



THE CANTON NEWS

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

What do you love about Canton? A love letter to the City of Lights

Canton Tourism:

I guess I would have to say I love Canton for all the opportunities it has offered me over the years I have lived here. The great sense of community has made it a wonderful place to live. Also the people. I have made many great friends here.

Canton is a survivor! I love the quaintness of the town, as a whole. It carries so much amazing history! It's a surviving, while being a thriving through it town. It's like a sponge, in the midst of an ocean. It soaks up all the adversities and always stay a float. Sometimes it may seem like an ember covered with ash. Then comes along that someone, with that burst of fresh air, rekindling hope! It survives because there are enough caring people in and for Canton!

From a tourism point of view, I love Canton because it is a quaint Southern town, with lots of history and interesting facts that I can share with our visitors. From a personal point of view, I love Canton because of the people who live here. There are people who celebrate with you during your highest times, but also support and lift you up during your lowest times.

Kylie Melons: What we love about being in Canton is having the opportunity to serve our customers who become family and provide them with the best products and customer service. Canton makes it easy for our market to have that "at home" feel and happy atmosphere that makes local folks and visitors always feel welcome and special. At Kylie Melons, our goal is to not just sell great items, but to be a place that's warm, fun, and inviting—a real destination right here in Canton!

CHARLOTTE WILSON:

I love Canton because Canton, with the most charming town square in our state, is a beautiful, quaint little town filled with rich history, friendly, kind and helpful people. It is a happy place to live, work and play.

I love Canton because it's "home." I married and raised my family in Canton. I have lived here my whole life and it brings me comfort and a feeling of acceptance. Thank you, Canton, for the many wonderful memories throughout my life. There is no place like home!

CPSD superintendent: Gary Hannah
Canton reminds me of my hometown of Holly Springs, Mississippi. The people here are very proud of their city and have a strong love for the community, which speaks volumes about its growth and accomplishments over the years. I am definitely proud to be a part of the community and brag about it wherever I go! Love Canton!

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Grab your next read with these books by African American Authors!

By Courtney Warren

I have always been a reader. Thanks to my dad, I'll read anything by anyone. I've told this story before, but, once I became a teacher, a wonderful young man asked me, "Mrs. Warren, why don't read we read any books about black kids? Or by black people?" That brilliant student has since graduated, but his words stuck with me, and I have always made it a point to diversify my book list. All children should be able to see themselves in books. All children should be able to be the pirate, the superhero, the wizard, the detective, or the star.

Here are some great reads I've recently found by African American authors and featured African American main characters.

The Marvellers, by Dhonielle Clayton

Quick Take: Eleven-year-old Ella Durand is the first Conjuror to attend the Arcanum Training Institute, a magic school in the clouds where Marvellers from around the world practice... When a dangerous criminal known as the Ace of Anarchy escapes prison, tensions grow in the Marvellian world and Ella becomes the target of suspicion. Worse, Masterji Thakur mysteriously disappears while away on a research trip. With the help of her friends and her own growing powers, Ella must find a way to clear her family's name and track down her mentor before it's too late.

Look Both Ways, by Jason Reynolds

Quick Take: This story was going to begin like all the best stories. With a school bus

falling from the sky. But no one saw it happen. They were all too busy—

Talking about boogers. Stealing pocket change. Skateboarding. Wiping out. Braving up. Executing complicated handshakes. Planning an escape. Making jokes. Lotioning up. Finding comfort. But mostly, too busy walking home.

Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one wickedly funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.

The Personal Librarian, by M. Benedict and V. Christopher Murray

Quick Take: According to some scientists there is such as thing as too many books. Belle da Costa Greene would like to have a word.

Take My Hand, by Dolen Perkins Valdez

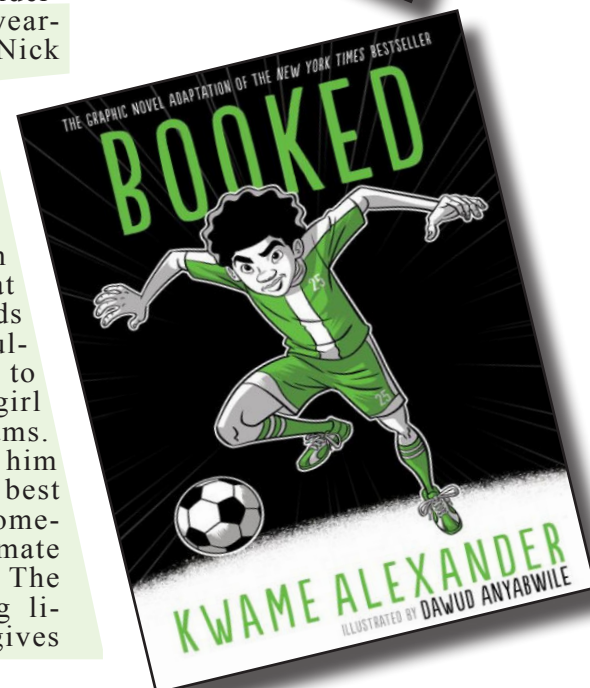
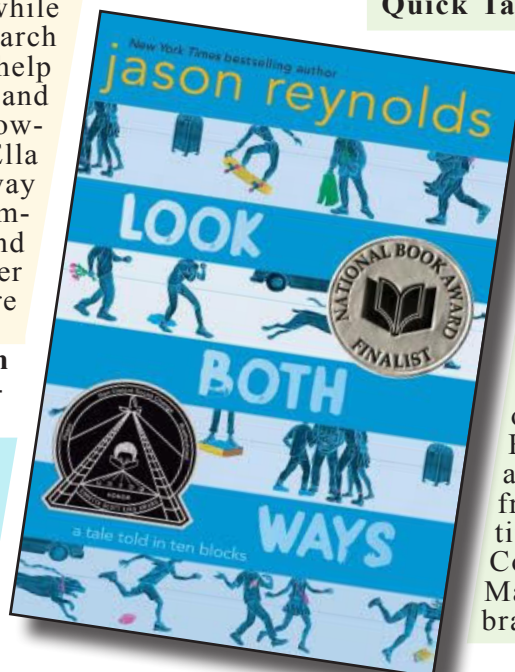
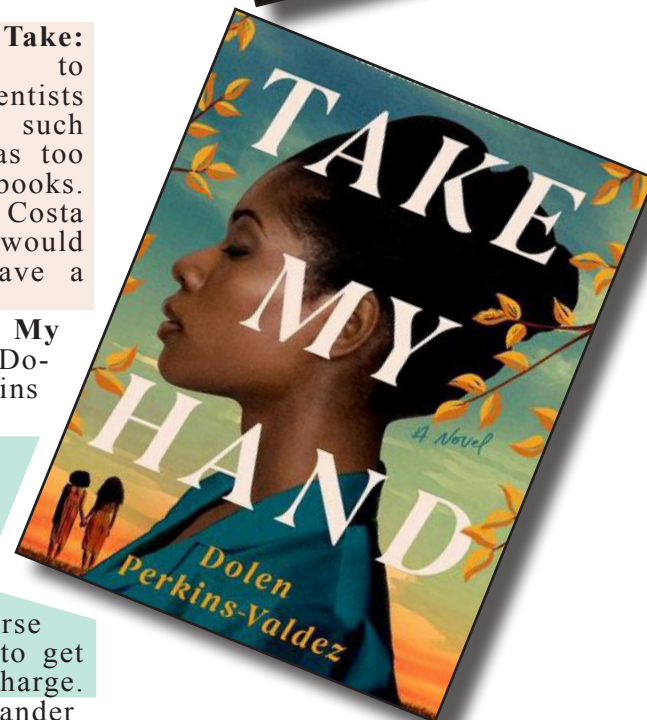
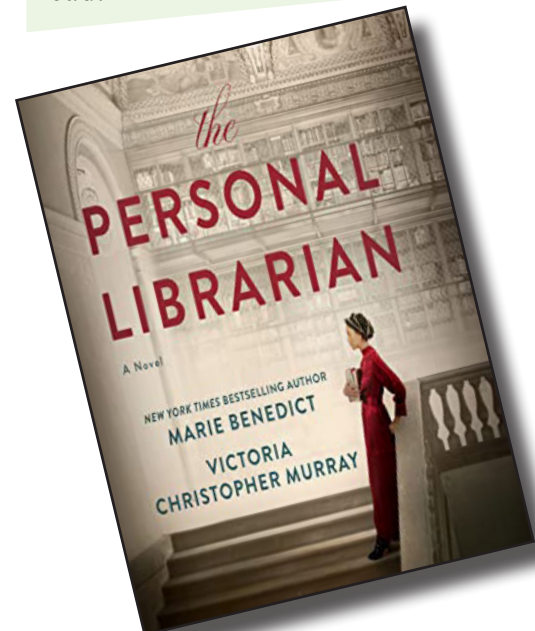
Quick Take: The moving story of a fiercely protective nurse who will stop at nothing to get justice for the girls in her charge.

Booked, by Kwame Alexander

Quick Take: Twelve-year-old Nick

learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives

Nick inspiring books to read.



Luckett honored by Canton Aldermen



Special to The Canton News

Kierra Luckett was recently honored at the Canton Board of Aldermen meeting for receiving the Outstanding Appreciation Award. According to the Canton Police Department, “Kierra is one of our finest and hardest working officers. She’s very passionate about her job and how she performs in her profession. Thank you, Kierra, for all that you do.”



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Canton resident Debbie Norris announces retirement from MC

Special to The Canton News

A high-ranking administrator and tenured faculty member who came to Mississippi College as a transfer student from Hinds Community College will be leaving the University after forty years of service.

Debbie Norris, dean of the Graduate School and associate provost, who shepherded her alma mater through three successful decennial reviews by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, has announced her retirement at the conclusion of the spring semester.

A Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost Search Advisory Committee chaired by Cindy Melton, dean of the School of Education at MC, will begin interviewing candidates for the position, which will remain open until filled. But MC leaders agree that Norris cannot be replaced.

“Dr. Norris’ devotion to our University is unparalleled,” Melton said. “She is a gifted teacher and beloved administrator who has demonstrated unwavering support to our mission of academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ. Throughout her years of service to MC, she has led by example and with a friendly demeanor while earning the respect of her students and



Special to The Canton News

Debbie Norris, dean of the Graduate School and associate provost, is leaving MC after four decades of service to the Christian University.

colleagues through her strong work ethic, professionalism and high standards. When I think of someone who epitomizes the values and ideals of Mississippi College, someone who bleeds blue and gold, I think of Debbie Norris.”

Norris obtained her B.S. in business administration from MC, her M.Ed.

from Mississippi State University, and her Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Mississippi. She embarked upon a career in higher education administration, teaching in the School of Business for fourteen years. Granted tenure in 1994, she continued to teach the undergraduate core course Business Communication

throughout her time at MC.

In 1998, she became the graduate dean and was appointed by MC President Howell W. Todd to serve as the University’s Title IX coordinator. She has served MC as director of institutional assessment, director of international programs, and chair of the Dean’s Council, Graduate Council, and Academic Council.

Named vice president for planning and assessment in 2003, Norris was the chief administrator responsible for assessing each academic and administrative office at the University. She led the institution’s regional accreditation efforts with successful stints in 2002, 2012 and 2018. In addition, she served as an Association of Business Schools and Programs evaluator.

Norris has served on the Advisory Board for Entergy, Mississippi; the Board of Trustees for the Mississippi Baptist Health Systems; the Board of Trustees for Caring Hands Ministries; and the Jackson Community Advisory Board for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. A resident of Canton, she worships at First Baptist Church in Madison.

Norris will continue to serve Mississippi College on a part-time basis as a consultant and special assistant to President Blake Thompson.

National Signing Day success for Canton High School



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Canton High School hosted their National Signing Day recently and CHS seniors Curtis Brown and Jadarius

Gordon both signed letters of intent.

Linebacker Brown will go on to play college football at Copiah Lincoln Community College. Brown wants to



Special to The Canton News

major in Criminal Justice.

Defensive Back Gordon will go on to play college football at Pearl River Community College. Gordon wants to

major in architecture and real estate.

Gordon was supported by family, friends, coaches, and teammates as he signed his letter of intent.

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Hats off to Black excellence



By Guest Columnist Daphne Johnson-Sims

All photos Special to The Canton News

Ethel Waters (1896-1977) - singer and actress who became the first Black woman performer to appear on national TV. Waters was the second African American to be nominated for an Academy Award. *The Ethel Waters Show* was aired on NBC in 1939. Her singing was based in blues tradition.

Katherine Johnson graduated from college at the age of 18 and began working in aeronautics and for NASA. Katherine Johnson performed the calculations that sent astronauts into orbit and eventually to the moon in 1969. In 2015, Katherine was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama.

Aretha Franklin (1942-2018) was a singer, songwriter, and activist. Also known as the “Queen of Soul,” Aretha was ranked ninth in *Rolling Stone’s* list of 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. Franklin won 18 Grammy Awards. She was the first female artist to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Rosalind Brewer, 58, is Walgreen’s next CEO and the only Black woman to currently lead a Fortune 500 firm. A long-time executive in corporate America, Brewer admits many challenges climbing the ladder. As Walgreen’s next CEO, Brewer will be responsible for improving the company’s revenue.

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Canton through a lens: “Sunset over HB Farm”



Photo by Mark and Marty Hopkins

This month’s photo is of a sunset over a pasture in Farmhaven. It was taken and submitted by Mark and Marty Hopkins.

Lions offer scholarships

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Lions Club began the year focused on serving the community. Comprised of approximately thirty members, Lions meet weekly at the Canton Country Club for programs from citizens and discussing projects such as assisting with city cleanup projects, giving support to the sight impaired, and providing aid as funds allow. The Lions say they are thankful for all of the support with fundraisers, such as the annual barbeque dinner, raffle ticket sales, and the spring golf tournament, which makes these services



possible. Again this year, the Lions Club will be offering two \$1,000 scholarships to a senior from Canton High School and a senior from Canton Academy. Applicants must be a graduating senior of one of these city high schools, plan to enter an accredited college or university, be involved in extracurricular activities, and have a minimum 2.8 GPA, or better. Also, a 500-word essay is required. Complete guidelines and an application can be obtained from the Principal’s/Headmaster’s office at each of the high schools.

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Yoshanda Trotter

Jimmie M. Goodloe Elementary School
Antommeshir Jackson

Huey L. Porter Middle School
Howard Hollins



Nichols Middle School
Lakeshia Miller

Canton Ninth Grade Academy
Leunika Davis

Canton High School
Aleatrice Liddell

Canton Career Center
Juandria Brown

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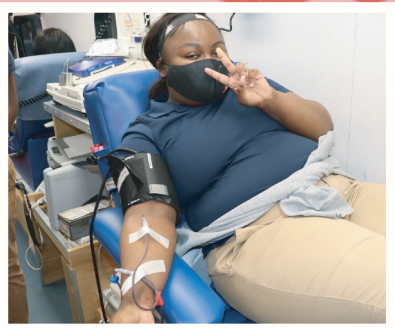
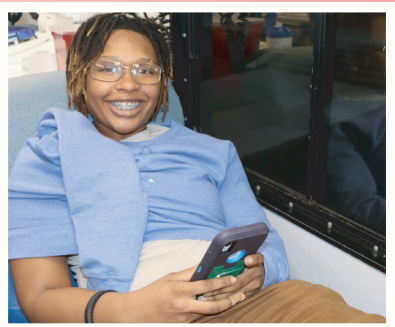
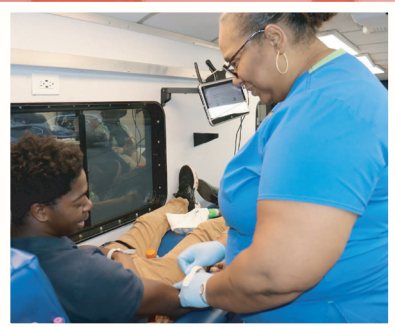
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“Be the Beat” at CNGA



Special to The Canton News

Canton Ninth Grade Academy staff joined the nation as it went red for women to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease and help save lives.

The American Heart Association National Wear Red Day’s goal is to help eradicate heart disease and stroke in women. The Go Red for Women Movement this year is asking everyone to “Be the Beat.”

According to the American Heart Association, “As we continue to settle into our next normal, we’re

asking women to keep the rhythm going and Be the Beat. Wherever you are at in reclaiming your healthy rhythm - keep the beat going – turn up the tempo, set a new goal. And for American Heart Month this year, we’re rallying everyone in February to: Save A Life. Learn CPR. Why? Because losing even one woman is too many. Women who suffer from cardiac arrest outside of a hospital are less likely to receive CPR from bystanders. Be the beat for someone you love. Take the CPR challenge and save lives.”



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CANTON ACADEMY FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

All photos Special to The Canton News



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G.A. Genuine Always



CA's Gerald named Magnolia All Star



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy sophomore Madden Gerald was recently chosen by the Magnolia All Star Association to play in the Sophomore Future Elite All Star Game. As part of an entire all star elite weekend put together by the association, the sophomore game was played at East Central Community College in Decatur. The Senior Bowl first started last year and is the first All Star game of its kind bringing public and private schools together to play against one another. The 2023 Bowl was the first year for Future Elite sophomores.

Mabry and Cook represent at convention



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy junior Anna Claire Mabry and sophomore Amelia Cook are clear stand outs as representatives of their school. Recently, the girls were honored at the MAIS Student Council and National Honor Society Officer Convention. Mabry campaigned for the office of State Student Council Vice President, and Cook campaigned for the office of State Student Council Secretary. Both girls won their desired office.

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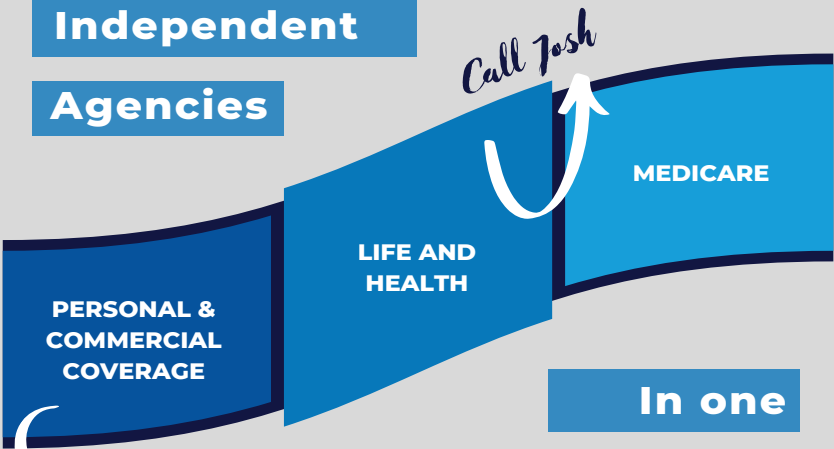
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MCBL&F hosts Transportation Committee hosts breakfast



Special to The Canton News

MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins, MCBL&F Transportation Committee Chair Rodney Grogan, Commissioner Willie Simmons, Speaker Pro Tempore Jason White, Rep. Jill Ford, Madison Mayor Mary Hawkins Butler, Pastor Jason Dillon, MCBL&F Government Affairs Committee Chair Phil Buffington.

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The Madison County Business League & Foundation Transportation Committee held a Transportation Breakfast on January 12, with keynote speakers Willie Simmons, Central District Transportation

Commissioner, and Brad White, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation. They updated the members and local elected officials on the Reunion Parkway Crossing and Bozeman Road projects.

The mission of the Madison County Business League & Foundation Transportation Committee is to work closely with elected officials on the flow of traffic into, out of, and within the County to ensure that Madison County benefits from an

expanded and improved transportation system that includes increased transportation choices. Transportation decisions are coordinated with the land use plan and support the County's strategic plan to encourage economic growth.

Remember When: Cameron Plantation House

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

A while back, I was talking to a young man with hunting friends in Madison County. They were new owners of the older home on the Cameron Plantation. They hired people to do archeological work on the house and yard. The reason I remember the conversation was his statement. They found a swimming pool in the yard - concrete walls and all. Let me insert this before I go any further: I have not seen any of the results of all this activity.

My response to his statement was, "It was not a swimming pool." During the time the house was built, swimming pools were not. People did not bathe often, as it was so easy to get pneumonia or other lung problems with no handy antibiotics. Everyone had a body odor, so everyone's nose adjusted and did not send a message to the brain on how the newcomer stank. Also, there was a river close to the house, with flowing water and fish.

Several years ago, I made a comment to someone about the small pool in the side yard of the house on the southeast corner of Peace and Lyon Street. My thought was

that it was a water lily or goldfish pool. I was corrected - it was where the residents put live river catfish to remove the off-flavor of the muddy

but, back then, it was good meat. A program on PBS had a statement that turtles have seven different kinds of meat. All my growing up, it was



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river and keep them alive until time to eat.

Also, turtle pens were used. This was basically a turtle farm to raise and keep them until they were eaten. Now-a-days, folks run over them;

told to me that the Cameron Plantation was a Spanish Land grant. I hope one day to trace that, right or wrong. In one of the graveyards on the property, the date goes back to the 1700s.

Jim Lacey's second book comments that it is unusual for a family to own land for around one hundred years. The Camerons bought the place somewhere around 1870 and sold it in the mid 1900s. That sounds like the Camerons were carpetbaggers. One of the fun things Bobby Heath has confirmed is that there was a bowling alley in the house. He bowled using the round wooden balls - no finger holes.

Alfred Hardy Jr. told two tales of the place. One, they were re-doing the house and floors. There was a large piece of furniture they could not move or get out of the room, so the owner said, "Break it up." Alfred told them how to place it on rollers to move it, and it was saved.

The same owner wanted a shed cleared out. He told one of the long-time workers to do it. It was full of old horse-drawn buggies, wagons, and other stuff. When the worker asked what to do with all of it, the owner said, "Get rid of it." It was all burned. The shed was cleaned out.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mary Jane Boutwell is a passionate historian and is thrilled to share stories about way back when.

Word of Prayer: What is God's real love?

By Guest Columnist Jay Cook



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Every Saturday night (when I was a child) we watched it – *The Love Boat*, that is. Did you? Captain Stubing seemed so wise, Gopher seemed so out-of-touch, Isaac seemed so interesting, Julie seemed so sweet, and Dr. Bricker seemed, well, I don't know what he seemed like.

It was funny, interesting, and made us think their version of love was really love. And then I grew up. Love isn't sappy. Love isn't fleeting. Love isn't magical. Love is a whole lot bigger. And it is not created on a boat or found by setting a "course for adventure."

When I became a Christian (also as a child), I began to understand more and more about real love. Love wraps many emotions into something beyond definition. Love is centered on a commitment that should never be set aside. However, Jesus did express how love is supremely demonstrated – not in buying gifts or choc-

olates – not in finding the "perfect" card. Because real love changes us, Jesus said, "No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Don't you wish you saw that kind of love on display? Don't you wish we loved our spouses, our children, and our neighbors like that? Don't you wish more of us allowed real love to change us into the kind of people that make a difference instead of the kind of people that seem to only find fault in everything and everyone?

When we try to create our own version of love, it never becomes real love. Perhaps that is why so many can't seem to "find" love. They keep trying to "fall in love," but keep

climbing out of the hole they fell into. That kind of love is primarily based on how one feels (our emotions), and our emotions fluctuate as often as the weather in Mississippi does.

How are we defining love? Too often, we try to mimic what we see in the media (like on *The Love Boat*). Too often, we take the advice of people with a platform, even though they have no expertise in the issue (and their personal lives prove that they don't).

Too often, we look everywhere except where we should.

What if we took to heart what the Bible tells us in 1 John 4:8: "God is love"? What if we realized that love can be experienced in our lives

if we accept the One who offers it to us – namely Jesus, as recorded in 1 John 4:9: "God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world, so that we might live through him"? What if we realized that we CAN experience real love, but only because the One who is love makes it possible, as recorded in 1 John 4:19: "We love because he first loved us"?

God really does love us. God doesn't turn a blind eye to our sin, but He does love us. And He wants us to experience His love – a love that changes us. He loves us, but He wants us to love Him. That means we must accept His love on His terms, and Jesus told us what those are in John 14:15: "If you love me, you will keep my commands." Do you? Will you?

February is thought of as the month of love. I sincerely hope you experience that love – real love. But I also hope that we all realize how it can happen and by whom it is given.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jay Cook is the senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Canton. He is married to Kristi Cook, and the two have two children.



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Mrs. Lisman Walker's second-grade class at Canton Academy recently learned about the importance of oral hygiene. Students

used plaque tablets to determine areas that need brushing the most and talked about brushing techniques and brushing time. Everyone was all smiles and clean teeth.

CA names coaches of year



Special to The Canton News

Coaches Ben Williams and Gage Posey

Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy coaches Ben Williams and Gage Posey were recently named 2022-2023 Coach of the Year for their specific sports. The honor is awarded by the Mid-south Association of Independent

Schools Coaches' Association. Williams is the athletic director, head track, and head cross country coach. Posey is the head football coach and recently won his first state championship with the Panthers.



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Canton Academy Kinders learn about polar bears



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy kindergarteners have had fun learning about polar bears recently. They went to the science lab to find out how blubber keeps polar bears warm and brought their favorite teddy bears to school to measure.



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SAFETY AFTER THE STORM

After a storm has passed, naturally thoughts center on getting back in, surveying the damage and getting your life back together as quickly as possible. But beware: the time after the storm can be more dangerous than the storm itself. Your safety is important to us!

- Stay away from downed power lines and areas of debris.
- Don't walk in flooded areas or standing water.
- Look for electrical system damage once power is restored.
- Stay alert for natural gas leaks.
- Check for sewage and water line damage.



ON THE TABLE:

FANCY TRUFFLES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

RECIPE FROM GUEST COLUMNIST LAURA STEVENS

Fancy Truffles

Ingredients:

- Two 4-ounce quality chocolate bars (226g), very finely chopped
- 2/3 cup (160ml) heavy cream
- **Optional:** 1 Tblsp. unsalted unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- **Optional:** 1/2 tsp. vanilla pure vanilla extract
- **Toppings:** unsweetened cocoa powder, sprinkles, crushed nuts, melted or tempered chocolate

Directions:

1. Place the chocolate in a heat-proof bowl. Set aside.
2. Heat the heavy cream until it is simmering. You can heat it on the stove or in the microwave.
3. Add the butter, if using, to the chocolate and pour the heavy cream evenly on top. Let the warm cream and chocolate sit for 5 minutes. Add the vanilla extract then stir until the chocolate has completely melted. Place a piece of plastic wrap directly on the surface (to avoid condensation) and refrigerate for 1-2 hours. Tip: Pour into a flat shallow dish, such as a 8×8 inch baking pan, so the mixture evenly and quickly sets.
4. Scoop the set truffle mixture into 2 teaspoon-sized mounds. For larger truffles, 1 Tablespoon size mounds. Roll each into balls.
5. Roll each in toppings, if desired. Truffles taste best at room temperature!

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By Guest Columnist Laura Stevens

When I was a little girl, I was for all things “fancy.” For almost every birthday, my mother served (at my request) caviar, red Kool-Aid, and Ritz crackers. Now, I don’t know many eight-year-olds that chose those items as their main birthday dishes, but I was one! I have always enjoyed food, trying new ingredients, and being an adventurous baker. My daughter will tell you that I am often too adventurous and create concoctions without butter - or even using salt instead of sugar. Sometimes we get distracted by dancing in the kitchen! This Valentine’s Day, I wanted to create something just as fancy as my caviar and Kool-Aid. Truffles are always a fun treat to give to your friends and family, because they are simply...FANCY. They sound fancy, they look fancy, and oftentimes they are priced fancy. It’s not too terribly difficult to make these treats yourself, and I hope you try them. Lift your pinky up when you eat - and be fancy!

EDITOR’S NOTE: Laura Stevens is the mother of The Canton News’ editor Courtney Warren. Courtney agrees that her truffles are fancy but still has not-so-fond memories of the unsalted creations her mother made while distracted. She had to con her with mailed granddaughter photos for this article.

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Finding Faith film looking for extras in Canton, MS

By Guest Columnist Andrew Stevens

Finding Faith is an emotional story about Victoria, an anonymous Christian advice columnist who is experiencing a spiritual block, as her marriage is going through a rocky time. After her mother passes away, Victoria returns to her home town to support her father in his grief. Through reconnection with her family and community, Victoria regains and strengthens her faith, revitalizes her marriage, and is once again able to offer sound advice to her readers. Having shot two films previously in the city of Canton, Mississippi, I was familiar with all that Canton has to offer, and I guided screenwriter Don



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Michael Paul to develop the screenplay to be set in Canton. My previous experience shooting in Mississippi, with the full support of the Mississippi State film commission and the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau & Film Office, made filming a most pleasurable experience, since they are so supportive of filmmakers and the arts. Local Mississippi casting director Matthew Morgan is casting all local extras, and anyone interested can feel free to contact Matthew at morgan-casting@gmail.com.

EDITOR'S NOTES: Andrew Stevens is the producer of *Finding Faith*.

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