

Tickets for Clay Walker, Rhett Akins show on sale now

By Tommy Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTOWN – Persons from as far away as Panama City and Pensacola, Florida, and the Mobile area have already purchased tickets for the big Heritage Festival show that will feature country music stars Clay Walker and Rhett Akins.

Advance tickets, which are \$25

each (for all ages) went on sale Saturday at a number of locations, and sales so far have been strong, festival organizers said.

The Saturday, June 2nd show will be held at the SCHS Football Stadium with preliminary activities, featuring the winner of the Colgate Country Showdown, beginning at 6 p.m. The Akins/Walker concerts will begin at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at all

branches of First United Security Bank, Regions Bank (Butler and Gilbertown), West Ala. Bank and Trust, Naheola Credit Union (Pennington), Bonita Lakes Mall (Meridian), First Community Bank (Millry and Chatom), Merchants Bank (Jackson), The Village Shoppe, and Gilbertown Town Hall.

Tickets can also be ordered online at www.ticketweb.com.

Two proposed Constitutional Amendments only items on special June 5th election

By Tommy Campbell
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BUTLER – A special election will be held on Tuesday, June 5th will allow voters to decide the fate of two proposed amendments to the Alabama Constitution.

Amendment One would authorize a \$400 million increase in the state's bonding authority, with the extra money to be used to offer

economic incentives to lure new industries to Alabama. The additional funds are available with no new tax increases, officials said. Revenues from coastal natural gas wells are expected to be used to fund the initiative if it is approved by voters.

Amendment Two would provide constitutional protection to two trust funds the Legislature created to save money for the future health

insurance costs of retired state employees and school workers. Currently, the state pays those costs on a "pay-as-you-go" basis, but officials are planning to start saving money for the costs as they do for the pensions of state employees.

The Legislature approved both amendments in a special session called by Gov. Bob Riley earlier this year.



Photo by Sgt. Betty Hunt

Two 2101st soldiers get Purple Hearts

FORT McCLELLAN, Ala. — On November 17, 2004 the lives of two Alabama soldiers changed forever. Staff Sgt. David McCafferty and Sgt. Michael McCaa, both residents of Aliceville and members of the 2101st Transportation Company, were both wounded when two bombs exploded near their vehicle. Although their injuries have healed, the memories of that day will forever be etched in their minds. On April 21, 2007 at Fort McClellan National Guard Post, in Anniston, Ala., an award ceremony was held to honor these two heroes. Both men were awarded The Purple Heart by Brigadier General Joe Harkey. The Purple Heart was established by President George Washington in 1782 during the Revolutionary War. This award is bestowed upon any soldier wounded or killed during combat. The Purple Heart is ranked immediately behind the Bronze Star in order of procedure among the personnel awards.



Jail Log

Unlawful distribution of a controlled substance – Marvin Craig, 33, 903 23rd Street, Meridian, MS, arrested on 4/17/07 by Officer McGee.

NWNI (nine counts) – Katrina Glenn, 42, 625 Williams Street, Thomasville, arrested on 4/19/07 by Gates. Released on bond.

Sexual abuse – Barron O'Hara, 41, 121 Edgewood Road, Lisman, arrested on 4/18/07 by Cottrell.

Harassment, failure to appear – Jonathan Presley, 22, 11 Elmwood Road, Butler, arrested on 4/30/07 by McGrew.

Library

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sparked my interest and made we want to know more about it."

The Silas Branch, which is open Mondays

and Wednesdays from 1-5 p.m., is now located in the downtown "Old Town" portion of Silas, but as soon as renovations there are completed, it will be moving to the town's new Municipal Complex – the former Southern Choctaw

Elementary School building on the east side of Ala. 17.

"The library offers something for all ages, from children to senior adults, and we are asking people to join with us to help keep it open," she

said.

Tax-deductible donations should be made payable to Friends of the Silas Library and mailed to P.O. Box 234, Silas, AL 36919, or dropped off at the Library or Sandy's Video.

Hospital

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obtain a waiver of a federal regulation that is effectively holding up construction of the facility at the site of choice, which is the property in Butler formerly occupied by Choctaw Co. High School.

Early last year, Rush worked with local developer and businessman James Levern Adams to purchase the tract of property from the Choctaw Co. Board of Education as the site of the new medical center.

The site was purchased and cleared for that purpose. However, federal regulations regarding construction of Critical Access Hospital facilities state that a new hospital cannot be built if an existing hospital is located within 35 miles of the proposed site, and – as it turns out – Hill Hospital of York, is located just inside that parameter, or about 33 miles from the site, which is bordered on the north by Pushmataha Street (Ala. 10), on the east by Rogers Avenue, and on the south by Smith Street.

Officials have been working with federal agencies and the offices of U.S. Senators Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby, and Rep. Artur Davis, in an attempt to get a "waiver" attached to a bill that could be approved by Congress.

If efforts to secure that waiver should fail, Rush has taken an option on a tract of property south of Butler on which officials say they fully intend to build a new hospital.

The 35,000 square-foot facility, which would be known as Rush Hos-

pital/Butler, would cost between \$3 million to \$5 million to build and equip, and offer local residents much-needed access to a 24-hour, seven-day emergency room – staffed by four "in house" physicians – a state-of-the-art laboratory and advanced digital X-ray, MRI and CT scan equipment. In addition to the obvious health care benefits to the community, the new facility would offer employment for approximately 130 nurses, lab techs, support personnel, clerical staff, cafeteria workers, and others.

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.

Thursday, May 3rd
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER gatherings, 6 p.m., Courthouse in Butler, Town Hall in Gilbertown.
MT. STERLING CEMETERY COMMITTEE will meet at 7 p.m. at the Mt. Sterling Baptist Church.

Thursday, May 3rd – Sat., May 5th
NEW HOPE RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM Yard Sale, home of Mary Ann Clark (Needham Road, near the Fire Department).

Saturday, May 5th
CEMETERY CLEANING, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, CR 25. Please remove all old flowers before this date so that the cemetery can be cleaned for the annual memorial (May 20th).

REUNION for all former employees (1950-2003) of Choctaw Manufacturing at Silas, noon – 2 p.m. buffet lunch at Mary's Café (U.S. 84 west, Silas), \$10 per person. Contact Mary Taylor at 251-542-9746 or Jackie Utsey at 251-542-9539 for more information.

CONFERENCE, Shiloh C.M.E. Church, Cromwell 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Theme: "Daughters of the King," Answering God's Call. Message, music, door prizes.

FISH FRY, South Marengo Rescue Squad Hall on Ala. Hwy. 10, \$7 per plate.

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

Sunday, May 6th

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DAY, New Rock Baptist Church, Millry, 2 p.m. Rev. Hal Hayes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fruitdale, guest speaker. Dr. Johnnie Heartfield, host pastor.

HOMECOMING, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Pennington. Former pastor Rev. Chris Perkins will be the guest speaker. Lunch will be served after the morning service.

YOUTH DAY PROGRAM, Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church, Bladon Springs, 3 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Steven Pickens, his choir and congregation of the New Area Missionary Baptist Church in Mobile.

NOAH TAYLOR FAMILY REUNION, 11 a.m. – until, Fire Station Gilbertown. For more information call Sharon Casey at 251-843-2377.

GOSPEL SINGING, Mosley Bridge Church, co-sponsored by Mosley Bridge Church and Wimberly Methodist Church, 6 p.m. All singers are welcome. For more information call Janice at 205-459-2684 or 459-2536.

FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY of Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Patterson, Greater First Baptist Church of Lisman, 2 p.m. Guest speaker Rev. Marvin Dixon and Choir of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church of Lisman.

FIRST ANNUAL DEACON'S DAY, New Mt. Mariah Baptist Church, 2 p.m. Dr. Charles Davidson, pastor of Town Creek Missionary Baptist Church in West Point, MS, guest speaker.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 1:30 p.m. Rev. Cleo McGrew Sr., pastor. Rev. Richard White, guest speaker.

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE for the Alabama Line Association, at Pleasant Chapel Baptist Church, 5 p.m. Rev. Bobby Ray Bolton, pastor.

HOMECOMING, Rock Springs Baptist Church, 11 a.m. Lunch served afterwards.

Mon., May 7th – Fri., May 11th

YOUTH REVIVAL, New Rock Baptist Church, Millry, 7:30 p.m. nightly. Rev. Bartee, pastor of Altar Baptist Church, Shubuta, MS, will be the guest speaker. Dr. Johnnie Heartfield, host pastor.

Tuesday, May 8th

ALABAMA-TOMBIGBEE REGIONAL COMMISSION AREA AGENCY ON AGING will celebrate Older Americans Month for persons age 60 and over at Concordia College's Mary & Julius Jenkins Center, 1804 Green St., Selma, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Entertainment will include; Senior Dance Contest, Health Fair, Picnic Lunch, and Door Prizes.

Wednesday, May 9th

CUSTOMER SERVICE WORKSHOP, geared to everyone in the service industry, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Ala. Southern Community College. Registration fee \$59. For more information contact the Chamber of Commerce at 205-459-3459.

Thursday, May 10th

CHURCH CEMETERY CLEANING, Camp Springs Methodist Protestant Church. Please help by removing old flowers. For more information call Dottie Hearn or Nancy Whatley at 205-398-3342.

Friday, May 11th – Sat., May 12th

CHOCTAW CO. RELAY FOR LIFE county-wide event, old Vanity Fair property, Butler. Late afternoon through the night.

Saturday, May 12th

10TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA GOLF SCRAMBLE, Country Club. Registration 11 a.m., entry fee is \$280 per four-person team, lunch at noon. Tickets for lunch are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 12 with tee-off at 1 p.m. Proceeds benefit UA-Choctaw Co. Chapter Alumni Scholarship Fund. For more information contact Nena Beth Morris, Tournament Chairman or Mark Ezell, Chapter President at 205-459-3739.

FOOD DRIVE, sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

CCHS CLASS OF 1988, Reunion meeting, 2 p.m., Ezell's Fish Camp.

ANNUAL BENEFIT, Lusk VFD, bluegrass and gospel singing; fish, chicken and pork plates, \$6 per plate, served from 10 a.m. until. Singing starts at 6 p.m. Orders are being taken for Boston Butts \$20. Contact any member of the Lusk VFD to place your order.