

■ SoundOff

From page 4-A

The old caboose looks great! Thanks Town of Gilbertown and the Gilbertown Woman's Club for making it happen! And just in time for the Heritage Festival, too! Was that preacher Harry Giles I saw working that paint brush? You go, Bro. Harry! It looks great and you all are to be commended. By the way, the wall behind the parking area off Ala. 17 is looking good, too, and so are the flower planters at the curbs there. I saw some of our local folks out tilling and planting a week or so ago. It all is making a real difference in our town and I am so proud that we are having the Heritage Festival.

Has anyone noticed that the receipts which you get at "pay at the pump" gas stations, grocery stores, and even Wal Mart fade out within a week or so after you put them away? This is a dangerous thing! What if you have a receipt that you are depending on to back up a tax deduction? I went to get some receipts out recently that are only a couple of months old and you CANNOT READ THEM. I am asking the store owners to investigate the type of paper and printer ink that they use. This is a much larger problem than some may think.

I just wanted to tell Dee Ann how much it means to have a reporter with her insight and ability covering education issues in our county. No other paper can even come close to the Sun when it comes to education news. She digs deep and gets "below the surface", which is something that you normally don't see in weekly papers' reporting. From what I have seen, most papers just "do what it takes to get by". The Sun is a credit to Choctaw County and as a mother with school-age children, and as a teacher, I thank all of you for what you do for all of the schools. It means a lot.

I live in Butler and I really hope people from this area will go and support the Heritage Festival show with Clay Walker and Rhett Akins. These are two of the biggest names in country music and they are coming to OUR COUNTY, people! I saw Clay in person last year on the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, and he put on one awesome show. He is every bit as "electric" as Garth Brooks is on stage. We fuss, gripe and complain about not having any "big name" entertainment in our area, and when they do come, many times we Choctaw Countians do not support the effort. If we don't support this show as a county, then shame on us!

DHR removed some children from their mother's care because their father was allowed to stay in the home; they said he was a harmful influence for the children. Then the man and his relative went to another county and went before another judge and the DHR there gave the man and his relative rights. This man has been arrested for drugs as well as drinking and driving with his children in the car. Who are these children going to turn to if put in harm's way while in this situation?? Who will be at fault??

Has any other child been sick from the spoiled milk at a local school? My child was a very sick person from this milk. Please check the dates on the milk before giving it to little children!

I would have loved to attend the graduation ceremonies of my two cousins and my niece. BUT, couldn't make it ...Wanna know why? THREE SCHOOLS had graduation on the same night. Why can't the public and private schools coordinate graduations better for those who want to attend more than just one? I live six hours away in another state, and that makes it even harder. Not everyone supports ONLY one school, you know.

I want someone to answer this question for me. Why is it that gas prices are always 10 to 12 cents a gallon higher in Gilbertown and Silas than in Butler?

It was so nice to honor the World War II and Korean War veterans with high school diplomas at the CCHS graduation. Superintendent Moore and Board members, thank you for making this possible for them.

(ED. NOTE: Also thank Linda Turner Gaines, of the Lisman VFW Post. She gathered up the information, the necessary documents, and filled out the forms in order for this to happen. Any WWII or Korean War veteran who left high school before graduation to join the military service is eligible to walk down the aisle on graduation night in cap and gown to receive their actual diploma. Veterans who are not physically able to walk on stage and receive it in person may have their diploma delivered to them. Veterans who would like to participate in this should contact their local VFW Post for more information. There is no cost to the veteran. - Tommy.)

School construction bond issue disputed in House

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A bond issue that could mean more than \$2.1 million dollars for Choctaw County's public schools remains stalled in the Alabama legislature this week.

The bond issue, which would provide more than \$1 billion divided among schools across the state for capital construction projects, is currently being debated in the House of Representatives, where lawmakers are haggling over the makeup of the committee that would determine how the money is spent.

Gov. Bob Riley proposed the bond issue — the largest in state history — during his State of the State address earlier this year. But on Thursday of last week, the Governor urged Republican lawmakers to vote against the plan, citing that the language of the House version of the bill would add legislators to the committee and thereby politicize the process of determining how the funds could be used.

The committee currently includes Riley, financial director Jim Main, and State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton. The proposed bill would add three Democrats to the committee, including the chairmen of the House and Senate budget committees and Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom Jr.

The bond issue bill was stalled on the House floor on Thursday by representatives who are opposed to the committee changes.

According to Associated Press reports, some Republican members of the House stated they were concerned about giving Democrats too much control over spending of the bond issue, in particular a \$44 million fund that is to be used for emergencies and special needs. Some lawmakers said that fund could go as high as \$100 million when interest earned off the funds from the bond issue is added — an amount that some lawmakers believe could ruin the intended use for construction bond altogether.

Other lawmakers, including the bill's sponsor Rep. Richard Lindsey (D-Centre), who is also the chairman of the House Education Budget Committee, have stated publicly that they believe it is necessary that the legislators be placed on the committee.

In addition to the debate over the committee, some lawmakers also have taken issue over the amount of funding to be allotted to the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Under the current wording of the bill, UAB is set to receive \$42 million for a cancer research center plus \$8 million for other construction projects. But lawmakers from the Birmingham area maintain that the school needs at least \$20 million in

additional funds.

The House adjourned Thursday evening without taking a vote on the measure. Speaker Seth Hammett (D-Andalusia) said he plans to bring it back up for debate next week. However, some legislators predicted there may be too many obstacles to get the bill passed in the current regular session.

Both local representatives, Thomas Jackson and Marc Keahey voted "yes" to consider the bill.

If passed, the bond issue would be designated for construction projects only, and the use of the funds would fall according to each system's Capital Outlay Plan. First on the list for Choctaw County is the construction of 8 classrooms and a library for SCES, at a cost of \$1.2 million.

Other projects listed on the Plan include (in order of priority as listed on the current Capital Plan report):

- Five new classrooms for Choctaw County Elementary for an estimated cost of \$650,000.
- New shop for Transportation/Maintenance Department at a cost of \$450,000.
- New auditoriums for both high schools, at a cost of \$1,500,000.

Although these items are currently on the plan, the priority list can be changed through a vote of the Board of Education.

If you missed **SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN**, presented by the Ballet and Theatre Arts Performing Companies, you have **FIVE** more chances ... see *this week's calendar!*

■ Tommy

From page 4-A

at odds against each other. We should have been working on these infrastructure needs years ago rather than focusing so much on "scratch-my-back" politics and seeing how many good ol' boys we could to the Court House and the State House.

I recall a former official who sat in a meeting of the County Commission that I covered years ago, about the time that the Tenn-Tom Waterway was about to open, and flipantly told a group interested in selling riverfront land to the county for a possible river port, that the only thing the Tenn-

Tom would do is make the water run faster when it passed through Choctaw County.

It's moronic, idiotic, backwoods, redneck attitudes like that, folks, that have held this county back for decades.

And make no mistake about it, petty, political bickering is slowly but surely killing us here in the Black Belt, and until Republicans and Democrats alike understand that they are in politics to serve the **PEOPLE** and not their allmighty **PARTIES**, little to nothing is going to be accomplished in Montgomery or Washington. And there's no need for any one party to get all huffed up and ticked off ... there's more than enough

blame for both sides, thank you very much.

Attitudes have to change and priorities have to be reassessed, and we as voters need to think long and hard before we mark that ballot next time. Its time we stopped looking at the party label and looked more at the sincerity and the integrity of the candidate. (Now there's a novel idea, huh???)

Let's face it. Not every high school graduate is cut out to be a doctor, lawyer or engineer, and if there are good paying jobs out there for welders, construction workers, computer repair people, truck drivers, electricians and the like, then we should be training those people ... ASAP.

Right now in Choctaw County there is an urgent need for truck drivers with CDL's, people who can put roofs on houses, perform basic construction, wire houses, lay bricks, and fix diesel trucks. We need vocational training programs for these and other jobs at the high school and adult levels. We have a few courses already, but the need is much greater. If our people get these good-paying steel plant jobs, we must have more such classes.

Night classes would also be a blessing for many folks who would love to learn these trades but cannot attend in the day-

time.

We also have to realize that our county has suffered for so long under the delusion that "it won't ever be any different than it is right now" syndrome that we have a serious self-esteem problem, as well as a heck of an image problem in the rest of the state.

"We can't do it because it's never been done." "That's the way it's always been and that the way it always will be."

Well, guess what? My granddaddy, the late Grayson Sims, used to say, "can't never could do anything", and if it's always been done 'that-a-way', maybe it's time to try it 'this-a-way'.

That is why we need a full-time marketing program and a strong, active Chamber of Commerce, such as Mrs. Nancy Gibson has worked so hard to set up, to sell us to the rest of the state and to the world.

Last, we have to stop selling ourselves short. This county is blessed with resources, even though we are sometimes so hard-headed and afflicted with tunnel-vision and narrow mindedness that we fail to see the pot of gold at the end of our rainbow.

We welcome ThyssenKrupp AG to our neck of the woods and we hope and pray that our leaders at all levels will do whatever it takes to help Choctaw County reap the benefits from this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

We can do it ... If.

■ LEGALS

From page 10-B

election ballot and shall set forth the following description of the substance or subject matter of the proposed constitutional amendment:

"Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended relating to the Capital Improvement Trust Fund to increase the amount of the General Obligation Bonds authorized herein and to provide for competitive bidding of said bonds.

"Proposed by Act _____." This description shall be followed by the following language: "Yes () No ()"

I further direct and proclaim that notice of this election to be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of June 2007, upon the above set forth proposed amendment to the Constitution of 1901 of the State of Alabama, be given by publishing the same in a newspaper published within each county authorized to publish legal advertisements.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Alabama to be affixed by the Secretary of State at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this 6th day of April 2007.



Bob Riley
Governor

ATTEST:
Beth Chapman

Beth Chapman
Secretary of State

PUBLIC NOTICE - 212 ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC) PERMIT AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CHOCTAW COUNTY
Richard Pearce, UIC Permit Number ALS19912119, has applied for reissuance of a permit for a Class V Injection Well located at Pearce Car Wash, 99 West High Street, Gilbertown, Choctaw County, Alabama for the injection of wastewater resulting from the operation of a self-service car wash. The proposed permit contains management requirements and limitations which are protective of

groundwater quality. Copies of the draft permit, conditions, limitations and a fact sheet as applicable describing the methodology for setting the limitations and conditions and other related documents are available for public inspection electronically via <http://www.adem.state.al.us/PublicNotice/PublicNotice.htm>, and at the following location Monday through Friday (except legal holidays), 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A nominal fee for copying and/or mailing may be charged. Arrangements for copying should be made in advance. Russell A. Kelly, Chief Permits and Services Division ADEM 1400 Coliseum Blvd. [Mailing address: PO Box 301463; Zip 36130-1463] Montgomery, AL 36110-2059 (334) 271-7714

Persons wishing to comment may do so, in writing, to the Department's named contact above within 30 days following the publication date of this notice. In order to affect final decisions, comments must offer technically substantial information that is applicable to the proposed permit.

A written request for a public hearing may also be filed within that 30-day period and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. The Director shall hold a public hearing whenever it is found, on the basis of hearing requests, that there exists a significant degree of public interest in the permit application or draft permit. The Director may also hold a hearing if he determines that it would clarify one or more issues involved in the permit decision.

After consideration of all written comments, review of any public hearing record, and consideration of the requirements of the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and applicable regulations, the Department will make a final determination on permit issuance. The Department will develop a response to comments, which will become part of the public record and will be available to persons upon request. Notice will be sent to any person requesting notice of the final action.

The Department maintains a list of interested individuals who are mailed legal notices regarding proposed permits. If you wish to receive such notices, contact the Permits & Services Division via telephone (334-271-7714), e-mail (permitsmail@adem.state.al.us), or postal service (P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, AL 36130-1463).

This notice is hereby given this May 22, 2007, by authorization of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. ONIS "TREY" GLENN, III DIRECTOR, ADEM 1T 5.23.07

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Attention Poll Workers
For your convenience, there will be two polling schools held. The first school will be held at the Choctaw County Courthouse in the big courtroom on Thursday, May 24 at 10:00 a.m. The second will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday May 24, 2007 at Alabama Southern Community College.

FOR SALE BY OWNER
Two Tracts Land & Timber
Located in S35-T14N-R4W • Choctaw County, Alabama
Scott Mountain Community

Sale Date:
Friday, June 8, 2007 • 10:00 a.m.

Terms of Offering

- Sealed Bids (Lump Sum)
- May Bid on Land & Timber, Land Only or Timber Only and May Bid on One Tract or Both Tracts Together or Separately.
- 5% Earnest Money Required

Terms of Sale

- Closing on or before 30 days from sale
- Conveyance by General Warranty Deed furnished by the seller
- Landowner reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

For Bid Package & Information, Contact

John L. Graham, Jr.
Consulting Forester
P.O. Box 524
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gforest@galaxycable.net

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