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Page 6A

News/Lifestyles

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Keahey appointed to two House committees

MONTGOMERY — State Rep. Marc Keahey, of Grove Hill, was been appointed to the Judiciary and Agriculture and Forestry committees in the Alabama House of Representatives during last week's organizational session.

Keahey, whose District 65 includes a portion of Choctaw County, said told the Sun that he is honored to be chosen for the committees.

"Making sure that we have a fair system of laws is one of the most important things that we can do as legislators," the

freshman legislator said. "Ensuring that violators of the law are appropriately punished is also vital to the safety of our state."

Keahey, who practices law in his family's law offices in Grove Hill, was also appointed vice chair of the Children's Issues Subcommittee for the Judiciary Committee.

"I also look forward to serving on the Agriculture and Forestry Committee," he said, noting how important the timber industry is for the three-county district.

"I plan to be an advocate for those back home whose livelihood depends on the timber industry," he said.

The Judiciary Committee, which is one of the most powerful committees in the House, reviews all bills pertaining to changes in civil and criminal law and establishing penalties for violations of the law.

The Agricultural and Forestry Committee is responsible for examining bills which control petroleum and waterways, hunting, fishing, and agribusiness.

Speaker of the House, Rep. Seth Hammett, of Andalusia, said that, in his opinion, Keahey will be a "tremendous asset" on both of the committees.

"I am confident that he will work tirelessly for the people of this state," Hammett said.

Keahey received his B.A. from the University of Alabama, and his J.D. from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. He and his wife, Lara, are the parents of one son, Marc II.

"I look forward to a productive session, and a productive

four years. I'm ready to get to work," Keahey said.

Keahey was in Choctaw County on Friday for the swearing-in ceremonies of Probate Judge D'Wayne May and Circuit Clerk Donna Murphy, and told the Sun that he will keep the people of Choctaw County informed on matters that come up in the Legislature that could potentially impact this area.

The House will reconvene on March 6 for the first legislative day of the 2007 regular session.

Lisman native deployed in war on terror

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Darren M. James is currently deployed overseas at a forward-operating location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Operation Enduring Freedom is the official name given to anti-terrorism military operations involving U.S. troops and allied coalition partners.

Reserve component members from all branches of the U.S. armed forces have been mobilized, activated and deployed along with active duty members to support the war against global terrorism. Mission objectives encompass combating the international terrorist network or regime forces outside the borders of the United States.

U.S. troops serve in South and Southwest Asia, Central Asia, the Arabian peninsula, islands in the Pacific, and in numerous other countries.

James, a senior enlisted mentor with 17 years of military service, is the son of Patricia A. James of Lisman.

His wife, Michelle, is the daughter of Robert and Dorothy Brooks of Abilene, Texas.

The sergeant is a 1988 graduate of Choctaw County High School, Butler.



Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell

Members of the Smoke on the Mountain cast are (left to right): John Thomas Lindsey (fiddle), Joy Lewis (Miss Maude), Tommy Campbell (guitar), Sydney Mosley (June Sanders), Ryan Allen (Dennis Sanders), Melissa Snow (Denise Sanders), Ian Kimbrough (Rev. Mervin Oglethorpe),

Georgia Dozier (Vera "Mama" Sanders), Bobby F. Jackson (Burl "Daddy" Sanders), Kenny Richardson (Stanley Sanders, who also plays bass), Naman Broadhead (mandolin and harmonica), and Carol Snow (Miss Myrtle). Not shown is Nadine Richardson (piano).

Smoke on the Mountain promises a toe-tapping, uplifting good time

GILBERTOWN — The year is 1938. It's Saturday night in Mount Pleasant, NC, and the Rev. Mervin Oglethorpe has invited the Sanders Family Singers to provide an upliftin' evening of singin' and witnessin'.

The audience is invited to pull up a pew and join in the rollicking good time as the spirited play, *Smoke on the Mountain*, is presented by the Ballet and Theatre Arts Performing Companies.

More than two dozen songs, many of them vintage Southern Gospel, country and bluegrass

hymns — Life's Railway to Heaven, Using My Bible for a Roadmap, I'll Fly Away and many more — and hilarious stories from the more or less devout Sanders ensemble provide a richly entertaining evening that has audiences clapping, singing, laughing and cheering.

"*Totally beguiling ... foot stomping soul food*," proclaimed reviews in the New York Post.

BTAPC has put together a cast for this show that has really come together as a "singing family". The musicians in the

Sanders' Band include Nadine Richardson (piano), Naman Broadhead (mandolin and harmonica), Tommy Campbell (guitar), and John Thomas Lindsey (fiddle). Our two ladies in the Amen Corner are: Miss Maude, portrayed by Joy Lewis, and Miss Myrtle, played by Carol Snow.

The Cast, in order of appearance, include: Mervin Oglethorpe (Ian Kimbrough), June Sanders (Sydney Mosley), Burl Sanders (Bobby F. Jackson), Vera Sanders (Georgia Dozier), Stanley Sanders

(Kenny Richardson, who also plays bass guitar), Denise Sanders (Melissa Snow), and Dennis Sanders (Ryan Allen).

Smoke On the Mountain will be presented at the BTAS Theatre in Gilberttown, Friday, Jan. 26, Sat., Jan. 27, and Monday, Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. nightly, and on Sunday, Jan. 28th at 2 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at the usual banks and businesses in Choctaw and Washington Counties. For reservations and information readers may call (251) 843-5138.

Miss Grice enlists in Air Force



AT RIGHT -- Starritha Grice.

BUTLER — Starritha Grice, the daughter of Milton and Eunice Grice, departed for Basic Military Training on Jan. 9, 2007.

Upon successfully completing the Air Force's six-week course at Lackland AFB, in San Antonio, TX, she is scheduled to receive technical training in the Electronics Aptitude Area, according to SRA Chenita Dock-Portis, an Air Force Recruiter based in Meridian.

A 2005 graduate of Choctaw County High School, Grice will earn credits toward an Associate Degree in Applied Science through the Community College of the Air Force while attending basic and technical training schools.

Miss Brown, Mr. Johnson plan Feb. 10th wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Brown of Millry are proud to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Jennifer LaNae Brown, to David Winslow Johnson, of Aquilla.

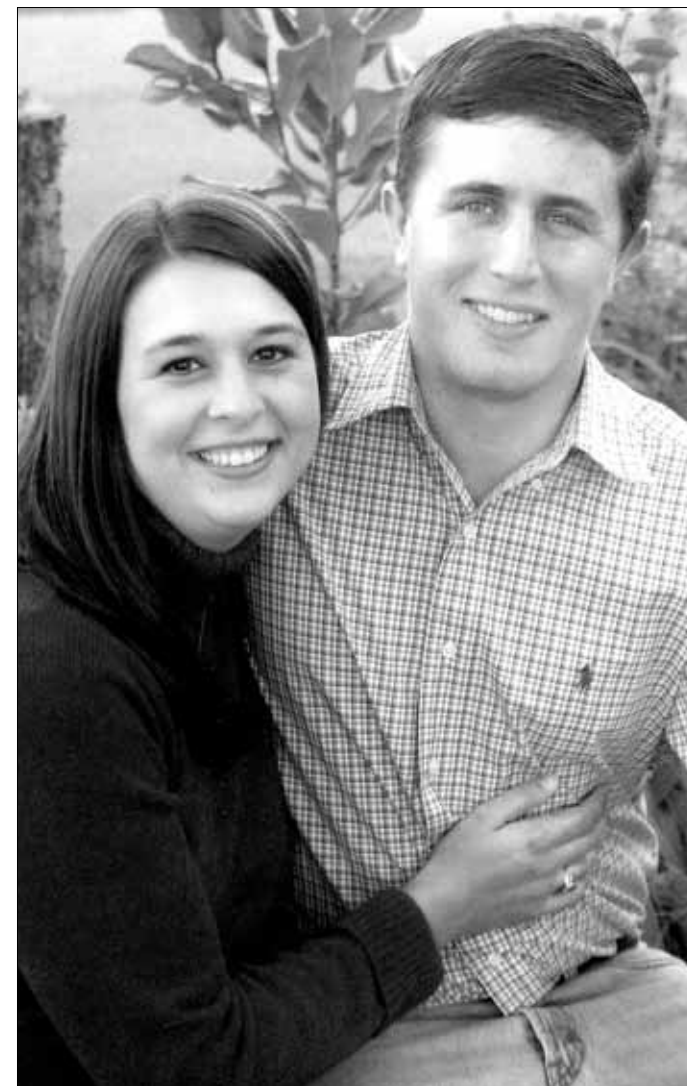
Miss Brown is a 2001 graduate of Millry High School, and a 2005 graduate of the University of Alabama. She is employed as a Kindergarten teacher at McIntosh Elementary School. She is the granddaughter of Shirley Gibson of Waynesboro, MS, Joe Whitsett of Millry, and the late Wilson Brown and the late Flaudie Brown of Millry.

Mr. Johnson is a 2001 graduate of Millry High School, and is currently pursuing a degree in Accounting at the University of Southern Mississippi. He is employed at H&H Welding in Laurel, Miss. He is the son of Tommy and Andra Johnson of Aquilla. He is the grandson of Myrtle Winslow and the late A.J. Winslow of Gilberttown, and the late J.E. Johnson and the late Inez Johnson of Aquilla.

The wedding will take place at 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at the Barlow United Methodist Church in Millry.

Friends and relatives are invited to attend.

AT RIGHT -- Miss Jennifer LaNae Brown and Mr. David Winslow Johnson.



There is never a charge to publish your engagement, wedding, birth announcements, military news or other important events in your life in *The Choctaw Sun*, Choctaw County's only home-owned newspaper.