

C H A M B E R CONNECTIONS

WHAT'S INSIDE

April 2014

Another Year Of Showcase Achievement

78th Annual Tri-States Junior Beef Expo

The 78th annual Tri-States Junior Beef Expo was held at the Houston County Farm Center Feb. 21-22, and as in years past, was a great showcase of achievement and success.

Sponsored by the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, State Department of Education and State Department of Agriculture and Industries, the Tri-States Junior Beef Expo is a two-day district event showcasing seven counties in Alabama, two counties in Florida and three counties in Georgia.

This year's event drew 52 4-H, FFA or FHA members who exhibited 96 head of cattle with a total of \$3,190 in prize money being awarded. The show was judged by Mike McGuire from Waverly, Ala., who has judged numerous cattle shows in the tri-state area.

The Expo began Friday evening, Feb. 21, with the Showmanship Division featuring three classes of junior showmen and two classes of senior showmen. Trevor Woodham from Houston County, Ala.; Wilton Pittman from Jackson County, Fla.; and Cameron Catrett from Crenshaw County, Ala. were the Junior Showmanship winners. The Senior Showmanship winners were Cassidy Catrett from Crenshaw County, Ala., and Mary Katherine Pittman from Jackson County, Fla.

The high point of the show was the selection of the Grand Champion steer that was owned and exhibited by Emily Hammett, Covington County, Ala. The Reserve Grand Champion of the show was owned and exhibited by Mary Katherine Pittman, Jackson County, Fla. The Southeast Alabama District Grand Champion was also won

by Hammett, and the Southeast Alabama District Reserve Champion was won by Clay Tew, Dale County, Ala.

The Steer Show was followed by a Heifer Show that was also judged by McGuire. The owner and exhibitor of the Supreme Champion Heifer was also Clay Tew. The Reserve Supreme Champion Heifer was owned and exhibited by Dustin Woodham from Houston County, Ala. The County Exhibit Award was won by Geneva County.

The Chamber would especially like to thank Joe Carothers who served as general chairman of the show and Ricky Hudson, Regional Extension agent III, Wiregrass Research and Extension Center, who served as vice chairman, and the businesses listed below, which through their generosity make this event one of the top rated district shows in the state:

- Alabama Cattlemen's Association
- Ansley Whatley, Ansley's Building Materials
- Clarion Inn & Suites
- First South Farm Credit
- Gene Ragan Family
- MidSouth Bank, NA
- Regions Bank
- Wiregrass Electric Cooperative
- Summerford Cattle and Mulch Makers

Thank you to everyone involved for all their hard work in helping to make this year's expo another wonderful accomplishment.



Grand Champion Steer & Southeast Alabama District Grand Champion
Emily Hammett, Covington County, Ala.



Reserve Grand Champion Steer
Mary Katherine Pittman, Jackson County, Fla.



Southeast Alabama District Reserve Champion & Supreme Champion Heifer
Clay Tew, Dale County, Ala.



Reserve Supreme Champion Heifer
Dustin Woodham, Houston County, Ala.



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Quote
of the Month

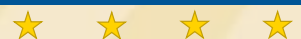
"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."

— Michael Althsuler
Motivational Speaker

www.dothan.com
(334) 792-5138

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



RIBBONCUTTINGS

Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries

1302 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, AL 36301
Kim McGainey
(334) 677-7856
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



Scrapaholics Electronic Recycling

317 Fortner St., Suite 4
Dothan, AL 36301
Daryl Harrison
(334) 596-6495
ELECTRONICS – SCRAP RECYCLING



Brian Davidson State Farm Insurance

2603 Choctaw St.
Dothan, AL 36303
Brian Davidson
(334) 792-2206
INSURANCE



Southern Lumber Supply

114 Zenith Road
Dothan, AL 36303
Jay Shipman
(334) 792-1131
BUILDING MATERIALS



Fenced-In, LLC

185 N. Oates St.
Dothan, AL 36303
Katherine Etheredge
(334) 718-9349
FENCING – RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL



Veterans Carpet Cleaning & Lawn Services, LLC

126 Rachel Drive
Enterprise, AL 36330
James McDonough
(334) 475-3040
FLOORING RESTORATION;
PRESSURE CLEANING &
SOFT WASH



Great Clips

3500 Ross Clark Circle, Suite 110
Dothan, AL 36303
Jason Wyatt
(334) 671-7900
HAIR SALON



NAMECHANGE Freedom Business Technologies, LLC

188 N. Foster St., Suite 205
Dothan, AL 36303
Rick Jenkins
(334) 446-0620
MERCHANT SERVICES



Mary Kay Cosmetics

905 Derbyshire Drive
Dothan, AL 36303
Kelley Massingill
(620)-262-1428
COSMETICS



YOURCOVERPHOTO

The 78th Annual Tri-States Junior Beef Expo began Friday evening, Feb. 21, with the Grand Champion Steer being awarded to Emily Hammett from Covington County, Ala. and the Showmanship Division (inset pictures) featuring three classes of junior showmen and two classes of senior showmen.

Schedule A Ribbon Cutting!

Are you a new Chamber member? Has your business expanded or relocated? Are you breaking ground for a new facility? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to schedule a Chamber Ribbon Cutting or Goundbreaking event.

These events take place weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Chamber staff will work with you to choose the date and time that best fits your schedule. Your event will be included in the Calendar of Events section of the *Chamber Connections* and your picture will also be featured in the newsletter after the event.

For more information or to book an event, contact LaRhonda Robinson, director of membership, at (334) 792-5138 or lrobinson@dothan.com.

NEWMEMBERS

Clip and add these to your Membership Directory.

Cherry Blossom RV and Mobile Home Park
 Patricia Thomas
 4100 S. Oates St.
 Dothan, AL 36301
 Ph: (334) 792-3313
 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES - PARKS

PrimeLending
 Kimberly R. Seagers
 1230 Westgate Parkway, Suite 6
 Dothan, AL 36303
 Ph: (334) 350-3104
 Fax: (877) 505-3572
 LOANS

Media Mechanical Services, LLC
 Shane Kelly
 725 Murray Road
 Dothan, AL 36303
 Ph: (334) 792-9299
 Fax: (334) 792-9300
 REFRIGERATION & AIR
 CONDITIONING

Brian Jones State Farm Insurance
 Brian Jones
 190 Westgate Parkway
 Dothan, AL 36303
 Ph: (334) 793-6396
 Fax: (334) 793-4951
 INSURANCE

RENEWINGMEMBERS

1-4 Years
 Affordable Dentures
 AGF Machinery, LLC
 Alabama Ag Credit
 Ashford Academy
 Bachelor Studios
 Circle City Crossfit
 Hobby Lobby Stores Inc.
 Martin Forestry & Timber, LLC
 Merchants Foodservice
 Mosquito Squad of the Wiregrass
 Pans & Petals Catering
 Patti Rutland Jazz Inc.
 ResourceMFG
 Security Finance Corp. of Alabama
 The Grand on Foster
 U.S. Coupling & Accessories Inc.

15-19 Years
 AFLAC
 Children's Hospital of Alabama
 Community Bank and Trust (CB&T)
 Emerald Coast Dale Carnegie Training
 The Mobile Attic

Southeast Alabama Medical Center
 ValCom Wireless
 Women's Health Care of Dothan, PC

40 Or More Years
 Dothan Glass Co.
 Dothan Motor Co.
 Midsouth Paving Inc.
 Southern Discount Corp.

20-25 Years
 DANCO Industrial Contractors Inc.
 Dothan Specialty Clinic
 Edward Jones Investments-Hurst
 ERA Jack Hughes Realty
 Gentiva Hospice
 Helms Management & Financial Solutions
 Highland Oaks Golf Course
 Lewis G. Humphreys Jr., DMD

Southern Coaches Inc.
 SunSouth John Deere
 Wiregrass Systems Inc.

25-29 Years
 Burnett Valuation Services, LLC
 Consolidated Electrical Contractors & Engineers Inc.
 Dothan Country Club
 Sewell Construction Inc.

30-39 Years
 Carriage House Apartments
 Colony Square Apartments
 Chad Flower & Garden Shop

5-9 Years
 Edward Jones Investments - Sommer
 James Bowman Realty Inc.
 SERVPRO of Dothan
 Southeast Alabama Gazette
 Stateline Steel Buildings Inc.
 Wiregrass Construction Co. Inc.

10-14 Years
 Ag Fibers, LLC
 Davis Direct
 J & S Mortician Service, LLC
 Noland Hospital Dothan
 Southeast Shredding
 The Berry Co.
 Toyota of Dothan
 Wiregrass Courier, LLC



Mark Your Calendar Small Business Week May 12-16, 2014

Monday, May 12, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Seminar - Selling With Passion

Presenter: Velma Tribue, Velma Tribue State Farm Insurance
 Location: Chamber Board Room

Cost: FREE to attend *Pre-registration required (334) 792-5138

Tuesday, May 13, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
The Fashion Statement - Ladies Tea

Emcee: David Ethridge, Mercedes Benz
 Participants: Belk, Jezabels Boutique, Maurices and Wiregrass Commons Mall
 Location: Chamber Board Room

Cost: \$5 per person *Pre-registration required (334) 792-5138

Wednesday, May 14, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Luncheon Seminar - The ONE Thing

Presenter: Vic Pemberton, VLP, LLC dba The Pepi Companies
 Location: Chamber Board Room

Cost: \$10 per person *Pre-registration required (334) 792-5138

Thursday, May 15, noon - 1:30 p.m.
Small Business Week GM Luncheon

Speaker: J.E. Saliba, Southeastern Career Apparel
 Location: Wiregrass Rehabilitation Services Inc.'s Sterling Events Services Rotary Hall
 Cost: \$15 per person; \$150 reserved tables (seats eight)
 *Pre-registration required (334) 792-5138

Friday, May 16, 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Breakfast Seminar: How Not To Be A Virtual Idiot: The Do's and Don'ts of Social Media

Presenter: Brandon Shoupe, Strategy6
 Location: Chamber Board Room
 Cost: \$10 per person *Pre-registration required (334) 792-5138

Thank You To Our Luncheon Sponsors



Ambassadors & Diplomats Team Of The Month

Team Dothan



Congratulations to the Ambassadors and Diplomats Team of the Month "Team Dothan" for claiming this month's title. Pictured (seated l-r) are team members **Wendi Evans**, Evans Automotive Service; Team Co-Captain **Suzanne Barrick**, *Dothan Magazine*; **Aubrey Stenzel**, Whittaker Marking; (standing l-r) **Rob Gilbreath**, Mighty Auto Parts; **Lori Wilcoxon**, Wiregrass Commons Mall; Team Co-Captain **Hunter Green**, Todd & Sons; and **Ken Bailey**, Coldwell Banker Commercial – Alfred Saliba Realty. Not pictured is **Kevin Payne**, Slingluff United Insurance.

Thank you to all our Ambassadors and Diplomats who serve as the eyes and ears for the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. It is their dedication and support that assist your local Chamber in meeting its goals.

Be sure to check out next month's *Chamber Connections* to see who will claim the title.

Star Of The Month



Kassie Glover
Alabama Telco Credit Union

Events *of* April Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 1** ▶ **Ambassador & Diplomat Committee Meeting – 9 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 2** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Regional Produce Distributors, LLC – 9:30 a.m.**
Location: 1432 Leona St.
- 3** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Brian Jones State Farm Insurance – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 190 Westgate Parkway
- 8** ▶ **Community-Wide Prayer Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.**
Location: 126 N. St. Andrews St. (Dothan Civic Center)
*Reservations required: (334) 792-5138

Troy University Small Business Counseling Sessions – 9:30 a.m. to noon
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
*Reservations required: (334) 792-5138

Dothan Area Young Professionals' Business Brews – 5:15 p.m.
Location: 2620 Montgomery Highway, Suite 1 (Oak & Olive)
- 9** ▶ **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Public Safety Day – 7:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 10** ▶ **Small Business Seminar: *Hire Right! How To Create A Blueprint For Finding Great Employees* – 11:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
*Reservations required by noon April 8, (334) 792-5138. See page 10 for more information.
- 16** ▶ **Board of Directors' Meeting – 8:15 a.m.**
Location: 445 Health Sciences Blvd. (Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine)
- 17** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Saint Andrews Market – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 193 S. St. Andrews St.

Leadership Dothan Economic Development Day – 7:45 – 5 p.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 24** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Magnolia Preserve – 4 p.m.**
Location: 101 Magnolia Ridge Place
- 30** ▶ **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Closing Retreat – 7:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.**
Location: 500 University Drive (Troy University Dothan Campus)

The Ready To Work Program



Steve Turkoski,
Project Manager

You would think that in today's economy, in which we have had several thousand people drop off the employment rolls as well as the unemployment rolls locally, that perhaps there are not any jobs available. Whether there is a job available for each individual depends on that person's skill sets and the needs of the employer, but there is one set of skills that is desirable to every employer and those skills are taught in the Ready to Work program at Wallace Community College.

Ready to Work is a free, eight-week job training program that enhances the participant's desirability and employability. The program curriculum was developed by Alabama Industrial Development training and the program covers: Computer Technology, Customer Service, Time Management, Decision Analysis, Problem Solving, Teamwork, Communication Skills, Conflict Resolution, Quality Manufacturing and Workplace Ethics and Behavior.

In addition, participants are taught Job Search Techniques and Resume Writing and Interview Skills. You may not remember, but these are the skills that were identified in the 2002 Statewide Community Survey as lacking in many job recruits.

Individuals that successfully complete the Ready to Work program are issued an Alabama Certified Worker Certificate, and a State of Alabama Career Readiness Certificate which is based on the ACT WorkKeys assessment.

By the way, there are jobs available and several employers have expressed concern that they cannot find and keep enough workers that demonstrate command of the skill sets that are taught in the Ready to Work program. It will take us some time to get back to the employment levels of 2006 and 2007, but the Ready to Work skills are valuable in any economic climate.

For more information on Ready to Work, or other programs to enhance employee skills, call Wallace Community College at (334) 556-2414.

WCC-Dothan Foundation To Host Golf "Fore" Education

The Wallace Community College-Dothan Foundation will host its inaugural Golf "Fore" Education Tournament at the Highland Oaks Golf Course Thursday, April 3. All are invited to join the Foundation in raising funds for WCC student scholarships.

The entry fee is \$500 per team or \$125 per player. Registration on event day will begin at 10 a.m., lunch will be served at 11 a.m. and tee off is at noon.

The WCC Foundation works in partnership with the college to ensure access to education and success for its students. Over 130 scholarships are awarded each year to deserving students who would not otherwise be able to attend college. Tournament proceeds will benefit WCC student scholarships.

To register or for more information, Contact Tracy Brooks at (334) 556-2626 or e-mail tbrooks@wallace.edu.

Girls Inc. Alumni Receive Scholarships

Girls Inc. of Dothan is excited to announce that two of its alumni were recently awarded Girls Inc. Alumnae Collegiate Scholarships. The Girls Inc. Alumnae Collegiate Scholarship program provides college women and former Girls Inc. participants with scholarships to continue pursuing higher education.

Awardees demonstrate how they embody the Girls Inc. mission of being strong, smart, and bold and how Girls Inc. inspired her college and career goals. This scholarship is awarded through The Pearl Fund, established in 2013 by fashion designer Georgina Chapman and JCPenney in partnership with Girls Inc.

Ariel Tillman, a junior at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, who is pursuing a degree in health care administration, was awarded \$5,000. This award brings the total amount that she has received through Girls Inc.'s national organization's scholarship program to \$35,000.

Ashley Snell, a freshman at Troy University, who is pursuing a degree in exercise science followed by physical therapy, was awarded \$15,000.

In 2014, Girls Inc. awarded 21 scholarships to college women. Since 1993, the organization has awarded over \$4.2 million in scholarships, making higher education a reality for hundreds of high school girls across the U.S. and Canada. Girls Inc. alumni have received a total of \$75,000 in college scholarships since 2011.

Girls Inc. of Dothan provides girls, grades Pre K through eighth-grade, with engaging and educational youth development programs that are cutting edge, research driven and designed to meet the specific needs of girls. The after-school and summer programs serve 65 and 115 girls each day respectively.

For more information, contact Executive director Jaime Hale at (334) 793-2321 or e-mail jaime.lewis@girlsincdothan.org.

Become An Adopt-A-School Partner

Education is a highly debated topic in our state and nation. Everyone has a viewpoint of what should be taught, how it should be taught and how it should be tested. As professionals, teachers desire to educate children to read for deep understanding, to think critically, to work as effective and efficient problem solvers, to easily adapt to new situations, and to be confident in who they are as individuals.

This is Highlands Elementary's goal every day. Recently, the school conducted a Parent/Community Visitation Night that allowed visitors to witness classrooms in action, dialogue with teachers and discuss with administrators the testing and accountability components of College & Career Readiness Standards.

Many Adopt-A-School sponsors also set up tables and began to build and foster relationships with

families in the community. Everyone has a personal, vested interest in seeing our public schools succeed at high levels. Our community needs today's children to be tomorrow's leaders.

Vicki Davis, Highlands Elementary principal, personally invites you to become an Adopt-A-School partner so you may share in the progress and development of tomorrow's community leaders. It is a relationship that pays dividends.

Mark your calendar and stop by and visit Highlands Elementary School during its upcoming tours April 15 and May 20.

"We thank you for your stewardship and support as we grow Dothan's citizens of the future," stated Davis. "I look forward to meeting you soon!"

WITH STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.



SAMC IS THE REGION'S GOLD STANDARD FOR STROKE CARE.

PROVIDING PATIENTS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ADVANCED STROKE CARE.

SAMC is the region's first hospital to earn the prestigious Gold Plus Stroke Award from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association.

From the area's first responders to SAMC's highly trained stroke team of physicians, nurses and clinical team members, patients receive the latest stroke care available.

This means a coordinated and quicker response time, which in turn means less damage caused by the stroke.



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Dothan, Alabama 36301
334-793-8111 samc.org

Heritage Farm Day Scheduled For Mid-April

Looking for a fun, family activity this spring? Then come out to The Maddox Farm Saturday, April 12, for the Ninth Annual Heritage Farm Day and Trail Ride, hosted by Dr. J. Paul and Linda Maddox.

The event promises to be a fun, educational and interactive day on the farm. Free activities offered throughout the day include horse farming demonstrations, hay baling, old-time crafts, face painting, petting zoo, inflatables, pony rides, log home construction demonstration, an old-time timber frame barn raising, cornbread sampling and much more. Come watch draft horses squeeze sugar cane into melt-in-your-mouth syrup.

An Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by Ridgecrest Baptist Church, will begin at 10 a.m. and Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides will be offered throughout the day.

Live entertainment and a Chuck Wagon BBQ lunch will be served at noon at a suggested donation of \$8.

A scenic Trail Ride will be offered for riders who bring their own horses (current Negative Coggins will be required). The registration fee is \$30. Additionally,

WoodStrong Farm Challenge, a challenging 5K along farm landscapes, creeks, woods and hills will also be taking place that morning.

Proceeds from the Chuck Wagon BBQ lunch and Trail Ride will benefit the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, an organization offering foster and group homes for children, professional counseling and other ministries in the Dothan area.

For more information or to register for the Trail Ride or WoodStrong Farm Challenge, visit www.themaddoxfarm.com or call (334) 677-7856.



Ninth Annual Heritage Farm Day and Trail Ride will take place Saturday, April, 12, at The Maddox Farm.

Friend Bank Announces Promotions



*Charlie Breedlove,
Executive Vice President*



*Ann Marie Cook,
Bank Officer*

Friend Bank CEO Hope H. Johnson recently announced the two promotions of Charlie Breedlove to executive vice president and Ann Marie Cook as bank officer.

Currently serving as senior lender for Friend Bank, Breedlove is responsible for the growth and management of the bank's loan portfolio. He received his bachelor's degree in finance and his master's from Auburn University. Breedlove has been with Friend for four years.

Cook currently serves as senior loan assistant and supports the commercial lending team in the management of the loan portfolio. She received her bachelor's degree in finance and master's from Troy University Dothan. She has been with Friend for seven years and received the Friend 2011 and 2012 Award of Excellence and 2013 Distinguished Service Award.

"Our officers understand our long-standing commitment to true community banking" stated Johnson. "Both Charlie and Ann Marie reflect this commitment and will continue to work hard on behalf of our customers."

Friend Bank is a third generation family business and one of Alabama's oldest community banks. The bank operates two full-service banking offices, one in Slocomb and one in Dothan, as well as a loan office in Geneva.

For more information, contact Cook at (334) 792-2550, e-mail acook@friendbank.net or visit www.friendbank.net.

Garden Path Inn Presents A "Walk In History"

The Garden Path Inn Bed and Breakfast, along with the Columbia Historical Society, will host a "Walk in History" Cemetery Tour at the Columbia City Cemetery Saturday, April 12, from 5-8 p.m.

Four families, deceased residents of Columbia who helped establish the rich heritage of the community, will be presented. Local residents will portray these families to give a glimpse of what Columbia was like in earlier days.

Guests will be able to tour the cemetery with a guide, as well as walk a "What Was Here" sign tour showing visitors pictures of the past and the

businesses, schools and churches that were part of Columbia's history.

Advance tickets are available at the cemetery and will also be available on event day. There are two types of ticket prices available. Tickets for the cemetery tour only are \$10 each; there's no charge for students and children. Tickets for the cemetery tour and a BBQ sandwich supper in the Sunken Gardens are \$15; children and students pay \$5 for the meal. There is no charge for the "What Was Here" tour.

For more information, contact Innkeeper Diane Norman at (334) 696-2315.

Sleep.

We can help you get the healthy rest you've been missing.

If you've tried everything and still find yourself tossing and turning at night, you may be suffering from a sleep disorder – a serious health issue that could be linked to diabetes, heart disease or obesity. The good news is, help is available. If you're experiencing difficulty falling or staying asleep, excessive daytime sleepiness or chronic snoring, we can help you get the rest you need.

Ask your physician if you would benefit from a sleep study. If you do not have a family physician and would like to find one, call 334-794-7610.

 **Flowers Hospital**
FlowersHospital.com



Dothan Eagle To Host Yard Sale

The *Dothan Eagle* will hold its huge community yard sale at the Houston County Farm Center April 26, beginning at 7 a.m.

Benefitting the Newspaper In Education program, this semi-annual event hosts over 100 vendors for a one-stop yard sale experience.

For more information on the yard sale or to become a vendor, call (334) 792-3141 or visit www.dothaneagle.com/yardsale.



Upcoming Member Events

Do Life Big Tour April 5 • 7 p.m.

Ridgecrest Baptist Church. The Joy FM 94.3 presents the Do Life Big Tour with Jamie Grace and The Boys. Also appearing will be Morgan Harper Nichols. VIP tickets (online only) are \$25; general admission (online) are \$17 or \$15 at outlets; groups of 10 or more (online only) \$12. Ticket outlets are Ridgecrest Baptist Church, The Joy FM studio and Eagle Eye Outfitters. To purchase tickets online, or for more information, visit www.alabama.thejoyfm.com.

Tristate BBQ Festival April 11-12

Houston County Farm Center. The annual Tri-State BBQ Festival will feature loads of great barbecue, activities and fun for the entire family. There will also be live music and a concert by local favorites KJAMS. Advance weekend passes are \$10 (for both days) and are only available until April 1. Otherwise, tickets are \$10 per day, per person; children 6 and under free both days. Active duty military and students just \$5 with ID. For more information, visit www.tristatebbq.com.

Abiding Word Church Grand Opening Weekend & Family Festival April 12 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Highlands Elementary School. The community is invited to join Abiding Word Church at Highlands Elementary School on Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. as they celebrate their grand opening weekend with a Family Festival. All are invited. For more information, contact Pastor Caleb Free at (334) 589-3592 or visit www.abidingworddothan.org.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Hawk-Houston Annual Meeting and Recognition Banquet April 17 • 5:30 p.m.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Hawk-Houston. The public is invited to join the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hawk-Houston for its Annual Meeting and Recognition Banquet honoring and recognizing the 2013 donors, in-kind contributors and volunteers. The event will also kick-off the Club's 50th anniversary celebration. Reservations required at (334) 792-4618.

March For Babies April 26 • 8:30 a.m.

Westgate Park. Join the March of Dimes for the organization's annual March for Babies. It promises to be a fun day out with people who share the passion for improving the health of babies. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. on event day; the walk will get underway at 9:30 a.m. Get your team together and walk to help raise money for babies right here in our community. For more information, call the March of Dimes at (334) 792-0149 or visit www.marchofdimes.com/alabama/events/10090_3135353730.html.

Romeo and Juliet

April 29 – May 3 • Times Vary

Flagship Theatre. The Flagship Theatre presents "Romeo and Juliet." Performance times are 7 p.m. and a 2 p.m. matinee on May 3. A Media/Educator Night will be held April 28. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$13 for adults. For more information, call (334) 699-FLAG(3524) or visit www.theflagshiptheatre.com.

Hardee, Turner And Douglas Join SunSouth

SunSouth Bank is pleased to announce Larry Hardee as senior vice president, Cal Turner and Roger Douglas as directors.

Hardee has over 30 years of experience in banking and commercial lending. Most recently, he worked at Prosperity Bank and Ameris Bank. Hardee received his bachelor's degree from Florida State University and was awarded the U.S. Small Business Administration Award of Excellence.

When asked about joining SunSouth Bank, Hardee replied, "I am thrilled to be a part of a true community bank. It is an exciting time to join such a dynamic organization. I'm very impressed with the bankers working there."

Turner is a native of Brewton, Ala., and a graduate of Auburn University with degrees in transportation and finance. He worked in the transportation industry for 20 years before becoming partners with Bob Woodall at Bob Woodall Air Care Systems Inc.

Outside of work, Turner enjoys playing the drums, golf and spending time with his wife, Angelia, and their daughter, Jackie. They are active members at Calvary Baptist Church.

Douglas was raised in Dothan and currently resides in Birmingham, Ala. He graduated from Auburn University and is a Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant. Douglas presently works as an investment broker and helps clients with business and estate planning. His hobbies include playing golf and teaching the Bible.

For more information about SunSouth Bank, call (334) 677-4411 or visit www.sunsouthbank.com.



Larry Hardee,
Senior Vice
President



Cal Turner,
Director



Roger Douglas,
Director

Don't Miss An Evening of Fun There's Still Time To Register Your Team

Grab your friends and join the Dothan Area Young Professionals Friday, April 4, for a night of bowling. There's still time to register your team for an evening of fun.

The cost per team (four people) is \$120 and includes two games, shoes and a team trophy for the winner. All proceeds help fund DAYP's annual operating budget.

There are only 22 team slots available, so turn in

your registration form and money as soon as possible to claim your lane.

The Tournament will begin at 6:15 p.m. at Dothan Lanes. We hope you'll join DAYP for this fun event.

To register your team, contact Aaron Craig (craigafivestarcu.com) or Hunter Green (hgreen@toddsandsons.com), or call (334) 648-0466 if further information is needed.

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Kirkland Honored For Years Of Service

At the recent kick-off celebration for the 2014 Houston County Spirit of Service Day, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and the Spirit of Service Task Force presented a plaque of appreciation to David "Mit" Kirkland, Scenic Cable Network & Production, for his generous and invaluable service rendered to the project.

Every year since April 1995, Kirkland has dedicated his time and energy to helping make Spirit of Service a success within our community.

Thank you Mit for all you do!



David "Mit" Kirkland (center) was recently honored for his generous and invaluable service rendered to the annual Houston County Spirit of Service Day. Pictured (l-r) with Kirkland are Spirit of Service Task Force Chairman Pat Thomas and Houston County Commission Chairman Mark Culver.



Southern Bone & Joint Hosts Ronnie Randall Memorial Golf Tournament

Southern Bone & Joint Specialists will host the 17th annual Ronnie Randall Memorial Golf Tournament Thursday, May 15, at Highland Oaks Golf Course.

The tournament was begun following the untimely death of a long-time partner with the practice. Each year, participants gather to enjoy a day of golf, fun and fellowship that celebrates and honors the memory of Dr. Ronnie Randall. The proceeds of the tournament are given to local charitable organizations as well as the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation.

Registration begins at 10:30 am on event day, lunch will be at 11 a.m. with the shotgun start at noon. After golf activities include awarding of team and individual prizes, announcement of special contest winners as well as drawing for the raffle.

For more information or to request a brochure, contact Beki Johnston at (334) 836-4518 or e-mail bekij@southernbone.com.

Exchange Center Presents Superhero's 5K Run/Walk

Mark your calendar and join the Exchange Center For Child Abuse Prevention, superhero sponsor Mike Schmitz Automotive Group and the Leadership Dothan 2014 Class for the Superhero's 5K Run/Walk and One-Mile Fun Run/Walk To Prevent Child Abuse Saturday, April 26, at the Westgate Park Tennis Center.

Every child needs a hero, but abused children need a superhero. Race-day registration will be held 6:30 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. in front of the Westgate Tennis Center on Whatley Drive. Start times

are the 5K Run/Walk at 8 a.m. and One-Mile Fun Run/Walk will follow.

Pre-registration entry fees are \$20 with a shirt or \$15 without. Registration forms are available online at www.exchange-cap.org. Proceeds benefit the Exchange Center's mission to prevent child abuse and family violence through counseling, in-home support and prevention education services.

For more information, call Cindy Watt at (334) 671-1966 or e-mail cindy@exchange-cap.org.



Troy University To Host Health And Wellness Fair



Local community health care providers and organizations will provide free checks, screenings and information during the annual Health and Wellness Fair at Troy University Dothan Campus Tuesday, April 15, from 9 a.m. until noon.

Being held inside the Harrison Room in Malone Hall, the event is free and open to the public. Vendors will provide information about health and wellness topics including

exercise, nutrition and personal safety. The fair will also feature free access to a range of services including blood pressure, vision test and body composition analysis.

There is also still time for area businesses or organizations to register as a vendor. To register, visit <http://trojan.troy.edu/careerservices> and click on the "Registration Today" link located in the grey "News and Events" box.

For more information, contact Joanne Krist at (334) 983-6556, ext. 1223 or e-mail jkrist@troy.edu.

Join Together For A Toast To Downtown

The Downtown Group will present the organizations third annual A Toast To Downtown Gala Thursday, May 1, at The Grand on Foster at 7 p.m.

The organizations main fundraiser to market downtown Dothan, the evening's events include two live bands, hors d'oeuvres from various Dothan restaurants, dancing, silent auction and a cash bar. Tickets are \$30 per person and the dress is cocktail attire.

Sponsorship opportunities are also still available. Even though it's too late to be included on the printed materials, your sponsorship will be featured at the event itself. The gala is the perfect opportunity for your business to target Dothan area influences. Last year's event was a huge success, and this year will be even bigger.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call The Downtown Group at (334) 793-3097, visit Five Star Credit Union or www.thedowntowngroup.com.

McGriff State Farm Signage Receives Face Lift

Gene McGriff, an agent for State Farm Insurance, recently updated the signage for his office. The change came due to State Farm Insurance companies implementing a new logo nationwide effective by the end of 2014.

"We have been located in Fountain Plaza since 1976 when the agency first opened its doors," said McGriff. "A loyal member of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce for 37 years, our staff consists of Office Manager Pat Holmes (30 years), Marketing and Staff Assistant Patti Ballard (13 years) and Patsy Marteney, P&C and commercial lines (four years).

"We want to thank the Dothan Area Chamber and our many loyal customers throughout the 37 years we've been doing business in Dothan," added McGriff.

For more information on the different types of insurance McGriff's office provides, contact the office at (334) 793-7618.



State Farm Insurance Agent Gene McGriff recently updated the signage outside his office in response to the company implementing a new logo nationwide.

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"Getting Back to Your Daily Living Activities" (Guided rehab following injury/surgery)

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Dr. Jeremiah Maddox, Southern Bone & Joint Specialists
Nancy Norris, COTA, Dir., Rehab Services, Wesley Manor

WHEN: Tuesday, April 8th
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

WHERE: Wesley Manor Chapel
at 718 Honeysuckle Road, Dothan 36305

RESERVATIONS:

Seating is limited
Reservations required
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Wiregrass Electric Names New CEO, Implements New Leadership Structure

Wiregrass Electric Cooperative recently named Les Moreland as chief executive officer of the region's power distributor. Moreland, who joined the Cooperative in 2005 as chief financial officer, has been serving as interim CEO since August 2013 when former CEO Michael McWaters resigned.

The Cooperative also recently restructured its leadership positions, adding three new titles to current employees.

"I am confident this restructuring will help us be a stronger cooperative," said Moreland. "And one that can achieve its mission of providing the best possible service to our members at the lowest possible rate."

When Moreland was selected CEO in February, he left the position of chief financial officer vacant. Instead of hiring a new CFO, the newly created controller position will help Moreland oversee the day-to-day financial operation of the cooperative. This position is being filled by Lisa Lenore, previously the manager of accounting.

WEC's newly named chief operations officer is Brad Kimbro, whose previous title was director of member services. Kimbro will now also oversee safety and compliance for the cooperative.

Jason Thrash, formerly systems engineer at WEC, will now serve as director of engineering and operations.

"This is the best way forward for WEC," added Moreland. "We are always looking for ways to operate so that we can serve our members. This restructuring is a great example of that."

Wiregrass Electric Cooperative is an electric distribution system located in Southeast Alabama with more than 3,500 miles of power lines providing reliable and affordable electricity and energy solutions to approximately 23,000 homes and businesses in Houston, Geneva, Covington, Dale and Coffee counties. For more information, visit our website at www.wiregrass.coop.

For more information, contact Deanna Albritton at (334) 944-7406, e-mail wec@wiregrass.coop or visit www.wiregrass.coop.

Master Gardeners, Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale

The Wiregrass Master Gardeners, in cooperation with the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens, will host a Spring Plant Sale Friday, April 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Master Gardeners' Nursery. There will be a wide selection of plants in the categories of veggies, herbs, annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, bulbs, fruits, house plants, tropicals, ornamental grasses, vines, ground covers, succulents and hanging baskets.

These plants are not purchased, but lovingly grown from seed, propagated from cuttings or dug from the master gardeners' own beds. The prices are reasonable and include free planting tips from the master gardeners. Information will also be available on fire ant control, soil testing and gardening in general. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Cheryl Hatcher at jhatcher@graceba.net or (334) 798-1034.

5 WAYS TO A BIGGER PAYDAY

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Upcoming Small Business Seminar

Hire Right! How To Create A Blueprint For Finding Great Employees
April 10 • 11:30 a.m.

Join the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and Personnel Resources Thursday, April 10, at 11:30 a.m. at the Chamber facility for an informative and lively presentation on how to make precise decisions and get the right people on your team.

Presented by Mary Beth Reynolds and Jane Fletcher, these ladies have been helping companies build great teams for over 18 years. They will assist you in constructing an employment toolkit for finding valued employees.

The cost to attend is \$10 per person, which includes a box lunch. Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, April 8, at noon. To reserve your seat, contact Susan Tatom at (334) 792-5138.

Leadership Psychology Workshop
April 22, 2014 • 8 a.m.

Applying Psychology to Leadership is the subject of a workshop that will be held at Wallace Community College's Center for Economic and Workforce Development Tuesday, April 22, 8 a.m. until noon.

This workshop, offered by WCC in conjunction with the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, will be presented by Dr. Thomas Maple.

Maple, a psychologist, has served the college as director of student and campus services since moving to Dothan in February 2013. He is also a member of the Chambers current Leadership Dothan class.

This innovative workshop will cover the topics: behavior modification, motivation, expectations, group processes, cohesion and teambuilding, conflict resolution and altruism. Participants will learn how to apply psychology research and theory to the real-world challenges of leading teams.

The cost of the workshop is \$99. To register, call Melissa Cole at (334) 556-2203 or e-mail mcole@wallace.edu.

Local Small Business Development

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the Entrepreneurial Committee from the Dothan Mayor's Economic Summit on Jobs, is again putting on a series of seminars aimed at assisting aspiring entrepreneurs in furthering their preparation on taking the first steps towards launching a business.

The first program in the series was just completed and it covered a wide variety of topics that come up regularly when people come to the Chamber office to discuss starting a business. We are fortunate in Dothan that we are a retail and service hub which swells our daytime population to an estimated 134,000 people. This swell is reflected in our retail sales per capita, which is significantly higher than the national and state average.

One of the topics covered was how to do a radius analysis, centered on a location that provides for

population, demographics and worker inflow and outflow. This type of information can be very useful and the Chamber conducted a seminar in March for area realtors and bankers to share these resources and their application.

During the seminar, there were two pertinent websites shared with attendees (*see below*). If you did not get the opportunity to attend and need assistance in gathering data, please feel free to contact Steve Turkoski, the Chamber's Project Manager, for a demonstration/tutorial at (334) 792-5138 or sturkoski@dothan.com.

Population within a radius:
<http://mcdc.missouri.edu/websas/caps10c.html>

On the Map for employment analysis:
<http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

Small Business Tips

► **Analysis: Investment options help employees more than lump-sum payouts**

According to an analysis by Mercer, the best way employers can give their workers help managing their savings in retirement is to offer them investment options rather than lump-sum payouts. The analysis found that retirees' money may last longer if employers offer them carefully selected actively managed funds or low-cost funds. Read more: www.benefitspro.com/2013/12/10/employers-urged-away-from-lump-sum-payouts. (Source: *BenefitsPro.com*, Dan Berman, "Employers urged away from lump-sum payouts," Dec. 10, 2013.)

► **USPS offers businesses delivery-route demographics**

Small businesses are getting a hand reaching new customers with an online tool by the U.S. Postal Service that shows demographic information for delivery routes. The "Every Door Direct Mail" tool is designed to create easy-to-use shipping plans. With Every Door Direct Mail, you can saturate an entire neighborhood with your message and have it directly in the homes and hands of your chosen audience. Read more: www.businessnewsdaily.com/5883-usps-direct-mail-offerings.html. (Source: *BusinessNewsDaily.com*, Chad Brooks, "USPS 'Every Door Direct Mail' Connects Businesses With Target Customers," Feb. 5, 2014.)

6th Annual WIREGRASS ECONOMIC FORUM

Presented by CapSouth Partners

We are pleased to announce the 2014 Featured Speaker:

Dr. David Bronner
 CEO, Retirement Systems of Alabama



Join Us April 24th!

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Individual Tickets ----- \$20.00

For more information, please contact Meredith Agan or Scott Fain at 334.673.8600 or sfain@capsouthpartners.com.

Who
 Guest Speaker: Dr. David Bronner
Full Bio at:
www.wiregrasseconomicforum.com
 Also see: www.rsa-al.gov

When
 Thursday, April 24, 2014
 Doors and Buffet Open 11:00a
 Program 11:30a to 1:30p

Where
 Wiregrass Church
 900 W. Main Street
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What
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Nomination Form
Deadline: May 2, 2014

The Dothan Area Chamber Foundation is now accepting applications/nominations for Leadership Dothan Class XXXIII. The nine-month program focuses on community resources, education, quality of life, political arenas, health and human services and public safety. Local professionals conduct lectures, participate in panel discussions, simulations and tours to educate program participants about our community.

The program year begins in September and concludes in May. The two-day opening retreat will be held Sept. 10 and 11, 2014, and attendance is mandatory. There are eight program days starting in October and ending in May. Participants meet one day per month, usually the third Thursday, for nine hours.

Participation in Leadership Dothan is open to any person living or working in Houston County. The Steering Committee reviews applications solicited from all walks of community life to select a class of interested, motivated and concerned individuals who have a desire to offer their time and talents to improving their community. One of the Foundation's goals is to select emerging leaders and systematically inform, challenge and educate participants about our community opportunities and needs.

Individuals, businesses and community organizations may nominate prospective Leadership Dothan participants by completing this form and returning it to the Chamber by May 2, 2014. Each nominee/applicant will then receive an application to be completed and returned by June 6.

A maximum of 40 people will have the opportunity to participate in Leadership Dothan each year. Tuition is \$650 for each participant. The tuition covers the opening retreat, meals, program materials and transportation.

PLEASE SEND AN APPLICATION FOR LEADERSHIP DOTHAN – CLASS XXXIII TO:

Name: _____

Business/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Person Nominating Candidate: _____

Business/Organization: _____

Either mail or fax this form to:

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Linda Kelley
P.O. Box 638, Dothan, AL 36302
Fax: (334) 794-4796
lkelly@dothan.com

Nominations are due by May 2, 2014.
Thank you for your nomination!



Laureate Nomination Form

The Dothan Business Hall of Fame's board of advisors is now accepting nominations for the 2014 Dothan Business Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame's mission is to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of our outstanding business leaders, to perpetuate and inspire values of entrepreneurial spirit, personal integrity and community leadership in all generations. To be eligible for selection, a person must have made a significant impact on the development of Dothan and/or Houston County by promoting the free enterprise system and entrepreneurship; by demonstrating civic leadership; and by their philanthropy and humanitarianism toward their fellow citizens.

Name of Nominee: _____

Born (date and place): _____

Deceased (date and place): _____

Company/Organization (if currently employed): _____

Work Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Web Address: _____

Work E-mail: _____

Present Title/Position: _____

No. of Years: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please provide a biographical description of the nominee (not to exceed two pages) and on a separate sheet for each below section, please provide the following information. Feel free to include supporting documents (news clippings, magazine articles, etc.). A photo (preferably color) will be used in the program and MUST be submitted with the biographical/supporting documents.

1. Significant achievements – any achievements that are first-time achievements
2. Awards and honors bestowed upon nominee (chronologically)
3. Memberships
4. Professional, business or vocational history (chronologically)
5. Photo of the nominee for the program

Thank you for taking time to put forth your nominee for the 2014 Dothan Business Hall of Fame. Laureate inductees will be notified in mid-June 2014.

Nomination Submitted By: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Nominations are due by May 1, 2014. Mail your nomination to:

Dothan Business Hall of Fame
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Attention: Janice Shepard
P. O. Box 638
Dothan, AL 36302

April 2014

THIS ISSUE:

Another Year Of Showcase Achievement

Ready To Work Program

Friend Bank Announces Promotions

Hardee, Turner and Douglas Join SunSouth Bank

Kirkland Honored For Years Of Service

WEC Names New CEO, New Leadership Structure

Local Small Business Development

Leadership Dothan And Business Hall Of Fame Nomination Forms

DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Another Showcase of Achievement

A Publication of the
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
April 2014
Vol. 41, No. 7 (USPS 700-660)
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Chamber Connections is published monthly (USPS 700-660) for the members of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, 102 Jamestown Blvd., Dothan, AL 36301. Subscription rate is \$24 annually. Postmaster: Send address changes to Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 638, Dothan, AL 36302. Periodicals postage is paid at Dothan, AL and additional mailing office.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

▼	Labor Force for the Dothan MSA for January: 62,738 in 2013; 61,018 in 2014 58,078 in 2013; 56,867 in 2014 Employed
▼	Unemployment for the Dothan MSA for January: 7.4% in 2013; 6.8% in 2014
▼	Residential Building Permits for the City of Dothan for January: 11 issued (\$3.39 million) in 2013; 10 issued (\$2.21 million) in 2014
▲	Home Sales in Dothan for January: 63 sold in 2013; 69 sold in 2014
▲	Enplanements for Dothan Regional Airport for January: 3,314 in 2013; 3,885 in 2014
▼	Houston County & Dothan Sales and Use Tax Collections (\$) for January: \$1,719,653 in 2013; \$1,719,193 in 2014 County \$6,345,455 in 2013; \$6,212,987 in 2014 City

Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details. Data as of 3/17/14. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.