

How to contact your Elected Officials: State & District

Ala. House of Representatives, Dist. 65 (Choctaw, Clarke and Washington counties)

Rep. Marc Keahey
State Capitol Office:
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130
(334) 242-7600

Work:
128 Main Street
P.O. Box 297
Grove Hill, AL 26451
(251) 275-3127
FAX (251) 275-3129

Home:
756 Allen Road
Grove Hill, AL 36451
(251) 275-3541

Ala. House of Representatives, Dist. 68 (Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Marengo and Monroe counties)

Rep. Thomas E. Jackson
State Capitol Office:
Room 522-C
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130
(334) 242-7738

Work:
Address not available
(334) 246-3597

Home:
P.O. Box 656
Thomasville, AL 36784
(334) 636-0094

Ala. State Senate, District 22 (Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile and Washington counties)

Sen. W.H. "Pat" Lindsey
State Capitol Office:
Room 721
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Work:
126 South Mulberry
Butler, AL 36904
(205) 459-2478
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Rt. 1, Box 20
Butler, AL 36904
(205) 459-3508

Ala. State Senate, District 24 (Bibb, Choctaw, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, Sumter and Tuscaloosa counties)

Sen. Bobby Singleton
State Capitol Office:
Room 734
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130
(334) 242-7935
FAX (334) 242-2210

Work:
P.O. Box 548
Greensboro, AL 36744
(334) 624-3021

Home:
105 Cobb Street
Greensboro, AL 36744
(334) 624-5619

Email:
Bsingle164@yahoo.com

Alabama Governor's Office

Bob Riley
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
(334) 242-7100
FAX (334) 353-0004

Website: www.alabama.gov

Alabama Attorney General

Troy King
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

General Office Number — (334) 242-7300
Consumer Affairs — (800) 392-5658
Victim's Assistance — (800) 626-7676
Family Protection Unit — (800) 230-9485
Workers Comp Fraud — (800) 923-2533
Investigations — (334) 242-7345
Public Corruption — (334) 353-8494

Website: www.ago.alabama.gov

The contact information for these officials was obtained from the most reliable sources. However, if an address, phone/fax number, email or website address is in error, please let us know so that we can correct it before the next publication date.

This listing is published as a public service by **The Choctaw Sun**. We encourage readers to let these and other elected officials know how you feel about issues that are important to you.

Volunteer firefighters pushing for passage of several bills in Alabama Legislature

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — Twelve of Choctaw County's 14 departments were represented last Friday night, March 9, at the annual meeting of the Choctaw Co. Association of Volunteer Fire Departments.

Those present were reminded by Choctaw EMA Director Bill Gibson that the week of March 25-29 is Fire College Week at the Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa. Gibson said that the cost of attending a weekend course is only \$25.

He also said the National Fire Academy is offering some courses in Anniston during the week of April 22-27, with 100% of the tuition paid by the government for any firefighter who wants to attend.

Gibson reminded the departments that he still needs a list of their major pieces of equipment for use in a mutual aid list he is compiling.

Sun Publisher Tommy Campbell discussed a countywide clean-up day called "Operation Clean Sweep", which is planned for Saturday, March 31st, and asked firefighters to encourage their members, families and neighbors to take part.

Several departments offered to allow the use of their parking lots and property as "staging areas" for groups who will be picking up trash on that day.

"Every person and every bag of trash that is picked up will help put a clean, new 'face' on our county in time for Easter," Campbell said.

Butler Mayor Ben Smith commended the **Sun** for helping with the project and said he is pleased to see interest growing in the community clean-up project.

"One of the biggest causes of litter is stuff blowing out of the backs of pickup trucks," he said. "We as citizens could do something about that. We could take that ice bag or that empty box and put that rascal in a trash can where it belongs, but, no, most people just toss it into the back of the pickup where it's going to blow out and end of on the side of the road."

Smith encouraged people to keep a garbage bag, or a small box, in their trucks and cars to store trash until it can be disposed of properly.



Choctaw Sun photo by Tommy Campbell
Johnny Alberson (standing), a member of the Butler Vol. Fire Department and currently serving his second term as president of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Departments, spoke last Friday at the annual meeting of the Choctaw County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. Seated is Larry Roberts, outgoing president of the CCAVFD.

"We've all got to start being more aware of what we can do to protect our county and keep this trash off our highways," he said.

During the election of officers part of the program, Gilbertown Fire Chief David Dunn was elected president of the association. Former President Larry Roberts did not seek re-election. Josh Lewis, of the Scott Mt. VFD, was re-elected Vice President, and James "Hoot" Bonner, of the New Hope VFD, was elected Secretary-Treasurer after former Secretary-Treasurer Scott Dees did not seek re-election.

Johnny Alberson, who is a member of the Butler VFD, is also serving his second term as President of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Firefighters.

Alberson said that he plans to run for a third term as head of the 14,000+ member organization, and discussed a brief outline of some programs the association will be lobbying for during the

current session of the Alabama Legislature.

Alberson said the association is trying to secure one free vehicle tag for each volunteer firefighter. Currently, firefighters can get the distinctive license plates but have to pay for them. It is also pushing for free tuition for firefighters to attend classes at any of Alabama's two-year colleges; to establish a special, lower rate for telephone service for firefighters, and to set up a firefighters' retirement program.

"The state of Georgia has one of the best in the country where, after 25 years of service, a volunteer firefighter can retire with monthly benefits of \$550 a month," he said.

Alberson said a retirement bill actually passed in the 1960's but was later struck down by a court in 1973 as being unconstitutional on a technicality.

Other bills supported by the association include one that would provide benefits for children of

firefighters who are killed in the line of duty, and another that would allow them to claim reimbursement from the state for travel expenses in their vehicles to fight fires, and for items such as tires that may be ruined enroute to the fire.

Butler Fire Chief Max Edwards, Jr., who is also the chairman of the CCAVFD's Executive Board — made up of the chiefs of the county's 14 fire protection districts — said the board has made some real progress in recent months, but that more work is needed.

"If your chief cannot be at these meetings, maybe you need to look at him and ask yourself if he needs to be your chief," Edwards said candidly.

Edwards said one thing that needs to be kept to a minimum by all departments is needless "chatter and gossip" over the fire radio channels.

Outgoing CCAVFD President Larry Roberts said that the Executive Board has made several changes regarding meetings.

"We just feel that we can get more done by meeting as an Executive Board rather than having 'eating meetings,'" he said, referring to the semi-monthly meetings in which meetings were hosted by local departments on a rotating basis, with a meal provided by the host department.

The Executive Board meets every month with the exception of December. In September of this year, an "eating meeting" will be held at the Pleasant Hill VFD, and the annual meeting to elect officers will be held next March at the Butler VFD.

Persons other than fire chiefs may represent their departments at executive board meetings only if they have a signed letter from their chief, he said.

"If you have something you wish to speak about, you need to contact the chairman and get on the agenda for the next meeting," he said. "Otherwise, you will not be allowed to speak."

Roberts said the board is working on a set of standard operating guidelines, and that a plan is being discussed to provide a financial incentive to departments to encourage their chiefs to attend the monthly meetings.

Obituaries

Wyman Abston

SPANISH FORT — Services for Wyman Abston, a native of Gilbertown and a resident of Spanish Fort, Alabama, were held March 15, 2007 at Eastern Shore Baptist Church with Rev. Grant Barber officiating. Interment was in Jubilee Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Abston, 71, died March 12 at his residence.

Survivors include two daughters, Charlotte (husband, Phillip, Sr.) Hamilton of Spanish Fort, and Donita Abston of Marietta, GA; his mother, O'Neil Abston, of Gilbertown; one brother, John Henry Abston of Gilbertown; two sisters, Uvonne Hendrix of Gilbertown and Deloris Ford of Butler; two grandsons, Phillip, Jr. (wife, Crystal) Hamilton and Wyman (wife, Kaci) Hamilton; and one great-granddaughter, Kennedy Grace Hamilton.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Annie Gibson Abston.

Wolfe-Bayview Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Whitted E. Mosley

BUTLER — Services for Whitted E. Mosley were held March 13, 2007 from the Chapel of Bumpers Funeral Home with Rev. Leon Ross officiating. Interment was in the Stewart Cemetery in Gilbertown.

Mr. Mosley, 72, died March 10 at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian, MS. He was a

self-employed refrigeration and air conditioning repairman and served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict.

Survivors include one son, Randall Mosley, of Butler; two half-brothers, Larry Thomas of GA, and Lamar Thomas, of Mobile; one sister, Snooks Newton, of Gilbertown; two half-sisters, Jo Ann Bankston, of Mobile, and Willie Rea Yagerton of Laurel, MS.

Pallbearers were Terry Kelly, Terry Tyson, David Turner, Roy Copeland, Bobby Kelly, Hoss Kelly, and Carl Bankston.

Bumpers Funeral Home in Butler was in charge of the arrangements.

Ellen Blanche Taylor Morgan

GILBERTOWN — Services for Ellen Blanche Taylor Morgan were held March 12, 2007 from the chapel of Phillips Funeral Home in Gilbertown with Rev. Larry Cockerham and Rev. Leon Ross officiating. Interment was in the Gilbertown Cemetery.

Mrs. Morgan, 84, died March 10 at Rush Foundation Hospital in Meridian, MS.

Survivors include one son, Kenneth Morgan, of Gilbertown; one daughter, Ellen (husband, Alan) Caudle, of Brewton; one brother, Howard A. (wife, Audrey) Taylor, of Montgomery; one sister, Hazel (husband, Edward) Bankester of Bay Minette; two grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Pallbearers were Jimmy Taylor, John Taylor, Ronnie Bankester, John H. Abston, Wade Caudle, and Byron Caudle. Honorary pallbearers were Ted Abston and Raymond Abston.

Phillips Funeral Home of Gilbertown was in charge of arrangements.

Barbara B. Wainright

NANAFALIA — Services for Barbara B. Wainright were held at Geneva Presbyterian Church on March 14, 2007 with Bro. Scott Armstrong officiating.

Wainright, 66, died March 11 at Mobile Infirmary in Mobile. She was retired from Georgia Pacific Corporation where she was a long-time employee of the Credit Union.

Survivors include her mother, Helen Barr Breckenridge, of Sweet Water; Sue Dukes of Demopolis, Theo Rowzee of Butler, Robert Thomas of Sweet Water, William "Russ" Walters of Nanafalia, Traci Kelly of Linden, Lisa Barkley of Forkland, Donna Reid of Moundville, and Sonny Breckenridge of Demopolis.

Pallbearers were Keith Barkley, Austin Barkley, Nelson Walters, Phillip Reddick, and Jimmy Reddick. Honorary pallbearers were members and employees of the Naheola Credit Union.

Bumpers Funeral Home in Butler was in charge of the arrangements.

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