

# Obituaries

**Frank Pearson**  
SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Frank Pearson, 73, died May 5, 2007 in San Antonio, TX.  
Pearson was a veteran of the Korean War. He retired at Kelly Air Force

Base in March 1992, after 38 years of service, having received numerous citations and awards.  
Survivors include two



sons, Glenn Pearson of St. Stephens, Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Pearson, currently serving in Iraq; two daughters, Terry Martin of Mobile, and Michelle Denise Pearson of San Antonio, TX; four sisters, Elizabeth Jackson, of Jackson, Elmira Bonner, Geraldine Henderson, Barbara Pearson, all of Toxey; two brothers, Woodrow Pearson, of Toxey, Rev. Jack Pearson, of Silas;

eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and many other family members and friends.

**Bobby E. Martin**  
TOXEY — Bobby E. Martin, 75, died May 9, 2007 at Rush Foundation Hospital in Meridian, MS.  
Martin was retired from James River Paper Mill and was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Services were held at Morgan Chapel Baptist Church on May 12, with interment in the church cemetery.

Survivors include wife Elizabeth Ormson Martin, of Toxey; two sons, John E. Martin of Ashville, and Mark E. Martin, of Butler, two grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.  
Pallbearers were Gordon Gibson, Robert McDaniel, Shane Dempsey, Chris Martin, Richard Barnette, Frankie Thompson, Arnold Gibson, and Lawrence Tyson.  
Bumpers Funeral Home in Butler was in charge of arrangements.

**Ruthie Mae McGrew**  
LISMAN — Ruthie Mae McGrew, 86, died May 8, 2007.

Services were held at Pleasant Chapel Baptist Church on May 11, with interment in the church cemetery.

Survivors include two daughters, Renner McGrew, of Silas, Jewellean Nelson, of Shreveport, LA; two sons, Charlie E. McGrew, of Silas, Dr. Milton McGrew, of Shreveport, LA; two sisters, Marie Poe, of Silas, and Emma Daily, of Prichard; 16 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many other family members and friends.

Pallbearers were grandsons, and honorary pallbearers were his Masonic Brothers.  
Hayden and Butler Funeral Home in Lisman was in charge of arrangements.

**Donald E. "Donnie" Davis**  
WAYNESBORO, Miss. — Donald E. "Donnie" Davis, 32, died at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg, MS on May 15,

2007.  
He was a heavy equipment operator.

Services were held May 17 at Freeman Funeral Home with Rev. Harold McInnis and Rev. Dewayne Crane officiating. Interment was in the Coyt Cemetery.

Survivors include his mother, Elizabeth Davis, his father, T.E. "Pap" Davis, both of Waynesboro, MS; his grandparents, Tom and Emma Davis, of Waynesboro; and two daughters, Shelby Lynn Cochran and Emma Kaye Cochran both of Waynesboro.  
Freeman Funeral Home of Waynesboro, was in charge of arrangements.

**Marguerite C. Barlow**  
BUTLER — Marguerite C. Barlow, a former garment inspector with H.S. Satin Co., died May 18, 2007 at a health care facility in Camden. She was 93.

Services were held May 20th at Forest Springs Baptist Church in Morvin with burial in the Forest Springs Cemetery.

A native of Morvin, Barlow was a resident of Butler prior to entering the health care facility.

She was a member of Forest Springs Baptist Church in Morvin.

Survivors include one son, Jerry Barlow of Butler; one daughter, Christine Pope of Magnolia; three brothers, Roy Crenshaw of Coffeetown, J.A. Crenshaw of Warner Robins, GA, and Harold Crenshaw of Thomasville; three sisters, Betty "Polly" Smith of Selma, Helen Smith of Picayune, MS, and Eula Grey "Kitten" Parton of Mobile; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

O'Bryant Chapel Funeral Home in Thomasville was in charge of the arrangements.

## BOE

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bers — received the most votes.  
Board member Sharon Shepherd said that she had heard complaints from teachers that spring breaks are "getting later and later" every year.  
Moore said the proposed calendars are distributed to all personnel and that the votes are counted and then the top two are then sent out again for a final vote before she makes a recommendation to the board.

The BOE also made the following decisions:

- Voted to pay a \$1,250 fee to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as the system's fee for the 2007-08 school year.

- Approved, with some discussion, the payment of \$1,024 to attorney James D. Evans for legal services and the preparation of deeds for the BOE in regard to surplus school properties which were sold.

"Is this is something we have to pay?" board member Turk Phillips questioned, asking why the board's own attorney didn't handle the paperwork.  
"Yes, we have to pay this," Supt.

Moore said. "This was indebted before I came on board."

"Who determined how this was handled?" Phillips continued.

"I would have thought the Board of Education would have made the decision," Moore replied. "This is for the deed for Pinebelt Wireless, and it did not go through our attorney Fred Boling. This started out in November or December before I took office."

After some additional discussion the board — on a motion by Taylor and Hampton — approved payment of the bill.

Hampton said he had been asked by Mrs. Yvonne Hampton, of Choctaw Community Development Center — the organization that is buying a large portion of the former East Choctaw Jr. High site — to convey her concern that she has still not received a deed to the property.  
"She got a deed but she didn't want to sign it," Moore said. "She just needs to meet with our attorney, Mr. Boling to work out the wording on the payment plan associated with the sale that needs to be included in the deed."

- Voted to reimburse Peggy Gatson for travel expenses to and from SCHS for Kimberly Gatson, at a rate of 48.5 cents per mile, 62 miles per day, for a total of \$30.07 per day through May 25.

- Voted to set the cost of attending summer school at \$150.

- Voted for all summer programs, including summer school, distance learning, summer feeding, and others to begin on June 4th and end on July 27th, with teachers paid at a rate of \$24 per hour.

Board member Hampton objected to voting on summer personnel in one, inclusive motion, so each one was taken up separately. All were approved unanimously with the exception of those noted in brackets:

At CCHS — Angela Hall, English (Hampton voted "no"); Andrew Huey, Math; Regina Andrews, Social Studies; Joyce Dixon, Substitute; and Grace Evans, ACCESS and Distance Learning.

At SCHS — Judy Franks, Science; Tracy Roberts, ACCESS and Distance Learning; and Patricia Miller, Social Studies. Moore said that a substitute will be named retroactively at the next board meeting.

- Approved the following personnel for the summer feeding program — Peggy Anderson, Vanessa Ridgeway, Deborah Cooper, and Barbara Jenkins.

- The board went into an executive session for about half an hour for the purpose of holding a student hearing.

## Personnel

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**Choctaw County Elementary School** — Demorris Manuel, Shaunte Bryant, Jonathan Johnson, Lauren Faile, Patrina Hardy, Tracy McIntyre, Teachers; Mary Winston, Sp. Ed. Aide; and, Joyce Wallace, Bus Aide.

**Choctaw County High School** — Sarah Rolison, Regina Andrews, Angela Hall, Daisy Barnes, Tisha Lewis, Andrew Huey, Jeremy Dana Adams, Amy Wright, Teacher, Teachers; Rodrick Minger, Band Director; Katrina Sewell, Secretary, CCHS and CCEs; Lawanda Prestage, School Nurse; Larry Rackley, Janitor; and, Tomika Marsh, Library Aide.

**Southern Choctaw Elementary** — Lastencia Boykin, Pamela McGrew, Tonya Harris, Jeremy Noland, Emily Martin, Sandra Alexander, Dottsie Grace, Ronny Manley, Sharon Parker, Paula Renee Carter, Karen Lewis, Teachers; Adrienne Tyson, Janitor; Ludonna White, Library Aide, SCEs/SCHS; Rebecca Johnson, LPN/Sp. Ed. Aide; Tammy Hale, Bus Aide; and, Melissa Logan, CNP Assistant.

**Southern Choctaw High School** — James Drake, JROTC;

Brenda Franks, Counselor; Leigh Singley, Angel Moore, Rachael Beaty, Jena Perry, Samora Kelly, Teachers; Donna Cornett, Janitor; and, Deloris Allen, CNP Assistant.

**Transportation** — Mamie Nicholson, Curvin Covington, Sharon Smith, Pamela Andrews, Nora Coady, Milissa Swink, Bus Drivers; Carolyn Mosley, Transportation Secretary; and Ronny McRae, Mechanic Helper.

**Tom Orr and Central Office** — Neil McIlwain, Auto Mechanics Teacher; Sandra Chaney, Janitor; Katie Johnson, Federal Programs Administrative Assistant.

**Tenured in System but not in Present Position** — Dawn Dixon, CCEs Asst. Principal; Angela Phillips, Federal Programs Director; Rhonda Johnson, Accountability Specialist; Leo Leddon, Assistant Principal (1/2); Dorothy Banks, Assistant Principal.

The motion to non-renew the above listed personnel was made by Board Members Sharon Shepherd and Wayne Taylor, and passed 4-1, with Ronald Hampton voting "no".

"I had hoped that the legislature would have completed our school budgets so that we could make vital decisions on issues that effect the teachers, programs, students, and school operations for 2007-08 by this time," Moore explained. "I cannot

make employment recommendations without a knowledge of funds. By law, probationary personnel, those who have three or less years in the system, must be notified in writing by the last working day of May whether they are employed for the next year or not."

"Hopefully, the legislature will have us a budget by the June 19th meeting so that we can bring back essential personnel based on funds and principal recommendations," she added. "As a poor, rural county, we cannot afford to lose the excellent teachers who are receiving non-renewal to other systems who can afford to employ them now. I urge everyone to contact our members of the legislature and ask them to pass us a sound financial budget so that we do not have to have our 2007-08 educational decisions on hold. It is imperative that they act immediately and pass the educational budget."

Moore traveled to Montgomery on Tuesday, along with other superintendents across the state and State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton, to try to convince the state legislature to pass the education budget, as well as the still-pending construction bond issue, before the end of this legislative session.

## Medal

From page 1-A

Commissioner of the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources.

"Since he was hired in 1986, he has served the state in an exemplary fashion," Lawley said in his letter of nomination. "He showed not only his dedication to conservation but to the people of Alabama during and following Hurricane Katrina."

Prior to that storm, Jenkins positioned himself at the Bayou La Batre Police Department so that he could be ready to assist if needed following the storm.

"As we now know, the storm caught many people unprepared and took many lives in Louisiana and Mississippi," Lawley continued. "During the height of the storm, the waters flooded over 18 feet in Bayou La Batre."

Calls for help poured in, and Jenkins made the decision to attempt to rescue people in the height of the storm with no thought for his own life or personal safety, Lawley said.

"The decision was made based on his and his men's training and the potential for loss of life if the

people were not rescued," Lawley said. "He and two of his men tried to launch a small boat from the side of the road, unfortunately the rising waters engulfed them so quickly that the vehicle floated off and they had to exit through the windows. The wind and current was so strong that the steering wheel on the boat broke off. He and his men swam and walked, carrying people to safety. They battled rising waters and winds up to 100 miles per hour to save people who had made bad decisions and stayed in their homes even after being asked to evacuate. He led his men to save over 30 people during the height of the storm. To his credit and others who participated in the rescues Alabama did not have a single fatality attributed to the storm."

One of the families he helped to rescue was a pregnant woman and five children. When officers finally battled their way to the house through the wind and rain, they found the children standing on a table with the rising water already up to their knees.

Four people were rescued from their attics, and such rescues went on all day and into the night.

As the storm passed and the enormity of the disaster became clear, Jenkins and his officers worked tirelessly to help distribute of food, water and ice in Bayou La Batre and Grand Bay.

"This was a major undertaking as these two sites serviced several thousand people every day," Lawley said. "Under his direction the entire enforcement section worked countless hours coordinating the Division and Department's relief efforts. I feel his efforts are testaments to and deserving of the Legislative Medal of Honor.

"These guys put their lives on the line every day for us and we appreciate it," said Rep. Howard Sanderford, of Huntsville, the chairman of the committee that chooses the Medal of Honor recipients.

Gov. Bob Riley said that it is because of Jenkins and others like him that no lives were lost in Alabama as a direct result of the hurricane that killed hundreds in the states of Mississippi and Louisiana.

"The fact that nobody lost lives had to be a result of what you did," Riley said to Jenkins during the ceremony.

## Letters

From page 4-A

Alpha and Omega Hospice, Dr. Keith Guinn and Staff; EMS of Choctaw County; Bro. Mike Boles and Bro. Ed Flaskamp of Meridian, Bro. Franklin McLelland and Bro. Scottie Fulcher; Sis. Phyllis Fulcher, Shelby and the ladies of First Assembly of God Church in Butler.

**The family of E.S. Glosson, Jr.**

Way to go, Gilbertown, Alabama! I am referring to the great Heritage Festival concert you have scheduled on June 2nd with my all-time favorite country music star, Clay Walker!

I am looking forward to getting to know your town and may spend several days in the area.

**Jessica Biloxi, Mississippi**

To everyone who have been and still are praying for me, I want to

say thank you, and for all your kindness, love and support you have given me, food, flowers, but most of all prayers and love.

I would like to write each one of individually, but I can't. So I'll say, keep praying for me and my children. I love you all.  
God Bless you all!

**Mary Ruth Mazingo**

I want to thank all my family and friends for their thoughts and prayers, from Port Angeles, Washington to Southern California to Choctaw County during my stay in the hospital for my second heart surgery.

To all my doctors and the nursing staff at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center ... they are the best! Your calls of get-well wishes were so uplifting.

To my husband and daughters who were with me every day, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**Ann Boykin**

Where can I get tickets to the

Rhett Akins and Clay Walker show? I need six tickets. And where the heck is Gilbertown, Alabama and how do I get there from here?

**Jim Springhill, Tennessee**

*(ED. NOTE: Tickets are available online at www.ticketweb.com. If you are coming from Springhill, take I-65 south to Birmingham and then take I-20/59 south to the York exit (Ala. 17). From there it's about 50 miles to Gilbertown. Looking forward to having you and all of our out-of-town guests here for the big show ... it's gonna be a 'good 'un'! - Tommy.)*

We would like to say thank you to all who came and worked at the Paragon Cemetery cleaning day, also those who made contributions.

It was all very much appreciated. If any one else would like to make a donation it can be sent to Mary Coody, Secretary-Treasurer, Paragon Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 167, Gilbertown, AL. 36908. Thank you.

**Mary Coody**



Don't miss two of country music's hottest stars!  
**CLAY WALKER and RHETT AKINS**  
Saturday, June 2 \* 6 p.m.  
SCHS Football Stadium, Gilbertown  
**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!!!!**

## Eddie

From page 1-A

in operation through local funds in an effort to get the program up to standards.

The problem, stated Smith, was in Eddie's alleged failure to provide documentation of lesson plans and other paperwork that is strictly required in order for Career Tech programs to receive the certification necessary to garner funding.

Federal and state funding was denied to the program as of April 13, 2006. An extension date was sought and granted until May 25. But on May 23, the program had still not complied. Following the 3rd failure of BIC certification, Boggs recommended terminating Eddie.

At that time, Board attorney Fred Boling stated that the school system had three options — to close the program altogether, to close the program and start another viable one of another type, or to fund the program locally.

Boling recommended to the BOE that no matter which option was chosen by the board, Ms. Eddie should not remain as instructor.

With Eddie's termination and no BIC certification, the FCS program was

not made available to students at SCHS this school year. A new Career Tech course, Career Discoveries, was implemented in its place.

Because of her tenured status, Eddie challenged her termination, and according to Supt. of Education Sue Moore, the reinstatement of Eddie comes as the result of a Hearings Officer's findings.

Eddie returned to SCHS last week pending the vote by the BOE. The motion to reinstate Eddie was made by board members Ronald Hampton and Shepherd was approved 4-1, with Wayne Taylor voting "no."

Funding for the FCS course will be paid through local funds until the program achieves BIC certification.

It is uncertain whether the new Career Discoveries course will remain at SCHS with the reinstatement of Family and Consumer Sciences.

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