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Sweetpea in the face

February 13, 2007

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20 pages, 2 sections

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Briefs

Pete Allen to write military history articles for the Sun

BUTLER — *The Choctaw Sun* is pleased to announce that Richard M. "Pete" Allen — a 33-year veteran of the U.S. Navy and the Alabama Army National Guard — will now be writing his column on Choctaw County's military veterans for this newspaper.

Having served two tours of duty in Korea as well as being called to active duty in the Berlin Crisis of 1961, Allen is well-qualified to write about the Choctaw County men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Military.

Allen has for years collected information and written about local veterans and their service to America, and is widely recognized as the foremost authority on veterans from our area.

"I do this because I want our veterans to get the recognition they deserve," he said.

Readers who have information, photos or other information about Choctaw County's men and women in uniform may send them to Pete by email at allwis64@yahoo.com, or drop the material by our offices in Gilberttown or Butler.

The *Sun* is proud and honored to publish Pete's articles and we invite readers to look for them each Friday beginning this week.

Check your subscription expiration date ... don't miss an issue!

Almanac

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

Severe Thunderstorms
Hi 72 • Lo 31
Rain chance 90%
Sunrise: 6:37 a.m.
Sunset: 5:38 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

Partly cloudy
Hi 48 • Lo 26
Rain chance 20%
Sunrise: 6:36 a.m.
Sunset: 5:39 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15

Partly cloudy
Hi 47 • Lo 21
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:35 a.m.
Sunset: 5:40 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

Sunny / Few clouds
Hi 52 • Lo 30
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:34 a.m.
Sunset: 5:41 p.m.

Trucks banned on three roads

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — Commercial "through-traffic" trucks are now banned from using three county roads that were heavily used as "cut through" routes for truck drivers trying to get from one state road to another, and trying to avoid sharp turns on Ala. 10 and 17 in downtown Butler.

The action to close Vanity Fair Drive, the Linder Road, and the Sawmill Road (CR 27) to commercial through-truck traffic came during the Monday, Feb. 12th meeting

of the Choctaw Co. Commission.

The Commission discussed the same three roads last summer, and voted at the Aug. 14, 2006 meeting to take similar action. However, only one of those roads — the Linder Road — was included in the official minutes of that meeting as having been approved.

"I want to know if it was voted on to close CR 27 to commercial trucks?" Commissioner Henry Lovette said at Monday's meeting. "If it has been done, I want signs ordered and put up immediately. It's not going to inconvenience truckers, and we

need to stop that heavy traffic from Hwy. 10 to Hwy. 17."

Lovette said the situation is so serious that he wanted it on the agenda "right now."

County Road 27 is better known as the "Sawmill Road" that runs between north Butler at the Mount Sterling community.

May asked Treasurer Alice Carol Smith to research the minutes and found where the situation was discussed at both the Aug. 7th and Aug. 14th meetings. A motion, according to the minutes of the Aug. 14th

SEE ROADS, PAGE 4A



Choctaw Sun photo by Tommy Campbell

U.S. Senator in town

BUTLER -- U.S. Senator Richard Shelby -- shown here talking with O.D. Mason, Jr., and Drew Wade -- held a "town hall" meeting Saturday morning at the Butler Senior Citizens Center. Shelby holds at least one meeting a year in all 67 of Alabama's counties. See page 3A for complete details of Shelby's visit.

March 11th: DST will begin earlier this year

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTTOWN — Most areas of the United States will enjoy an extra hour of sunshine beginning in early March as Daylight Savings Time takes effect three weeks earlier than in previous years. The new schedule will also add an additional week of "longer days" in the fall.

Traditionally, DST — a time when Alabama and the rest of the nation "springs forward" and falls back" — has begun on the first Sunday in April and ended on the last Sunday in October.

As *The Choctaw Sun* first reported last fall, beginning this year and continuing for at least three to five years thereafter, Daylight Savings Time will begin on the second Sunday in March and end on the first Sunday in November — a week later than before — while the U.S. Department of Energy conducts a special study authorized by Congress and signed into law in 2005.

Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. is set to begin this year on March 11th and end on Nov. 4th.

SEE TIME, PAGE 4A

CCC asks for meeting with Airport Authority

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — All of the members of the Choctaw Co. Airport Authority will be invited by letter to meet with the County Commission at its March 12th meeting.

At Monday's meeting, Commissioner Henry Lovette asked about the status of the airport.

Readers will recall that a recent state inspection resulted in the facility being closed to air traffic until a number of deficiencies and safety violations have been corrected.

"I pulled the articles of incorporation of the Airport Authority to see how many of those board members are in need of reappointment," Probate Judge D'Wayne May said.

"Looks to me like they all need reappointing or else we need to appoint some new people to take their places."

May said he thought some members of the Authority were to be on hand at the Feb. 12th meeting to discuss the \$450,000 state/federal grant that the facility is eligible to receive.

Apparently, the terms of all members of the authority expired some time ago, but none have yet been reappointed. The Commission discussed the matter in January but tabled any action until an unspecified future date.

Attorney Lee McPhearson reported at an earlier meeting that, unless a person resigns or dies, they remain a member until such time as they are replaced, even if their term has

expired.

"The Commission appoints those board members and they meet and determine what their course of action will be," May said. When it comes to the Airport, May said, "they, not the Commission, are the ones that decide what to do, how to do it, and when to do it."

May said that if the property wasn't duly conveyed from the county to the Airport Authority at the time the board was formed, "whoever was in charge of that should have been responsible for taking care of it."

McPhearson agreed. "The authority runs it, not the county," he said.

Lovette said he would like to invite all of the Authority to meet with the Commission to

see what can be done to save the facility.

Maybe they can enlighten us and we can enlighten them," he said.

"It is important that Choctaw County not lose that Airport," May said. "The loss would be another blow to economic development and we cannot let it continue to deteriorate."

May said that one of the biggest problems he has seen with the Commission's appointment of members to various boards, is that the people get appointed with little forethought to who is best qualified, and then — after boards are appointed — the Commission doesn't have the foggiest notion

SEE AIRPORT, PAGE 4A

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