

# Obituaries

## Georgia Mae Mitchell

LISMAN – Funeral services for Georgia Mae Mitchell were held Feb. 2, 2007 at the Greater First Baptist Church in Lisman with Pastor Joseph Patterson officiating.

Mrs. Mitchell, 81, died Jan. 28. She served in many offices, including Worthy Matron in the Order of the Eastern Star #651, and many duties in her church.

Survivors include four sons and three daughters, George Henry (Jessie), Donald Clarke (Joe Ann Rowe) of Lisman, Glen (Lynette) of Cincinnati, OH, Paul (Cristela) of St. Claire Shores, MI, Pauline Mitchell of Cincinnati, OH, Virginia (Rev. James, Jr.) of Birmingham, Henriette (George) Sanders of Cincinnati, OH; one step-daughter Earline (Cortez) Bryant; one sister and brother, Edith (Limmie) Kennedy and Alex (Willie Mae) Evans; 25 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives.

Her husband, Henry Mitchell; daughter, Shirley M. Johnson and her son Len Mitchell; two sisters Corine and Irine; four brothers Abraham, Willie D., Sylvester, and John Lee Evans, preceded her in death.

Hayden and Butler Funeral Home in Lisman was in charge of arrangements.

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## CCHS principal highlights school improvement efforts at board meeting

### BOE makes personnel decisions, lists surplus properties

By Dee Ann Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – “CCHS will come out of School Improvement,” Choctaw County High School principal Kevin Howard told the Choctaw Co. Board of Education on Tuesday evening.

In a report highlighting the progress his school is making toward reaching Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals this year, Howard gave the BOE an overview of the school's efforts to be cleared of their ‘School Improvement Year 7’ status.

“We had a review on January 26,” he stated. “CCHS has been in School Improvement for some time. But we made AYP last year, and we went to ‘Year 7 Delay’. We’ve made progress.”

Howard told the board that the school met its AYP goals in reading last year and saw marked improvement in math.

“We must stay the same in reading – meaning we have to make our goals,” he reported, “and we have to clear in math. That’s how CCHS will come out of School Improvement.”

Howard added that the recent review showed no negatives in strategies to bring the school up to par, but did have problems with documentation.

“The next review will be on February 28,” he said. “We’ve been working diligently to get ready for that documentation. One of the negative aspects is in the field of math for grades 8-9. We are trying to find a math teacher, and have not yet been successful, but we hope to have made more improvements by the next review at the

end of the month.”

The BOE also made several decisions regarding several personnel matters during Tuesday’s meeting.

Superintendent of Education Sue Moore recommended the acceptance of the resignation of Delaine Tinney, Special Education teacher at Southern Choctaw Elementary School, effective January 9, due to the illness of her father who requires her care.

The following employment decisions were also approved by the board:

- Judy Franks, Patricia Jones, and Patricia Miller – High Hopes Program at Southern Choctaw High School, retroactive to January 30, 2007.

- Anya Johnson – tutoring services two nights per week from February 27 through July 12, at a rate of \$24.00 per hour, through contract between Choctaw County High School and the Choctaw Community Development Center in the amount of \$2,880.00.

- Karen Lewis – teacher at Southern Choctaw Elementary School (contingent upon her meeting all requirements necessary for employment)

The Board also approved the following individuals for supplemental services at Choctaw County High School retroactive to January 16 for 12 weeks with teachers being paid at a rate of \$24 per hour, to be paid from Title I funds: Grace Evans – Reading, Arquetta Howard – On-site Monitor, Andrew Huey – math, and Regina Long – math.

A leave of absence were approved for Denise Johnson Dubose, CNP Assistant at Southern Choctaw High School, for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year.

Special education services were approved by the board for the following:

- Mary Alice Campbell to provide special education instruction

at SCHS at a rate of \$85/day.

- Regina Andrews to provide homebound services for Joseph Dubose until his release by his physician.

- Lois Bolden to provide instructional services at SCHS 5 days/week at \$80/day.

- Choctaw Therapy Services to provide individual therapy services for children in elementary grades, retroactive to October 1, 2006.

- Judy Franks to provide homebound services for Kami Hurst until May 25 or when released by her physician.

The Board approved a recommendation to change the title of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to Chief School Financial Officer (CSFO), in keeping with the state’s School Accountability Act.

The Board, however, did not approve a recommendation made by Moore to apply the 45-Day Rule to Jennifer Miller and not accept her resignation. The recommendation failed by a 2 to 3 vote, with BOE members Turk Phillips, Sharon Shepherd, and Wayne Taylor voting ‘no’.

Miller had asked for her resignation to go into effective January 26, in order for her to take a position as County Coordinator for the Choctaw County Cooperative Extension System. By voting against the measure, the board accepted her resignation.

During Tuesday’s meeting, the BOE approved the listing of several items as surplus properties to be sold. Included in the list were the following:

- Books still being stored at former Butler Elementary.

- Older buses listed as surplus to be sold to highest bidder.

- Surplus equipment such as old computer monitors, CPUs, copiers, and other electronic equipment.

The next meeting of the BOE will be held on Tuesday, March 13, at SCES in Gilbertown.

## Commission may take action to regulate utility lines on ROW

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – Citizens and utility companies that install water lines on top of the ground on county rights-of-way, along the edges of the pavement, or in ditches

are not only causing problems, they are costing the county unnecessary money as water lines are cut and must be repaired.

The County Commission discussed the problem at the Feb. 5th meeting, and the issue was raised again on Feb. 12th.

“It’s a big problem in mine and Commissioner (Dandy) Brown’s districts,” Commissioner C.D. “Budd” Ruffin said. “The water lines are totally exposed in some areas, right on top of the ground. In other places, utility companies have set water meter boxes within the destructive zone on motor graders.”

Brown said he spent most of a day last week repairing an exposed water line on county ROW that was cut by one of his machines.

And, he said, CR 27

(Sawmill Road) has itself been cut through, apparently for the installation of a water line.

“Nobody said anything to me about cutting the road,” he said.

Probate Judge D’Wayne May said that it should be standard procedure for any utility company to get permission from the Commission before cutting or doing anything that involves disturbing or damaging a public road.

“There’s some water meters on the right-of-way, a lot of them right on top of the ground,” Brown added.

May said when the county hires a new engineer he can check all of the roads and make a recommendation about how to deal with the problem.

“We need to get a public notice out to try and deal with this,” he

said.

Commissioner Henry Lovette said that when any new utility line permits are issued, they need to include some guidelines regarding how to

the s  
A new engineer can set up procedures and rules governing the installation of utility lines on county ROW, attorney Lee McPhearson said.

“I think it would be wise to have a public hearing, just so that the public knows what is going on,” he said.

“I always like to give citizens a chance to comment before we adopt something that’s going to affect everyone in the county,” May agreed.

Commissioners Lovette and Clyde Dixon’s motion to table the matter until an engineer is employed passed unanimously.

## Choctaw Co. Ala. Democratic Conference unit to meet

BUTLER – The Choctaw County unit of the Alabama Democratic Conference will hold its 2007 election of officers on Saturday, Feb. 24th at the Choctaw Co. Courthouse. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and end at noon, according to

Chairman C.D. “Budd” Ruffin.

Officers are elected from the current membership he said, and – to hold an office – a person must have been a member of the ADC for at least an entire year.

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