

Opinions

www.choctawsun.com
choctawsun@millry.net

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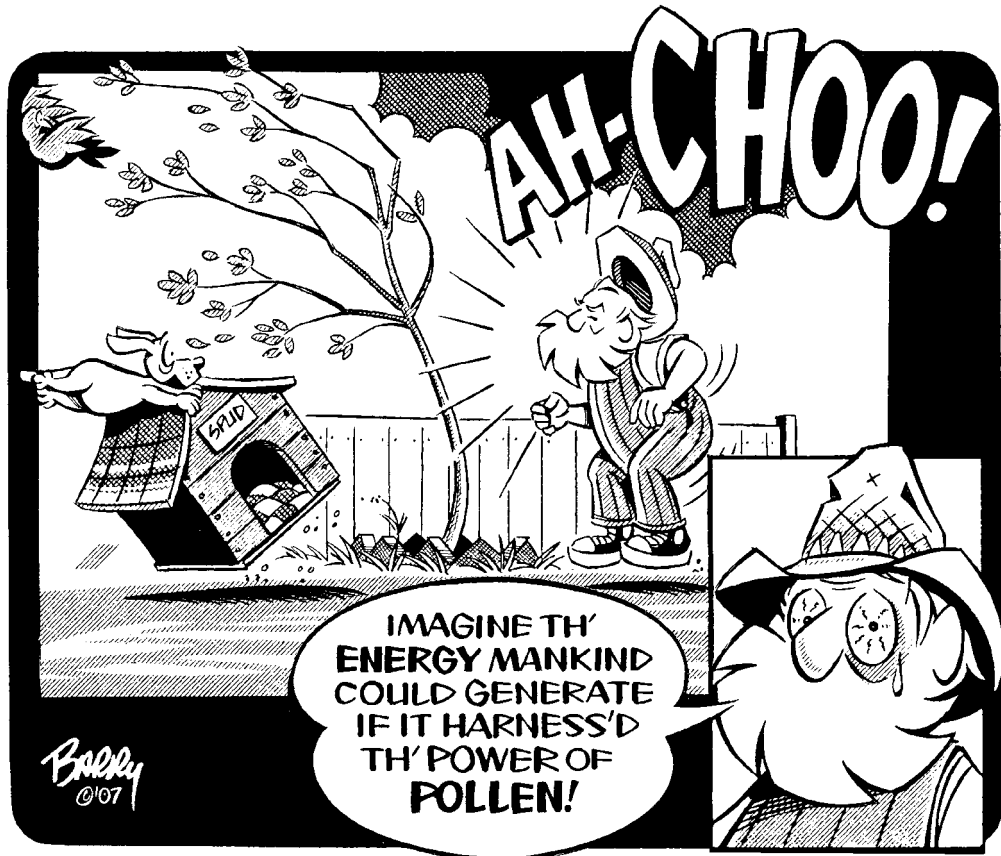
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SoundOffs

Hey *Sun!* This is to the people who are calling the soldiers names! I am 15 years old and plenty of people think that our voices don't count but they do. Why, people ask? Because we are the future! My brother and two of my best friends are going into the military, my brother in the Marines, and the others in the Army. I've been taught to respect my elders but this is a case I can't obey. I think that any person in their right mind would know that the military is a good place and they are not "air-heads". If you ask me, they are some of the smartest people in this world. The military sends you to school to get a better education and they protect our country, and what do you people give back to them? Smart remarks and acting like children by disrespecting them! You should be ashamed of yourselves and if your parents, who raised you with good sense, would be too! Thank you Mr. Campbell because y'all are doing a terrific job!

I want to know one thing, Who came up with the list of names for the new Parks Board? At last week's commission meeting, their new attorney, who just happens to be the head of the Democratic Party, came in and presented a list that had already been prepared for the commissioners' signatures. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that somebody got together before that meeting and decided whose names would be on the list.

In last week's Sound Off, I read where the eastern terminal of U.S. Hwy. 84 is getting more priority from Montgomery than Choctaw Co. Here's a proposal to our representatives: Four-lane just eight miles of U.S. 84 from the Mississippi state line to Hwy. 17 in Silas. There are no bridges to build within those eight miles, keeping construction costs down. Plus, after the state of Mississippi finishes four-laning between Waynesboro and the state line, traffic will be bottle-necking when Hwy. 84 crosses into Alabama. Four-laning 84 to Ala. 17 would allow for a smoother transition from a four-lane back to a two-lane at the four-way stop (or, possible traffic signal). This would also be beneficial to the towns of Silas, Gilbertown, and Millry.

After listening to comments in my community about how the county's Board of Commissioners handled naming new people to the Parks and Recreation Board, I have come to the conclusion that not much has changed in that Courthouse. New faces, new administration, and the same old same old.

I commend your paper for allowing the PEOPLE to have a voice. This SoundOff feature is great. It let's all sides have their say. Some of them make me so mad I could cuss, but you know what? That's what America is all about! Thanks guys. We love *The Choctaw Sun!*

I haven't seen anything in the paper as to where that person who allegedly called in the bomb threat to CCHS has been arrested and charged. I think whoever pulls stunts like that ought to spend some time in jail. This is serious. It is not funny and if anyone thinks it is - even a teenager - maybe a year or two in the state prison would help straighten out their thinking.

I just wanted to thank our local radio station, WPRN, for all that they do for our community. All of those out-of-county and out-of-state stations may "talk the talk" but do little, if any, to "walk the walk" when it comes to supporting the local folks, running funeral announcements, Little League games, our local arts and crafts events, church news, fire department fundraisers, hiring local people and just being there when we need them. I just wanted to say THANK YOU. We miss Henry T. but WPRN is still OUR station.

I am ticked off over how the former members of the Parks and Recreation Board were treated by the Judge and Commissioners. Why didn't the people who were serving on the board have a chance to stay and serve out the remainders of their terms if they wanted to? I was told that none of them were asked. That isn't fair, it isn't right, and I want Commissioner C.D. Ruffin to know that I am not happy with his vote.

About the property tax thing, Gilbertown has NO "ad valorem" or property tax so you need to quit beating that dead horse. It's just a scare tactic because YOU don't want Gilbertown to move forward. Well, I am sorry. We no longer live in the stone age and I for one would like to see some new businesses come to town and some PROGRESS made. A town with a resident population of 200

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Traffic jams and second glances

There are some things that draw all of us together. Like traffic jams.

The trip had been relatively smooth, and I was making good time. On our way back home from a school field trip to Six Flags on Monday - car loaded down with duffle bags and teenage girls - I was expecting to be back home in Choctaw County by early afternoon.

With cruise control set to ... well ... the speed limit, of course ... we were traveling the interstate, moving in and out of traffic with ease. Paying little attention to the people who were traveling the same highway, we gave them little thought, little more than a passing glance.

After all, they were different from us, from different places with different agenda, going to different locations for dif-



Looking Up

By Dee Ann Campbell
Editor

ferent reasons. Our paths, although traveling together for just a short while, would probably never cross again.

But just outside Tuscaloosa, things changed. Stopped by some unknown tragedy up ahead, traffic came to a standstill, with a line of vehicles stretching down the interstate as far as the eye could see.

Sitting in that 10-mile line of traffic, I had time to look around me. In

front, in back, and to my side were people of all kinds, and, on close inspection, I see a little evidence of who they were.

There were men undoubtedly traveling on business, suit jackets hung carefully over their seat and brief cases riding shotgun on the seat beside them. There were families who were traveling to or from vacations, pulling travel trailers with bicycles strapped to the back. Many were, no doubt,

returning to their homes from the Nascar race in Talladega, their trucks and motor homes bearing bumper-sticker evidence of their favorite drivers. For some of those Nascar fans, the weekend was undoubtedly a time to remember, with memorabilia plastered all over their vehicles, hanging from their windows, and dangling from their antennas. For others, it was, no doubt, a time that they will NOT remember, because their truck beds were filled with empty cans.

For the next two hours, I watched the vehicles, the faces, and the attitudes of all those people around us. Some smiled, some waved, others turned up their radios, and one even waved his rather large

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We should not give up on either war

Drug authorities were in Choctaw County this week looking for marijuana plantations, meth labs, and other forms of unlawful garbage.

The *Sun* thanks them for what they are doing in the war on drugs and we encourage citizens to help them out by calling and reporting suspicious, illegal activity in our own neighborhoods.

We heard from several of our soldiers in the Middle East this week, too, and we likewise thank them for what they are doing on in the fight for freedom.

Unfortunately, the "war on drugs" is a lot like the "war in Iraq". It seems that there is no end in sight, the cost is high, and so many folks want to give up, throw in the towel and say "what's the use?"

But when we think about both of these "wars", we have to think about them in terms of,



The way I see it ...

By Tommy Campbell
Publisher

"we should do what we can."

Win the wars? No, we probably won't ... neither of them. But does that mean we should stop trying? I don't think so, because the alternatives in both situations are totally unacceptable.

As in Iraq, the best we can hope for in the war on drugs is to strike decisive blows on as many fronts as possible and disrupt the lifestyles of the dope dealers to the point that they have to stay on the move in order to avoid being caught.

Our soldiers are doing a dang fine job in the war on terror, if liberal Democrats in Congress would let them do the job they were sent there to do.

The U.S. Senate now has a bigger embarrassment than Hillary Clinton and Ted Kennedy in Sen. Harry Reid.

Reid is one of the most uninformed political puppets I've ever seen.

When you are in the middle of a war, you don't go around setting "timetables" for a retreat, Harry.

How dumb is that? All that does is give the

ENEMY a timetable of their own to move in when we move out.

The best we can hope for is to disrupt their "nests", their "safe havens", and keep them on the run and on the defensive so that they don't have the time or resources to plot another 9/11. Ditto for the war on drugs.

And that's where we, as citizens, can help. If you have information on clandestine meth labs, marijuana growing operations, or any other information that would be helpful to the authorities in nailing these thugs, please call them.

There is an anonymous "hotline" you can call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and leave a message - (251) 246-7400. You do NOT have to give your name and all tips will be investigated.

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13440 Choctaw Ave.
Gilbertown, AL
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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

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