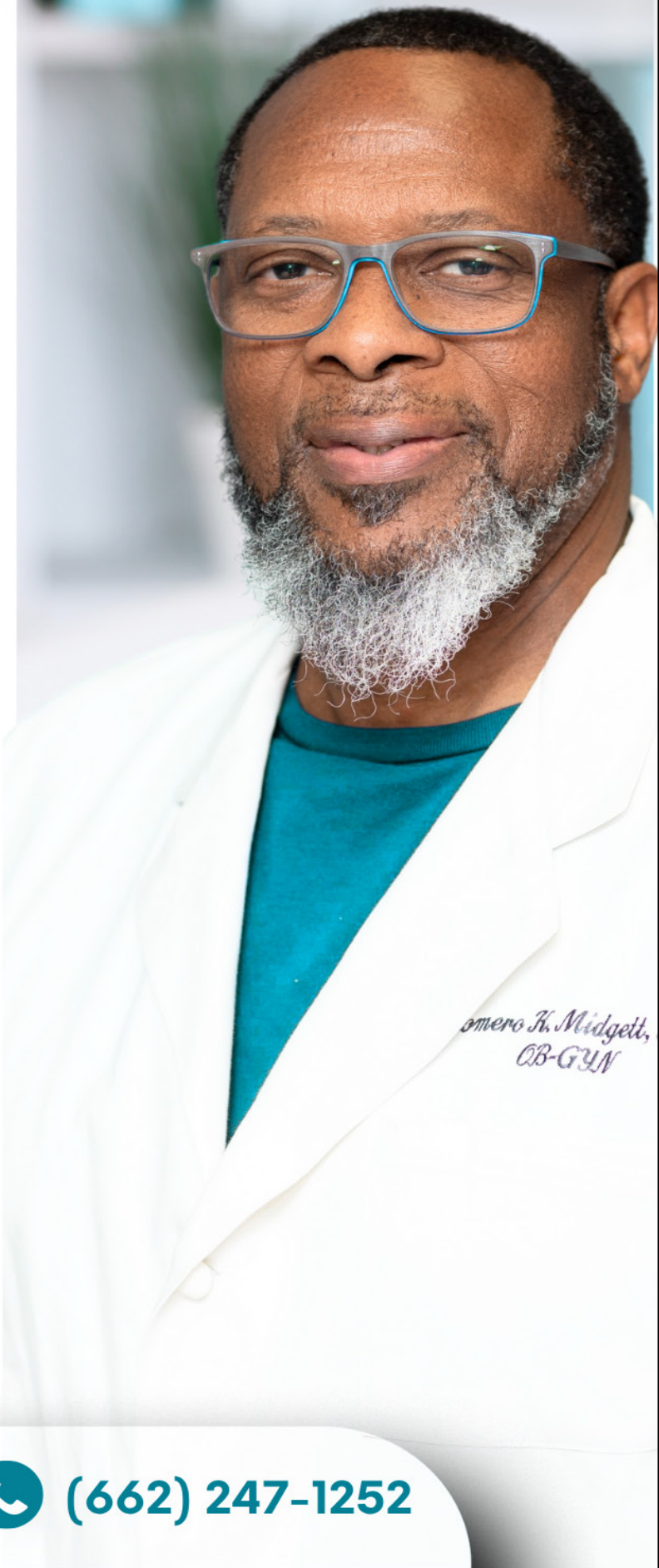


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ON THE TABLE

Recipe courtesy of All Recipes

Looking for a slow cooker dinner that's rich, cheesy, and full of flavor? This Mississippi chicken spaghetti is buttery to the max, with a tangy kick from pepperoncini peppers. Perfect for family night or a potluck.

Stick of Butter Mississippi Chicken Spaghetti

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 2 hours, 30 minutes
Servings: 8



INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- 1 (1-ounce) packet au jus mix
- 1 (1-ounce) packet ranch seasoning mix
- 12 jarred pepperoncini peppers, divided, or more to taste
- 1/4 cup pepperoncini brine
- 1 stick butter
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1 pound spaghetti
- 8 ounces Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
- 1/4 cup sliced green onions

PREPARATION

- Place chicken breasts in the bottom of a slow cooker. Sprinkle with au jus and ranch mixes. Add 6 peppers, the brine, and butter. Cover and cook on high for 2 hours 15 minutes.
 - Add cream cheese, cover, and continue to cook while you prepare pasta.
 - Cook spaghetti in salted boiling water for 9 minutes. Reserve 1/2 cup pasta water and drain.
 - Shred chicken into bite-sized pieces. Chop peppers and return everything to the slow cooker. Stir until creamy.
 - Mix in pasta, pasta water, and 1 cup cheese. Stir well. Top with remaining cheese, cover, and let melt 5–10 minutes.
 - Garnish with green onions and serve.
- Tip: This dish reheats beautifully and makes enough to feed a crowd.

Canton Academy introduces new football coach Yancey Odom



Special to The Canton News

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Canton Academy added alumnus Yancey Odom to its football coaching staff ahead of the Panthers' first varsity home game. Odom, a 2021 Canton Academy graduate, earned multiple football and character awards during his high school career. He received a bachelor's degree in sports administration from the University of Mississippi in May and began his coaching career at

Marshall Academy while still in college. At Canton Academy, Odom is working primarily with the varsity and junior high offensive and defensive lines and assisting with the Panthers' strength program. School officials said Odom is passionate about developing athletes on and off the field and is proud to return to the program where his football journey began.

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Where should I keep my emergency fund?

Article sponsored by Veritas Federal Credit Union

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You've done the hard part—you're building an emergency fund. So where should you stash that money?

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What to Avoid: Your emergency fund isn't the place for risky moves. Skip stocks or mutual funds—where the value can dip right when you need the cash most. This money should be liquid and stable.

- Action Plan:
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 2. Open an account with low fees and solid interest.
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Mayor hosts block party

Special to *The Canton News*

Mayor Tim Scott Taylor recently hosted his first Community Block Party, celebrating Canton's unity with music, food, dancing and laughter. "Thank you, Canton, for making our first Community Block Party such a success," Taylor said. "This is only the beginning, and I look forward to more great moments together."



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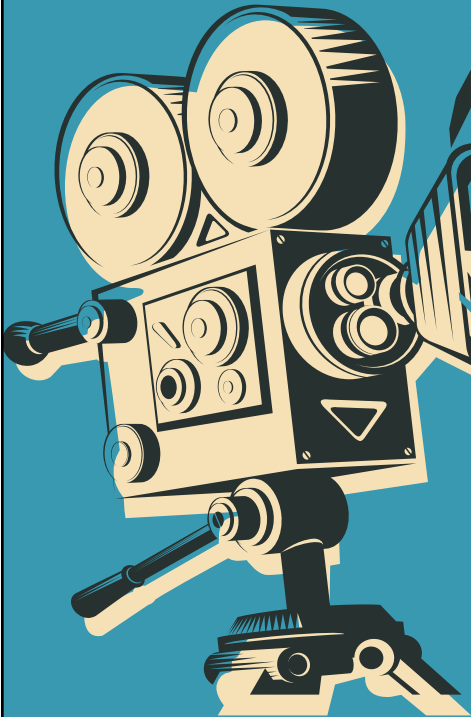
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Young Filmmakers Workshop a summer success

By Courtney Warren

This summer’s Young Filmmakers Workshop was a hit, showcasing incredible talent, creativity, and dedication from both returning students and new voices. Stay tuned for the premiere of student-created films coming soon! Want to join next year’s crew?

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MSDH Launches “Protect & Prepare: A Grandparent’s Guide”

Special to The Canton News

A newborn isn’t just a gift to parents; grandparents are just as invested and enamored, often playing a key role in the baby’s growth and development. That’s why the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is launching the “Protect & Prepare: A Grandparent’s Guide” campaign; those precious bundles of joy are counting on you to help keep them safe and healthy.

While it’s true that grandparents often know best and play an integral role in passing down child-rearing wisdom to their own children, some of the guidelines for keeping infants safe and healthy have changed since they raised their own children, especially when it comes to preventable diseases and sleep positions.

Vaccines Save Lives

Get vaccinated against whooping cough (pertussis), flu and COVID-19 to protect babies who are too young to be vaccinated. With the rise in pertussis cases this year, it’s more important than ever that grandparents and others who come into close contact with the child get vaccinations and booster shots to ensure they don’t unknowingly pass the disease on to them.



Special to The Canton News

· Though most adults received vaccinations against pertussis in childhood, immunity wanes over time.

Even healthy adults can unknowingly spread dangerous respiratory infections like pertussis and RSV to infants, who are more susceptible to

health complications, including death.

MSDH County Health Departments offer free vaccinations for those whose insurance does not cover it. Call (855) 767-0710 or visit <https://msdh.ms.gov/pertussis> to schedule an appointment.

Safe Sleep Saves Lives

Though putting infants to sleep on their stomachs was once a common practice, we now know it increases the likelihood of sleep-related death. In Mississippi, sleep-related deaths are the third-leading cause of infant death, and about 1 in 5 sleep-related deaths occur while an infant is being cared for by someone other than a parent.

- Put babies to sleep alone, on their backs, in a crib – every nap, every night.
- Don’t put pillows, blankets, bumpers, or stuffed animals in their cribs.
- Learn more about infant sleep safety at <https://msdh.ms.gov/safesleep>

The best gift you can give your grandchild isn’t a toy; it’s getting vaccinated to prevent potentially deadly diseases and practicing safe sleeping practices, every time. Their safety starts with you.

Download the new MSDH Healthy App for free in Apple and Android stores.

Get up to date news and updates at: www.msdh.ms.gov and on social media: facebook.com/HealthyMS, twitter.com/msdh and [Instagram.com/healthy.ms](https://instagram.com/healthy.ms)

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Volunteer tutors needed for MadCAAP after-school program



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

MadCAAP's after-school B.A.S.E. Camp is seeking volunteer tutors to help students build confidence and improve reading skills. The program meets Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

Organizers are looking for volunteers who can commit to two days a week for about one and a half hours each day. Those interested in working with children and making a difference in the community are encouraged to volunteer.

Layla Garrett awarded Canton Gospel Scholarship



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Layla Garrett has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Canton Gospel Music Association, the group recently announced. Garrett, a 2025 graduate of Ridge-

land High School, has studied music with support from the association for more than seven years. She plans to attend William Carey University in Hattiesburg. This is the second scholarship the association has presented in 2025.

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Nissan Canton employees give back through summer of service



All photos Special to The Canton News

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Nissan Canton employees spent this summer focusing on community service, lending their time and energy to local organizations through the company's annual "Summer of Service" initiative.

Over several weeks, employees participated in a variety of projects designed to meet needs across the community. The efforts included a blood drive with Mississippi Blood

Services, a canned food drive to support Our Daily Bread Ministries, and hands-on volunteer work with local nonprofits and museums.

Teams of employees volunteered at Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty (MadCAAP), where they assisted with programs serving families in need. They also gave their time to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Mississippi, helping support youth development activities.

In addition, volunteers worked with the Mississippi Children's Museum and the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, supporting events and programs aimed at enriching the lives of children and families.

Nissan Canton officials said the summer initiative reflects the company's ongoing commitment to the region.

"Our employees are proud to

be part of a company that values community," the statement read. "At Nissan, we believe in building more than vehicles — we strive to build stronger communities and make a lasting impact."

The Summer of Service program has become a tradition for Nissan Canton, reinforcing the company's role as both an employer and a community partner in central Mississippi.

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Science lab helps Canton Academy students build ACT skills



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Students in Coach Moseley’s Advanced Biology class at Canton Academy recently put their scientific skills to the test during the Biological Buffers Lab, a hands-on experiment designed to reinforce classroom learning. During the lab, students explored the properties of acids, bases and buffers


by testing the pH levels of several substances, including Alka-Seltzer, egg whites and liver. Using pH indicators, they measured how acidic or basic each sample was before introducing hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide to observe the changes. The experiment allowed students to see firsthand how different substances resist or respond to shifts in pH,

an important concept in biology and chemistry. By directly comparing the effects of strong acids and bases, students gained a deeper understanding of how living organisms use buffers to maintain balance. The Lady Panther scientists will complete the project by writing detailed lab reports. In addition to reinforcing the scientific method, the

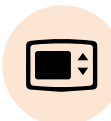
assignment is designed to strengthen critical thinking and writing skills that will aid them as they prepare for the ACT. Hands-on activities like this one are a key part of Canton Academy’s Advanced Biology program, giving students the opportunity to apply what they learn while preparing for future academic challenges.

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



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Nissan Canton hosts 100 Black Men of Canton and local youth for plant tour



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Nissan Canton recently welcomed members of the 100 Black Men of Canton, youth from its mentoring program, and local church representatives for a day of meaningful discussions and a behind-the-scenes look at the company’s manufacturing facility. The visit provided students and

community members an opportunity to learn more about career pathways in the automotive industry while also strengthening ties between Nissan and local organizations. Attendees toured the plant floor, met with employees, and heard from company leaders about the skills and opportunities available in advanced manufacturing.

Nissan officials said opening the facility to community groups is part of the company’s ongoing effort to build strong local partnerships. “We are proud to open our doors and create spaces for connection,” the company said in a statement. “By working together with organizations like the 100 Black Men of

Canton and local churches, we are investing not only in our company’s future but also in the community’s future.” The event underscored Nissan Canton’s commitment to community engagement and mentorship, highlighting the role of collaboration in driving both innovation and opportunity in central Mississippi.



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Canton to celebrate bi-annual 60th Canton Flea Market

By Courtney Warren

Canton is gearing up for the 60th Canton Flea Market, a bi-annual event that draws artisans from across the nation to showcase handcrafted items, including pottery, jewelry, and unique arts and crafts. The event is set across the historic Madison County Courthouse grounds and nearby streets, offering visitors a walking-friendly experience of more than 1,100 talented artists and craftsmen. Recognized as a Top Twenty Event in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society and an Outstanding Promotional Event in Mississippi by the Mississippi Downtown Development Association, the Canton Flea Market has also been named Best of the Best in Mississippi by Mississippi Magazine and is listed



Special to The Canton News

among the Top 100 Events by the American Bus Association.

Attendees can explore handmade arts and crafts on the Courthouse grounds,

Union and Center Streets, church properties along Peace Street, the Old Jail Museum behind City Hall, and two blocks of East Fulton Street. Shoppers can also visit boutiques and antique stores around the historic square, making the Flea Market a full-day experience. With convenient parking throughout the city and opportunities to purchase fine art at below-gallery prices, the Canton Flea Market promises something for everyone. The event is litter-free, creating a clean and enjoyable environment for all. For applications, hotel listings, and hospitality information, contact the Canton Tourism Office at 601-859-1307 or 800-844-3369, or email flea-market@cantontourism.com.

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