

# Opinions

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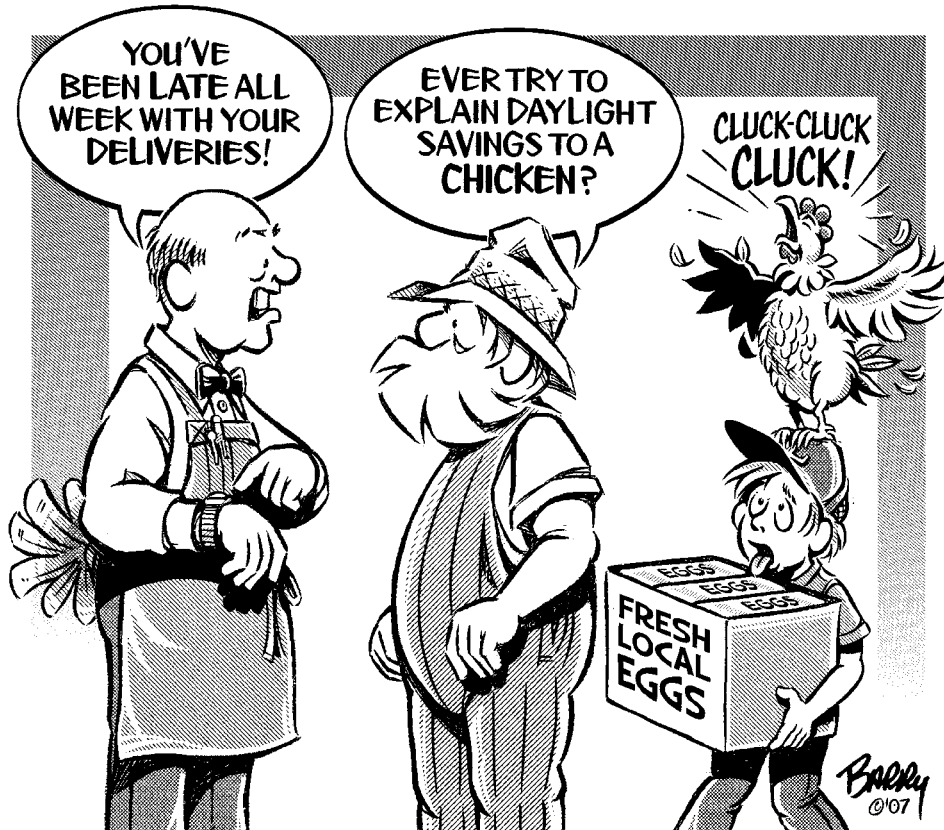
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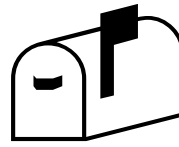
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## Letters



I just wanted Dee Ann to know how much I enjoyed the article, "Raising Jalleena."

Mike Thompson was a dear friend of ours when he lived in Butler. I am a former teacher at CCHS and the mother of Allen Thompson, and Mike was like a son to us.

When the baby and the entire family was going through this horror, Mike called us and asked us to pray for his sweet baby. When we heard the news from California stating that a TRUE MIRACLE had happened, we rejoiced and praised the Great Physician. And now, to see this beautiful little girl and hear the foundation of faith which was laid during this time is, to me, a SECOND MIRACLE.

Mike, Julie, all the children, Lois and the entire family; plus the courageous doctor who really knew WHO was the "Physician of Record" in that ER room and all those employees who prayed during Jalleena's Miracle, I know your lives will never be the same after seeing the POWER OF OUR LORD at work in that emergency room.

Also, shame on the hospital for firing such a doctor who drew as much on faith as she did on science! I hope her book sells millions and spreads the truth of our Savior and Friend.

**Camelle Thompson**  
Butler

I felt like I needed to take the time to write this letter in reference to CCHS not having a 9th grade math teacher. I am an involved parent, in all of my children's activities, and even though I cannot make all of the PTO meetings, I keep up with what is going on in the school system and in the community.

In defense of CCHS and the school board, I realize that they had a teacher that left them — without notice — in the middle of the term and they are having to scramble to find a teacher, but that does not take away the fact that I have a child that is not getting what she needs to pass the exit exam or to pass a entry level college math class. I have spoken to Mr. Howard and

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## SoundOffs

Thanks for the article about the math teacher that can't be found for CCHS. It looks like the principal and superintendent are working to find a math teacher. They cannot make it happen just like the rest of the state and nation.

This Clean Sweep clean up day on March 31 is a good thing and we should all get out and pick up a few bags of trash. Mr. Campbell is right. The county is a big mess and the only way it's going to get cleaned up is if the people of the county who really care get out there and do it. Me and my church family will be taking part in our community and I hope and pray others will, too.

To the person who said they would be proud for their kids to wear the military uniform ... thank you! I support the president and every one of our soldiers. My grandfather was killed in World War II in the Philippines. My father served in Korea. I myself served two tours in 'Nam with the Marines and came home with a VietCong bullet in my leg as a souvenir. I enlisted right out of high school and I thank God that my mother was proud that I chose to serve like my father and grandfather before me. Two of my boys also served in the Marine Corps. Now, I have three grandsons who are in the military. Proud? You're dang straight, I'm proud! I would tell any young person the same thing: This is America, boys and girls, love it and defend it or leave it and go live in North Korea, Iran or Cuba for a few months and then see if you don't appreciate the United States of America and all it stands for. People who run down our president and the military make me sick. SEMPER FI!

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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. Comments that contain vulgarity, obscenities, or personal attacks on the character of any individual will not be published.

## A challenge to the School Board

It's time to make sacrifices, and the school board should lead the way.

For the Choctaw County School System, the next few years will mean tightening the belt, finding ways to cut back, and making the sacrifices that are necessary to meet the requirements for fiscal responsibility set down by the state.

Last week, the state issued a directive to the Choctaw Co. Board of Education: "Work toward compliance with the Accountability Act of 2006 or we will do it for you."

In order to comply, the school board is being called upon to make some harsh and difficult decisions, decisions that could mean sacrificing some jobs and adjusting others to meet the fiscal demands mandated by the law.

At stake are the jobs of some custodians and aides, many of whom rely



## Looking Up

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Editor

solely on the income from their jobs with the school system to feed their families.

But if they are going to face the sacrificial altar, perhaps other sacrifices should be made as well.

**AND IT SHOULD START WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

I would like to issue a challenge to the members of the Choctaw County Board of Education, a challenge that would not only put money back into the school system's

budget but would send a valuable message to the public — that the school board does, in fact, care about the children of this county — so much that they themselves are willing to make sacrifices to fix the problems that we now face.

A few years ago the state of Alabama set down regulations regarding the payment of school board members, stating that, if the system decides to offer compensation to its BOE, those members could be paid a maximum of \$600 per

month. But the law left open the possibility for local boards to vote themselves what they deem reasonable compensation for expenses.

Our board draws another \$300 over that \$600 maximum — a total of \$900 per month for each of the five members. That's \$4,500 out of the budget each month.

Truth be told, there are many school systems across this state and around the country that do not have paid positions on their school boards at all. Those positions are voluntary, and the people who fill them do so simply because they choose to — simply 'for the children.'

And for those who do draw a salary, most do so for hundreds of dollars less than what our school board members draw. In fact, research by *The Choctaw Sun* last fall showed that our board

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## Whose best interests are our State Legislators looking out for, anyway?

Just in case you haven't heard, our state legislators on March 8th voted to give themselves a big, fat pay raise — 61% to be exact — which kicked up their salaries from \$30,410 a year to \$49,250 per year. By the time this gets into print, Gov. Riley has promised to veto this ridiculous bill and send it back to both chambers of the Legislature for further discussion, but there are likely enough votes to override his veto and pass it anyway, so you can pretty much look for the raise to take effect.

If the vote to raise their salaries immediately wasn't bad enough, the vote also includes approval for additional annual raises to match the rise in the Consumer Price Index. By the time the next election rolls around, our legislators will likely be making about \$55,000 for



## The way I see it ...

By Tommy Campbell  
Publisher

working about one-fourth of the year. To put it another way, in three years their salaries could reflect an 81% increase over what they are paid now.

Readers, how long has it been since YOU got that kind of a pay raise?

The dollar amount of the increase itself is enough to make anyone's blood boil, but what really ticks me off is the manner in which the self-serving deed was done. From what I have read, the leadership of both the Senate and the House

pushed the measure through without allowing any discussion or debate, and if that wasn't bad enough, they did it on a "voice vote".

Now, what does that term "voice vote" mean to you and me, as members of the public whom these people are supposed to be representing? It means that there is no "official" record on file to document how individual legislators voted, and make no mistake about it ... that is exactly how they wanted it.

Call it what you want

... those who voted for this pay raise spit in the face of every voter who gave them the opportunity to go to Montgomery and do something good and positive for their districts and their state as a whole.

We have heard that some House members who were against the raise said they were given only a couple of minutes of notice that a vote would be taken. The same ram-rod tactic was apparently used on the Senate side, too, where Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom supposedly ignored the calls of at least six senators who wanted to have a recorded vote.

The whole thing could be declared unconstitutional based on two points, 1) Folsom's refusal to allow a recorded vote because the State Constitution requires a

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