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Letters



Hi Tommy,
My husband (Glenn Lucus) is from Gilberttown and his brother, Paul, sent us a subscription to **The Choctaw SUN** as a gift last year.

As soon as the **SUN** gets here I drop what I'm doing then read it from cover to cover! Then when Glenn gets home for lunch ... he reads it! We do enjoy all the news from his hometown and surrounding areas. You all do a wonderful job and I don't know what is better than that ... except of course ... getting it twice a week now!!

I love the SoundOff section and get such a kick out of what people actually write in griping about! Ha, ha! Oh well, keeps us readers amused!

Again, thanks for such an awesome paper and one with heart!!

Glenn and Jeni Lucus
Transplants to Fort Wayne, IN

I appreciate Editor Dee Ann Campbell's comments about the Bible, legislation and the Iraq war. I'm not as learned in the Bible as she is but I'm in full accord that we can not bring about peace in a different culture than ours.

I'm in Butler frequently and usually get a paper. I plan to share the article with my Sunday School class.

John Moore
Wetumpka, AL

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, food, and the money given to us during Jeremy's accident.

We would like to thank Bro. Nate and our

See **LETTERS**, page 6A

Wisdom in the heart of a Paw Paw

As I read his words, I was awed by their wisdom. For a 9-year-old boy, Caleb Sturdivant has an insight into the important things in life that is rare in someone so young.

But I don't know why I was surprised. After all, that wisdom came from a source that is quite possibly the most vital source of wisdom available on this earth - grandpas.

When Caleb penned his book *All About PawPaw and Me*, he did it from his heart. He wrote it from his emotions about the grandfather whom he had loved but lost.

But what he probably doesn't know is that his book contains a wisdom that few adults can grasp. It holds a deep philosophy of life that can be seen through the eyes of every child who's ever spent time with a PawPaw of their own.

There are more of them out there - the



Looking Up

By **Dee Ann Campbell**
Editor

PawPaws of this world, the grandparents who give of their time, attention, and their wisdom to impart a little of themselves into their grandchildren.

And their impact in those lives is so vital, so needed, so undeniable and irreplaceable.

Listening to Caleb talk about his grandpa, and reading the child-like memories of their days spent together, made me realize how vital the roles of grandparents are in the lives of children, and how much-needed their influence is in today's world.

There are few good role models for our children today, few people who help to impart good character into the minds and hearts of young people. Parents are busier than ever in this 2007 world, with agendas that often leave little time for doing 'unimportant' things like catching fish or hanging out in the barn. They often have little time to simply read a book or take a walk in the pasture, or even to go to a Little League game and cheer on their little player even when he sits on the bench.

But grandparents

somehow find the time. They find the time to fish, even when nothing is biting, to sit in a shooting house all day long with little mouths that can't be quiet for more than a few minutes. They find time and patience to teach a little boy to care for animals or teach a little girl to catch a ball - with a tenderness that is taught more by actions than by words.

And they have time to listen to all the 'insignificant' chatter that comes from little mouths who long only for someone to pay attention.

When it comes down to it, those who have less time left on this earth seem to realize that it is the little things in life that should garner most of what time remains. They seem to know that saying "I love you" with their time is more important than saying it with words.

See **DEE ANN**, page 6A

Reasons why we don't leave out names

Sometimes the newspaper business can put you between the proverbial rock and a hard place.

A few weeks ago, a friend got really upset because his name appeared in a list of public records.

I am truly sorry that his feelings were hurt, because I am an only child and this man is the closest thing that I have ever had to a brother, but public records are public records and if we started leaving out names because certain people were our friends or relatives, then the **Sun** wouldn't be very much of a newspaper and our credibility as journalists would be next to nothing.

Just so that you know, over the years we have printed jail logs and court dockets that contained the names of personal friends - people that we have worked with in the past, people that we have gone to church



The way I see it ...

By **Tommy Campbell**
Publisher

with, and people who were blood-relatives of yours truly. Not too many moons ago, I toted a "cussing out" from a distant cousin who was picked up for DUI. He was mad as a hornet because his name was printed in the jail log. He felt like that since we were "kinfolks" that I should have left his name off the list.

I do not leave names out because of social status, friendship, or the fact that any of our staff is related to a particular person.

At one point in my career, I was in a position

where I was pretty much told by those above me whose names I could and could not print. It wasn't right, and I told them so. As a result, I almost lost my job, and later I did move on as a direct result of a that and other things that were happening that I did not agree with. I promised myself that if I was ever in a position to operate my own paper that such unfair practices would not happen.

For the record and just so that there's no doubt where we stand - **The Choctaw Sun** does not sit in judgment of any person, but neither do we

"pick and choose" whose names are printed.

We do not print names to embarrass, hurt, offend or defame anyone. In America, a person is presumed innocent until one of two things happens: 1) he/she confesses to an offense, or, 2) he/she is found guilty in a court of law.

Arrest records and court dockets are not big secrets, they are public documents, and any citizen or member of the news media is empowered by state law to walk into the jail or Circuit Clerk's office and ask to see it.

We try to be fair to everyone, and if we started arbitrarily leaving names out, what kind of a newspaper would we be? Not much of one, in my opinion.

So please don't take it personally if your name, or that of a family member, shows up in the public records. We are just doing our jobs the best way we know how.

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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. &
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Send U.S. Mail to:

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



Send Emails to:

choctawsun@millry.net

Visit us online at:

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