

Opinions

The Choctaw Sun
Wednesday, April 4, 2007
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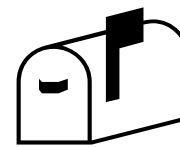
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The Sun encourages you to attend the church of your choice this Easter.

Letters



Additions have been made to the interments at Red Springs Baptist Cemetery, Choctaw Co., AL. Thanks to a member of the church who provided the updated info.

I have recently taken over the "reins" at the Choctaw Co., AL USGenWeb site and invite your readers to submit your data, info, photos, charts, stories, etc for posting to the site.

Bennie White
County Coordinator
Choctaw Co., AL USGenWeb
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~alchocta>

May the Easter message give you inspiration and bring you happiness throughout the year!

I enjoy the paper so very much.
I love ya'll, too!

Ida Mae Burge

The family of the late Terry Louis Frost would like to thank all of you for your prayers and services rendered during our time of sorrow.

The Frost family

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SoundOffs

For three years the bus drivers on the south end have had to drive down 84 to a station to fuel our buses. I had to go back and forth several times a month. We were promised a fueling station at SCHS but we never got it until now. Thanks Supt. Moore for listening to us and getting the fueling station at SCHS. This saves us a lot of time and the BOE a lot of money for the extra fuel we had to use to travel up and down the roads to the gas station.

Just wanted to let you know that the Wimberly Methodist-Protestant Church group picked up more than 150 bags of trash on the Wimberly Road and Lucas Road on Saturday, not counting recyclable cans and the "big stuff" that would not fit in bags.

(PUB. NOTE: Thank you to all of the groups who helped with this effort! Please call or email the Sun and let us know how much trash you or your group picked up last weekend so that we can recognize everyone's effort to give our county a fresh, clean face. - Tommy.)

Hello **Choctaw Sun**. I am a native of Butler and now call the state of Illinois home. I get the **Sun** online and have been interested in the feedback over Mrs. Campbell's suggestion that school board members relinquish their salaries as a cost-cutting measure to save the jobs of personnel whose jobs may be in jeopardy. I was elected to a board post here last year and just thought you would be interested to know that we have a much larger school system than Choctaw County has, and board members here are not compensated for serving. Your paper is most informative and I hope the people of my home county appreciate the job that you are doing.

The county's roads look so much better after this weekend's clean sweep. Thank you to all of you who helped! I am handicapped and could not physically pick up trash but I did take some bottled water to two of the groups. It wasn't much but maybe it helped in some small way. Now, let's please keep that ugly trash off the roads.

My husband is a member of a volunteer fire department in this county. The key word is VOL-UNTEER! This is to all of you who want to burn something on a dry or windy day and want to complain about our fire departments. If you think you can do a better job, why not join your local fire department? I am not sure you would be willing to sacrifice your time and possibly your life. My husband has had a brick wall fall on him and has smoke inhalation more than once. He has seen things no one should ever have to see. Not to mention leaving our kids on Christmas morning, leaving supper on the table, getting out of bed in the middle of the night, going out in hurricanes

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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.

Don't spit on our soldiers again

"I remember coming back from the war and being spit on."

In a voice thick with emotion, Vietnam veteran and now Silas minister Don Whigham spoke to the crowd that gathered to dedicate the new Silas Veteran's Park on Saturday.

His words were filled with remembrances of his own service in the military and the service of those who have served in wartime and peacetime throughout American history, and his speech was a tribute to the courage and sacrifices now being made by our servicemen.

But his words were not just about remembering the courage and sacrifices of our veterans. They were laced with a challenge to us today - a challenge to give much-due honor and respect to those who serve.

Coming from a veteran of Vietnam, the words were more than just a challenge. They



Looking Up

By Dee Ann Campbell
Editor

were an indictment on those who would put down the valiant men and women who risk their lives for their country. They were a charge against those who would denigrate the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who go willingly to fight when our nation calls upon them.

And they were an indictment of shame against those who would spit on the American uniform.

Whigham's memories of the days after Vietnam are filled with hurt and

emotional trauma. But that trauma was not merely inflicted by the sights and sounds of what he experienced at war. The trauma was inflicted by the actions and words of those who welcomed him home, not with parades and banners, but with insults and spit.

There are those today who are still spitting on the American uniform.

Some of that saliva came this week in the form of a SoundOff to the **Sun**:

... *George Bush is sending people to war who would not even be in*

the military if they had any other options to do something else...

When they make statements insinuating that the men and women who serve our country are only doing so because they can not do otherwise, they - like those who insulted our Vietnam veterans - are spitting on the American uniform. When they say that those who serve are only putting on that uniform because they are somehow not smart enough or good enough or lucky enough to go to college and do something more 'worthwhile' with their lives, then they are spitting in the faces of those courageous soldiers who simply CHOOSE to serve because they love their country, because they are valiant and brave and honorable - and because they are heroes.

And when they dare to stand in protest, yelling insults at the funerals of

See DEE ANN, page 5A

Democrats sending the wrong message to troops, terrorists

Vice President Dick Cheney was in Birmingham on Monday and said that the Democratic-controlled Congress must learn there is only one commander in chief, and he lives in the White House.

Amen. Cheney criticized partisan, political resolutions passed by a Congress now in the hands of liberal Democrats that set timetables on the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

"The fact is that the United States military answers to one commander in chief in the White House, not 535 commanders in chief on Capitol Hill," he said.

Amen again. Cheney was in the state for a fundraiser for U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, who will be running for a third term in the 2008 elections.

"We expect the House and Senate to meet the



The way I see it ...

By Tommy Campbell
Publisher

needs of our military on time, in full and with no strings attached," Cheney told an audience of about 500.

The VP said that congressional Democrats are undercutting U.S. troops who are fighting one of the most difficult wars of all time.

The Senate-passed resolution calls for the withdrawal of U.S. troops by next March. The House version of that same bill calls for a Sept. 1, 2008 withdrawal.

Both resolutions reek with the putrid stench of partisan politics.

Cheney is absolutely right ... *you cannot win a war if you tell the enemy when you're going to quit!*

In a war, any such "date setting" is seen by our enemies as a sign of weakness and you can bet your last dollar that it has been duly plastered across al-Jazeera and every other Arab-controlled propaganda outlet around the world and will be milked for all they can get out of it to make America look like the big, bad, boogeyman.

Cheney said that President Bush will veto any bill that sets a date

for U.S. troop withdrawals.

He should. Even though the votes are probably not there to sustain a presidential veto, he should do it anyway to let the troops know that their Commander in Chief, at least, has not abandoned them.

And while I am normally a supporter of my Democratic friend, U.S. Rep. Artur Davis, I am not at all happy with Davis' partisan vote for the House resolution and I plan to tell him so.

On the other hand, I applaud Senators Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions for voting AGAINST the senate version of that resolution. *Thank you both.*

But to all of those who would call me a war monger, let me say that I understand the frustration, OK?

I understand that the war is costing billions.

See TOMMY, page 5A

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