

Inside

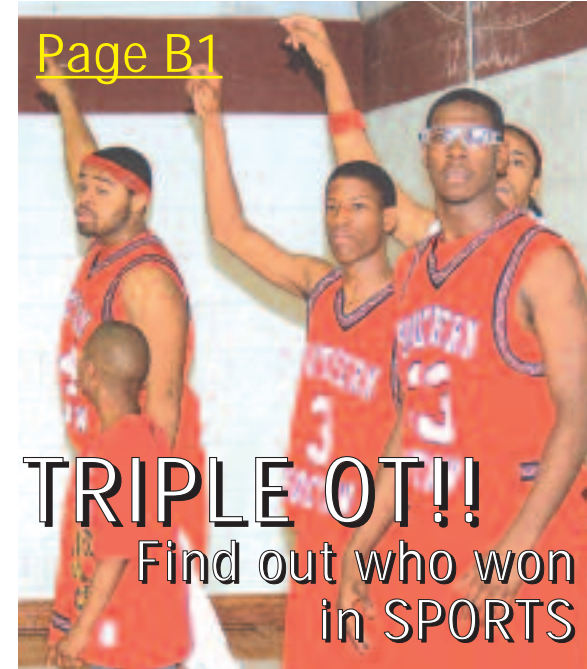
News & Events	2A
Lifestyles	4A
Obituaries	4A
Education	5 A
Sports	1B
Food	3B
Classifieds/Legals	4B
Faith	5B

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The Choctaw Sun

Shining Brightly Over Southwest Alabama



TRIPLE OT!!

Find out who won in SPORTS

Briefs

Wreck victim airlifted

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

AQUILLA – An Aquilla resident miraculously escaped with only minor injuries from a one-vehicle crash that happened sometime late on the evening of Monday, Jan. 8th or early morning of Tuesday, Jan. 9th.

Derek Sullivan's pickup truck ran off CR 3, about a mile south of U.S. 84, clipped several small trees and ended up in a ditch beside the road with the heavily damaged vehicle almost covered with pine tops and virtually concealed from view of traffic on the county road just a few steps away.

According to reports at the scene, Sullivan was trapped in the vehicle for some time before the truck was located shortly after midnight on Tuesday morning.

The accident was first reported to the Choctaw Co. E-911 Dispatch Center at 12:21 a.m.

Members of the Gilbertown Police Department, Gilbertown Vol. Fire Department, Gilbertown Jaws of Life® unit, Silas Vol. Fire Depart-

See WRECK, page 3A



A Life-Flight helicopter prepares to take off from CR 3, near Aquilla, after landing just yards from the scene of a crash in which Derrick Sullivan was entrapped for approximately two hours.

Choctaw Sun photo by Tommy Campbell



Parade, gala banquet to honor Dr. King

Here is a list of the local activities that are planned to honor the memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Choctaw Co. Courthouse, Post Offices and most other governmental operations will be closed Monday, Jan. 15th to observe the holiday commemorating the birth of the late Civil Rights worker.

FRIDAY

Youth banquet, Lisman Town Hall complex, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Parade, 10 a.m., downtown Lisman.

SUNDAY

Gala banquet, Lisman Town Hall complex, 7 p.m. Guest speaker: Attorney Seletha Butler. Tickets \$10.

MONDAY

Memorial program at Morning Star Baptist Church, Ala. 17 north of Butler, 5 p.m. Rev. O.L. Sealey, Pastor.

Almanac

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

Cloudy
Hi 71 • Lo 54
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:54 a.m.
Sunset: 5:09 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

Partly cloudy
Hi 75 • Lo 55
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:54 a.m.
Sunset: 5:10 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 14

Partly cloudy
Hi 76 • Lo 53
Rain chance 10%
Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.
Sunset: 5:11 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 15

Showers
Hi 57 • Lo 35
Rain chance 50%
Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.
Sunset: 5:12 p.m.



Choctaw Sun photo by Tommy Campbell

New Sheriff takes office

BUTLER -- Choctaw County's first new sheriff in 32 years -- James Lovette -- was sworn into office on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007. Lovette was elected to the position in the 2006 elections after longtime Sheriff Donald Lolley announced his retirement. Also pictured are Mrs. Gaye Lovette and District Judge Pedro Scurlock.

AG's OPINION

Butler's city cases can be handled in District Court

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – Mayor Ben W. Smith said at the Jan. 9th meeting of the Butler Town Council that he has received a long-awaited opinion from the Alabama Attorney General's office regarding the question of: can cases that would normally be processed in municipal court be handled by the District Court of Choctaw County, since the Town of Butler no longer has a Municipal Court.

According to Smith, who read from the letter at Tuesday night's meeting, the answer is "yes."

Smith also said he had spoken with

See BUTLER COUNCIL, page 3A

DRILL WILL TEST READINESS OF OFFICIALS, SCHOOLS

Emergency exercise at SCHS

GILBERTOWN — Emergency Agencies in Choctaw County, in conjunction with Southern Choctaw High School and Southern Choctaw Elementary School, will be conducting an emergency training exercise on Friday, Jan. 19th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This exercise will be conducted on the campuses of both

of the schools in Gilbertown.

According to Bill Gibson, the director of Choctaw County's Emergency Management Agency, the purpose of the exercise is to test the ability of local emergency agencies to respond to a critical event at a school facility, and to resolve the issue by utilizing protocols of the national incident management

system (NIMS).

The schools will also utilize their own emergency plans as their response to the staged incident.

Part of the exercise will include an orderly evacuation of the high school to the elementary school. The event is timed so that all students will be back in place for dismissal

at the normal time.

Gibson said the purpose of an exercise such as this is to determine the strengths and weakness of the schools and the community's response to a major emergency at a school.

"The exercise is fully make-believe with certain 'props' being utilized to simulate CER

See EXERCISE, page 2A

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