



January 30, 2007

Our Fourth Year • No. 15
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Inside

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| News & Events | 2A |
| Obituaries | 2A |
| Editorials/Opinions | 4A |
| Faith | 5A |
| Lifestyles | 7A |
| Sports | 1B |
| Education | 4B |
| Classifieds/Legals | 7B |

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The Choctaw Sun

Shining Brightly Over Southwest Alabama



Page 1B

CCHS dunks Sweetwater

Pennington
Police Office
James
Johnston

Choctaw Sun photo by
Dee Ann Campbell

Briefs

Retirement reception planned for Dr. Mazumder

GILBERTOWN -- A retirement reception for Dr. Seba Mazumder will be held Wednesday, Jan. 31st at 6 p.m. at Franklin Primary Health Center's Gilbertown Clinic.

Friends, patients and the public are cordially invited to come by and extend their best wishes to Dr. Mazumder, who has practiced medicine in Gilbertown for more than 25 years.

BTAPC plans two encore performances of *Smoke on the Mountain*

GILBERTOWN -- Tickets for this weekend's two encore performances of *Smoke on the Mountain*, presented by the Ballet and Theater Arts Performing Companies, are on sale now at local banks.

The tickets are \$10 each and may also be reserved by calling (251) 843-5138. The first four shows were complete sellouts.

The Saturday, Feb. 3rd show will begin at 8 p.m., with a Sunday, Feb. 4th matinee at 2 p.m.

Smoke on the Mountain is a fun-filled musical that centers around a Southern Gospel family at a small church in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, and includes such old-time favorites as *I'm Using My Bible for a Road Map*, *Church in the Wildwood*, and more than two dozen other gospel favorites.

Almanac

TUESDAY, JAN. 30

Partly Cloudy, PM showers
Hi 54 • Lo 27
Rain chance 30%
Sunrise: 6:48 a.m.
Sunset: 5:26 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

Partly cloudy
Hi 50 • Lo 37
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:47 a.m.
Sunset: 5:27 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1

Rain, thunder
Hi 55 • Lo 40
Rain chance 90%
Sunrise: 6:47 a.m.
Sunset: 5:28 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2

Partly cloudy
Hi 59 • Lo 34
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:46 a.m.
Sunset: 5:29 p.m.

Runaway train

■ Parked M&B freight train starts rolling on its own, travels more than a mile and a half before smashing into another set of parked rail cars; company suspects vandalism

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

YANTLEY -- A freight train parked at the Concord Road crossing on the Meridian and Bigbee's line in Yantley unexpectedly began to move on its own in the pre-dawn hours Sunday, rolling more than a mile and a half down the tracks where it collided with another set of parked rail cars across CR 1 near the intersection of Watermelon Drive.

An M&B spokesman in Meridian told the *Sun* on Monday that because the brakes were properly set on the train, the company suspects foul play.

An investigation

SEE TRAIN, PAGE 3A



Photo by Tommy Campbell/The Choctaw Sun
Andrew Lewis, of Dixons Mills, Ala., and Mike Nelson, of Wetumpka, Ala., employees of D.R. Davies Railroad Construction Company, are shown here early Monday morning in 20-degree weather repairing the railroad bed which was damaged when a parked M&B freight train suddenly started rolling and smashed into another set of parked cars a mile and a half down the track.



Prices at several area convenience stores fell to \$1.95 last week.

Gas prices drop: Governor promotes use of "bio fuels"

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTOWN -- Gas prices fell to below \$2 per gallon in Choctaw County last week, a level that hasn't been seen since the summer of 2005. The national average price of gasoline was \$2.15, down six cents from the week before.

And while consumers were seeing some relief at the pumps, Gov. Bob Riley was touting efforts to develop and use alternative fuels to minimize dependence on foreign oil.

During a visit to the State Motor Pool last week, Riley promoted the beginning of construction for a 12,000-gallon tank and two

fueling pumps that will fuel vehicles with an 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline mix known as E-85. The new refueling station will serve all state agencies as well as the Motor Pool fleet, where 132 of 207 vehicles are now capable of using the E-85 fuel.

According to a press release issued last week, about 2,000 of the 3,000 vehicles now being operated by the Alabama Department of Transportation are also 'flex fuel' vehicles that can operate on conventional gasoline of E-85.

Riley traveled to the construction site of the new fueling station riding in a Chevy Avalanche that was being powered by E-85.

SEE BIO FUEL, PAGE 3A

Sen. Shelby meeting moved to Senior Center

WASHINGTON -- U. S. Senator Richard Shelby will join the residents of Choctaw County for a county visit on Sat., Feb. 10 at 7:30 a.m. at the Choctaw Co. Senior Citizens Center on Tom Orr Drive (just off Riderwood Drive, across from the Board of Education's Central Office.)

Senator Shelby will discuss his legislative agenda for the 110th Congress as well as important issues facing the nation and the state of Alabama. Following his remarks, Sen. Shelby will open the floor to questions and comments from those in attendance.

The public is invited to come out and meet the Senator and talk with him on matters of concern to them.

(ED. NOTE: There has been some confusion over where the meeting would be held ... the *Sun* has been assured that the Senior Center is the correct location.)

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