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Shining Brightly Over Southwest Alabama



Batter up!
See 1B

Briefs

Bids to be let on sections of Ala. Hwys. 10 and 17

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

MONTGOMERY — Five miles of Ala. Hwys. 10 and 17 in the Butler and Lisman areas will be planed, resurfaced and painted with traffic striping later this spring.

The project is the only Choctaw County project up for bids in the Ala. Dept. of Transportation's Feb. 28th letting.

The project involves Ala. Hwy. 10 from Milepost 7.670 through 12.249 through Lisman, and Ala. Hwy. 17 from MP 106.759 to MP 107.231 in Butler, for a total of 5.035 miles.

The project is expected to cost between \$1.8 million and \$2.2 million.

VFD plans benefit for Ronnie Mosley

A benefit for Ronnie Mosley will be held at the Needham/Land Fire Department on Saturday, Feb. 24th, beginning at 11 a.m.

Grilled chicken and fried fish plates will be sold.

Choctaw ADC to meet on Saturday

BUTLER -- The Choctaw County Unit of the Alabama Democratic Conference will meet Saturday, Feb. 24th at 10 a.m. for the purpose of electing officers.

The meeting will be held at the Choctaw Co. Courthouse.

Almanac

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

Scattered showers
Hi 76 • Lo 52
Rain chance 30%
Sunrise: 6:26 a.m.
Sunset: 5:47 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

Partly cloudy
Hi 73 • Lo 43
Rain chance 20%
Sunrise: 6:25 a.m.
Sunset: 5:48 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 27

Sunny
Hi 72 • Lo 43
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:24 a.m.
Sunset: 5:49 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 28

Sunny
Hi 73 • Lo 43
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:23 a.m.
Sunset: 5:50 p.m.

CAMPAIGN INCLUDES "EYESORE" BUILDINGS, LOTS

Butler plans clean-up days

By Ben W. Smith
Mayor of Butler

BUTLER — Butler's Beautification Committee had its first official meeting this past week. Items discussed were the annual maintenance of the trees and planters around the courthouse. We agreed to trim the tree branches, clean out the planting areas, trim the monkey grass and plant caladium bulbs for the spring growing season.

The Welcome to Butler signs are going through a complete make over and dress-up.

We have communicated with several

merchants around town that are interested in changing the appearance of their store fronts — such as painting, decorative lights, shutters, and cleaning, painting, repairing or replacing their canopies or awnings.

We also have several buildings that are dilapidated, un-kept lots that need mowing or bush hogging, and the debris cleaned up. Several of these property owners have been notified or will be notified in the near future for their help in taking care of these blighted areas.

We have made plans for clean up days to be held on February 24 and March 3, and a

day to plant flowers and bulbs on March 10. We plan to start each day at 8 a.m. and end at noon. We are asking that anyone interested in helping cleanup and help beautify our town, to please come to city hall at 8 a.m. on the above days and we all can enjoy making our town a cleaner and more pleasant place to live and conduct business.

For more information contact me at City Hall at 205-459-3795. Our next Beautification Committee meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on March 10, at City Hall. All interested persons are encouraged to attend this meeting. I hope to see you there!

FAT TUESDAY



Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell

BUTLER — Beads, costumes, parades, and Moon Pies... no, it wasn't Mobile or New Orleans. It was Willow Trace Nursing Center! Staff members and volunteers treated residents to a Mardi Gras event that included a parade of brightly-colored and noisy characters bearing gifts galore, as well as a Mardi Gras King and Queen! Pictured is the new Activities Coordinator Angela Ward — in her 'Fat Tuesday' costume — bearing gifts of beads for the residents. See Health section for more color photos of Willow Trace's Mardi Gras celebration. (Page 8A).

EDITORIAL

You can help put a clean, new "face" on our county

Normally, you don't see "editorials" on the front page. The issue at hand is important enough, we believe, that it deserves "page one" attention, and we ask that you give it your full attention.

A group of concerned citizens met in Gilberttown on Feb. 20th to begin discussions for organizing a county-wide cleanup day, and long-range plans for a recycling program in Choctaw County.

A second meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 27th at 7 p.m. at Old Buddies Restaurant, in Butler. Elected officials, school administrators and teachers, pastors, civic group leaders, youth leaders, business owners and concerned citizens who are fed up with the "trashy" appearance of our county's roadsides are invited and encouraged to attend.

The Choctaw Sun wholeheartedly endorses this effort, as well as the ongoing cleanup and beautification program in the City of Butler, and while a tentative date for a countywide cleanup has been set for late March, your presence, participation and enthusiasm will ultimately be the keys to the overall success or failure of this project.

Just imagine how much better our county would look if every church, every business, every school, every civic group, every elected official, and every citizen did their part to help clean up "Choctaw County's house."

It could happen! Even if you are not physically able to pick up trash, you can help make phone calls, you can enlist support in other ways. Everyone has unique talents and abilities, and we need them all to put a shiny new "face" on our home county. Please make every effort to be at this meeting on Tuesday evening at Old Buddies.

BOE holds special meeting to accept resignation

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — An unscheduled meeting of the Choctaw County Board of Education was called on Tuesday evening, Feb. 20th with only one item on the agenda.

BOE members Darryl "Turk" Phillips, Sharon Shepherd, and Wayne Taylor, along

with Superintendent of Education Sue Moore, met for a brief session to approve a recommendation to accept the resignation of Jennifer U. Miller, effective January 26.

The vote to accept the resignation was unanimous.

During the February 13th meeting, Moore had recommended that the board not accept Miller's resignation, but the board

did not vote to approve the recommendation. No other recommendation was made on the issue at that time.

A former teacher at Choctaw County Elementary, Miller resigned from her position to become the new County Coordinator for the Choctaw County Cooperative Extension System.

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