



THE CANTON NEWS

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United Methodist Church building celebrates 100 years

Photo by Courtney Warren

By Courtney Warren

The sound of an organ reverberating off of stained glass windows and church walls while a congregation sings is something that simply cannot be replicated. This is a sound that many find comfort in, many find hope in, and many find Jesus in. At First United Methodist Church of Canton, that sound is not only celebrated because of who is being worshipped, but, this year, the sound gives praise for being 100 years old.

Much of the following information is due to a devoted member of the church and unofficial historian, Lettye Ruth Williams. She spent countless hours compiling documents, memorabilia, and other resources that made the research of current historians, including Mr. Fred Shaw, much easier.

"I have been working on this project for close to a year now, and any success I have had in this labor of love I owe to her. Lettye Ruth passed away in 2019 at the age of 86, and our entire congregation has missed her so much ever since," said Shaw.

The sanctuary building, as well

as the organ and stained glass windows, has been standing for a century. In 1923, many buildings were constructed in the Canton community, and the Methodist Episcopal Church south of Canton, later to become the First United Methodist Church, completed a new sanctuary building. According to church his-



Special to The Canton News

torians, it would be the third such structure for the church to be built on the northwest corner of South

Liberty and Academy Streets.

The church was organized in 1836 and met in several locations. In 1848, the congregation purchased the lot on that corner and built the first of three sanctuary buildings there. The 1848 structure was constructed of brick and served the church for thirty years. Howev-

er, the lack of a proper foundation caused the walls to crack, and the building was demolished in 1878. It

was replaced with a wooden structure, which was used until 1922. The following year, the new building that the community knows today was completed and dedicated to God's work.

The sanctuary had a seating capacity of 325 and cost \$75,000, or \$1.3M if it were to be constructed today. Because of the cost, the trustees borrowed an additional \$6,000 and took other measures to keep costs down, including relocating pews and the stained glass windows, as well as not purchasing an organ.

However, when one sits in the beauty of the United Methodist church as the sun shines through the stained glass, it would be hard to imagine a service without the traditional organ.

Faced with this situation, a group of ladies of the church formed the "Organ Circle," and, over the next two years, raised enough funds to pay for the organ, which is still in use today. Even more interesting is the organ motor. When exploring the church, one might lay eyes on the motor of the instrument and read the date - 1913. The motor was bought used, and, while it might be

cont. on page 11



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Greater Love Worship Center to open resource room

Special to The Canton News

A Canton church will soon be offering assistance for moms-to-be in the northern Madison County area.



Pastor Fredia Day

Greater Love Worship Center is implementing a pregnancy care center, with the resource room as the first phase.

The Greater Love Resource Room will help furnish expectant mothers with baby items needed through age two.

Pastor Fredia Day has been instrumental in getting this project off the ground.

“The Lord began to stir my heart in this area about three years ago,” said Day, co-pastor of Greater Love Worship Center with her husband, Calvin Day. “Then, with the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, things began to accelerate. Our purpose is to come alongside women and the fathers, who are facing an unplanned pregnancy, to offer emotional, spiritual and material support.”

After initial registration, the only requirement will be to attend one support group meeting per month in

order to receive two shopping passes for the resource room. These passes may be used (that month only) to “purchase” baby items, such as diapers, wipes and clothing.



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The Canton location will accept referrals from other pregnancy care centers, such as CPC Metro, based in Jackson, and referrals will not be required to attend the meetings in order to shop.

Perishables (formula, baby food, diapers, wipes) will be available ev-

ery two weeks, with clothing being offered every two to three months, depending on the needs of the baby.

A “baby shower,” which will allow the soon-to-be mom to pick out some

bigger items, will be held thirty days before the due date, if each monthly session has been attended up until that time.

The grand opening of the Greater Love Resource Room will take place on May 20 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., and the room will be open for tours.

Clients who have been referred by other pregnancy centers may also shop during that time.

“Emotional and spiritual support will be offered in the form of monthly support group meetings; material support, of course, will be the resource room,” continued Day.

Support group meetings will be from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month, beginning June 1. The resource room will be open every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., beginning June 3, and every Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., beginning June 6. Again, only those with a current shopping pass or referral will be able to shop.

“It is our prayerful plan to expand to a full service pregnancy care center in the near future, but we felt it necessary to get started right away in meeting these basic needs,” said Pastor Day.

The Greater Love Resource Room is located in the former Rich Grain Distillery, 339 West Peace Street, Canton. The entrance is on the east end of the building, with access from the parking lot.

Monetary donations, as well as new or gently used baby/toddler items, are always needed. For more information, call 601-407-4212 or email GLPregnancyResources@gmail.com.



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Canton High School announces Royal Court



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Recently Canton High School (CHS) announced their 2023-2024 Royal Court. The results were Jere-

my Bates, Mr. Canton High School; Caitlin Nelson, Miss Canton High School; Jaquavian Ratliff, First Runner Up Mr. Canton High; Ariaunna

Lockett, First Runner Up Miss Canton High; Channing Fulton, Second Runner Up Mr. Canton High; and Kendall Mitchell, SGA President.

Reuben B Myers raises autism awareness



Special to The Canton News

By wearing the color blue for Autism Awareness, young scholars showed support and acceptance.

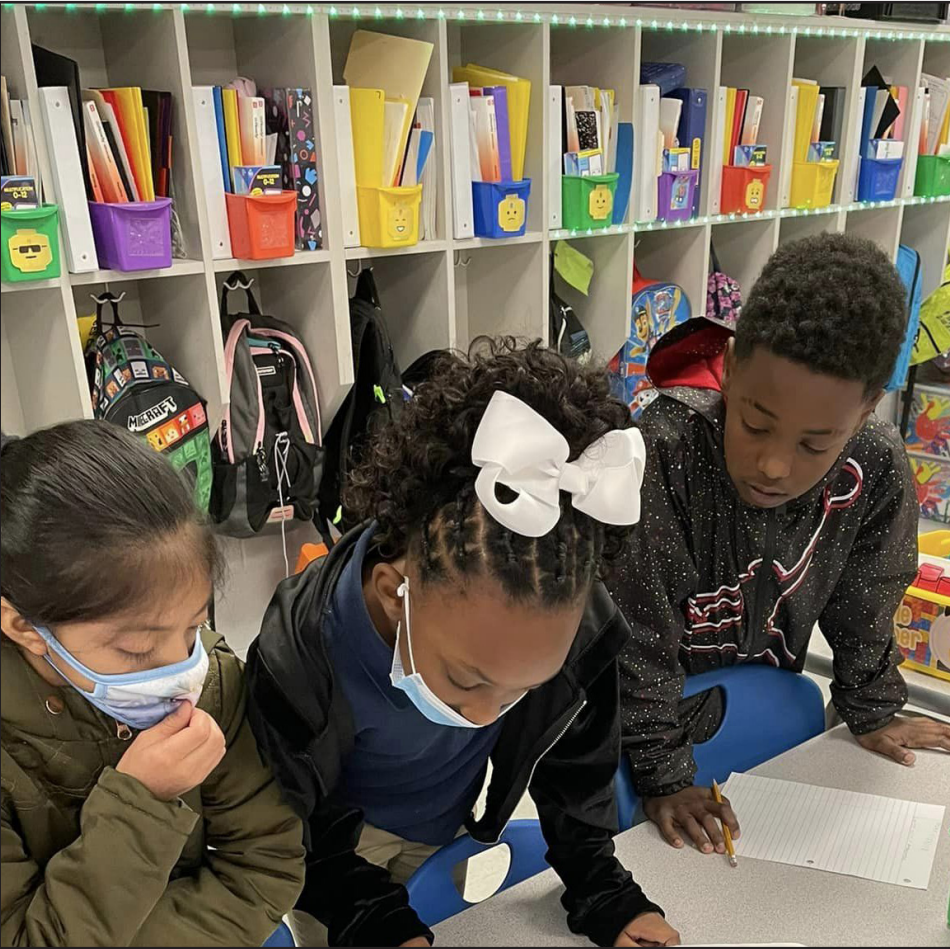
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Students at Reuben B Myers School of Arts and Sciences wore blue to raise awareness for autism during Autism Awareness Month. According to Autism Speaks, in

2023, the CDC reported that approximately one in thirty-six children in the U.S. is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to 2020 data. Over the last two decades, exten-

sive research has asked whether there is any link between childhood vaccinations and autism. The CDC says the results of the research are clear: vaccines do not cause autism.

Canton Elementary takes flight



Special to The Canton News

Canton Elementary third graders recently took flight as they “traveled” to different countries to help review for their third-grade reading gate assessment.

Nelson and Ratcliff awarded



Special to The Canton News

Canton High School leaders recently selected Juniors Caitlin Nelson and Jaquavian Ratliff as the recipients of the Clarkson University Awards. Nelson was chosen to receive \$60,000, over four years, for the Clarkson University Leadership Award, the highest honor at the university. Ratliff was selected to receive \$48,000, over four years, for the Clarkson University Achievement Award. The private university in Postdam, New York, is a national research university and leader in technological education and sustainable economic development. It has over 4,800 students and more than 90 rigorous programs of study.

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Washington signs with Co-Lin



Canton High School Lady Tiger Alexanjria Washington was awarded a full scholarship after signing her letter of intent to play basketball at Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Washington says she is excited to join the Co-Lin Wolves and pursue a degree in marketing. Her mother, LaTasha Lewis-Delgado, says she is extremely proud of the many accomplishments her daughter has achieved over the years. Now, she looks forward to continuing to support her as she follows her dreams.

On the shelf: *Liar's Beach*

By Courtney Warren

We are officially gearing up for summer, and that means we all need a beach read. If you enjoy a good thriller, and if you're a fan of Agatha Christie, then *Liar's Beach* by Katie Cotugno, a May book release, might be worth tossing into your beach bag.

A fresh new take on Agatha Christie's classic murder mystery *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, the book has iconic detective Hercule Poirot recast as a brilliant, brash teen girl named Holiday. It is narrated by her childhood friend Linden, an athlete-scholar who fits right in at his elite New England prep school—all the while hiding some secrets of his own.

Michael Linden—or just Linden to his preppy boarding school pals—doesn't belong in wealthy, storied Martha's Vineyard. But when his roommate Jasper invites him to spend the end of summer at his massive beachfront home, August House, Linden tries his best to fit in. Linden wouldn't call it lying, exactly...though it turns out August House is full of liars.

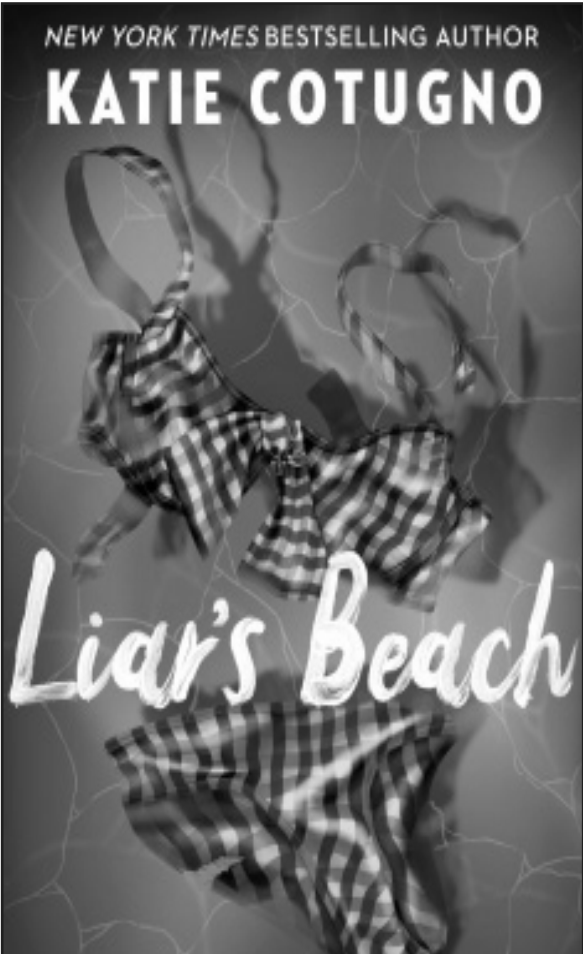
Then someone is found unconscious in Jasper's pool, and every-

one has something to hide—Jasper, his beautiful sister Eliza, their older brother Wells, and their friends. The accident is written off as just that—an accident—but Linden begins to wonder...

Enter Holiday Proctor - Linden's childhood friend, and the one person on the island who knows the truth about Linden. There's nothing Holiday loves more than a good old-fashioned mystery, and she's convinced there's a potential killer on the Vineyard. The only question is... who?

I began reading Agatha Christie at a very young age when my dad discovered my love for reading. Desperate to foster that love, he put every book he could think of into my hands. Agatha Christie was one of the first he mentioned, and we owned every book she ever wrote.

"The Queen of Crime" is a perfect nickname for her, and I truly hope Cotugno has plans to continue Holiday Proctor's adventures in the same way Hercule Poirot solved mysteries. Who knows, maybe we will eventually get a Miss Marple-esque addition to this detective friend group!



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Canton through a lens: “Three Big Titmouse Mouths”



Photo by Betsy Sligh

The Canton News features a photo each month by a Cantonian or of Canton. This month’s feature is by local Canton photographer Betsy Sligh.

Bank welcomes Davidson

Special to The Canton News

Robert J. Barnes, president and CEO of PriorityOne Bank, recently announced the hire of Cantonian and Canton Academy alum Johnny Davidson as business development manager/commercial loan officer at the Ridgeland location. Barnes stated, “I am delighted to have Johnny join PriorityOne Bank. His enthusiasm will make him a great asset to our team.” Davidson has a banking and finance degree from the University of Mis-



Johnny Davidson

issippi and a bachelor’s degree in business. He owned several monument companies across Mississippi, including Davidson Monument Company, Central MS Monument Company, J.H. O’Neil Monument Company and Kosciusko Monument Company. Johnny and his wife Doné are members of Pinelake Church. They have two daughters, Delta and Knox, and one son, IV. PriorityOne Bank, based in Magee, Mississippi, operates fifteen offices in twelve Mississippi communities: Collins, Seminary, Sumrall, Hattiesburg, Magee, Mendenhall, Richland, Brandon, Ridgeland, Flowood, Pelahatchie and Morton. The bank has assets of approximately \$1 billion.

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Harris serves as Phi Theta Kappa officer



Special to The Canton News

Ezekial Harris of Canton is serving as an officer in the Alpha Beta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Hinds Community College's Utica Campus. Officers for the chapter include (l to r) Vice President of Service Anahja Reed of Yazoo City, Co-President Isaiah Fultz of Hazlehurst, Co-President Lauren Gatlin of Terry, Vice President of Leadership Destiny Oscar of Jackson, Vice President of Public Relations Ezekial Harris of Canton and Vice President of Scholarship Elizabeth Moss of Waynesboro.



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CHS prom Glitz and Glamour

All photos Special to The Canton News

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Old Madison County Jail roof repaired



Special to The Canton News

Repairs to the Old Madison County Jail’s roof are in progress, thanks to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). According to MDAH, the jail is among the most outstanding and best preserved nineteenth-century penal facilities existing in Mississippi. It is also significant as an example of post-Civil War architecture, exhibiting both domestic and institutional characteristics of the period. The jail was constructed by Valentine Warner.



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MCBS proclaim Law Enforcement Appreciation Week



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Supervisors Shelia Jones and Gerald Steen, and President Karl Banks; and back row: MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins, Supervisors Trey Baxter and Paul Griffin, and Madison County Chief Deputy Jeremy Williams.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution proclaiming May 14-20, 2023, as Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.

Recognizing the importance of safe communities and its impact on economic development and quality of life, the economic development support organizations in the county have collaborated to celebrate and

commemorate the outstanding work of the municipal and county law enforcement officers and first responders in Madison County. During the week of appreciation, the local business community, schools, churches,

organizations and individuals are encouraged to recognize local law enforcement officers for their dedication and commitment to the protection of the citizens of Madison County.

cont. from front page

United

the oldest item in the building, it still serves its purpose well.

When walking through the sanctuary, one can't help but notice the stained glass windows. What might come as a surprise is one of those windows is actually younger than the rest, which parishioners know due to the work of church member Vernon Nichols, Jr., who, in 1986, worked with important church historians to compile a historical timeline of the stained glass windows.

There are two types of stained glass. Opalescent is glass that one can't see through, and semi-opaque is usually a color mixed with white or another color, which allows one to partially see through it. John La Farge, who first developed opalescent stained glass, was responsible for the revival of the art of the medium in nineteenth century America. He was considered, in his own time, to be the most important American artist ever to have worked in this medium. His first window was constructed in 1879.

There are fourteen memorial windows at the First United Methodist Church of Canton, and most of them are in memory of more than one family. None has a complete genealogy, but each has bits of information that are of special interest. By gathering information from Bible records, church records, pamphlets, newspa-

per accounts, books, records at the Chancery Clerk's office, cemetery markers, and talking with relatives and friends, a general history of the stained glass windows was understood. Unfortunately, church historians have been able to find nothing about where the windows were purchased, as many of their records were destroyed when the local parsonage burned on May 31, 1915.

Ten of the fourteen memorial windows in this church came out of the wooden structure that preceded the present church building. They were placed in the old church in the year 1897, during the pastorate of Rev. T.L. Mellen. These windows were placed in the present church when it was built in 1923.

In the old church, there were three windows on each side of the sanctuary, and one in front, back of the choir and pulpit. This meant that only seven large stained glass windows came from the old church. Another was added, and they are so well matched that it is impossible to tell which one it was. The other memorial windows from the old church are located in the vestibule behind the choir and in the office of the secretary, all on the east and front side of the church.

There are only three additional stained glass windows in the entire church, and these were installed in

1969. One is located on the third floor on the south side just off the balcony, and two are in the vestibule on the second floor just south of the sanctuary.

The history of each memorial window is being made a part of the church record and is being placed with the church history. Even with their long history, none of the windows has been damaged, and around 1984, a protective covering was installed on the outside of each window in the sanctuary. This protection was given by Hunter Henry as a memorial to his father and in honor of his mother, completed about one year before the death of his mother, Mrs. Helen H. Henry, in November 1985.

History can be seen throughout the entire building. Several rooms still contain the original "push-button" light switches. The larger light fixtures in the sanctuary, which work on a wench and are lowered to the ground to replace the candles, now lightbulbs, are as old as the building itself. After one fell and broke, it was discovered that some church member had the foresight to purchase extra lights. A replacement, just as old as the rest, fixed the broken fixture.

Roll-down partitions to cordon off the rear of the sanctuary are still in place, and in the original "Pastor's Office," there is picture molding

from which to hang pictures instead of putting nails in the plaster.

According to church historians, the church was originally heated with coal burning fireplaces. Several of these fireplaces can still be seen in some rooms. A coal chute door is still in place on the north side of the building. The facility was equipped with air-conditioning in the 1950s, and the old pews were replaced with those in use today.

In 1974, an Education Annex was added to the west side of the sanctuary building at a cost of \$180,000. Over the years, many changes and improvements have been made to the 100-year-old building, "but its beauty and service to God has remained unaltered."

On Sunday, May 21, the members of First United Methodist Church will recognize the 100th anniversary of the completion of the church building with a Centennial Celebration during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Reverend David Lowery, pastor, will re-dedicate the building to the service of God and the furthering of His kingdom. The history of the building will be discussed, along with the background of the eight massive stained glass windows. Lunch will be served immediately following the service. All members, former members and friends are invited to attend.

Canton Academy Panthers win track and field district



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Coach Ben Williams and his son, Coach AB Williams, recently led both their girls and boys

track teams to the District Championships. While the Panthers have always had an impressive track team, recent upgrades to

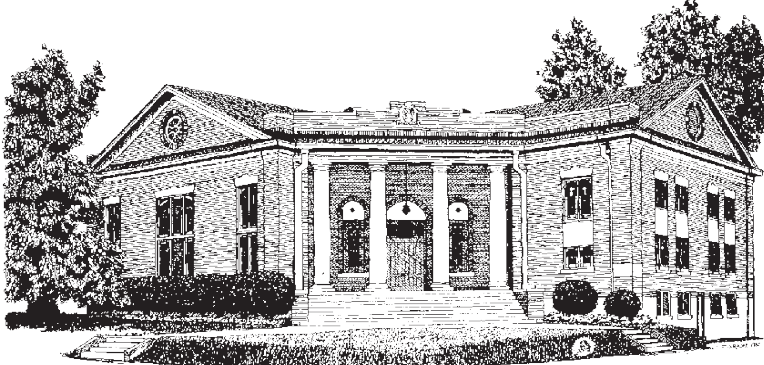
the school's athletic facilities, including the installation of a new track, have led to cultivating student athletes even more.

The two track teams will go on to compete at South State with the goal of bringing home yet another trophy.

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Panthers golf places second



Special to The Canton News

The Panthers Golf Team has had a successful season.

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Recently, the Canton Academy golf team placed second in the South State tournament at Laurel

Country Club. Freshman Mac Sta-cey tied for overall lowest score and came in second in the playoff round.



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CA names 2024 Body Officers



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are Mackenzie Turner, Mac Stacey, Addison Cado, Gates Welch, Anna Claire Mabry and Amelia Rose Cook.

Special to The Canton News

After campaigning, speeches, and voting, the Canton Academy junior high and high school student body voted for their representatives. The Student Body Officers elected for the 2023-2024 school year are

Mackenzie Turner as Parliamentarian, Mac Stacey as Chaplain, Addison Cado as Treasurer, Gates Welch as Secretary, Anna Claire Mabry as Student Body President, and Amelia Rose Cook as Student Body Vice President.

Smith named CA Star Student



Special to The Canton News

Senior Lydia Smith and teacher Mrs. Carolyn Blakemore

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy 2023 STAR (Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition) Student and STAR Teacher were senior Lydia Smith and history/Spanish teacher Mrs. Carolyn Blakemore. Smith and Blakemore attended the STAR

program hosted by the Mississippi Economic Council. To be named STAR Student, the student must have an ACT score of at least 25 and an overall average of 93 or above in selected subjects in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and first-semester twelfth grades.

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Willis and Ford named CA Prom Queen and King

Special to The Canton News

At their senior “Starry Nights” prom, Reese Willis and Daniel Ford were named Canton Academy 2023 Prom Queen and King.

Willis began attending Canton Academy in August of 2007. She was one of twelve three-year olds that formed the first ever K3 class. Some of Willis’ academic achievements include maintaining a 4.0 GPA, being on the Headmaster’s List and an Academic All-Star her entire high school career.

She has won numerous individual class awards. In the fall of 2022, she was crowned CA Homecoming Queen and was voted Miss Canton Academy at this year’s CA Who’s Who.

Willis has held various campus-led leadership positions, including Varsity Cheer Captain, Senior Class President, National Honor Society President and Vice-President, and Editor in Chief of the Reflections Yearbook Staff. Willis was chosen to represent her class as both the Hugh O’Brian Youth delegate and the Madison County Youth Leadership representative.

Willis is attending the University of Mississippi in the fall, where she



Special to The Canton News

will be focusing her studies on allied health sciences with the intentions of majoring in nursing.

Willis says she has enjoyed her

time at CA and will cherish all the many memories and friendships she has made along the way.

One thought Willis would like to

leave to all the underclassmen – “Don’t be afraid to dream big, but remember dreams without goals are just dreams. To achieve these goals, you must apply discipline and consistency everyday.”

Ford has been a member of the CA family since the ninth grade. He is a member of the MAIS State Championship-winning football and track teams. He was selected to the MAIS All-Star football team this year and chosen as All-MAIS Defensive Lineman.

In his free time, Ford enjoys hanging out and fishing with his friends. He is enrolled at East Mississippi Community College for the 2023-2024 school year and will attend Mississippi State University following EMCC to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

Ford says that his favorite things about CA are the nice teachers, the front office staff, and his favorite teacher, Mrs. Blakemore. When asked what he will miss about high school, Ford said he will miss football and his relationships with administration and staff. He said his favorite high school memory is winning the football state championship this year.

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Iles named CA head girls basketball coach

Special to The Canton News

Jacob Iles was recently hired to be the Canton Academy new head girls basketball coach, along with being tasked with handling other coaching duties. Iles has previous coaching stints at Senatobia High School, Germantown Middle School, Manchester Academy, East Rankin Academy, and McLaurin High School. A native of Bolton, Mississippi, Iles is married to Allison Wall of Raymond. They have two daughters - Caroline and Eliza Cate. They reside in Rankin County, where Allison teaches at Brandon High School.



Special to The Canton News

Iles will begin coaching the Lady Panthers for the 2023-2024 season.

won the tennis state championship in boys doubles and was selected to the MAIS Basketball All-Star team. After playing tennis at Hinds Community College, he graduated from the University of Mississippi with a degree in political science and obtained his masters degree in sports administration from Arkansas State in 2020.

Among his coaching achievements, Iles led his 2017-2018 junior high boys basketball team to a district championship and a perfect 26-0 season while at Manchester and received the 2018-2019 District 2AA Coach of the Year. In 2021, he coached the girls tennis team at Manchester to a state title and received the 2A Girls Tennis Coach of the Year.

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Young photographer Fulton captures Canton, MS

By Courtney Warren

Anna Grade Fulton, a current senior at Germantown High School, has fallen in love with photography, and photography in Canton specifically. After meeting Barnes Wadford, a recent Canton Academy (CA) graduate, Fulton began spending a great deal of



Anna Grade Fulton

time in the community, attending games and events at both CA and in the community. Fulton has even taken pictures for *The Canton News*.

"I came to senior night this past football season and thought, 'why not bring the camera?' and I'm so thankful I did! I started bringing my camera with me to all the football games for the rest of the year and to other events," said

Fulton.

After inheriting a good camera from her dad, Fulton found a passion for photography.

"I always loved taking pictures and editing them when I was younger, but I never really got into it seriously. When my dad stopped filming for the hunting network, I was grateful to have his nice camera to be my



All photos by Anna Grade Fulton

starter camera! I started working with the camera more and decided I wanted to do it seriously now," she said.

Fulton has been known to capture special moments that don't involve posing and saying "cheese." She said, "my favorite

scenes to photograph are sporting events, but I truly love to get the

off-guard moments for all the mamas with seniors. Off-guard pictures are my favorites - because they're the ones that mean the most."

Fulton said one of her favorite aspects of photography is building relationships throughout the community.

"I love that I can work with



whoever I'm taking pictures for and get exactly what they want."

She added that she has experienced nothing but encouragement from those around her.

"My friends and family have all encouraged me to keep doing what I'm doing. Both of my parents have been so encouraging, because they can tell that I love doing it! [Cantonian]

Mrs. Jenny Wadford has also been a big part

in my photography, because she's made me feel so much more confident in doing what I do," said Fulton.

With plans to go to Mississippi State University and major in kinesiology, Fulton said she will continue her photography business on the side.

"I really hope to go further into photography, because of the joy it truly brings to people. I hope everyone I encounter and photograph truly enjoys their pictures and loves them! In the future, I want to make my little business grow and become

bigger than it is now. I do want to say thank you to all who have made some sort of difference and been extremely kind and encouraging. it means so much to me."

For more information or to schedule a photo ses-

sion, visit Anna Grade Photography on Instagram and Facebook.



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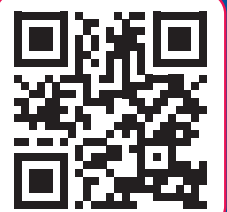
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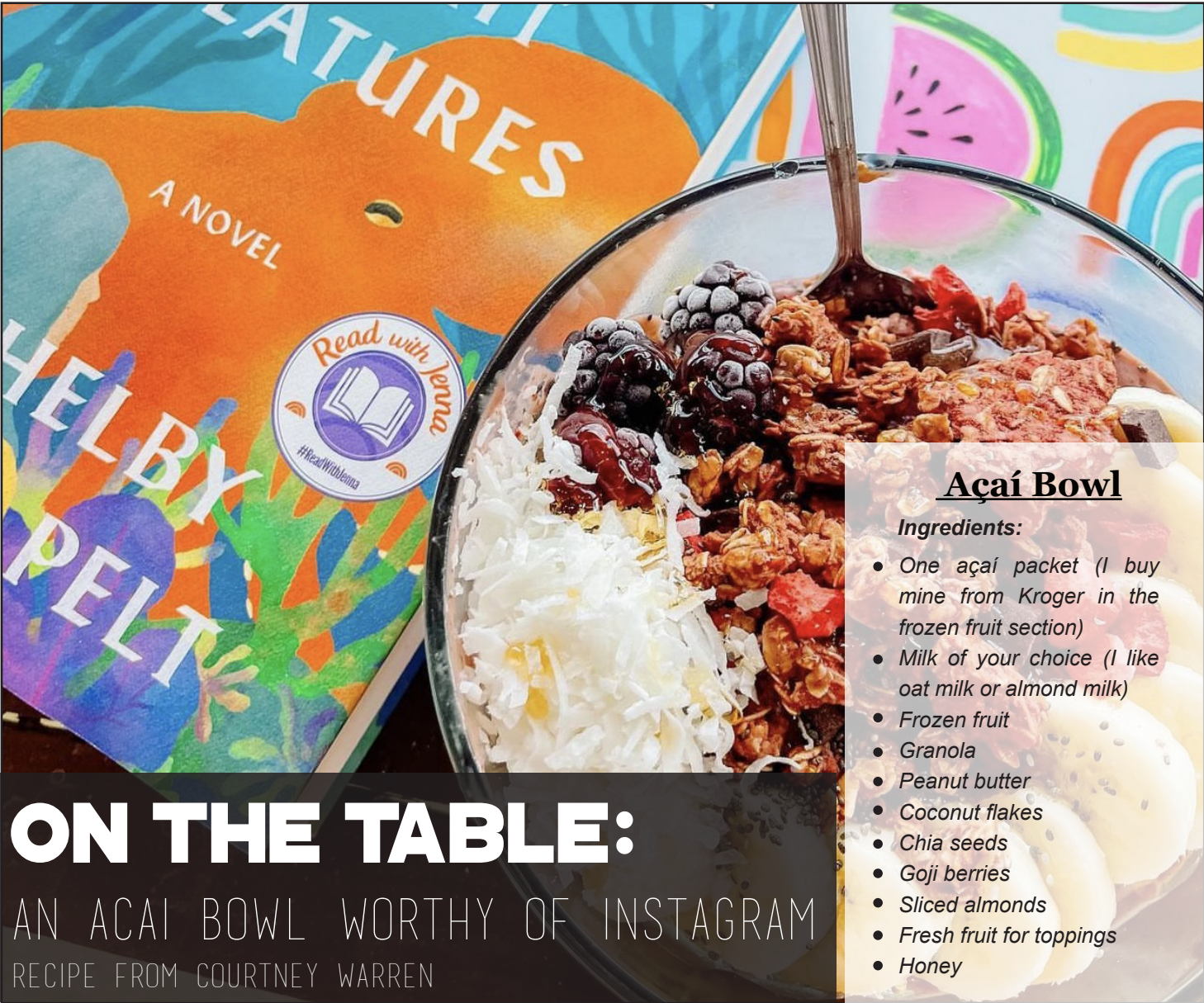
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ON THE TABLE:

AN ACAI BOWL WORTHY OF INSTAGRAM

RECIPE FROM COURTNEY WARREN

Açaí Bowl

Ingredients:

- One açaí packet (I buy mine from Kroger in the frozen fruit section)
- Milk of your choice (I like oat milk or almond milk)
- Frozen fruit
- Granola
- Peanut butter
- Coconut flakes
- Chia seeds
- Goji berries
- Sliced almonds
- Fresh fruit for toppings
- Honey

Directions:

1. Wash and slice your fruit. Set to the side.
2. Place your frozen açaí packet into a blender, along with your other frozen fruit and a half cup to a cup of your milk of choice. DO NOT add water or ice. The trick to a thick smoothie consistency is using frozen fruit only.
3. Blend until smooth and thick.
4. Place your smoothie mixture into a bowl and top with fresh fruit, chia seeds, coconut flakes, almond slices and goji berries.
5. Drizzle with honey, and enjoy!

By Courtney Warren

I am easily influenced, especially when it comes to snacks. Going into this summer, I wanted to share my favorite breakfast and snack with you. Acai berries contain many antioxidants, healthy fats, and fiber. Their nutritious composition makes them an excellent addition to a healthy diet. Acai berries are a Brazilian “superfruit.” They’re native to the Amazon region, where they’re a staple food. People don’t realize how easy açaí bowls are to make! They are also called smoothie bowls and can be made for breakfast or snacks. Below are my most used ingredients.

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Wilson leads Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity breakfast



Special to The Canton News

Brother Kenny Wilson from Canton-Madison Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Alumni chapter recently led a men’s fellowship breakfast at Greater Pearlie Grove. He facilitated dialogue among the men about the book Kingdom Man by Rev. Dr. Tony Evans.

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