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The Choctaw Sun

Shining Brightly Over Southwest Alabama



Briefs

Volunteers needed for Operation Clean Sweep

GILBERTOWN -- A meeting, to organize a countywide CLEAN SWEEP DAY for Choctaw County will be held Tuesday, March 6th at 7 p.m., at Gilbertown Town Hall.

All fire departments, teachers, churches, civic groups, elected officials, and concerned citizens are urged to be present. The CLEAN SWEEP DAY is planned for Sat., March 31st.

For more information call Tommy Campbell at 251-843-6397. Also, if your group is planning a clean-up project, please call and register so so that "before and after" pictures can be made of your chosen area, and so that we will have a count of how many groups/people will be working that day.

Free trees in Butler this Saturday

BUTLER - Saturday, March 3rd has been declared Arbor Day in the Town of Butler. Free trees will be available at the Butler Volunteer Fire Department from 8 a.m. - noon. The day is also the second of several planned "clean up" days in the town, and residents and business owners are encouraged to clean up and fix up around their own private property as well as volunteering to help others clean up public property throughout the town.

Persons who are willing to volunteer are asked to meet at Town Hall at 8 a.m.

Mayor Ben Smith said volunteers will be focusing mainly on pruning trees in the downtown area that are in the sidewalk planters, and getting the soil ready for planting bulbs and flowers in those planters the following Saturday, March 10th.

Ongoing clean-up efforts of overgrown lots and dilapidated buildings are also moving forward, he said.

Almanac

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Sunny
Hi 70 • Lo 35
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:18 a.m.
Sunset: 5:53 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Sunny
Hi 60 • Lo 30
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:17 a.m.
Sunset: 5:54 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 5

Partly cloudy
Hi 65 • Lo 36
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:16 a.m.
Sunset: 5:54 p.m.

Pennington businesses livid over license hikes

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

PENNINGTON — The Alabama Business License Reform Act of 2006 was passed in last year's regular session of the State Legislature, and while the Act doesn't have to be implemented until Jan. 1, 2008, the Town of Pennington voted on and approved its own new schedule of license fees in November of 2006 ... fees that are said to be

■ Some irate owners say they will close their doors or move before they pay such outrageous fees

among the highest in the entire country. At a meeting of the Town Council on

Feb. 26th, irate business owners packed the meeting room to demand answers to why their license fees have, in some cases, soared to more than 1000% of what they were last year.

According to Mayor Jack Fendley, the proposed ordinance was posted in "public places". Most business owners at the meeting said they did not know about the move ahead of time and chastised the mayor

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Choctaw Sun photo by Tommy Campbell
Butler's newest fashion outlet, Factory Connection opened Thursday in the former Lindsey's Cafe location on West Church Street.. The store has clothing and shoes for the entire family and is brimming with wall-to-wall bargains for their Grand Opening celebration. Pictured are Sharon, Rhonda and Geraldine getting ready to open the doors for the very first customers. The store is open from 9:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday and can be reached by phone at 205-459-3320. (PUB. NOTE: The Sun welcomes Factory Connection to the Choctaw County business community, and also as our newest advertiser! Be sure and see their FULL PAGE ad on page 8A -- Tommy)

Promise Campaign launched to protect Trust Fund

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER - Education proponents across the state are joining together in an effort to protect what they consider to be an endangered entity in Alabama - the Education Trust Fund.

To protect it from what they consider a chipping away at the funds designated solely for Alabama schools, a host of state educational associations are launching a campaign that would get legislators to promise their protection of the Trust Fund. According to Dr. Susan Lockwood of the School Superintendents of Alabama (SSA), the Promise Campaign will be a statewide event that will incorporate several educational organizations including the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Association of School Boards, the Alabama Education Associa-

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Gibson is new manager of Farmers Co-Op

BUTLER - Pennington resident Ronnie Gibson (right) is the new manager of the Choctaw Co. Farmers Co-Op in Butler. Gibson, shown here with a tray of Better Boy® tomato plants, said he is excited about his new position and invited people to come by and see him for all of their livestock and gardening, and landscaping needs. The Co-Op is located on Ala. 10 west and is open from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 7:30 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. (PUB. NOTE: When you stop in to see Ronnie, be sure and tell him the Sun sent you! - Tommy.)

Choctaw Sun photo by Tommy Campbell



The Village Shoppe
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Franklin Primary Health Center
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Dental Care 7:00 A.M. - 6 P.M. Monday - Thursday • 251-843-2152
Call about Saturday Dental Service • 140 Front St., Gilbertown