

March 16, 2007

Our Fourth Year • No. 28
16 pages, 2 sections, 2 inserts

Inside	News & Events	2A
	Obituaries	3A
	Lifestyles	5A
	Faith	6A
	Health	7A
	Sports	1B
	Education	4B
	Classifieds/Legals	7B\
	Kids Page	8B\

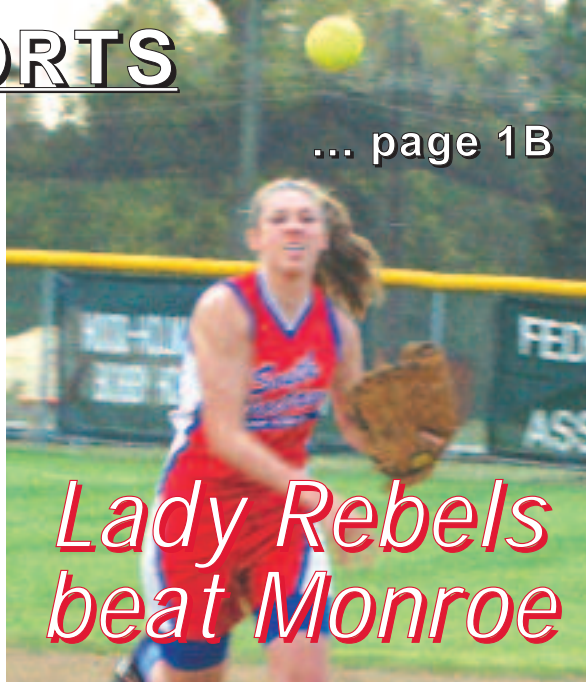
www.choctawsun.com
choctawsun@millry.net



The Choctaw Sun

Shining Brightly Over Southwest Alabama

... page 1B



Lady Rebels beat Monroe

Briefs

Sun will return to Wednesday publication next week

Dear Readers,

In January, the Sun switched from a once-a-week publication date to twice weekly, a new format that we felt would give the good folks of Choctaw County news in a more timely manner.

A lot of readers like the new format, and told us so. But in the three months since we made the switch, a lot more of you have told us that, well, you just miss the traditional "once a week" excitement of gathering around our newspaper office and our vending boxes to get that week's copy of the Sun.

It's a tradition, you said, and one that you miss.

To tell you the truth, we have missed it, too.

We value our readers' input, and over the past few weeks we have listened to your comments, and we have been doing some polling "on the street", asking which you would prefer - the twice a week Sun, or the traditional "Wednesday morning" Sun as in the past.

The overwhelming majority of you chose the latter.

Overall, we were pleased with single-copy sales and the growing advertising content of the new twice-weekly editions, and the fact that we could get "breaking news" into your hands several days earlier.

We also loved the ability our additional space allowed for us to add new 'specialty' pages, like the 'Kids Stuff' page that appears in this issue and the 'Food' page that has been a particularly popular addition. Many of you have told us that you, too, loved those new additions.

But on the other hand, while we were pleased with being able to get the news

See SUN, page 7B

Proposed Recovery Plan rejected by BOE

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTOWN - In a split vote, the Choctaw Co. Board of Education refused to approve a proposed plan of action to correct the system's non-compliance with the Accountability Act of 2006.

During the Tuesday, March 13th meeting of the BOE, Supt. of Education Sue Moore brought to the board a recommendation for a Recovery Plan, which would have meant the loss of some jobs and other adjustments in staffing. The proposed plan was recommended by the state Department of Education in an effort to help the system establish compliance with the Act, which

regulates the budgets of the state's school systems.

Act No. 2006-196, passed in March of last year, sets down regulations that require local school systems to maintain a minimum reserve fund equal to one month's operating expenses. The Choctaw County system has

See BOE, page 4A

LISMAN CENTER BURGLARIZED



Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell
Choctaw Co. Sheriff's Deputy Robert Cottrell points out to Linda Turner-Gaines how the burglar (or burglars) gained entry to the Lisman Nutrition Center.

Burglar takes TV set, toilet tissue, towels

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

LISMAN - The Lisman Nutrition Center was the site of a burglary on Tuesday night, the third such incident at the center in recent months.

According to Choctaw County Sheriff's Deputy Robert Cottrell and members of the center, a burglar or burglars entered the building through a back door during the night of March 13-14, taking a television and VCR, as well as a case of tissue and paper towels. Similar electronic equipment was also taken from the center in earlier robberies.

Although it was first thought that the perpetrator had entered through a small bathroom window, Deputy Cottrell told the Sun that his investigation had revealed that the back door was the probable point of entry.

Cottrell also said that the nutrition center burglar is believed to be the same suspect who broke into other buildings in the area that same night.

The stolen television and VCR, however, have identifying marks and should be easily traced by authorities. Persons who may have seen suspicious persons or vehicles in the area are asked to contact the Sheriff's Department at (205) 459-2166.

Anderson awarded more money in lawsuit settlement

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTOWN - Plaintiff Wayne Anderson will be receiving an additional \$2,269 from the Choctaw County Board of Education following a vote to amend the lawsuit settlement that had been approved by the board last month.

Superintendent Sue Moore told the BOE on Tuesday evening that an error had been made in the settlement of a suit filed by Anderson in April of 2006 alleging that he was discriminated against based on his African-American race when he was not hired for the counselor's position at Southern Choctaw High School and that the school system was re-segregating itself with more white teachers and students in the southern portion of the county.

The counselor's position was filled by Brenda Franks, who is white.

During the Feb. 13th meeting, the BOE had voted to approve a settlement of \$35,813 in compensatory damages and lawyer fees to settle the case. But Moore told the board on Tuesday that the law firm of Hill, Hill, and Carter had made an error in the amount of the settlement, and that the board needed to approve the additional funds to total a settlement of \$38,082.

The board approved the recommendation by unanimous vote, but not without discussion.

"It is kind of bittersweet," BOE member Ronald Hampton told the board. "I would love to see this board be more conscious when these decisions are coming up. There was a lot of discussion about this before it happened. We were warned, but we still decided to go the wrong way. We are suffering for it. I think we need to pay closer attention to the law."

"We are in violation of a court order about black to white ratios," he added. "It will come up. Let's make the decision to keep the law in mind."

BOE member Turk Phillips responded to Hampton's statements.

"I was here when it was done," Phillips said. "I don't think we made a wrong decision."

Hampton also referenced the still-pending suit over the dismissal of Southern Choctaw High School Family Consumer Science teacher Johnnie Mae Eddie.

"The judge ruled against us," Hampton stated. "We lost. That must mean we were wrong."

"In one case," Phillips corrected. "The other hasn't been settled."

Almanac

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

Showers / windy
Hi 71 • Lo 37
Rain chance 30%
Sunrise: 7:02 a.m.
Sunset: 7:02 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Sunny
Hi 68 • Lo 36
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 7:01 a.m.
Sunset: 7:03 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Sunny
Hi 71 • Lo 42
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 7:00 a.m.
Sunset: 7:03 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 19

Sunny
Hi 73 • Lo 48
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:59 a.m.
Sunset: 7:04 p.m.

The Village Shoppe
• Winter Merchandise 50 - 75% OFF! • Prom & Pageant Jewelry Just Arrived
737180UN07 51 W. Main St. Gilbertown, AL • 251-843-2323

SUPERIOR HOME SOURCE, LLC
• Remodeling • New Construction • Roofing • Vinyl Siding
Randall Jackson, Owner
Toxey, Alabama • 251-589-2711 Cell or 251-843-2364

Alpha-Omega Hospice LLC
Caring for loved ones from the beginning to the end.
1017 West Pashmataha Street Butler, AL 36904 205-459-3917 • Fax 205-459-3479

Franklin Primary Health Center
Medical Care 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Monday - Friday • 251-843-5537
Dental Care 7:00 A.M. - 6 P.M. Monday - Thursday • 251-843-2152
Call about Saturday Dental Service • 140 Front St., Gilbertown