



THE CANTON NEWS

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Canton News
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Congratulations, Graduates!

By Courtney Warren

Graduation season has wrapped up in the Canton community and there are many scholars to be proud of. From kindergarten to high school, students accepted diplomas, awards, scholarships, and more. They are off to great things as new chapters begin.

Canton High School students were celebrated for their academic excellence. The CHS Class of 2023 earned \$1,073,560 in scholarship offerings and awards with valedictorian Ka'Nyla McMorris earning the most in her class with \$200,088. Salutatorian Erin Nichols earned \$112,150. With 60 college acceptances, CHS Principal Dr Pamela Self said, "I am really proud of our Class of 2023, and I cannot wait to see all your accomplishments in the next chapter. Congratulations to the Class of 2023 on your graduation. All of

your hard work and perseverance have led you to this proud moment in your lives. Best wishes on your next adventure!"

At Canton Academy, 23 of 24 graduates were accepted into and are going to college with one student joining his successful family business. The CA Panthers brought in over \$700,000 in scholarship money. One student is now a member of the ACT Distinction Club and eight are members of the ACT Achievement Club. Two students were inducted into the hall of fame and one student athlete was inducted into the sports hall of fame.

Headmaster Ryan Laster said, "The graduation ceremony was such an exciting event. We had the honor of ushering our seniors into the next chapter of their lives. Canton Academy will truly miss this group of students and we wish them all the very best as they go out and change the world."

Salute to the Graduates!
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CCC student of the month



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Emily Sullivan was recently named Canton Career Center's Student of the Month.

John Chalk and Sam Goodman, investigators with the Rankin/Madison County District Attorney's office, presented her with the award. The tenth-grade law

and public safety student wants to pursue a career as a crime scene investigator. Sullivan is CCC's 2022-2023 Ms. SkillsUSA. She won first place in the 2023 SkillsUSA state competition in Employment Applications. She will participate in the National SkillsUSA competition in Atlanta, Georgia, in June 2023.

Myers awarded full ride for writing



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Recently, best-selling author Angie Thomas and Belhaven University surprised unsuspecting Canton High School senior Ahniya Myers with the 2023 Angie Thomas Writers Scholarship for creative writing.

"As I read Ahniya's writing samples, I immediately fell in love with her craft," said Thomas. "Her talent and skill blew me away, and I know that the creative writing program was created with a student like her in mind."

The scholarship, named in honor of Belhaven University alumna Angie Thomas, 2011, was created to help young aspiring writers who need extra support to make their dreams of authorship a reality.

Myers is the fourth student to win the scholarship, which covers tuition, room and board at the university for four years.

Belhaven professor and Chair of Creative Writing Dr. Randall Smith and other school officials presented Myers with the award.

The Angie Thomas Writers Scholarship is awarded to only one incoming freshman each year, but other applicants received partial scholarships. Thomas is the author of the *New York Times*' best-selling novels *Concrete Rose*, *On the Come Up*, *The Hate U Give*, and *Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy*. *The Hate U Give* and *On the Come Up* were developed into major motion pictures.

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Canton High National Day of Prayer celebrated



Special to The Canton News

Superintendent Gary Hannah prayed for schools; and next year's Mr. and Miss Canton High School, Jeremy Bates and Caitlin Nelson, recited the pledge at the National Day of Prayer at the Mississippi Coliseum.

Special to The Canton News

This year, 2023, the National Day of Prayer celebrated seventy-two years of prayer for America. The National Day of Prayer is held on the first Thursday of May each year.

The National Day of Prayer observance for the City of Canton was held at the Canton Multipurpose Complex.

According to Day of Prayer Coordinator Kathy Amos, "All were invited to attend as community members united to praise, worship, and pray for the Lord to fill lives, families, churches, workplace, education, military, government, arts,

entertainment and media with Biblical, Spirit-empowered love designed and defined by our Creator and Savior."

A Mayoral Proclamation and Prayer was offered by Mayor Dr. William Truly, Jr.

Among other participants were dignitaries, pastors, and community leaders including Alderman Tim Taylor, Mr. Johnny Brown, CPS School Board President; Canton Police Chief Otha Brown, Pastor Fredia Day, Apostle Clara Thompson, Dr. Flonzie Brown Wright, Dr. Cory Murphy, Pastor John Woodard, Jr., Dr. Glendora Williams, Min. Adri-

enne Vance, Bishop Adam Sanders, Dr. Joshua A. Cable, and Drs. Frederick and Wanda Pitts.

Canton Public School District (CPSD) Superintendent Gary Hannah prayed for schools; and next year's Mr. and Miss Canton High School (CHS), Jeremy Bates and Caitlin Nelson, recited the pledge at the National Day of Prayer at the Mississippi Coliseum. The CHS JROTC Color Guard also participated, and CPSD's Chairman of the Board of Trustees Johnny Brown offered prayers for educational systems at the celebrations in Canton at the Multipurpose Complex.

Mabry and Nelson receive MCYL scholarship



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MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins, Anna Claire Mabry, and Madison Chamber Youth Leadership Steering Committee Member Chris Roberts.

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Recognizing the importance of quality education and a well-educated workforce in the recruitment of industry, the Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Economic Development Author-



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MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins and Caitlin Nelson.

ity recently sponsored the Madison County Youth Leadership program. One junior is selected from each of the Madison County public, private, and parochial high schools, plus Jackson Academy and Jackson Prep, to represent their respective schools in

the program.

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Community Trust awarded \$500 scholarships to Canton High School junior Caitlin Nelson and Canton Academy junior Anna Claire Mabry.

Reuben B Myers performs *Annie*!

All photos Special to The Canton News

Recently the actors and actresses of Reuben B Myers performed *Annie*! for a captive audience.





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MSU's Feduccia selected for Goldwater Scholarship

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A Canton Academy graduate and a junior biochemistry major from Pickens is Mississippi State's latest student to be selected for the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship.



James T. Feduccia

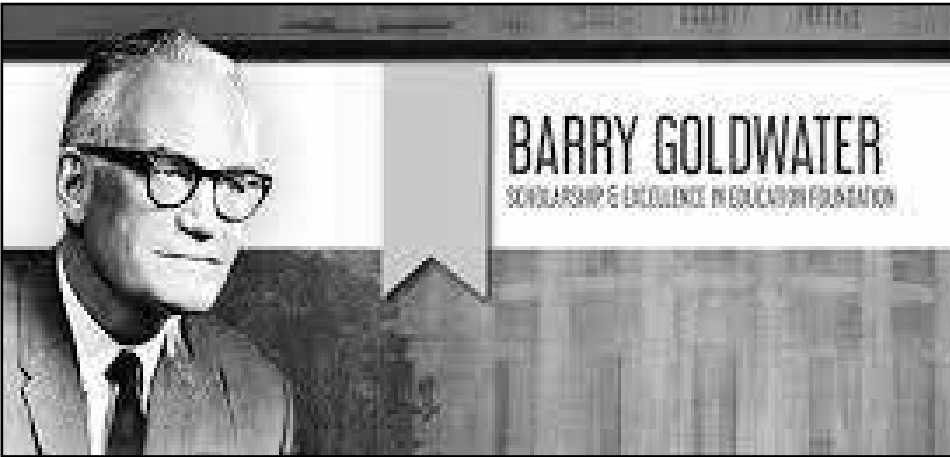
James T. Feduccia is receiving one of the nation's premier undergraduate scholarships for STEM students with significant research experience and a passion for making important research contributions in graduate school and their careers. He is the university's twenty-second student to achieve the honor since the Goldwater Foundation's inception.

Feduccia plans to pursue a Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology and conduct research in the biology of aging, molecular evolution and synthetic biology, with the goal of running a large multi-project laboratory in a university setting.

He is among only 413 Goldwater Scholars chosen this year from 1,267 natural science, engineering and mathematics students who were nominated by 427 colleges and uni-

versities.

As an undergraduate research assistant, Feduccia has studied issues such as the relation of antimicrobial peptide genes to resistance in corn



Special to The Canton News

against a certain fungus. His experience includes departmental research in biochemistry and molecular biology; wildlife, fisheries and aquaculture; and plant and soil sciences, as well as completing a 2022 summer National Science Foundation-Research Experience for Undergraduates, or NSF-REU program, at Simmons University in Boston, Massachusetts.

He has particular interest in mo-

lecular neuroscience and developing new ways to counteract neurodegenerative diseases, whether by prevention or treatment.

"I hope to be able to use what I

learn in my Ph.D. and undergraduate studies to find ways to regenerate lost brain tissue and hopefully help individuals keep or gain cognitive function," Feduccia explained.

"The Goldwater Scholarship means a lot to me. My passion has always been science, and I know that this will help me achieve my goals and illuminate the path ahead. Receiving this honor has made me realize that I should always take more

chances and that at no point is my path defined by anyone. I am eternally grateful to my mentors who I have worked under in my research experiences and for their support. It has given me great hope and has motivated me further in continuing my pursuit towards a career in research."

David Hoffman, director of MSU's Office of Prestigious External Scholarships, said, "James' successful Goldwater application is a testament to the excellent research opportunities and mentoring available to MSU students. He has built his laboratory skill sets and taken part in cutting-edge research from the beginning of his career here at MSU. His application materials illustrated his multiple laboratory experiences, as well as his future commitment to a Ph.D. and career in STEM research, which helped him land this extremely competitive scholarship."

Hoffman, who also serves as an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures added, "James is truly a superb student that took advantage of exceptional mentoring both here at MSU and on his NSF-REU experience at Simmons. I am excited to see how he will advance molecular biology into the future."

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Remember When: Bear Creek bridge and gator memories

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

What brings on a thought and/or conversation? Almost every time I cross Bear Creek Bridge on Highway 22 going into Canton, I remember the alligator the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries trapped there.

Talking with a neighbor by Catlet Road, I was told Uncle Fred was taking him fishing on a pond nearby. As they fished, the youngster saw an alligator.

Uncle Fred said, "That's okay. He won't hurt you."

Later, perhaps a year or more, as the alligator had grown, it was seen walking east on the highway. As time passed, an alligator was seen in several ponds, always headed east.

When the grown alligator was seen in Bear Creek, he was caught. He was too close to a dense population. They could see the alligator in the creek, as there were a few trees and little undergrowth. Now, it is hard to catch a glimpse of the water.

A group of young men went fishing over at the reservoir with plans to tent camp on a sandbar.

The fishing was first. It was so late when fishing and supper were over that they did not raise the tent. They just slept on the sand.



Photo by Vernon Jason Franke

During the night, noises kept the young men sleeping lightly, tossing and turning. As breakfast was cooking, several wondered. They saw tracks from the water, across the sand, through the sleepers, across the tent, and off the other

side. Sounds like the alligators were friendly, since their stomachs were full.

Back to Bear Creek - almost every time I cross the bridge, I look to the south and feel sorrow, a loss. In my much younger years, we crossed

Bear Creek carrying fresh milk in five- and ten-gallon milk cartons to the creamery. There were two or three sway-back bridges, and the longer style concrete and metal ones across the creek.

The sorrow is from the historical fact that it was the first of its type to be torn down. There are still road beds over there.

It is gone. Just like the turn bridge on the Yazoo River in Belzoni.

Where the Dollar General store is on Highway 22 was a Civil War campground. George Heindl told of finding artifacts there as he roamed the countryside as a boy. Before the store, it was a city sewage lagoon that replaced the dumping of raw sewage into the creek.

Please, if you can add to, correct, refute, or in any way add to the comments I make, please let me know. I have received permission to tell you.

You may leave a note for me at Kylie Melons.

Thanks.

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

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Luckett and Nichols awarded MLK Essay Scholarship



Dwight Luckett, Jr. and Erin Nichols

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Dwight Luckett, Jr. and Erin Nichols were recently recognized for being awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Scholarship for two consecutive years. Luckett was able to secure a first-place \$1,000 scholarship two years

in a row. Nichol’s success is also noteworthy, having won second place twice and earning \$750 each time. The Rho Xi Lambda Alphas Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. said they are very proud of the students’ exceptional accomplishments.

City and Tourism recognize law enforcement officers



Local law enforcement was honored during Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Week

Special to The Canton News

The City of Canton Chamber of Commerce - Canton MS and Canton Tourism recently honored local law enforcement during Law

Enforcement Officer Appreciation Week. The groups kicked off the week with an opening prayer with the Canton Police Department, followed by a memorial honoring fallen officers.

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Canton's Harris and McElroy graduate from Hinds



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Graduates who participated in a special bell ringing ceremony were, from left, Shymaya Dixon of Utica, Jaylan Blount of Jackson and Ezekiel Harris of Canton. They graduated from Hinds Community College on May 13 at a Utica Campus ceremony.

Special to The Canton News

In the fourth and final spring 2023 graduation ceremony on May 13, Hinds Community College honored students at the Utica Campus and celebrated the “Golden” Hinds Agricultural High School Class of 1973. Several Canton students were among the graduating class of 114 students, who gathered at the iconic bell tower, the only original remaining structure of the former Utica Institute, for a special ceremony before processing to J.D. Boyd Gym for graduation. Also recognized were 71 members

of the Class of 1973, who wore gold robes with maroon sashes. Offering the invocation and benediction was Omarion Luss of Clinton. A guard on the men’s basketball team his freshman year, he was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and was among students who received an inaugural Walter Washington Achievement Award. He plans to transfer to Mississippi State University. The graduation speaker at Utica campus was Lia Smith of Columbia. She played forward on the women’s basketball team for two years and



Special to The Canton News

Shanya McFarland of Edwards, left, helps Tumeria McElroy of Canton with her mortarboard before the 2 p.m. May 11 graduation ceremony at Hinds Community College.

was named a National Junior College Athletic Association All-Academic Second Team Member. She plans to major in electrical engineering at Jackson State University. “This college has laid the foundation for the careers we have chosen to pursue,” Smith said. “It has not only filled our minds with knowledge but gave us a chance for the hands-on experience that is not always given at every college. This campus may be smaller than average, but it is filled with people who push us to become our best as well

as students who strive to become their best.” Three other ceremonies were held May 10 and 11. In all, Hinds awarded 1,526 degrees and certificates to 1,107 graduates. A number of graduates received more than one credential. In total, 239 students graduated cum laude with a grade point average of 3.2 to 3.59; 190 graduated magna cum laude with a grade point average of 3.6 to 3.99 and 82 graduated summa cum laude with a grade point average of 4.0



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MCBL&F hosts annual balloon release



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Pictured (l to r) are Executive Director at MCBL&F Jan Collins, Parkway Church Pastor Jason Dillon, Sheriff Randy Tucker, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jeremy Williams and Staff Sergeant Joseph Handy.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) recently hosted their 10th annual Balloon Release Ceremony on May 17, 2023, at the Madison County Sheriff’s Department. The event

honored law enforcement officers and paid tribute to those who have fallen in the line of duty. The group offered a thank you to Madison County Sheriff Randy Tucker and the Madison County law enforcement officers.

“it all started with a watermelon”

Kylie Melons is back open and excited to see you!

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On the Shelf: *Happy Place* and *The Stranger in the Water*

By Courtney Warren

Another month, another book! Next month, I will talk about summer reading; but this go 'round, let's talk about two books I immediately went out to purchase after seeing them on social media.

The first is *Happy Place*, by Emily Henry. Henry's books have become so popular over the last two years that every single one of them has already been picked up for a movie deal. When she announced her latest release, I didn't even read the back cover to see what the book was about.

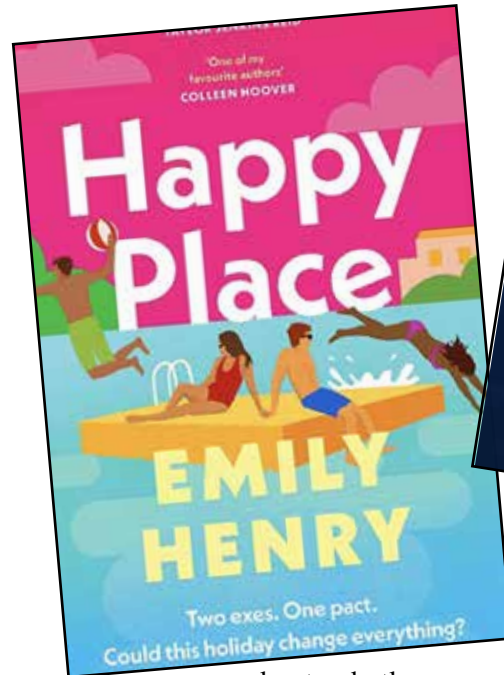
I inhaled this story within 24 hours and can honestly say, Henry has an incredible talent to make simple stories ones you cannot put down.

Harriet and Wyn have been the perfect couple since they met in college—they go together like salt and pepper, honey and tea, lobster and rolls. Except, now—for reasons they're still not discussing—they don't.

They broke up six months ago. And still haven't told their best friends.

Which is how they find themselves sharing the largest bedroom at the Maine cottage that has been their friend group's yearly getaway for the last decade. Their annual re-

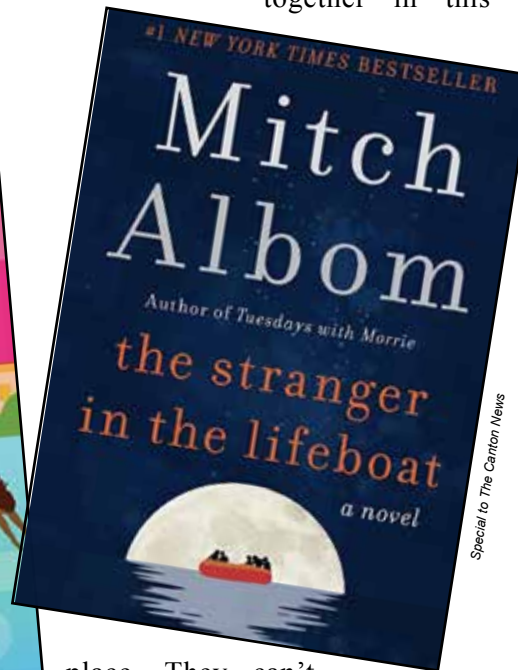
spite from the world, where for one vibrant, blue week they leave behind their daily lives; have copious amounts of cheese, wine, and seafood; and soak up the salty coastal air with the people who un-



derstand them most.

Only, this year, Harriet and Wyn are lying through their teeth while trying not to notice how desperately they still want each other, because the cottage is for sale, and

this is the last week they'll all have together in this



place. They can't stand to break their friends' hearts, and so they'll play their parts. Harriet will be the driven surgical resident who never starts a fight, and Wyn will be the laid-back charmer who never lets the cracks show. It's a flawless plan (if you look at it from a great distance and through a pair of sunscreen-smudged sunglasses). After years of being in love, how hard

can it be to fake it for one week... in front of those who know you best?

The second book I want to recommend because I watched a Tik Tok video of a girl reading it on the beach and absolutely losing it over the last thirty pages. Now I understand why. It has easily become one of my favorite books of all time and left me in tears while also wanting to scream sing worship music in my living room. This one is called *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom. Many of you might be familiar with this other work, including *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

This book gives us that "what if" type of question.

Adrift in a raft after a deadly ship explosion, ten people struggle for survival at sea. Three days pass. Short on water, food and hope, they spot a man floating in the waves. They pull him in.

"Thank the Lord we found you," a passenger says.

"I am the Lord," the man whispers. So begins Mitch Albom's most beguiling novel yet.

I have loved hearing about you reading some of the On the Shelf recommendations. If you have any books you'd like to recommend, please email news@cantonnews.net.



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CANTON SCHOLARS HONORED AT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES



Canton High School Class of 2023 Valedictorian Ka'Nyla McMorris and Salutatorian Erin Nichols.



Canton Academy Valedictorian Reese Willis



Canton Academy Salutatorian and STAR Student Lydia Smith

All photos Special to The Canton News

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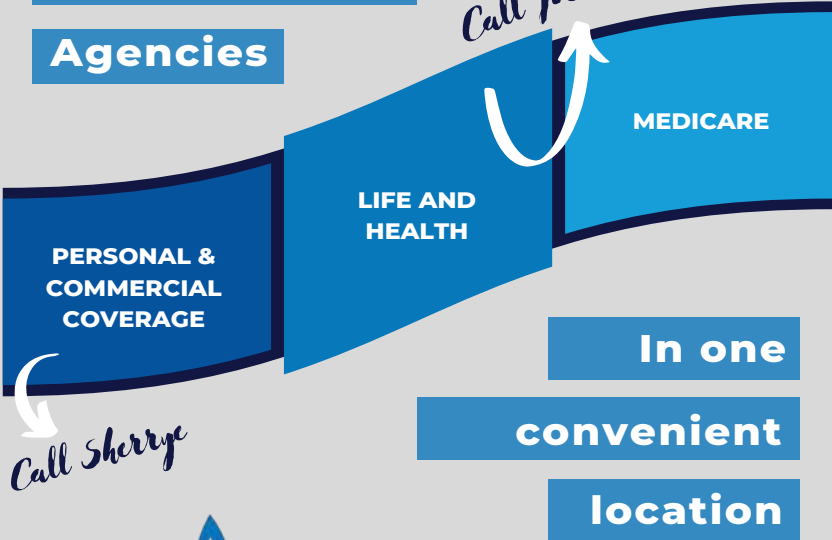
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CA girls varsity track wins state



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The CA girls track were once again victorious in the state championship.

By Courtney Warren

The Canton Academy girls' varsity track team once again won the state championship for AAAA girls' track, led by Athletic Director and Head Track Coach Ben Williams, who was named Coach of the Year by MSAIS in 2022. Headmaster Ryan Laster said, "We

could not be more proud of these girls and Coach Ben Williams. They continue to prove themselves and work hard. Their efforts, along with additional championship titles won for our school, assisted in Canton Academy claiming back the MSAIS AAAA All Sports Award."

CA boys tennis championships



Special to The Canton News

The CA tennis team was proud of their championship title.

By Courtney Warren

The Canton Academy boys' tennis team won the State Championship title. They are now AAAA Tennis State Championships. The team also won the South State Championship. Sophomores John and Matt Thomas also won Singles 1 and 2 State titles. The team is led by

coaches Audrey and Ryan Thomas. Headmaster Ryan Laster said, "We are incredibly proud of these coaches and athletes for their championship win. These are student athletes that work hard both in the classroom and on the court. It's wonderful to see all of their efforts pay off."



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Save Energy

Letter from the Editor: Soaking in the moments of graduation and beyond

By Courtney Warren

Graduation season is heavily upon us as I write this letter from the editor. At this point, I have attended three graduations, been invited to at least five more, and watched a few on live stream. I am so proud of the many graduates that I have had the honor to teach.

At this time, I would like to publicly apologize to Michele Carter for the cowbell.

Now that that's out of the way, I wanted to reflect on my favorite graduation of the season – kindergarten graduation. I had my very own graduate this year, and we had the exciting opportunity to watch her in a white cap and gown, cross the gym floor and accept a diploma. It was wonderful! We listened to seniors address the kindergartners and remind them to enjoy their time, we watched a video that made everyone cry, and then we took our grad out for lunch.

During this time, I keep hearing the same phrases over and over: "Don't blink," "Have you started crying yet?" "Aren't you just so sad?"

It's the last phrase that gets me. Because so many people say that and talk about wanting time to stand still. They talk about wanting their child to stay small forever. But that's the phrase that reminds me of the last time I said it myself.

I've talked about Charlie a few times. I was his babysitter from when he was six months old until well into his school years. I even got to go with him on his sixth grade Washington, D.C. trip as his chaperone. His family quickly became my family, so I was present for all major holidays – especially during his early years. Now that he's a teen, we text GIFs back and forth and argue over who was the better Spiderman (Tom Holland).

One year, I asked those questions to his grandmother. "Are you sad? Have you cried? Do you just wish time would stop?" Her immediate answer was "no." She explained that she wasn't sad, by any means. Because the more birthdays she got to see, the more presents she was able to wrap. The more kitchen tables she meticulously decorated meant that was another year on earth she was spending with the little boy she loved most. She said she was soaking in the moments and appreciating every second she was given.

Um...okay, Margie. Cue the waterworks. Since she said that, I have had a completely different perspective on major milestones in my own child's life. We had that conversation long before Nana was born, but I remember it at every birthday celebration and every major event,



Photo by Sarah Willis

including graduation.

I'm soaking in the moment. I'm soaking in the moments with that one student that I protected throughout high school. I did my best to keep him out of trouble, even if he refused to read a single book assigned to him. I'm soaking in the moment as he walks across the stage when in the ninth grade he said he probably would not.

I'm soaking in the moment when one of the shy ones I taught comes out of his shell and does a...dare I say...back flip after collecting his diploma. No longer shy, and prepared to take on college.

I'm soaking in the moment as I listen to one of the most hard-working and ambitious girls I've ever met deliver her valedictorian speech. Remembering the many times she picked up the ball when others dropped it, when she was at the end of her rope and still gave more, and knowing that no matter what happens, she is going to continue to be the rockstar I know she is.

I'm soaking in the moment as one of my brand new middle schoolers is awarded for her incredible acting abilities. She shines both on stage and off in so many ways.

I'm soaking in the moment as a majority of my students are given awards for their kindness, their courtesy, their Christ-like hearts. What a blessing to be surrounded by such character every day.

Finally, I'm soaking in our own family moment...where her cap and gown are white, her front tooth is missing, her sweet little shoes are gold. She walks in and immediately looks in the stands for me, blowing kisses from her chair. I'm soaking in her requests for us to sit in the backseat beside her booster. I'm soaking in her wanting to show me drawing after drawing after drawing of rainbows at the lunch table. I'm soaking in the moment where she sleeps in my bed after reading a spooky story the night of her graduation because, at her next one, she's going to want to go out with her friends.

The words Ms. Margie told me were wise. Every moment I get means it's more time spent with her. I can't wait to watch her grow up, but I'm glad she's taking her time.

So, I'm going to give my own words of advice here - words that I'll just tack onto Ms. Margie's.

In these moments, put your phone

down.

Let someone else take the photo. Let someone else take the video.

Because those photos will sit on your phone.

But those memories are ones you'll want to keep.

Don't watch them through the screen of your iPhone. Take a quick picture if you don't have a family member that can, and then "lock in," as my middle schoolers say.

Be present in those moments. Walking across the stage and accepting a diploma takes less than thirty seconds.

How many seconds did you see in real time? How many seconds did you watch through your phone screen?

Soak in the moments. And remember that every one you get means more time spent with the one you love the most.

Congratulations to all of my graduates. I am so incredibly proud of you. I can't wait to see what you accomplish. It was an honor to have you in my classroom for a month, year, or years. I love you all.

Do well, but more importantly, do good.

Willis and Wadford inducted into CA Hall of Fame

By Courtney Warren

At the commencement for Canton Academy 2023 graduates, two students were inducted into the prestigious Canton Academy Hall of Fame.

Headmaster Ryan Laster said, "Reese and Samuel embody all that the Canton Academy Hall of Fame represents. They both have been a pillar in the community and the school from the time they attended our elementary school. I am so excited for their futures at the University of Mississippi and Mississippi College."

Catherine Reese Willis of Canton began attending Canton Academy (CA) 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, as well as 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



Special to The Canton News

Wadford and Willis' achievements were celebrated at the Canton Academy 2023 commencement ceremony.

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

Willis also earned the spot of 2023 Canton Academy Valedictorian.

Samuel August Wadford of Canton has been a member of the CA family since the first grade and has maintained honor roll status since then. He has tried every sport, finding his true love in football and proudly ending his high school football career as a member of the 2022 State Championship team.

Wadford is also a member of the 2022 State Champion track team and the 2022 MSAIS All-Star football team. This year, he was named Defensive Player of the Year by the MSAIS and was the high school Heisman winner for Canton Academy.

For this year's Who's Who, Wadford was voted Mr. Canton Academy and Most Dignified Senior. When not at school or on the field, he enjoys working on cars and other motorized vehicles. Wadford will attend Mississippi College in the fall to major in electrical engineering and play Choctaw football.

Puryear completes doctorate



Special to The Canton News

Canton resident Steve Puryear recently received his Ph.D. in business and leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi. Puryear maintained a 4.0 grade point average for the duration of his doctoral studies. He is currently employed at the CAVS-E facility of Mississippi State University's Canton facility.



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Luckett, Jr. signs intent with DSU



Special to The Canton News

Luckett, Jr. signed a letter of intent surrounded by family, coaches, and friends.

Special to The Canton News

Canton High School Tiger Dwight Luckett, Jr., recently signed his letter of intent to play basketball at Delta State University.

Luckett says he is excited to join the DSU Statesmen. He said he is ready to "Join In and Stand Out" while pursuing a degree in business.

His mother and father, Beverly and Dwight Luckett, Sr., said they are extremely proud of Luckett's perseverance, focus and determination to overcome challenges and of the many accomplishments their son has achieved over the years. Now, they look forward to continuing to support him as he follows his dreams.

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Luckett inducted to CA Sports Hall of Fame

By Courtney Warren

Recently, Canton Academy (CA) senior EJ Luckett was inducted into the Canton Academy Sports Hall of Fame. Luckett's athletic abilities assisted CA to several successful wins and championships during his time at the school.

Headmaster Ryan Laster said, "EJ being inducted into the sports hall of fame was an honor for me to announce at our sports banquet. This award has not been given out in several years and EJ is more than deserving of the honor. He is a great kid who comes from a great family. Not only does he have wonderful character, but he is a four sport athlete with two state championship rings and numerous school records. I am honored to have coached him."

Luckett is a member of the State Championship-winning football and track teams and the Panther baseball team. He has been named Farm Bureau's Player of the Week and MSur-

ance's Player of the Week for football, and he was voted by his peers as "Most Athletic" at the 2023 Who's Who program. He was recently named an MSAIS All Star for baseball and played in the All Star game at Mississippi College.

Luckett plans to study business and kinesiology in college and has dreams of being a professional athlete. He would also love to later become an entrepreneur with a business in kinesiology helping school-age athletes recover from sports injuries.

When asked what he will miss the most about CA, Luckett said, "bonding with the guys and Mrs. Val." He says his favorite things about senior year have been getting to know Mrs. Dawn's K5 class as his

sponsor class and his first grade buddy, Collins. Luckett says his favorite CA memory is winning the 2022 State Championship in football after the loss in 2021.



Special to The Canton News

EJ Luckett was inducted into the sports hall of fame during the 2023 CA sports banquet.

Mangino to join CA Panthers as new softball head coach

Special to The Canton News

Coach Jennifer Mangino will assist in coaching Canton Academy Panther softball and girls basketball, and she will teach upper school history.



Special to The Canton News

Coach Mangino graduated from Manches-

ter Academy and Delta State Uni-

versity, where she played softball, ran cross-country, and received her undergraduate and masters degrees in education.

In her early career, she coached basketball, cross-country and tennis at Warren Central High School and softball at Vicksburg High School. Coach Mangino has spent the last twenty-one years coaching a variety of sports at Ridgeland High School.

She and her husband, Joe, have two sons, Jacob and Jared.

Coach Mangino said, "I am so excited to continue my career at Canton Academy and be a part of the CA family."

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Come Fix You A Plate

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ON THE TABLE:

TACO DUMPLINGS

RECIPE FROM BRETT WARREN



Taco Dumplings

Ingredients:

- Diced onion
- 2 cups of chicken broth
- Package of taco seasoning
- Three chicken breasts
- Small can of diced green chiles
- Can of drained fire roasted corn
- Sour cream, 8 oz.
- Mexican cheese, 8 oz. package
- Package of tortillas
- Any salsa of choice (measure with your heart)

- Directions:**
1. Add all ingredients to a crockpot.
 2. Set to low for four hours.
 3. After four hours, shred the chicken and add another cup of chicken broth. Add an 8 oz container of sour cream and an 8 oz package of cheese.
 4. Let the cheese melt, and then toast 6 flour tortillas.
 5. Cut the tortillas into bite size pieces, and add them to the crock pot.
 6. Cover for 10 more minutes than serve.

We like to serve with sour cream and avocado on top.

By Brett Warren

This is a recipe I got from Your Barefoot Neighbor on social media. His name is Matthew Bounds, and he has a new cookbook out, and as a Mississippian, our family loves his recipes. His cookbook is called *Come Fix You a Plate*. This is an easy weekday recipe for when you don't want to spend a lot of time in the kitchen.

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Canton Academy sixth grade explores Alabama



All photos Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy sixth grade visited several sites in Alabama and

made memories to last a lifetime. The students toured the iconic University of Alabama’s Bryant-Denny

Stadium, Majestic Cave, and spent time hiking through Moss Rock Reserve. They also visited the Vul-

can Museum, Birmingham Zoo, McWane Science Center and Break-Out Games.

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