

Independent auditor to begin work on landfill books

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – At Monday's meeting of the Choctaw Co. Commission, Butler resident Floyd Wimberly asked what progress has been made in settling the landfill issue.

"I see a grave problem with the \$22,000 a month we are paying on landfill note," Wimberly said, adding that the county has the right to set – and demand – a fee as payment for a proportionate share of the revenues that are being collected from disposal of garbage at the facility.

Wimberly said that, according to his information, the Town of Butler is paying about \$18,000 a month to dispose of its solid waste at the facility, which is being run by a private, for-profit corporation, but is still legally owned by the Commission.

"It's time you got together and decided what you want in rent or fees," he said.

Probate Judge D'Wayne May advised Wimberly that the Commission is "very much aware of what we are paying and the fees we are getting out of it."

"We will handle it, we are working diligently to solve the problem," he added. "But I don't think I can solve in 90 days what's been going on for five years."

In related comments, May said later in the meeting that the Com-

mission voted recently to hire an independent auditor to perform an audit of the landfill's books.

May said he met with the auditor last week to determine what records would be needed and what cost and time frame the county is looking at.

May said he would have a more specific report at the March 12th meeting after he receives a firm quote from the auditor, whom he said estimated that it would take between two to three weeks to complete.

In other matters, May said that federal officials are requiring an audit of all federal funds received by the county for the 2005-06 fiscal year. He said that the state has an agreement with the Dept. of Examiners of Public Accounts to allow their field auditors – who are already in place doing routine audits of county books – to perform the work for an additional fee, which the county will have to pay a portion of.

The maximum cost to the county will be about \$5,400, May said.

The board also discussed the commission's participation in a countywide "Operation Clean Sweep" litter pick-up day that is planned for Sat., March 31st.

In other matters, the board discussed the two "Welcome to Lavaca" signs which were erected several months ago on Ala. Hwy. 10 by a private citizen ... signs that

the Ala. Dept. of Transportation says must be moved.

According to Commissioner Dandy Brown, the DOT has said the signs are too close to the pavement and were never formally permitted as required by law.

Since Lavaca is not an incorporated town, the state is asking that the County Commission sign the permit form.

The signs will have to be taken down and installed on new 4x4 wooden posts, rather than the 6x6 posts they now occupy, and moved to at least 50 feet from the center line of the highway.

Brown said his employees will move the signs if the board will sign the permit.

Attorney Lee McPhearson said the copy of the permit sent to the county is for a municipality and does not fit the county's situation, and will have to be revised by the state before it can be signed.

Judge May said that, in the meantime, McPhearson can be checking to see if it is legal for Commissioner Brown's men to move the signs since they were installed by a private citizen.

"It's a great thing for the community, we just need to make sure we are legal in what we do," May said.

The matter will be taken up again at the March 12th meeting.

Action must be taken by March 20th or else the state has threatened to remove the signs.

Sun Country Calendar

There is no charge to list an upcoming non-profit or charitable event for your church, school, civic group, fire department, etc. Meetings of governmental entities may also be included. Send your announcement as far in advance as possible. Calendar items may be mailed, faxed, emailed, delivered in person to our offices in Butler or Gilbertown, or left in our drop box at The Country Corner in Butler.

Friday, March 9th
CHOCTAW CO. ASSOCIATION OF VOL FIRE DEPARTMENTS, Butler Fire Hall, annual meeting to elect officers, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 10th
CHOCTAW BOWHUNTERS, Bow Tournament, Gilbertown Bow Range, 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.

BBQ CHICKEN PLATE SALE, Wesley United Methodist Church, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., \$5 per plate. For more information call (205) 459-2650.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS at 2 a.m. on **Sunday, March 11th**. Remember to set your clocks, watches and other timed appliances FORWARD one hour before going to bed on Saturday evening.

Sunday, March 11th
WORSHIP SERVICES, W.A.V.E. Ministries/Vision Church, 11 a.m., Butler Civic Center. For more information contact Mia (Grice) Wilkes, Pastor and Overseer at 251-406-2499.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY for the new Gilbertown Assembly of God sanctuary, Ala. Hwy. 17 South, Gilbertown, 1 p.m.

PASTOR KENNEDY GRAY'S 29th ANNIVERSARY, Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 2 p.m. Rev. Obadiah Clemons of Lauderdale, MS will be the guest speaker.

WOMEN AND MEN DAY, St. John C.M.E. Church, Mt. Sterling, 2 p.m. Guest speaker: Rev. Shirley Pearson.

YOUTH DAY PROGRAM, 1:30 p.m., Evangel Tabernacle Worship Center, Ala. 69 North, Coffeeville. The guest speaker will be Minister Shelia McGrew, Bishop Lesley Powe, Pastor.

GRAND OPENING, Joshua Victory Assembly Sports Center, 24290 Ala. Hwy. 10 east, Lavaca, 2-4 p.m. Pastor Thomas Lee Jackson. For more information call 205-654-2254.

PASTOR ANNIVERSARY, Star Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, honoring Pastor and Mrs. John H. Wright, 2:30 p.m. Rev. Samuel Duff, pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Butler will be the guest speaker.

MISSIONARY DAY, Fairfield C.M.E. Church, Halsell, 2:30 p.m. Rev. Jesse Noland, Pastor of the Albethel Missionary Baptist Church along with his church and choir from Macedonia will be the guests.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY for the new Alabama Line Association Building, Rosewood Lane, Silas, 6 p.m. Rev. Daniel Taylor, Moderator, Rev. Johnnie Heartfield, Vice-Moderator.

Monday, March 12th
CHOCTAW CO. DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES Board of Directors will meet at noon in the Board Room of the county office located at 1003 S. Mulberry Avenue.

Tuesday, March 13th
CHOCTAW CO. RETIRED TEACHERS meeting, 10 a.m., Rush Medical Clinic in Gilbertown.

CHOCTAW CO. BOARD OF EDUCATION meeting, 5:30 p.m., Southern Choctaw Elementary School, Gilbertown.

CLEAN SWEEP meeting, to plan a county-wide clean-up day for Choctaw County on Sat., March 31, 7 p.m., Old Buddies Restaurant, Butler. All fire departments, teachers, churches, civic groups, elected officials, and concerned citizens are urged to come and take part. For more information call Tommy Campbell at 251-843-6397.

Wednesday, March 14th
RECORDING ARTISTS BILL AND VICKI SKY will present a special program of gospel music at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Melvin, 7 p.m. The family has appeared on TBN and PTL networks and others. No admission charge but love offerings will be accepted. For more information, Call 601-776-0308.
FOOD SOURCE DEADLINE, Choctaw Community Development Center.

Thursday, March 15th
CHOCTAW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, Inc. will host an Associate Workshop for the Black Belt Community Foundation, 5:30 p.m., at the Old East Choctaw School on Ala. 10 East.

Fri., March 16th – Sun., March 18th
WEEKEND REVIVAL, SINGING, HOME-COMING, Wimberly Methodist Protestant Church, Friday night (7 p.m.) Rev. James "Skippy" Gates; Saturday night (7 p.m.), the world-famous Sullivan Family from St. Stephens will be singing, with refreshments served afterward; Sunday morning will be Homecoming with dinner following the service.

DANCE, sponsored by Choctaw Community Development Center, 8 p.m. - 11:45 p.m. At the Old East Choctaw School on Ala. 10 East. Admission \$5.

Saturday, March 17th
BENEFIT PROGRAM for Akeria and Janae Williams and Jeanifer Monghan, New Mt. Mariah M.B. Church, Nanafalia, 6:30 p.m. Rev. Alphonso Bowen, Pastor and Sis. Sheila Spears, Chairperson.

Sunday, March 18th
FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY, Calvary Baptist Church, Pickens Avenue, Butler. Fellowship will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee in the fellowship hall, Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m.



Jail Log

Domestic violence (assault, 3rd degree) – Donald Case, 28, 3591 Needham Road, Needham, arrested on 2/28/07 by J. Lovette. Released on bond.

Probation revocation – Gyles Cage, 49, 80 Bayou Drive, Thomasville, arrested on 3/2/07 by Thomas. Released on bond.

Probation revocation – Michael Cutway, 28, 14247 Chunky-Duffy Road, Decatur, MS, arrested on 3/2/07 by Lafferty. Released on bond.

Probation revocation – Benny Lee Chaney, 21, 43 West 3rd Avenue, Lisman, arrested on 3/7/07 by Gates.

Criminal mischief (2nd degree) – Hunter Diamond, 18, 3207 Riderwood Drive, Butler, arrested on 3/2/07 by Gates. Released on bond.

Probation revocation – Raymond Duff, Jr., 349 Blossom Trail, Butler, arrested on 3/5/07 by Gates.

NWNI (six counts), theft of property (3rd degree) – Charlotte Fluker, 46, 820 Vanity Fair Drive, Apt. 6G, Butler, arrested on 3/6/07 by Lovette and Gates. Released on bond.

DUI, reckless driving, unlawful possession of marijuana – Jeremy Matthew Hearn, 20, 909 Moody Lane, Butler, arrested on 3/2/07 by Jackson and Miller. Released on bond.

Public intoxication – Logan G. Johnson, 20, 5504 Womack Hill Road, Gilbertown, arrested on 3/4/07 by Lovette and Murray. Released on bond.

Murder – Robert L. Johnson, 176 Fall Drive, Silas, arrested on 3/7/07 by

McGrew.

Public intoxication – Justin Mason, 19, P.O. Box 396, Livingston, arrested on 3/4/07 by Lovette and Murray. Released on bond.

Probation revocation – Ralph Ronald Ross, 38, 1847 Garrison Road, Decatur, MS, arrested on 3/4/07 by Lovette and Murray. Released on bond.

Public intoxication – Chase Roberts, 20, 2848 Scott Mountain Road, Butler, arrested on 3/4/07 by Lovette and Murray. Released on bond.

Failure to appear (charge not listed) – Cheryl Ann Roberts, 47, 700 Avenue A, York, arrested on 3/6/07 by Cottrell. Released by order of Circuit Clerk.

Public intoxication – Matthew R. Smith, 20, 4026

J.W. Reynolds Road, Meridian, MS, arrested on 3/4/07 by Lovette and Murray. Released on bond.

Public intoxication – Kenneth L. Sims, 22, 100 France Road, Coffeeville, arrested on 3/4/07 by Lovette and Murray. Released on bond.

Rape (1st degree, three counts), sexual abuse (three counts) – Tommy Sturdivant, 44, 793 Needham Road, Needham, arrested on 3/6/07 by Lovette and Lafferty. Released on bond.

Public intoxication – William M. Turner, Jr., 19, 124 Codi Lane, Butler, arrested on 3/4/07 by Lovette and Murray. Released on bond.

Domestic violence (assault, 3rd degree) – Calvin Williams, Jr., P.O. Box 81, Frankville, arrested on 3/7/07 by Cottrell.



Obituaries

Leon Carter

BUTLER – Services for Leon Carter, a former supervisor with the State of Alabama Highway Department, were held March 8, 2007 at Pleasant Hill Methodist Church with burial in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Carter, 81, was a native of Choctaw County, the son of the late Lewis and Alma Wilson Carter. He died March 6 at a nursing facility in Chatom.

Survivors include his wife, Sarah Jane Carter of Toxey; five sons, William Leon Carter and Clifton Leon Carter, both of Toxey, Ronnie Lee Carter of Baton Rouge, LA, Conrad O'Neal Carter of Butler and John Andrew Clark Carter of Linden; four daughters, Virginia Norris of Toxey, Patsey Joyce Wilson of Foley, Betty Frazer of Meridian, MS, and Janice Helen Boykin of Fruitdale; one sister, Susie Alma Dawson of Bessemer; 29 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Bumpers Funeral Home in Butler was in charge of the arrangements.

Elizabeth Ann McCaddin

MOBILE – Services for Elizabeth Ann McCaddin, a resident of Mobile and a native of Butler, were held on Feb. 16, 2007 at Mobile Memorial Gardens Funeral Home. Interment was in Mobile Memorial Gardens.

Mrs. McCaddin, 67, died Feb.

14 at a local hospital. She was a former employee of Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula, Mississippi, Mobile General Hospital (now USA Medical Center) and Springhill Memorial Hospital in Mobile.

Survivors include her husband of 35 years, John "Jay" Carlton McCaddin, Jr., of Mobile; one son, John Carlton (Diane) McCaddin, III, of Yonkers, NY; brothers, John Sidney (Julia) Irby of Mobile and William "Bill" Floyd (Martha) Irby, Jr. of Jasper; four grandchildren, Michael Larson of Chicago, IL, Brandon McCaddin, Britney McCaddin and Ava McCaddin all of Yonkers, NY. She was preceded in death by her father William Floyd Irby and her mother Flora Napper Irby.

Mobile Memorial Gardens Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Collie Ridgeway Vaughn

MONTGOMERY – Collie Ridgeway Vaughn, 90, died February 26, 2007 in Montgomery. She was born in Lavaca on September 4, 1916.

Survivors include one brother, J.W. (Dora) Ridgeway, of Ellisville, MS; one sister, Annie Bell (Ben) Marsh, of Butler; one son, James Vaughn, of Birmingham; two daughters, Linda Marchendo, of Cambridge, MA, Demeko (Vince) Johnson, of Coral Springs, FL; and seven grandchildren.

Travis Taylor Gilday, Jr.

LOCUST GROVE, Georgia – Funeral services for Travis Taylor Gilday, Jr., were held Feb. 15, 2007 at McDonough Baptist Tabernacle with Rev. James West, Jr., officiating.

Gilday, 50, was a native of Choctaw County, Alabama. He died Feb. 11th at his residence.

He was employed by Estes Express Line and was a faithful member of McDonough Baptist Tabernacle who loved the Lord, his family and church.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Denise Gilday, of Locust Grove, GA; four children, Tralina Jean Gilday, of McDonough, GA, Elizabeth Kay Gilday, Travis Taylor Gilday III, and Carolyn Eileen Gilday, all of Locust Grove, GA; two step-children, Samantha Nicole Smith, of Marietta, GA, and Adrian (Richard) Pickle, of Locust Grove, GA; one grandchild, Ethan Pohl; his mother and step-father, Eloise and John Land, of Butler, AL; and his brothers and sisters, David Tarver, of Geiger, AL, James Tarver, of Butler, AL, Cynthia McMillan, of Monroeville, AL, Laura Beatty, of Butler, AL, and several nieces and nephews.

Cannon-Cleveland Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.