



Hail to SCA royalty

TOXEY -- Jonathan Abston, son of Ritchie and Myra Abston, and Lillie Johnson, daughter of Allen and Jennifer Johnson, were named King and Queen of the South Choctaw Academy prom held on March 14. The prom was held just prior to the cancellation of school by state order. (Submitted photo)

■ Hospital

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With the national push for the availability of respirators, Cowan said that, at Choctaw General, such equipment could also be used to support patients with non-COVID-19 diagnoses who need assistance.

“At present we feel adequately prepared,” he said. “We are hoping the curve will flatten

out and we won’t have much exposure here.”

“We’ll get through this,” he added. “Hopefully, it won’t be as bad as it is in places like New York and we will soon get around the curve where this is diminishing.”

In the meantime, as with national and state-level medical officials, Cowan is urging the public to take the required precautions, self-screen, and do what they need to do to protect themselves.

■ Run-Off

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Run-offs are set to decide party nominations in both the Democrat and Republican parties. The Republican run-off will include the race for U.S. Senate, with Tommy Tuberville and Jeff Sessions facing off in the contest. On the Democratic side, there is a run-off in the race for State Board of Education, District 5, with Fred Bell facing Tonya Smith Chestnut for the party nomination.

Merrill issued a Certification of Emergency Rules on March 18, putting in place measures that will allow for absentee voting amid the health crisis. Because of the emergency declaration, voters can also opt to cast absentee ballots for the run-off election if they feel it necessary to do so.

All election officials in the county and state have been instructed to follow the Emergency Administrative Rule and accept absentee ballot applications for the run-off. According to state ruling, any qualified voter who feels that it is ‘impossible or unreasonable’ to vote at their voting place for the run-off shall be eligible to check the box on the

absentee ballot application that claims a physical illness or infirmity that prevents their attendance at the polls.

“Amid coronavirus concerns, it is important to remember that Alabamians who are concerned about contracting or spreading an illness have the opportunity to avoid the polls on Election Day by casting an absentee ballot,” Secretary Merrill said. “Alabamians can access the application online or by visiting or calling their local Absentee Election Manager’s office.”

Locally, the absentee office in the Choctaw County Courthouse will accept requests for ballots over the telephone and through the mail. The office will mail applications and ballots out to voters as quickly as possible so every voter will have the ability to vote in the run-off election.

The deadline to register to vote in the run-off is Monday, June 29. The deadline to submit an absentee ballot application is Thursday, July 9, and the deadline to return an absentee ballot to the Absentee Election Manager or postmark an absentee ballot is Monday, July 13.

For information about the upcoming run-off election, visit www.sos.alabama.gov.



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■ Workers

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1-866-234-5382. Online filing is encouraged.

People who are being paid to work from home, or those receiving paid sick or vacation leave are NOT eligible for unemployment compensation benefits, regardless if they experience any or all of the situations listed above.

Claimants can begin filing these claims on Monday, March 23, 2020.

Employers who decide to shut down due to causes related to COVID-19 should treat the shutdown as a temporary layoff.

These rules are subject to change pending congressional action.

A DAY
in the LIFE
of Choctaw County

Full-color magazine publication!

POSTPONED

PHOTO DAY: Wednesday, April 1
PUBLICATION: Wednesday, April 22
DEADLINE FOR ADS: Friday, April 3

New dates to be announced next week!

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