



The Choctaw Sun

Shining Brightly Over Southwest Alabama



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www.choctawsun.com
choctawsun@millry.net

Briefs



Photo © Whiddon Photography
Choctaw Co. Junior Miss
Laura Abston

Alabama's Junior Miss finals this weekend

MONTGOMERY — South Choctaw Academy senior Laura Abston, of Gilbertown, is among 53 high school seniors from across the state who will compete in the 50th Annual Alabama's Junior Miss scholarship competition on January 19-20 in Montgomery.

The first preliminary competition will take place on Friday, Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. and the second preliminary competition will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20. The final competition will take place at 7 p.m. on Saturday night.

All programs will be held

SEE ABSTON, PAGE 3A

Almanac

TUESDAY, JAN. 16

Rainy, windy, much colder
Hi 45 • Lo 27
Rain chance 60%
Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.
Sunset: 5:13 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

Mostly cloudy, cold
Hi 48 • Lo 32
Rain chance 20%
Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.
Sunset: 5:14 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 18

Cloudy, little warmer
Hi 54 • Lo 36
Rain chance 40%
Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.
Sunset: 5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

Partly cloudy
Hi 54 • Lo 30
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.
Sunset: 5:16 p.m.



Choctaw Sun photo by Tommy Campbell

STATE TROOPER CHUCK GILLILAND talks to residents of the neighborhood following the ATV accident on Saturday afternoon. The sign that Lewis hit can be seen in the foreground. He was thrown several yards from the point of impact to just beyond where Gilliland's patrol car is sitting.

Local man critical after ATV accident

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

TOXEY — A local man remains in critical condition at the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile after a four-wheeler accident Saturday afternoon.

James Michael Lewis, 21, was injured in the ATV mishap that occurred just before 2 p.m. on Jan. 13th, on Broad Street near the Toxey Fire Station.

Lewis, a graduate of South Choctaw Academy, was transported by Choctaw EMS Ambulance to Washington Co. Infirmary, at Chatom, where he was picked up by a LifeFlight helicopter and transferred to the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile.

"He's still very critical, but thankfully he is doing some better today," his father, Lucas Lewis, told the Sun Monday afternoon. "He has a severe skull fracture and some bruising on the brain, and they had to do surgery to relieve the pressure and remove a blood clot. They are trying to keep the pressure in his skull stabilized, so they are keeping him heavily sedated."

Lucas said the family met with physicians Monday morning.

"At this point they can't say what the long-term effects may be, but they did tell us that it's going to be a slow go," he said. "The doctors think he will pull through now, but at one time we didn't know if he would make it or not. Last night (Sunday) was rough on us."

Michael is responding to stimuli, although doctors have told the family — for now — to avoid speaking to him or touching him so as to allow his brain to be as inactive as possible to prevent further swelling.

SEE ACCIDENT, PAGE 3A

Two new officials take office



BUTLER — Choctaw County's new Probate Judge, D'Wayne May, is shown here (center) as Rev. J.D. Weed (left) administers the oath of office. May's wife, Teresa, is holding the Bible. Afterward, May pledged that his administration will be run in a straight-forward, ethical, open manner. "My door will always be open to the people of Choctaw County," he said. A large crowd was on hand for the ceremony and for the refreshments that followed.



BUTLER — Circuit Clerk Donna Murphy, is shown here taking the oath of office on Friday, Jan. 12th from Circuit Judge Thomas Baxter (right), as her husband, James (left), holds the Bible. Mrs. Murphy's full term in office began Jan. 16th, but she was appointed to serve the remaining term of former Circuit Clerk Don Gibson who resigned in the summer of last year.

Choctaw Sun photos by Tommy Campbell

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