

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

The Choctaw
Sun-Advocate

www.choctawsun.org

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Commission adopts FY27 budget

• Plan includes no special appropriations, no pay raises for employees

By Dee Ann Campbell
BUTLER – The Choctaw County Commission has approved a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027, and the spending plan reflects what Commission Chairman Jason Sturdivant had predicted to be a ‘tough year’ for the county. The Commission voted unanimously on Monday to approve a spending plan that includes no special appropriations for outside entities, a change in employee health insurance policies, and no pay raises for county employees. The meeting was a continuation of a recessed meeting from September 8, when Sturdivant warned that funding would be tight for the upcoming year. Altogether, the approved budget includes about \$22 million. According to County Administrator Jessica Hare, the budget reflects about \$10 million for the construction of the new jail, since that project is not yet complete. Sturdivant said that the facility should be completed in January, with a projected opening in March,

and the FY27 jail budget includes the cost for housing inmates in other counties for the next six months. The budget for the jail will reportedly see an increase of about \$300,000 over the previous year, Sturdivant said. Hare said that it did not effectively appear as an increase since the previous year’s jail spending included some COVID funds. District 1 Commissioner Tony Cherry asked if it would be possible to use some of the county’s share of the state’s opioid lawsuit settlement funds to pay for some jail operation costs, if those costs could be associated with inmates with opioid abuse problems. Sturdivant said that some counties were using the Alabama Department of Mental Health’s ‘Stepping Up’ program, with mental health workers coming into the jail to treat prisoners with opioid addictions. County attorney Lee McPhearson reminded the Commission that there were multiple settlements but all had a similar requirement for the use of funds, adding that the

funds had to be used for opioid education and prevention. Hare said that the Commission should present any proposed use of the settlement funds to the state for their approval before spending the money. Hare also reported that the budget reflects a change in health insurance policies for employees, due to a significant increase in cost for the plan. As of January 1, employees will pay \$150 per month for single coverage and \$300 for family coverage, including health and dental. According to information reported during last year’s budget discussions, the county was paying \$971 per month per employee for single coverage, with employees paying \$37, and \$1974.50 for family coverage, with employees paying \$125. Hare said that, with the increase in premium costs, her office had tried to find a plan with a cost that was close to what the county had been paying out. “To get it back to where we were at, we have to make the

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Patrician defeats South Choctaw
51-28 on Thursday night

Patrician Academy beat South Choctaw Academy 51-28 at Butler on Thursday, Sept. 17, in the meeting of the county’s two unbeaten academy teams, running for 383 yards against the Rebels. See more coverage of this game inside this edition. Ethan Carr (1) is brought down by a crowd of Rebels as Sam Allen Hannah (12) blocks. Carr ran for 223 yards and four touchdowns. One of the SCA players shown is Briar Grice, number 7, who was injured in the game. The game was delayed as medical crews took care of him. He was transported for further care, with good news being reported over the weekend on the SCA football Facebook page. (Photo by Elizabeth Perry)

Choctaw County alumni chapter endows UA scholarship in Carol Henderson Harrell's name



At the National Alumni Association's 2026 Scholarship Endowment Dinner, from left, NAA president Carol Sprayberry, Amy Harrell, Kay Harrell, Patricia Ezell, Choctaw County Chapter president Mark Ezell, Butler Mayor Mike Williams and NAA executive director Jimmy Warren. (Photo courtesy of the University of Alabama National Alumni Association)

The University of Alabama National Alumni Association celebrated the endowment of the Carol Henderson Harrell, RN, and Alabama Nurses Foundation NAA Endowed Scholarship at its Scholarship Endowment Dinner on Sept. 4. The scholarship was established by the association's Choctaw County Chapter to support future UA students. Harrell, of Pennington, was

a registered nurse for more than 30 years in Choctaw County. Trained at Providence School of Nursing in Mobile, she was among the first nurses hired at Butler's first modern hospital, the association said. She is the mother of Kay Harrell and Amy Harrell and the grandmother of Nicholas Harrell, a UA graduate. The Alabama Nurses Foundation provides financial assis-

tance and educational opportunities for nurses and nursing students. The association endowed 25 new alumni scholarships at the dinner. It said it provided about 3,000 students with more than \$5 million in scholarships last year, and that its scholarship contributions reached more than \$3.2 million for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Harvest Ministries hosts Breast Cancer Awareness & Community Health Fair

LISMAN, AL — Harvest Ministries, in collaboration with Fairfield CME Church, John the Baptist Church, and Restoration Life Ministries, will host a Breast Cancer Awareness & Community Health Fair on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at Cromwell-Halsell Volunteer Fire Department, 2872 County Road 7, Lisman, Alabama. The community-wide event is designed to raise awareness about breast cancer, encourage early detection, promote healthy living, and connect residents with valuable health and wellness resources. The event also provides an opportunity for community members to come together in support of individuals and families whose lives have been affected by breast cancer. The day will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a “Walk for the Cure,” led by Fairfield CME Church. Participants are encouraged to come together in solidarity with breast cancer survivors, those currently battling the disease, families who have lost loved ones, and everyone committed to raising awareness and supporting breast cancer prevention and early detection. Beginning at 9:00 a.m., health screenings and com-

munity activities will be available. Registered nurses, healthcare specialists, and representatives from various organizations will be on site to provide information, answer questions, and help attendees learn more about their health. Among the services available will be blood glucose checks and blood pressure checks. Individuals who are uninsured will also have an opportunity to sign up for free mammograms and Pap screenings. Organizers hope these services will make it easier for community members to take important steps toward preventive healthcare. The event will also provide an opportunity for attendees to learn more about healthcare coverage and available resources. Lillie Crockett, a Humana Licensed Medicare Specialist, and Lorenzo Tyler, a United Healthcare Specialist, will be available to provide information and answer questions. Representatives from the Rural Alabama Prevention Center will also participate in the health fair. A special ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will feature guest speakers who will share information, encouragement, and personal experiences related to breast cancer and

cancer care. Featured speakers include Luerese Jackson, a breast cancer survivor, and Kathy Ford, Coordinator with the UAB O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center. Their participation will help bring both personal and professional perspectives to the event and emphasize the importance of awareness, education, support, and early detection. One of the special highlights of the ceremony will be the recognition of breast cancer survivors. Organizers want to honor survivors for their courage, strength, and perseverance while also recognizing the important role that families, caregivers, friends, healthcare professionals, churches, and communities play in supporting those affected by breast cancer. Following the recognition of survivors, participants will take part in a balloon release. The balloon release will provide a meaningful moment of reflection and remembrance as the community honors those affected by breast cancer and continues to encourage hope and support for those facing the disease. Attendees will also receive opportunities to participate in

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Hometown PHARMACY
69 W. Main Street Gilbertown, AL 36908
(251) 843-2400 ~ Fax: (251) 843-2402
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Closed: Saturday & Sunday

Visit us online at
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SunTV Football!
is back on!
Now on YouTube and Pinebelt Cable TV
See inside for details!

Swan Lane
DANCE AND GYM BOUTIQUE
132 West Church Street, Butler, AL • swanlanedanceandgymboutique@gmail.com

More commission budget - from front page

employee pay more for it,” she explained.

During Monday’s meeting, the Commission also discussed the Sheriff’s department budget in regard to the proposed purchase of new vehicles.

The Sheriff’s department had requested, in a previous meeting, that the Commission consider purchasing six new Chevrolet F150 trucks as part of the county’s purchase-resell program. Through the plan, the county purchases new vehicles from state bid lists and resells them on public auction, usually after one year, many times for a profit.

Sturdivant questioned the number of vehicles currently in use by the Sheriff’s Department, stating that there were 18

on the books, including the Homeland Security truck that is listed under Choctaw County Emergency Management Agency, and the large transport bus that was purchased to transport inmates housed in other counties to and from the courthouse for court appearances.

Cherry said that he understood that two of the vehicles listed for the Sheriff’s Department were not currently operable. Sturdivant said that he believed there were 13 in use, adding that the Department employed six full-time deputies and was currently working two to three part-time officers.

Sturdivant suggested waiting until after the election to make a decision about the purchase

of new vehicles. County Engineer Steven Fitzgerald said that it was okay with him to wait to make vehicle purchases for his department as well.

Following the discussions, Commissioner Cherry made the motion to approve the proposed FY27 budget, with District 2 Commissioner Victor Jackson providing the second to the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The Commission also voted to allow Hare to make any necessary amendments to the FY2026 budget to allow for the payout of any bills due for the month of September.

(Watch for a breakdown of FY27 allocations for county departments in an upcoming issue.)

More health fair - from front page

the event's educational and outreach activities. Free breast cancer awareness gift bags will be available, along with special gift bags for breast cancer survivors. Organizers hope these gifts will serve as reminders of the importance of breast health, regular screenings, and continued awareness throughout the year.

A complimentary lunch will follow the program, giving residents an opportunity to fellowship, meet healthcare representatives, connect with community organizations, and share in the day's activities.

Organizers are encouraging everyone attending the event to wear pink as a visible sign of support for breast cancer awareness. Pink clothing, shirts, ribbons, and other pink accessories will help create a unified display of support

throughout the community.

Harvest Ministries has emphasized that the event is open to everyone. The organization is inviting residents from Lisman and surrounding communities, churches, families, breast cancer survivors, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and anyone interested in learning more about breast cancer prevention and overall health.

The Breast Cancer Awareness & Community Health Fair reflects the collaborative spirit of the participating churches and community organizations. By bringing healthcare information, screenings, educational resources, and community support together in one location, organizers hope to help residents become more informed about their health and encourage them to take advantage of

available preventive services.

The event is being made possible through a grant from the Black Belt Community Foundation, which is supporting the effort to bring health awareness and resources directly to the community.

Harvest Ministries and its partnering organizations encourage residents to mark their calendars and make plans to attend this important community event.

Everyone is invited. Wear pink and join Harvest Ministries and its community partners as they come together to promote breast cancer awareness, encourage preventive healthcare, honor survivors, remember loved ones, and support healthier communities.

For more information Contact Annie Walton 205-609-8002

THE SUN SETS ON AN ERA



JOIN US FOR A
CELEBRATION
HONORING TOMMY & DEE ANN CAMPBELL

SEPTEMBER 27

Southern Gatherings
51 East High Street
Gilbertown, AL 36908

2:00-4:00 PM

Come join us

**Choctaw County
Economic Development Alliance**
(Chamber of Commerce)

**Annual Dinner
and Awards Presentation**

in conjunction with the
Choctaw County Chapter of the
United Way of Southwest Alabama

Thursday • October 1, 2026 • 6 p.m.
The Warehouse Industrial Event Venue
212 N. Academy Avenue, Butler, AL 36904

**Working together for
a better future**

For ticket information, call 205-459-3459
or email choctawchamber@tds.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Choctaw County wishes to levy an additional ad valorem tax of up to five (5) mills, beginning October 1, 2027, for no more than five (5) years, with all proceeds used solely for the projects in the Road and Bridge Plan, as advertised below, to improve safety for the traveling public and promote economic development for industry and businesses, and authorizing the Commission to finance such projects through county warrants payable from those tax revenues. The projects shall be completed no later than January 1, 2033.				
PAY AS YOU GO PROGRAM - ROAD AND BRIDGE PLAN (RESURFACING PROJECTS)				
PROPOSED ROAD NAMES & DESCRIPTIONS	TOTAL MILEAGE	ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	PAY AS YOU GO FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS
BENT TREE RD (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 17)	1.46	\$438,000.00	\$438,000.00	
MT OLIVE RD (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 17	0.50	\$152,500.00	\$152,500.00	
CR 42 (From Pine Grove Rd to End of Pavement)	3.35	\$988,250.00	\$988,250.00	
DAKOTA RD (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 17)	0.40	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00	
LOTTTS FERRY RD (From AL 114 to End of Pavement)	0.90	\$202,500.00	\$202,500.00	
WHITE OAK RD (From AL 114 to Grey Fox Rd)	0.35	\$80,500.00	\$80,500.00	
GREY FOX (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 114)	0.65	\$146,250.00	\$146,250.00	
TUSCAHOMA (From AL 10 to End of Maintenance)	4.26	\$1,482,250.00	\$77,000.00	\$1,405,250.00
CR 7 (From CR 32 to End of Pavement)	2.95	\$929,250.00	\$929,250.00	
TINKER RD (From CR 9 to End of Pavement)	2.26	\$644,100.00	\$644,100.00	
SANDY CUT RD (From Riderwood Dr to End of Pavement)	1.60	\$360,000.00	\$360,000.00	
DICEY RD (From Beginning of Pavement to Scott Mt Rd)	0.65	\$152,750.00	\$152,750.00	
MT NEBO RD (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 10)	1.27	\$292,100.00	\$292,100.00	
RIDERWOOD RD (From Sunday Dr to AL 17)	2.00	\$660,000.00	\$419,000.00	\$241,000.00
NARROW RD (From Land Road to Pinhook Rd)	3.12	\$936,000.00	\$936,000.00	
SINGLEY RD (From AL 17 to End of Pavement)	1.95	\$604,500.00	\$604,500.00	
LASSITER RD (From AL 17 to End of Pavement)	1.10	\$308,000.00	\$308,000.00	
SOUWILPA RD (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 17)	1.08	\$313,200.00	\$313,200.00	
TURNERTOWN RD (From Needham Rd to Brightwater Rd)	3.90	\$1,092,000.00	\$91,400.00	\$1,000,600.00
CLARK RD (From AL 17 to Barrytown Rd)	3.00	\$810,000.00	\$810,000.00	
SHADY GROVE RD (From AL 84 to CR 6)	2.50	\$700,000.00	\$700,000.00	
LUCAS RD (From Chapel Hill Rd to Wimberly Rd)	1.47	\$382,200.00	\$382,200.00	
BRIARWOOD RD (From Pleasant Hill Rd to End of Pavement)	1.40	\$294,000.00	\$294,000.00	
MOSLEY BRIDGE RD (From Barrytown Rd to Chapel Hill Rd)	3.98	\$1,134,300.00	\$88,500.00	\$1,045,800.00
TOTAL PROPOSED MILEAGE =	46.10	\$13,192,650.00	\$9,500,000.00	\$3,692,650.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED PAY AS YOU GO FUNDS =		\$9,500,000.00		

NEWS AND EVENTS

OBITUARIES

Barbara Antonia Akins

Barbara Antonia Akins, age 89, of Linden, Alabama passed away September 17, 2026 at Woodhaven Manor Nursing Home in Demopolis, Alabama. She was born February 24, 1937 in Aliceville, Alabama to Floyd Stanil and Addie Lou Pate. She was a former manager of Auburn Rural Studio and a member of Linden Baptist Church.

She is survived by her children, David Lynn Akins (Ann), Terri Moore (Steve), Patrick Floyd Akins (Leigh), Paul Henry Akins, and Glen Allen Akins (Amy Jo); daughter-in-law, Kathy Akins; sister, Carol Phifer (Ron); thirteen, grandchildren, Chris, Anna, Tyler, Grant, Morgan, Taylor, Catherine, Philip, Audrey, Walker, Addie Grace, Sam, and Sawyer; and two great grandchildren, Wyatt and Lily.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Kemp Akins; son, John Kemp “Ken” Akins, Jr.; and grandson, Daniel Lynn Akins.

Graveside funeral services were held at Linden Memorial Park on Monday, September 21, 2026 at 10:30 am with Donnie Cobb officiating.

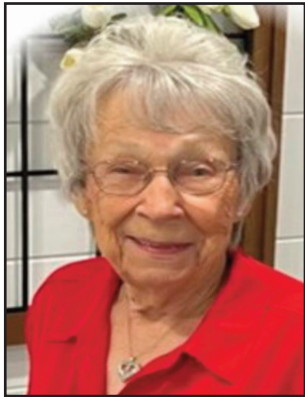
Active pallbearers were Chris Moore, Grant Akins, Philip Akins, Sam Akins, Walker Akins, Sawyer Skins, Tyler Moore, and alternate, Wyatt Moore.

Honorary pallbearers were all the kids of the Linden City Pool.

Condolences may be offered at obryantchapelfh.com

Arrangements by O’Bryant Chapel Funeral Home.

Lillie Ruth Kelley Allen



Lillie Ruth Kelley Allen, 84, of Butler died August 12 in Mobile County with her family by her side. She was born February 6, 1942, in Choctaw County to A.J. Kelley and Tiny Wright Kelley.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Allen; her parents; her brothers, J.C. Kelley and Trey Kelley; and her sisters, Geraldine Allen and Doris Johnson.

She is survived by her sons, William Mark Allen and his wife, Andrea, of Robertsdale, and Michael J. Allen and his

wife, Angela, of Silverhill; her daughter, Ramona Jacobs and her husband, Doug, of Kathmandu, Nepal; her sister, Anne Shoemaker of Butler; her grandchildren, Meredith Powell (Johnny), Luke Jacobs, Sierra Walker (Cooper), Seth Allen (Lauren), Brandon Allen (Sierra), Ashlyn Allen and Wesley Mosley; and her great-grandchildren, Tucker, Charlie, Sawyer, Ellee Mae, Skyler, Ollie and Payton, who is arriving in December.

Visitation was held Sunday, August 16, from 3 to 4 p.m. at Butler First Assembly of God Church, 1701 East Pushmataha Street, Butler, and funeral services followed at 4 p.m. at the church, with the Rev. Phyllis Fulcher and the Rev. Justin Overstreet officiating. Interment followed in Rest Haven Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Her grandchildren served as pallbearers.

Bumpers Funeral Home of Butler directed.

Rebecca "Becky" Bonner



Rebecca "Becky" Bonner, 60, graced this world with her presence on November 24, 1965, in Fort Myers, Fla., and departed from us on September 17 while living at Diversicare in Quitman, Miss. Becky was a beacon of warmth and humor, whose life was a testament to love, laughter and the joy of family.

Born to Rex Odell Bonner and Patsy Clemons Bonner, Becky was the youngest of four girls and quickly filled her role as baby sister. Though she is now reunited with her beloved parents and her dear sister, Marty Evelyn "Amy" Bonner, her spirit continues to shine brightly in the lives of her family and friends.

Becky was a mother to her children, Brandon and Bradley Carlisle and Amber Robinson. Her legacy lives on through her grandchildren, Evie Robinson and Cruz Carlisle. She is also survived by her sisters, Debbie Downey and Patti Kirk.

She was a woman of remarkable character, known for her quick humor and infectious smile. Becky kept everyone on their toes with her quick wit and amusing takes on life. She was a terrific cook, and she de-

lighted in serving countless meals to her close-knit family, each dish prepared with love and care. She was also a tremendous opponent or partner in the thousands of game nights around our kitchen table filled with laughter and fun.

A celebration of Becky's life was held September 21 at 11 a.m. at Phillips Funeral Home in Gilbertown, with the Rev. Doug Chapman officiating. Visitation was held from 10 to 11 a.m. before the service at the funeral home, and interment followed in Brightwater Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jon Roberts, Adam Roberts, Michael Roberts, David Turner, Sambo Robinson, Adrian Kelly and Cade Kelly. Honorary pallbearers were John Elmer and Ann Bonner.

After the graveside service, Becky's family hosted a reception at the New Hope Volunteer Fire Department, 2887 New Hope Road, Needham. Friends and family were invited to gather in remembrance of a well-lived life, to share stories and to honor the enduring impact Becky had on all who knew her.

Becky will be dearly missed, but her legacy of love, laughter and warmth will continue to inspire all those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Expressions of condolence may be offered at phillips-funeral-home.com. Phillips Funeral Home of Gilbertown directed.

Patricia Frances Cordier Cooper

Patricia Frances Cordier Cooper, 86, of Greensboro, Ga., died Friday, August 21, at her home. She was born in Chicago on March 16, 1940, the daughter of the late Helen Franz Cordier and Fredrick Leo Cordier.

On June 4, 1960, she married Wilburn Eugene Cooper of Choctaw County. An enthusiastic card player and passionate golfer, Pat was well known for her skills in both during family gatherings and on the golf course. She also enjoyed sewing and quilting.

She was preceded in death by her husband and by her sister, Donna.

She is survived by her children, Karen Johnson and her husband, Mark, of Monroe, Tenn., Tracy (Sheri) of Warette, Okla., Kevin Cooper and his wife, Savannah, of Lavaca, Ark., and Brian Cooper and his wife, Christy, of Monroe, Ga.; her brother, Ken, and his wife, Mary Ellen; five grandchildren, Brandon (Stephanie), Alex (Ellie), Erik, Desiree and Taisha; eight great-grandchildren, Amelia, Rally June, Basil, Lerus, Akila, Hassan, Imir and Khalil; her sister-in-law, Virginia Cooper Singley of Butler, to whom she was very close; and numerous nieces, nephews and their children and grand-

children.

A memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, October 9, at Christ Our King and Savior Catholic Church, 6341 Lake Oconee Parkway, Greensboro, Ga., with Father Adam Blatt officiating, and a reception will follow in the social hall. A graveside prayer and burial will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, October 11, at Barrytown Cemetery, 1298 Barrytown Road, Gilbertown.

Bumpers Funeral Home of Butler is in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Upper Cumberland Habitat for Humanity, 1546 East Spring Street, Suite B, Cookeville, TN 38506, or to the Lake Oconee Humane Society, 1020 Park Avenue, Suite 101, Greensboro, GA 30642.

Ms. Joyce Jackson Johnson

Jul 5, 1949 — Sep 15, 2026

Ms. Joyce Jackson Johnson of Demopolis entered into eternal rest September 15, 2026, at Northgate Health and Rehabilitation Center in Bessemer, Alabama. In accordance with the family's wishes, a private service will be held. Larkin and Scott Mortuary, LLC entrusted with arrangements.

Jamaine Kirksey

August 2, 1988 ~ September 19, 2026 (age 38)

PUBLIC VIEWING
Friday, September 25, 2026, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Law Mortuary
161 Panther Drive, Dixons Mills, Alabama 36736
CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Saturday, September 26, 2026 at 12:00 PM

Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church, 1744 Shiloh Church Road, Dixons Mills, AL 36736
INTERMENT FOLLOWING FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, September 26, 2026 , Polly Robinson Cemetery , Dixons Mills, AL 36736

Anthony McGrew



Graveside Services for Brother Anthony McGrew, 68, were held Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 11:00am at Pleasant Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery, 352 Pleasant Chapel Church Rd, Silas, AL with Pastor Jaylon Hundley, presiding.

Brother Anthony McGrew was born Dec 7, 1957, to Jessie

and Ruby Lee McGrew. Early in life he united with Pleasant Chapel Baptist Church. He departed this life Sept 15, 2026, at his home. He was preceded in death by his father.

He leaves to cherish his memories: wife, Gloria Mitchell-McGrew; son, Apostle Robert Duane (Samantha) Mitchell; four grandchildren, Emmanuel, JaKayla, Robert Duane Jr, & Kingston Mitchell; two great grandchildren, Emmanuel Mitchell, Jr. and Josiah Haymer; mother, Ruby Lee McGrew; five brothers, Jessie Jr (Printella) McGrew, Johnny (Cassandra) McGrew, Wallace (Lashondia) McGrew, all of Silas.

Al, Joe (Yvette) McGrew, of Montgomery, Al, Donny (Stacy) McGrew, of Waynesboro, MS; five sisters, Carrie Williams, of Gainesville, FL, Evelyn (Joe) Philon, Belinda (Eric) Taylor, Frankie (Jimmie) McCarter, Sarah (Arlando) Datcher, all of Silas, AL; In-laws, Robet Lee Sr (Ellar Dee, deceased) Mitchell, Eddie Mitchell, Robert Lee III (Ida Mae) Mitchell, Sherri (Daryl) Thomas, Eva Mitchell; one uncle,

Bishop Walter McGrew Sr; four aunts, Claudia Cunningham, Carrie Willson, Vina Cunningham, Betty Cunningham; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The Celebration of Life Service was rendered by Weatherly-Studdard Memorial Funeral Home, 111 Vanity Fair Ave, Butler, AL 36904. To submit condolences to the family, please log onto our website at: www.weatherly-studdard.com.

Julia Auwice Carlisle Otterberg



Julia Auwice Carlisle Otterberg, 97, of Butler, died Monday, Sept. 14, in Butler. She was born Aug. 2, 1929, in Millry.

She was the clerk and treasurer for the town of Butler for 34 years. She was a faithful member of First Methodist Church of Butler, and she loved Alabama football and playing golf with the ladies at the country club.

She was preceded in death by her father, Stephen Carlisle; her mother, Avie Gunn Carlisle; her daughters, Deborah W. Morgan and Glenda W. Gardner; her son, Russell L. Wainright; her son-in-law,

Billy Morgan; and her special friend, Charlene "Ruby" Sykes.

She is survived by her daughter, Suellyn W. Norwood (Clay); grandchildren Ashlie Norwood Cornett (Tyler), Avie Norwood Lindsey, Stephen Lyle Wainright and Tisha Morgan Black (Andy); great-grandchildren Jay Lindsey, Jackson Lindsey, Ryan Black, Addie Barrow, Russell Abston and Emily Black Howell; and a great-great-grandchild, Lainey Howell.

A celebration of life service was held Friday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Bumpers Funeral Home in Butler, with the Rev. Dric Williford officiating and Lee McPhearson delivering the eulogy. Burial followed in Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Butler. Visitation was held at the funeral home at 10 a.m. Friday.

Pallbearers were Jay Lindsey, Jackson Lindsey, Tyler Cornett, Andy Black, Jonathan Lindsey, Jeff Fuller and Russell Abston. Honorary pallbearers were the Ladies Golf Association at the Choctaw County Country Club.

Bumpers Funeral Home of Butler directed.

Charles Rogell Tucker

Charles Rogell Tucker, age 89, of Linden passed away September 15, 2026 at Hospice of West Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He was born November 2, 1936 in Half Acre, Alabama, to Quintus LaFayette and Irene Vick Tucker. He was a former paper mill worker, a member of Forest Hill Baptist Church, and a dedicated founding member of the Marengo County Rescue Squad.

He is survived by his daughter, Rachel Wilhite (Vann); brothers, Kenneth Tucker and Waldon Tucker; sister, Debbie Williams; and granddaughter by choice, Jessica Sorrells.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Patsy Tucker; his parents, Quintus LaFayette and Irene Vick Tucker; and siblings, Elizabeth Noble, Evelyn Chancellor, Christine Luker, Allen Tucker, and Mason Tucker.

Funeral services were held at Forest Hill Baptist Church on Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 11:00 am with Rev. Wayne Sharpe officiating. Burial followed at Thomaston Cemetery.

Active pallbearers were members of the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads and members of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments.

Memorials may be made to the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads.

Condolences may be offered at obryantchapelfh.com

Arrangements by O’Bryant Chapel Funeral Home

ALEA SBI launches death investigation in Clarke County

CLARKE COUNTY – On Friday, September 18, at approximately 12:30 a.m., Special Agents assigned to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency’s (ALEA) State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) launched a death investigation at the request of the Clarke County District Attorney’s Office.

In the early morning hours, Deputies with the Clarke County Sheriff’s Office received a call for service regarding a domestic violence incident that occurred at a residence on Highway 154 in Coffeeville, located within Clarke County. John Craig Milstead, 58, of Coffeeville, was found to be fatally injured

by gunfire and was pronounced deceased at the scene. No arrests have been made at this time.

Nothing further is available as the investigation remains ongoing. Once complete, the findings will be turned over to the Clarke County District Attorney’s Office.

Hunters asked to 'Donate a Doe' to feed Alabama families

Venison Provisions, an Alabama program that turns donated deer into meals for families in need, is asking hunters to pledge a doe this season as part of the National Deer Association's #DonateADoe initiative.

Hunters who harvest a deer they want to donate bring it to a participating drop-off, then post a photo with the harvest or the donated meat, tag the #DonateADoe page and challenge

three friends to do the same. Pledging a harvest ahead of time helps the program plan logistics, it said.

Citing figures that 919,160 Alabamians, including one in four children, face hunger, the group notes that nearly 236,000 Alabama deer hunters harvested more than 330,000 deer in the 2024-25 season, more than 176,000 of them does.

The listed drop-off location

is Shana's Place LLC, 1884 County Road 6, Shorter. Venison Provisions is also looking for deer processors willing to partner with the program and for businesses, churches, hunting clubs and landowners to host its donation trailer for a week during the 2026-27 season.

To pledge a doe, partner as a processor or host the trailer, call 334-439-5080 or visit venison-provisions.org.

Candidates -
Put your message in front of your voters.

Newspaper readers care about elections in their communities.

Email us today at
sunadvocate@tombigbeenewsgroup.com

It’s easy to place your classified ad in newspapers statewide or just here at home

Email us at *sunadvocate@tombigbeenews-*

VIEWPOINTS

MY VIEW

Maybe we should all go jump in a big pile of leaves

The temperature may not show it just yet, but Fall's a'comin' and I'm glad.

The Autumnal Equinox — from the Latin, *aequus*, meaning “equal,” and *nox*, “night”, when day and night are roughly equal in length — officially began Tuesday. It's been a long, hot summer with several weeks of temps hitting the 100s and the change will be welcome.

What excites you about the season? What are you ready for?

The "signs" embedded in the Good Lord's awesome planet are what I look forward to.

Out near the wood line of my house last week I saw one of the boldest announcements of the season ... the "spiders" are back. Not the creepy-crawly, eight-legged kind that bite you ... the beautiful bright red Spider Lilies -- *Lycoris radiata*, for you botanically-inclined readers -- which pop up out of nowhere and dot our yard with an end-of-summer splash of color.

The appearance of the "spiders" -- also known as "Equinox



Tommy Campbell

Flowers" -- is a sure-fire signal that shorter days, cooler temperatures, and multicolored leaves on trees are just around the corner.

I don't care what you call it ... autumn, fall, Indian Summer ... I'm just tickled that it's here.

When temps dip below 80 in the daytime and into the 50s and at night, that stirs something deep in my autumn-loving soul.

I love the crispness of the air in the early mornings and late afternoons, the smell of smoke from a wood-burning fireplace, the first killing frost, and looking forward to pending time with loved ones at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I am ready to see the

handiwork of God one more time as He paints the oaks, hickories, gums, maples, sumacs and shrubs with red, gold, orange, purple and yellow, and colors the fields and rights-of-ways yellow with goldenrods and Black-Eyed Daisies.

Fall means college football, too, and I am a lifelong Alabama fan, so ROLLLL TIDE!

And let's not forget the nights when you can turn off the A/C, open the windows and cover up with a handmade quilt. Both of my late grandmothers, Lottie Sims and Eva Skelton -- bless 'em -- were master quilters and every year when its time to get their masterpieces out of the closet, I am grateful for the love that went into every stitch.

I like the pumpkins and Jack-O-Lanterns that show up on porches, bales of hay and cornstalks alongside the road, and the lemon yellows, crimsons, and purples of mums that brighten up front porches and around mailboxes.

The animal kingdom notices the changes, too. Hummingbirds are right now getting their final

drinks from feeders before their biological GPS beacons summon them southward, toward the Caribbean and tropical regions of Central and South America, so that their tiny little bodies won't freeze in our winters.

Flocks of ducks and geese are beginning to follow their instincts southward as they, too, hunt warmer places to hang out for the winter months. Last week at a football game, I heard some "honks" and looked up to see one of their "V" shaped flocks pass overhead in perfect formation.

Deer and turkeys are on the move, and squirrels by the dozen are monitoring the mast trees in our yard, waiting to stash acorns, pecans and hickory nuts for the cold days ahead.

Heck, there's something akin to a revival of the soul in the smells of fall, too. The scent of late-summer hay on the ground waiting to be baled, for one, and wild muscadines ripening on vines.

You know what I'm talkin' about ... walk around outside in the af-

ternoon on a still, cool Indian Summer afternoon under a blue sky dotted by cotton-like puffs of drifting cumulus clouds, watch the shadows they cast on the ground, take a big deep breath and enjoy.

And for just a few minutes, put the cares and worries of the world behind and just be glad you're alive to appreciate it.

Maybe we should all turn off the TVs, cell phones, get our noses out of Fakebook and off the internet, and get outside.

Go for walks and hold hands with someone special in your life.

Take in a few ball games.

Go to a fall revival and sing the old tunes one more time from a dog-eared hymnal.

Throw on a sweater and sit on the porch on a late afternoon with a cup of hot coffee or chocolate and watch the leaves fall and the sun set.

Listen to the lonesome calls of a whippoorwill (Hank Williams sang about that ... remember?), a mourning dove, or an owl.

Visit a shut-in neigh-

bor on a Sunday after church and share some good old-fashioned love and fellowship. While you're there, see how they are situated for the coming winter, too. This might be a good time to help re-stock someone's woodpile, add insulation to a drafty home, or wrap their outdoor waterpipes or put insulator cups on faucets for the freezing nights ahead.

When our children were small, fall was a time for raking up piles of leaves and letting them run and jump in the middle. Kids are so unlike us dumb grownups because they haven't become so involved with the "world" and its busy-ness that they have forgotten how to play, laugh, and have fun. It created extra work, alright, but listening to their happy squeals as they went running and dove head-long into those piles of leaves, scattering them over half the yard, was more than worth it.

Maybe we all need to take time to jump into a big pile of leaves and learn how to slow down ... and laugh again.

It would do all of us a world of good.

Gee's Bend gets a free digital guide ahead of Oct. 3 Airing of the Quilts

Souls Grown Deep launched a free digital guide to Gee's Bend on Tuesday, Sept. 15, on Bloomberg Connects, the arts and culture app run by Bloomberg Philanthropies, with the Wilcox County community's fifth annual Airing of the Quilts Festival set for Saturday, Oct. 3.

The guide carries new and archival audio and video of Gee's Bend quiltmakers, including Mary Lee Bendolph, Arlonzia Pettway, Loretta Pettway, Annie Mae Young, Lucy Mingo, Essie Bendolph Pettway, Loretta Pettway Bennett and Mary Virginia Pettway, along with archival photographs and visitor information: directions, including the Gee's Bend Ferry crossing from Camden, hours and accessibility.

It also covers the Gee's Bend Heritage Trail, a self-guided driving tour of the quiltmakers' community; the timeline display "A History of Gee's Bend From 1816 to the Present" at the Gee's Bend Welcome Center; and "Between History and Memory: Dinah Miller's Legacy in Gee's Bend," an exhibition on the community's earliest known named quilter,

brought from West Africa as a girl in 1860, likely aboard the *Clotilda*. The audio includes a 1941 recording of Isom Mosely, one of about two dozen known recordings of formerly enslaved Americans, and Bendolph and Mingo recounting their fight to register to vote in Wilcox County.

"For generations, the world has come to know Gee's Bend through our quilts, but too often the benefits of that attention never made it back across the river," said Gloria Carey, granddaughter of quilter Rachel Carey George and an advisory board member of Visit Gee's Bend, a cultural tourism effort supported by Souls Grown Deep. "This guide helps change that. It invites people to come see us, to meet the makers, to buy directly from the artists and to experience this community the way we know it, on our own terms and in our own voices."

The Airing of the Quilts Festival runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Gee's Bend Welcome Center, 12021 County Road 29, rain or shine, with quilt displays and sales, demonstrations, hands-on quilting workshops for all ages, guided

tours with local quilters, storytelling, live music and food vendors. It is organized by Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy and Sew Gee's Bend Heritage Builders. Organizers put last year's attendance at about 3,000 and its economic impact for Alabama at \$878,000, and Wells Fargo has joined as a sponsor this year.

"They don't just see quilts, they meet the women and families behind them," said Claudia Pettway Charley, co-founder of Sew Gee's Bend Heritage Builders.

Tickets, with a recommended donation to support the quilting community, are at airingofthequilts.org. Most of the festival is outdoors on uneven ground, and visitors using wheelchairs, walkers or other mobility aids should plan accordingly, organizers said.

The Welcome Center and River Gallery are open Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Bloomberg Connects app is a free download from Google Play or the App Store. The community appears on maps as Boykin and Alberta; residents call it Gee's Bend.



The festival includes hands-on workshops, guided tours of the community, exhibitions, food vendors and live music. (Photo by Steve Pitkin, Airing of the Quilts)

Museum brings 'Mapping Black Communities' talk to Gilberttown Oct. 3

The Choctaw County Historical Museum has received a grant from the Alabama Humanities Alliance to bring Justin Rudder, a speaker in the alliance's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, to Gilberttown on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m. His talk, "Mapping Black Communities" in the Choctaw County area, is free and open to the public.

Rudder is a digital asset archivist at the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the proprietor of Digital Grassroots.

The Road Scholars bureau, begun in 1987, sends historians, storytellers, authors, artists and other speakers to libraries, historical societies, senior centers, museums, churches and civic groups across the state.

The museum, at 40 Melvin Road in Gilberttown, was established Sept. 4, 1987, and is run by volunteers under a nine-member board. It is open Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon; after-hours and group tours can be arranged by calling 251-843-2501 or emailing choctaw.museum@mail.com.

Have something to say? Write a letter to the editor!
Include your name and contact information.
sunadvocate@tombigbeenewsgroup.com

Email your sports and outdoors photos to
sunadvocate@tombigbeenewsgroup.com

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NEW CONTACT INFORMATION for The Choctaw Sun-Advocate

By Email:
sunadvocate@tombigbeenewsgroup.com
By Phone: 1-251-843-6397
By Mail:
P.O. Box 541 • Demopolis, AL 36732

CHOCTAW LIVING

Upcoming Events

Chamber of Commerce annual dinner is October 1

BUTLER – The Choctaw County Economic Development Alliance (former Chamber of Commerce) will hold its annual dinner on Thursday, October 1, at The Warehouse in Butler.

The event will include presentations of awards for Choctaw County Business of the Year, Business Person of the Year, and the annual Tim Pearson Memorial Award for Community Service.

The United Way of Southwest Alabama will partner with the Chamber at this year's dinner to present their annual Choctaw County Heart of Gold Awards.

Andrew Noble, President of Georgia-Pacific's Tissue Towel and Napkin Division, will be keynote speaker for the event.

Noble started leading the GP Retail Tissue Towel and Napkin (TTN) business this past March. He and the extended team focus on ensuring GP Retail TTN delivers value to its consumers through a portfolio of products and customer brands.

A graduate of Oglethorpe University with a B.S. in Accounting, Noble joined Georgia-Pacific in 1997, spending the first 10+ years of his career in Accounting and Finance roles in Building Products, the Palatka mill, and the Retail TTN and Dixie businesses. He transitioned into general management roles in 2009 and worked on different parts of the Dixie business from 2009-2016. Prior to taking on his current role, he led the Angel Soft and Dixie Plates businesses.

Members of the CCEDA (Chamber) will receive special invitations with some complimentary tickets to the event, and the public is also invited to attend.

Seating is limited, and RSVP (by September 23) is required for attendance.

Tickets will be \$40 each, or \$75 per couple.

For information, contact the CCEDA at 205-459-3459 or email choctawchamber@tds.net.

Free forest carbon workshop set Sept. 24 in Linden

Landowners can learn about no-cost ways to earn income from their forestland at a free Family Forest Carbon Program workshop Thursday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Marengo County Economic Development Center, 2400 E. Coats Ave., Linden.

Two sessions are planned: "Fields and Forests: Turn Your Idle Fields Into Forests and Income" and "Growing Mature Forests: Delayed Harvest on Natural Hardwoods." The Family Forest Carbon Program, a partnership of the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, pays family landowners for forest practices that store carbon.

Lunch will be provided, and the workshop offers two hours of forestry and professional logging manager continuing education credit.

The workshop is hosted by the Marengo County Forestry Committee in partnership with the Alabama Forestry Foundation, Alabama Extension, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, the Alabama Wildlife

life Federation and the Marengo County Conservation District.

To register, call 334-318-4024.

Friendship Baptist sets fall revival beginning Sept. 27

Friendship Baptist Church in the Vineland community will hold fall revival services Sunday, Sept. 27, through Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Sunday services will be at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Weeknight services will be at 6:30 p.m.

Speakers, in order of appearance, are Bro. Terry Lolley, Bro. Ty Glass, Bro. Allen Atkins, Bro. Chris Kynard and Bro. Tommy Campbell. The music team will be Mitzi Gates and Rhonda Harris.

Pastor Clay Davis invites all to attend.

Gilfield Missionary Baptist marks 152nd anniversary Oct. 25

Gilfield Missionary Baptist Church will hold its 152nd annual church anniversary celebration Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Craig B. Scott of Mt. Ararat Missionary Baptist Church in Prattville. The Rev. Terrence L. Burrell Sr. is the pastor.

Gilfield Missionary Baptist holds Choir Day Sept. 27

Gilfield Missionary Baptist Church, 7171 Highway 10 in Lisman, will hold its Choir Day on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 2 p.m.

The Rev. Willie R. Clark, pastor of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Meridian, Miss., will be the guest speaker.

All groups, soloists

and choirs are invited, and everyone is welcome.

CCHS classes of 1959 through 1968 to gather Oct. 3

A reunion for Choctaw County High School's classes of 1959 through 1968 will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, beginning at noon at Ezell's Fish Camp.

New Mt. Mariah plans Family and Friends Day Oct. 11

New Mt. Mariah Missionary Baptist Church, 40439 Alabama Highway 10, Sweetwater, will hold its Family and Friends Day program Sunday, Oct. 11, at 1 p.m.

The church invites its family and friends to celebrate the day with the congregation, whose motto is "One Body. One Soul. One Goal."

Night in White to honor Pastor and Lila Hundley Oct. 3

A Night in White honoring Pastor Jaylon Hundley and Lila Hundley of Pleasant Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Silas, will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at 4 p.m. at the Butler Senior Citizens Center. Everyone is welcome.

Annual Homecoming & Revival Services to be held at Little Walker CME Church

Annual Homecoming & Revival Services to be held at Little Walker CME Church on Sunday September 27th 2026 @ 2 pm. The Guest speaker for our Homecoming will be Rev. Jaylon Hundley, Pastor of the Pleasant Chapel MB Church, Silas, AL. along with his choir and congregation.

Revival will be September 28, 2026 thru September

30, 2026. Guest Speaker will be Rev. Dr. B. Emmanuel Luther Sr. Pastor of Stewart Memorial CME Church Mobile, AL. 7-PM each night. Everyone is invited.

BBCF Throw & Go contest offers Magic City Classic tickets

The Black Belt Community Foundation's Throw & Go contest is open, with the winner receiving two tickets to the Magic City Classic football game between Alabama A&M and Alabama State in Birmingham, plus a two-night stay at a Birmingham hotel.

Entries are \$5 each, with bonus entries for donations of \$20 or more. Proceeds support the foundation's community grants in its 12 Black Belt service counties.

The last day to buy entries is Thursday, Oct. 15, at noon, and the drawing is Friday, Oct. 16. Enter at blackbeltfound.org/throwandgo.

ABSTON FAMILY REUNION,

October 11, Gilbertown Nutrition Center, beginning at 10 a.m. Bring covered dish.

Shady Grove Baptist revival begins Sept. 27

Shady Grove Baptist Church in Silas will hold revival services beginning Sunday, Sept. 27, at 2 p.m., with the Rev. Christopher Ducksworth, pastor of New Truelight Baptist Church in Koenton, as guest speaker.

Services continue Monday through Wednesday, Sept. 28 through 30, at 7 p.m. nightly, with the Rev. Sharrod Coleman, pastor of Bethel No. 1 Baptist Church in Opelika, as evangelist.

Butler Fest set for Oct. 9 and 10 with rides, vendors and three bands

The 21st annual Butler Fest will be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 9 and 10, in Butler, with carnival rides, vendors and live music, according to the festival's flyers.

3 Miles South plays Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. On Saturday, Cruisin 8th plays from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Big Mike and the R&B Kings from 6 to 9 p.m.

Festival T-shirts are \$25 in youth sizes through adult extra-large and \$30 in adult 2X through 4X.

The flyers say more information is coming and that the festival posts on Facebook and Instagram.

Jniya Parker of Silas on UA president's list

Jniya Parker of Silas was named to the University of Alabama president's list for the summer semester, for a 4.0 grade-point average. The president's and dean's lists recognize full-time undergraduates; 624 students made the two lists for the summer term.

Mt. Pisgah MB Church has Friend and Family Day on Sept. 27

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, 43323 Highway 17, Jachin, Alabama will have their Annual Family & Friends Day Program on Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Rev. Robert Hopson, pastor of Greater Progressive Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, Meridian, Mississippi will be the guest speaker for this special occasion, along with his congregation. Rev. Sammie Bourrage, Pastor.

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STOP Elder Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation

Submit a report to the Alabama Department of Human Resources Adult Protective Services Division

1-800-458-7214
aps@dhr.alabama.gov



Shady Grove Baptist Church in Silas, Alabama - Revival Services

Sunday, September 27, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.
Rev. Christopher Ducksworth, Pastor of New Truelight Baptist Church in Koenton, Alabama, will be the guest speaker.

Monday Through Wednesday Night - September 28, 2026 - September 30, 2026 - Time: 7:00 P.M. Each Night
Rev. Sharrod Coleman, Pastor of Bethel No. 1 Baptist Church in Opelika, Alabama, will be the guest evangelist.



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- 3-bedroom 2-bath home on 1 acre at 964 Wimberly Road, Gilbertown, with finished shop, patio, and enclosed carport
- 4-bedroom 3.5-bath with formal dining and living room at 406 Patrick Place, Butler.

Call Village Properties at 205-457-1909. LTS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE — 1999 16x80 mobile home, 3BR, 2 full Baths, large living room and kitchen. \$15,500. Call 1-334-643-0489. LTS

FOR SALE – Like new 2024 Kawasaki Vulcun 900 Classic LT – 230 miles, \$6500; Text Mike at 205-457-2060. LTS

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

Lewis General Contractors, Inc. hereby gives notice of completion of contract with the Town of Butler for construction of Project No. 2503 in Choctaw County. This notice will appear for four consecutive weeks beginning September 10, 2026 and ending October 1, 2026. All claims should be filed at 25 West Front Street, Thomasville, AL 36784 during this period. Lewis General Contractors, Inc. *published 9/9; 9/16, 9/23, 9/30/26*

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CHOCTAW COUNTY, ALABAMA
IN RE: The Estate of OLEN BRUCE TAYLOR, Deceased.

CASE NO. S-2026-00051

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 14th day of September, 2026, by the Honorable JASON B. STURDIVANT, Judge of the Probate Court of Choctaw County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present same within the time allowed by law or the same will be

barred.
OLEN BRUCE TAYLOR, JR., Administrator of the Estate of OLEN BRUCE TAYLOR
published 9/16; 9/23; 9/30/26.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT STATE OF ALABAMA CHOCTAW COUNTY IN THE PROBATE COURT
CASE NO. S-2026-00059
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DELORES O. BUCKALEW, DECEASED.

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 11th day of September, 2026, by the Honorable JASON B. STURDIVANT, Judge of the Probate Court of Choctaw County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

KIM BUCKALEW SKINNER and KENNETH R. BUCKALEW, JR., Co-Executors of the Estate of DELORES O. BUCKALEW, Deceased: Kim Buckalew Skinner, Co-Executor Kenneth R. Buckalew, Jr., Co-Executor

published 9/16; 9/23; 9/30/26

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT STATE OF ALABAMA CHOCTAW COUNTY IN THE PROBATE COURT
CASE NO. S-2026-00058
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF KENNETH R. BUCKALEW, DECEASED.

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 11th day of September, 2026, by the Honorable JASON B. STURDIVANT, Judge of the Probate Court of Choctaw County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

KIM BUCKALEW SKINNER and KENNETH R. BUCKALEW, JR., Co-Executors of the Estate of KENNETH R. BUCKALEW, Deceased: Kim Buckalew Skinner, Co-Executor Kenneth R. Buckalew, Jr. Co-Executor
published 9/16; 9/23; 9/30/26

LEGAL NOTICE
S T Bunn Construction

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act, the Alabama Fair Housing Law, and the Mobile Code, which make it illegal to advertise any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, familial status, or ancestry, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. To report discrimination, call the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at (800) 669-9777. The HUD TTY number for the hearing impaired is (212) 708-1455.

Co., Inc. hereby gives Notice of Completion of contract with project CCP 12-01-24 CR-1 Choctaw Fayette County

This notice will appear for three (3) consecutive weeks beginning on September 16, 2026 and ending on September 30, 2026. All claims shall be filed at 611 Helen Keller Blvd. Tuscaloosa, AL 35404 during this period.

S T Bunn Construction Co., Inc.
published 9/16; 9/23; 9/30/26

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CHOCTAW COUNTY, ALABAMA
IN RE: The Estate of GUY COLUMBUS LUKER, JR., Deceased.
CASE NO. S-2026-00062

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 17th day of September, 2026, by the Honorable JASON B. STURDIVANT, Judge of the Probate Court of Choctaw County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

STEPHANIE LONG LUKER, Administratrix of the Estate of GUY COLUMBUS LUKER, JR.
published 9/23; 9/30; 10/7/26

SERVICES

Available to sit with elderly, sick, or disabled. Experienced and can provide references.
Call 205-499-4922.

LOCAL ARREST RECORD

The following is a list of individuals arrested by local law enforcement over the past two weeks.
All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in court.

From the Choctaw County Sheriff's Office		cation, Failure to Pay (Receiving Stolen Property.		cation for Receiving Stolen Property 1st.	
Kenny Turner	9/2/26	Crystal Adams	Loper	Lemarvin Deshawn Portis	
Failure to Pay (Assault 3rd).		9/17/26	Failure to Pay (speed).	9/20/26	Failure to Appear (harassment).
Bobby Lovell Young		Dustin Oliver	Turner		
9/15/26	Probation Revo-	9/17/26	Probation Revo-		

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Choctaw County Commission will be accepting applications for employment until October 1, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. for the following position:
One (1) or more Heavy/Medium Equipment Operator (full or part time) the Road & Bridge Department. Applications can be picked up at the Choctaw County Engineer's Office, 239 Fire Tower Road, Toxey, AL.
"Choctaw County Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer"

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Must be able to operate multi-line phone system, use a computer and related software applications, keyboarding, reading maps, communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction

- Will be required to operate and coordinate combined radio communications for Police, Fire, EMS services.
- Duties include operations of 9-1-1 computer-aided dispatch, NCIC system, emergency preparedness weather warning sirens, and radio as required.
- Must be able to multi-task and react to high stress situations
- In addition to contact with Police, Fire, and EMS staff, the position interacts with Codes, other City Departments, as well as citizens and visitors.

Experience preferred but not required.

Send resumes to:

Choctaw County E911 • 123 S. Hamburg Avenue • Butler, AL 36904

Times-Standard-Herald receives national first-place award for Freedom of Information

The Times-Standard-Herald of Marion, a sister paper of The Choctaw Sun-Advocate, received its first-place plaque in the Freedom of Information category of the National Newspaper Association Foundation's 2026 Better Newspaper Contest on Friday, Sept. 18, at the foundation's 140th Annual Convention and Trade Show at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

The award, announced July 7, recognized "Marion's Water Crisis: Access Denied," part of

the paper's continuing coverage of the City of Marion's handling of public records requests. The category is open to daily and non-daily newspapers of all sizes. The judges wrote that the staff "stood up against efforts to keep the public out of the public's business."

The Herald also placed third in Best Reporting on Local Government among non-daily newspapers with circulation under 2,000 for "Marion's Water Crisis and City Hall," and fourth in the Community

Service Award, open to all newspapers, for "Marion Water System Financial Accountability." All three entries were reported and written by editor and publisher John Allan Clark.

The contest, for work published in 2025, drew 1,552 editorial entries and 246 advertising entries from 93 newspapers in 32 states, and the judges gave 724 awards. The Herald was the only Alabama newspaper to win in the national editorial contest.

Southern Choctaw Elementary sets fall dates

Southern Choctaw Elementary School will observe See You at the Pole on Wednesday, Sept. 23, and hold Family Literacy Night on Tuesday, Sept. 29, the school said in its newsletter for the week. Fall break is Oct. 8 through 12.

The elementary school will join Southern Choctaw High School's homecoming week, Oct. 19 through 23, with its

own dress-up days under the theme "Lights, Camera, Indians: The Panthers' Final Scene!" Red Ribbon Week and the book fair follow Oct. 26 through 30, and the school's Veterans Day program is set for 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 6.

The school's attendance campaign runs through Friday, Oct. 2. Students who are present, on time and have no early

checkouts each week are entered in a \$20 drawing every Friday, and those who meet the goals for the whole campaign will get a pajama day, a movie in the gym and free popcorn on Oct. 2. Every qualifying week's entry stays in the pot for a final drawing for the student who gets to pie principal Dalton Holyfield in the face.



CCHS classes of 1959 through 1968 to gather for reunion Oct. 3

Choctaw County High School alumni from the class of 1959 through the class of 1968 are making plans for a reunion on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m. at Ezell's Fish Camp in Lavaca. Lunch will be served at noon, and the cost is \$40 a person.

Class representatives and their contacts are: 1959, Margaret Dukes (home 205-459-2625, cell 205-457-1164); 1962, Suzan McKenzie (home 205-459-2107, cell 256-947-0104); 1963, Velma Lovett Martin (cell 334-606-8847); 1964, Pedro Scurlock (cell 205-457-9979); 1965, Peggy Givens (813-417-2731); 1966, Donna Hannah (home 205-459-2600), Robin Smith (205-457-3217) and Barry Roberts (256-509-7841); 1967, Pat Hall (cell 205-457-1389); and 1968, Curtis James (205-451-7839) and Becca Norton Sykes (205-736-4224).

Representatives are still needed for the classes of 1960 and 1961. Contact Mary Ann Ezell Hall by text at 691-750-9624.

Patrician defeats SCA; Tigers lose to Leroy; Southern Choctaw wins

Patrician Aca. 51, South Choctaw Aca. 28

Patrician Academy beat South Choctaw Academy 51-28 at Butler on Thursday, Sept. 17, in the meeting of the county's two unbeaten academy teams, running for 383 yards against the Rebels.

Ethan Carr carried 18 times for 223 yards and four touchdowns, on runs of 4, 59, 62 and 24 yards, and Ridge Russell added 111 yards and two scores on 11 carries, according to the game's statistics sheet.

The Saints led 16-0 after the first quarter on Carr's 4-yard run and Russell's 60-yard run, each followed by a two-point conversion. Carr's 59-yard run and conversion made it 24-0 in the second quarter before Kade Carroll's 3-yard run got South Choctaw on the board, and Bryson Reid scored from the 5 for a 30-6 halftime lead.

South Choctaw opened the second half with JT Railey's 5-yard touchdown run and his conversion run to close to 30-14, but Carr answered with a 62-yard run, Russell converted, and Carr scored again from the 24 for a 44-14 lead after three quarters. Russell's 6-yard run and his kick made it 51-14 in the fourth. The Rebels scored twice late: Carroll returned a kickoff 75 yards and Dawson Sikes ran in the conversion, and Parker Reed scored from

the 1. Patrician outgained South Choctaw 428 yards to 248. The Rebels had 16 first downs to the Saints' 17, and each team was flagged for 97 yards in penalties. South Choctaw lost its only fumble.

For South Choctaw, Reed carried seven times for 73 yards, Carroll 14 for 72 and Railey 15 for 64. Reed completed his only pass, 17 yards to Cody Dees. Reid completed Patrician's only pass, 45 yards to Rhett Davis. Railey punted twice for a 30.5-yard average.

Reid led the Saints' defense with eight and a half tackles. Maddox Atcheson had three and a half tackles and the game's only sack, and Sam Allen Hannah and Russell had four tackles each. Carroll led the Rebels with five and a half tackles, Brett Jenkins had four and Reed three.

The win puts Patrician at 5-0 and South Choctaw at 3-1. Patrician's homecoming game against Wilcox Academy is Friday, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m., and South Choctaw plays Jackson Academy the same night. Sun TV will stream both games, at youtube.com/@SunTVPatrician and youtube.com/@SunTVSCA.

Tigers fall at Leroy, 60-36
Choctaw County lost at Leroy 60-36 on Friday, Sept.

18, in a game that produced 96 points.

Roderick Crawford completed 14 of 19 passes for 140 yards and two touchdowns with one interception, according to the Tigers' statistics on MaxPreps. Jaydon Thomas caught nine passes for 74 yards, Miles Ray two for 53 and Tracy Poke three for 13 yards and both touchdowns.

Thomas ran twice for 85 yards, including a 64-yard run. The Tigers ran 19 times for 106 yards.

Poke returned five kickoffs for 181 yards, a 36.2-yard average with a long of 55, and finished with 213 all-purpose yards.

Crawford led the defense with seven tackles. Ray, Javonte Fitch and Tyderrious Ruffin had six each, and Ruffin had a tackle for loss and the Tigers' only sack. Braylen Washington intercepted a pass and Fitch recovered a fumble. Michael Black punted three times for a 29.3-yard average, with a long of 43 and one downed inside the 20.

The loss puts Choctaw County at 2-3.

Southern Choctaw 34, Fruitdale 6

Saints versus Rebels



Zack Thompson (8) of Patrician makes a stop on Cody Dees as Rhett Davis (10) closes in.



Patrician's Ridge Russell (15) breaks into the open against South Choctaw on Thursday, Sept. 17, at Butler. Russell ran for 111 yards and two touchdowns in the Saints' 51-28 win.



Patrician's Rhett Davis (10) wraps up South Choctaw's Cody Dees (10).



Photos by Elizabeth Perry

Email your sports and outdoors photos to sunadvocate@tombigbeenewsgroup.com

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Choctaw County Probate Office will be accepting applications for an Administrative Clerk in the Probate Office until Friday, October 2, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Under the direction of the Probate Judge and Chief Clerk, the employee will assess the amount of fees and taxes due by customers and collect money from customers.

Writing, Math, and Computer Skills required. Knowledge of nature and purpose of recording of deeds, mortgages, leases, powers of attorney, wills and other similar instruments is preferred. Other skills are required that are in listed in the Job Description.

Applications and a Job Description can be picked up at the Choctaw County Commission Office, 117 S. Mulberry Ave., Suite 9, Butler, AL 36904 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

“Choctaw County Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer”



Ochsner Choctaw General Hospital is asking if you can roll up your sleeve and make a blood donation this fall with them to help others in our community

Can you make a pledge to donate blood?

A pledge would mean that you would make an appointment to donate when Vitalant comes to our location this fall. We need at least 15 Volunteers. If you can not donate, please find someone who can.

Please contact deidra.aldridge@ochsner.org or 205-459 9177 to let her know to put your name on the list that you are interested. She will circle back to you with instructions of how to sign up for an appointment slot.

If you wonder if you are eligibility to donate, please call Vitalant @ 877-258-4825.

Find us @vitalant:



Gillfield Missionary Baptist District Association is having a Laymen Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, September 26th, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at Gillfield Missionary Baptist Church, 7171 Highway 10, Lisman, AL 36912. Guest speaker is Deacon Robert Barfield from St John Missionary Baptist Church, Meridian, Mississippi. Brother James Curtis is GMBDA Layman Ministry president; Reverend Donald R Naylor, Sr., is GMBDA moderator; and Reverend Terrence Burrell is host pastor.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL THIS WEEK

Friday, SEPTEMBER 25

- Choctaw County has a bye
- Southern Choctaw at Flomaton
- Patrician Aca. vs Wilcox Aca.
- South Choctaw Aca. vs Jackson Aca.

BOSTON BUTT SALE

OCTOBER 3RD, 2026

\$30.00 A BUTT

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE TOXEY VFD.

The Choctaw County Public Library's last storytime of the month is Wednesday; September is a no-fine month. The Choctaw County Public Library in Butler will hold a pop-up storytime at 3:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, the last storytime of the month, with a small activity and a story. Storytimes return Friday, Oct. 9, and Friday, Nov. 13, at 10 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. in Butler. September is a no-fine month at the Butler library: late books and DVDs can be returned this month with no fine. Through September, black-and-white copies are free up to 10 pages, and color copies are 25 cents. The library's Gilbertown branch, at Coastal Community College, has new hours, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will hold a nutrition class with the Extension office at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29. The Butler library is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed Saturday through Monday. Patrons who cannot reach the library by phone to renew books can email ccplpatrons@gmail.com or message its Facebook page. Children 1 to 5 can be signed up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which mails a free book a month; information is at 865-428-9606.

THANKS FOR READING -

CHOCTAW SUN-ADVOCATE



Native American Festival

Bring your family and friends to meet Native American artisans, see traditional dances, listen to stories and music, and support local and Native American businesses at an ancient city on the Black Warrior River!

October 1-3, 2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA | Moundville Archaeological Park | PART OF THE University of Alabama System



festival.museums.ua.edu

SunTV FOOTBALL



Georgia-Pacific

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18TH
7:00 p.m.

PATRICIAN ACADEMY
HOSTS WILCOX ACADEMY

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SOUTH
CHOCTAW ACADEMY
HOSTS JACKSON
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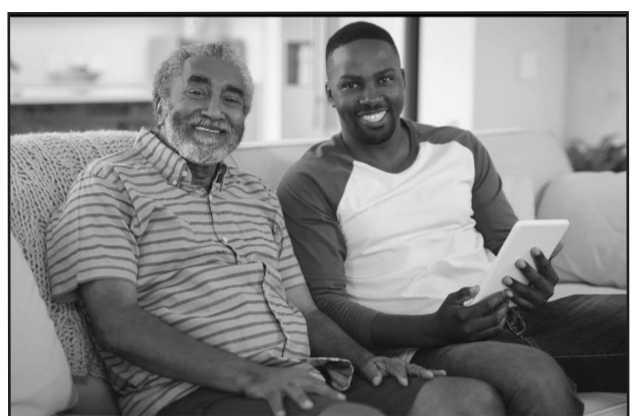
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