



The Choctaw Sun
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News/Events

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In-School Suspension at CCHS moved to new Alternative School

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – Students who receive In-School Suspension at Choctaw County High School will soon be attending class at the new Alternative School facility.

On Tuesday evening, the Choctaw County Board of Education approved a recommendation by Superintendent of Education Sue Moore to transfer ISS students from CCHS to the new Alternative School setting to be opened in the trailer in front of the Board of Education office by the first of next week.

"We verified that we could change the setting and not change the title, funding, or responsibility of ISS," Moore explained, adding that funding will come through At-Risk and Children First funds.

Included in the recommendation was the approval of the board to assign future students who are recommended for expulsion or long-term suspension to the new facility. BOE member Wayne Taylor questioned the staffing for the change in ISS setting.

"The ISS teachers will come to the Alternative School?" he asked.

"We will be moving the entire ISS setting there," answered

Moore.

"Will the same teachers be responsible for sending materials to the Alternative School?" Ronald Hampton asked.

"Yes, that's the way it is now," answered Moore. "They will get a week of assignments at a time."

Of particular concern to some board members was the issue of combining a wide range of age groups in one setting.

"Will there be elementary school kids there?" asked Hampton.

"Sometimes there are 20 to 26 students there (in ISS)," stated Moore. "Children from the elementary school are already going to CCHS for ISS."

Moore added that the age range for students who may be sent to Alternative School would be 10 to 21.

"Will they separate them?" Hampton wanted to know.

"They are not separated now," Moore said. "According to Mr. (Randy) Boggs (newly-appointed Director of Alternative School), one side will be long-term alternative school, and the other side will be ISS."

BOE member Sharon Shepherd voiced her questions about staffing for the separate groups.

"I know it will be together but

in separate rooms," she stated. "Will there be a separate teacher needed?"

"No," explained Moore. "They will only be monitoring the students. They will not be actually standing at a blackboard teaching the material."

The Board voted 4 to 1 to approve the recommendation, with Wayne Taylor voting against the measure.

Following the vote, concerned parent Adrian Curtis asked for the floor.

"Is it o.k. to have a 10-year-old with a 21-year-old?" she asked. "It won't be like the 40 kids at the high school?"

"There will be a cap on it," Moore responded.

"We just need to encourage our kids to be good kids so they won't have to go to Alternative School," responded Shepherd. "I hope we don't get to the point where we have to have separate Alternative Schools for 10-12 or 14-16 year olds."

"I prayed over this whole thing this week," she added. "We need to pray that we don't reach that day when we have so many kids in there that we have to do that."

FIGHTING FOR CAREER-TECH EDUCATION:



BUTLER – Probate Judge D'wayne May, pictured seated, signed a proclamation at Choctaw County High School on Tuesday naming the week of February 12-16 as Career Tech Week for Choctaw County. The annual observance is celebrated nationally during the second week in February to raise awareness about the importance of career technical education. Also pictured are local educators Kevin Howard, CCHS principal; Career Technical Director for Choctaw County schools, B.K. Smith; and Superintendent of Education Sue Moore, along with student representatives of CCHS Career Tech organizations. (See Education section for more coverage of Career Tech Week in Choctaw County.)

Students celebrate Career Tech Week even as funding battle goes on in DC

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – Funding for Career Tech programs may be in jeopardy again, if the Senate and the President do not act this week.

While Career Technical Education programs in schools across the country are celebrating National Career Tech Week, the battle over funding for their programs is ongoing in Washington.

By February 15, resolutions that provide for the funding of many educational programs, including the Carl D. Perkins Act that helps to fund Career Technical education, will expire unless the Senate clears the FY 2007 appropriations bill and the President signs it. The 109th Congress, which ended its session at the end of 2006, only approved two of the appropriations proposed in the FY 2007 budget, leaving the remaining programs to be debated by the new Congress that took office in January.

Many educational programs, including Perkins, are included in the appropriations that are still pending.

On January 31 of this year, the House of Representatives passed the FY 2007 funding resolution by a vote of 286-140. The resolution provides \$463.5 billion in appropriations, including re-funding the Perkins Act at the same level as last year – about \$1.3 billion. But as of February 14 – just one day before the previous budget resolutions are set to expire – there was still no resolution approved by the Senate.

But the battle has raged over whether to include Perkins funding

in the budget at all. In 2005, the Bush Administration called for the elimination of the Perkins program in its Fiscal Year 2006 budget proposal. However, Congress rejected the proposal and funded the Perkins Act. On August 12, 2006, despite his earlier proposal to cut funding, the President signed the Congress's proposed Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006.

But in February 2006, when the President unveiled his fiscal year 2007 budget proposal, Career Tech funding was again eliminated entirely from the education appropriations. Again, the House has acted to refund the program, and the Senate is expected to do the same.

If the Perkins Act is not re-funded by the resolutions pending in the Senate – and are not subsequently signed by the President – Career Tech programs, including those in Choctaw County's high schools, could suffer severe cutbacks, with limited other resources for funding. Perkins funds amount to more than 10% of budgets for most Career Tech programs, with local and state funds adding the remaining funding. Across the country, funding cuts could affect more than 11 million secondary and postsecondary career and technical education students, according to the U.S. Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

Career Tech education programs are offered in about 11,000 high schools, several hundred vocational-technical high schools and about 1,400 area vo-tech centers. About 9,400 postsecondary institutions offer technical programs, including community colleges, tech-

nical institutes, skill centers and other public and private two- and four-year colleges.

In Choctaw County, high school Career Tech courses include instruction in such areas as business and computer technology, automotive technology, electrical technology, and family consumer sciences, among others. Courses offered at Tom Orr Vocational Center in Butler, such as the automotive technology course, are open to students in both public and private schools.

For the students who are enrolled in career tech education, the courses often provide skills that enable them to get jobs after graduation.

But the programs are not just geared toward teaching job skills for those who do not plan to attend college. The academic content of the courses is tied to technical subject matter that help the students prepare for college. In fact, studies by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) shows that nearly 2/3 of all high school graduates of career tech programs enter some kind of college program. The ACTE adds that the experiences involved in Career Tech are helpful to students who want to get a head start on their careers, whether those careers include medicine, automotive or computer sciences, or business technology careers.

If the Senate votes to re-fund the Perkins Act, and the President signs it, Career Tech programs that offer such benefits to students will receive federal funding through September, 2007.

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. Send your announcement as far in advance as possible. Calendar items may be mailed, faxed, sent by U.S. Mail, delivered in person to our Butler or Gilbertown offices, or left in our drop box at The Country Corner in Butler.

Saturday, Feb. 17th

HUNTER EDUCATION FIELD DAY, 8 a.m., for ages 10 and up who have completed the Hunter Education CD or Online Course, Bobby's Fish Camp, US 84 east of Silas. For more information on the online course, log on to www.outdoorabama.com.

BUTLER DIXIE YOUTH SOFTBALL/BASEBALL SIGNUPS, Civic Center, 8 a.m.-noon. Boys ages 5-12 (as of 5/1/07), Girls ages 4-15 (as of 5/1/07). Bring copy of birth certificate (boys must also have proof of insurance). \$40 signup fee. For more information on girls signup, call 205-459-4039 or 459-3348; for boys, call (205) 654-2651.

VALENTINE BANQUET, Aquilla United Methodist Church, 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to enjoy a night of good food, fun and fellowship.

BRUNSWICK STEW SALE, sponsored by the Nanafalia Community Association and South Marengo Rescue Squad, at Old Nanafalia School. Sold by the gallon for \$25 or by the quart for \$6.25. To order, call 334-736-4361 or 334-736-4243. Pickup will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds will go to the SMRS.

WILD GAME SUPPER, featuring guest speaker Rich Wingo, former linebacker with the Green Bay Packers, 6 p.m., Gilbertown Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. No admission fee but you must have a ticket so that the proper number of meals can be prepared. Contact Richie Abston at 251-843-2575.

GOSPEL CONSOLATORS' 8th ANNIVERSARY, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Butler, 6:30 p.m. All choirs, groups and soloists are invited. Rev. Cleo McGrew, Sr. is the Pastor.

Sunday, Feb. 18th

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of Pastor and First Lady, Rev. Robert L. and Sis. Bobbie Jackson, Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church, 3 p.m. Rev. Jessie Lowe of New Hope Baptist Church in Wilmer, guest speaker. 322 Goodwill Circle, Silas.

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM, St. Mary United Methodist Church, noon. Rev. Joseph Mason is the pastor.

Monday, Feb. 19th

COACHES MEETING for Butler Dixie Youth Softball, 6 p.m., Butler Civic Center.

Tuesday, Feb. 20th

CLEAN UP CHOCTAW COUNTY meeting, and discussion about the possible establishment of a countywide recycling program, 7 p.m., Gilbertown Town Hall. All interested persons and elected officials are invited and encouraged to attend.

Saturday, Feb. 24th

COOPER'S CHAPEL 10th ANNUAL LADIES SEMINAR, Mary Ann Jones, guest speaker. Luncheon speaker is Brenda Hopkins. Special music. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. To register call 601-776-5057 or 601-776-6659. Cooper's Chapel is located on Hwy. 511 two miles east of Quitman.

CHOCTAW CO. UNIT, Alabama Democratic Conference, election of officers, 10 a.m. until noon, Choctaw Co. Courthouse. For more information contact chairman C.D. "Budd" Ruffin at (205) 459-3299.

SINGING, Lusk Assembly of God, 6 p.m. Featured singers Crimson City along with local talent.

Sunday, Feb. 25th

FRIENDS DAY, Gilbertown Church of God, 10:30 a.m. guest speaker Rev. Tim Brimm. Lunch will be served. Pastors Rev. and Mrs. Fred Wiley, Associates Rev. and Mrs. Scott Loper.

INSTALLATION SERVICE for Rev. Lavon Gathright, 3 p.m., John The Baptist Missionary Baptist Church, Halsell. Rev. Tony Campbell, pastor of Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Meridian, will be the guest speaker.

Sat., March 3rd and Sun., March 4th

CHOIR DAY, St. Thomas AME Zion Church, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. All choirs, Groups and Soloists are asked to render two selections. Please register upon arrival. Sis. Mary Law, Choir President, Rev. Charles Phillips, Pastor.

Saturday, March 3rd

RELAY FOR LIFE ROADBLOCK, Lisman. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS, free food, free clothes, free toys for children, free medicine, sponsored by Spirit of Luke Charitable Foundation, Black Belt Faith and Medicine Wholeness Initiative, Gilbertown Sr. Nutrition Center, 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Bring your whole family!

March 7th-10th

MUSICAL CHOIR WORKSHOP, Gooden Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 6 p.m. nightly. The Workshop will climax with a concert on Saturday, March 10 at 6 p.m. The Workshop presenter will be Min. Kenneth Braxton, Minister of Music First Missionary Baptist Church, Biloxi, MS. Registration is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth ages 5-18. For more information contact Essie Landrum (334) 736-4288 or Victor Johnson (205) 398-3037. Rev. Bobby Johnson, Pastor.

Thursday, March 8th

SILENT AUCTION AND GUMBO GATHERING, A Secret Safe Place for Newborns 2nd Annual Fundraiser. Sponsored by District Attorney Spencer B. Walker, Chatom Community Center, 6-8 p.m. Children are welcome. Call 251-847-2070 or 251-275-3144 to reserve tickets.

Saturday, March 31st

CRITTER DINNER, meal and live entertainment, Butler Senior Citizens Center, Riderwood Drive.