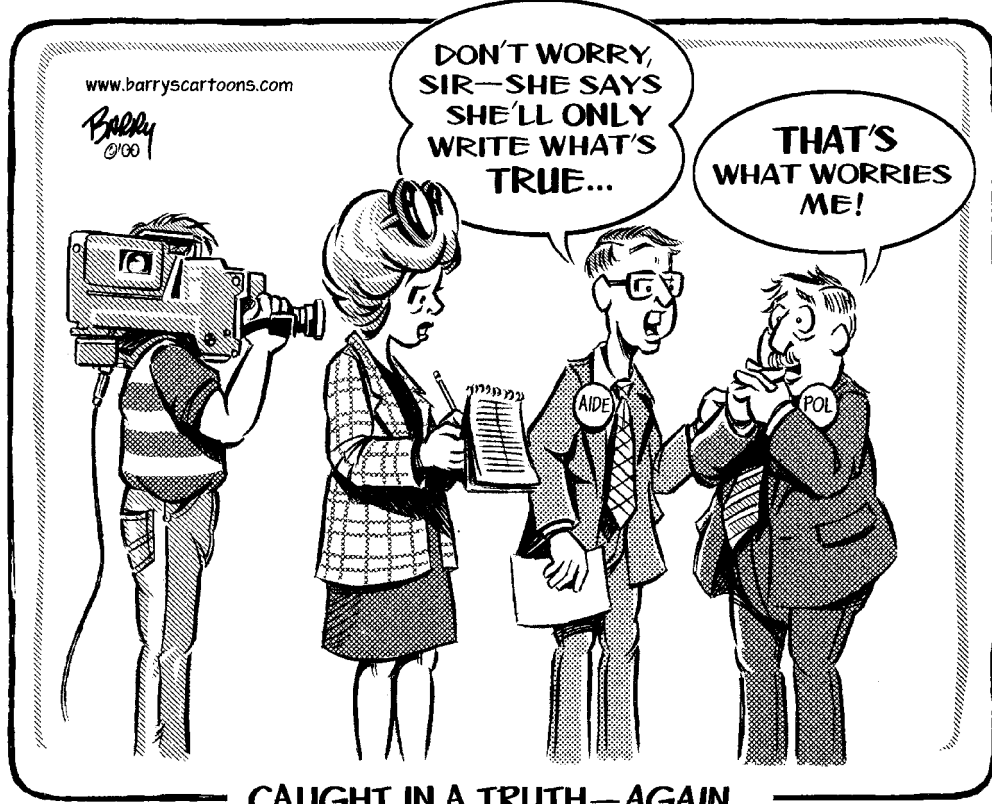




Opinions

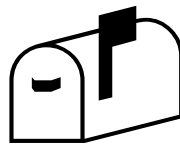
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CAUGHT IN A TRUTH—AGAIN...

Letters



The need for a hospital in Choctaw County is critical. Responding to this need, and to offer more services to its patients, the management of Rush Health Systems in Meridian requested the necessary certification from the State and Federal government to build a Critical Assess Hospital in the county.

The first choice of locations was the corner of Smith Street and Ala. Hwy. 10 East. A federal guideline exists stating that a Critical Assess Hospital must be at a distance of at least 35 miles from an existing hospital. The first choice location is close to a mile closer to Hill Hospital of York than this guideline allows.

The Butler site would include the entire infrastructure necessary for a hospital. It is also located within a few hundred feet of the intersection of Ala. Hwys. 17 and 10.

The second choice location is the intersection of the Land Road and Ala. Hwy. 17 South. This location meets the distance requirements but does not have the necessary infrastructure.

To create the necessary infrastructure would add \$4 million to \$5 million dollars to the construction cost of the infrastructure, and it would be a much longer time before the hospital became a reality. The yearly operating cost would be increased by as much as \$2 million dollars.

Lisman Mayor Thomas Jackson and Mr. Brad Slocum, a representative of the Choctaw County Medical Society, recently drove to Atlanta to meet with the Southeastern Division of The Center for Medicaid and Medicare services.

Mayor Jackson and Mr. Slocum made this visit and presentation with personal funds at no cost to any organization. Their purpose was to show reasons why the hospital should be located in Butler. Mayor Jackson and Mr. Slocum made their presentation to Sandra Pace Associate Regional Administrator, Colleen Sandman Supervisor and Chief of Certification, and Joann Hollingsworth Health Specialist for Alabama. The PowerPoint presentation was held at the office of Medicare and Medicaid Services on Feb. 27, 2007.

Ms. Sandman assured Mayor Jackson and Mr. Slocum that they would consider the information provided and give them an answer in a timely manner. Mayor Jackson and Mr. Slocum ask for the public's support and prayers on locating this hospital in Butler.

Dr. K.A. Hensleigh M.D.
President, Choctaw Co. Medical Society

This is not in response to anyone but merely my personal view and experience with the uniform policy in Washington County.

At its inception, the uniform policy was frequently discussed and debated in my household. My children were upset that they would no longer be able to choose what they would wear to school each morning. They no longer had a choice. I explained to them that they did, however, have a choice; either a green or white polo. After only a couple of weeks, they found out that they could get 10 minutes more sleep (vital to teenagers) by not having to pick out what to wear. It was a fair trade-off. Now, getting dressed in the mornings is a "no-brainer". As a parent, I'm glad they don't wear their "weekend" clothing to school to be torn at PE or to be stained by ink pens. I don't fret over the \$9.97 Walmart polo as much as I would the \$40 shirt received at Christmas as a gift.

My obligation as a parent is to provide the appropriate clothing and also to teach them that there are rules in life to follow. There are things in life worth arguing or battling, but if everything in my life were as simple as white polos and khakis, parenting would be a breeze.

E. Brown

It is with sadness and joy that I am able to write this. Sadness for the loss that myself and our family are going through and with joy, because we know that he is in a better place. You see, on February 26, 2007 my husband, Richard, was taken home to be with the Lord. He was a husband, father, grandfather, son and brother and he will forever be missed by all of us. It is a comfort to know that after 5 years 5 months of battling lung cancer he is now whole and able to do so many things that this disease took from him.

Words like, Thank You, never seem enough when I think of all that has been done for us. God has blessed us time and time again through all of you. Most of all we have been blessed through your prayers, monetary gifts, cards, phone calls, meals, and visits. I cannot list each person by name because I fear I would leave someone very important out so please know that each of you hold a special place in my heart. We ask that you please continue to keep us in your prayers and may God bless each one of you.

Gail Lucas, Emily Jenkins and family, Kelly McKenzie and family, Tony McKenzie, Fannie Lucas Smith and family, Larry Lucas and family, Donna Lucas Murphy and family, Debbie Lucas Kellum and family

Glamour, glitz and God

I was there to cover the event, to bring it to life on the pages of the paper for others to see. I was there to bring my camera so that those who did not attend could experience the event through me.

It was an event meant for little girls and their moms, but God meant it for me.

I'll admit that I was not too happy about taking off my sweat pants and t-shirt and donning those dress clothes. I was even less excited about putting on those shoes.

To tell you the truth, as the afternoon wore on, I found myself thinking that I would much rather stay in those sweats in my own little house and cook my own little dinner with my own little family.

And I would have much preferred my fuzzy socks to those dress shoes any day.

But duty called, and I answered.

So often, in the process of doing my work, I am blessed to attend events that touch me, events that give me reason to be thankful for my job. That has never been more true than it was on Saturday.

From the time I arrived at First Assembly of God Church in Butler, I was awed. The sheer ele-



Looking Up

By Dee Ann Campbell
Editor

gance of the Girls for Godliness event was enough to alter my earlier reservations.

I stepped from my car — handing my keys to the valet parking attendant (yes, I said 'valet parking'!) who waited to drive it to the parking lot. Already feeling a little special, I entered the door of the church and was promptly escorted around the building to see all the preparations that had gone into the event.

As I walked, I thought less and less about my clothes, and even less about my feet in those shoes.

When I got inside the room where the event was to be held, I had to catch my breath. The sheer beauty of the decorations, coupled with the delicious smells coming from the kitchen were enough to drive away another little piece of my lingering hint of regret

about giving up my sweat pants.

But when I saw the excitement on those little girls' faces, any vestige of regret was gone. It was replaced by utter awe at the event itself, at those who designed it, and at those who had held the vision for the event in the first place.

As the night wore on, I saw more and more of just what that vision was all about. It was about giving little girls a night of their own. It was about showing them their true worth.

And it was about bringing together mothers and daughters for just a brief moment to share a bit of glamour and glitz, and God.

Although I did not have a daughter who was young enough to attend the event, I was touched beyond measure when I looked in the eyes of those who did. I was touched by

the emotion I saw on their faces, and I was awed by the message that they had so obviously taken to heart.

By the time the event was nearing an end, I had forgotten all about my sweatpants. I had forgotten my wish to stay home, and I had even forgotten about those shoes.

As the night drew to a close, I felt even more blessed to be able to attend. I couldn't stop my own emotion as I watched mothers and daughters look deeply into each others' eyes and share words that spoke volumes about their feelings for one another, and about their innate worth in the eyes of each other and of God.

Driving home on Saturday night, I thought about the event and I knew that the evening's message was also meant for me. It was a message that I plan to share with my own daughters. In the coming days, I plan to look into their eyes and share with them all those things that I see inside them, all those valuable and wonderful traits that I know God placed within them.

I plan to look at them and tell them that they are more than valuable, both in my own sight and in His.

More Sound Offs

This is in response to the person who sounded off about the Volunteer Fire Departments. First of all, you should look into things before you start talking about them. Fire departments DO NOT have the equipment to fight forest fires or big grass fires. They cannot get to them. If the people who start fires and either don't watch them or let them get out of hand would have to pay a fine then maybe our fire departments could use that money to buy equipment so they WILL be able to fight these types of fires.

Our firefighters are volunteers, which means they DO NOT get paid for what they do. I feel lucky to have them. Everyone else should feel the same way. Thank you for letting me sound off and for a GREAT newspaper!!!!

I'm a student in a school that has uniforms and I don't see what the big deal is about them! The parents are saying that uniforms are an expense, but if they didn't go out and buy all these big name brands they wouldn't have to spend so much! Uniforms are a very good thing to me. In the morning I don't have to worry about what jeans I'm going to put on or what shirt that I'm going to wear. I know what I'm going to wear! My white shirt and khakis. I'm a young Christian guy and to tell you the truth, I would rather see some of the students in uniforms because I see how tight they try to wear the uniform clothes and I would really hate to see what some of these people would try with jeans or other kinds of clothes!

Thanks for listening Mr. Tommy!

I really enjoyed the articles Dee Ann wrote about Donna Murphy and Sue Moore and what women bring to their positions. It is an eye opener and really true. For the first time a superintendent actually took the time to read my child's IEP and offer suggestions to help us.

I am a resident of Pennington and I support the businesses in this area. I do a lot of my business here instead of going to Butler. It may be a little higher but it is convenient. And also to the comment that Council Member Cherry made about the council being the "voice for the people". That is a crock of you know what. I would ask Mr. Cherry, how his wife got a full time position with the town, and was the proper procedure for posting and advertising that position? WAKE UP CITIZENS! DON'T LET THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL RUN OUR HOMETOWN BUSINESSES AWAY!!!

About the Sun:

**PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY
On Tuesdays and Fridays**

Deadlines:

For Tuesday issues: **Fridays** at noon
For Friday issues: **Wednesdays** at noon
(Early deadlines may apply to weeks that contain holidays)

Subscription Rates:

In Choctaw Co \$30 + \$2.40 tax = \$32.40
(Senior Citizens ... \$18 + \$1.44 tax = \$19.44
Elsewhere in Alabama ... \$35 + \$2.80 tax = \$37.80
Other states ... \$45 (no tax)

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Gilbertown, AL 36908-0269



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POSTMASTER: THE CHOCTAW SUN (USPS number 022-326) is published twice-weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays by The Choctaw Sun, 13440 Choctaw Avenue, P.O. Box 269, Gilbertown, AL 36908. Periodicals postage paid at Gilbertown, AL 36908. **Send change of address to: The Choctaw Sun, P.O. Box 269, Gilbertown, AL 36908-0269.**

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