



The Choctaw Sun  
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# News/Events

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## Keahey's bill would require child molesters to have special vehicle tags

MONTGOMERY – If a bill sponsored by a local lawmaker is approved by the state Legislature, offenders who have been convicted of committing sexual offenses with children ages 12 or younger would be required to buy special license plates for their vehicles.

"I think any crimes relating to children that young can be separated from any other sexual offense," state Rep. Marc Keahey, of Grove Hill, said in published reports. "I just think it is a totally different intent that goes through the person's mind whenever you have a victim that is under the age of 12."

Keahey's proposed bill would allow judges to order the convicted offender, if he owns a vehicle, to purchase the special license plate at an additional cost of \$50 per year.

The extra funds would offset the cost of the program, with \$48.75 going to the Dept. of Corrections, and \$1.25 to the counties where the tags are issued.

Under the bill, any offender who does not comply with a judge's order to buy and install one of the license plates of his vehicle could be charged with a Class B misdemeanor, which carries a fine of up to \$3,000 and up to six months in jail.

The state representative, whose District 65 includes a portion of Choctaw County, said that since the birth of his own son, he has become far more aware of the growing threat from child molesters and sexual predators.

"I just want to do whatever I can to make sure we're warned and prepared to prevent crimes like that from happening in any way we can," he said.

Keahey said that due to a number of questions raised by fellow Alabama lawmakers, he asked for the bill to be delayed in the House Judiciary Committee to allow him time to work on the language.

Keahey said he hopes the bill will be ready and finalized when lawmakers return after their spring break, and added that he wants the bill to be able to make exceptions for any convict who is truly rehabilitated.

He called child molestation a sickness, and added that, "I don't know that it's something that can be cured."



Choctaw Sun photo by Tommy Campbell

## SCES gets grant for computer lab

GILBERTOWN – State Sen. W.H. "Pat" Lindsey on Monday presented a check in the amount of \$11,000 to Jacqui James, principal of Southern Choctaw Elementary School, Reading Specialist Michelle Taylor, and Superintendent of Education Sue Moore for use in equipping a portable computer lab at the school. James said that since the school doesn't have enough classroom space to establish a "fixed-location" computer lab, funds are being raised to buy computers and the necessary software and equipment to outfit a portable "cart" that can move from classroom to classroom. James said that the \$11,000 grant from the state's Education Trust Fund will not completely pay for the project. "But we are grateful for the grant and it will be a big step in that direction," she told the Sun. Supt. Moore also took the occasion to pin a red apple lapel pin onto Sen. Lindsey's coat in recognition of his pledge to protect the Education Trust Fund.

## Big changes may be in store for Parks & Recreation Board

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – The local Parks and Recreation Board may be in for a major overhaul as the Choctaw Co. Commission wrestles with what to do about the fact that the board was never formally incorporated.

Probate Judge D'Wayne May said at the Commission's April 9th meeting that he had asked board members to think about it and be prepared to make some recommendations.

Commissioner Henry Lovette said he personally thought it best to start from "point zero."

"That's what I think, too," Commissioner Clyde Dixon agreed.

Commissioners C.D. "Budd" Ruffin and Dandy Brown said they felt the same.

The board, which was appointed several years ago to oversee funds that are collected and dispersed through a local 10-cent per pack tax on cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and other tobacco-related products, has apparently been operating on the assumption that all of its legal paperwork was in order.

May said at a March 5th meeting that in reviewing some appointments that will need to be made soon to the board, he discovered that although the board was authorized by the Commission and board members appointed, he could find no record of where the group ever filed papers of incorporation with the Secretary of State's office.

A spokesperson for the board told the Sun at that time that they had been made aware of the problem and were taking the necessary steps to correct the unintentional oversight. Until that happens the board will continue to meet and transact business as usual unless it is told otherwise, she said.

"I have here a application to incorporate a public parks and recreation board which was submitted by Lanelle Turner, who is one of the current members of the board," May said at the Monday meeting.

Lovette, however, said he was not prepared to vote on the issue until giving it some more thought.

"We do not have a (Parks) board at this time because it was dissolved for the fact that it was never incorporated," he said. "I have no recommendation for names for a new board because I have not talked to anyone, new people or those on the board now."

The judge said that the matter needs to be concluded at the first meeting in May and asked commissioners to come prepared at that meeting to recommend one person from each of their districts to serve on the new board.

The board will discuss what to do about the situation at a special-called meeting on Tuesday, April 24th at 9 a.m.

The Choctaw Co. Tobacco Tax Act, No. 2001-913, was sponsored and passed in the Alabama Legislature by the late Rep. Jeff Dolbare with proceeds earmarked for improving public recreational opportunities within the county.

The taxes include a 10-cent per pack tax on cigarettes, each container of smoking tobacco or chewing tobacco, each can of snuff, individual cigars, and per package of cigarette rolling papers.

For the months of Oct., 2006 through Jan., 2007, the tax has brought in a total of \$42,068, or an average of \$10,517 per month, according to the Treasurer's Office.

Dolbare said in 2001, before the bill became law, that a board would have to be appointed and incorporated as a non-profit corporation to oversee the disbursement of the tax.

## Matter of legal representation for CCC will be among topics on April 24th agenda

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER – An item relating to legal representation for the Choctaw Co. Commission was included on that board's agenda for the April 9th meeting, but because the meeting ran until well after lunchtime, Probate Judge D'Wayne May recommended that the matter be tabled until a special-called meeting set for Tuesday, April 24th. That meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and will also include discussion relating to the Choctaw County Airport Authority and the Parks and Recreation Board. In other matters at the April 9th meeting, the board:

- On a motion by Commissioner C.D. Ruffin, voted unanimously to table until the first meeting in May the appointment of a new member to the North Choctaw Water and Sewer Authority's board of directors.

- Gave its approval for the Probate Judge and Clerk of Probate Court to attend a summer conference.

- Discussed but tabled until the first meeting in May a decision regarding whether the county will participate in the state's Back to School Sales Tax Holiday, scheduled for the first weekend in August.

- On a motion by Commissioners Ruffin and Brown, the board voted unanimously to allow Brown and his crew to take down and re-install two "Welcome to Lavaca" signs so that the signage is in accordance with rules of the Ala. Dept. of Transportation.

- The board tabled until the first meeting in May the appointment of three people to the Choctaw Co. Board of Equalization.

- Approved a motion to continue using the same uniform rental company for a period of three years, provided there are no more serious issues with the quality of the clothing or the servicing of those uniforms.

## 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. The deadline is 9 a.m. MONDAYS for that week's edition.

THE CHOCTAW COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM will be open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. For more information call 251-843-2501 or 251-542-9392.

### Entire month of April

BOOK FAIR, Choctaw Co. Public Library, order on-line at [www.noendbooks.com](http://www.noendbooks.com). Click on "Choctaw County Public Library" on the right before shopping. If you are local, you may order at the either the Silas or Butler library for no shipping fee. The Library will get up to 50% back in free books.

### Wednesday, April 18th

GET FINE AND FIT – Every Wednesday at the Choctaw Community Development Center, Inc. (old East Choctaw school). Membership fee \$30 or \$10 a day.

### Wed., April 18th – Sat., April 21st

DESTINY'S CALLING YOU CRUSADE, Sister's Keeper Ministries, Believers' Life Center, 3300 North Pace Blvd. Pensacola, FL. For more information contact Minister Sherry K. Taylor at home 251-542-9779 or 205-457-1784.

### Thursday, April 19th

CHOCTAW CO. HIGH, CLASS OF 1977, reunion meeting, home of Margaret Roberts, 5:30 p.m. If directions are needed, call 205-398-3734 or 205-654-2860 after 6 p.m.

### Thursday, April 19th – Sunday, April 21st

SPRING BREAK SHOOTOUT, sponsored by Joshua Victory Assembly, Haguewood Park, Pennington, 2-4 p.m. For boys and girls ages 12-18. Signup through April 18; non-refundable entry fee \$10 per team. For more information contact Pastor Thomas Jackson at 205-654-2254.

### Saturday, April 21st

TOXEY REUNION, 9 a.m. till 3 p.m., at the Toxey Town Park between the Vol. Fire Station and the restored Masonic Lodge.

AIMWELL CEMETERY MEMORIAL, Marengo County.

CHOCTAW CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 10 a.m. Public Library in Butler, visitors welcome. RELAY FOR LIFE GOLF TORUNAMENT, sponsored by Butler VFD, registration 11:30 – 12:30. Tee off at 1 p.m. Contact Little Bruce Taylor or Kim Edwards.

GOSPEL SINGING, featuring The Revelators, Glory Road Quartet and others, South Choctaw Academy Gym, Toxey, 6:30 p.m. Concessions available.

ROADBLOCK FUNDRAISER, New Hope Relay for Life Team, 4-way stop, Silas.

ESSECENETTE CLUB Spring Fling Banquet and Dance, Holiday Inn Ballroom, Meridian, 6:30 p.m. For more information call Mary Jackson at 601-604-4937.

APPRECIATION BANQUET in honor of Ann Geraldine Larkin, 5 p.m., given by John The Baptist Church family, Halsell, in the Fellowship Hall. Min. V. McNair will be the guest speaker. Refreshments will be served. Rev. Lavon Gathright, Pastor.

### Sunday, April 22nd

FOREIGN MISSIONS SERVICE, First United Pentecostal Church, 253 Bobwhite Road, Silas, 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker Rev. Nathan Harrod from Spain. Pastor Bro. Marcus Rush.

FREEDOMLAND QUARTET in concert at Calvary Baptist Church, 6 p.m.

PASTOR TIMOTHY PEARSON'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY celebration, Mt. Mariah Baptist Church, Melvin 2 p.m. Rev. Gary D. Houston will be the guest speaker.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY, Star Bethel P.B. Church, Sweet Water, 1:30 p.m. Rev. S.L. Hives, pastor of the Independent Missionary Baptist Church, Sweet Water, guest speaker.

MISSIONARY PROGRAM, John The Baptist Church, Halsell, 2:30 p.m. Rev. Marvin Dixon, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church of Pushmataha, will be the guest speaker. Rev. Lavon Gathright, Pastor.

MEETING, Eureka Baptist Church, Bro. Frank McLelland, guest speaker, Bro. Brent Manasco, music leader. Lunch will be served.

MEMORIAL SERVICE, Brightwater United Methodist Church. Service at 11 a.m. Dinner served afterwards.

MCDOWELL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION Memorial Service, Bladon Springs, 11 a.m. Following the memorial the group will gather at Bladon Springs State Park for lunch.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE, Gilfield Missionary Baptist Church, 2:30 p.m. Guest speaker Rev. Samuel Duff, Pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Butler, along with his choir.

### Mon., April 23rd – Wed., April 25th

REVIVAL, Eureka Baptist Church, 7 p.m. nightly with Bro. Frank McLelland speaking and Bro. Brent Manasco leading the music. Bro. David Manasco, Pastor.

### Monday, April 23rd – Friday, April 28th

REVIVAL, Gilfield Missionary Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m. nightly. Guest speaker, Rev. W.C. McNeil, pastor of Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Mobile.

### Tuesday, April 24th

AARP SUPPER, 6 p.m., Butler Senior Citizens Center, Riderwood Drive. CHOCTAW CO. COMMISSION, special-called meeting, 9 a.m.

### Wednesday, April 25th

SPEAKERS FROM ALPHA Christian ministry  
See CALENDAR, page 4A

See you at the *Toxey Reunion this Saturday!*

Your only **HOME OWNED** NEWSPAPER ... *The Sun!*