



THE CANTON NEWS

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Nissan plans \$500M Canton upgrade



Special to The Canton News

Nissan announced its 2022 from “A to Z” collection at the July 2021 Chicago Auto Show. The lineup includes the all-new Ariya electric crossover, which is expected to be available in the U.S. this year. Nissan has announced that their Canton plant will produce two new electric models for Nissan and Infiniti beginning in 2025.

By Courtney Warren

Nissan is amping up its Canton assembly plant with a \$500 million investment, positioning it to become a center for Nissan’s United States’ electric vehicle (EV) production. In its announcement, Nissan said it will transform the Nissan Canton Assembly Plant with the latest in EV manufacturing technology to support production of two all-new, all-electric Nissan and Infiniti EV models.

The \$500 million investment will involve preserving and upskilling nearly 2,000 jobs, with production expected to begin in 2025.

“The fact that Nissan is transitioning from the use of fossil fuel to electricity is a great technological step forward,” said Canton Mayor William Truly. “This is the direction our nation is going to actually go to a greener

climate. I think that going in this direction certainly helps with climate change. It’s an investment in the city of Canton and in our citizens here in Mississippi. It gives them an opportunity to learn new technical training while being a part of this new technology.”

“We are delighted to be a part of the technological revolutionary change,” continued Truly. “It’s in the best interest of our citizens and our state. I’m hoping that Nissan can bring in our high school kids in the training program, so that, upon graduation, they can be involved in this.”

“Nissan is a company that studies the market,” said Canton’s Joy Foy, a former economic developer with the Mississippi Development Authority. “That was true when they chose Canton some twenty-plus years ago.

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Lewis keeps his eyes on the football and his heart with Jesus

By Courtney Warren

Faith, family, and football are the focuses in the life of National Football League (NFL) athlete Damien Lewis. Guard for the Seattle Seahawks, Lewis began his football career as a young child in Canton with Folks Gotta Eat (FGE), a flag football organization that volunteered in the Canton community and served meals to those in need.

“We went around and passed plates and clothes out to homeless people and elderly people. Ever since then, I felt the love of

the game of football,” he said.

Growing up as the oldest of four, Lewis wanted to ensure he inspired his own little brothers and those behind him.

Without hesitation, Lewis said his relationship with God kept him focused, and it began with a special lady in his life.

“My mom played a big role in my success. She was my hero when I was young and taught me how to be a man. She taught me right from wrong. When I surrounded myself with Christian

people and learned how God wants us to live, from there, life isn’t complicated. You just have to make a decision,” he said.

That decision came easily for Lewis.

“I knew to make the decision to better myself for me and my family. I knew I had to go to school and put my best forward for everything. Don’t look back, and keep Jesus first. When God is first and center in your life, you can’t be stopped,” he said.

Lewis stayed in church and kept

the Lord at the center of his life. It was at In His Steps Ministries where Lewis met Rev. Jasper Bacon and his wife, Ms. Carolyn Bacon. Their influence on his

Inside

Story continues with a photo of Damien Lewis on page 8. —————>



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Wisdom and Leadership celebrates BHM



Special to The Canton News

Recently, the students of the Wisdom and Leadership Academy celebrated Black History Month with a program. Students shared their Bib-

lical knowledge, speeches, poems and songs, and heard from guest speakers Mr. John and Mrs. Barabara Sanders.

Blackmon honored by Health Center



Special to The Canton News

The G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center recently honored Senator Barbara Blackmon with a luncheon. Blackmon was instrumental in securing the funding for the new G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center in Carthage. Center leaders said that “it’s always a blessing to give honor and a privilege to acknowledge someone who has love and compassion for their community and those whom they serve.”





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The role of MS Farm Bureau in the economy

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Winter Commodity Conference didn't appear to be of interest to a non-farmer, but I was surprised at what I learned. Working with our Madison County Farm Bureau Federation's woman's program to introduce agriculture in the classrooms, I have participated in art and coloring contests with local students of city and county schools.

We have nominated Coach Rolando Roman of Mansdale Elementary as our Teacher of the Year 2022 for his creative ways to use agriculture in teaching students the importance of conservation and farming. To promote appreciation of agriculture in the community, the Madison County Farm Bureau participated in the state photo contest last year, and Betsy Sligh won two of the categories with her pictures. However, after attending this commodity conference, I realized there is still lots to learn about all the Federation does for residents of our state and the huge impact farming has on our economy.

Each year, the local Farm Bureau boards discuss concerns at the county level and make recommendations of issues to address. These concerns are drafted in the form of resolutions and are then presented to the voting delegates at the Farm Bureau State Convention each December. The entire group votes to adopt proposed resolutions as a matter of concern, and then the state officers use these resolutions as a guide for what legislation needs to be adopted.

Mike McCormick, President of MFBF said, "It's not my role as president to decide what our policy is. It's our membership's decision. Farm Bureau is known for having solid grassroots membership; because of that, whatever our members vote on during the meeting is what we'll advocate for over the next twelve months."

MFBF works through employees who are at the Capitol throughout the legislative sessions and with the lobbying team of the Cornerstone Group to ensure that legislation discussed and adopted is in the best interest of farmers and property owners on the state level. MFBF has agents in Washington, D.C. to work

with and observe congressional issues. They only concern themselves and get involved with issues that affect farming and property rights even on the national level that were adopted by the state members. They partner with the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Mississippi Loggers Association, the major universities, and other state agencies to accomplish their outlined goals. The MFBF meets annually with the American Farm Bureau Federation, which has representation from all fifty states to compete, fellowship and conduct business. This year, Madison County hopes to have a Farm Woman and a Young Farmer and Rancher nominated that can go to the national level of competition.

MFBF are very much involved and connected with national firms like The Redding Firm Inc., a legal service industry in Washington,

ing should have changed; and, if that happens, the prices will begin to fall on commodities.

MFBF is much more than another farm agency. It is also a watchdog, a policy influencer, and an informer. As Paul Harvey was famous for saying, the MFBF looks for and tells us the "rest of the story;" and being informed in this day and age is more important than ever. 2022 marks the 100th year for Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, and the adopted theme for this year's annual conference will be "100 Years of Faith, Family, and Farm Bureau."

Kevin Brown is the MFBF Public Policy Coordinator and also serves as one of the Regional Managers in keeping counties updated on current affairs at the state and national level. Kevin meets with the Madison County local board every other month to give updates.

Kevin sums up MFBF this way, "Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation is the largest general agriculture organization in the state whose mission is to create an environment where Mississippi Farmers and Ranchers can have a better life and make a better living. The organization achieves these goals through the volunteer leadership of its grassroots farming members. This model has proved itself for 100 years now to be THE voice of agriculture in Mississippi."

Mike McCormick is president of Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, and James Foy is president of the Madison County Farm Bureau. Everyone is welcome to become a part of the Farm Bureau efforts to hold our legislators accountable and get involved. For the price of \$35 per year, your voice can join the 3,511 Madison County Farm Bureau Federation members and 190,000 members statewide for making Mississippi a better place to live and own property. To join, contact Adrian Garrison at the local office at 211 North Hargon Street, Canton, or call her at 601-859-3215.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joy Foy is married to James Foy and is a retired Economic Developer with the Mississippi Development Authority. Foy is an active participant in the community of Canton. She is a member of the Canton Lions Club, the Keep Canton Beautiful Committee and the Canton Beautification Committee.



Joy Foy

Special to The Canton News



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Mike McCormick welcomes attendees to the conference

and Nutrien Ag Solutions of Loveland, Colorado, that offers best-in-class solutions and service to help farmers. These national companies help MFBF to have a bigger picture of the economy and the agriculture environment for the coming year. Individuals from these two companies were on the commodity conference program. These guests shared how the COVID pandemic had changed our local economy, and especially Andy Burlingham of Nutrien Ag Solutions highlighted how it impacted the supply and demand chain. He reported that prior to COVID, a China cargo container had an average cost of \$2,000, and today that same container average cost is \$12,000; and, while the time from China to being unloaded at the port in Greenville was thirty-five days prior to COVID, the delivery now takes seventy-five days. With these facts, we readily can see that the just-in-time inventory systems are not working; and, according to Burlingham, the way for the economy to improve is to be smarter about managing our needs. He did give us hope that by the third quarter, adjustments in inventory buy-

Canton High Tiger athletes named All-Region



All photos Special to The Canton News

Canton High School Tigers basketball players Corey Jackson, Jr., Jamarion Fleming, and Deathony Lewis were recently named to the District 6 All-Region 3-5A Team. Jermarcus Riley-Davis was selected as the Most Valuable Player. Lady Tiger Ashante Fleming was named to the District 6 All-Region 3-5A Team.

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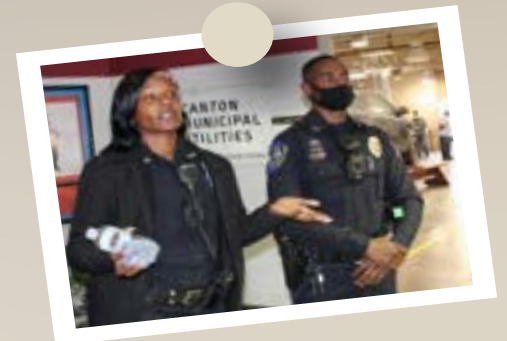
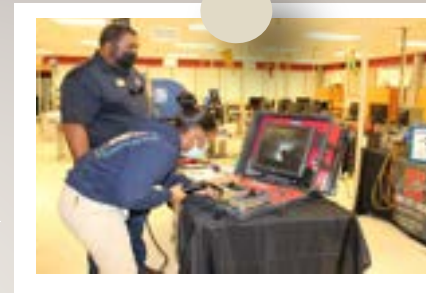
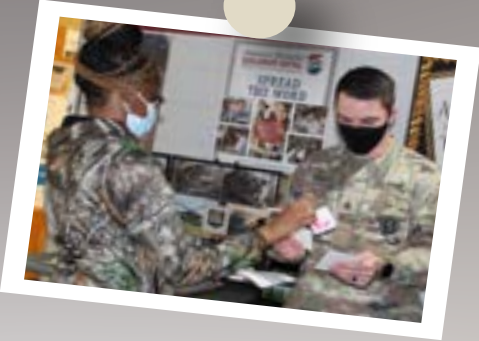


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CANTON CAREER DAY

Canton Career Center (CCC) scholars explored possible careers during CCC's annual Career Day. Local professionals shared their expertise and encouraged scholars about the endless career options in their future if they get the necessary training.

Holmes Community College also offered massages from their massage therapy students.



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cont. from front page

Lewis

life made a lasting impression, as well.

“Jesus carried the cross. There is nothing we can’t carry, because He carried the cross,” Lewis said.

Lewis’ football career didn’t begin as the typical “dream” of recruitment to a D1 school straight out of high school.

After an injury his sophomore year of high school, Lewis didn’t think he’d play college football, much less be a member of the NFL.

“I could easily have gone down the wrong path, been a gang member or something, but I chose a different path. We only get one opportunity.”

That opportunity came in the form of junior college.

“No one was coming to watch us. I had gotten hurt, and I felt pretty down, and no one was coming to watch us play at Canton High. My coach, Jim Jones, came down from Northwest Community College to watch us. God was truly involved in that. This successful juco came down and watched me play.”

“God always has the plan. Northwest was like the number one school at that time. I ended up taking an offer. I liked the school. They had a good education, and I focused on that and graduated early. I was an academic All-Ameri-



Photo by Courtney Warren

Damien Lewis with Rev. and Mrs. Bacon in front of In His Steps Ministries

can. From there, I went to LSU.”

With one blessing after another, it was upon his graduation from NWCC that Lewis met the great Coach Ed Orgeron, or Coach “O.”

“Coach O came to my house. He loved my family and the atmosphere. I can say that Coach O changed my life and without him I wouldn’t be playing for Seattle today. I got an offer to my dream school. I went there, kept my head down, handled my business, and played ball. I’m excited for myself because of where I come from.”

Lewis said this was not a dream

he ever imagined for himself.

“I was born and raised in Sawmill Quarter...I’m so grateful for everything - for God’s plan and for Coach O to come grab me,” he said.

Lewis continues that love for all that God has blessed him with and said he’s excited to get to be home in Canton, even for a short while.

While he doesn’t know what the future holds, Lewis does know that he is excited to see where God will lead him.

Meeting at In His Steps Ministries for the interview, Lewis says he wants to continue to bring the com-

munity focus back to God.

“I’ve been roaming around now that I’m back; it’s crazy to see how different everything is. I want to make sure I let kids know I did it, and they can, too. Rev. Bacon has a great ministry here for the kids. They’ve got sports and help them learn about the Bible. People’s voices need to be heard, and we need to start when they’re young, he said.

It was at a young age that Lewis met Rev. Bacon himself.

“He helped us keep going and get us out of the streets. It turned me into who I am today. He stayed in my ear. I see him as a father figure. Him and Ms. Carolyn take care of people,” he said.

Lewis said he’d love to eventually begin an organization for the community and give back to where he grew up.

“I’m not the same guy. It’s all about helping now and keeping Jesus at the center of it all. I want to do something to help the kids in the community. I’ve been in their shoes, and I know the other side of the table,” he said.

While no plans have been made, Lewis knows God will give him direction, and he will do all he can to help others and glorify God through it all.

WALK-INS accepted



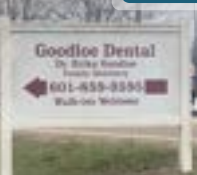
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Remember when: the beauty of the life of a brick

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

One of my life lessons is not to dwell on why a subject of interest develops. Several years ago, Bobby Heath talked about making home-made bricks. We were in the alley going to the back of the old Trollo Hotel, now home of Convention and Tourism. A number of the bricks were shedding. Bobby told me that in the brick kiln, the ones closest to the heat source were the hardest. The silicon (grains of sand) in the clay would not make a glaze. They were used on the outside of the wall and called "face brick." The softer bricks were used inside the wall, protected by the face brick.

Part of my interest was due to the Old Jail, with walls three or more bricks thick. In almost one hundred years of use as a jail, only one prisoner escaped. He dug the mortar out with a toothbrush handle. The mortar was soft with a large amount of lime. Interesting, but the part that captured my attention has been the repair done in the 1950s-60s. It used a modern mortar that was much harder. It may pull bricks apart, even the hard faced bricks.

Maureen Simpson's mother ran a hotel on the corner of Short Hickory and Peace Street. As we were

talking about soft bricks, she told me that her mother had to coat the street side of the brick wall, as the youngsters walking along the wall ran their fingers along the bricks and were destroying the wall.

One of the neighbors, Harold Ray Turner, told me that after buying and moving to his place west of Canton, he bulldozed a brick kiln that was in one of his fields. He needed a producing field.

Bobby Heath told me of a kiln off Highway 55 on the way to Allison's Wells.

Recently, a scrapbook put together by LulaMae (Mrs. Frank) Chisholm concerning the Old Madison Presbyterian Church and community was brought to the church. There was a centennial history of the First Presbyterian Church of Canton published in 1937 in the scrapbook. As I glanced at it, it fell open to a page telling that some bricks for the church were made by Mr. John Alsworth, who lived west of Canton. The church was completed in 1852-53. It was not dedicated because of debt – possibly for the bricks.

My interest was due to the fact that Alsworth was an elder at First Pres but was instrumental in the founding of the Madison Church in 1845. It became Old Madison when it re-



Special to The Canton News

The old jail has walls three or more bricks thick.

opened in 1945 – no bricks other than foundation pillows.

Oh, according to my reading, Mr. John had built his two-story brick home about four miles west of Canton. Perhaps that is why he had the knowledge for brickmaking and a kiln.

My question is, where was the clay for the bricks dug? It had to be close to the early 1800s. It had to be the right material, or the bricks would not withstand the elements. I remember the beautiful bricks used for the foundation of the old REA building, where Phillips Hard-

ware parking lot is today. When the building was torn down, the beautiful brick foundation was left standing there. I wanted them so badly, until rain hit the unprotected bricks. They made a gorgeous red sand pile.

Just recently, I was reading Jim Lacey's "History Bits, Volume II," and it said in 1873 there was a brickyard opened next to the railroad. It was called Brickyard Hill. It seems as if there were a number of kilns in the county. Do you know of any? Possibly the remains of one? I would like to know.



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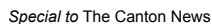
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Canton Tigers defeat Rangers



ter January Student of the Month Jakirstin Brown with an award on behalf of the Madison County Business League & Foundation. Brown is enrolled in the health sciences program and aspires to have a career as an ultrasound technician.



Recently, the Canton High School Tigers baseball team defeated the Raymond Rangers in a close

game of 9 runs to 8 runs. Follow the Canton Public School District (CPSD) website and social media page for game times and more details.

Letter from the Editor: Family is way more than blood relations

By Courtney Warren

I write about my daughter Berit often, but there is another little one in my life that is just as important.

When I was a senior in college at Delta State (DSU), I had the honor of meeting the Sappington family. I was hired to babysit their grandson Charlie for them every day from 8 a.m. until around 4:30 p.m. He was barely crawling when we met.

It was only a few months later that I realized I'd found my family. Being ten hours away from home was hard - and still is. While I talked to my dad every day, I found parents in Ms. Margie and Mr. Larry. Charlie quickly became my best friend. From dinners to spending the nights to playing in Me-Maw's yard, I was always welcome at their home and table.

Now, that little boy is not so little and stands tall at eleven years old, with a love for video games, pizza and social media.

When Charlie first began school, I knew life wouldn't be the same, because my sidekick wouldn't be with me every single day. This wasn't an ordinary babysitting gig. We went everywhere together. I had a carseat, and we took off on adventures every single day. Ms. Margie let me go tour daycares and pre-schools with her; and, when she finally landed on Presbyterian Day School for his elementary education, she said, "Now,

you know the sixth grade field trip is to Washington D.C., and you're going to have to be the one to take him." I'd laughed at her then, and said, of course, I'd take him!

Fast forward to 2022, and we leave for that trip in one week. I got married. I had a baby. I moved from Cleve-



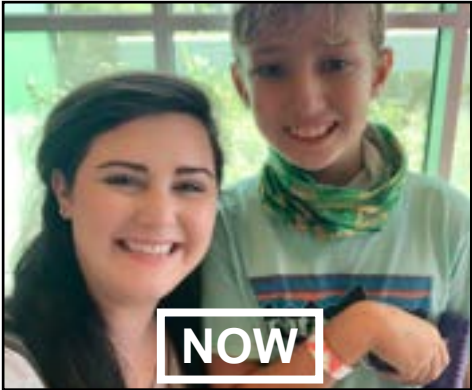
land to Canton. I was still their family. Charlie and I went from everyday adventures to playing video games together on our phones and textings GIFs back and forth. He FaceTimed with me while I planted an entire dinosaur flower bed in the backyard one day.

Charlie is a friend. My very favorite friend.

I've had the blessing of seeing sweet Charlie grow into a very kind person over the last eleven years, and so many moments stand out.

One in particular happened as I picked him up from his house for Vacation Bible School. He walked outside and asked, "Can we go to Andy's?" Andy's is the convenience store right down from his house and across from the DSU Library.

I had that "no" on the tip of my



Photos by Courtney Warren

tongue.

No, not today.

No, not this time.

No, we've got to go to VBS; aren't you excited?

But I realized Charlie hadn't finished his sentence.

"Can we go to Andy's, so I can give money to the children with cancer?"

I literally put my hand to my chest, because I was so taken aback at what he said.

Ms. Margie said, "He's been going by every single day."

With a fistful of change and a dollar bill from his grandfather, we were off. Normally, I'd expect to go in a store with a little kid and be asked to buy a dozen different snacks.

However, Charlie said he could handle it on his own, so I watched this sweet eight-year-old get out of the car, walk to the door and take the time to stop and speak to another little boy in a baseball uniform.

He held open the door for them, high fived the boy, then went inside.

It only took a moment.

He didn't purchase anything with the money and gave it all to the charity cup that sits on the counter in the store before coming back to the car and asking that I play "You're Welcome" by Dwayne Johnson from *Moana*, so we could sing loudly.

We jammed all the way to VBS, but I thought more about his heart and how kind his gesture was.

As I think back on how sweet that act of kindness was, and the many others he's done in just eleven years of life, I'm absolutely inspired. I can't wait to spend an entire week with him as we explore D.C. I'm so grateful to go. I'm grateful for their family. I'm grateful for the honor of being part of it.

I learned long ago that he was named Charlie because, "Charlie just sounds like someone that you would want to be your friend."

I couldn't think of truer words.

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Bouldin signs with MGCCC



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Jaekwon Bouldin and CHS Head Football Coach Calvin Bolton

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Canton High Tiger Jaekwon Bouldin recently signed a scholarship to play football at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. The 6' 7", 290-pound right tackle says he is excited his hard work and dedication paid off.

His family surrounded him to celebrate his signing.

Bouldin says he has goals of hopefully playing at a D-1 uni-

versity after he completes his two years at MGCCC. He hopes to eventually play in the NFL. In the meantime, he wants to major in cosmetology and become a barber.

He thanked his parents, coaches, teachers and friends for all of their support over the years. He gave special thanks to his football coach, Calvin Bolton, for believing in him and giving him the training and opportunity to reach his goals.

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Panther baseball kicks off Ag class hatches learning



Photo by Courtney Warren

Freshman catcher Cruz Johnson is passionate about his team and position.

By Courtney Warren

The Canton Academy Panthers have begun their baseball season with enthusiasm. From fans filling the stands to a lime green dinosaur being the “rally dino” in the dugout, these athletes are ready to give their all to America’s greatest pastime. According to Head Coach Gage Posey, “We’ve had some ups and

downs early this year so far, but the good thing about baseball is there are many games. We have a lot more games to play and a lot more opportunities to get better. The kids are working hard and know what to expect now, so we will continue to out work our opponents on and off the field. We want to win a championship, and we are excited about the rest of the season.”



Special to The Canton News

Sophomores Chris Hunter, Alexis Lewis and Tristen Dossett posed with the new baby chicks.

Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy agricultural science students recently had the opportunity to witness new life. Coach Ben William’s ag science class learned

about incubating eggs and hatching chickens. Their hard work paid off when they got to watch the chickens break out of their shells and into the world.

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A CA Valentine fiasco CA goes on a library hunt



Eighth graders JD Kelly, Tillie Oglesbee and Kaitlyn Warren help fill CandyGrams in the last moments before Valentine's Day.

By the CA Yearbook Staff

With the season of love in full swing, the Canton Academy (CA) yearbook staff worked hard on selling CandyGrams, a sweet annual fundraiser. Selling either chocolate or suckers, the yearbook staff sold, packaged and delivered 1,232 pieces of the candy to the students and staff on Valentine's Day.

The week before CandyGrams were to be delivered, the entire yearbook staff came down with the flu or strep. With over 1,000 orders to fill, yearbook advisor Mrs. Courtney Warren was left to figure out how to ensure all

students received their Valentines.

"It was hard, with the staff all falling sick, but super awesome to see all of the students and teachers rally. Everyone was involved this year, from filling orders, labeling and even running out for more candy. It, once again, shows that we're truly a family," said Warren.

The fundraiser was a hit, and the staff continuously ran out of candy. After cleaning out all local stores of suckers, a few teachers went as far as thirty minutes away to get supplies to complete all of the CandyGram orders.



Photo by Courtney Warren

Page Eaters members Emma Eifling, Gaby Valdez, Maggie Coon and Lydia Smith.

By Courtney Warren

The Canton Academy (CA) Page Eaters went on a "Little Free Library" hunt all over Madison County. Little Free Libraries are independent, volunteer-led libraries. By seeing all of these libraries, the Page Eaters can now plan

their own installation of a Little Free Library at CA. Page Eaters is a book club that meets monthly and reads books based on that month's theme. Past themes have included Poisons and Potions, Love is a Battlefield, A Story Retold, and Storms and Seas.

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Holmes Ridgeland Campus announces 2022 Hall of Fame

Special to The Canton News

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Ridgeland Campus included: Faith Elizabeth Austin of Brandon, Bethany Jadyne Biggers of Canton, Yasmin Chambers of Jackson, Olivia M. Deslatte of Madison, Londyn McKenzie Dorsey of Jackson, Jireh Green of Brandon, Alfredo Marin of Kosciusko, Je'la McLin of Jackson, Junnah Mondejar of Madison, Ava Grace Stegall of Madison, Jon Stegall of Madison and Joseph "Joe" N. Williams of Flowood.

Biggers, a pre-medical major, is president of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, president of STEM Club, an Ambassador, an SGA representative and served as the 2021 Ridgeland Campus Student Body Homecoming Maid. As a freshman, she served as secretary of the STEM Club, was voted Freshmen Class Favorite, received the English Composition Award and was involved in Focus Factor.

"I am planning to transfer to

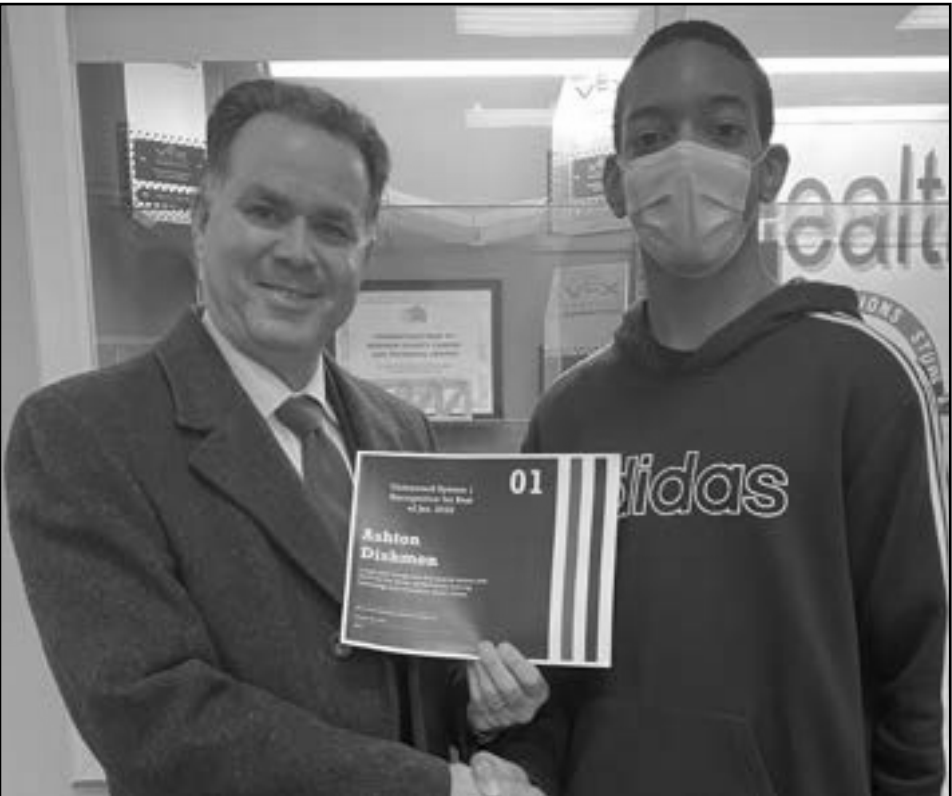


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Pictured are the 2022 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (front row, left to right) Junnah Mondejar of Madison, Olivia M. Deslatte of Madison, Ava Grace Stegall of Madison, Bethany Jadyne Biggers of Canton, (middle row, left to right) Je'la McLin of Jackson, Jon Stegall of Madison, Londyn McKenzie Dorsey of Jackson, Yasmin Chambers of Jackson, (back row, left to right) Alfredo Marin of Kosciusko, Joseph "Joe" N. Williams of Flowood, Jireh Green of Brandon and Faith Elizabeth Austin of Brandon.

Mississippi State University in the fall and after graduation I am hoping to attend University of Mississippi Medical School to further my dream of becoming a pediatrician," Biggers said.

Dishmon awarded SOTM



Ricardo Junco and Ashton Dishmon

Special to The Canton News

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Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) member Ricardo Junco, Metaverse (XR) Sales Engineer at Lobaki,

recently presented the Madison County Career Tech Center "December Student of the Month" award to Ashton Dishmon. Dishmon is enrolled in the unmanned aerial systems program.

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Canton through a lens: Two Harvests



Photo by Betsy Sligh

The Canton News will feature a photo each month by a Cantonian or of Canton. This month's photograph is by Betsy Sligh. Sligh was recently named the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation photo contest winner for 2021.

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Canton Elks award grants to non profits



Photo by Beth MacNeill

Special to The Canton News

Canton Lodge 458 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) recently awarded grants to two local service organizations. Our Daily Bread received a check for \$2,500 through the Gratitude Grant

program, which is given to local organizations that reach out to feed those in need.

A check for \$5,500 was awarded to In His Steps Ministries through the Beacon Grant program, which supports efforts in local communities to educate, combat juvenile delinquency,

and provide relief for the distressed or underprivileged.

The grants were made possible by donations from the members of the Canton Elks Lodge to the Elks National Foundation (ENF). The ENF, in turn, returns the investments to local lodges in the form of grants for

use within their communities.

The Canton Lodge, chartered in 1899 and located on the east side of the Square for over 120 years, is also involved in programs which serve military veterans, provide scholarships to high school seniors and promote drug awareness.



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Rev. Jasper Bacon awarded honorary doctorate at commencement

Special to The Canton News

Belhaven University President Dr. Roger Parrott awarded an honorary Doctorate of Christian Ministries to Rev. Jasper Bacon at the University's December 11 commencement. Rev. Bacon, the founder and executive director of In His Steps Ministries, was the acclaimed speaker for both ceremonies at Thalia Mara Hall.

"I don't know of a leader anywhere who better exemplifies Belhaven's motto 'To serve, not to be served' more than Rev. Jasper Bacon," said Belhaven University President Dr. Roger Parrott. "He is a gifted speaker, creative problem solver, and deep thinker who has been a model of servant leadership, an advocate for the overlooked, and a champion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Rev. Bacon founded In His Steps Ministries in April 1994, with its primary mission of providing family services, compassionate services, youth empowerment, sports ministry services and weekly Bible studies for incarcerated youth. Rev. Bacon's desire is to foster Christian community development, promote racial reconciliation within the body of Christ, promote a better quality of life for youth and their families, and



Special to The Canton News

help create networks between suburban and urban communities.

"I never imagined that I would be receiving an honorary doctorate from Belhaven University," said Bacon. "I'm humbled by this experience and grateful for the chance to share the wonderful news of what God is doing in Canton, Mississippi, through In His Steps Ministries."

With over twenty-five years of history with Belhaven University, Rev. Bacon served as an adjunct professor, teaching New Testament and

Bible courses, and he has served as chapel speaker. In His Steps Ministries has also partnered with Belhaven over the course of the last few years by providing internship and volunteer opportunities for Belhaven students.

Rev. Bacon has over thirty-six years of experience in biblical teaching and providing workshops on racial reconciliation, marriage, family, parenting skills, evangelism and discipleship. Recently, he and a team developed the Back to the Bible on

Racial Issues Initiative. The main goal is to train believers biblically and help individuals to represent Jesus well across racial lines.

Prior to In His Steps Ministries, Rev. Bacon was a pastor at a local church in Canton for over eight years. He is a native of Canton and a graduate of Canton High School in 1978 with distinguished honors. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Wheaton College and his Master of Divinity from Wesley Biblical Seminary. In addition, he completed studies from Reformed Theological Seminary.

He was chosen to receive the Dolphus Weary Lifetime Achievement Award. He previously served on the Wheaton College Board of Visitors and is the President of the R.E.A.L. Christian Foundation. In addition, he served with such organizations as the Canton Model One-Stop Planning Committee, Leadership Madison County of Canton, and Leadership Continuum of Jackson.

Rev. Bacon is married to Carolyn and has two children and three grandchildren. For over thirty-five years, Rev. Bacon and Carolyn have served the Canton community through intervention, prevention and other Christian community-based services.

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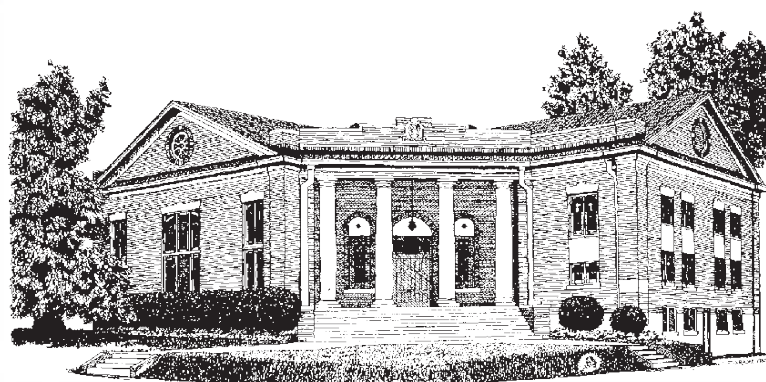
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GRADUATES & SCHOLARS

Congratulations to these Canton-area students, who were honored for their scholarship for the Fall 2021 semester.



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Sasha De’Jahne Green, College of Arts & Sciences
Sade Milan Hales, College of Education
William Barnett Hull, Adkerson School of Accountancy
Ariana J. McDonald, College of Arts & Sciences
Dantashia Avion Ollie, College of Ag. & Life Sciences
William Bruce Peacock, Bagley College of Engineering
Haley Claire Puckett, College of Education
Keoaka Antwain Trevillion , College of Arts & Sciences
Karlea Megan Winstead, College of Business
Cameron Blake Yarbrough, Bagley College of Engineering

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READY FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, LIFE!

Walking trail to be enjoyed by all



Special to The Canton News

The walking trail designs will be circular, and construction is set to begin soon.

By Courtney Warren

The planning and construction of a new walking trail has begun at the Madison County Nursing Home in Canton. According to director Daniel Logan, the project is fully funded by the Madison County Nursing Home Board of Directors and will be completed in the fall of 2022. The design of the trail is circular and helps to create a space that is ordered and easy to navigate. According to the design’s plans, a “circle represents the notions of totality, wholeness, original perfection, the Self, the infinite, eternity, timelessness, all cyclic movement, God. It implies an idea of movement

and symbolizes the cycle of time.” Trees will shade the pathways and reinforce the circular forms. The land form will rise and fall, utilizing the existing catch basins for drainage. There will also be an Arbor Pavilion to create a shaded space in the middle of the property for both community and nursing home functions. Kathy Hammack, zoning commissioner, said, “Seeing projects like this unfold is exciting. I am so grateful to the Madison County Nursing Home’s Board of Directors for providing this wonderful walking trail for its residents and the Canton community.”

Jerry Kerner for Congress in 2022

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THE PRINCIPLE:

We the People of the United States on September 17, 1787 did ordain and establish the Constitution for the United States of America, and on December 15, 1791 the States did Ratify the Bill of Rights.

THE PROBLEM:

The current un-American administration occupying the White House has tried to ignore the Rights and Liberty of the People by promoting chaos at our Southern border, by Unconstitutional “mandates” created to attempt to nullify the Bill of Rights, and by using tyrannical measures to try to silence dissent and create an irrational fear of each other among the People.

Many elected officials have actively or cowardly joined in these un-American activities, and have voted for several Unconstitutional pieces of Legislation attempting to promote election fraud, attempting to reward criminals who enter our Country illegally and shamelessly attempting to buy votes with the illusion of “free stuff”.

HOWEVER:

We are The People who will remind the un-American elected officials that when they took and signed their Oath of Office to Support and Defend the Constitution of the United States that we were listening and We demand that they keep their word.

We are The People who will remind the un-American elected officials that they work for Us - The People, and that We are neither their subjects nor subject to their attempts at tyranny.

We are The People who will remind the un-American elected officials that our unalienable Rights including Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness are endowed by God, not by any government.

We are The People who have the Courage to stand up to attempts at tyranny by many of our un-American elected and non-elected officials just as millions of American soldiers have stood up to foreign tyranny.

THEREFORE:

All Loyal Americans – those who sincerely Support and Defend the Constitution, are “We The People”. We are The People who will refuse to re-elect any un-American official, and We are The People who will vote only for Patriots in the 2022 Primary and General elections so this Country will return to the Ideals that the United States of America was Founded upon.

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cont. from front page

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The Nissan personnel looked at labor, existing industry's level of support from the local economic development office, the proximity to good roads, and a host of other variables. This move shows to the world that they are still working to be ready for the market demands of the future."

Nissan's investment is supported by strong partnerships with state, county and local governments.

"For nearly two decades, Mississippians have kept our state at the forefront of the world's automotive industry," said Governor Tate Reeves. "The announcement that Nissan Canton is shifting some production to EVs further positions Mississippi as a leader in this

crucial economic sector. We are a top state for automotive leaders, and this significant investment by Nissan in the Canton facility lets the world know that we are open for business and our workforce is ready to take on these in-demand jobs of the future."

The announcement supports Nissan Ambition 2030, calling for twenty-three electrified models for the Nissan and Infiniti brands globally, including fifteen all-electric vehicles, by 2030.

Ambition 2030 will deliver ex-

citing, electrified vehicles and technological innovations. Taking account of critical environmental, societal and customer needs,

Ambition 2030 underpins the company's aim to empower mobility and beyond for a cleaner, safer and more inclusive world.

Nissan has set the goal to achieve carbon neutrality across the company's global operations and the life cycle of its products by 2050 by pursuing further innovations in electrification and manufacturing technology. As part of this ef-

fort, Nissan is targeting forty percent of its U.S. vehicle sales volume to be fully electric by 2030, with even more to be electrified.

Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant is celebrating nineteen years of manufacturing operations in 2022. The plant employs approximately 5,000 people and has built nearly five million vehicles since opening in 2003. The plant currently builds four models: Altima, Frontier, TITAN and TITAN XD.

With this announcement, Nissan now has invested \$4 billion in the facility. The company has invested more than \$13 billion in its U.S. manufacturing operations collectively.



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