



The Choctaw Sun
Tuesday, January 23, 2007
Page 4A

Opinions

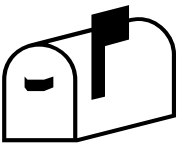
www.choctawsun.com
choctawsun@millry.net

The Sun's Staff

- Tommy Campbell**
Publisher
- Dee Ann Campbell**
Editor
- Colin Merritt**
Sports Editor
- Katy Sims**
Administration
- Ashley Downing**
Advertising Manager
- Dan Melvin**
Advertising Design
- Sue Wyche**
Receptionist/Butler
- Marcus Gates**
Receptionist/Gilbertown Advertising Sales
- Mickey Bryant**
Webmaster/Computers



Letters



Dear Tommy,
My brother is going to Iraq next month and I wish that everybody in Choctaw County would please pray for him and his wife and kids. His name is Todd Griffith.
I know the good people of this county can help him and his family through this TOUGH time. He will be gone for 15 months. Please pray for our whole family. Thank you so much.
Lil Joe Griffith

(ED. NOTE: Consider it done, Lil Joe. Also, tell Todd to email us when he gets to his base and we will give him a free e-Paper subscription to the Sun ... something that we do for all of our military men and women who are serving around the world. -- Tommy.)

I am searching for additional information about William Henry Boutwell, my great-grandfather's family.
William Henry was four years old on the Choctaw County, AL 1860 census. His parents were William Matthew Boutwell, 40 and Louisa E. Parrish, 39; siblings, Matthew R., 19, Lewis S., 18, Lavinia A., 15, Rachel C., 13, Amanda M., 10, Martha L., 9, Sarah J., 7, and Mary L., 2.
Any information will be appreciated.
Diane Boutwell Grey
101 Pineview Circle, 13885 Hwy. 12 West
Kosciusko, MS 39090
Email: walden@netdoor.com

See LETTERS, page 6B

Mama would have still been proud

I wish it could have been.

Sunday afternoon was a time for wishes, for hopes, for dreams that finally came true ... but didn't.

For New Orleans, it was a day that seemed to be their destiny - but not quite. When the day was over, the dream had ended - just shy of the goal, just short of fulfillment, just one game away from the ultimate prize.

The New Orleans Saints' season of dreams didn't quite end the way destiny seemed to have intended. After a season that placed the ne'er-do-well team on the map for the first time in its 20-year history, the Saints stopped just short of where they seemed destined to go.

But one things' for sure, Mama would still be proud.

It was a weekend tradition in my family since I was old enough to remember. When Sunday



Looking Up

By Dee Ann Campbell
Editor

afternoon rolled around, we could all be found sitting in our den around the television watching the New Orleans Saints play football.

They were our team. They were our Saints. But it was about more than just football. Sunday afternoon with the Saints was our time to be together - our time to pull together for the goal, to holler and yell and feel connected to something greater than ourselves.

None of us was more animated during those games - none more excited when they won or dejected when they lost -

than Mama.

I can still see her sitting in her chair, feet propped up and fists clenched, and whenever Archie Manning would throw a pass or score a touchdown - or even get sacked in the end-zone, Mama was there to cheer him on.

And stretched out on the couch beside her chair was my Daddy. Although he was usually less vocal than the rest of us, during those games when the Saints seemed unusually motivated, we would invariably see him raise up from his reclining position, prop up on one

elbow, and yell. His voice would boom out over the rest of ours as he yelled his usual 'Throw the bomb, Archie! Throw the bomb!'

The team had rarely given us reason to hope, but we hoped anyway. They had rarely given us reason to be proud, but we were proud anyway.

On Monday mornings, my brothers and I would hang our heads and go to school, knowing that the chiding was coming, knowing that the other kids would have seen the game - and the loss - too.

But the very next Sunday we would be right there once again, watching our Saints with our family and hoping for the victory.

Throughout this year's season, as I watched my Saints play ball, I was delighted. I was excited. I was animated and proud to see

See DEE ANN, page 6B

Thoughts on a rainy, winter Monday

I was sitting here on a cool, rainy, overcast day, watching the early morning traffic pass by the office here in Gilberttown, and as I sipped on my second cup of coffee, it just hit me - I have a lot to be thankful for.

Our entire county has a lot to be thankful for.

It isn't news to us that our roads and bridges are deteriorating faster than the county can patch the patches, and that our small businesses struggle daily with how to compete with the malls and the Wal-Marts in surrounding counties.

It isn't news to us that our roadsides are as trashy as they come.

It isn't news to us that we desperately need more jobs so that our people can stay at home and work at home.

It isn't news to us that the big shot politicians in Montgomery really don't give a flip what happens here on the



The way I see it ...

By Tommy Campbell
Publisher

west side of the Tombigbee, and that the bigger shot bureaucrats in Washington don't even know we exist for the most part.

But when you get right down to the bottom line, our problems are nothing of the sort that are found in many other areas of our state and our nation and every so often we need to stop whining, griping and fussing and list our blessings and what we have to be thankful for ... even if it's not Thanksgiving!

I for one am thankful that we have a county

filled with kind-hearted souls, neighbors whom we have literally seen give the shirts off their backs, the food out of their cabinets, and the appliances out of their homes to sick, destitute, or burned-out families with no place else to turn.

I am thankful for the folks in our volunteer fire departments, hardy souls who crawl out of their warm, dry beds in the middle of a 25-degree sleety drizzle and spend the rest of the morning helping a department on the other end of the county save yet another

person's house or business ... all of which they do, by the way, without pay.

I am thankful for the small businesses that still allow people who just don't have the money in hand, and who don't have the luxury of a credit card, to "charge a few things" until they get their Social Security checks at the first of the month. Try asking for that in a big city!

I am thankful for the peace of mind that comes from being able to lay down at night and not worry too much if you forgot to lock your doors or take the keys out of the ignition. I admit that's generally not a safe practice wherever you live, but the point is, if we lived in other parts of the country, we'd be sleeping in a fortress, protected by burglar bars, alarm systems and a Colt .45™

See TOMMY, page 6B

SoundOff

I wanted to thank the SUN for having respect for families and friends of victims of wrecks in mind. The other Choctaw County paper could take a lesson from you. You do not put pictures of the dead victims of wrecks or any other kind of accident in the paper for people to see. That is VERY disrespectful to the families, friends, and most of all to the victims. I cant believe I saw that in the paper, MUCH LESS THE FRONT PAGE!!!!!! Have a heart, people, and never do that again!! The SUN is ran with the utmost respect and they don't mind putting insults to them in this paper, either. I for one, appreciate the way you run your paper. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK GUYS!!!

(ED. NOTE: For the record, we cannot speak for another publication, but here at the Sun, we have a policy of not printing photos of bodies - even those covered with sheets - at the scene of accidents. We have to cover the news because that's our job, but we try to do it in a manner that is the least intrusive to an already grieving family. - Tommy.)

I hope the new sheriff will do something to get those inmates off the streets and into their cells where they belong. If they are in JAIL they do not need to be granted the FREEDOM to stroll over town, visit convenience stores, fast food places, sit in cars parked on the side of the jail and talk to their dope-dealing buddies, or sitting around the jail office with their feet propped up watching satellite TV! Jail is supposed to be a DETERRENT, not a HILTON HOTEL!!

I have to laugh when you print those SoundOffs from people who say they don't read them. I have a question, though. If they don't read them, how in the heck do these people know what's in 'em? SoundOff is one of my favorite parts of the paper because it is freedom of expression at its best. I don't always agree with them either, but the comments sure make you stop and think.

See SOUNDOFF, page 6B

Opinions expressed here are those of our readers and do not necessarily represent those of the owners or staff of The Choctaw Sun. Because of the enormous volume received each week, we are unable to publish every comment in the "print" version. Go to our website at www.choctawsun.com to read more of today's SoundOffs. Comments that contain vulgarity, obscenities, or personal attacks on the character of any individual will not be published. SoundOff can be found in both the Tuesday and Friday print editions of The Sun.

About the Sun:

**PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY
On Tuesdays and Fridays**

Deadlines:

For Tuesday issues: **Fridays** at noon
For Friday issues: **Wednesdays** at noon
(Early deadlines may apply to weeks that contain holidays)

Subscription Rates:

In Choctaw Co \$30 + \$2.40 tax = \$32.40
(Senior Citizens ... \$18 + \$1.44 tax = \$19.44
Elsewhere in Alabama ... \$35 + \$2.80 tax = \$37.80
Other states ... \$45 (no tax)

ePaper internet subscriptions are available with any subscription for an additional fee of \$10

Visit us at two locations:

GILBERTOWN OFFICE:
13440 Choctaw Ave.
Gilbertown, AL
Phone: (251) 843-6397

Toll-free:
(800) 838-4SUN
Fax: (251) 843-3233

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

BUTLER OFFICE:
214 West Smith Street
(Next door to May, Evans
and Newton Law Office)
Butler, AL

Phone: (205) 459-2461
Fax: (205) 459-3047

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon., Tues., Thurs. &
Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Send U.S. Mail to:

P.O. Box 269
Gilbertown, AL 36908-0269



Send Emails to:

choctawsun@millry.net

Visit us online at:

www.choctawsun.com

POSTMASTER: THE CHOCTAW SUN (USPS number 022-326) is published twice-weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays by The Choctaw Sun, 13440 Choctaw Avenue, P.O. Box 269, Gilbertown, AL 36908. Periodicals postage paid at Gilbertown, AL 36908. **Send change of address to: The Choctaw Sun, P.O. Box 269, Gilbertown, AL 36908-0269.**

ENTIRE CONTENT OF THE CHOCTAW SUN
PROTECTED BY US COPYRIGHT LAWS. ALL RIGHTS
RESERVED. ©2007 The Choctaw Sun