

# County, towns participating in Severe Weather Sales Tax Holiday

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Sun-Advocate Publisher

BUTLER – The Choctaw County Commission voted last week to again participate in the annual Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, and local municipalities are also taking part.

The ‘holiday’, which is set for February 21-23, allows residents to purchase storm preparedness items without paying state or local sales tax in areas that are participating in the event. Among the items included are batteries, tarps, plywood, flashlights

or other self-powered light sources, plastic sheeting, bungee cords, ropes, non-electric food storage containers, non-electric can openers, artificial ice, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fuel containers, portable generators, power cords, and other items.

The event begins at 12:01 a.m. on Friday and ends at midnight on Sunday.

In addition to the county participation, the City of Butler has opted to take part, along with the towns of Gilbertown, Lisman, and Silas.

The Towns of Pennington and

Needham are not listed as either participating or not participating, according to the Alabama Department of Revenue’s website.

The Town of Toxey is listed as not participating.

In surrounding areas, Marengo, Sumter, and Clarke counties are all participating, along with the Town of Coffeeville.

The Towns of Millry and Sweet Water are both listed as not participating.

This is the 9th year that the State of Alabama has observed the sales tax holiday.

## County chooses financing options for new motor grader

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Sun-Advocate Publisher

BUTLER – The Choctaw County Commission will be financing a new motor grader through West Alabama Bank.

The commission voted last Tuesday, February 4, in favor of utilizing the bank to finance the new equipment, which was approved for purchase in January, at a cost of just over \$220,000. The equipment replaces an aging 1997 grader that is in need of repairs.

County engineer Lance Jordan told the commission in January that the repairs to the old machine would cost about \$30,000. The commission voted to purchase the new equipment at that time.

Last Tuesday, Jordan presented the commission with financing options from local lending institutions, with West Alabama Bank presenting the lowest percentage rate, at 2.97%.

In related matters, District 4 Commissioner Horace Mosley expressed concern that the road and bridge department only employed one worker who can operate the motor grader equipment.

“What if he had an accident and couldn’t do his job?” Mosley asked. “It would shut the whole thing down. We

need two people training on this.”

Jordan said that he had already considered the issue and was trying to train other employees to use the equipment.

“They need to be able to do it all by themselves,” he said.

District 1 Commissioner Tony Cherry added that the county should train workers to be able to use various equipment.

“Every time I ride by and see the same four guys on a shovel, I say we need to cross-train these guys,” Cherry said.

“You are trying, and it takes time,” he told Jordan. “But you have to push these guys the extra mile.”

In other matters, the commission voted to declare older dump trucks as surplus and place them up for auction on the govdeals.com. The commission voted in January to purchase five new trucks throughout their purchase-resell plan that allows the county to gain new trucks through the state bid program, utilize them for one year, and resell them on public auction for a profit.

The commission also voted to declare two Chevy Tahoes as surplus and place them on the auction site, under the same resell plan.

New Tahoes that were purchased by the county will be financed through First US Bank, at a rate of 3.24%.

## Probate office will now accept credit cards for payment of licenses, fees

By Dee Ann Campbell  
Sun-Advocate Publisher

BUTLER – Residents who pay fees at the Probate Office will now be able to use credit cards to do so.

The Choctaw County Commission voted on February 4 to approve the use of a credit card system for payments in the office.

Probate Judge Michael Armistead

said that those who purchase hunting licenses and other fees have only been able to pay by cash or check. He added that accepting checks was sometimes an issue, and the use of credit cards would provide better options for the public.

Armistead added that there would be a service charge for using the credit card system, and that amount would be added to the customer’s charge, and designated as such on receipts.

### ■ Storm

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the area. Choctaw County gained significant rainfall and some heavy thunderstorm activity, but no tornado warnings were issued for the county.

According to the Choctaw Emergency Management Agency, total local rainfall during the storm system were estimated at about five inches in the northern part of the county and about two inches in the southern portion.

Rainfall totals continue to rise this week, with local flooding in some areas in the county, including an area along Womack Hill Road that was closed due to flooding from Oaktuppa Creek on February 7.

The Tombigbee River at Coffeeville Lock and Dam remained above flood stage, at just under 37 feet on Tuesday morning, February 11, and was expected to continue to rise. Weather officials predict that the river will reach 39.3 feet by Saturday. Flood stage is 29 feet.

### ■ Petition

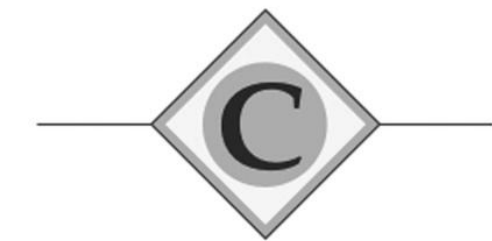
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is also promoting the four-laning of Highway 45.

Easterbrook said that such infrastructure projects are vital to the economic survival of an area of the state that has been neglected in the past, and vital to the safety of drivers who travel on the highways.

While citizen petitions may not guarantee that the state takes action on the project, Easterbrook agreed that gaining thousands of signatures from local citizens would help to gain attention from state officials.

Petitions will be available beginning this Friday in several locations throughout Choctaw County, including the Sun-Advocate office in Gilbertown, the Chamber of Commerce office located inside First US Bank in Butler, and Village Jewelry and Sports in Butler. Other locations will be announced in the coming days, and an online petition will be also be made available.



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**Mardi Gras**

Join Butler in celebrating  
Mardi Gras with a parade on  
Thursday, February 20th.  
Line up starts at 5 PM  
Parade starts at 6 PM.

Vendor and Parade Entry forms are available at  
Butler City Hall and on [butleralabama.org](http://butleralabama.org)  
Vendor form deadline: Feb 14th  
Entry form deadline: Feb 17th.

For more information call: (205) 459-3795

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8:45 PM CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
9:00 PM WELCOME MUSIC HOUR  
10:00 PM THE BATTLE FOR THE MIND

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020  
12:00 PM TWISTED DESTRUCTION  
1:00 PM DARWIN VS. THE CREATOR'S ACCOUNT  
5:00 PM FOLLOWING THE STARS & SPIRITS  
6:00 PM THE RAPTURE RUSE  
8:45 PM CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
9:00 PM MUSIC HOUR  
10:00 PM THE SANCTUARY & THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020  
11:00 AM SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL  
12:30 PM DIVINE SERVICE - DR. BEN CARSON  
5:00 PM GRACE PLUS  
7:45 PM CONGREGATIONAL SINGING  
8:00 PM MUSIC HOUR  
9:00 PM MORE THAN CONQUERORS  
10:00 PM CAMP MEETING CLOSE

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