



## Donald serving as county coordinator for Tuberville senatorial campaign

Choctaw County resident Ryann Donald is serving as the new County Coordinator for the Tommy Tuberville senatorial campaign. Tuberville is seeking the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate. (Sun-Advocate file photo)

## Voter registration deadline this week

### No STARS ID needed to cast ballots

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Sun-Advocate Publisher

BUTLER -- If you want to vote in the March 3 primary and are not yet registered, you have only a few days left to do so.

According to the Alabama Secretary of State's office, paper registration forms for Choctaw County residents must be delivered to the Choctaw County Board of Registrars on or before February 14 or mailed by February 15. Those who opt for online registration can do so until February 17.

Registration forms and

voter information are available at [www.sos.alabama.gov](http://www.sos.alabama.gov).

The Secretary of State's office is also reminding voters that they will need to provide an approved photo identification in order to cast ballots, but their identification does not have to be in the form of the new STAR ID that will soon be required for air travel and entrance into most federal buildings. Acceptable photo IDs for voting include valid driver's licenses, photo voter ID cards, state-issued pistol permits, U.S. Passports, military IDs and Tribal IDs, among others. See [www.sos.gov](http://www.sos.gov) for information.

## Choctaw Co. Arrests

BUTLER - The following are individuals who were logged as having been arrested by officers with the Choctaw Co. Sheriff's Department, local municipal police departments, and officers with the Alabama State Troopers/Alabama Department of Public Safety over the past week. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in court.

- Credit card possession, fraudulent x2 - Justin O'Neal Glover; arrested on 02/05/20.
- Possession of controlled substance - Arlander Bunn; arrested on 02/06/20.
- Failure to appear - Cornelius Devon Grice; arrested on 02/06/20.
- Possession controlled substance, Possession of paraphernalia - Leslie O'Neal McHenry; arrested on 02/06/20.
- Driving under influence - Alberto Hernandez Tiaxcala; arrested on 02/06/20.

## Voters to weigh in on state school board amendment

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Sun-Advocate Publisher

MONTGOMERY – Voters who cast ballots in the March 3 primary will be asked to decide whether or not the Alabama State Board of Education will be an elected or appointed board.

Amendment 284 would change the state Constitution to change existing laws that affect the selection of board members for the board that oversees public education in the state. Under current law, members of the state school board are elected by popular vote of electors in their respective districts.

The school board is made up of members from eight districts, including District 5, which includes Choctaw County.

The primary ballots this year will include a provision that would change the board to members appointed by the Governor.

Proponents of the measure say that the move would take away any political motivations from decisions made by board members, while opponents argue that an appointed board would be beholden to the one who appointed them.

The amendment states that the Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education will continue to be a non-voting member of the board.

Currently, the state is one of only six in the country that has an elected school board.

A 'no' vote on the primary ballot means that the voter does not want to change the state school board from elected to appointed positions.



## 'Say Something' assemblies, events to be held in schools, local church

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Sun-Advocate Publisher

BUTLER, TOXEY – A series of upcoming events will be held locally to shine a spotlight on an issue that is gaining national, state, and local attention.

The rise in numbers of human trafficking cases is prompting local law enforcement and organizations to lead in the promotion of assemblies about the issue. Assemblies will be conducted by the 'Say Something' organization in local schools

and churches in the coming days.

The 'Say Something' organization will hold assemblies at two local schools next week. An assembly will be held at South Choctaw Academy at 10:15 a.m. on February 21, followed by an assembly at Patrician Academy at 1:15 p.m. that afternoon.

Prior to the school assemblies, the group will be featured at First Assembly of God in Butler on Sunday, February 16, beginning at 11 a.m.

The public is invited to attend any of the upcoming assemblies.

## Landfill Amnesty Day set for March 6-7

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Sun-Advocate Publisher

BUTLER – The Choctaw County Landfill will be holding Spring Landfill Amnesty Day during the weekend of March 6-7.

The event, which is set annually in the fall and spring, will allow residents to dispose of appliances, computers, furniture, paint cans, household chemicals, and other items that are not typically allowed for disposal as household waste.

The county has been setting such amnesty events over the past few years in an effort to combat the dumping of such items on dirt roads and along roadsides in the county.

Sign the Highway 84 petition.  
Add your voice to the project.

## Bidding change in store for concession stands at Gilbertown Sports Complex

### Gilbertown fire department completes re-wiring project

By Colin Merritt  
Sun-Advocate Reporter

GILBERTOWN -- The Gilbertown City Council held their monthly meeting Monday night at town hall on Main Street. It was a rather routine meeting, with the bidding for ballpark concession stands being the most important decision to come from the quick, rainy night gathering.

In fact, when Mayor Billy May recognized those in attendance, other than board members, and asked if they had anything to address, Carol Carlisle of Gilbertown

asked if the board could do something to stop the rain. It was met with an appreciative chuckle from those in attendance.

Council member and fire chief Tim Holifield reported that the firehouse had been re-wired successfully, and all the necessary wiring from the outside had been moved inside as planned.

Holifield stated he was satisfied with the job done, but did advise that some of the wiring used by the sewage operation had also been moved inside of the fire house, which he was not aware would be the case. However, Holifield did not think it would be a problem. The mayor agreed.

Police Chief David Cunningham filed the police report, citing four arrests made in January, including two for domestic violence, one for drug paraphernalia, and one for disorderly conduct. There were also 54 traffic violations issued, according to Cunningham, with 24 of those being speeding tickets.

With that news, the mayor noted that the police department was doing a good job with the speeding issue in town, especially in the school zones. Even though the council agreed, councilwoman Debbie Rentz didn't think efforts had done much to slow down traffic on the Melvin Road.

Cunningham addressed the issue, noting a few incidents recently, including an incident involving a truck that attempted to flee from police on Melvin Road. Although police were not able to catch him, they were able to get his tag number before a chase ensued. The Gilbertown Police Department later mailed the offender a ticket.

Cunningham hoped this tactic would be another deterrent to speeders that think they can get out of town before the police stop them.

Finally, the council discussed how to bid out and charge for entities to run the town's ballpark concession stands.

In the past, the town had bid out the job for around \$2,000-\$3,000, but recently it seems that might not be the most effective and fair way to conduct business since recent baseball season's at Gilbertown Sports Complex have seen less games and less teams. Both factors that have affected concession sales.

After a short discussion on the matter, it was determined that a lower bid coupled with the town taking a percentage of concession sales would be a better way. The council then decided a minimum \$1,000 bid and a 20% stake in sales over a monthly basis would be put into effect for this season, but could be revisited next season if needed.

Gilbertown's next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9th at 6 pm.

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