

Bumpers celebrates 8 years as Golden Rule Funeral Home

BUTLER -- Bumpers Funeral Home of Butler is celebrating the renewal of its membership in the International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR), a professional association of independently owned and operated funeral homes. Bumpers Funeral Home was accepted into the prestigious funeral home organization in October, 1998. As independently owned firms, Golden Rule funeral homes must meet and maintain a strict code of conduct and high ethical standards.

"We are pleased to have the Bumpers Funeral Home as a member," said Karen Gentles, OGR Director of Membership. "The people at Bumpers Funeral Home have proven for eight years that they are caring, compassionate professionals. As a member of the Order of the Golden Rule, the funeral home owners and staff have dedicated themselves to continuing this tradition of caring in their community."

"It has been our privilege to maintain ties to

OGR," said Rocky Bumpers, Bumpers Funeral Home. "Being a Golden Rule firm has helped us to better serve our families in Choctaw County, to offer them peace of mind and integrity they can count on. That is absolutely key to maintaining good relations with our clients in this sensitive business."

Headquartered in St. Louis, Mo., the International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR) is one of the world's largest professional associations of independent funeral homes, whose members are dedicated to offering dependable, dignified and caring service to families. "Service measured not by gold, but by the Golden Rule" has been the credo of the association since its founding in 1928.

For more information, contact Rocky Bumpers at Bumpers Funeral Home, 205-459-2515. To request support materials for the bereaved or to learn more about funerals, memorialization or cremation, visit <http://www.golden-rule.com>.



Choctaw Sun photo by Sherry Taylor

Sun cuts ribbon on new Butler office

BUTLER -- Family, friends, and well-wishers were on-hand on Saturday to cut the ribbon on The Choctaw Sun's new Butler office. Rev. O. L. Sealey, pictured 3rd from left, offered a prayer of blessing on the new venture, and Chamber of Commerce Director Nancy Gibson, not pictured, as well as Jennifer James, Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors, pictured in back, spoke at the event. Staff members present included Sue Wyche, who will manage the new office, ad design artist Dan Melvin, Business manager and co-owner Katy Sims, Editor and co-owner Dee Ann Campbell, advertising manager Ashley Downing, receptionist/photographer/sports writer Marcus Gates, webmaster/computer maintenance technician Mickey Bryant (aka Chuckles the Clown, and Publisher Tommy Campbell. Not pictured was Sports Editor Colin Merritt. The office will be open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Wallace honored by Paper Works

BIRMINGHAM -- Kim Wallace has been named Employee of the Month by City Paper, in Birmingham.

Kim, who joined Paper Works in July of 2001, recently received a Five Year service award at the company's 2006 Christmas party.

She was selected for the honor of Employee of the Month because of her excellent service record.

Company officials said that Kim has, "stepped up to the plate in every area when Paper Works has been short-handed or just plain 'covered up', and the customers love her."

Kim is the daughter of Felton Wallace, of Pushmataha, and Rhonda Wallace, of Butler. She is the



Kim Wallace

granddaughter of the late Will and Martha Pennington, of Butler, and Curvin and Mae Holly Wallace, of Pushmataha.

Bonner is Willow Trace Employee of the Month

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER -- "I wanted to work with older people," says Angela Bonner, Employee of the Month at Willow Trace Nursing Center.

When Angela joined the staff at Willow Trace 10 years ago, she was looking for a job that would not only provide a pay check, but one that would give you the opportunity to work with people. She got what she was looking for at Willow Trace.

Angela received her training as a Certified Nurses Assistant from the Tom Orr Vocational Center in 1997. Following completion of her training, she immediately went to work at the nursing center in Butler.

As a CNA, Angela's job requires much contact with the residents. From feeding to bathing to helping them walk, she is one of the primary caregivers who work with the residents on a daily basis.

At one time, her role at Willow Trace involved caring for members of her own family.

"Both of my grandmothers were here for a while," she says. "They both passed away in 1993. I was the main one who took care of my mother's mother. It was nice to be able to do that."

Whether it is her own family member or someone else's, Angela says that the key to caring for the residents is to have patience.

It's like taking care of a child sometimes," she says. "They may be 60 to 100 years old, but you still have to take care of them like that. I get a joy out of it."

After being with the residents for a long time, Angela says she has come to know their personalities, their likes, and their dislikes. She enjoys getting to know all the little things that make them happy -- and she says she tries to give them those things as often as possible.

I have one who really likes cornbread and buttermilk," she laughs, "so I try to make sure she gets it. You get used to who they are and what they like."

Through the years, others have encouraged her to continue her education, to pursue her degree as a Registered Nurse. But Angela chose not to do so. Instead, she preferred to remain in her role at Willow Trace



Angela Bonner

because of the amount of one-on-one contact with the residents that it gives her.

"The hardest part is that you get attached to

them and when they pass, it's hard," she explains. "The best part is being able to tell them that you love them, and having them tell you they appreciate you."



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