

Oil

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near-record levels, officials said that it makes economic sense to revive those existing wells.

The news could also bring some welcome relief to a cash-strapped Choctaw County Commission, as well as the Town of Gilbertown, which stand to gain from new oil severance taxes ... taxes that, for all intents and purposes, pretty much "dried up" as more and more of the wells were capped over the past 10-15 years.

Probate Judge D'Wayne May told the *Sun* that regardless of what the amount of any new tax receipts might be, any amount would be welcome. Currently, the Commission receives about \$27,000 a month in oil severance revenues, whereas that figure in the late 1970's ran to as much as \$125,000 a month or more.

While some studies have shown that there is still much oil remaining beneath Choctaw County soil, it is deeper, harder to pump, and may be of slightly less quality than earlier amounts of the product. But the fact that oil prices now are much higher than they were a decade ago — more than \$60 a barrel on the world market — makes it more attractive from a financial standpoint to get the oil out of the ground and onto the market.

"Choctaw County crude is looking better and better," Mayor Graham said.

The work is the result of an agreement between Daybreak and Gilbertown Ventures, LLC, which owns much of the field.

A spokesman for Gilbertown Ventures on Tuesday declined to comment but said that the company would have some comments to make but at a later date once the new company has had a chance to get its feet on the ground.

In return for an investment in parts and needed repairs to the wells — many of which have been idle for years — Daybreak will receive a substantial ownership interest in the field, according to published reports.

Because of rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the fact that the company is publicly traded, a Daybreak corporate spokesman told the *Sun* that he could not get into specifics of the field's possible performance until it is evaluated and those results released by an independent third party.

Although Daybreak has the rights to 28 wells, current plans are to refurbish and activate about 21 at this time, a spokesman said.

Daybreak Oil and Gas, Inc. is a publicly-traded NASDAQ company under the

symbol DBRM.

Drillers strike "Black Gold"

On Jan. 2, 1944, the State of Alabama granted Hunt Oil Company a permit to drill for oil in Choctaw County. Although expectations were high, the truth is there had been more than 300 "dry holes" — ranging in depth from 2,000 feet to more than 12,000 feet — drilled in various parts of the state since the early part of the century, and many speculated that the venture would end up as the others had — in failure.

But on Jan. 10, 1944, drilling commenced at the A.R. Jackson Well No. One site near Gilbertown on the Paragon Road (just west of the current Gilbertown Sportsplex on the south side of the road), and on Feb. 15th — at a depth of 2,563 feet — drillers struck "black gold" in the Selma Chalk Formation.

The Jackson No. One well flowed at a rate of 70 barrels per day, and between 1944 and 1961 — when the well was capped — that one well produced more than 88,000 barrels of crude oil.

After the initial well was brought in, the A.R. Jackson Well No. Two was drilled and completed in the Eutaw Sand and on March 8th at a depth of 2,800 feet, drillers found oil at that location as well, sparking a national "rush" by

speculators and investors who rushed to buy or lease mineral rights to property in Choctaw County.

In the past 63 years, those high expectations were realized several fold as the rich Gilbertown Field has to-date produced more than 14 million barrels of oil, according to the State Oil and Gas Board.

The State Oil and Gas Board, of which Butler native Marvin Rogers is the attorney of record, assembled and presented to the Choctaw Co. Historical Museum in Gilbertown a comprehensive display of the oil and gas history of the county and state. With donations of photos and artifacts from area residents and even the J.L. Hunt Family Archives, in Dallas, Texas, the exhibit includes actual drill bits, containers of crude oil from the A.R. Jackson Well No. One, maps, and historical photos (such as the one that accompanies this article) of the first oil wells in Choctaw County.

AT RIGHT -- The A.R. Jackson Well No. One, the historic first producing oil well in the state of Alabama (Photo courtesy Choctaw Co. Historical Museum, and Hunt Family Archives)



Dee Ann

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speak to HIM either.

In the midst of my embarrassment, I stole another glance in his direction, and I saw him looking back at me, finally noticing me for the first time — and he was laughing at me.

I decided he wasn't so cute after all.

That day, I discovered

a profound truth about people — that no matter how beautiful they are on the outside, those who laugh at you, ridicule you, or otherwise make you feel bad about yourself, are just downright ugly when you look inside their hearts.

Since then, whenever Easter comes around, when the egg dye is stacked high on shelves in the stores and the baskets are stacked even higher, I

can't help but think about my 5th grade egg hunt and feel a little reminiscent, a little nostalgic ... and, to tell you the truth, a little nauseated.

And I can't help but remember the day when a little bird told me that cuteness suddenly takes on new meaning when you have a face filled with embarrassment, a basket filled with nothing, and a head filled with ... other stuff.

WE'RE ALL ABOUT YOU.



John Higdon

Vice President, Butler

trips to the post office ... too many to count

21 years at First United Security Bank

39 years in banking

7 great-nephews and-nieces, all great (and more that call him uncle)

8—month when football returns every fall!

15 miles plus walked each week

Active member of the Industrial Development Board where thousands of lives have been impacted

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Calendar

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Pentecostal Church, 253 Bobwhite Road, Silas, 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker Rev. Nathan Harrod from Spain. Pastor Bro. Marcus Rush.

FREEDOM LAND QUARTET will be in concert at Calvary Baptist Church at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 24th

AARP SUPPER MEETING, 6 p.m., Butler Senior Citizens Center, Riderwood Drive.

CHOCTAW CO. COMMISSION, special called meeting, 9 a.m.

Friday, April 27th

SOCIAL SECURITY representative will be at the Civic Center in Butler at 10 a.m.

NEW HOPE RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM will be bagging groceries for tips at Piggly Wiggly in Gilbertown.

Saturday, April 28th

BEAUTY PAGEANT, Southern Choctaw Elementary, 6 p.m. in the gym at SCHS. Admission \$5 each. This event is a fundraiser for the Parent Teacher Organization.

DIXIE YOUTH TOURNAMENT, sponsored by Regions Bank. Teams from Butler, Gilbertown, Livingston and other towns will be participating. Time not listed.

69th BIRTHDAY & LATE RETIREMENT PARTY for former Butler Policeman and Choctaw Co. Sheriff's Deputy Dean Roberts, 2 p.m., at his residence next to Calvary Baptist Church, Butler. Friends and family members are invited to attend.

Monday, April 30th

SCES PTO MEETING/PARENT CONFERENCES, 6 p.m., in the gym. Grades 4 and 5 will present the program. Election of new officers.

Thursday, May 3rd

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

Thursday, May 3rd — Sat., May 5th

NEW HOPE RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM will host a Yard Sale at home of Mary Ann Clark (Needham Road, near the Fire Department).

Friday, May 11th

CHOCTAW CO. RELAY FOR LIFE county-wide event, old Vanity Fair property, Butler. Late afternoon through the night. Watch the *Sun* for more details.

Tommy

From page 7-A

was shacking up with her latest boyfriend, Zaccheus was too short, and Paul was called a religious nut.

And what do all of those pore old imperfect, sinful folks have in common? God used them — one and all — to carry His message to a lost world.

So my friends, stop making excuses, quit listening to judgmental holier-than-thou people who have gone off the deep end of the baptismal pool who try to brainwash you into believing that you "can't", and find a loving, Bible-believing New Testament church

and get involved!

One of my country music heroes, The Possum (George Jones) summed it up pretty good in a song a few years back ... "the only real difference in a sinner and saint, one is forgiven and the other one ain't!"

How 'bout that for some shuck-it-down-to-the-corn-cob Biblical truth???

If you do not have a church home and are looking for one, I invite you to join us at Black Creek Baptist Church.

We are four miles east of Silas on CR 6, just 1/4 mile north of U.S. 84 on Powe Lane. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. and morning worship service at 11 a.m. Come and try us, and come as

you are. I have it from a reliable source that the preacher is allergic to suits and ties and holds firm to the belief that adult males who wear such tortuous devices often die early because of a lack of oxygen to the brain, so casual dress is acceptable. And ladies, we won't get bent out of shape if you choose to wear pants or jeans ... that is not an issue at Black Creek.

If you want to know more, give me a call at 251-843-5833 (home) or 843-6397 (the *Sun*). I would enjoy talking with you and we would love to see ya'll this coming Sunday.

Have a great week and thank you for reading the *Sun*!

Team Storm

Presents

Tough Enough III.
"Survival"

Knock-Outs! Tap-Outs! Slams
and So Much More!

Martial Arts Fighting Event

When: Saturday, April 28th at 7:00 P.M.

Where: Jackson National Guard Armory

Prices: Ringside \$25.00

General Admission \$15.00

10 Years & Under \$10.00

For More Info Call:

251-769-5166 or

251-769-4775

Benefit Event
for The
Hicks Family
A portion of the
proceeds will go
toward this family,
whose child is
still recovering
from a near
drowning.

