



The Choctaw Sun  
Wednesday, May 16, 2007  
Page 6A

# Opinions

www.choctawsun.com  
choctawsun@millry.net

## The Sun's Staff

**Tommy Campbell**  
Publisher

**Dee Ann Campbell**  
Editor

**Colin Merritt**  
Sports Editor

**Katy Sims**  
Administration

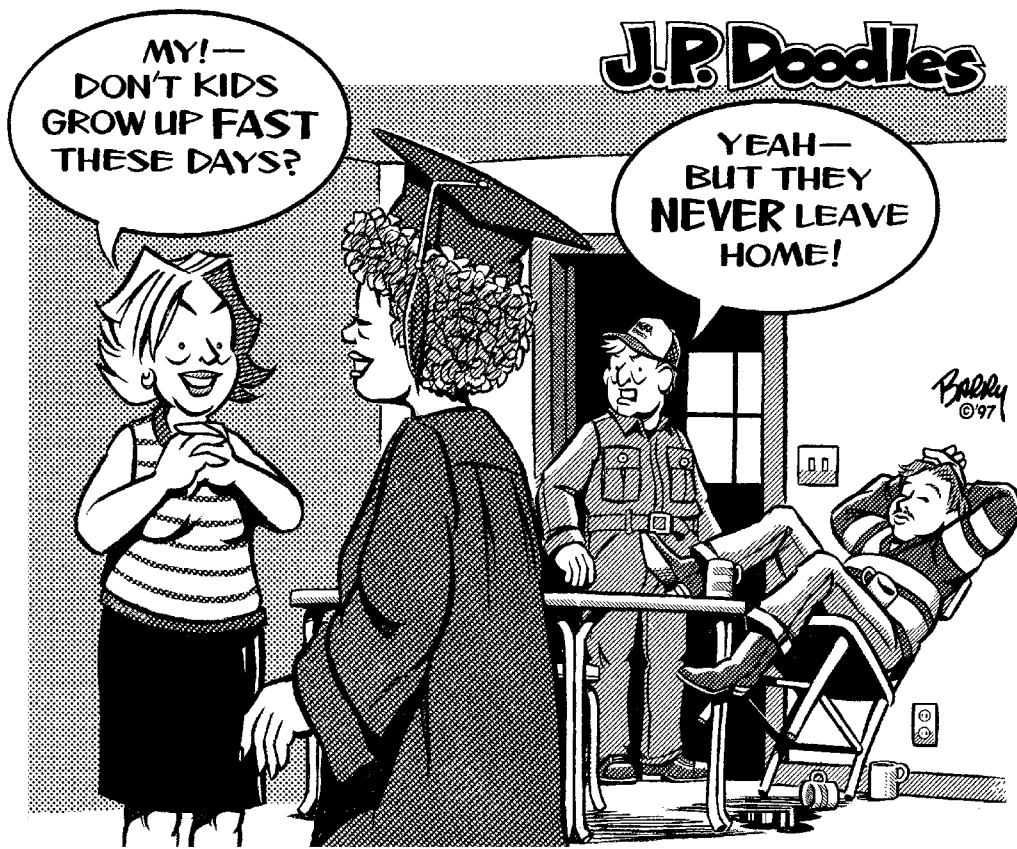
**Ashley Downing**  
Advertising Manager

**Dan Melvin**  
Advertising Design

**Sue Wyche**  
Receptionist/Butler

**Marcus Gates**  
Receptionist/Gilbertown  
Advertising Sales/Sports

**Mickey Bryant**  
Webmaster/Computers



## SoundOffs

Parents, you would be shocked to see how some of your daughters wear their clothing at school. They walk around school all day with their breasts hanging out. There's only one teacher who says something to them. The rest of the teachers let them walk by.

My job takes me to Choctaw and Washington counties and I see that ILLEGAL VIDEO GAMBLING machines are starting to show back up in both counties. I know of at least three stores where I have seen these machines in operation, in full view of the public and law enforcement officers — one in Choctaw and two in Washington. If they are illegal for one store to have they should be illegal for all. I want to know what the sheriffs of both counties and District Attorney Spencer Walker are doing about this? If these machines don't go away, I will call the news media to make some pictures of folks sitting there gambling.

Tommy, I thank you and your staff on a great newspaper. You guys do a wonderful job. I do want to say I wish people would get as upset about the poor economic conditions and lack of industrial growth in the county as they do about school uniforms and the parks board appointees. Come on people what's really important?

I was at the Board of Education office this week. I was so impressed by the improved looks of the building. I was told that Superintendent Moore was in charge and everyone else in the office has joined her to improve the looks of the outdated office. They said that people had worked free and businesses had made donations on the project. My hat is off to that teamwork. It is beautiful.

The gas leak on Riderwood Drive on Thursday underscores the need for TWO entrances/exits to Choctaw County Elementary and High schools. It is pathetic that plans were not made for two such roads when the schools were built. SEVERAL parents, including me, voiced concerns about this to former superintendents and current and former school board members on more than one occasion before they built those schools in a dead-end cul-de-sac. And what about those senior citizen apartments down that school road? The town of Butler and the school system need to get together and do something about this. That is a 100% BOTTLE-NECK and a death-trap just waiting to happen if you ask my opinion.

I still think that (Gilbertown) officials should set a date and time for a vote on annexing new areas into the city limits. The people should decide this, one way or another. I am very much in favor of this happening. The arguments FOR annexation outweigh those AGAINST by four-to-one in my opinion. This referendum needs to happen and the sooner the better. That way, the town is not forcing anything on anybody. We who live in these areas would get to decide.

Boy, that was an absolutely brilliant move ... I'm talking about THREE schools setting their high school graduation exercises on the SAME night! Have you people ever stopped to think that we, as grandparents, might have several grandchildren graduating at different schools and that it would have been nice if we could attend all of them? School officials, PLEASE try to get your act together next year and set graduation ceremonies on different nights! All it takes is a phone call or two and something called COURTESY. I am sorry if this offends somebody but I am very highly offended myself because I have to miss some very special peoples' graduation because of this mess.

I agree with that woman who is upset over conditions at the County Jail. It's pitiful. No air conditioning, bad food, bad attitudes. My kinfolks have been there before and just about had heat strokes in the summer in that rat hole. I think they ought to bulldoze it and build a new one, with air conditioning and nice bathrooms, and a place for the prisoners to sit down and eat their meals like normal, decent human beings.

People, if you are upset over the price of gasoline, call, write or email our U.S. Rep., Artur Davis, and our two U.S. Senators, Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions. The federal government should be able to do something to help this situation. If not, we need to be voting for some new faces in Washington when the next election rolls around. Gas at \$3 a gallon is utterly ridiculous, especially when those fat cat oil company execs are getting \$400 million bonuses.

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.

## The lonely door of my refrigerator

There are not many left — and still fewer to come.

The evidence is rarely there anymore. Only a few pieces are left. Only a few remnants, a few memories, a few treasures still remain — stuck with magnets and tape to my refrigerator.

Once upon a time, my refrigerator was full, bursting at the seams with treasures that were worth more than gold. But it was not the inside of the refrigerator that bore those treasures, but the outside.

Once upon a time, its door was covered with them — little pictures colored by tiny hands, messages of 'I-love-you-Mom' scrawled in 5-year-old script, and a myriad of valuable school papers, all laden with the coveted smiley-face endorsement of the teacher. Each piece, every message, every little



## Looking Up

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Editor

all-important paper was stuck there, for all the world — or at least their mother — to behold their immeasurable worth.

Back then, that refrigerator seemed much smaller, too small for all the pieces and the pictures and the messages that were cluttered upon it. It seemed too small to hold them as they increased a hundredfold with each passing day.

I didn't mind not seeing the whiteness of my refrigerator. I never

minded the no-spot-left-uncovered clutter of the door or the mass of different colors that greeted my eyes each time I looked at it.

Rather, I considered that refrigerator my 'door of fame', my gallery of priceless art, my display of invaluable riches worth more than all the diamonds in the world.

But today, the door of my refrigerator seems so much larger, so much barer, so much — well, lonelier — than it did just a

few years ago.

Gone are the little pictures colored by tiny hands, messages of 'I-love-you-Mom' scrawled in 5-year-old script, and a myriad of valuable school papers, all laden with the coveted smiley-face endorsement of the teacher. Gone are all of those jewels that once made my refrigerator the most valuable home appliance in the world.

Through the years, the four little ones who gave me those treasures have gone on to other things and lost their fascination with my refrigerator. One by one, they have made their way past the refrigerator each day without adding their latest work, or their most recent message, or stopping to point out their priceless piece of art.

Today, the only treasure left is...  
See DEE ANN, page 10A

## First Responders' primary concern is the safety of everyone involved

On Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 3:50 p.m., the Butler Volunteer Fire Department responded to a 911 call on Riderwood Drive. It was a natural gas line that had been ruptured at the North Choctaw Head Start Center. This was right at the entrance to the new schools.

When we arrived on the scene our first response was to secure the area around the leak. This meant closing down a section of Riderwood Drive to all traffic and to evacuate the residences closest to the leak. Our top priority for this emergency was to protect the public until the Town of Butler Utility Crew could get there and take care of the leak. At no time were the students and faculty at CCES or CCHS in immediate danger.

To all the parents that were patient with us while trying to get to the school to pick up your children, we would like to say THANK YOU. It is people like you that make a situation like this easier to handle.

To few who were not so patient with us, we say, the next time you come across an emergency situation such as this, STOP and think about what the First Responders are trying to do. They are trying to protect your CHILDREN and the general public at the same time. When you get mad and mouth off it does nothing but distract the Emergency personnel and makes their job harder.

## Letters

Remember most of these First Responders are VOLUNTEERS and they give their own time to protect the communities with which we live in. They also have to watch out for their own safety because of people like the one that went into the closed off area after being told not to and ran over the fire hose (which is against the law) and almost hit a firefighter because you were in a hurry to get to the school. THIS COULD HAVE BEEN YOUR HUSBAND, FATHER OR BROTHER that you almost ran over.

Also to the person who felt he needed to cuss out some of the firefighters because they would not let him back into the area until it was safe, what would you have liked for us to do, let you back in so you could blow us up with the cigarette you were smoking? Our job is to protect ALL OF THE PUBLIC including ourselves. You were not trying to protect anyone, not even your family, by interfering with and harassing the firefighters while they were trying to do their job. These firefighters did

not deserve to be talked to like you did.

In closing, I would like to remind all of the public that when there is an emergency situation at or near any school please do not cross the security lines that have been established by the First Responders. We are there to protect your children first and foremost and will let you in as soon as it is safe to do so.

**Chief Max Edwards, Jr.**  
Butler Volunteer Fire Department

Enclosed is my subscription renewal. I enjoy the "online" edition because there are times I just can't wait for the paper to arrive via "snail mail"!

I always save my papers for my family to read — Andy lives here in Birmingham and when he comes over he piles up on the couch with all of them and catches up on the latest happenings.

My oldest daughter, Anna, also lives here. She works at Blue Cross/Blue Shield and has created a "Butler Board." She clips out all of the articles and pictures that make The Sun so special to her ... those things that only a "Hometown Paper" can provide. She then pins it all on her board. Everyone in the office

See LETTERS, page 10A

### About the Sun:

**PUBLISHED EACH WEDNESDAY**

#### Deadline:

**9 a.m. MONDAYS** for that week's edition  
(Early deadlines may apply to weeks that contain holidays)

#### Subscription Rates:

In Choctaw Co ... \$20 + \$1.60 tax = \$21.60  
(Senior Citizens ... \$15 + \$1.20 tax = \$16.20)  
Elsewhere in Alabama ... \$25 + \$2.00 tax = \$27.00  
Other states ... \$30 (no tax)

ePaper internet subscriptions are available with any subscription for an additional fee of \$10

### Visit us at two locations:

**GILBERTOWN OFFICE:**  
13440 Choctaw Ave.  
Gilbertown, AL  
Phone: (251) 843-6397

Toll-free:  
(800) 838-4SUN  
Fax: (251) 843-3233  
**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
(We close at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays)

**BUTLER OFFICE:**  
214 West Smith Street  
(Next door to May, Evans  
and Newton Law Office)  
Butler, AL

Phone: (205) 459-2461  
Fax: (205) 459-3047  
**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., &  
Fri., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Wednesday, 8-12:30

### Send U.S. Mail to:

P.O. Box 269  
Gilbertown, AL 36908-0269



### Send Emails to:

choctawsun@millry.net

### Visit us online at:

www.choctawsun.com

**POSTMASTER: THE CHOCTAW SUN** (USPS number 022-326) is published weekly on Wednesdays by The Choctaw Sun, 13440 Choctaw Avenue, P.O. Box 269, Gilbertown, AL 36908. Periodicals postage paid at Gilbertown, AL 36908. **Send change of address to: The Choctaw Sun, P.O. Box 269, Gilbertown, AL 36908-0269.**

ENTIRE CONTENT OF THE CHOCTAW SUN  
PROTECTED BY US COPYRIGHT LAWS. ALL RIGHTS  
RESERVED. ©2007 The Choctaw Sun