

SCA is AISA Blue Ribbon school

TOXEY -- The Alabama Independent School Association is pleased to announce that South Choctaw Academy has attained the AISA Blue Ribbon School Designation for the 2006-2007 school year.

An AISA Blue Ribbon exemplifies excellence in teaching, student performance, school life, and school and community

interaction. A Blue Ribbon School award winner is an excellent school involved in an ongoing process of school improvement.

The AISA has been steadfast in its efforts since 1970 to maintain an organization of independently operated non-public schools that are rich in diversity, committed to academic excellence, and

deeply concerned about the growth and development of children and youth. The association's goal is to provide quality educational opportunities for those parents choosing an alternative to public education.

The AISA Blue Ribbon School program is sponsored by the AISA to recognize member schools

with outstanding educational programs.

South Choctaw Academy has attained a high level of excellence in the areas of student and teacher performance, plant and facilities, student life, and community involvement and is a very worthy recipient of the AISA Blue Ribbon School award.



Submitted photo
Pictured are Courtney Cox at the piano, Kelsey Norwood, Haley Anderson, Matthew Lewis, Candace Pardue, Mariah Logan, Simone Ridgeway, and Regina Crosby.

4-Her's visit with Willow Trace residents

By Courtney Cox
County 4-H reporter

BUTLER — The Choctaw County 4-H council met on December 18, 2006 at the Extension Office. After everyone arrived, we traveled to

Willow Trace Nursing Home where we delivered several goodie bags to the activity director for the residents. The 4-H members gathered in the dining room and we all sang Christmas Carols for the residents.

After visiting with the residents, we returned to the extension office for our Christmas Party. We played our annual game of "Dirty Santa". Everyone had a really fun time seeing what silly gift they got,

and afterwards we all had a fun gift to take home. We also enjoyed wonderful refreshments compliments of Mrs. Alberson and Mrs. Thompson. The next 4-H county council meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2007.



ASCC Library sends gifts to Caring Angels patients

GILBERTOWN — More than 50 Christmas gift bags were sent to patients of Caring Angels Hospice by the Alabama Southern Community College Library. Pictured are: front row — Rose Duff, Connie James, Miranda Boothe; back row — Debbie Jimerson, Stephanie Adams, and Richard Blaski. Not pictured: Shelia McGrew.

Submitted photo

Silas woman honored in Washington

WASHINGTON, DC — Shelia McGrew, the daughter of Bishop Walter McGrew and the late Annie Bell McGrew, and the stepdaughter of Irene McGrew of Silas, was recently honored at the 13th annual ATE National Principal Investigators Conference in Washington DC.

Advanced Technological Education is a program funded by the American Association of Community Colleges and the National Science Foundation. This organization is accredited to improving the technical education in the areas of engineering technology, natural resources management, chemical technology, biotech and others.

In October, more than 800 educators, students and industry partners attended the annual conference held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The conference attendees represented community colleges, business and industry, secondary school systems, and four-year colleges across the country.



Submitted photo
Sheila McGrew, center, is pictured with her award at the 13th annual ATE National Principal Investigators Conference in Washington, D.C.

McGrew is currently a student at Alabama Southern Community College in the field of Paper and Chemical Technology. She attends under a scholarship from Louisiana Pacific in Thomasville. She also works as a

library attendant and tutor for the college. Her community work includes Caring Angels Hospice and YPWW (Young People Willing Workers), a church group at the C&J Holiness Church of God, in Silas, where her father is the pastor.

"I'm very excited about my career choice and my studies," she said. "I can't wait to see where it will take me next. After receiving my degree, I plan to become a plant operator at one of the area mills."

Turner is People to People Ambassador

BUTLER — Breanna Turner, an eleventh-grade student at the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile, has been accepted to the People to People Ambassador Program and will travel to Europe this summer as part of the organization which was founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

The objective of the program is to promote international understanding while building leadership skills among America's youth.

The 24-day tour will involve meetings with government officials, and with students her own age in European countries where the tour will be conducted. She will experience a wide variety of educational experiences while living with families in one of more of the following countries — Belgium, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Wales.



Breanna Turner

Breanna is the daughter of Willie and Mary Agnes Turner of Butler.

ALFA now looking for Teachers of the Month

MONTGOMERY — The Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance have partnered with the Alabama Department of Education to reward some of Alabama's top educators with the Alfa Teacher of the Month Award for the ninth straight year. This year, the program will honor 12 outstanding public and private school teachers and principals with \$1,000 cash awards (not grant awards) and \$1,000 to each of their schools.

Applications for teachers in State School Board Districts 4 and 5, as well as principals from public and private schools throughout the state, should be submitted by Jan. 12, 2007 to the State Department of Education office. Those winners will receive their cash award in April, May, June and July of 2007, respectively. Details of the application process and deadlines for other school districts, principals and private school teachers are available online at www.AlfaFarmers.org under Ag Links or by contacting Ann Starks, (334) 242-9700 or AStarks@alsde.edu.

District 5 includes public schools in Choctaw, Clarke, Marengo, Sumter, Washington and several other counties.

Alfa President Jerry A. Newby said the program rewards excellence in education by dedicated teachers.

"Teachers are sometimes the unsung heroes of Alabama," Newby said. "They are responsible for shaping the minds of our future leaders, and Alfa is pleased to recognize these heroes and reward them for the wonderful job they do."

State Supt. of Education Dr. Joe Morton echoed Newby's remarks and urged participation in the program.

"Teachers are the cornerstone for a successful future in Alabama," Morton said. "The value of what they contribute to the life of a child is immeasurable. I encourage more teachers and principals to participate in the Alfa Teacher of the Month program. It is through our partnership with Alfa and their concern for education and the community that this wonderful award exists — educators statewide should take advantage of this opportunity."

During 2007, the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance will honor outstanding teachers from each of Alabama's eight state school board districts as well as two principals and two private school teachers.

Since 1998, the Alfa Teacher of the Month program has awarded \$218,000 to deserving teachers and their schools. The Dept. of Education coordinates the application process.

The owners and staff
of
The Choctaw Sun

Cordially invite you to attend the

**Grand Opening
of
our new
Butler Office**

**Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007
8 a.m. — noon**

214 Smith Street

(the former Bible Book Store location
next to
May, Evans and Newton law offices)

**Ribbon cutting ceremony
to be held at noon**

• Door prizes • Chuckles the
Clown • Refreshments