



THE CANTON NEWS

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HOT AIR BALLOON FEST BEGINS SOARING ON THE SQUARE

By Courtney Warren

“You can go and watch a balloon fest, but, until you get close enough to feel the heat and smell the propane, you ain’t been there yet,” said Ken Johnston, pilot and hot air balloon meister for the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Festival.

Johnston, along with Canton Tourism, helped kick off the balloon festival at the first of July with music, food, and, of course, balloons.

Johnston began hot air ballooning in 1989.

“Back in 1989, we went to Greenwood, Mississippi, just to watch; and there was a pilot trying to get all of this equipment out of his trailer, and I realized he needed some help,” he said. It was the offer of help that led Johnston to get his balloon pilot’s license.

After assisting with balloons, the pilot told Johnston and his wife Leigh to climb in. “I thought, I may never get a chance like this again, and so we got in and flew with him and end-

ed up having a blast,” he said.

Shortly after, Johnston began the process of obtaining his hot air balloon license.

“It’s the same type of criteria as an airplane’s license, you’ve got to go through a written test, and then you have to complete a certain number of hours flying in a balloon and be checked off by a designated examiner. You’ll have a flight test and an oral test,” he explained.

Johnston said when the balloons aren’t inflated and soaring, they are stored in trail-

ers or large bags.

“You can’t just keep them inflated and tied up to the side of your house,” he explained with a smile.

Around 20 balloons will be flown at the festival, with the furthest pilot coming from St. Louis. The week before, this same pilot will conduct annual inspections.

“The point is to fly the balloons towards a target at the multipurpose complex and drop a bean bag target. Whoever gets closest is first and second and

fourth on down the line,” he said.

Johnston became the balloon meister after being involved in the festival for many years.

“We were living in Jackson and helping with this event. We moved here 17 years ago. I helped the tourism office and Joe McKay, who was the balloon meister. It was about two or three of us putting it together, and, when Joe passed away, Jana (Padgett) asked me if I would step in and try to fill his shoes and keep this thing going,” he explained.

“It’s a lot of fun and there’s work to it, but what in life doesn’t have work to it? We get up early, we got hot and sweaty, but it’s worth it. We’re just out here flying and having a good time,” he added.

Johnston named his balloons HiLeigh Kentagious and HiLeigh Kentagious too. The name HiLeigh Kentagious not only recognizes the pilot Kent and his crew chief Leigh of the balloon, but also describes ballooning as a sport that is fun and contagious.



Special to The Canton News

With early morning rain, only one balloon was inflated on Saturday.

at the center of the target. Whoever gets closest is first and second and

Lights, Camera, Action for Sister Thea Bowman’s life story

By Ilesha Jackson

An upcoming documentary produced by NewGroup Media about the late Sister Thea Bowman is set to feature several locations in Canton and several Cantonians who were connected to her. According to NewGroup Media, the film will explore Sister Thea’s life and path to sainthood through interviews and commentary from her family, sisters in her community, colleagues, friends, and former students.

Judith Zielinski, OSF, director of faith and values programming for NewGroup Media and writer/producer for the Sister Thea Bowman documentary stated, “This one hour documentary covers her entire life. Looking back at the programs that were filmed in the past, they were

done while she was still alive. This is a look at a woman who died about thirty years ago, and it involves many people that knew her first hand.”

Sister Thea Bowman was born Bertha Elizabeth Bowman in 1937 in Yazoo City, Mississippi, to Dr. Theon Bowman, a physician, and Mary Esther Bowman, a teacher. Earlier on in Sister Thea’s life, her family moved to Canton, where she attended Holy Child Jesus Church and School run by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA). Despite being baptized Episcopalian and raised Methodist as a child, she became Catholic at nine and joined the FSPA at fifteen. She then left Mississippi for LaCrosse, Wisconsin, becoming the only African American in her religious community.

Her name was changed to “Sister




Special to the Canton News

Mary Thea” in honor of her parents, in which “Thea” means “God.” In 1965, she earned a B.A. in English

from Viterbo University. She also received an M.A. in English in 1969

cont. on page 2



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WU

Canton might get caffeinated!



Photo by Courtney Warren

Frieda Ferguson addressed the Canton Board of Alderman to present the idea of bringing a Cups location to Canton.

By Courtney Warren

At a recent Canton Board of Aldermen meeting, the discussion of bringing a Cups franchise to Canton was presented to the aldermen.

“We want to congratulate you as an entrepreneur. Being in this business is hard, and for you to have been in it for thirteen years is congratulatory,” said Mayor Truly.

Alderman Les Penn added this development would “be great for the commu-

nity.”

Freida Ferguson, owner of Cups in Ridgeland, is planning to bring Cups to Canton and said “I would love to employ high school and college kids in the area. We love to donate and give back to the community. The coffee shop is part of the community, and we want to work with its members.”

Mr. Singhs, the owner of the convenience store the Cups would partner with, added he was happy to be a part of the new endeavor.

cont. from front page

Lights

and a Ph.D in English in 1972 from the Catholic University of America. Over the years, Bowman became a notable evangelist, teacher, and singer teaching about racial inclusivity and the Catholic faith lifestyle.

In 1978, Sister Thea returned home to care for her aging parents with the blessings and approval of the FSPA. Also in 1978, she accepted an appointment to serve as a director for the Office of Intercultural Affairs for the Diocese of Jackson by Bishop Joseph Bernard Brunini. In 1984, Bowman was diagnosed with breast cancer and lost both of her parents.

Despite facing difficult challenges with breast cancer, she continued traveling and doing speaking engagements to spread the news about God and the African American race. In 1987, Bowman appeared on the CBS segment, *60 Minutes*, with Mike Wallace. In 1989, she was invited to address the full body of U.S. Bishops, speaking on what it means to be Black and Catholic.

In her final days, Father John Ford, ST, asked her about what she would like to be said at her funeral, and her response was “Tell them what Sojourner Truth said about her eventual death: I’m not going to die. I’m going home like a shooting star.”

At five o’clock on the morning of

March 30, 1990, Sister Thea Bowman died peacefully in her home in Canton, Mississippi.

“I want people to remember that I tried to love the Lord and that I tried to love them,” Sister Thea Bowman said as she gave her last wishes, emphasizing that she wanted “She tried” engraved on her tombstone.

“This program hopes to connect her teachings and her statements about race relations in a moment when we’re dealing with [the] Black Lives Matter [movement], and we’re dealing with a lot of racial and social polarization in the country,” Zielinski said. Besides new footage, there will be other excerpts of media that showcase Sister Thea in action. There will also be inputs from African-American scholars, clerics, and bishops that will speak on the ongoing issue of systemic racism in the church and country.

“The most important locations were, first, the Bowman family home on Hill Street in Canton. We had access to the house where Thea was raised as a child. We also shot various scenes and did interviews of four women that were her friends and colleagues at the Canton Tourism center downtown,” Zielinski said.

The documentary is currently in production and is expected to be released in the fall of 2022.



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Brown leaves legacy after educating for 47 years



Photo by Courtney Warren

Fred Esco, Daphne Sims, Lafayette Wales, William Truly, Barbara Brown, Tim Taylor, Rodriguez Brown

By Courtney Warren

It takes a dedicated person to be an educator, and that's exactly the kind of person Barbara Brown is.

Canton residents would be hard-pressed to find a student that was not taught social studies, economics, or government by Brown.

Brown was recently recognized and praised for her many years of service by the Canton Board of Aldermen with two plaques.

"Forty-seven years is a long time, but I enjoy doing what I was doing. People ask me why I stayed so long, but basically because I enjoyed it. I want to think I made a difference in the lives of African American students and students in general. I wanted to help them with the real world," said Brown.

A resident of Canton and a graduate of the Canton Public School District, Brown was inspired by one of her own teachers to become an educator.

"In the eleventh grade, Mr. Porter told me 'Brown, you seem good at remembering dates. You should become a social studies teacher,' so that's what I did. I graduated at eighteen and started teaching at twenty-one, and I've been on the road ever since," she said.

Beginning her teaching career in August of 1974, fresh from college, Brown returned to her hometown to

educate in the very halls she graduated from.

"I tried to make a difference in the lives of the students and help them become young men and young ladies, because I wanted them to be productive members of society. You never know what type of ball life will throw, but you need to be prepared; because, if you're not prepared, you're going to have some rain in your life, and we all want to be productive citizens," she said.

Brown stressed that she enjoyed teaching for so long, especially in her hometown.

"I knew everybody. If I didn't know you, I knew of you and knew your parents. Because of this, I wanted them to be a part of the community and community activities," said Brown.

With a love for her community and educating her students, Brown created a voter drive in which she ensured all of her students of legal age were registered to vote.

"Mr. Cleveland Anderson said we needed to start taking them to the polls, so we did. We took them that first time, and then the next year, they'd be able to take themselves in as an adult," she said.

Aldermen Tim Taylor said, "If it were not for people like Mrs. Brown in my life, I would not be in this seat. When I was fourteen years old,

this young lady came into my life. Many people that choose to teach can choose other occupations. They don't have to worry with other parents' kids, but she chose to do that with her life."

Taylor added, "A lot of time we go on in life, and we don't thank those who make things possible. You made it possible for a lot of people in forty-seven years. As we continue to talk about her accolades today, Emily Dickson wrote 'you never know how tall you are until you are asked to stand' - and, for forty-seven years, you stood. We say thank you, thank you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Mayor William Truly said, "On behalf of the mayor and the City of Canton and all of its alderman, having been in the world of education for forty-seven years is a long time. Right after Nixon resigned. All of the presidents, including Ford and Reagan, that you passed through. You've seen a lot. You've learned a lot, and you had a lot to teach. You are a daily treasure of data and information."

Brown was met with a standing ovation by the board and those in attendance of the meeting. Those watching virtually also gave their thanks and appreciation to Brown for dedicating so many decades to the education of the community.

—Election Results—

WILLIAM TRULY

CHARLES CHIP MATTHEWS

Ward 1	68
Ward 2	101
Ward 3	131
Ward 4	26
Ward 5	28
Ward 6	44
Ward 7	99

TOTAL : 497

Ward 1	100
Ward 2	89
Ward 3	75
Ward 4	97
Ward 5	132
Ward 6	135
Ward 7	111

TOTAL : 739

WRITE-IN TOTALS

Ward 1	0
Ward 2	2
Ward 3	3
Ward 4	5
Ward 5	2
Ward 6	3
Ward 7	2

TOTAL : 17

*These are the unofficial results and will be certified in the coming days by the election commission.

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Letter to the Editor: All because of Dad's love and a book

By Courtney Warren

It's hard to believe it, but, by the time you read this letter from the editor, we will only have a few weeks left of summer. With that in mind, summer reading should have already started for many students. Have you picked out your summer reading yet?

This year, I did something a little different and gave my students a reading survey. I asked questions about what they liked to read and what they like to watch on Netflix. I asked what made reading books interesting for them and what made a book super boring.

But I also asked about whether or not they see their parents or guardians reading for pleasure.

Now, I specified that reading can be anything from the newspaper (hint, hint!) to a novel and everything in between.

We have a saying in our house: "Have you fed your brain today?" What that means is, before you pick up the tablet to watch Youtube Kids, have you done something creative? Have you gone outside? Have you read a story?

I know it's difficult to read a book you're not interested in, and even more difficult to read a book that someone is forcing you to read. This year, though, I was excited to create a list of books rather than just one option.

Something I've learned through my educational experience is that adults ruin everything. I said it, and I'm not taking it back. We ruin things. We give children what we want them to have and what we think they should read, rather than stoking the flame inside of them and giving them what they want.

Now, I can already see your brow furrowing. I'm not saying we should give children anything they want, no questions asked. What I am saying is, we should listen to what they're interested in and help them take it a step further.

I always tell my students, "Just because I like it, doesn't mean you have to like it, too."

I had one student last year who loved nonfiction. It's not my jam. But, when it came time to create a reading list, I tried to find a nonfiction option for him to make sure he stayed engaged.

When I was around nine years old, the *Harry Potter* series was released, and it was all the rage. However, growing up in a small town in Georgia, I was seeing a lot of parents, pastors, and community members calling for the book to be burned. They were holding meetings where they collected all of the *Harry Potter* books in the community and burned them or shredded them, because the subject of witchcraft was mentioned (I'm guessing they never read Shakespeare, *Canterbury Tales*, or *King Arthur* either...).

Anyway, Young Courtney was intrigued. What was this book? And why was it so long? And wow, look at how many AR points that baby is worth! I mentioned it to my dad, and he'd already heard about the book from his friends at the hospital. I told him I wanted to read it, and, knowing of the controversy surrounding the book, he said that was fine - but he was going to read it with me, so we could talk about it.

Friends, this is why my dad is now my best friend. Because of a book and a kid with a lightning bolt scar. We read the book together. Then we read the next. And the next. We went to the midnight releases, the movie premieres, and listened to the audio versions narrated by Jim Dale. We made memories together because of this story. I wanted to become a writer. I wanted to become a teacher.

All because of a book.

I was a junior in college when the very last movie premiered. At the closing credits, I remember standing in the Madison theater crying my heart out as I called my dad.

"Dad!" I cried, "It's over. It's all done."

"Oh, I know, but what a wonderful adventure we had," he replied.

All because of a book.

When my husband met me in college and learned of my *Harry Potter* love, he read the entire series. If you know him and knew him back then, you know he wasn't exactly an avid reader. He read them so he'd have a reason to talk to me. That was thirteen years ago this October.

All because of a book.

When I went through one of the most difficult seasons of my life, I escaped by running back to Hogwarts and going on those same adventures with Harry, Ron, and Hermione. We competed in the Tri-Wizard Tournament, we defeated Voldemort, and we encouraged everyone to stand up for what is right. I found comfort through heartache.

All because of a book.

So, am I saying you have to love *Harry Potter*? No, even though I'd love for you to give it a chance.

What I am saying is: choose those

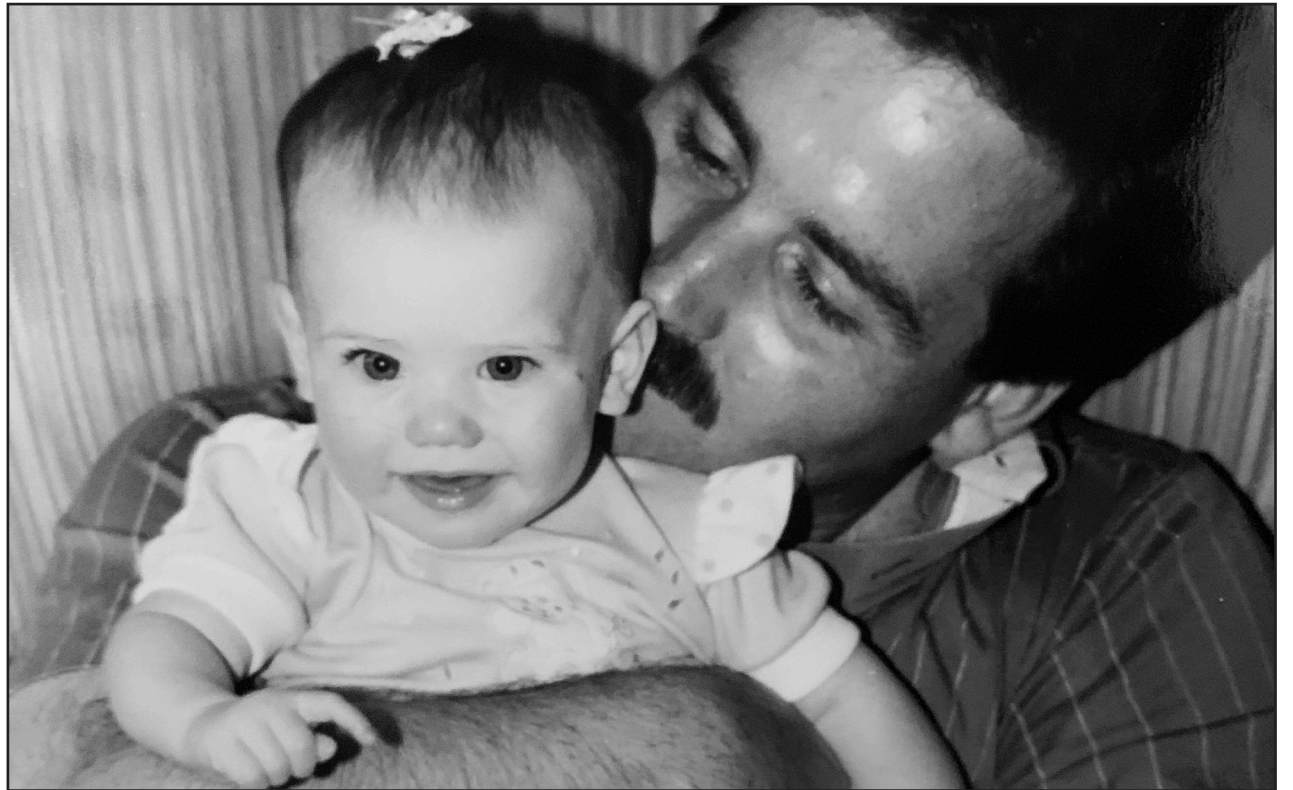


Photo by Courtney Warren

summer reading books with care. Explore your options. Find a story that gets you excited and makes you want to talk about it. Don't turn your nose up at a story your child might seem interested in because it's not what

you "think" they need to be reading. Dad had no idea that he'd change his child's life simply by agreeing to read a book. You never know what they might discover - and who they might become - all because of a book.

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Library receives donation for summer lunches

Special to The Canton News

Once again, Madison County Library System (MCLS) is excited to bring the Summer Reading Program to the youth of Madison county. Each year, thousands of youth throughout Madison county attend educational and entertaining programs while checking out and reading thousands of books.

This year's theme, "Tails and Tales," combines the joy of reading and storytelling with an appreciation of nature and wildlife. Studies show summer reading programs help to preserve reading skills and prevent the "summer slide." Our goal is to emphasize the importance of reading as an everyday life skill and as a source of information, enjoyment and culture while creating a community of readers.

However, with three of the five libraries in their communities with a higher than 94 percent free and reduced lunch rate, MCLS knows many young patrons suffer food insecurity, especially during the summer months when school is not in session. MCLS sees the summer reading program as a chance to feed not only their



Special to The Canton News

Pictured left to right are Jill Swan, MCLS Youth Services Librarian, Ridgeland; Tonja Johnson, Madison County Library System Executive Director; Barney Daly, MCCT Chairman; and Jan Collins, MCBL&F Executive Director.

mind but their body and soul. Thanks to a very generous donation of \$5,000 from the Madison County Business League & Foun-

dation and the Madison County Community Trust, MCLS Youth librarians will be providing free sack lunches for youth 18 and

under, available Monday - Friday each week in June and July. Visit mclsms.org for more information.

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CHS students honored for being “Keepers of the Legacy”



Special to The Canton News

Canton High School (CHS) students participated in the twelve-week pilot program “A Virtual Healing Café -A Seat at the Table.” The program, administered by the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute, was sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation, the Atlanta Braves, and the Mississippi Braves. Mrs. Reena Evers-Everette, Medgar, and Myrlie Evers’ daughter, along with Mrs. Corinne Anderson, led sessions to inspire and encourage our future leaders. “We all have a voice, and we all need to do our part to positively impact our community,” said CHS scholar Marquicia Douglas. Douglas says they chose the theme “Keepers of the Legacy” to remind them of their mission. Over the course of the program, the students learned the importance of giving back to their community through several service projects. “The pilot program provides skills training and support services for addressing community trauma aligned with concepts of building resilience, socio-emotional, and social justice awareness,” says Reena Evers-Everette. CHS scholars praised the program for giving young people a voice and encouraging them to be leaders in their community. Superintendent Gary Hannah and the CPSD Board of Trustees praised the students and the program for its outstanding work.

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Canton High School basketball shoots during summer



Special to The Canton News



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

The Canton High School Tigers and Lady Tigers basketball teams have not

taken the summer off to rest. Focused on improving their skills and bonding as a team, both the boys and girls

teams have participated in camps. The Canton Lady Tigers competed in the Holmes Community College Team

Camp and finished the day 1-2. The Canton Tigers participated in the Mississippi State University Team Camp.



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Brown signs scholarship



Special to The Canton News


Pictured with Brown is his proud, loving family: Aunt Delisa Brown, grandmother Mary A. Williams; Aunt Angelo Johns, Uncle Darico Johns, and cousin Johnterrick Brown.

Special to The Canton News

Canton High School (CHS) graduate Tyquavian Brown signed with Royal Ambassadors Christian School. While on the CHS basketball court, Coach Russell Evans says Brown averaged 6 points and 4 rebounds and shot 52 % from the field and 67% from the free-

throw line.

Brown said his future plan is to become a professional basketball player. He said he wants to make everyone who has been helping him become the young man he is today proud. After he becomes successful, he wants to return home to help the youth reach their dreams.



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Ridgeland Campus graduates Surgical Tech Class of '21

Special to The Canton News

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the Surgical Technology Class of 2021 on June 24 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center. Five students were honored.

Graduates included: Ashley Boles of Canton, Precious Conner of Vicksburg, Kaylee Dupre of Hazlehurst, Leah Brooke Irby of Canton and Anne Shannon of Brookhaven.

The ceremony began with a processional of the graduates, followed by an invocation given by Dupre. Following the prayer, Career-Technical Coordinator Allison DeWeese welcomed the crowd before Boles stepped up to introduce the guest speaker, Cate Wrenn.

Wrenn, a Holmes alumna, was the salutatorian for the Surgical Technology Class of 2020. She specializes in neurology in orthopedics at Merit Health Central. Wrenn will continue furthering her education as she begins Surgical First Assist School in August.

"I'm honored to be chosen as the speaker for the Class of 2021's graduation," Wrenn said. "I'm also filled with glee, because I know what is in store for you in the coming months. As you adjust to your new norm, re-

member your foundation. The last year of instruction is your roadmap to success. After becoming a full-fledged certified surgical technologist, your next challenge will be which facility you choose. There, our eyes will be opened to a shiny new world of anatomy and instruments.

"A surgical technologist's place in the operating room compares to no other," Wrenn said. "We are a direct safeguard to the sterile field. We are a surgeon's right-hand man, or, in this case, woman. Where the surgeon leaves blanks, we fill them in. We are an integral part of each and every operation: a second pair of hands, a fresh set of eyes and the ultimate counterpart.

"We are also proxies for each patient who finds their way into our operating room," Wrenn said. "With no voice, we speak for those who are under anesthesia. We put them first, and hold them to the highest regard. The career you have chosen is one of great satisfaction. Each time you step into the hospital, clinic or private practice, you are there to make a difference in each patient's life. Congratulations, Class of 2021"

Following Wrenn's address, Travia "Shea" Coleman, instructor for the Ridgeland surgical technology



Special to The Canton News

Pictured left to right are Ashley Boles and Leah Brooke Irby of Canton.

program, approached the podium to present awards.

After the awards were given, Career-Technical Education Counselor Jovonna Parker called the students to the stage one-by-one to receive their certificates and pins. Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don

Burnham and DeWeese presented certificates before Coleman pinned each young lady. Following the pinning, Dr. Burnham addressed the graduates one final time.

"Your instructor is a critical component of your success, and she is

cont. on page 13

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Cantonians nominated for Best of Mississippi

Special to The Canton News

Four Canton residents have been nominated for their expertise in entrepreneurship, small business ownership, and teaching.

Ashton Teer was nominated for Kid Entrepreneur of the Year; Assembled Blessings Baking and Catering, owned by Tameka Amos, was nominated for Small Business of the Year; Ace of Grace Boutique, owned by Misti Cochran, was nominated for Small Business of the Year; Clara Thompson, of Turning Point Fellowship Ministries Intl. Church was nominated for Pastor of the Year; and Courtney Warren, English and Yearbook teacher at Canton Academy, was nominated for Teacher of the Year.

The Best of Mississippi Awards, in partnership with the Business Empowered Mississippi Chamber of Commerce, is an annual awards event recognizing an outstanding leader who has served well in one or more of the eleven categories chosen for this year's awards in the state of Mississippi. These individuals have dedicated their love, time, money, energy, gifts, talents, and abilities to serve others," according to founder Kathy Amos.

Misti Cochran owns Ace of Grace



Special to The Canton News

Ashton Teer created a refreshment stand and sold drinks during the Canton Flea market.

on the Canton squared, named after her eldest daughter Aislynn. Her business has grown from online to brick and mortar in a short period of time, and she said, "I was completely shocked, and I so grateful to everyone who nominated me. This little business has grown faster than I ever thought possible. I owe it all to my amazing customers."

Courtney Warren, Teacher of the Year nominee, said, "I was so excit-

ed to be nominated! Just the nomination alone is an honor. I never imagined teaching would be the gift God gave me, and I've fallen in love with what I do and with my students. They say teaching is a calling, and middle school has really become my happy place."

Tameka Amos, another Small Business of the Year nominee, has grown her business astronomically over just the last six months and gives all of

the credit to the Lord.

"It is such an honor to be nominated for the Best Of Mississippi Small Business Of The Year Award. My business is still in the beginning stage, and has already made an impact in my state. So much so, that people would consider nominating it. My children are overjoyed to even think that their mom could actually bring home the win," said Amos.

The criteria for receiving The Best of Mississippi Awards are: recipients must have a history of actively serving in their sphere of influence; contribute time and energy to improve the quality of life for others and/or for the success of others or their organization, in their city, state, and/or community; demonstrate leadership and a strong passion for the advancement of the cause of which they serve; this award recognizes and demonstrates the valuable contributions and dedication these Mississippians have who served tirelessly on the frontline as well as behind the scenes to make their family, city, community, or state a better place to live.

The winners will be announced at The Best of Mississippi Awards Gala hosted by The Best of Mississippi Awards, LLC on August 28 at The Oak Crest Mansion in Pass Christian.



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PreventT2 can help prevent type 2 diabetes

By Guest Columnist Dr. Shelia Spann

If you have prediabetes, you can cut your risk of developing type 2 diabetes in half by losing 5 to 7 percent of your body weight. That is about 10 to 14 pounds for a person weighing 200 pounds.



Shelia Spann

In Merit Health Madison's preventT2 lifestyle change program, participants work in groups with trained lifestyle coach to learn the skills needed to lose weight, become more physically active, and manage stress. PreventT2 is part of the National Diabetes Prevention Program, led by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It proven to prevent or delay onset of type 2 diabetes.

The local program is offered at Merit Health Madison in Canton

on Thursdays. There are two different times offered: 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Merit Health Madison received a grant from the Mississippi State Health Department to cover the cost of the prevention program. PreventT2 groups meet for a year-weekly for the first six months, then once or twice a month for the second six months.

"Participants in the Prevent2 program are preventing type 2 diabetes by making lasting lifestyle changes, said Dr. Shelia Spann, lifestyle coach, pharmacist and diabetes educator. You have important reason to stay healthy- your family, your work- your favorite place- your hobbies- if you have prediabetes or "border line diabetes- now is the time to make preventing type 2 diabetes a priority."

Tomorrow's Prevention Today. To learn more, please call Dr. Shelia Spann at Merit Health Madison's Diabetes Center at 601-855-4032.



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From left to right, Melinda Stamps, Daphne Stamps, Cherry McClellan, Percilla Tucker, Calendria Nash, Yolanda Lamkin, Otis Evans. Second row: Courtney Thurman, Cambria Thurman, Stephen Brooks, Martha Evans. The group total weight loss is 70 pounds! Most participants are over 150 minutes of physical activity! Stay tuned for next month's results!



"Pre" means before. A person with Prediabetes doesn't have diabetes. But, without proper care, over half of those with Prediabetes may go on to develop diabetes—usually for life. 84.1 million American adults—more than 1 out of 3—have Prediabetes. Reduce your diabetes risk and gain knowledge for a healthy lifestyle. For more information on Merit Health Madison Diabetes Prevention Program. Classes start in July!

call 601-855-4032 or email shelia.spann@mymerithealth.com.

Cantonian shop owner celebrates 15 years on the square

By Courtney Warren

Tucked on to the historic Canton Square in a happy turquoise building sits La Di Da Boutique.

Owned by Alison Spivey, La Di Da celebrated fifteen years of serving and styling Canton locals and visitors of the square.

Spivey discovered her love for retail shortly after college while working at Kay-Ann's Hallmark store on the Reservoir.

"I managed the Hallmark store on County Line Road and in Northpark Mall. I loved working there, and my dream was to one day open my own Hallmark store. In 2006, Karen Mosby of Mosby's Gift Shop on the Square in Canton made the decision to retire. I saw the closing sign on the window and knew I wanted a gift shop in that building! My friend, Karie Pace, and I opened La Di Da in June 2006."

The name for the shop was easily found, and the boutique soon became a family business.

"People ask me all the time how we came up with that name. Honestly, we just wanted a name that was different and catchy! Since then, Karie has changed careers, and La Di Da has become a family-run business. My nieces, Sarah and Ashlyn, work with me, and my daughter, Starr, helps behind the scenes with social media, buying, and much more," said Spivey.

Many consider the square to be the epicenter of Canton, and Spivey finds great joy in the location of her business.

"The fact that it's home to me and the most beautiful Square in the state of Mississippi is one of the

reasons I love the location. We have the most fabulous events hosted by Canton Tourism that draw thousands to the Square several times a year. The merchants on the Square are like family. We work together to help promote one another and bring business downtown. It's very laid back and a safe place to shop," she said.

Spivey recognizes the importance of having a business downtown, because "many places across America are losing their small-town charm."

With a fierce passion for her small town, Spivey strives to ensure all of her customers receive that small-town experience when they enter her store.

"We work hard to keep those perks for our customers. We offer personal shopping over the phone or by text and even deliver gifts to local bridal and baby showers or businesses. We want shopping to be easy and personable! At the same time, we keep up with the newer generation of online and social media shopping. Our customers have supported us over the past fifteen years by shopping local first, attending our special events, word of mouth advertising, and sharing our posts on social media," she said.

With the retail world ever-changing, Spivey has gotten creative in order to bring more customers to her doors.

Recently, La Di Da hosted a flower cart, allowing shoppers to handpick their very own bouquet for Mother's Day. The flower cart was such a success it was brought back again on a Saturday. "The retail world has changed so much, and we would have never made it fifteen years



Photo by Graham Lambert

Alison Spivey and her daughter Starr celebrated the store's anniversary in style.

without the loyal support of our awesome customers," said Spivey.

After fifteen years spent downtown, La Di Da has brought many smiles and sometimes belly laughs.

"Oh, there are so many funny memories over the years! One that comes to mind was our first Canton Flea Market. Even though I grew up in Canton and had attended many Flea Markets, we had no idea what to expect as merchants. We decided to sell our Southern Belle t-shirts outside that day. We had one table, no tent, and no way to display the shirts, and they were a huge hit. It was crazy and exhausting, to say the least. The next flea market as we prepared, we found a money box full of money in the

back of the store from the previous flea market! What a nice surprise and a good laugh! I think of that every flea market," said Spivey with enthusiasm.

However, with the laughs come some shocking moments, as well.

"And then there was the time we had a big king snake in the store. Luckily, we saw it before a customer did! Oh, the joys of old historic buildings," said Spivey.

La Di Da is located at 3334 N. Liberty Street. For more information and to shop, visit the store or shopladida.com.

Panthers on August 7 and their first football game against Sylva Bay Academy at Sylva Bay on August 13.

cont. from page 10

Ridgeland

as good as anybody in this country, probably in the world, at what she does," Dr. Burnham said. "So thank you, Shea, for being who you are and instructing these students the way you do. Let's also thank the spouses, children, parents, grandparents, guardians and significant others who have stood by you while you have been studying. I want to give them a round of applause.

"Last but not least, this day is about you guys," Dr. Burnham said. "I know you probably didn't think it was going to ever arrive, but it has. You've been together for a year. You may have cried together, laughed together and learned things about each other that no one else knows. You have persevered and moved into a field in which what you do can mean life and death. Your work is extremely important.

"As you move into the medical

field, always keep your integrity," Dr. Burnham said. "I'll say it again, always keep your integrity. Guard it zealously. I want you to remember that Holmes Community College will always be a part of you, and know that we are here for you. We hope you'll come back to see us and use us as a resource when you need us. Congratulations to you again on your accomplishment. May God bless each of you, and may your lives reflect His glory as you move on to the next chapter."

The graduates recited the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) Code of Ethics before Conner concluded the ceremony with the benediction.

For more information about the Surgical Technology program on the Ridgeland Campus, contact Coleman at 601-605-3396 or colemanc@holmescc.edu.

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Classes for stenographic court reporters scheduled for August

Special to The Canton News

The Courts of Mississippi recently announced Pearl River Community College's inaugural program for court reporters. Classes are scheduled to begin August 6 at the Hattiesburg campus of Pearl River Community College.

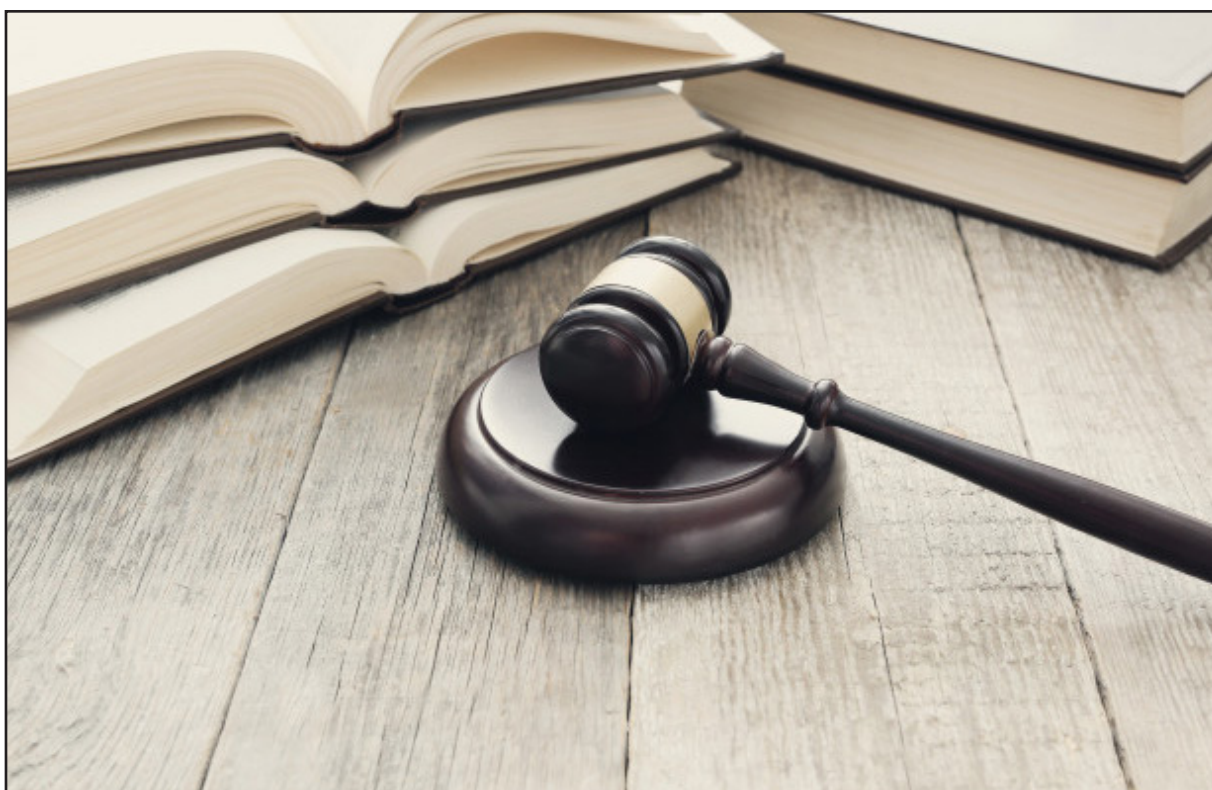
The program is designed to respond to an urgent need for well-trained professional stenographers to record, transcribe and create an official record of court proceedings. There is a shortage of certified court reporters, as retirements have outpaced new people coming into the profession. There are currently 281 licensed court reporters in Mississippi, according to the Mississippi Board of Certified Court Reporters. There were 375 licensed court reporters a decade ago. That includes official court reporters for all federal and state courts as well as freelance court reporters.

For students considering court reporting as a profession, "You are not going to have a problem finding a job," said Rose Sanchez of Hattiesburg, who became the Mississippi Court Reporters Association president in April. She is a court reporter for Circuit Judge Prentiss Harrell in the 15th Circuit District.

Other employment opportunities are available outside the courtroom, with the need for closed captioning in television, movies, sports broadcasting and other venues.

Twila Jordan-Hoover of Carriere, immediate past president of the Mississippi Court Reporters Association, and Sanchez will teach classes on Friday and Saturday twice a month. The hybrid program will also include online classes.

The new program is prepared to enroll as many as fifteen students, said Dr. Jana Causey, Vice President for the Forrest County campus of PRCC. The first step for interested students is to apply for enrollment at PRCC. Enrollment information may be found on the



Special to The Canton News

college's website, www.prcc.edu.

Leaders of the Mississippi Court Reporters Association set plans in motion for a training program about three years ago. Sanchez, Jordan-Hoover and other court reporters around the state volunteered

to provide in-person instruction through a national organization that provides a hybrid online six-week introduction to court reporting. The free program, known as A to Z, is designed to give students an

cont. on page 16

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CA cheerleading squad brings home the Banana

By Courtney Warren

Some want a Heisman, some want a Superbowl ring; the Canton Academy cheerleading squad wants the Banana.

At the Universal Cheerleader Association (UCA) Camp at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), the CA Panthers cleaned up in regards to awards and recognition for their spirit, dedication, and bleeding black and gold.

Dressed as bananas and hoarse from their cheers, the squad was awarded the Banana Award, which is given to the school that shows the most spirit throughout the entire week. CA has won the Banana for five years in a row.

Cheer Captain Starr Spivey said, "Camp at USM was the best cheer camp we've attended. Staying in the dorm and bonding with our JV cheer squad and other schools was so much fun."

Spivey was given several accolades, including an invitation to be a UCA instructor and the Pin It Forward award.

The Pin It Forward award is a program at the UCA camp that recognizes standout cheerleaders who portray the characteristics of leadership, spirit, commitment, kindness and motivation. Once a cheerleader receives the two pins, they will find another cheerleader who demonstrates those same qualities and "Pin It Forward." Spivey, senior Maggie Claire Thomas, and freshman Amelia Cook all received Pin It Forward awards.

"I felt very honored and excited

to be awarded the Pin It Forward award by a UCA instructor. We all worked very hard all week, and I did my best to be a leader for my squad. The next day, I pinned it forward to a girl from Grenada because of her hard work and great attitude," said Spivey.

Senior Cheer Co-Captain Maggie Claire Thomas was also invited to try out for UCA Cheerleader and was given the Pin It Forward Award.

"We went with the main goal of doing our best and bringing home the Banana. We had to overcome losing a cheerleader, and one of our main flyers was sick and couldn't stunt. We showed up and took home the Banana, the overall spirit stick, the first night. We did great in all of our evaluations, as well," said Thomas.

Six Panthers made All-American Cheerleader, including Spivey, Thomas, Reese Willis, Ashlyn Thompson, Finley Ezell and Emma Lane Martens. The junior varsity Panthers also had six members make All-American, including Gates Welch, Mary Alice Holmes, Amelia Cook, Reagan Taylor, Lila Thomas and Maggie Penn.

At the final day of camp, the squads competed with routines they'd learned and practiced all week.

The junior varsity won first place in sideline and first place in camp routine.

The varsity won first for cheer, fourth for sideline, and fourth for camp routine.

The squad also took home the Tra-



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ditions Trophy for the best hometown tradition in their division.

"We had the best time at camp and can't wait for the pep rallies and Friday night lights," said Thomas.

Team sponsor Mary Morgan Reams was filled with pride when talking about her cheerleaders. "It was an amazing week! CA walked away with twelve All-American Cheerleaders and many more awards. These ladies did so awesome, and I could not be more proud of them. We had busted lips, busted noses, blisters, backaches, headaches, and more; but they all kept their spirits up and had the best attitude. We even had a cheerleader, Madi, that was under the weather yet still showed up every day, dressed as a

banana, and ready to cheer on her team. I'm blown away by all of their accomplishments, and I know that Canton Academy left a huge impression at camp. It's one we can be very proud of."

Reams cheered the praises of her captain and co-captain and said, "Starr and Maggie Claire pushed their squad to success. They acted crazy for that Banana, were great leaders, worked hard, and never lost that positive attitude. I am so honored to be their coach."

Canton Academy cheerleaders will hit the sidelines for Meet the Panthers on August 7 and their first football game against Sylva Bay Academy at Sylva Bay on August 13.

Word of Prayer: Putting the old road behind

By Guest Columnist Nolen Whitehead

So often, we get caught up in the world that is around us. For the better part of a year, we have definitely been caught up in the world that is around us. As such, it is good to sometimes reflect on where we have been to remind us where we are going. Therefore, allow me to paint a picture.

Where is it that we go that, when we get there, we don't quite know how we came to be where we are? Such is the beginning of the road that takes us into the unseen recesses of sin. We allow ourselves to be deceived, or dare I say tantalized, by the sparkling magnificence of what we believe to be good for ourselves. That jewel that distracts us from our walking in the right direction. That

bright shimmering object of our own desires. It taunts us. It deceives us. It consumes our thoughts and fills our minds with longing. It then devours the essence of what we once had that was considered good...if we ever had that at all. At its end, it has ravaged us like a cancer. It has destroyed our nobility of reason. It is at this moment of confusion, or shall I say despair, that we look backward at the carnage wrought by our choosing the sparkling gem.

It is in this moment of hopelessness, in this moment of drowning in sorrow at the wretchedness we have be-

come, that Christ reaches down into the water. In this moment of hopelessness, we gaze up into the One who offers the only hope that we can ever have. It is this moment that, in our sorrowful display, we repent of our transgressions. We are then pulled from the murky death that has long awaited us into the bosom of the Most High Priest who is Jesus Christ.

Through Him we are righted. Through Him we are forgiven. Through Him we are restored. The road we once traveled has now been abandoned for a brighter glory found only through Him.

As the water that once engulfed us recedes, as the road we once traveled is buried, a brighter path awaits. No longer do we live for ourselves. No longer do we fall into deception. It is now He that lives in you and He that lives in me. It is He that strengthens us victoriously both internally and externally. It is He that now rules our lives as our Savior. It is He that shed His blood, and it is only through Him that we have eternal hope. For His Word says this in John 10:10-11: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. 11: "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

Remember, it is the good shepherd to whom we belong, and it is the good shepherd that we serve.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Nolen Whitehead is the pastor of Center Terrace Baptist Church, located on 605 E. Peace St. in Canton. Worship services are Sundays at 10:15 a.m.



Nolen Whitehead

Special to The Canton News



Special to The Canton News

Canton traditions remain

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

July 4th is a holiday to celebrate all the reasons we love living in the United States of America. Whether your candidates were elected or not in recent elections is no reason not to appreciate living in Canton, Mississippi, and in America. Things are always changing; and, talking to our friend, Hervey Galloway, he remembers when Canton had four horse and mule barns (livery stables). He told us that during World War II, Billy Willie Harreld lived where the Chinese restaurant, across from Center Terrace Church, is located now, and that Mr. Harreld stored new cars in big warehouses on that property. One of the warehouses reached from Center Street to Peace Street where the Sprint Mart now sits. In the beginning of John Deere tractors being sold in Canton, Hervey said the local hardware store, located at the Subway site on the corner of Liberty and Center Street, sold them. Any of us Cantonians over the age of fifty can talk of change, however, there have been some big changes in the last five years.

Some things seem to be repeating history, like our little church, Thornton Chapel, that has been a part of our neighborhood since 1855. For the last 20 plus years, it has served as a place to worship on Sunday morning and attend an occasional funeral. Now we are using it not only as a place of worship, but also for children ministries, ladies Bible studies, Easter Egg hunts, bookmobile stops, and all kind of celebrations, as was the custom in its earlier years. In the past, there was even BBQ cooking on the grounds. Who knows, we may come full circle with that idea, also.

In the past, we have all known our mail carrier and left treats for them in our mailboxes or chatted with them as friends when they delivered mail to the door. Now days, we change mail carriers so often that we don't know their names, or what type vehicle they will be driving. A snack left in the box, just to say hello, is left, because the new carriers aren't sure what to do with a bag of peanuts with no postage stamp. Our mail may come at 9:00 a.m. or at 5:00 p.m. However, everyone along Davis Crossing Road and Way Road knows the UPS carrier, Edna Bonner, by name. She delivers at our house (more often than I care to admit) between 4-5 p.m., and she always has time for a chat, to look at flowers, or to share things going on with her teenage girls. Right the opposite of how these carriers were known five

years ago.

I didn't really know how much Piggly Wiggly meant to our city, and to me, until both our stores closed. Remember how happy we all were to have one reopen! With the exciting changes coming to Gluckstadt and the announcement of their new grocery store, we all need to continue to support our Piggly so we don't have to repeat that bad situation of no local Piggly.

Madison County Economic Development Authority has kept jobs flowing into Canton and Madison County since its inception in 1979. The job market will be upgraded again with the opening of Amazon and their technical requirements for that workforce. We will see changes similar to when Nissan came, with people moving and driving into our area to take advantage of these work opportunities; however, Amazon will offer our area an additional change, which will be a "work from home" option.

When the marijuana issue gets settled, Canton will have jobs in that industry that will be a first for the whole metro area. I am very thankful that we have ample jobs, and that the job skills and pay grade are always moving upward and attracting new people into Canton.

Canton has certainly changed in the last five years! While not all the changes have been good, I am very grateful for the many volunteers, leaders, and outside investors for the added improvements made and being made in and around Canton. It is always gratifying to hear the many tourists rave about the warm welcomes and friendly ways in Canton. I am appreciative for the new faces that I meet around town, and am inspired when I ask them about their experiences in choosing and living here. The quality of life that Canton offers is just one of the wonderful benefits of living in the in small town U.S.A.

As anywhere in America, we in Canton are dealing with building a better quality of life, experiencing changes, both those we appreciate and those we don't understand, and believing that God has a good plan for our future. This July 4th gives us another opportunity to reflect on our past, appreciate the new, and to be thankful for what the future can hold, if we do our part to make the changes better for everyone.

Happy July 4th!

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.

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Classes

opportunity to learn about a possible career path without investing a lot of time and money.

Online programs are available through which students can pursue training, but the nearest classroom program for court reporting was in Gadsden, Alabama.

"The problem is if they leave, what if they don't come back," Jordan-Hoover said. She knows several A to Z participants who went to classes in Alabama and Texas. "Having a school here will allow us to keep our students here and fulfill the need we have in our state."

Jordan-Hoover works as a court reporter for Chancellor Deborah Gambrell Chambers in the 10th Chancery District. She discussed the association's ideas with Judge Gambrell Chambers, who reached out to Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Randolph and to Mississippi Judicial College Director Randy Pierce. They discussed ways to set up a training program and contacted several colleges and universities. Pearl River Community College agreed to provide the program and obtained approval for the curriculum.

"There was a need, and we just figured out a way to bring it to fru-

ition," said Judge Gambrell Chambers.

"Pearl River Community College and its leadership are to be commended," Pierce said.

Chief Justice Randolph said, "I am extremely pleased that the leaders of the Court Reporters Association, in conjunction with urging by Judge Gambrell Chambers, and the willingness of Pearl River Community College, have created this wonderful opportunity for young people to get involved in a very well-respected and well-paid profession. This will provide a career path for those individuals who do not desire a four year education, but seek a meaningful and rewarding career."

Chancellor Kiley Kirk and Court Administrator Erin Land of the Sixth Chancery Court know the frustration of searching for temporary court reporters to fill in. The official court reporter left in April.

Land said, "I call around and just try to find one to schedule for motions and trial dates." Trial dates are scheduled into next year. But, Land said, "Nobody really wants to schedule that far in advance."

Judge Kirk said, "I like for things to be lined up. I'm having to work in an atmosphere of uncertainty."



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Coleman speaks at Canton Lions Club



Special to The Canton News

Pictured left to right Canton Lions Club President Darlene Austin, Dr. James Coleman, and Canton Lions Club Vice President Moses Thompson.

Special to The Canton News

Dr. Coleman recently delivered the weekly program for the Canton Lions Club. Coleman is Chief Executive Officer of G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center. G.A. Carmichael is a 330 Community Health

Center nonprofit agent providing primary care services in Madison, Yazoo, and Humphreys Counties. The mission of G.A. Carmichael is to provide access to quality, affordable, primary healthcare with compassion and professionalism in the communities it serves.

Lions Club honors BBQ tickets sold

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Canton Lions Club Chicken Barbecue
Drive Through Pick-Up for Healthy Chicken Dinner

First United Methodist Church
 3301 South Liberty Street, Canton, Mississippi

BRONZE SPONSOR: G.A. CARMICHAEL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

Friday July 9, 2021 **4:00 — 6:00 p.m.**

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The Canton Lions, with a sponsorship from G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, recently announced that, on July 9, from 4-6 p.m., the BBQ tickets purchased prior to the COVID-19 shutdown last year will be honored at the First Methodist Church parking lot. Healthy chicken plates prepared using

the Lions Club special recipe will be available in a drive-through serving line. A ticket will be needed to pick up the plates. Additional tickets are available for \$15 per dinner.

The Lions welcome anyone who would like to join them in making things better in Canton to become a member. They can be contacted on Facebook at Canton Lions Club.



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Tofu Scramblers

Ingredients:

- 1 packet (14 ounces) Tofu Firm
- 1/2 cup of onions, chopped small
- 1/2 cup of peppers (red, green or mixed to your liking), chopped small
- 2 Tblsp of margarine
- 1 Tblsp garlic Powder
- 1/2 Tblsp turmeric powder
- Sprinkle of black pepper, to taste

By Debbie Kay

Discovering the Tofu Scramblers has been a part of my journey to healthy eating. Desiring to find new foods, I searched for meals that were cholesterol-free, yet tasty. When I finally came across this dish, I found it to be all of the things I hoped it to be. It is healthy, rewarding, and very tasty. Also, one ingredient that sticks out to me is turmeric. It helps relieve inflammation. Being healthy is a must amongst the African American community.

Directions:

1. Drain water from tofu package. Crumble and set aside.
2. In a skillet over medium heat, add margarine and sauté veggies.
3. Stir in tofu, garlic powder, turmeric powder and black pepper. Mix together in a skillet for 10 minutes.

Serves 4 people.

*Turmeric is used in cooking as a flavoring and to add a yellowish color.

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VBS brings kids together

Vacation Bible Schools are in full swing all across Madison County. From Destination Dig to SummerFest, churches are gathering children together to learn about God and how to better the world.



Special to The Canton News

Canton First United Methodist Church



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First Baptist Church of Canton

Reptile knowledge shared



Special to The Canton News

Terry Vandeventer "The Snake Man"

Special to The Canton News




Terry Vandeventer, "The Snake Man" shared his Living Reptile Museum with young Canton Library patrons on June 16 as part of Tails and Tales Summer Reading Theme. Live snakes were presented in a fun and safe manner for all to see. Characteristics, life histories, and benefits

to mankind were covered as well as the all-important issue of safety. He provided facts and corrected misconceptions about some of the state's 56 types of snakes, only six of which are venomous. This was a fun educational program for all ages. Check the library system calendar at mclsms.org for more information.

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CPSD partners to bring Tdap vaccine to students

By Courtney Warren

To ensure the health and safety of their students, Canton Public School District partnered with G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center to provide Tdap vaccines to entering seventh-grade students.

The Tdap vaccine can prevent tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diphtheria and pertussis spread from person to person. Tetanus enters the body through cuts or wounds. Tetanus (T) causes painful stiffening of the muscles. Tetanus can lead to serious health problems, including being unable to open the mouth, having trouble swallowing and breathing, or

death. Diphtheria (D) can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, or death. Pertussis (aP), also known as "whooping cough," can cause uncontrollable, violent coughing, which makes it hard to breathe, eat, or drink. Pertussis can be extremely serious in babies and young children, causing pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage, or death. In teens and adults, it can cause weight loss, loss of bladder control, passing out, and rib fractures from severe coughing.

Tdap is only for children 7 years and older, adolescents, and adults. Adolescents should receive a single dose of Tdap, preferably at age 11 or 12 years.

For more information, contact G.A. Carmichael at 601-521-9236.



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