

Opinions



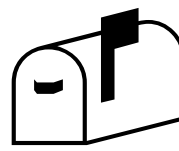
The Choctaw Sun
Wednesday, March 28, 2007
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Letters



I personally want to thank everyone that helped me out of my car when I wrecked on March 3. I am especially thankful to the two men that held my hand while waiting on the ambulance to arrive. It meant a lot and kept me going. I don't know who they were but I am so grateful.

I am just personally thanking everyone because it meant a lot to me and I am very grateful to be alive today.

I also want to thank everyone who has been praying for me and is still praying for me; those who brought food and sent cards; it has all been very meaningful.

Thanks again!

Jessica Tucker

Subscription renewal for another year enclosed. Sure enjoy the paper. Keep's me up with the going's-on in Choctaw. Keep up the good work!

Albert Singley
Ocean Springs, MS

The past few days, I received numerous phone calls regarding a letter placed in the *Choctaw Sun* SoundOffs of March 13, 2007 regarding the North Choctaw Water and Sewer Board and the actions taken by them.

The comment stated that the NCWSA Board hired a lawyer and paid his insurance. That statement is false. The Board did approve to pay an attorney for an upfront retainer of approximately \$83.33 per month with no insurance benefits whatsoever.

The unidentified person who wrote the letter also stated that the NCWSA Board went to the County Commission last year "begging and poor mouthing" because we didn't have money to pay a bill for the repair of a water line which broke and left customers without water for weeks. A portion of that statement is also false and misleading. The referenced water line was actually an eight-inch water main feeder line serving the north side of the NCWSA that cut and capped off on April 19, 2006, as a result of a new bridge replace-

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SoundOffs

If the school board does end up having to fire those custodians, does this mean that our five school board members plan to show up every day after school to help with the clean up chores? Those custodians do not have other full-time jobs, board members DO!

I am mad as a hornet about that pay raise our house and senate members voted for themselves. I hope none of them have the gall to come around and ask for my vote again. They sure as heck won't get it!

Correct me if I am wrong, but 911 board members do not get paid for their service, right? Ambulance board members don't get paid either. As far as I know, the Parks and Recreation Board and the Airport Authority board and Museum board members don't earn pay for attending board meetings either, so why do School Board members? Just doesn't make sense to me. After all, service is service, right? That's just how I see it and I thank you for letting me sound off.

I believe that you print all the names that are on the jail log, Tommy, because you are an ethical person, but I have heard there have been several girls (ages 17-20) who have been picked up recently for public intoxication who's names were NOT recorded on the jail log. This is, after all, Choctaw County where it's who you know, how rich you have, how important you are (or think you are) and who yo' daddy is that counts. But that's just a lowly peon's opinion.

According to the article in the *Sun* last week, there is not to be any riding of ATVs, golf carts, lawnmowers, mule's, etc., on city streets in Butler. Everyone should have to comply with

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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.

Enough sacrifices to go around

From top to bottom, there are enough sacrifices to go around.

When it comes time to make adjustments in your household budget, sacrifices must be made - from everyone. From the children on up to the mother and father, the lack of financial security affects the whole family.

And when deep sacrifices are to be made, they often cut into the wants and needs of EVERY member of the family - including, and sometimes in particular, the head of the household.

If it comes down to it and our school system is called upon to make uncomfortable sacrifices, those sacrifices will, no doubt, touch every part of the educational system in our county - from the board to the teacher to the central office to the bus drivers. No one will be immune to sacrifice.

Someone told me the other day that it was unfair to single out just a



Looking Up

By Dee Ann Campbell
Editor

handful of people to make sacrifices for the whole system. I agree.

In fact, the Financial Recovery Plan that has been approved by the Board of Education does call for sacrifices on several fronts. If the plan is put into action, it will call for sacrifices from the classroom to the central office and beyond.

The central office will be asked to sacrifice, with some employees potentially doing their own jobs as well as those once performed by others.

The instructional aides may be asked to sac-

rice, with some possibly losing their jobs altogether. And with fewer aides, the teachers' jobs may require the sacrifice of time to deal with issues that formerly fell on the aides.

The bus drivers must definitely sacrifice their request for a raise this year, simply because there is not enough money for them to have what they claim they were promised.

The schools as a whole may have to sacrifice, with fewer custodians to keep them clean, and the remaining custodians will sacrifice by accepting

potentially more work with fewer hands.

The superintendent also may have to sacrifice in several ways. One way may be the lack of a board-provided vehicle to travel to and from meetings and events out of town.

Yes, when it comes to making sacrifices, it should be shared by the whole. No one person or handful of people must do it all, and that's just the point.

I do not offer an apology for the opinions expressed in my editorial last week. After all, that's just what an editorial is - an opinion. You, my friend, are entitled to your's as well.

I do not apologize for asking that our school board members consider options, if necessary, that could save the jobs of some employees that may desperately need their paychecks - should those

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Choctaw under "no burn" order: let's use common sense and obey it

Last Wednesday the Alabama Forestry Commission issued a Fire Alert for several counties, including Choctaw and Washington. Monday that was expanded to many other counties.

We don't need anybody to tell us that it is dry. Rainfall so far during the late winter and early spring has been far below normal, and considering that we went into the winter in a "drought" mode, it ought to make us all mindful of the fact that we do not need to burn - anything - until we get some rain.

Our local volunteer firefighters have been stretched to the limit on calls to grass and brush fires that "got out of hand."

Folks, lets use the brains that the good Lord gave us for something besides cap racks and leave those piles of yard debris alone until the



The way I see it ...

By Tommy Campbell
Publisher

drought-like conditions improve.

Even a slight breeze can quickly push what started out to be a small yard-maintenance burn into a raging inferno that could destroy not only your own house and property but that of a neighbors, too. And, if that happens, you could be held responsible - financially and legally.

Wildfires can also be deadly. Last week, an out-of-control grass fire in Chilton County claimed the life of a Clanton man who was just out burning a pile of yard debris when

the fire spread into neighboring yards. The victim died trying to put out the fire.

During the month of March to date, almost 1,000 wildfires have burned more than 20,000 acres in Alabama. In Choctaw County alone - up until last Wednesday - 15 fires had burned 88 acres since March 1.

On one day recently, local volunteer firefighters had to respond to almost a dozen "grass fires". These men and women don't mind fighting fires when called upon to save lives and property, but we, as

citizens, ought to be more mindful of not only our own lives, property and time, but that of these unpaid volunteers who have to put their own jobs and free time on "hold" to go out and fight fires that we caused - fires that are absolutely, unquestionably caused by someone's lack of good judgment or common sense.

So please, don't burn until the weather improves and this "fire alert" is lifted.

On another matter, I hope that we will all reserve a few hours this Saturday morning (March 31) to get out and help pick up litter along our roads.

Several groups have already gotten organized and have been out picking up trash early, and those stretches of road look GREAT!

Operation Clean

See TOMMY, page 11B

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Gilbertown, AL
Phone: (251) 843-6397

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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:

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