

In everything,
GIVE THANKS
The Choctaw
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SUN-ADVOCATE 75¢

Former Butler restaurant managers sentenced for federal child sex abuse charges



Mack Doak and his wife Jaycee Doak are pictured at the ribbon cutting for USA Donuts in Butler in March of 2014. (Sun file photo by Dee Ann Campbell)

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

MOBILE, BUTLER -- A couple who operated a restaurant in Butler in 2014 were sentenced last Wednesday in federal court for child sexual abuse charges.

Mack Junturn Doak, 51, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Mobile to 480 months in prison. His wife, Jaycee Luom Doak, 41, was sentenced to 120 months. Both were ordered to pay \$264,000 in restitution.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern Dis-

trict of Alabama, Doak was convicted in May of this year on six federal charges of transporting a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, along with three charges of crossing a state line with intent to engage in sexual acts with a child under the age of 12. His wife was found guilty on six charges of transporting a minor with intent to engage in sexual acts.

According to reports at the time of their conviction, the abuse reportedly took place over a six-year period, during which time the couple moved repeatedly, holding

residences in Texas, Florida, and Alabama.

The investigation began in Monroeville, where the couple had apparently been living since 2018. Monroeville authorities gained information from three victims, who testified that the abuse had begun in Texas in 2012, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

The abuse reportedly continued when the couple moved to Butler for a short time in 2014, where they opened and operated USA Donuts, in the former Lafferty's Restaurant location on Highway 10.

The couple relocated to Florida that same year and then moved to Thomasville in 2016 before relocating to Monroeville.

According to testimony provided by the three victims at the trial, Mr. Doak had repeatedly abused the victims, while Mrs. Doak had been aware of the abuse and had covered up for it. Mrs. Doak had been verbally and physically abusive to the children as well, according to testimony at the trial.

One of the victims testified that, in Texas in 2012, she had told

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HOLIDAY EVENT SCHEDULE

- Wednesday, December 4**
 Silas Tree Lighting Ceremony -- 6 p.m.;
 Silas Municipal Complex
- Thursday, December 5**
 Butler Christmas Parade -- line-up 5 p.m.,
 parade at 6 p.m. Battle of Bands to follow parade
- Friday, December 6**
 Gilbertown Christmas Parade, events --
 Vendors throughout town during day, parade to
 begin at 6 p.m.; Fireworks to follow parade.
- Saturday, December 7**
 Pennington Christmas Parade -- Line-up 11
 a.m., parade at noon.
- Saturday, December 14**
 Lisman Christmas Parade -- Line-up 10
 a.m., parade at 11 a.m.

STAR ID to be required for air travel by October 2020

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

MONTGOMERY, WASHINGTON D.C. - Residents have less than a year to get their REAL ID-compliant identifications if they want to travel by commercial airplane in the United States or be allowed into some federal facilities.

Starting October 1, 2020, everyone who wishes to travel by air must present drivers' licenses or other forms of identification that have the new enhanced identity verification. Regular licenses or identification will no longer be acceptable to board a commercial flight.

The Alabama REAL ID-compliant identification is STAR ID, put in place by the state in 2011.

Travelers will have to show their STAR ID (Secure, Trusted, and Reliable), an unexpired passport, or certain other documents approved by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in order to board flights. Such identification will also be required in order to enter military bases and other federal facilities.

The U.S. Congress passed the REAL ID Act in 2005, in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The new law set standards for states to issue the new identifications in order to comply with the federal requirements.

Those who are getting their STAR IDs for the first time will have to visit an Alabama Law Enforcement Agency driver's license office. County license and probate offices will not issue the new STAR ID licenses.

Following the first issuance of the ID, renewals can be obtained online or through the county Probate Office.

See **STAR ID** page 9

Sasha by his Side



Larry Roberts is pictured with his Siberian Husky Sasha, who is his near-constant companion. (Submitted photo)

Local man finds assistance through unusual service dog

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

BUTLER -- "There is a wall that I've put up to protect myself, but Sasha gets through that wall."

Fire Chief Larry Roberts sat at the Butler Fire Department last week and talked about April 15, 2014, and all the days since then -- days that have meant a struggle to cope with the emotional trauma that came from the events of that day.

His ever-present companion, a Siberian Husky named Sasha, laid at his feet as he spoke, her eyes constantly riveted to his face.

It is Sasha that has given him the ability to deal with it all.

In halting, quiet words, Larry described the day more than five years ago when an accident at work took the life of a friend. Since then, he continues to struggle with the trauma.

"That year was not good for me," he said, in a voice barely above a whisper. "I lost my mom in March, then Sam in April."

Larry had gotten to know Sam through the years, and the two had become friends. With contractors coming in for a project at the Georgia-Pacific mill, Larry hoped that Sam would be there.

"Sam was a good friend of mine," Larry said. "He was supposed to be off that day, but I requested that he come to do the work."

With much difficulty, Larry described what began as a normal day at the mill.

"We finished our job that morning and went back after lunch, and I started to get everything ready," Larry recalled, staring at the wall as he spoke.

With everything seeming normal and ready to go, Sam and Larry went ahead with their work, believing all was well.

See **SASHA** page 4

Sheriffs respond after line-of-duty death of Lowndes County Sheriff 'Big John' Williams

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

"Every day you turn on the TV and another officer has been killed in the line of duty," said Choctaw County Sheriff Scott Lolley. "It has a long-term effect on the whole country."

Sheriff 'Big John' Williams of Lowndes County was killed in the line of duty on Saturday evening, and law enforcement officers from

across the state traveled to the area to offer assistance, including Lolley.

Williams died after suffering a gun shot in the parking lot of a convenience store in Hayneville at just after 8 p.m., according to information from Attorney General Steve Marshall. The shooting reportedly occurred when Williams approached a vehicle to request that the driver turn down his loud music.

Following the shooting, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency issued a Blue

Alert for the suspect, listed as 18-year-old William Chase Johnson, who had left the scene and was then fleeing on foot, according to published reports.

Lolley was notified of the shooting by Greene County Sheriff and former state trooper assigned to Choctaw County, Joe Benison. Lolley and Benison were among at least 11 Alabama sheriffs who immediately traveled to Hayneville to help.

"Sheriff Benison gave me the news," Lolley said. "He rode with me. At that time, the suspect was still at-large. We headed there to

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