



LEPC goes over plans for drills

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — Plans for emergency preparedness in events ranging from disaster relief to terrorist attacks to a pandemic flu outbreak was discussed at the Jan. 11 meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

The work of the Long Term Recovery Committee was discussed at the meeting, according to EMA Director Bill Gibson. The committee continues to process applications for housing repairs in the community, receiving some 203 applications in 2006 with expenditures of \$428,000.

Recent responses of the Choctaw Hazmat Team included an oil spill on Highway 10 in December.

The EMA submitted to the state a National Incident Management System compliance report for all response agencies. At year's end, the county was 60% compliant. The EMA will be starting "NIMS 2007" in the coming months and additional requirements for compliance are anticipated for the year.

As part of Homeland Security preparedness, the county will hold a terrorism exercise at Southern Choctaw High School on Jan. 19. The exercise will test multiple agencies working together with the school system.

FEMA and the state EMA plan a debris management seminar on Jan. 18th from 9 a.m. - noon at the EMA office in Butler. A meeting is also planned with M&B railroad to discuss crossing concerns in Yantley.

Approval and funding were gained to update the mitigation plan for the county. The committee will be working with a consultant on the required updates.

The Health Dept. and EMA continue to work together on public health issues. There will be a basic life disaster support training program on Friday, March 16. It is anticipated that there will be a training exercise on March 1-2, associated with the transportation of supplies in the event of public health emergencies.

The state plan on pandemic flu is to be submitted by March 1st. It is believed that county guidance will follow.

Local priorities for distributions of supplies in case of pandemic flu still need to be established. At the Jan. 11th meeting, the committee discussed the need for local communities to prepare for a pandemic, as outside help most likely will not be forthcoming. There are still no resources identified at any level of government for local manpower or momentary support to develop and implement a functioning local plan.

The Health Dept. is going through the Community Emergency Response Team 'Train the Trainer' program with the goal of establishing such a program within the county.

The EMA has submitted a preparedness appropriation to Congress to reflect disaster preparedness for Choctaw County. The County Commission has issued a resolution supporting the appropriation.

Expenses for the EMA for November were listed at \$18,146.34, and for December, \$11,876.05.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. at the EMA office.



Choctaw Sun photo by Mickey Bryant

Car flips near Lavaca

LAVACA — Authorities worked a single-vehicle accident on Ala. 114 in the Lavaca community on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 13th. According to reports from the scene, the car apparently ran off the road near Ala. 10 and overturned. The driver, whose name was not available at presstime, reportedly sustained minor injuries and was able to exit the vehicle through a rear door. The Butler Police Department, a Choctaw EMS ambulance, and volunteer fire departments from Butler and Pennington responded to the call. State Trooper Chuck Gilliland was the investigating officer. Units were dispatched to the scene by the Choctaw E-911 Center.

ATLANTA, AUG. 17th-19th

Registration now open for 2007 Choctaw Picnic

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

ATLANTA, Georgia — It's about food. It's about fun. It's about fellowship. Most of all, it's about family ... about pride and appreciation for the heritage shared by those in attendance ... persons of diverse racial, social, and geographic backgrounds who all share the common, uniting thread of having Choctaw County roots.

The Choctaw Picnic and Reunion weekend is all about Choctaw County, Alabama, about those who are natives or who have family ties or other connections to the rural Black Belt county where they were born or raised, or where their ancestors called home.

And even though the summer of 2007 seems a long time away, plans are even now being made for the annual get-together.

This year's event will bring together hundreds of people in Atlanta, Georgia for a fun-filled weekend that begins Friday, Aug. 17th and ends on Sunday, Aug. 19th. The co-chair of the 2007 event, Seletha Butler, is a native of Lisman and told the Sun that the Host Committee is busy making plans to see that all in attendance have the time of their lives.

"The 2007 event will mark approximately 34 years that an event has occurred to assemble persons from Choctaw County to meet, greet, visit and keep in touch with each other across the miles that separate many since leaving hometowns in Choctaw County, Alabama," she said.

The daughter of two deceased mayors of the Town of Lisman — Anthony S. Butler and Elizabeth H. Butler — Seletha said she feels especially honored to be a part of organizing this year's event.

An attorney who now lives and works in Atlanta, Seletha said the 2007 event will feature a "Welcome to Atlanta" reception on Friday evening, followed on Saturday by a tour of the city, a picnic at Durham Lakes Golf and Country Club, and a "Jazzy Atlanta Night", the eagerly anticipated Saturday evening banquet event that features a guest speaker and live band.

Previous picnics have been held in Alabama, Ohio, Michigan and other states, and rotates back "home" to Choctaw County every few years. The 2006 event — held in Lisman — was well attended by people from more than a dozen states and a

couple of foreign countries.

Registrations are now being accepted and persons are encouraged to send in their registrations and motel reservations as far in advance as possible.

The registration fee is \$90 for adults and \$75 for children age 12 or under. Commemorative T-shirts are available for \$15. The deadline to register is Friday, June 1st.

The host hotel — where registration for the event, the welcome reception and the Saturday night banquet will be held — is the Atlanta Airport Marriott, located at 4711 Best Road, where a block of rooms king- and double-bed rooms have been set aside at a rate of \$89 plus tax. Reservations may be made by calling (800) 228-9290. Reservation deadline for the Marriott is Tuesday, July 17th.

An alternate place of lodging is the Embassy Suites Hotel-Atlanta Airport, at 4700 Southport Drive, where king- and double-bed rooms are available at a rate of \$109 per night plus tax. The hotel may be contacted at (800) 362-2779. Deadline for reservations is Thursday, July 26th.

To register for the event, persons whose last names begin with the letters A through I should contact: Jennifer Fluker at (678) 227-3181, or email Jennifer.fluker@adp.com.

Persons whose last names begin with the letters J through Q should contact Raquel Hampton at (404) 547-0064, or email rqhmp@aol.com.

Persons whose last names begin with the letters R through Z should contact Willa Turner at (770) 964-9929.

Co-chairman of the event is Victoria Harbin. Walter Craig and Maurice L. Scott serve as Treasurers, while Raquel Hampton is the Secretary.

Seletha may be contacted by mail at P.O. Box 278, Fairburn, GA 30213, by phone at (770) 964-8202, by FAX at (770) 964-4510, or by email at seletha96@bellsouth.net.

(ED. NOTE: It was the Sun's privilege to attend the 2005 Picnic in Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as the 2006 event in Lisman. If you have never been to one of these unforgettable weekends, you should make every effort to not miss this one! The Sun again plans to be there and we hope that many of our readers will make the trip as well. We will provide readers with the most up-to-date information available as the event draws nearer. — Tommy.)

Know any good cooks?

Maybe YOU are one!

Send us your favorite recipes and tell us a little about yourself and you could be one of our **COOKS OF THE MONTH**, and eligible to be selected as *The Choctaw Sun's* very first **COOK OF THE YEAR!**

Sun Country Calendar

There is no charge to list an upcoming non-profit or charitable event for your church, school, civic group, fire department, etc. Meetings of governmental entities may also be included. Events will be publicized for up to four (4) weeks in advance. Calendar items may be mailed, faxed, sent by U.S. Mail, or delivered in person to our offices in Gilberttown or Butler.

Tuesday, Jan. 16th

PEDALING FOR A CURE planning meeting, (American Cancer Society fundraiser), 6 p.m., J & K Restaurant, Toxey. All interested persons are invited to attend. For more details contact Michael Martin at 251-83-5446.

GILBERTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN will be presented by project coordinators from the University of Alabama and Auburn University, 7 p.m. Town Hall, Gilberttown.

Wed., Jan. 17th - Thurs., Jan. 18th

40 DAYS HOLY CONVOCATION REVIVAL, Church of God Pentecostal, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Eld. Jim Perine.

Thursday, Jan. 18th

CHOCTAW AREA CHRISTIAN HOME-SCHOOLERS will meet at Toxey Assembly of God Church. Junior Honeysuckle Garden Club will begin their meeting at noon, 4-H at 1 p.m. and CaTch at 2 p.m. Guests for the CaTch meeting will be Karen Sims from the Center for Pregnancy Choices in Meridian, and Teresa Howard from the Alpha Pregnancy Testing Center in Jackson. Any homeschoolers, as well as their family and friends, are welcome to attend.

CHOCTAW-WASHINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE meeting, 7 p.m., Heritage Church of God fellowship hall, Gilberttown. New officers will be elected for the coming year. All interested persons are invited.

Saturday, Jan. 20th

CHOCTAW CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY meets at the Public Library, 124 N. Academy Avenue, Butler, at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 21st

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY in many local churches.

Wed., Jan. 24th - Thurs., Jan. 25th

40 DAYS HOLY CONVOCATION REVIVAL, Church of God Pentecostal, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Min. Michael Ruffin.

Friday, Jan. 26 - Monday, Jan. 30

SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN, presented by Ballet and Theater Arts Performing Companies. Curtain times on Friday, Saturday and Monday, 8 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 and are now on sale at local banks and businesses. Call (251) 843-5138 for more information or reservations.

Saturday, Jan. 27th

THE VALLEY VIEW BOYS praise and worship group in concert at First Baptist Church of Butler. For more information call 205-459-2266.

GILFIELD DISTRICT ASSOCIATION winter board meeting, 10 a.m., St. John the Baptist Church, Halsell. Rev. Jasper Irby, President, Dea. Richard Jones, Secretary.

Sat., Jan. 27th - Sun., Jan. 28th

CHOIR CELEBRATION, New Mt. Mariah Baptist Church, Nanafalia, 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. All churches, soloists, and groups are invited to attend and perform. Rev. Alphonso Bowen is the Pastor; Sis. Evie Thomas is the Choir President.

Sunday, Jan. 28th

PASTOR'S AIDE TEA, Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church, 4 p.m. Guest speaker, Pastor Robert L. Jackson.

Tues., Jan. 30th and Wed., Jan. 31st

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER RECERTIFICATION CLASS, Tuesday at Choctaw Co. High School, Wednesday at Southern Choctaw High School. Times: 9 a.m., until 1 p.m. each day.

Wed., Jan. 31st - Fri., Feb. 2nd

40 DAYS HOLY CONVOCATION REVIVAL, Church of God Pentecostal, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Min. Chris Holcombe.

Saturday, Feb. 3rd

40 DAYS HOLY CONVOCATION REVIVAL, Church of God Pentecostal, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Eld. George Moore.

Sun., Feb. 4th - Wed., Feb. 7th

REVIVAL, Mosley Bridge Congregational Methodist Church. Lunch will be served following the Sunday morning service. Sunday evening service will begin at 6 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Evening meals will be served in the fellowship hall each night at 6 p.m. before worship services. Bro. Hal Dagg is the guest speaker.

Saturday, Feb. 10th

U.S. SEN. RICHARD SHELBY will host a county visit at 7:30 a.m. at Lindsey's Café in Butler. The public is invited to attend.

Tuesday, Feb. 13th

CHOCTAW CO. BOARD OF EDUCATION meeting, 5:30 p.m., Choctaw Co. Elementary School.

Saturday, Feb. 17th

WILD GAME SUPPER, featuring guest speaker Rich Wingo, former linebacker with the Green Bay Packers, 6 p.m., Gilberttown Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. No admission fee but you must have a ticket so that the proper number of meals can be prepared. Contact Richie Abston at 251-843-2575.