

■ Lisman

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about the possibility of building some housing units in the town.

He also discussed future projects that the town may want to consider.

"Lisman has a historic downtown area and there are opportunities to re-establish that area," he said. "One of the things that even Butler doesn't have is a bed and breakfast. You could have several B&B's here in Lisman."

Grubbs said that one of the areas of "eco-tourism" that has really taken off in Alabama in recent years is bird watching.

"Don't laugh," he said. "The facts and figures show that bird watching is big business. In fact, bird watchers spend more than golfers in Alabama now spend on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. This would be a natural 'fit' for Choctaw County because your county is a bird watcher's dream come true!"

Grubbs said that Sentell is preparing to do a master plan to develop the Town Hall complex into more of a sports/community complex.

"We will bring in a diagram and sit down with the mayor and council and ask, what do you want?" Grubbs said, adding that the facility and property is perfect for a community baseball field, basketball court, and splash-area where water sports could be enjoyed.

"We are dreaming with the hope and promise of reality," he said. "But your people need to be involved in these meetings, especially your young people."

For example, if there were active Boys and Girls Clubs in the town, the Alabama Dept. of Economic and Community Affairs has indicated to him that it would be willing to some youth-oriented projects in Lisman.

"This would help fashion them into young adults who want to stay at home and help Lisman grow," he said. "You have a wonderful opportunity on Hwy. 10. A lot of people pass through here everyday, you've just got to create opportunity for them to stop and stay a while."

The town has many assets that people may not appreciate, he said.

"You have fiber optics, and you have a small college holding courses here," Grubbs said. "Workforce development can be done right here with those two assets, thanks to the internet. We just need to get over this 'we've never had anything and we'll never be anybody' attitude. We CAN do it and it starts right here."

Grubbs said that the town's two current state grants total more than \$700,000.

"Gilbertown can't get a grant, they're too rich," he said. "Sometimes being a little on the low side isn't that bad. We can help you go out there and find resources."

Sentell engineer Ed Marsh, who is also working on the two local grant projects, agreed.

"Beds and Breakfasts would be wonderful opportunities that you should consider," he said. "When people come here to hunt, where do they eat and sleep? Butler or Meridian, would be my guess. Some people, especially retirees, take off for weeks or months to hunt and fish. And believe me, those people spend money, big money."

B&B's would also be good places for people who are in town for family or class reunions, wedding, funerals or other events.

"Someone who has a big house could take two or three rooms, clean them up, put some nice furnishings in them, and even if they are used once or twice a week, that's income," he said.

Marsh said the fire station project is about half-way completed.

"The station that will house the trucks is 25% complete, and the gym renovation is about 85%-90% complete where they will have their meeting rooms. In about another week and half the concrete will have cured and they can start putting up the framework."

Marsh said he believes the entire fire station project will be completed by the end of April.

Yet another project, a neighborhood revitalization in the Kinnon Heights and Kinnon Circle area, will be underway soon.

Several severe drainage issues will be addressed as well as widening the street.

"We've got to get that water out of their yards," he said.

The project will also involve the demolition of some old dilapidated, abandoned houses, repair of some houses, and a new playground.

The playground, he said, will be designed so that any future development can be added to it in a manner that is pleasing to the eye and also functional.

"But we will need the community's input," he said. "We want to put everybody's dream together."

The project has been surveyed and street work will begin in mid-spring, with the overall project completed by the late fall.

In other matters Monday evening, Nancy Gibson, the Executive Director of the Choctaw Co. Chamber of Commerce, discussed the Twin Rivers Economic Development Partnership and how that two-county organization is preparing to go after new business and industry for Choctaw and Clarke counties.

"Twin Rivers is a group of people who recognize that small counties don't have a lot of resources," she said. "What we did was to form a coalition between the two counties. We have different strengths and weaknesses. What we are trying to do is fit these two counties together and work on some issues that will make both counties more competitive. We have to help ourselves. If we wait on 'big government' to do that we will be waiting a long time."

Gibson said that the group has set a goal of raising \$1.5 million for the effort.

"We all want same things - jobs so that people want to travel, a future for our children, and a better way of life for all of our citizens," she said. But those things cannot be accomplished without money, she added.

"We plan to be good stewards of the money that is collected and we will be reporting to the public what we are doing so that everyone has a say in what's going on," she said. "Working as a regional group I believe we can make a difference."

Twin Rivers is in the process of hiring a full-time economic developer whose job it will be to go out on a daily basis and ask businesses and industries to locate in Choctaw County, she said.

"I am here tonight to ask for your support and for your input," she said.

Mayor Thomas Jackson agreed that the concept is a good one. "If a new plant locates in Butler, it would still be good for Lisman," he said.

The council did not have a quorum so no business could be transacted, but Jackson thanked Gibson for coming and said that he was sure the town would be supportive of the effort..

Butler earns Tree City designation for 16th year; Arbor Day celebration to include tree giveaway

BUTLER – For the 16th consecutive year, the Town of Butler has been named a Tree City USA Community by the National Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Butler has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: establishing a tree board or department, having a tree care ordinance and a com-

prehensive community forestry program, and hosting an Arbor Day observance.

"Trees in our cities and towns help clean the air, conserve soil and water, moderate temperature and bring nature into our daily lives," said John Rosenow, president of the Foundation. "Tree City USA designation recognizes the work of elected officials, staff and citizens who plant and care for the community forest."

"Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, and provide environ-

mental and economical benefits," Rosenow added. "A community, and its citizens, that recognize these benefits and provide needed care for its trees deserves recognition and thanks."

Arbor Day activities for the Town of Butler will be held on Saturday March 3rd from 8 a.m. until noon at the Butler Vol. Fire Department. Free trees donated by Bobby Catrett, of Plum Creek Nurseries, will be available to local residents, including bald cypress, pines, crab apples, oaks, and several other varieties.

Obituaries

Marilyn Wade Flowers

SWEET WATER – Marilyn Wade Flowers, 65, died Feb. 12, 2007 at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian, MS.

A homemaker, she was a native of Sand Hill, MS and was a member of Pine Hill Church of God.

Services were held at O'Bryant Chapel Funeral Home on Feb. 14 with Rev. Ron Smith officiating. Interment was in Aimwell Cemetery near Sweet Water.

Survivors include her husband, Morgan Flowers of Sweet Water; one daughter, Sheila Antonia Flowers of Loerrach, Germany; one son, Daniel Morgan Flowers of Sweet Water; five sisters, Annie Lois Mathers of Nanafalia, Hilda Marie Tjader of CA, Velma Louise Fjones of Houston, TX, Tommy Jean Cassells of Manitoba, Canada, Alma Jo Wood of Thomasville; and a friend, Jasmine Powell of Pine Hill.

She was preceded in death by her brother Robert Heath Wade.

Pallbearers were Steve Wood, Kyle Wood, Matt Mathers, Jr., Joey Mathers, Andy Etheredge, and Wayne Etheredge. Honorary pallbearers were members of the Pine Hill Church of God and the processing plant.

Calvin Anderson.

O'Bryant Chapel Funeral Home in Thomasville was in charge of arrangements.

Inez White

SILAS – Inez White, 96, died February 12, 2007.

Services were held Feb. 17 at Shiloh Baptist Church in Silas with Pastor Ennes Rankins officiating. Interment was in the Shady Grove Cemetery.

Pallbearers were nephews and great nephews.

Survivors include a companion, James Duff; one daughter, Jo Ann Hill; four sisters, Ledressa Hawkins, Edressa Everette, Clara Edell Pearson, and Mary (Theron) Sharp; three brothers, Calvin Bolden, McKinley Bolden, Henry (Lois) Bolden, Jr.; four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Olevia Bolden; three sisters, Hattie Graham, Lucille Dinkins, Rose Ann Causey; two brothers, Roosevelt Bolden, and Thomas Bolden; and one grandchild, Jarvis Hill.

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

■ Recall

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unsure how the product got contaminated with the bacteria, but there has been speculation that it was the result of unclean jars or equipment during processing.

A ConAgra spokesperson said the company is not sure how many jars are affected by the recall, which includes all varieties of the company's peanut butter that have been produced by the plant since May 2006.

About 40,000 people in the United States each year contract Salmonella, which can cause diarrhea, fever, dehydration, abdominal pain and vomiting. About 600 cases each year result in death. Although most cases of salmonella poisoning are caused by undercooked eggs and chicken, another case of the bacteria being found in peanut butter happened in Australia in the mid-1990s. That outbreak was determined to have been caused by unsanitary conditions in

the processing plant. States now reporting Salmonella cases from the recalled product include Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

Local consumers are urged to check their pantries for the product. Refunds are being offered for consumers who send their names and addresses — plus the lids found in jars containing the product code — to ConAgra Foods, P.O. Box 3768, Omaha, NE 68103. For more information, call (866) 344-6970.

Ossie Mae Phillips Taylor

MILLRY – Ossie Mae Phillips Taylor, 90, died February 14, 2007 at Washington County Hospital in Chatom.

Services were held February 16 at Millry United Methodist Church with Rev. Ennis Sellers and Rev. Douglas Turner officiating. Interment was in the Millry Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jodi Phillips, Eddie Phillips, Mack Hollingshead, Kevin Hollingshead, Jr. Phillips, and Gerald Everett.

Survivors include four sons, Wayne (Marge) Taylor of Millry, Teddy (Susan) Taylor of Bay Minette, James V. (Daphne) Taylor of Dalton, GA., William Ray Smith of Millry; three sisters, Jane Loper of Jackson, Dorcie Schultz of Mobile, Lonie Reynolds of Laton Hill; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Taylor; one son, Milton Franklin Taylor; one daughter, Verna Mae Turner; two brothers, Wheeler Phillips, Joe Phillips; and one sister, Daisy Smith.

Phillips Funeral Home in Millry was in charge of arrangements.

Justin Colby Clark

TOXEY – Justin Colby Clark, 20, died February 12, 2007 at Druid City Hospital in Tuscaloosa.

He was an engineering student at the University of Alabama. Services were held

February 15 at Heritage Church of God in Gilberttown with Rev. Fred Wiley and Rev. Scott Loper officiating. Interment was in the Brightwater Cemetery in Needham.

Pallbearers were Brandon Clark, Cody Clark, Logan Clark, Neely Nelson, Trevor Nelson, and Drew Shepherd.

Survivors include his parents, Derrick L. and Pamela J. Nelson Clark of Toxey; one sister, Whitney Lane Clark of Toxey; maternal grandparents, Tommy and Inez Nelson of Toxey; paternal grandmother, Norma Robbins of Shubuta, MS.; great-grandmother, Zella Gossett of Mona, IN; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Phillips Funeral Home in Gilberttown was in charge of arrangements.

Vermelle Dykes Bonner

BUTLER – Vermelle Dykes Bonner, 78, died February 16, 2007 at Willow Trace Nursing Center in Butler.

Services were held Feb. 18 at Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Butler with Rev. James Bonner officiating.

Pallbearers were Jeff Dykes, Ben Barber, Jr., Doug Dykes, Greg Dykes, Ben Barber, III, and D.R. McCary.

Survivors include one sister, Cora Lee Young, of Butler.

Bumpers Funeral Home in Butler was in charge of arrangements.

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