



The Choctaw Sun
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Opinions

www.choctawsun.com
choctawsun@millry.net

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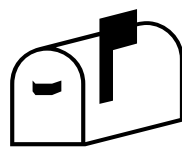
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Letters



We humbly appreciate everyone for your generous concerns shown during the loss of our mother.

A special thanks to Rev. Joseph Mason and St. Mary United Methodist Church and to Rev. Deas and Mt. Sterling C.M.E. Church.

May God forever bless you all.
The family of Clara Ree Glover

SoundOff

How about an AMEN to the ex-husbands that do pay child support and pay dearly. And who continue to pay for everything, while the "wanna-be" moms spend the child support money on themselves; out nightclubbing, partying and who knows what else. My kids deserve the child support. Share is not in her vocabulary, only take, take, take Thank you for letting me vent. I appreciate the **Sun**.

I saw your story on the possible recycling program and think it would be a good idea for the county. Has anything happened on this yet?

(ED. NOTE: Terry Kelley, the manager of the local landfill, told the Sun that if enough people are interested in serving on an advisory board to help organize the effort he would certainly be glad to start a recycling program. If you are interested, give Terry a call at 205-459-8031.)

SoundOff is one of the best things you could have done for this county! I love it and I hate it, all at the same time! Some of the comments make me so mad I could spit, and others make me want to cry because I agree with them 100%. It's what the First Amendment is all about and I just wanted to thank you for having this forum where we can "let 'er rip" when we get fed up with stuff.

I read in the Montgomery Advertiser on Tuesday (Jan. 30th) that the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has declared Tuskegee University the 2006 football season co-champs. The decision gives Tuskegee its 25th SIAC Championship and first since the 2002 season. The decision came after Miles College self-reported to the NCAA and the SIAC that it had an ineligible player during the season. Among numerous penalties, Miles had to forfeit all of its victories, including a 20-31 win over Tuskegee. With the forfeit, Tuskegee's record changed from a 5-2 conference record to 6-1, creating a tie in the SIAC standings. Congratulations to our four Choctaw County players at Tuskegee! That's great news for Brandon Anderson, Danny Anderson, Marquell Drummond, and John Pascaley. Way to go, guys, I hope the students in this county will see what working hard will do!

This SoundOff is for the person who left a black and white puppy at the overflow well on Mosley Bridge Road. I don't understand how you could have left this puppy there in the cold like you did. The puppy sleeps across the road because I see in the morning crossing road. I have left food for the puppy. If you are the person who left this animal - have a heart and go pick it up.

(ED. NOTE: The Sun runs FREE classified ads for anyone trying to find a good home for an unwanted animal, so such cold-heartedness is uncalled for. Abandonment of dogs or cats is a violation of Alabama's cruelty to animals laws and persons can be arrested and held accountable for their actions. - Tommy.)

Your sports section is a winner. I appreciate the coverage you give the CCHS Tigers. Our teams struggle most of the time, but with some good press coverage and more support by the parents and fans, I believe them Tigers will eventually make a big comeback!

MORE SOUNDOFFS IN OUR WEEKEND EDITION, ON SALE FRIDAY!

Opinions expressed here are those of our readers and do not necessarily represent those of the owners or staff of The Choctaw Sun. Because of the enormous volume received each week, we are unable to publish every comment in the "print" version. Go to our website at www.choctawsun.com to read more of today's SoundOffs. Comments that contain vulgarity, obscenities, or personal attacks on the character of any individual will not be published. SoundOff can be found in both the Tuesday and Friday print editions of The Sun.

The words and faces of hopelessness

Their words are frightening, to say the least. But more upsetting than that are their faces.

When you hear their voices, you can't help but hear the hopelessness. You hear a profound lack of purpose for their lives, and an undeniable emptiness in their souls.

But when you see their faces, you understand just what hopelessness, purposelessness and emptiness truly looks like.

For the atheistic organization that has concocted the increasingly popular Blasphemy Challenge on the internet site YouTube, God is a laughing matter. He is, they say, something invented by weak men in order to satisfy some perverted sense of neediness. He is something to be mocked, to be slandered, and to be blasphemed.

In fact, blaspheming God is just what they are after. And it is just what they want young people in America to do. But they don't just want them to do it in their own private lives.

The Blasphemy Challenge urges teens and young adults to utter blatant words of blasphemy denouncing the existence of God on video tape to be loaded onto their website



Looking Up

By Dee Ann Campbell
Editor

for the world to see. For those who take the challenge, their prize includes free DVD's and a chance to thumb their noses in the face of Christianity.

Hundreds of young people have already made their videos, and their words - and their faces - are broadcast on the website as a statement of their denunciation of God and all he stands for.

Haughty and insolent, their voices ring out with rebellion and anti-authority defiance. They make statements like 'May I burn in Hell if there is a God', or 'Come on, God, send me to Hell if you can!' or simply 'I blaspheme the Holy Spirit!'

For some of the young people who are making the videos, there may be a true atheistic philosophy that governs their actions. Many may truly hold to a disbelief in God, whether they develop that disbe-

lief through some thwarted scientific reasoning or have come to believe that there is no God because of circumstances in their lives.

Others, I believe, have only made the videos denouncing God because they look at it as the ultimate rejection of the 'establishment', the ultimate shock to society, and the highest form of rebellion they can muster.

But regardless of their motives, one thing is clear - they are taking their eternity into their own hands. They are, quite literally, playing with fire.

When I first viewed some of the videos on the website, I was frightened. Then my fear turned to anger for a time.

But the more I watched, the less angry I became. That anger, instead, was replaced by a deep sense of sadness and loss for the hearts of those

who are condemning themselves to a life without God, both here and in eternity.

I feel grief for the loss of their hearts to a world that would have them believe in nothing higher than themselves. I feel sadness that they will live their lives with no absolute guidance, no Higher Power to hold to, and no God-given sense of purpose in their lives.

But most of all, I grieve for hearts that are so cynical, so ultra-skeptical, that they can't find one mustard seed's worth of faith to believe that they were created for a greater purpose than just for fill space for a short time. It is that lack of greater purpose, that lack of faith in something beyond themselves, that lack of God-sized love in their lives, that makes their voices sound so cynical, so devoid of hope for tomorrow.

And, even more, it is that lack of hope for tomorrow that I see when I look into the haunted faces of those who have chosen not to believe.

(ED. NOTE: See feature article on what one local group of young people is doing to counter the Blasphemy Challenge, and how you can get involved.)

Judge keeps promise to open doors

It is refreshing to find a politician who keeps his word.

Probate Judge D'Wayne May campaigned on a pledge to open the doors of county government to the public and the news media. On Monday, at his first meeting as Chairman of the Choctaw County Commission, he made good on that promise by pledging - publicly and with strong conviction - that during his term of office there will be no stalling, dancing around the issues, or shutting doors in the faces of the citizens or the news media.

Thank you, Judge May. We appreciate your



The way I see it ...

By Tommy Campbell
Publisher

honesty and the fact that you are starting off your administration on a good, sound footing.

He also made it clear that he will work with all four county commissioners to involve them and to keep them informed, and that public record-keeping will be improved to show more details of the overall

deliberative process.

And, he said, to those who think the local news media is a "pain", he made it crystal clear that journalists who are just trying to do their jobs will not be barred from getting information from his office.

"The news media needs to hear these discussions, because the

news media keeps majority of the people in this county informed," he said. "I do not intend to hold anything back from the people. Obviously, we can't discuss legal strategies, but I am telling you that I will keep the news media informed, and anytime there comes a time when the Commission and the news media needs to hear something, I will not try to hide it. You will be the first to hear it."

We applaud Judge May's stand and again thank him for his pledge that the public's business will not be conducted behind closed-door executive sessions unless it is absolutely necessary.

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Gilbertown, AL
Phone: (251) 843-6397

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BUTLER OFFICE:
214 West Smith Street
(Next door to May, Evans
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Butler, AL

Phone: (205) 459-2461
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Send U.S. Mail to:

P.O. Box 269
Gilbertown, AL 36908-0269



Send Emails to:

choctawsun@millry.net

Visit us online at:

www.choctawsun.com

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