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The Choctaw Sun

Shining Brightly Over Southwest Alabama



Gilberttown Oil Field being re-opened

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTTOWN – A large portion of the East Gilberttown Oil Field could soon be back in production, thanks to an agreement between a Jackson, Miss.-based company that owns much of the field, and a Washington-

state company that will refurbish more than 20 of the wells and get them pumping again.

Daybreak Oil and Gas, Inc., of Spokane, WA last December entered into an agreement to participate in a working interest in re-opening the field, much of which has been idle for more than a decade.

“Daybreak will be a God-send to the Gilberttown Field,” said Gilberttown Mayor Bobby Graham, who is also employed by the State Oil and Gas Board. “This is going to help us get this field back in production again. It will mean a lot to this whole part of the state.”

While about 15 million barrels

of thick crude has been pumped from the cretaceous-age Eutaw Sands and the Selma Chalk formation since Black Gold was first discovered in Gilberttown in February of 1944, studies in the past have indicated that there could be as much as four times that amount of oil still left in the field.

The renewed investment could result in the production of millions of additional barrels, and extend the useful life of the field by 20 years or more, and could even spark a renewed interest in possible new oil exploration in the region.

And, with energy prices at See OIL, page 6A

COMMISSION:

What to do about solid waste contract

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – Choctaw County’s contract with Waste Management of Mississippi to pick up and dispose of local residential solid waste will expire at the end of September.

Members of the Choctaw Co. Commission will have to decide before that time if they wish to try and negotiate with WM for an extension of the contract, or if they would rather put the service out for new bids to see if any additional companies are interested and hopefully to get the service at a better price.

If a new company were to get the bid, it would take several weeks for them to set up their own collection routes and get garbage carts in place, officials said at an earlier meeting, and recommended that the board take action as soon as possible so as to allow ample time before Sept. 30 for the process to take place.

Commissioner Clyde Dixon asked if WM is willing to renew the existing contract.

Probate Judge
See WASTE, page 5A



Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell
Butler Chief of Police Chuck Breland (left) talks with CCHS Principal Kevin Howard (right) during last Thursday’s bomb scare at the school.

CHARGES PENDING:

Bomb threat at CCHS

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – At least one juvenile is under investigation and charges could be filed by the end of this week in connection with two telephoned bomb threats that were received at Choctaw County High School last Thursday.

Butler Chief of Police Chuck Breland said that during the sixth period on April 6th – around 2 p.m. – the CCHS office received two phone calls stating that an explosive device had been planted somewhere in the building.

“With the assistance of the telephone company and some great technology, we hammered out a telephone number pretty quick,” Breland said. A fast progression of other developments soon led authorities to some suspects who were taken into custody for questioning.

At least one of those suspects could be facing serious

See BOMB, page 5A

BOE hears report card for 05-06

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – The Choctaw County Board of Education and interested members of the public got an overview of the county’s 2005-06 Report Card and updates on accountability during the April meeting of the

BOE held last Tuesday evening at Choctaw County High School.

From the Child Nutrition Program to technology availability in local schools to efforts to remain in compliance with No Child Left Behind, staff members gave overviews of the progress made by their departments for the previous school

year. The annual update showed improvements made in nearly every department of the system.

Child Nutrition Program supervisor Inez Frost gave an overview of the numbers of free and reduced-priced meals being served to children in local schools, comparing those numbers to statewide totals.

“Statewide, about 51.9% of students are on free or reduced,” Frost said. “In Choctaw County, we have 77.6%. This shows the poverty in Choctaw County. We are in a financially strapped area.”

Lee Edwards reviewed the availability of technology in local schools, also comparing the

system to what is available statewide. According to Edwards, schools across the state have an average ratio of 4.1 students for every computer available in their schools, while Choctaw County reports a ratio of 4.0 students per computer.

See BOE, page 5A



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