

March 9, 2007

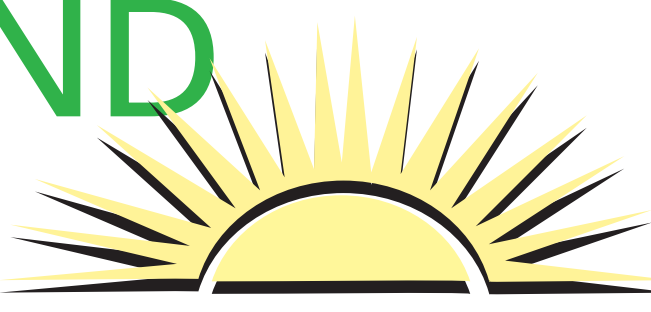
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# The Choctaw Sun

Shining Brightly Over Southwest Alabama



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Seeing Double,  
times six!

## Briefs

### Daylight Saving Time returns this weekend

GILBERTOWN -- Daylight Saving Time begins this year at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 11th.

Readers are reminded to set their clocks, watches and other timed appliances forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday evening.

### ButlerFest dates have changed

BUTLER -- The dates for the fourth annual Butlerfest have changed to October 12-13, 2007.

The Backyard Cook-Off will be held Friday (12th) and the Memphis in May Event will be Saturday (13th).

For more information persons may call Butler City Hall at 205-459-3795 or email butlercityhall@tds.net.

### Bow tournament to benefit Relay for Life

GILBERTOWN -- Choctaw Bow Hunters will host a Bow Tournament to benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life fundraiser on Saturday, March 10th at the Gilbertown Bow Range at 10 a.m.

All proceeds will go to Relay For Life.

A \$15 fee is required for all entries. For more information contact Janet Downey at 205-673-2253.

## Almanac

### FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Sunny  
Hi 79 • Lo 45  
Rain chance 10%  
Sunrise: 6:11 a.m.  
Sunset: 5:57 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Partly cloudy  
Hi 79 • Lo 48  
Rain chance 10%  
Sunrise: 6:10 a.m.  
Sunset: 5:58 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Partly cloudy  
Hi 77 • Lo 53  
Rain chance 20%  
Sunrise: 7:09 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:59 p.m.

### MONDAY, MARCH 12

Thunderstorms  
Hi 74 • Lo 50  
Rain chance 70%  
Sunrise: 7:07 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:59 p.m.

# Legislature may allow counties to add gas tax

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

MONTGOMERY -- With the price of unleaded regular gasoline hovering near the \$2.50 per-gallon range in Alabama -- and likely to go higher by the summer -- it

is uncertain how a bill backed by the Association of County Commissions of Alabama to allow commissioners in all 67 counties to raise fuel taxes will fare during the 2007 Regular Session of the Legislature.

Rhondel Rhone, who serves on the Clarke Co. Commission and is chairman of

the ACCA, said that at its Feb. 28th meeting, the group's Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the passage of legislation authorizing the levy of a "county-option" gasoline tax to be used to address

See **GAS TAX**, page 4A

## THE NATION'S REPORT CARD



Submitted photo  
Abraham Kennard, the NAEP regional coordinator (at right), presents CCES Principal Wayne Longmire with a certificate of participation in the nationally-recognized assessment.

## CCES chosen to take part in prestigious national assessment

BUTLER -- Choctaw Co. Elementary School was recently chosen to represent schools across the state in the National Assessment of Educational Progress review. NAEP is given by the U.S. Dept. of Education and shows what American students know and can do in key subject areas. It is the only ongoing nationally representative assessment that provides this valuable information and had been given to school nationwide for more than 35 years.

The results are published in a report called The Nation's Report Card.

At CCES, the NAEP assessment was given to fourth graders on Feb. 28th. Students and teachers were excited to have been selected to participate in the assessment and spent many days preparing

with materials that teachers had received in training sessions held on three separate days.

Supt. of Education Sue Moore came to the school on a day prior to test day to encourage the students to do their best.

On the day of testing, Abraham Kennard, the NAEP regional coordinator, brought his team of administrators to provide standardized procedures for the test. The testing team was most complimentary of the students and teachers involved with NAEP. They specifically cited the focus of students and efforts they showed during testing. The teachers were congratulated for having obviously prepared the students in the format and instructions so students were comfortable with the testing situation.

## Grand Jury issues 47 indictments

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER -- Out of a total of 59 cases presented for its review, a Grand Jury empanelled for the Spring 2007 term of Choctaw Co. Circuit Court, handed down 47 "true bills" after meeting during the week of Feb. 27th.

One case was continued for further investigation.

In addition to the criminal cases they considered, jurors examined audits of various county offices as provided by the Dept. of Examiners of Public Accounts and said that those documents appear to be in order.

They also inspected the Jail, offices in the Courthouse, and the bonds of public officials -- as required by law -- and likewise said that all appeared to be in order.

Jurors complimented Sheriff James Lovette and said they were impressed with the housekeeping and overall condition at the Jail.

"The Jail seems to be well run and the prisoners well treated," according to the report which was given to Circuit Judge Thomas Baxter.

They also commended Probate Judge D'Wayne May and Commissioners Dandy Brown, C.D. "Budd" Ruffin, Clyde Dixon and Henry Lovette for their "obvious concern for the general upkeep and appearance of the Courthouse."

Jurors id, however, make several specific recommendations, including:

■ Several offices in the Courthouse need ceiling tiles replaced;

■ The Board of Registrars need more office space and two windows repaired; also, the Revenue Commissioner's Office needs more office space;

■ A new smoke detector is needed in the Soil and Water Conservation Department;

■ The floor in the elevator needs to be cleaned;

■ The small courtroom needs window blinds or shades;

See **GRAND JURY**, page 4A

## McCarty's Ferry may re-open

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER -- Commissioner Henry Lovette said at the March 5th meeting of the County Commission that he "feels good" about a possible solution to reopening the McCarty's Ferry boat ramp and river park in the Ararat community.

"We've got some people excited about getting something done, and we have met

with one organization that says they can help us unless something goes astray," Lovette said. "The Corps (of Engineers) is supposed to send our attorney a copy of a lease to look at."

Unless it can be shown that the county's efforts at the park would be a "complete waste of money", Lovette said he believes it is possible to re-open the park, with some possible state help coming from the Alabama Game and Fish Commission.

The board tabled the matter until it receives the lease agreement from the Corps.

The federal agency shut down the popular boat-launching park almost two years ago because of damage to the ramp itself. Lovette said that little work would need to be done on the road leading into the park, which he said is basically in good shape.

See **MCCARTY'S**, page 4A

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