



List of QUALIFIED VOTERS



inside this issue

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Residents asked to sign petition in support of U.S. Highway 84 four-lane project

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

CHOCTAW Co. – Area residents are being asked to add their voices to those pushing for the four-laning project on U.S. High-

way 84. Efforts are being put in place to gain thousands of signatures on a petition asking state officials to move forward with the project that would provide a four-lane highway through the southern portion

of Choctaw County. Ala. Representative Brett Easterbrook, who represents District 65 including Clarke, Choctaw, and Washington counties, has been pushing the state to commit to the project. Easterbrook

said in a recent interview that he intended to continue to advocate for the four-laning of the highway through Choctaw County to the state line in Mississippi, where the highway is already four-laned. He

See PETITION page 6



Dr. Warren Craig Pouncey

Pouncey to speak at Chamber event

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

BUTLER -- The new president of Coastal Alabama Community College will be guest speaker for the Choctaw County Chamber of Commerce's annual Pancake Supper on March 12.

Dr. Warren Craig Pouncey, who took the position with CACC last fall, will be speak to attendees at the event, which will be held at the Choctaw County Senior Citizens Center, at 112 Tom Orr Drive in Butler. The event is set to begin at 5:30 p.m. and is open to all Chamber members.

Pouncey is the former Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools and served in several capacities with the Alabama State Department of Education, including Chief of Staff, Deputy State Superintendent and Assistant State Superintendent of Administrative and Financial Services and Director of Administration and Finance. He was appointed to the CACC position by the Alabama Community College System board of trustees on September 11 and took the position on October 1.

New nursing home ownership looking forward to future

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

BUTLER – “There is a fresh new vision for this place,” said Leigh Ann Jenkins, Marketing Transition Specialist for what is now Choctaw Health and Rehab.

New ownership is now in place for the former Blue Ridge Willow Trace Nursing Home, and leaders at the facility say that the future looks bright.

The new ownership comes after previous owners, Blue Ridge Healthcare, saw financial difficulties at the corporate level. Blue Ridge gained ownership of the Butler nursing home in 2017.

The facility is now owned by former Northport resident Shalom Lerner, who recently purchased six Blue Ridge facilities, with each facility independently owned. The transition to the new ownership took place on December 16.

“This family has been in the long-term care business for a long time,” Jenkins said. “He is a licensed nursing home administrator with experience in the business. He is involved and hands-on in this transition.”

Jenkins said that, while the nursing home was never in danger of closure, the new ownership will bring a new vision for the facility.

“I’m not going to take a position promoting a place that I don’t believe in,” said Jenkins, who works as a liaison between the community and the nursing home. “There may have been shaky ground in the past, but the nursing home is coming back stronger.”

Jenkins said that the nursing home, which has been

See NURSING HOME page 4



C-H-A-M-P-I-O-N

BUTLER – It took ten rounds and 57 words for Choctaw County High School 7th grader Christian Rackley, left, to defeat his opponents in the 2020 Choctaw County Spelling Bee last Thursday night. Rackley faced seven other top spellers (school winners and alternates) from their respective local schools, including Christopher DuBose, also from CCHS, right, who took the first alternate position in the countywide bee. Other contestants included Haidynn Hill and KaNyla Phillips from Southern Choctaw Elementary School, John Taylor Railey and Ben Knowles from South Choctaw Academy, and John Thomas Deshotels and Bryson Reid from Patrician Academy. The county competition is sponsored each year by the Professional Affairs Committee of Beta Alpha Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, including Patti Christopher, Pat Hall, Pam Moody, and Andrea Nordan. The contest was judged by Julia Bryan, Lisa Moore, and Charlotte Stewart. Rackley will represent Choctaw County at the Alabama State Spelling Bee on March 21. (Submitted photo)

NO DAMAGE IN CHOCTAW Tornado takes life in Marengo County

River remains above flood stage

By Dee Ann Campbell
Sun-Advocate Publisher

BUTLER -- Choctaw County was spared from much of the predicted severe weather last Thursday, but other parts of the region were not so lucky.

A Marengo County woman was killed when an EF1 tornado destroyed her mobile home in the early morning hours on February 6. The body of Anita Rembert was found in the debris of the home, located on Highway 43 south of Demopolis. Her husband was also injured, but two others who were in the home at the time were not harmed.

The tornado was one of at least two that were confirmed in

Alabama during the storm system. An EF0 storm caused damage in Helena, in Shelby County.

An EF2 storm also hit the Choctaw Area Boy Scout Council's Camp Binachi in Lauderdale County, Mississippi on Wednesday. According to reports, the camp, which is used by scout troops throughout East Mississippi and West Alabama, suffered significant damage.

The National Weather Service issued a list of watches and warnings that extended into Mississippi and Alabama during the storm system's progression through the Southeast. Predictions included strong thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, and potential tornadoes for

See STORM page 6

Deadly storm



MARENGO COUNTY -- Pictured is the debris from a mobile home that was destroyed by an EF2 tornado in Marengo County in the early hours of the morning last Thursday. A woman lost her life in the storm, and her husband was injured. (Photo by Ernest Levy)



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