




News/Events

Membership up for the year

BUTLER — The 2007 membership campaign is underway for the Choctaw County Chamber of Commerce. Membership averages between 90 to 120 yearly, but with a generation of new programs, workshops and information-sharing, the Chamber is seeing a surge in membership, according to Director Nancy Gibson. To start the year off, membership is up by approximately 8 percent. Listed below are the new and renewal memberships for February:

J&E Changing Times, Cullomburg
Choctaw County Retired Teachers
T.J. Scarborough Forestry Service, Inc., Chatom
United Auto Parts, Butler
Archie's Tire and Auto Clinic, Silas
Franklin Primary Health, Gilbertown
Ace Farm & Home, Butler and Gilbertown
Creek Bank Treasures, Butler



News and announcements from the
Choctaw Co. Chamber of Commerce and Community Development Foundation

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Sammie Bonner Construction Company, Inc., Toxey	J&K Junction/Boarding House, Toxey
Choctaw Area Council Boy Scouts of America	Mr. Discount Drugs, Butler
Bobby's Fish Camp, Silas	Mid Star Timber Harvesting, Inc., Toxey
ForestSouth, Inc., Butler	Movie World, Butler
Gibson Body Shop, Butler	Phillips Funeral Home, Gilbertown
Graham Forestry and Appraisal Services, Butler	Q&M Sales, Needham
Gibson Tire and Battery Service, Butler	St. John's Catholic Church, Butler
	Tree Star Construction, Inc., Toxey
	Stafford Metal Works,

Inc., Butler
John P. Utsey, Jr., Contractors, Inc., Butler
Utsey and Utsey Attorneys at Law, Butler
V&C Auto Sales, Lisman
Wayne's Pallets, Melvin
Town of Needham
Town of Butler
Butler Industrial Board
Factory Connection, Butler

A reminder to all Chamber members: your 2007 dues should be sent in soon.

Upcoming workshops include: Personal Finance, Minority Business, and Customer Service. New books have arrived in the business library, and the AERN (small business center) is open to all businesses both new and existing. Several bookmarked sites have been added to help your business grow.

For more information, contact Nancy at the Chamber office 205-459-3459.

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. Send your announcement as far in advance as possible. Calendar items may be mailed, faxed, sent by U.S. Mail, delivered in person, or left in our drop box at The Country Corner in Butler, or left at our Gilbertown or Butler offices.

Saturday, Feb. 24th
CHOCTAW CO. UNIT, Alabama Democratic Conference, election of officers, 10 a.m. until noon, Choctaw Co. Courthouse. For more information contact chairman C.D. "Budd" Ruffin at (205) 459-3299.

BENEFIT FOR RONNIE MOSLEY, Needham/Land Fire Department, 11 a.m. Grilled chicken and fried fish plates will be sold.

SINGING, Lusk Assembly of God, 6 p.m. Featured singers Crimson City along with local talent.

GREATHER FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Pastor's Aide Committee is sponsoring a Gospel Explosion, 6 p.m. All soloists and choirs are invited.

Sunday, February 25th

FRIENDS DAY, Gilbertown Church of God, 10:30 a.m., guest speaker Rev. Tim Brimm. Lunch will be served. Pastors Rev. and Mrs. Fred Wiley, Associates Rev. and Mrs. Scott Loper.

INSTALLATION SERVICE for Rev. Lavon Gathright, 3 p.m., John The Baptist Missionary Baptist Church, Halsell. Rev. Tony Campbell, pastor of Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Meridian, will be the guest speaker.

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM, Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church, Bladon Springs, 10 a.m. Rev. Robert L. Jackson is the Pastor.

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM, Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Jachin, 11 a.m. Rev. Cleo McGrew, Sr. Pastor.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY, Shady Grove Baptist Church, Silas, 2 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 26th – Friday, March 2nd

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM, Morning Star Baptist Church, Ala. Hwy. 17N, Butler, 7 p.m. each night. Sponsored by the Indian Springs Branch of the NAACP. Rev. O.L. Sealey President, Bro. Frank Rogers, Vice President.

Tuesday, Feb. 27th

PUBLIC MEETING FOR ALL INTERESTED IN CLEANING UP LITTER IN CHOCTAW COUNTY, 7 p.m., Old Buddies Restaurant, Butler. Elected officials, school administrators and teachers, pastors, youth leaders, business owners and other concerned citizens are encouraged to attend. Volunteers are needed to help plan a CLEAN UP CHOCTAW COUNTY WEEK which is planned for late March. Your presence, participation and enthusiasm will be the keys to the success of this project.

Wednesday, Feb. 28th

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM at Choctaw County High School, 2 p.m. Rev. O.L. Sealey, guest speaker.

Sat., March 3rd and Sun., March 4th

CHOIR DAY, St. Thomas AME Zion Church, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. All choirs, groups and soloists are invited. Sis. Mary Law, Choir President, Rev. Charles Phillips, Pastor.

Saturday, March 3rd

RELAY FOR LIFE ROADBLOCK, Lisman. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

SPIRIT OF LUKE FOUNDATION, free medical screenings, free food, free medicine, free clothes! Games for the children! NO COST TO ANYONE. Gilbertown Sr. Citizens Nutrition Center, 10 a.m.

Sunday, March 4th

ALABAMA NEW SOUTH Coalition of Choctaw County will hold its 2007 meeting at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Yantley, 5 p.m. All members and non-members are invited.

Wed., March 7th – Sat., March 10th

MUSICAL CHOIR WORKSHOP, Gooden Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 6 p.m. nightly. The Workshop will climax with a concert on Saturday, March 10 at 6 p.m. The workshop presenter will be Kenneth Braxton, Minister of Music First Missionary Baptist Church, Biloxi, MS. Registration is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth ages 5-18. For more information contact Essie Landrum (334) 736-4288 or Victor Johnson (205) 398-3037. Rev. Bobby Johnson, Pastor.

Thursday, March 8th

SILENT AUCTION AND GUMBO GATHERING, A Secret Safe Place for Newborns 2nd Annual Fundraiser Auction, Gumbo Gathering. Sponsored by District Attorney Spencer B. Walker, Chatom Community Center, 6-8 p.m. Children are welcome. Call 251-847-2070 or 251-275-3144 to reserve tickets. All donations of items for auction will be appreciated and may be dropped off at First United Security Bank in Gilbertown.

Friday, March 9th

CHOCTAW CO. ASSOCIATION OF VOL FIRE DEPARTMENTS, Butler Fire Hall, annual meeting to elect officers, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 10th

BENEFIT PROGRAM for Akeria and Janae Williams and Jeanifer Monghan, New Mt. Mariah M.B. Church, Nanafalia, 6 p.m. Akeria, Janae and Jeanifer received multiple burns to their body on February 9. Due to the extensive burns Akeria is still hospitalized and Jeanifer is receiving home health three times a week. Rev. Alphonso Bowen, Pastor and Sis. Sheila Spears, Chairperson.

CHOCTAW BOW HUNTERS, Relay For Life Bow Tournament, Gilbertown Bow Range, 10 a.m. All proceeds will go to Relay For Life. A \$15 entry fee is required for all entries. For more information or questions contact Janet Downey at 205-673-2253.

Spirit of Luke ministries bringing free health screenings, free food, free clothes on March 3rd

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTOWN — The organizers call it "A Promise to Help", and — for the second time this year — on Saturday, March 3rd, The Spirit of Luke Foundation will bring free health-care services, free food, and free clothing to needy families in Choctaw County.

The one-day event will be held at the Senior Citizens Nutrition Center in Gilbertown beginning at 10 a.m.

The Foundation, which is made up of a team of doctors, nurses

and other health-care professionals, college students, pastors, and a host of volunteers, travels the Black Belt of Alabama offering no-cost health services to people who might not be able to afford those tests and medicines.

In addition to the health-care services — from cholesterol and blood pressure checks to eye exams — which are provided through volunteers from the University of Alabama at Birmingham's world-class medical departments and others, the benevolent group provides at no cost whatsoever, an clothing,

medicine, and food.

Games are planned for the children, and persons are invited to bring their entire family.

There is absolutely no cost or obligation to anyone for any of the services or goods provided, and organizers said that no appointment is necessary.

The group ministered to more than 70 persons in January during a similar visit in Butler.

Operated by Henry Ford and his wife, Dr. Sondra Ford, the team of health-care professionals also includes some Choctaw County natives, such as Dr. Printella

Ridgeway-Thomas, who now practices in Birmingham, and Toxey native Victoria Towner, who is pursuing her own medical degree at UAB.

Toxey Reunion moving to new location

TOXEY — This year the ninth annual Toxey Reunion — the oldest consecutive-running community event in Choctaw County — is moving to the Toxey Town Park, which is located in downtown Toxey.

The center of activity will be around the Toxey Vol. Fire Station and Community Center, and the renovated historic Masonic Lodge.

For the children there will be a slide, moonwalk, dunking booth, boy's and girl's bicycle giveaway, and the airplane will be back dropping plastic eggs with designated prizes inside (\$10 bill, toys, etc.)

For the grown-ups there will be music, food, (grilled chicken plates, hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, candy, etc.) arts and crafts, and lots of friends and neighbors with whom you can visit.


The date is April 21 from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m.

For additional information, interested arts and crafts vendors may contact the Toxey Town Hall at 251-843-5222.

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Teller, Butler

- 27 years in banking
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- 75 pairs of shoes in her closet—that she admits
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- 1 year cheerleading at South Choctaw Academy
- 2 wonderful grandchildren
- 2 great children
- dozens of favorite customers she enjoys keeping up with

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