

TUESDAY

January 9, 2007

Our Fourth Year • No. 9
20 pages, 2 sections

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Shining Brightly Over Southwest Alabama



Briefs

BP burglar makes off with \$1,500 in cash

GILBERTOWN — Authorities are searching for the person or persons who broke into the Gilbertown BP Station last week and made off with approximately \$1,400 to \$1,500 in cash.

Gilbertown Chief of Police Tom Abate said that someone pried open a back door to the business on Ala. Hwy. 17 south, stole the night deposit, the next day's start-up money, cash from the ATM machine, and then ransacked the office.

"They left of foot and got into a vehicle that was parked in front of Carlisle's Repair Shop," Abate said.

The incident happened about 2 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 3rd.

Persons who may have seen a vehicle or person on foot in that vicinity about that time are asked to contact the Gilbertown Police Department at (251) 843-2766.

New Sheriff, Probate Judge, Circuit Clerk to be sworn in

BUTLER — James Lovette will be sworn in as the county's new Sheriff on Thursday, Jan. 11th at 3 p.m. in the Commissioner's Courtroom at the Courthouse.

D'Wayne May will be sworn into office as Choctaw County's new Probate Judge on Friday, Jan 12th at 8:30 a.m. The ceremony will be held in the small courtroom of the Courthouse.

Later that morning, at 10 a.m., Donna L. Murphy will be sworn in as Choctaw County's new Circuit Clerk. The ceremony will be held in the main courtroom of the Courthouse.

Almanac

- TUESDAY, JAN. 9**
Mostly sunny
Hi 56 • Lo 30
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:54 a.m.
Sunset: 5:07 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10**
Mostly sunny
Hi 56 • Lo 33
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:54 a.m.
Sunset: 5:08 p.m.
- THURSDAY, JAN. 11**
Partly cloudy
Hi 62 • Lo 45
Rain chance 20%
Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.
Sunset: 5:09 p.m.

Sun now twice weekly

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTOWN — Choctaw County's only home-owned newspaper is now the county's first twice-weekly newspaper, giving readers even more up-to-date news, sports, features and special sales from area merchants.

The Choctaw Sun is now on sale every Tuesday and Friday with all-different content in each issue.

Choctaw County's home-owned newspaper is now published on **Tuesdays and Fridays**, offering readers a level of coverage never before available from a local paper.

In addition, the *Sun's* new Butler office opened Monday, Jan. 8th at 214 West Smith Street (the former Bible Book Store location, next to the May, Evans and Newton Law Offices), giving readers in the north part of the county a convenient place

to come by and pick up office supplies, pay on an account, enter a new subscription or

renew an existing subscription, or just stop by and enjoy a fresh cup of hot coffee on the *Sun*!

When it comes to office supplies, if we don't have what you need in stock, please let us know and we'll be glad to order it for you and keep those items on hand.

You can also send faxes and get copies made at both our Butler and Gilbertown locations.

The *Sun* is pleased to
SEE SUN, PAGE 4A

In three short years, this newspaper has become Choctaw County's leading source of news, events, opinions, sports and in-depth feature stories; now, we are taking our commitment to the people one step further, by providing the closest thing that Choctaw County has ever had to a locally-published daily newspaper.

Tommy Campbell
Sun Publisher



Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell

New Superintendent takes office

BUTLER — Sue Moore, the former principal of Southern Choctaw Elementary School, took the oath of office as Choctaw County's new Superintendent of Education during ceremonies last Wednesday evening, Jan. 3rd at the Butler Senior Citizen's Center. Local attorney Perry Newton (at left) administered the oath of office while Mrs. Moore's daughter, Pam (at right) held the Bible.

State suspends airport's license

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — The operations license for the Butler/Choctaw County Airport has been suspended by the state pending the correction of a number of violations and safety issues that were noted during a recent inspection at the facility.

In a letter dated Dec. 14, 2006 to Jeremy Aldridge, Chairman of the Butler/Choctaw Co. Airport Authority, the state gave the board 30 days to correct noted violations and deficiencies.

"As noted in the report, the airport does not meet the requirements for the issuance of an operating license," the letter stated. "The operating license for the airport is being withheld pending the required actions necessary to correct the safety deficiencies."

According to the state, the Code of Alabama (section 23-1-375) prohibits the operation of an airport for which a license has not been issued.

SEE AIRPORT, PAGE 4A

Raise for Superintendent?

School board member voices his concern

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — "My biggest regret I've had in 16 years on

this board is that I was the one that recommended that Ms. (Toreatha) Johnson not get a raise," Chairman of the Choctaw County Board of Education told members of the board during last Thursday meeting. "I did that because I was new."

During the 'board concerns' portion of last week's meeting of the BOE, Johnson voiced his concern over what he termed a

failure to give the former superintendent a needed raise, and a failure to bring before the board a recommendation for a raise for the current superintendent before she took office last week. Although the volatile issue had been the subject of discussion at several previous board meetings, no vote had been called for — a fact that Johnson says he feels responsible for.

"I have gathered information on superintendents' salaries through the Alabama Department of Education," Johnson told the group, going on to list the salaries in several other Alabama systems as of 2005-06.

"The highest of the 67 counties is Jefferson at \$152,800," Johnson cited. "The lowest is

SEE RAISE, PAGE 4A

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& Dr. Seba Mazumber
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