



## Boggs gets new position

By Dee Ann Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

**BUTLER** – Former Superintendent of Education Randy Boggs now has a new position in the school system following a vote by the Choctaw County Board of Education last Thursday evening.

During the January 4th meeting, the board voted unanimously to place Boggs, who is a tenured administrator with the system, in a three-fold position that includes Assistant Administrator, Alternative School Director, and Director of Facilities and Maintenance.

The combined positions will earn Boggs an annual salary of \$68,250, following the administrative pay scale for his level of education.

The vote was preceded by much discussion about the positions – in particular, the position of Director of Alternative School.

BOE member Ronald Hampton questioned Superintendent Sue Moore about the duties involved with the position, and the current status of the Alternative School, which has not been operational for some time.

“We already have ISS (in-school suspension),” Moore responded. “We cannot move those At-Risk funds right now. But we still hope to have the Alternative School operational in the next 2-3 weeks.”

Moore added that renovations were planned to convert the portable unit that now stands on the Tom Orr Complex property into the new alternative setting.

“We’ll be able to send children there when?” asked Hampton, who also wanted to know about additional personnel for the facility.

“Within the next few weeks,” Moore responded. “By the time of the next board meeting, it will be operational, and we will make another recommendation (about staff) then.”

“Wouldn’t it be better to establish it before we hire someone?” BOE member Turk Phillips asked, referring to the recommendation to put Boggs into the position.

“That’s a possibility,” responded board attorney Fred Boling. “But now we’re just listing what he will

do, and he’ll be sliding into that position later. It’s being documented now so that his contract will be complete.”

Boling explained that the board was not creating a new position but merely putting someone into a position that had been vacated with the closure of the Alternative School several years ago.

“We find that, looking at the statistics and talking to board members, that we think it is feasible (to reopen alternative school),” Moore added.

“Before, when we had Alternative School at CCHS, we had an aide in that position,” stated BOE member Sharon Shepherd. “Could an aide do that, with Boggs there?”

“You’re talking about ISS,” Moore responded. “Not Alternative School.”

With the vote taken, Boggs will move into his new three-fold position, with his role as Alternative School Director pending the reopening of the facility in the coming weeks.

The board voted to purchase 3 new buses, under the standard lease-to-purchase plan, for a total of \$59,740, with the system owning the vehicles after the 10-year lease.

Financial Officer for the school system, Seketha Mitchell, discussed the financial statement for the previous month, noting that under the law the board must post the report monthly on the system’s internet site at [www.choctaw12.org](http://www.choctaw12.org).

According to Mitchell, the report for December included total revenues of \$2,783,933.27, and total expenditures of \$2,991,359.82. The report was approved unanimously by the board without further discussion.

The board also discussed an amendment to the FY 2007 budget, noting that there would be a carry-over of Title I funds not used. In addition, CCHS will be allowed to use carry-over money from Comprehensive School Reform funds, although the federal government no longer allows such carry-over in most cases.

Moore recommended the placement of new School Improvement Specialist Dr. Dana Harwell on the teacher’s salary matrix, with a salary of \$69,775 for 2006-07. The

salary is based, Moore said, on Harwell’s doctorate degree and 15 years of experience. Harwell will also receive an annual compensation of \$5,000 from the state for her certification with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). NBPTS is a certification program for advanced and highly-trained professional educators, with standards for certification that required extensive preparation and work by the educator.

Moore also recommended that the board follow the state-suggested contract for probationary principals, from \$64,000 to \$67,200, retroactively effective from October 1, 2006. The move will affect the salary of new Southern Choctaw Elementary principal Jacqui James, whose was hired for the position during the December board meeting.

“Everything was not handled when she was employed,” Moore explained. “That’s what we are doing now.”

The measure passed by a 4-1 vote, with Ronald Hampton voting ‘no.’

In other issues related to local principals, the board voted to give CCHS principal Kevin Howard a 5% pay raise, bringing his salary up to the same \$67,200.

“When he was employed, we had not given him the 5% raise that the others got,” Moore explained. “I’m trying to give him the salary he is supposed to have.”

The measure passed 4-1, with Hampton again casting the lone ‘no’ vote.

The board took the following additional personnel actions:

- Resignation of Ryan Miller, math teacher at CCHS: Board voted unanimously not to accept resignation due to lack of available math teachers in the school system.

- Employment of Brandi Clark as art teacher for school system: Board voted unanimously to employ Clark as of January 8 through August 3, on a \$24/hr contract to be paid from the Arts in Schools grant funds.

- Family medical leave for Tammy Elliott: Board voted unanimously to grant leave from January 4 until she is released by her physician.

## Cullomburg residents upset over proposed issuance of wine license for local business

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

**BUTLER** – Several residents of the Cullomburg community were present for the Jan. 8th meeting of the Choctaw Co. Commission to voice their opposition to a local business being issued a license to sell off-premises wine.

The men said that the business is located less than 200 feet from their church and urged the board to deny the license.

Probate Judge Michael Armistead said he has not seen any such application and didn’t know anything about it.

The men said it was stated in The Choctaw Advocate that a vote on the license would be held at the Jan. 8th meeting.

“That’s why we are here,” they said. “We don’t

want it.”

“I didn’t write that article,” Armistead said. “I don’t know where they got their information.”

Jessica Hare, an employee of the Treasurer’s Office, said the notice was published but that not all of the required documentation on the applicant has been received.

**(ED. NOTE:** The information about the license application was not provided to *The Choctaw Sun* by officials in the Courthouse.)

The men said that people in their church, Cullomburg Baptist, are upset about the potential sale of wine, even though it would not be sold for consumption “on premises”.

Armistead thanked the men for coming but said that no vote would be taken on the application at that meeting.

## MLK birthday to be celebrated in Lisman

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

**LISMAN** – Three big events planned for this weekend in Lisman will commemorate the birthday, life and accomplishments of one of the world’s most beloved Civil Rights figures.

A children’s banquet in memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held Friday, Jan. 12th at 7 p.m., in the Town Hall complex (the former Lisman Jr. High School).

On Saturday, Jan. 13th at 10 a.m., State Sen. W.H. “Pat” Lindsey will serve as Grand Marshal of the town’s second annual parade in memory of Dr. King.

Now serving his seventh term in the Alabama Senate, the 70-year old Lindsey received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Alabama and also gradu-

ated from the University of Alabama School of Law.

He is the parent of two children, Lori and Patrick, and has one grandchild. Sen. Lindsey is an attorney, and a member of the Alabama and American Bar Association and the University of Alabama Alumni Association.

He enjoys hunting and fishing, and coached youth baseball and football in his spare time for more than 25 years.

Then, on Sunday evening, Jan. 14th at 7 p.m. a gala banquet featuring Lisman native Seletha Butler will be held at the Town Hall complex. Tickets for that event are \$10 each.

Seletha Rochell Butler, the daughter of two former mayors of Lisman – the late Anthony S. Butler and the late Elizabeth Hayden Butler, will be the guest speaker. She is a 1989 graduate of

Choctaw Co. High School where she was the valedictorian of her graduating class.

She later graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science degree in Corporate Finance from The University of Alabama in December, 1992.

Seletha graduated from the prestigious Harvard University School of Law in 1996.

Currently, Seletha is practicing technology, procurement and global transactional law in the legal department of SunTrust Banks, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia. She enjoys entrepreneurial and family business endeavors and serves as the sole shareholder of The Butler Law Firm, Inc., and serves as the chairperson for the Board of Directors of Hayden & Butler Funeral Home, Inc., a local mortuary founded more than 50 years ago by her

maternal grandparents. She also is a member of SBWL Ventures, LLC, a company formed by Seletha to handle venture opportunities of she and her husband.

She is a member of the Georgia and Illinois bars and is admitted to the Supreme Courts of Georgia and Illinois, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and the Superior Court of Georgia.

Seletha is a co-chairperson for the 2007 Choctaw County Picnic and Reunion Weekend being held in Atlanta on August 17-19, 2007.

She is married to Willie Jake Lovett, Jr., and has two sisters, Seketha A. Mitchell and Sonjia Y. Butler. She is the granddaughter of the late Abraham and Louisa Johnson Hayden and Lemon and India Butler.

## Sun Country Calendar

*There is no charge to list an upcoming non-profit or charitable event for your church, school, civic group, fire department, etc. Meetings of governmental entities may also be included. Events will be publicized for up to four (4) weeks in advance. Calendar items may be mailed, faxed, sent by U.S. Mail, or delivered in person to our offices in Gilbertown or Butler.*

**Now through Sunday, Jan. 14th**  
**MERIDIAN LITTLE THEATRE 2007 YOUTH PRODUCTION**, Wizard of Oz, 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 p.m., and 1 p.m. Monday-Friday for schools; 2 and 4 p.m. on Sat. and Sun. Tickets on sale at the theatre or by calling 601-482-6371. Antonio Michael Jones a 3rd grader from CCES, is among the cast members.

**Wed., Jan. 10th – Fri., Jan. 12th**  
**40 DAYS HOLY CONVOCATION REVIVAL**, Church of God Pentecostal, nightly at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Min. Barney Holcombe.

**Thursday, Jan. 11th**  
**JAMES LOVETTE** will be sworn in as Choctaw County’s new Sheriff at 3 p.m. in the Commissioner’s Courtroom at the Courthouse.

**CHARPS meeting**, 5 p.m., Health Dept., Butler.  
**SOUTHERN CHOCTAW ELEMENTARY PTO meeting**. Report cards will not be available at the meeting but will be sent home later.

**CHOCTAW CO. HIGH SCHOOL PTO** will meet, 6 p.m.. Report cards will be issued.

**Friday, Jan. 12th**  
**D’WAYNE MAY** will be sworn in as Choctaw County’s new Probate Judge at 8:30 a.m. in the small courtroom of the Courthouse.

**DONNA L. MURPHY** will be sworn in as Choctaw County’s new Circuit Clerk at 10 a.m. in the main courtroom of the Courthouse.

**MYRTLEWOOD VOL. FIRE DEPT. SINGING**, 7 p.m., bluegrass, country and gospel, featuring Rodney Turner, Ronnie Gibson, Billy Ballard, R.L. Taylor, Tommy Campbell, and more area singers. Hamburgers and chicken plates sold. \$2 donation at door. All musicians and the public are welcome. Located one block north of the caution light on Ala. Hwy. 114.

**CHILDREN’S BANQUET**, in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 7 p.m., Town Hall complex (former Lisman Jr. High School) Lisman.

**Sat., Jan. 13th – Sun., Jan. 14th**  
**CHOIR CELEBRATION**, New True Light Baptist Church, Millry, Sat. at 7 p.m. and Sun. at 2:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Rev. Cornelius McDonald, choir and congregation.

**Saturday, Jan. 13th**  
**GRAND OPENING of *The Choctaw Sun’s* new Butler Office**, 214 Smith Street (the former Bible Book Store, next to May, Evans & Newton law offices), 8 a.m. until noon. Ribbon cutting at noon, door prizes, Chuckles the Clown with free balloons for the children, refreshments.

**PARADE** in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 10 a.m. in downtown Lisman. Lineup at 9:30 a.m. Sen. W.H. “Pat” Lindsey, Grand Marshal.

**ALABAMA LINE USHER’S UNION meeting**, Shady Grove Baptist Church, Silas, 2:30 p.m. All members are asked to attend.

**THE NEW TEARDROPS OF JOY** will sing at St. Mary United Methodist Church, Ala.10 east of Butler, 5:30 p.m. Other groups will also be performing. Rev. Joseph Mason is the pastor. Sponsored by United Methodist Women’s group.

**CCHS CLASS OF 1977** will meet 4 p.m. at Old Buddies Restaurant in Butler. For more information call Lelia Andrews Jones at 205-459-4206, Sharon Dukes White at 205-654-2022 or D. Roberts at 205-398-3734.

**Sunday, Jan. 14th**  
**BUILDING FUND PROGRAM**, Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church, Bladon Springs, 2 p.m. Guest speaker, Rev. Johnnie Heartfield.

**GALA BANQUET**, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 7 p.m., Town Hall complex (former Lisman Jr. High School), Lisman. Guest speaker: Seletha Butler.

**Monday, Jan. 14th**  
**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**, memorial program, 5 p.m., Morning Star Baptist Church, Ala. Hwy. 17 north, Butler. Rev. O.L. Sealey is the pastor. Rev. Calvin Finch, guest speaker.

**Wed., Jan. 17th – Thurs., Jan. 18th**  
**40 DAYS HOLY CONVOCATION REVIVAL**, Church of God Pentecostal, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Eld. Jim Perine.

**Wed., Jan. 24th – Thurs., Jan. 25th**  
**40 DAYS HOLY CONVOCATION REVIVAL**, Church of God Pentecostal, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Min. Michael Ruffin.

**Saturday, Jan. 27th**  
**THE VALLEY VIEW BOYS** praise and worship group in concert at First Baptist Church of Butler. For more information call 205-459-2266.

**Sat., Jan. 27th – Sun., Jan. 28th**  
**CHOIR CELEBRATION**, New Mt. Mariah Baptist Church, Nanafalia, 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. All churches, soloists, and groups are invited to attend and perform two selections. Rev. Alphonso Bowen is the Pastor; Sis. Evie Thomas is the Choir President.

**Sunday, Jan. 28th**  
**PASTOR’S AIDE TEA**, Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church, 4 p.m. Guest speaker, Pastor Robert L. Jackson.

**Wed., Jan. 31st – Fri., Feb. 2nd**  
**40 DAYS HOLY CONVOCATION REVIVAL**, Church of God Pentecostal, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Min. Chris Holcombe.

**Saturday, Feb. 3rd**  
**40 DAYS HOLY CONVOCATION REVIVAL**, Church of God Pentecostal, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Eld. George Moore.