



**Mow Down!**  
Photos inside

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**SCHOOLS:**

# Employment not renewed for long list of personnel

Local board unable to make decisions for upcoming school year because Legislature hasn't passed Education Budget

By Dee Ann Campbell and Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTTOWN – A long list of non-tenured teachers and staff members were not renewed for employment with the Choctaw County Board of Education during the May 15th meeting.

Supt. of Education Sue Moore described the decision as a temporary move due to the Alabama legislature's delay in passing the education budget that would guarantee funding for systems throughout the state.

"As one of the 29 systems without a one month's advance operating budget," Moore stated following the meeting, "we cannot hire without knowing our state funding because we do not have the local funds to absorb the difference in what we promise and what we will receive."

The BOE voted to non-renew the following non-tenured and probationary employees:

See **PERSONNEL**, page 5A



State of Alabama photo  
Rep. Howard Sanderford, of Huntsville, the chairman of the committee that chooses the Medal of Honor recipients is shown presenting the award to Butler native Maj. John Thomas Jenkins.

# John Thomas Jenkins presented Legislative Medal of Honor

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

MONTGOMERY – For his actions in helping to rescue at least 30 people during the height of Hurricane Katrina on Aug. 29, 2005, Butler native Maj. John Thomas Jenkins was last week awarded the Alabama Legislature's Medal of Honor.

The award, created by the Legislature in 1994 to honor heroism and bravery among Alabama's law enforcement community, was presented on

May 17, 2007 before Gov. Bob Riley and a joint session of the House and Senate in Montgomery.

The award is the highest honor the state can bestow upon an officer of the law.

Jenkins is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bryant Mundy of Butler, and the late Johnny W. Jenkins.

A graduate of Patrician Academy, he currently serves as a Marine Resources Officer and was nominated for the award by M. Barnett Lawley.

See **MEDAL**, page 5A

# Eddie reinstated at SCHS

By Dee Ann Campbell and Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTTOWN – A Family and Consumer Science instructor whose position had been terminated last year has now been reinstated at Southern Choctaw High School.

During the May 15th meeting of the Choctaw County Board of Education, board members voted 4 to 1 to reinstate Johnnie Mae Eddie as teacher at SCHS for the remainder of the current school year, as well as the 2007-08 school year. Eddie's employment had been terminated on June of last year following allegations that she had not fulfilled requirements for Business and Industry Certification (BIC) that is necessary for funding of the Career Tech program.

Then-Superintendent Randy Boggs recommended the termination of employment for Eddie, who was a tenured teacher, during the June 2006 meeting of the BOE.

Career Tech Director B.K. Smith told the BOE during that meeting that the program had failed certification for the first time on March 16, 2001. Since that time, stated Smith, he had given Eddie ample time to complete requirements for certification, including offering assistance from other program instructors who had passed certification.

According to Smith, the program had, in fact, been stricken from state and federal funding two years prior, but was kept

See **EDDIE**, page 5A



**100 Years!**

Choctaw Sun photo by Tommy Campbell

## A milestone birthday

PENNINGTON – Mr. Ellis Andy Cobb celebrated his 100th birthday on Saturday with a dinner in his honor at Bobby's Community Center. Family members and friends from as far away as Missouri, Virginia, Illinois, and Florida came to wish the patriarch of the family a historic happy 100th birthday. Mr. Cobb, who lives near Jachin, has an incredible memory and still drives himself around, said he gives all the glory to God for his longevity. Mr. Cobb is shown here with one of his daughters, Aminah Muhammed, of Chicago, Illinois.



# Teacher of the Year

Southern Choctaw Elementary School teacher Patti Christopher -- shown here with her class -- was selected by readers as The Sun's Teacher of the Year for 2006-07. Mrs. Christopher was presented with a certificate and a dozen roses at the SCES awards day last week by Editor Dee Ann Campbell in recognition of the honor. In order to be considered, a teacher must be nominated for the Sun's Teacher of the Month feature. Readers then vote on which one of those nine educators will receive the honor of being named Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Patti!

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