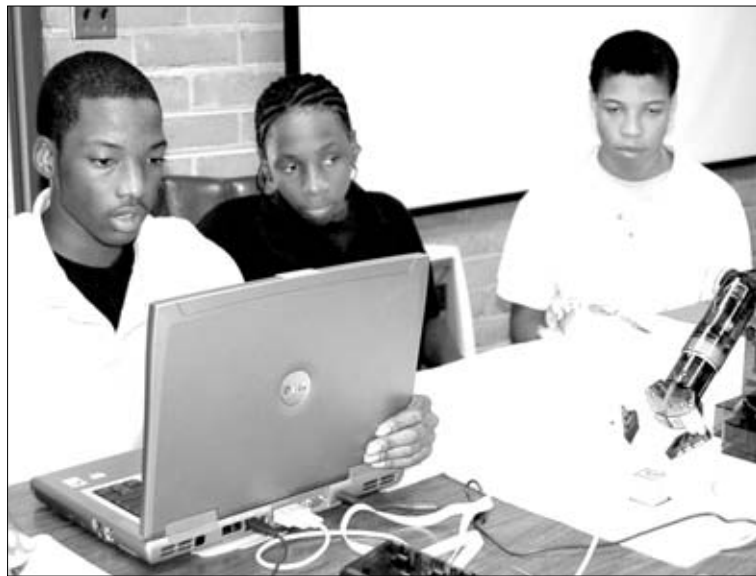


Racing with a robot

BUTLER — It was a race of a different kind at the Tom Orr Vocational Center on Friday — a race of the robots. Students in Mr. Charles Casey's electronics classes at Choctaw Co. High and Southern Choctaw High competed in a contest to see which of the classes had created and programmed the best robotic arm. As a major project for their class this semester, the students built and programmed the arms to move objects from one point to another. **BELOW LEFT:** In the first competition — the computer-programmed maneuvering of the arm — Team A from CCHS took first place. Team members were: Ravis Ruffin (Project Director and Skills USA President), Lee Nicholson, Ricky Bush, Jermaine Bush, and Trey Lassiter. **BELOW RIGHT:** Making up Team B from Southern Choctaw High School were Craig Williams, Cody Thompson, Justin Holyfield, Blake Sikes, Danny Yates, and Travis McLaughlin.

Choctaw Sun photos by Dee Ann Campbell



Crocker's poster headed for state contest

GILBERTOWN — Recently the students and families of Southern Choctaw Elementary School were invited to take part in the Alabama State Department of Education's Third Annual Statewide Family Poster Contest on Parental Involvement. The theme for the 2007-2008 Parental Involvement Month is "Parents — The Link to Success." The posters were to communicate the importance of parental involvement in a child's academic success. The posters were to be a collaborative product of the student's family members. Third grader Kayla Cheyenne Crocker's poster is the winner of both Southern Choctaw Elementary School and the Choctaw Co. School System as a whole. Her winning poster will now go to Montgomery for the statewide judging. Pictured are Principal Jacquelyn James; Cheyenne, and Miranda Coleman, Family Involvement.

Submitted photo

Abston receives NHS scholarship

GILBERTOWN — Laura Abston, a senior at South Choctaw Academy, has been named state winner of a National Honor Society scholarship from the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Daughter of Randy and Melanie Abston of Gilbertown, Laura was selected as one of 53 state winners from among 150 finalists who were chosen from more than 5,700 applications this year. Each state winner will receive a \$1,500 college scholarship.

High school National Honor Society chapters from across the country were invited to nominate two outstanding seniors to be considered for the scholarship, with nominations evaluated on the basis of their leadership skills, participation in service organizations, clubs, and other student groups at school and in the community, as well as their academic records.

As a member of the National Honor Society throughout her high school years, Laura has been actively involved in



Laura Abston

leadership roles within the organization at SCA, including serving as secretary for the club in her junior year.

While at SCA, Laura has also been active in the Student Government Association, serving as its president during her senior year, as well as

AISA District II Representative for the organization. She served as secretary of the SGA as a junior and reporter as a sophomore.

Among her other leadership roles, Laura was elected vice-president of her senior, junior, sophomore, and freshman classes, executive officer of the school's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and president of the Senior and Junior Beta Clubs. She was chosen HOBY representative for SCA as a sophomore, was selected to attend Governor's School as a junior, and was the recipient of the President's Education Award as a freshman.

She has excelled at the top of her class at SCA, earning numerous academic awards in all subject areas throughout high school. She was chosen Most Likely to Succeed, Miss SCA, and Most Outstanding, and was recently named Valedictorian for the SCA Class of 2007.

Headmaster Marcus Ann Dempsey praised Laura for her accomplishment as a NHS

scholarship winner.

"Laura is an outstanding student who has shown exemplary skills as a leader and student," Dempsey said. "She is one of the most motivated students that I have ever taught. She is dependable, self-motivated, and enthusiastic. I am excited that Laura has been selected for this prestigious scholarship."

2007 Teacher of Year ballot



Jeremy Noland
 Teacher of the Month
Sept., 2006



Lisa Becton
 Teacher of the Month
Oct., 2006



Debra Mosley
 Teacher of the Month
Nov., 2006



Patti Christopher
 Teacher of the Month
Dec., 2006



Joy Seybold
 Teacher of the Month
Jan., 2007



Elizabeth Gore
 Teacher of the Month
Feb., 2007



Charles Casey
 Teacher of the Month
March., 2007



Karen Dahlberg
 Teacher of the Month
April, 2007

VOTE

Please place a check mark in the box beside the educator whom you believe deserves to be 2007 Teacher of the Year. Clip this ballot and return the ballot to the Choctaw Sun's Butler or Gilbertown office by Monday, May 14 at noon. **Only original ballots will be counted. No photocopies, please.**

Utility Board Town of Pennington is now accepting applications for a Utilities Superintendent

1. Purpose of this position is professional work in the field of Water and Wastewater treatment.
2. Must have Water/Wastewater certification.
3. Must have a minimum 3 years of experience.
4. Must have High School Diploma or GED equivalent.
5. Must have a valid driver's license and an acceptable Motor Vehicle Record.

Applications can be picked up at The Utilities Department Town of Pennington at 282 Pine Grove Road between the hours of 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.. The deadline for applications will be May 4th, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

The Utilities Board Town of Pennington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Graduation 2007!
HUGE Special Section
Next week in the SUN!