



The Choctaw Sun  
Wednesday, May 23, 2007  
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# Opinions


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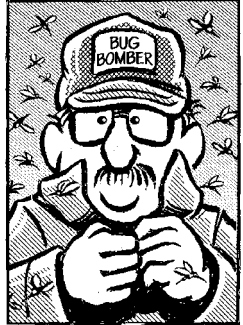
### WHAT DOES MEMORIAL DAY MEAN TO YOU?

**BARB WYRE**  
RANCHWIFE




"IT MEANS COMMUNITY PICNICS ARE BACK!"

**HOWIE ITCHESS**  
BITE VICTIM




"IT MEANS BLOODSUCKIN' SKEETERS ARE BACK!"

**JOE GASSOG**  
RV SALESMAN



"IT MEANS OUTRAGEOUS GAS PRICES ARE BACK!"

**J.P. DOODLES**  
VETERAN



"IT MEANS LOTS OF BRAVE FOLKS'LL NEVER BE BACK..."

*Barb Wyre ©'07*

The Choctaw Sun gratefully acknowledges all of the men and women who gave their lives in the defense of liberty and freedom for all mankind.

## SoundOffs

We are soooooo looking forward to the Clay Walker and Rhett Akins concert! I am a high school senior from Quitman and I am bringing car loads of CLAY WALKER fans to Gilberttown on June 2nd! I am so excited that you were able to get these entertainers to come to our area. Clay was in Jackson a while back but the tickets were so high my mama said we couldn't go. The LADIES OF CLARKE COUNTY are coming to your town!!!!

I really enjoy reading SoundOffs every week. I can't wait to read what's new. Well, this week I just had to respond to the person complaining about the conditions in the local jail. The jail stays full of people now. If conditions were improved any more, we'd have to build a much bigger one to house everyone. Many of the inmates are repeat offenders; so what does that tell you? With the exception of a very small percentage, the inmates have committed crimes, crimes which they were NOT MADE to commit. If you find the jail offensive, maybe you need to clean up your act. Then you or your family would not be arrested and would not have the pleasure of being given free room and board by the county. As for the food, I am pretty sure many would disagree with the description of Ms. Sarah cooking. She's a really good cook. Most of the inmates probably get better food in jail than they do at home. As for all the comforts of home, IT IS A JAIL!

The subject of nepotism should be addressed at the first faculty meeting of the school year. It should not be tolerated as every child should be given the same opportunity.

I was wondering if anyone heard the radio broadcast during the state playoffs in Montgomery on Wednesday when Rep. Keahey and Sen. Lindsey were speaking. When asked their opinion on each team they commented highly on every team except Millry. Well, leaders, to refresh your memory we also made it by hard work and determination! Our team is very young; we only have one senior, but we still were in Montgomery on Tuesday! I recall during your elections that wherever Millry played, you were the first to be at the gate handing out your campaign cards. Next election I hope the people in Millry remember this.

See SOUNDOFF, page 11B

## Letters

The New Hope Relay for Life Team would like to say thank you to all who supported our team this year.

The people in Choctaw County are very generous when it comes to giving to the American Cancer Society and all donations are surely appreciated.

Thank you again from Shorty Bonner, James Bonner, Shirley Frost, Joe Frost, Mary Coody, Mary Ann Clark, Janice Todd, Wanda Turner, and Claudette Gibson.

The New Hope Team

I wanted to thank Sammy Wright for coming by the Young Reunion and writing a "Sweet Gum" column about it.

One item of interest regarding Benjamin Young that was left bleeding by a tree. I found where he rests. He is buried in the Rock Island, Illinois prison cemetery. Evidently he was one of hundreds of Confederates who died in that prison either from starvation or disease.

Next week I am going to put your article on our web site, <http://millry.net/~mapper/>. Check it out.

Shermon E. Roberts  
Union Grove, AL

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all who called, visited, sent flowers and food or just remembered us in your prayers during the loss of our beloved "G".

A special thank you to the physicians and staff of Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center,

See LETTERS, page 5A

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 of SoundOffs received each week, we are unable to publish every comment. Comments that contain vulgarity, obscenities, racial slurs, or personal attacks on the character of any individual or business will not be published.

## The only voice that really matters

Sometimes it's hard to hear it. But if you listen - really listen - the voice is unmistakable.

For the Class of 2007, the voices are, no doubt, coming from everywhere. There are the voices giving advice about college, about careers, and about jobs. There are voices that focus on monetary success, giving advice about which careers will bring you wealth. There are voices that focus on family and home, giving advice about marriage and children and the struggles that come with both. And there are those who center their advice on success and fame and glamour and glitz.

There are those who talk strongly about choosing a college, about allegiance to a particular university, and about picking the school with the winning sports record.

Then, there are the voices who focus on time. There are those that say 'go for it now' and others



## Looking Up

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Editor

that say 'take your time'. There are those who say 'don't wait' and others that say 'wait until the time is right'.

It is vital to listen to your elders, to learn lessons from those who have gone before you. It is important to take time to hear and heed the advice of those who have had experience with the world, and lived to tell about it.

Yet, while it is important to hear and acknowledge the well-intentioned advice of those who want only what is best for you, it is also important to listen

to the voice that matters most.

Within all of us there is a compass, a guiding voice that steers us - if we will allow - toward all those things that are right for us to do in life. It is the guiding voice that gives us focus, that gives us passion, that makes us unique in our thoughts, in our desires, and in all those things that we enjoy.

When it comes to choosing what you will do with your life, Class of 2007, you need to listen, above all, to that voice - the voice of your Creator

within you that gives you the ultimate advice.

When you are choosing what you will do with your life, where you will go, what you will study, and how you will live your life, there are already those things in place within you that will guide you in the right direction.

If you will listen - really listen - you will hear that voice that tells you what you should do with your life. It is there in that one thing that you enjoy most, in that one thing that gives you passion, in that one thing that would give you satisfaction every day for the rest of your life.

As you listen to all those voices of guidance in your life today, Class of 2007, ask yourself these questions: What is it that you love? Where is your passion? What is that one thing that you are best at?

Your joy, your passion,  
See DEE ANN, page 8A

## Getting our piece of the steel mill pie

Alabama has waited a long time for an announcement the likes of which happened last week in Duesseldorf, Germany.

ThyssenKrupp AG will begin work immediately on a \$4.2 billion, seven-million square-foot steel plant on the Tombigbee River at Mt. Vernon that will open in 2010 with 2,700 to 3,000 full-time, high-paying jobs with benefits.

During the three-year construction phase, as many as 30,000 people will be employed.

Over the next few years, company and state officials estimate that as many as 52,000 support jobs created by what are known as "tier II" and "tier III" suppliers will also happen. Those jobs include truck drivers, restaurant personnel, service-related jobs, mechanics, clerical positions, warehouse personnel, and many others that will be necessary to support a plant of such enormous size.

And for the economically depressed regions of Alabama and Mississippi, the news will be a god-send. IF.



## The way I see it ...

By Tommy Campbell  
Publisher

Uh-oh! Big word, that little "if".

The problem is, officials in say there is no way that the metropolitan Mobile area can come up with enough people to train to fill the jobs, some of which will pay as much as \$70,000 per year.

This whole region is ripe for economic "spin-off" development, especially the U.S. 84 and Ala. 17 corridors through Choctaw, Clarke and Washington counties, and the U.S. 43 corridor on the east side of the river. (Is anybody in Montgomery and Washington listening????)

Even as you read this, construction companies are feverishly snapping up every campsite, motel room, RV site and rental

property within 100 miles of the site. Guess where Choctaw County falls in that range? At about the 60 mile mark, more or less, well within the range for development of campgrounds, bed and breakfast-type lodging, rental cabins and the like.

People hereabouts could make money by providing lodging for these people who will be coming in droves to work this construction project. We stand to make money ... "if".

Dang it! That word just keeps on popping up.

The states of Alabama and Mississippi have received a \$15 million federal grant to train workers in the 37 counties along both sides of the state line, including Choctaw County.

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