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## Nowell Morgan knows adventure is out there

By Courtney Warren

Nowell Morgan may be small, but he is mighty. As just two years old, Morgan enjoys mountain biking, hiking, and exploring with his parents David and Jacqueline.

Living an active lifestyle has always been at the forefront for the Morgan family, and Jacquelyn said, "David and I both have pretty much always been into living an active lifestyle. That is one of the things that drew us together as a couple. Nowell seems happiest when he is with us and doing what we love to do."

"It is really an amazing blessing that we all three seem to enjoy the same adventurous things in life. We are fortunate enough to be able to do a lot of traveling together. We have a camper and travel often! Nowell loves being in the mountains and riding green downhill mountain bike trails on his seat that attaches to David's bike. We started riding the TCMB Ridgeland trails with Nowell about one year ago using the "Kids Ride Shotgun" seat.

He also has a strider bike that he loves ripping around on. He loves berms and riding "skinnies," said Jacqueline.

While a mountain bike can seem overwhelming for even an adult, Nowell has a Kids Ride Shotgun seat, which attaches to his parents' bikes.

"This seat is designed for kids 2-5 years old. We started Nowell a little early, at around 18 months, because we knew he was ready with great grip strength and balance, and also because David is such an experienced rider. The seat is adjustable to fit all mountain bikes, and we highly recommend it! We didn't

really have to train him. He is a sharp kid. He took right to the seat, and neither of us has ever felt nervous or anxious about it. His feet sit on the footpegs, and he just holds on to the handlebars," said Jacqueline.



Special to The Canton News

David was born and raised in Canton and loves that his son is now going on adventures in his hometown riding the same streets he rode as a child.

"We love riding around Canton. Nowell loves listening to the music on the square and cruising around there. We ride through the bank drive-through at Bank Plus and Regions, and

all the girls in the window just adore seeing him on my bike. It's an easy ride to the Canton playgrounds. He loves passing the fire and police stations to get there," said David.

"Most of the sidewalks all throughout town are designed nicely for biking. I believe seeing Nowell riding around brings joy to a lot of Cantonians. The town has a lot of fun and scenic areas to explore, and you can get around town quickly and easily," said David.

The Morgans plan to continue to instill the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle into Nowell. Both of them realize how blessed they are to get to spend so much time outdoors with their son.

"Honestly, I feel like we are just extremely fortunate to live this active lifestyle with him. Most kids don't get to do this sort of stuff all the time. David and I always talk about how awesome all of it would've been when we were kids. I guess we just really want to give him the best life we can. Of course, physical ac-

cont. on page 2

## Flea market brings new creations and old traditions

By Courtney Warren

It was a perfect day for the Canton Flea Market, with the sun shining and warm weather for all in attendance. The Cajun pistols were steaming, and the vendor booths were filled to the brim with treasures, trinkets, and art.

Draped in vintage handsewn bears, unicorns, bedspreads, and blankets, the Bearly Chenille booth is one that can be seen every year on the courthouse lawn.

Debbie Hoover began Bearly Chenille many years ago after discovering a toy animal at a yard sale.

"I've been here for probably fifteen years. I began while I was a stay-at-home mom. I found a quilt at a yard sale for 50 cents, and this took off. I use vintage linen and upcycle the fabrics," said Hoover as a young curly-haired girl hugged one of her handmade unicorn creations.

She smiled and added, "There's a girl who has been coming to my booth since

she was eight years old, so it's a wonderful tradition to see."

While many vendors are new each market, there are dozens that have been coming for decades.

While the streets along the square hold amazing booths to discover, the courthouse square is home to the arts.

Rick Kom, of Nothing But a Sewing Needle, sat in his booth scratching away at a new creation, as visitors passed to admire his work.

Stopping to explain his technique, Kom said, "I first take a little needle and put it in a tool dot to work with. I start with blank ink painted over a clay background. I scrape that ink off to get to the clay. I scrape the lines, then switch to a paintbrush and use watercolors to add the colors."

"I've been doing this for about 35 years after being inspired in high school art classes. Over the years, it developed into a technique that's unusual. I don't see this



Photo by Courtney Warren

Rick Kom shares his technique for Nothing but a Sewing Needle

anywhere out there," he added.

The technique is similar to scrimshaw on ivory. Nothing but a sewing needle is used to intricately etch a black India ink surface, revealing a layer of white kaolin clay underneath. As Kom explained, opaque watercolors are then gently brushed into the exposed clay lines, "giving the subjects I etch an enhanced,

life-like appearance." Kom specializes in animal portraits.

The Canton Flea Market is always held on the second Thursdays in May and October. It began in 1965 as an art show, with local artists hanging their paintings on the iron fence surrounding the grounds of the Courthouse. The fall flea market will be on October 14.

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# Glass recognizes swim coach

By Courtney Warren

Cameron Glass, NCAA decorated swimmer, stood before the Canton Board of Alderman with trophies and pride but took none of the glory. He wanted to make sure his coach, Coach James Wash, was recognized for the influence on his life.

"I just want to thank you all for playing a part in my life. Without Red Bud Park, I wouldn't have found my passion for this sport. There are not many of us that swim, and Red Bud gave me the opportunity to branch out and do something different. Swimming has taught me discipline, time management, and dedication to master my craft. Swimming has increased my overall intelligence in both school and real life."

Glass brought his trophies to show the board and Coach Wash. He said, "I've been fortunate enough to take my talent to the next level and placed seventh in the 50-freestyle and All American in this event. First, in the 400-freestyle relay, 200-freestyle relay and coming second overall in the NCAA competi-

tion for my team at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. These were NCAA records, as well. I was fortunate enough to qualify this past weekend for the Olympic trials."

Glass was met with a standing ovation from all in the room.

Wash was incredibly thankful for the recognition and excited to praise Glass for his achievements.

"I want to thank Cameron for recognizing me. You don't have to go on and tell folks what they've done in your life, and it's an honor that he remembered me. The reason I came to Canton was to help. Canton had built a pool and didn't have anyone to run

it. I came here because our kids need a place to go. I think the aldermen's main job is to provide for the city and for our young people. I ask that they continue to keep up that place and give us the tools we need," said Wash.

Red Bud Park is a 9-acre neighborhood park in Canton with a picnic area, swimming pool, basketball court, two pavilions, two playground areas, a soccer field, and one-mile walking track.



Photo by Courtney Warren

Wash and Glass

cont. from front page

# Nowell



Special to The Canton News

Nowell loves to bike ride with his parents. David Morgan was born and raised in Canton and now rides with his son.

tivity and fresh air is great for everyone, but studies have shown that children who are active report fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression and a better overall mood. Exercise helps improve motor coordination and enhances the development of various motor performance skills. The benefits go on and on, but I think the best part about it is that he isn't just sitting around staring at a screen all day. He is really enjoying life with his parents," said Jacqueline.

Knowing school will keep him in a classroom and behind a desk for a large

portion of the day, the Morgans plan to increase their outdoor adventures.

"Hopefully, our lifestyle will counteract the effects of that. We hope that by being outdoors and spending time in nature often he will learn and see things that will positively impact the way he views the world. It is a stepping stone to physics - being able to experience first-hand the forces of gravity and learn about gravity and momentum and the way those forces affect him relative to his environment," said Jacqueline.



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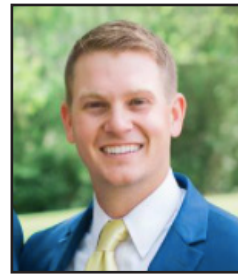
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# Word of Prayer: Swinging for the Fence

By Guest Columnist Kylie Warren



Kylie Warren

It's the bottom of the ninth, there are two outs, the bases are loaded, the game is all tied up, and you're up to bat. All eyes are on you. This is where it counts. For my brothers and me, this is the scenario that we would play over and over again in the All-American game of backyard baseball. It made for the best game-winning endings! These were the moments that we lived for, and these were the moments that we loved. For us as men, we love when it all comes down to us. We love it when the pressure falls on us, and we are the ones the team is counting on. We live for it. And whether we are playing backyard baseball or whether we are put in one of life's most difficult situations, we approach the plate with everything we've got.

Men, if there has ever been a time when the pressure is on us, it's now. If there has ever been a time for men of

God to step up to the plate spiritually and be the man God has created and intends for us to be, you better believe it's now! Because it's right now when the enemy's attempts on our families are out of control and right now when the enemy has launched attacks on our homes, on our minds, and our hearts. The enemy has overstepped his boundaries and encroached beyond his limits. And now, for us, it's personal! You see, I believe that when God created us, He gave us the ability to overcome even our worst enemy. God never intended for us to do this alone, but He gave us His Holy Ghost to help us. His Word says, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

What a privilege! Not only is He with us, but He is in us! I believe we are living in the last days, and just to know that God has saved us for this time lets me know that God has all the confidence in the world when He calls our number to step up to the plate. This is a spiritual warfare, and it's not going to be easy; but God has given us everything we need for the battle. Ephesians 6 provides us with everything we need to suit

up for this game!

I remember growing up seeing a framed picture that my Mama had placed in our room. It was a picture of a boy standing at the plate ready in his batting stance with a smile on his face, and standing behind him was Jesus holding the bat with him waiting for the pitch. I would have loved to have seen how that scene ended! Men, can I tell you that there is One who is in you that is greater than anything the enemy will ever throw at you, and I cannot wait to see how this one ends. We were chosen for this moment, created for this hour, and I refuse to let my team down!

It's the bottom of the ninth, two outs, the bases are loaded, and your team - your family - is counting on you. And as you approach the plate, you know the enemy is going to be bringing the heat; but you've got everything it takes, and you are swinging for the fence!

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Kylie Warren is an associate preacher at Apostolic Lighthouse Church, where he has been a member his entire life and attends with his wife Cassidy and daughter Harbor Mae. He is also the owner of Kylie Melons on East Peace Street.*

## Hinds CC May 13 grads ready for the next step



Special to The Canton News

Jaylen Patrick of Canton

Special to The Canton News

The Honors program at Hinds Community College's Raymond Campus recently held their commencement ceremonies. Jaylen Patrick of Canton studied psychology at Hinds Community College and graduated from Hinds on May 13. His next step is to be a psychology major with a criminal justice minor at the University of Southern Mississippi, with the ultimate goal of becoming an FBI profiler.



Special to The Canton News

Jermall Germon of Canton

Jermall Germon of Canton represented academic graduates at the May 15 Hinds Community College graduation ceremony on the Utica Campus.

For the first time this year, Hinds Community College included student speakers. Giving the invocation for three ceremonies on May 13 was Kennedy Miller of Canton.

He was among nearly 1,000 students who participated in one of the four ceremonies, including students



Special to The Canton News

Kennedi Miller of Canton

eligible to participate in previous ceremonies cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, Hinds graduated 1,761 students.

Hinds Community College held three graduation ceremonies on Thursday, May 13, at the Rankin Campus and a fourth ceremony on Saturday, May 15, at the Utica Campus. All four ceremonies were for graduates only. Family and friends were able to view the ceremonies via livestreaming.



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# Canton Public Schools celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week



All photos Special to The Canton News

By **Courtney Warren**

Canton Public School District (CPSD) recently celebrated their pride in their teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. From treats and flowers to large signs on school campuses, all CPSD teachers were recognized and celebrated. Since 1984, the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the individuals who lend their passion and skills to educating children. PTA events at the national, state and local levels celebrate the outstanding contributions teachers make.

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# Letter from the editor: Sweet, sweet Summer

By Courtney Warren

I'm always looking for new and fun activities to do with my students to get them more engaged in what we're reading. This year, I discovered a fellow teacher on TikTok who used decorated rubber ducks in his classroom for various activities. From character analysis to writing prompts, these ducks were a huge hit with his students. I ordered a set of fifty ducks for my own classroom and started using them with my students for each book we read. The ducks absolutely took off, and soon the students were all asking when we would be working with the toy ducks again.

This inspired me to create an award for the end of the year involving a rubber duck dressed in a Shakespeare costume. The award is called the "Keep on Quacking Award." Students get recognized for having high honors, being a great citizen, performing well on the field, and being actively involved in clubs, but I wanted to find a way to recognize a student for their sheer grit. Oftentimes, the students that perform their best at all times aren't the ones that become the valedictorian, and something I try to remind all of my students is that their best may not be their classmate's best. All we can do is give our absolute best, and then rest knowing that we did so.

Fast forward to the middle of the year:

it was time for my freshman to read *Macbeth*. Students were assigned a monologue to memorize and perform after two weeks of study. Reading Shakespeare can be difficult for anyone, but memorizing Shakespeare? An entire monologue?

Mrs. Warren, you must be crazy! Some of them studied the monologue; however, most of them worked on it two days before, which led to sheer panic in class that day. Each student stood in front of the class to perform their monologue, only to stop after reciting about six lines.

Blaming everyone but themselves, which is typical of our human nature, they made as many excuses as possible to get a redo the next day or a makeup assignment (which I gave them. I'm not a complete monster).

However, there was one student that made such an impact I genuinely know

I will never forget her. She's quiet. She's kind. She's gentle. She definitely does not like public speaking, and I knew this would be a challenge for her; so I was prepared to give prompts when necessary. As she recited the monologue, I

read along with the play to ensure she wasn't missing lines. For a moment, there was silence after line seventeen, which caused me to ask if she needed a prompt. When I looked up at this student, she had tears running down her face.

"No. I can do this. I don't need any prompts. Just give me a second." My jaw dropped. Not a single student said a word as her silent tears continued to shine on her cheeks and she completed the monologue. She didn't miss a single word. It was at that moment that the Keep on Quacking Award was born. I knew that this was something that needed to be recognized,

and this was a student that needed to be awarded.

In her seventh grade year, this same student was working with classmates to complete an assignment that prompted them to consider the gift God gave them. She quietly approached my desk and said, "Mrs. Warren, I'm not quite sure I have a gift. There isn't anything I'm just outstanding at." This was the first of many times this student has left me speechless over the last three years. I grinned at her and told her I knew exactly what her gift was—a heart like Jesus. When I think of kindness, warmth, friendship, grace, and perseverance, I think of this child. When I think of what I want my own daughter to be like in junior high, I think of this particular student.

So often we recognize students for amazing academics or incredible athletic abilities. All of those are reasons to celebrate our students. However, I think it's just as equally important to remember that those ribbons aren't what matter the most. Please don't "cancel" me for saying this, but our hearts, our integrity, our grit are what is going to matter in the end. People will sometimes remember what we do, what we achieved, but they'll never forget how we made them feel.

So, all of this to say, whether you're a letterman or an honor student or even simply in-between, all that matters is that you keep on quacking.



Photo by Courtney Warren



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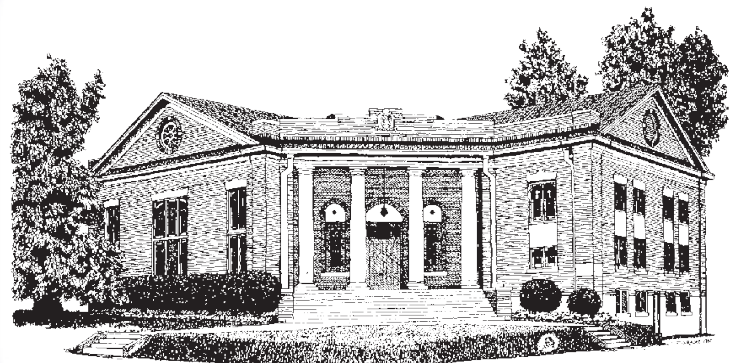
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# Law enforcement recognized



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

The Madison County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution proclaiming May 9-14, 2021, as Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week, which led to many wanting to show their love and appreciation to local officers.

A parade was held to celebrate all law enforcement and fire departments in Madison County along Reunion Parkway, and volunteers gave out American flags to spectators as well as collected donations.

There was also a balloon release for Madison County Sheriff's Department.

To celebrate Canton law enforcement, Canton Academy graphic design students designed thank you

cards and attached them to goodies for officers.

Canton Tourism Director Jana Dear delivered a thank you to Canton Police Chief Otha Brown after the flea market.

"I get calls all the time with people asking me how do you, as a small town and small office, put on huge events, and my first answer is always, 'I can't do it alone.' I have awesome department heads in this city that are there for me anytime I call," said Dear.

The week was sponsored by Canton Tourism, Madison the City Chamber of Commerce, Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce, Ridgeland Tourism, and the Madison County Business League and Foundation.

# MCBL&F hosts luncheon



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are Anne Marie Smith, chairman; Austin Stewart, immediate past chairman; Candie Simmons, keynote speaker; Hank Waterer, vice chair; and Melody Rosenbaum, secretary.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League and Foundation (MCBL&F) Young Professionals hosted a professional development forum luncheon on Wednesday, May 5, at Georgia Blue in Madison. The keynote speaker was Candie Simmons, SVP and Geography Marketing Strategist for Regions Bank. The title of her presentation was "Developing Your Personal Brand."

The mission of the Madison County Business League and Foundation Young Professionals is to provide young professionals and entrepreneurs with the opportunity to build relationships, serve the community and engage with business, political and civil leaders, thus, investing in the professional development of Madison County's future leaders.

Madison County Young Professionals (MCYP) work with companies that are members of the MCBL&F.

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# Seize opportunities: Workers needed in Madison County

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

The buzz around town is that hiring help is a bigger issue now than during the pandemic last year. I am seeing help wanted signs at Walmart, Tractor Supply and at most restaurants. Deborah Martin, President with Service Specialist, Ltd said that she has approximately 100 jobs for which she hasn't been able to find an employee match. Restaurants report challenges in hiring waitstaff and kitchen help.

Doing a Google search for jobs in Madison County, one sees thousands of jobs listed at websites like Indeed.com and SimplyHired. According to the websites, many of the jobs offer good salaries and include health, dental and vision insurance along with paid vacation and parental leave benefits. The jobs listed on the websites offer choices from government jobs to private industry or trainers and teachers. Amazon lists some "work from home" job opportunities. The Amazon jobs listed on Indeed.com range in pay from \$15-

\$37 per hour. Several jobs, according to the Indeed website, require no experience; however, one would need to be a citizen of the USA and pass a drug test. As seasonal businesses gear up for summer hiring, hopefully, the public will realize the importance of entering and advancing into the job market. Experience gained in entry-level jobs offers great opportunities to sharpen skills and earn a reputation as someone with a good work ethic. The skills one learns and the work record of employment all go toward building a solid resume to climb career ladders and reach salary goals. One model for success in economic development is having workers enter the job force at entry-level jobs and build their capabilities to keep the job market fed and the worker

moving toward more responsibilities and higher salaries. Whether one is interested in the medical, service, clerical fields or manufacturing/warehouse jobs, Madison County offers options. Taking a job can entitle you to benefits like health care, and also will help improve communication and customer service skills that can be used to grow your potential to land future jobs. Canton has the big job makers like Nissan (5,000 jobs) and Amazon (1,400 to 1,800 jobs) along with the health care jobs of Merit Health Hospital, Madison County Nursing Home, Canton Manor Nursing Home and the Season Assisted Living. A new nursing home and additions to the medical industry are all building now out on Nissan Parkway and will soon be seeking workers. According to Madison County's Economic Developer Joey Deason,

for information on hourly warehouse positions at Amazon, you can text Canton or Missnow to 77088. Amazon is now hiring leadership positions, and these positions are located on the [www.amazon.jobs](http://www.amazon.jobs) website. Joey says that by typing in Canton Mississippi you can view the local jobs. Starting salary is \$15 per hour with medical-dental-vision-401K-bonuses offered. Whatever your present job skills, job needs, or job goals, Madison County has more jobs to offer than there are people applying, so that equates to a good time to get a job. New jobs that have never been offered in Mississippi will soon be available along with these listed here, so, if you are looking for your first job, looking for a job because you lost your last job, or just want a new job, the time will never be better than now to find work in Madison County.

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



Joy Foy

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# CHS announces Val and Sal



Special to The Canton News

Andrea Hall

By Courtney Warren

Canton High School recently announced the valedictorian and salutatorian for the Canton High School Class of 2021.

Andrea Tall was named Canton High School's Valedictorian. Tall plans to attend Millsaps College or Mississippi State University, where she wants to major in neuroscience. Her career goal is to become a clinical neuropsychologist. Tall is an AP Scholar, 25+ ACT Club Member, honor student, and has 15 Hours of Dual Enrollment College Credit.

Karen Solano-Ortega was named



Special to The Canton News

Karen Solano Ortega

Canton High School's Salutatorian. Solano-Ortega plans to attend Jackson State University, where she wants to major in social work. Her career goal is to become a social worker in order to help as many people as she can with her abilities. Solano-Ortega is an AP Scholar, 25+ ACT Club Member, honor student, and has twenty-one hours of Dual Enrollment College Credit.

The top ten graduates for CHS were Andrea Tall (Valedictorian), Karen Solano-Ortega (Salutatorian), Ka'Dens-tine Ousley, Chempur Mack, Yasmine Jeffery, Ladarius Bailey, Leandra Alexander, Ian Harris, Zaria Ingram, and Teara Hardy.



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# In His Steps Ministries to host events for children

By Guest Columnist Reverend Jasper Bacon

Psalm 127:3 says “Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.” Whether you have children or not, caring for the youth in our community is something that we should all do.

I acknowledge the many parents, educators, mentors, and other community advocates that work tirelessly to encourage and empower our youth. It is important that our young people who are excelling be acknowledged and praised for their accomplishments. Yet we all know there is a gap, and some of our children are falling through the cracks.

If we’re going to close that gap and encourage our young people, it begins with each adult making a commitment to actively being a part of the solution. Our youth succeed or don’t because of what an adult did or did not do in their lives. We must commit to doing those things that will ensure our children a better chance for suc-

cess in life. Having served youth for over 30 years, I have come to conclude that the three ingredients to a child’s success are correct modeling, method, and message.

When we are models for our youth, we must look towards the greatest model, Jesus Christ. Adults must represent Jesus well in front of children. (Col 3:17). To reinforce the example, adults must model the most important priorities in life: God, family, church, education, and community involvement. Our youth need to experience solid role models, because their behavior is directly impacted by what they see. When children practice good behavior, their accomplishments should be rewarded.

Proverbs 22:6 says “Train up a child in the way he should go, and, when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Whether in the home, in church, or at school, we must consider our methods. Is it appealing to our youth? Does it engage our youth? Does it affect real change in our youth? All our methods should be questioned, evaluated, experimented, and repeated to prove their effectiveness. This is called innovation.

A method can change or evolve,

but the message must remain the same. The message that we need to present to our young people is that God loves them, and so do we. (John 3:16) We also should tell the youth that God has a special purpose for their lives, because they are fearfully and wonderfully made. Our young people need to know that they can do all things through Jesus Christ. Philippians 4:13 says “I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.” Our message is to help the kids know that they are loved and can succeed and thrive in life.

Recently, one way we have engaged the children in our community was by holding a one-day youth rally organized by the local head football coach of Canton Public High School, Calvin Bolton. The purpose of this rally was to encourage the kids and help them to understand that violence is not the way to solve problems. At the rally, there were games, food, and community leaders who spoke to the kids to let them know they have mentors to talk to

any time they need it. Coach Bolton said “[The event] was an outpour of volunteers and community



## IN HIS STEPS MINISTRIES

leaders.”

In the future, Coach Bolton is planning two more rallies this summer, and other volunteers and organizations have already expressed their interest. He says, “We want to make it bigger and better by having more activities and different people get involved. We want to have a whole day filled with fun.”

Some of the upcoming activities at IHS include summer enrichment programs, summer camps, basketball league, art classes, movie nights, and much more. To stay updated on IHS and see how you can get involved, connect with Reverend Jasper Bacon at 601-859-5708. You can also visit [InHisSteps.org](http://InHisSteps.org).

We are enjoying every minute with our friends before **SUMMER!**

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### Daddy Fries

**Ingredients:**

- 6 Russet potatoes, sliced into fry-shaped sizes (thickness determined by your liking)
- Salt, to taste
- Mississippi Grind Championship BBQ seasoning, to taste
- 1 quart of oil

**ON THE TABLE:**  
DADDY FRIES RECIPE BY BRETT WARREN

*Special to The Canton News*

Daddy Fries are a relatively new recipe for me. I've made fries in the past, but never this way. I've always liked cooking but was a picky eater until I got married and my wife and I tried the meal delivery boxes. This allowed me to branch out and be more adventurous with cooking. Working in restaurants enabled me to get a first-hand look at how precise cooking actually is.

I first started cooking with my mom when I was a kid, and that just kind of grew into something I enjoy doing as an adult. I call myself a foodie, because food is something I enjoy - whether it's eating it or cooking it. Cooking is an art.

Daddy Fries weren't always called "daddy fries." It wasn't until my wife and I had our daughter and she requested this specific kind over the basic freezer bag fries that the name began to stick. It's funny how our children name things. I'm glad it's something they both enjoy, and it's pretty easy to make, as well.

## Directions:

1. Heat 1 quart of oil until 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Rinse potatoes in water for approximately 10-15 minutes.
3. Once the oil has reached optimal temperature, place your potatoes in the oil in batches, making sure to cook small batches at a time to ensure the fries reach your desired crispiness.
4. After the fries are done, pat dry to remove excess oil, and season immediately. You can put as much seasoning as you'd like, depending on how you like your fries.

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# Canton Academy hosts fifty-second commencement



Photo by Courtney Warren

Valedictorian Heaven McNalty

By Courtney Warren

Recently, Canton Academy (CA) hosted its fifty-second commencement celebrating the class of 2021.

There were thirty graduates and a total of \$210,050 offered in total scholarships.

Seven CA seniors - Kyle Brasher, Kendall Calloway, Piper Johnson, Sara Kennedy Lampkin, Heaven McNalty, Libby Ozborn, and Molly Grace Patrick - accepted scholarships totaling \$157,550.

Heaven McNalty was named valedic-

torian of her class and plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi. At commencement, McNalty received the varsity basketball Lady Panther award, Most Outstanding Sprinter, Booster Club Scholarship, Economics subject award, Calculus subject award, Dual Enrollment Comp I and II subject award, Advanced Biology subject award, Student All-Star, Headmaster's List, ACT Achievement Club, National Honor Society, Canton Academy Hall of Fame, Senior Class President, and the Balfour Award.



Photo by Courtney Warren

Salutatorian and Star Student Kyle Brasher

Kyle Brasher was named salutatorian and STAR Student of his class and plans to attend Mississippi State University in the fall. At commencement, Brasher received Booster Club Scholarship, Student All-Star, National Honor Society, Canton Academy Hall of Fame, Student Body President, Balfour Award, football honorable mention, baseball defensive player of the year, WAPT/BankPlus Scholar-Athlete Award, Digital Media subject award, Presidential Academic Fitness Award, Principal's List, and ACT Distinction

Club.

Brasher was named STAR Student by the Mississippi Economic Council. The STAR Student program seeks to recognize students for academic and ACT test achievement. Students are awarded a certificate and medallion as recognition upon becoming a STAR student.

According to the Mississippi Economic Council, the STAR student program does not directly award scholarships - any scholarship a student is granted is given

cont. on page 12

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# Canton Rocks! recent rock finds



Special to The Canton News

Mrs. Carol Furr's Canton Academy fourth grade students painted a large set of rocks in art class. They took those rocks and hid them all around the square. Remember, if you find a rock, hide it again - or replace it with your own rock art!

# OBITUARY

**James Steven Tilford**  
**Laurel, Mississippi**  
**March 31, 1969 - April 28, 2021**

James Steven Tilford, 52, of Laurel died Wednesday, April 28, 2021, in Laurel. He was born Monday, March 31, 1969, in Madison County.

James loved being outdoors, spending time in his yard landscaping. He had a great sense of humor and en-

joyed being surrounded by loved ones.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents Mildred Varner and James Varner.

Survivors include his mother, Janie Jones; daughter, Sharie Mims (Daniel); son, Samuel Dobbs; daughter, Hanna Tilford; and grandchildren, Kayden Mims, Connor Mims and Cooper Mims.

cont. from page 11

## Canton

through the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation, Inc. or other outside organizations.

To be eligible for the STAR Student honor, a student may be a regularly enrolled senior or an approved dually enrolled student in an accredited public or private high school and or an accredited post-secondary institution. The student must be completing his or her last

year of work and must be eligible to receive a diploma in the current school year. The student must have an overall ACT composite 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.

Both students, along with their classmates, were recognized for their achievements at commencement.

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# Johnson signs with Hinds CC



Special to The Canton News

Johnson with his coaches and family as he signs a scholarship with Hinds Community College.

By Courtney Warren

Kelvon Johnson, senior at Canton Academy, recently signed a baseball scholarship with Hinds Community College. Johnson played third base for the Panthers and helped lead his team to the second round of the Class 4A state playoffs. Johnson plans to continue playing for the

Eagles and said he is honored and blessed to play at the next level. Assistant Coach Erik Lofton said, "We're very excited about the opportunity Kelvon is getting to play at the next level. Hinds is getting a hard worker who was a high-energy player for us this season. We wish Kelvon nothing but the best during his time in Raymond."

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# MS native running across the state for the Diabetes Foundation of MS

Special to The Canton News

For the past seventeen years, Zane Hodge has taught English, film, and Bible for Mississippi Delta Community College. When he is not teaching, or ministering at the Centerville Baptist Church, he can be found swimming laps, running the streets of Greenwood or lifting weights in his backyard gym.

Ten years ago, Hodge started the "Chicot Challenge," an annual open water marathon swim that he used to raise awareness about diabetes as well as donations for the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi (DFM). In past years, Hodge inscribed the names of the DFM's "Kandu Kids" with a Sharpie on his arms and shoulders for inspiration and swam a record 23 miles in the 2016 Challenge. He raised over \$14,000 over the past ten years for the DFM children's programs through a GoFundMe page.

As a change of pace for 2021, Hodge planned to run from his home in Greenwood, Mississippi, to the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi's office in Ridgeland, Mississippi. Hodge says, "...the stage run to Ridgeland is the thing that grabs my imagination and shakes it like a feisty dog shaking a squirrel."

Hodge's goal was to run about 20 miles a day. His planned itinerary was:

He left home in Greenwood on Friday (May 6), and ran down Highway 430 as far as possible to Blackhawk. His wife, Penny, picked him up and took him to stay with family for the night.

Day two (May 7) Hodge was dropped off where he stopped on day one and ran to West, Mississippi, where he met a friend who graciously agreed to house him for the night.

By day three, (May 8) Hodge was in Pickens. There are no motels, so a friend took him to a hotel in another city.

On day four (May 9), friends returned him to the place he left off in Pickens, and he biked to Canton to stay overnight.

On day five, (May 10) Hodge finished at the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi's office in Ridgeland. His wife shadowed him on this leg of the trip.

"A plan of this sort is always a gamble, because the training load has to be high and the injury rate low. In fact, any injury will derail the whole thing in a moment," said Hodge. "But as our Mars rover, Perseverance, says, "Dare mighty things!"

The Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi (DFM) is the state's only nonprofit health organization that provides diabetes information, patient services and advocacy, and its mission is to provide hope through programs, services and



Special to The Canton News

research to the 373,000 Mississippians with diabetes. Every dollar raised by the DFM stays in the state to support these efforts. For many years, the DFM has received the coveted Charity Nav-

igator four-star rating, the highest rating awarded to nonprofit organizations nationally. All proceeds from the Old Geezer Run will benefit the children's programs of the DFM.

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**7:30 p.m.** | Balloon Glow Regular Shapes with Special Music by DJ William Griffin

**8 p.m.** | Good Samaritan's \$5,000 Gold ball Drop Fundraiser

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# Canton Public School District hosts pre-kindergarten boot camp

By Inesha Jackson, Canton News intern

As summer is quickly approaching, the Canton Public School District (CPSD) is already gearing up for the next academic school year. This summer, CPSD is introducing a pre-kindergarten boot camp. This fun and interactive learning experience for upcoming pre-k students begins June 7 and continues through June 30 on Mondays through Thursdays at Goodloe Elementary School.

Shoney Harris, Ed.S, director of literacy and early childhood education for CPSD, said, "The pre-kindergarten boot camp is designed to get a head start with preparing incoming 4-year-olds academically, socially and emotionally. It is the belief of the Canton Public School District faculty and staff to educate all 4-year-olds in the city of Canton. In doing this, we will be able to

prepare students early for state assessments as well as producing fluent readers on all academic levels."

The purpose of the pre-kindergarten boot camp is to aid previous daycare students, Head-start students, and home-schooled students with their transition to the in-person school setting before the school year starts in August. This year's pre-kindergarten boot camp will heavily focus on any learning loss due to the coronavirus pandemic and building the students up by meeting their individual needs.

"Parents can expect their child/children to be introduced to rigorous hands-on in-

struction in reading and mathematics. The ultimate goal is to have these students reading by mid-year, computing mathematical facts, decoding words, developing and building comprehension skills. The students will also be introduced to daily routines and operations of the upcoming school year," Harris said.

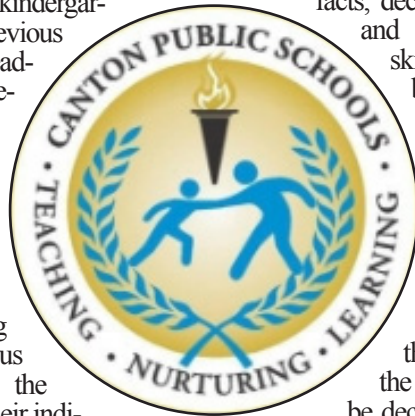
The pre-kindergarten boot camp will operate with in-person instruction. CPSD is expecting at least 80 to 85 students this year. However, due to the pandemic, class sizes will be decreased to 12 students per class, allowing teachers and students to be socially distant.

"The teachers' and students' safety are of

the utmost importance of CPSD. Hence, safety protocols have been put in place to ensure the safety of everyone while ensuring that instruction can and will take place effectively," Harris said.

"It is my belief that a blank slate can be taught anything; there is no limit. Therefore, targeting students in the early stages, developing a solid educational foundation for them, they will be on the road to immediate success and smooth educational matriculation throughout elementary, middle, and high school. Perseverance conquers all," Harris said.

Parents can sign their children up by emailing Shoney Harris, Ed.S at shoneyharris@cantonschools.net or via phone at 601-859-6720. Applications can be returned through email, mail, or dropped off at the CPSD Central Office at 403 East Lincoln Street.



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