

## Lillian Hodge named to E-911 Board of Directors

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

**BUTLER** – Lisman resident Lillian Hodge is the newest member of the Choctaw Co. E-911 Board of Directors, following a vote of the County Commission on Monday.

Mrs. Hodge replaces Carrie Mae Johnson on the emergency communications' district's governing board.

At an earlier meeting, the Commission had agreed for letters to be sent asking all county-appointed boards to respond, informing the Commission



Mrs. Hodge

of the names and terms of office of their members, and of any members whose terms are expiring or have already expired.

In regard to the E-911 Board, Director Patsy Allen sent a letter stating that three board member's terms expire in April – Mrs. Johnson, Coleman Davis, and David Lewis. Allen recommended that the three be reappointed.

Commissioner Dandy Brown moved to reappoint Davis, and Commissioner Clyde Dixon moved to reappoint Lewis. Both motions passed unanimously.

Commissioner C.D. "Budd" Ruffin, however, instead nominated Lillian Hodge to take Mrs. Johnson's place. That motion was likewise approved unanimously.

In regard to an appointee to the County Board of Equalization – a board that hears complaints from property owners about unresolved issues with their ad valorem bills – Commissioner Ruffin nominated Lisman businessman J.W. "Dub" Ezell for the post, but the move was

tabled until the April 9th meeting.

Reading a recommendation from Virginia Montgomery, Librarian for the Choctaw Co. Public Library, May said that Library board member Patricia Ezell needs to be reappointed to a term which will expire on Sept. 30, 2010, along with board members Sonja M. Brown and Rita Ware, whose new terms will expire in 2011.

The board, on a motion by Commissioners Lovette and Dixon unanimously approved the request.

A request by the North Choctaw Water and Sewer Authority to reappoint board member Carrie Mae Johnson to the three-member panel was tabled until the April 9th meeting at the request of Commissioner Ruffin.

"They've got a lot of problems out there," he said. "I've got to do a lot of considering before I make a recommendation."

The other two members of the NCWSA are Rita Woods and Bruce Boykin.

## State lifts fire alert for Choctaw

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

**MONTGOMERY** – A line of thunderstorms moving into the state from the west brought welcome, much-needed rainfall to Choctaw County and most other

counties in southwest Alabama on Saturday and Sunday.

The rainfall totals, from one-half an inch in some communities to more than an inch and a half in others, was enough to prompt State Forester Linda S. Casey on Monday to remove Choctaw and 37 other counties from the 43 counties that

were placed under a fire alert on March 21.

Since Choctaw County is no longer affected by the "no burn" order, the Alabama Forestry Commission will resume issuing permits for outdoor burning, a spokesman said.

## SpringFling this weekend in Butler

**BUTLER** – The Town of Butler is sponsoring a two-day "Spring Fling" festival on April 6 and 7 at the old Vanity Fair site across from Bumpers Funeral Home.

Music from bluegrass to country to rock will featured with free admission.

Following is a tentative list of performers who were scheduled to appear at presstime.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 6th

6 p.m. – Claire Lynch (blue-

grass)

7:30 p.m. – Steve Forbert, singer-songwriter, (pop)

9 p.m. – The Kattawar Brothers of Memphis, TN (rock & roll)

### SATURDAY, APRIL 7th

Noon – Larry Wallace Band (bluegrass)

3 p.m. – Foot of the Hill (bluegrass/country/rock)

4:30 p.m. Humble Spirits (gospel)

6 p.m. – Jerry and Tammy Sul-

livan (bluegrass gospel)

7:30 p.m. – Willie King (blues)

The site will be open from noon to 10 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Saturday.

Food and crafts vendors will be on hand and for more information persons may call Town Hall at 205-459-3795.

A carnival that had agreed to come for the event has had to cancel because of circumstances beyond its control, Mayor Ben Smith said.

## Boise to pay for historical marker at Tuscahoma Landing River Park

By Tommy Campbell  
The Choctaw Sun

**BUTLER** – Commissioner Henry Lovette said Monday that Boise-Cascade has agreed to pay for a large, granite-like marker to be placed at the entrance to the new Tuscahoma Landing River Park to commemorate the historic significance of the site.

Lovette said at the April 2 meeting of the Commission that he had discussed with Jim Evans, President of the Choctaw Co. Historical Society, about coming up with wording for the marker.

The site was where the famous Choctaw Indian Chief Pushmataha in the late 1700's signed a significant trade treaty with the United

States Government. It was also where Indians made their way ashore after fleeing the massacre at Fort Mims during the War of 1812, and the site where steamboats of the 1800's docked to take on loads of Choctaw County-grown cotton bound for the Port of Mobile.

"I agreed to haul some gravel to pour for the 'turn out' area so that people can pull off to read the marker," Lovette said, adding that he had spoken to Butler Mayor Ben Smith about the project since the city is involved in the new Tuscahoma Landing site.

Lovette read the proposed wording and said if the board had no objections he would get the inscription to Boise and they will have the monument made.

A motion by Commissioners Dandy Brown and C.D. "Budd" Ruffin to approve the wording passed unanimously.

There was considerable controversy when the board voted earlier this year to permanently close the old Tuscahoma Landing site and allow the land to revert to Boise Cascade.

A large sign once in place at that site, just a few yards to the southeast down CR 27, noted that the old landing site is believed to be the actual location of the signing of the treaty, and many critics said that, because of that, the site should be kept open to the public and preserved for historical purposes.

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## 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, emailed, delivered in person to our offices in Butler or Gilbertown, or left in our drop box at The Country Corner in Butler.

### Entire month of April

**BOOK FAIR**, Choctaw Co. Public Library, order on-line at www.noendbooks.com. Be sure to 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.

### Mon., April 2nd – Fri., April 6th

**SPRING REVIVAL**, Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m. nightly. Rev. Kendall Washington, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dayton, OH guest evangelist. Rev. Marvin L. Dixon, pastor.

### Friday, April 6th

**SPRING REVIVAL**, Mt. Mariah Missionary Baptist Church, Lisman, 7:30 p.m. nightly. Rev. Joseph Patterson, guest minister. Rev. Jasper Irby, pastor.

**EASTER PROGRAM AND EGG HUNT**, sponsored by the W.O.M.A.N Committee, Lisman Town Hall (the former Lisman Jr. High) from 10 a.m. - noon. Youth from all churches will be participating. Entertainment will be provided.

**THE LAST SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS**, Fairfield C.M.E. Church. (Time not listed.)

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**, Spring Bank Baptist Church, U.S. 84 West, Silas, 6:30 p.m. Rev. Wesley Slay, Pastor.

### Friday, April 6 - Sat., April 7th

**BUTLER SPRING FLING**, music, food, vendors, and fun for the whole family. Old Vanity Fair location. See detailed article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

### Saturday, April 7th

**YARD SALE**, Gilbertown and Friends Relay for Life Team, 6673 Melvin Road, something for everyone! All proceeds to the American Cancer Society; NO early bird sales. For more information call Michael Martin, 251-843-5446.

**YARD SALE, FISH PLATES**, Relay for Life fund raiser at Mary's Café in Silas. Yard sale from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and fish plates for \$5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**THE C.B.L. RABY FAMILY Singers** and The Gospel Messengers will be singing at Fairfield C.M.E. Church, 7 p.m.

**FISH FRY**, St. Mary United Methodist Church, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Plates \$5, sandwiches \$3.

**HORSE SHOW**, Choctaw County Saddle Club Arena (three miles west of Butler on Hwy. 10), 1 p.m. For more information call Dale Allen (205) 459-3245 or Pete Gibson (251) 843-5262.

**WHYNOT MOTORSPORTS PARK** – last Saturday night's action was rained out. A regular slate of racing is planned for April 7th at 7 p.m. The rained out races were rescheduled for April 21st at 7 p.m. Hot laps at 6 p.m.

**PLEASANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST** Music Ministry will host a Pre-Anniversary Musical for their pastor and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Webb, 7 p.m.

**LADIES OF DISTINCTION SOCIAL ORGANIZATION** is hosting a benefit program for Will (SamBo) Westbrook at Independent Missionary Baptist Church, Sweet Water.

### Sat., April 7th – Sunday, April 8th

**CHOIR ANNIVERSARY**, Mt. Mariah Baptist Church, Ward, Sat., 6 p.m. and Sun., 2 p.m. All choirs, groups and soloists are invited to sing two selections.

### Sunday, April 8th

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**, Spring Bank Baptist Church, U.S. 84 West, Silas, 7 a.m. Breakfast will follow with Sunday School at 8:15 a.m. and Easter presentation by the Choir and the Lord's Supper observance at 9 a.m. Rev. Wesley Slay, Pastor.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**, Black Creek Baptist Church, Silas, 6 a.m. Breakfast will follow with fun and games for children and youth afterward. Rev. Tommy Campbell, pastor.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**, Oak Grove Baptist Church, New Hope Road, Toxey, 6 a.m. Rev. Kennedy R. Gray, Pastor.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, NEEDHAM ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, 6:30 a.m. The Choir will present "The Night Before Easter" on Sunday at 5 p.m.

**THE JOYFUL SOUND**, from Selma, will present a musical program at Little Walker C.M.E. Church in Butler, 5 p.m.

**HOMECOMING**, Gilbertown Church of God, Barrytown Road, 10:30 a.m., lunch served afterward. Pastor Rev. Fred Wiley, Associate Pastor Rev. Scott Loper.

**EASTER SERVICE**, First United Pentecostal Church, 253 Bobwhite Road, Silas, 10:30 a.m. Lunch following. No Sunday night service.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICES**, Land Methodist Protestant Church, 7 a.m. followed by breakfast.

### Monday, April 9th

**CHOCTAW CO. COMMISSION** meeting, 8 a.m., Courthouse.

**TOWN HALL MEETING**, Congressman Artur Davis, Courthouse, Butler, 6-8 p.m.

### Thurs., April 12th – Sun., April 15th

**WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**, A.O.H. Church of Christ, Silas, 7:30 p.m. on April 12th-13th, and 9 a.m. on April 14th with prayer, plenary sessions, and fun activities for the ladies, ending April 15 with a 1:30 p.m. program. On Dan Road in the Shady Grove Community. Contact Sis. Nancy Nettles at 251-575-4044 or Sis. Annette Mitchell at 251-843-5256.

### Saturday, April 14th

**BEAUTY REVIEW**, South Choctaw Academy, 5 p.m. General admission tickets \$5. Reserved seating will \$7 and will go on sale in the gym on Monday, April 9 at 8 a.m.

**BUTLER DIXIE YOUTH OPENING DAY**, Zack Rogers Park, opening ceremonies at 11:30 a.m., first games at noon.

See CALENDAR, page 3A