

# Education

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The Choctaw Sun  
Friday, February 2, 2007  
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## Alternative School facility to open soon

By Dee Ann Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – “This will be the last resort for students,” says Randy Boggs, Director of Alternative School for the Choctaw County Public School System.

Within the coming weeks, local public schools will have another option for reprimanding those students who need serious disciplinary action. After several years without such a facility, the Choctaw County Board of Education is getting ready to reopen Alternative School.

Plans are being made to hold classes for Alternative School in the portable unit in front of the Central Office on Tom Orr Drive in Butler. Boggs, who also acts as Director of Facilities and Maintenance for the school system, told the Sun on Monday that his department is currently working to make needed repairs on the unit so that it will be ready to open in the near future.

According to a recent report released by the Alabama Department of Education, the use of Alternative Schools is expanding across the state to remove disruptive students from regular classrooms so teachers can



Work is in progress on what will become Alternative School for Choctaw County students. The mobile unit stands in front of the Board of Education office on Tom Orr Drive in Butler. Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell

teach and students can learn in a safe environment.

Boggs told the Sun that Choctaw County's Alternative School will be used not only as a method of punishment but as rehabilitation so that the students can continue to get their education while they are being disciplined. In addition, he agreed that another benefit is to remove disruptive stu-

dents from the classroom so that other students can learn.

“This is intended to rehabilitate the students to get them back into the regular classroom,” said Boggs who will occupy an office within the facility to oversee its operation. “We will give them every opportunity to show that they want to go back. But they have to show that they can follow the rules.”

According to Boggs, the class will be used for those students who have committed more serious offenses, or those who have not altered their behavior after other means of discipline.

Students will be assigned to Alternative School for a minimum of 9 weeks – equal to one grading period. After that time, if the student has complied with a list of pre-

set requirements – including good behavior and completion of class work – he/she will be allowed to return to regular classes. If the requirements are not met, the students will be assigned to Alternative School for additional time.

According to Boggs, on the rare occasion that a student still does not comply with require-

ments, expulsion remains an option.

While attending Alternative School, the student will be under the supervision of a teacher to oversee the completion of assignments that are sent to the student from those teachers who had been instructing the student in regular classes. An aide will also be assigned to the Alternative School to assist the teacher.

According to Boggs, principals at each of the four schools have indicated that they already have students who could be assigned to the facility once it is operational. The facility will be open to take students from elementary grades through high school.

With work on the building now in progress, the facility could be ready to open by mid- to late February. But other actions would have to be taken prior to assigning students.

“We do not have a teacher and an aide yet,” Boggs told the Sun. “The board will have to take care of that before we can open.”

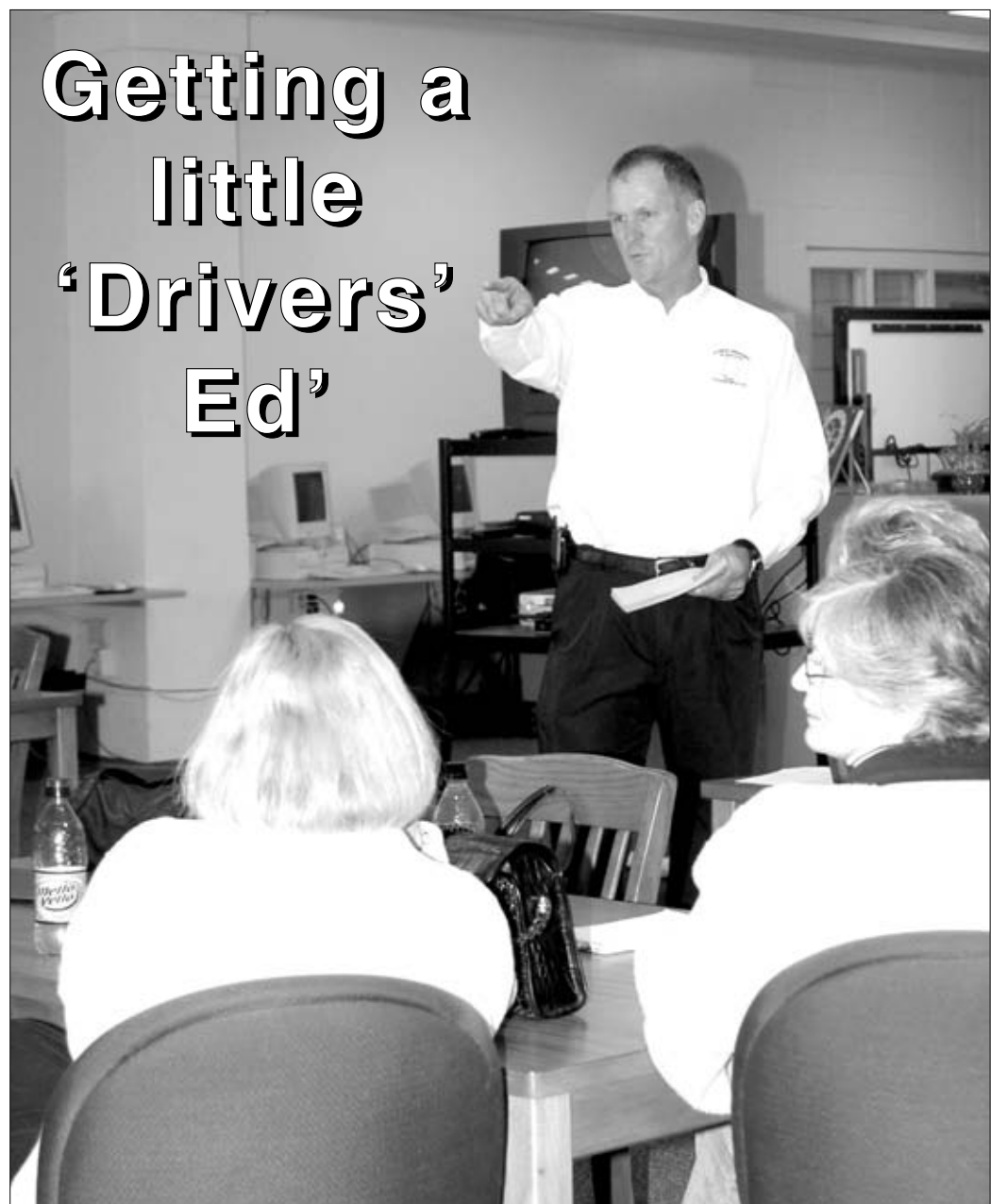
More action is expected to be taken concerning Alternative School when the Board of Education meets on February 13.



Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell

## Learning technology at the Family Literacy Center

BUTLER – Adults interested in learning more about computer technology have been attending a series of Parent Training Sessions at the Choctaw County Family Literacy Center. Led by Technology Coordinator for Choctaw County Board of Education, Regina Davis, along with Family Literacy Center Parenting Aide, Maranda Coleman, the sessions have included such subjects as the use of email and internet searching, as well as other issues related to the basic use of computers. Last Monday, January 29, these session attendees reviewed methods for typing letters using Microsoft Word. Future sessions will include lessons in using Microsoft Word to make flyers, programs, booklets, and other documents (Monday, Feb. 5 and 12), a ‘Buyer’s Guide’ and basic maintenance of computers (Feb. 19), and digital photography (Feb. 26). The sessions are being sponsored by the Choctaw County Federal Programs Department and Community Education Program. For more information about the sessions, call 205-459-3031 ext. 2028.



Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell

## Bus drivers attend recertification seminar

GILBERTOWN – Bus drivers for Choctaw County public schools attended a recertification seminar at Southern Choctaw High School on Wednesday. The seminar included sessions that addressed a variety of issues related to their jobs, including information on the possibility of new legislative action requiring seat belts on school buses. (A feature story on the subject appeared in the January 26th issues of the Sun). The seminar was led by Donny Bynum, Education Specialist for Pupil Transition with the Alabama Department of Education.

## Logan to attend National 4-H Conference

By Elaine Alberson  
County Ext. Agent (ret.)

BUTLER – Mariah Logan, 16 year-old daughter of Joe and Carinthia Logan, has been chosen to attend National 4-H Conference which will be held March 24-29, 2007 in Washington D.C.

She and the other delegates will be recognized at the 4-H Mid-Winter Leadership Conference at the 4-H Center



Mariah Logan

in mid-February. This working conference is at the invitation

of the Secretary of Agriculture and brings together youth, volunteer leaders and Extension staff members from across the United States, its Territories, and the Canadian Provinces.

The Alabama delegates will be actively engaged in the format of a working conference to develop recommendations for the National 4-H Youth Development Program. Delegates will also act as ambassadors for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Alabama 4-H, repre-

senting Alabama 4-H interests to our legislators on Capitol Hill Day.

Currently, Mariah is serving her third term as President of the Choctaw Co. 4-H Council and is Alabama's Miss 4-H. She is also president of her local CaTch 4-H club.

Last fall, Mariah attended a Youth Leadership Conference at Rock Eagle, GA.

This trip was awarded to her for being chosen to receive the Senior Level I Leadership Achievement Award at 4-H State Congress.

**Nominations are now  
being taken for  
Teacher of the Month  
for February.  
Send in the name of YOUR  
favorite teacher today!**

**Call or drop off your nomination  
to our Gilberttown office at 251-  
843-6397 or our Butler office at  
205-459-2461, or email  
choctawsun@millry.net.**