CONNECTIONS

The Chamber's Shining Stars

Ambassadors And Diplomats

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce works diligently on a daily basis to provide services to the business community and almost 1,000 members. This job is multifaceted and at times, complexed. It could not be completed with the efficiency it is without the assistance of an important group of shining stars.

These stars dedicate many hours to helping make

sure your Chamber succeeds in its role. As the new year gets underway, the Chamber would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to its Ambassadors and Diplomats.

The mission of the Ambassador and Diplomat programs is to act as "goodwill ambassadors and diplomats" for the

Chamber while promoting retention and increasing membership. These dedicated individuals not only serve as the eyes and ears for your Chamber, but they also assist in promoting this organization and its numerous activities and events, a huge task within itself.

"The Chamber's Ambassadors and Diplomats are a very important part of our organization," said Director of Membership LaRhonda Robinson. "They assist the membership department in maintaining and

meeting the needs of our members. And this year alone, we have over 50 hard working business men and women participating in the programs."

Serving as Ambassadors and Diplomats, these individuals are responsible for attending monthly meetings, assisting in new member recruitment and contacting members to

make sure they are satisfied with Chamber services.



2014-2015 Ambassadors and Diplomats

Continued on page 7.

AMBASSADORS

Chris Bailey Courtyard by Marriott

Amy Balkcom Covenant Hospice

Angie Bell Courtyard by Marriott

Matt Bolin Coleman World Group

Ben Coale Playmaker Embroidery, LLC

Elaine Covington
Health-Link

Scott Covington Health-Link

Brooke Crane Dandridge Dental, PC

Joseph Brackins

Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union

Amber Fain
Oates Estates Apartments Main
Office

Elise Furqueron Dothan Career Center

Rob Gilbreath Mighty Auto Parts

Hunter Green
Todd and Sons

Cheri Hall BBVA Compass Bank

Paul Hatcher Dothan Networking Alliance Rob Heffner

Flowers Insurance Agency, LLC

Brittan Jones
The Computer Doctor

Carrie McBride BBVA Compass Bank

Paul McVay McLeod's Publick House

Rich Merrell PRemployer Inc.

Micheala Nalls
Amhassador Personnel

Adam O'Brien Wells Fargo Bank, NA

Lauren Pike

Covenant Hospice

Mary Reed "Dothan Eagle"

Sarah Register Sarrell Dental Center

Darrell Rigsby Century 21 James Grant Realty

Adam Saucer Mass Mutual

Kerry Seay WDHN TV-18

Leanne Todd Houston Academy

Anna Tankersley Kelly Services Inc.

Kristy Trusty
Comfort Suites

Joyce Tyson

Century 21 James Grant Realty

Tim Vierkandt Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Berkshire Hathaway HomeService Showcase Properties

Shana Wallace "Dothan Eagle"

Donnie Wells
The Real Estate Group

Clay Williams

Sam Williams "Dothan Eagle"

Shawn Wittenborn Mingledorff's Distributors

Kyle Woodham "Dothan Eagle"

Brandon Ziegenfelder Slingluff United Insurance

DIPLOMATS

Suzanne Barrick "Dothan Magazine"

Hayden Camp Dothan Education Foundation

Sheila Cestaro WDHN TV-18

Mary Helen Daniels
Manpower

Anita Dawkins Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Showcase Properties Pat Evans

Evans Automotive Service

Kathy Farley Troy University

Kassie Glover Alabama Telco Credit Union

Josh Haisten MidSouth Bank

Rick Jenkins Freedom Business Technologies, LLC

Brad Kendrick Hampton Inn and Suites by Hilton

Beth Kenward Humana

Ramona Miley Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Showcase Properties

Rona Miller Holloway Credit Solutions, LLC

Kevin Murphy Southeast Alabama Gas District

Kevin Payne Slingluff United Insurance

Aubrey Stenzel
Whittaker Marketing

Faye Turner
Midsouth Paving Inc.

Lori Wilcoxon Wiregrass Commons Mall

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Small Business
Development



"There is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs."

— Unknown

www.dothan.com (334) 792-5138



RIBBONCUTTINGS

Blue Bar and Grill

3700 Ross Clark Circle, Suite 4
Dothan, AL 36303
Andre Barber
(334) 231-3949
BARS, PUBS, TAVERNS,
SALOONS



Ford Finders Employment Services

308 W. Washington St.
Dothan, AL 36301
Jennifer Ford
(334) 446-5319
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS



ADDITIONAL LOCATION Tyndall Federal Credit Union

4674 W. Main St.
Dothan, AL 36305
Kristen Teal
(334) 792-3306
CREDIT UNIONS



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.

Birmingham Theological Seminary -Dothan Campus

Angela Smith 3 Foxchase Drive Dothan, AL 36305 Ph: (334) 797-8572 SCHOOLS – THEOLOGY

Colonial Life

Michelle Mitchell 224 Honeysuckle Road, Suite 5 (physical) 105 Foxmore Drive Dothan, AL 36305 Ph: (334) 796-6167 INSURANCE

First Heritage Credit

Proffit Green 1550 Westgate Parkway, Suite 4 Dothan, AL 36303 Ph: (334) 678-0130 Fax: (334) 678-0145 LOANS

Dothan-Houston County Rotary Club

Heidi Condrey 2526 W. Main St. P.O. Box 6415 Dothan, AL 36302 Ph: (334) 678-2291 Fax: (334) 699-1356

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Wiregrass Technologies, LLC

Dan Robison
2962 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, AL 36301
Ph: (334) 699-5500
APPLE COMPUTERS - SALES & SERVICE

RENEWINGMEMBERS

40 OR More Years

Hathcock Roofing and Remodeling Co. Solomon Motor Co. Inc. Southeast Alabama Gas District Whatley Supply Co.

30-39 Years

Alabama Power Co.
Dothan Landmarks
Foundation
Bill E. Mullen, CPA
Shoney's
Shute Pecan Co. Inc.
Wal-Mart SuperCenter #604

25-29 Years

Wiregrass Warehouse Inc.

20-24 Years

Max Fitness Real Estate Services of Dothan Inc.

15-19 Years

Builders Door and Hardware Girls Inc. of Dothan Hall Housing Investments Inc. Northstar Engineering Services

Services
S. Brannon Clothing Inc.
Ward Wilson Memory Hill
Funeral Home
Women's Medical Center

10-14 Years

Circle City Glass Co. Inc.
Cummings Resources, LLC
Evans Automotive Service
Murray's Irrigation
OSM Services Inc. dba ONE
Source Management
Town of Midland City
WASTE MANAGEMENT of
Dothan

5-9 Years

Dothan Networking Alliance Home Instead Senior Care ReBath Wiregrass Spay/Neuter Alliance

1 to 4 Years

Alabama Baptist Children's
Homes and Family
Ministries
Bart Liddon Homes, LLC
Dothan Photo Booths
Hughes Supply
Raymond James
Rituals Day Spa
Zonta Club of Dothan



Events February 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

24th Annual Spotlight On Business Trade Show – 3-7 p.m.

Location: 126 N. St. Andrews St. (Dothan Civic Center)

*See page 11 for more information.

4 Military Affairs Committee Meeting – 9:30 a.m.

Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ribbon Cutting: ADT Security Service - 10:30 a.m.

Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

10 Ambassador and Diplomat Committee Meeting – 9 a.m.

Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Troy University Small Business Counseling - 9:00 a.m. to noon

Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber) *Reservations required: (334) 792-5138

Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Courts and Local Government Day – 7:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ribbon Cutting: First Heritage Credit - 10:30 a.m.

Location: 1550 Westgate Parkway, Suite 4

President's Day – Chamber Closed

The Top 10 New Year's Resolutions Employers Should Make Seminar – 11:30 a.m.

Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

*See page 10 for more information.

**Pre-Registration required: Susan Tatom (334) 792-5138

Board of Director' Meeting – 8:15 a.m.

Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Leadership Dothan Health Care Day – 7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: 4370 W. Main St. (Flowers Hospital)

Ribbon Cutting: Liberty National (Sean Passaro)

Location: 220 Healthwest Drive, Suite 3

79th Annual Tri-States Junior Beef Expo Showmanship Division – 6 p.m.

Location: 1701 E. Cottonwood Road (Houston County Farm Center)

*See page 6 for more information.

79th Annual Tri-States Junior Beef Expo Weight Class Division and Heifer Show – 8:30 a.m.

Location: 1701 E. Cottonwood Road (Houston County Farm Center)

*See page 6 for more information.

26 Ribbon Cutting: Sibly Lawn Care – 10:30 a.m.

Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ambassadors & Diplomats Team Of The Month

The Total Package



Congratulations to the Ambassador and Diplomat Team of the Month "The Total Package" for claiming this month's title. Pictured (seated l-r) are Beth Kenward, Humana; Sarah Register, Sarrell Dental Center; Mary Reed, Dothan Eagle; (standing) Lauren Pike, Covenant Hospice; Brandon Ziegenfelder, Slingluff United Insurance; Rich Merrell, PRemployer Inc.; and Faye Turner, MidSouth Paving Inc.

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



Scott Covington
Health-Link

Capital Campaign Off To Fast Start

Since last month's update, the Grow Dothan Capital campaign is off to a fast start. To date, we have:

- One hundred percent pledged participation from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors;
- Secured over \$727,366 in financial commitments, which includes contributions of \$300,000 from the City of Dothan and \$140,000 from Houston County. The three-year goal is \$2 million;
- Spoken to numerous Wiregrass civic and organizational clubs with more presentations and meetings to come; and
- Provided the entire Chamber membership a Grow Dothan brochure and pledge card.



Grow Dothan Chairman Mark Saliba (right), Alfred Saliba Corp., meets with Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce President Matt Parker and Chamber Board Chair Hope Johnson, Friend Bank, to review current strategies and progress of the Grow Dothan Capital Campaign.

For those of you that have made your pledge, we thank you very much and greatly appreciate the support. For those of you that have not, please consider partnering with us today.

Every contribution to the campaign is critical. Every Chamber member has benefited, and will continue to benefit, from a growing and thriving economy. Investing in Grow Dothan ensures our region has the resources to turn economic opportunities into reality.

Thank you for your consideration. Your support makes a difference! No commitment is too small, it's through partnership that makes Dothan,
Houston County and the Wiregrass area what it needs to be

the perfect place to live, work and play.





Glasstream Powerboat, LLC is preparing to add an additional 5,000 square feet of warehouse space to it's Dothan manufacturing facility.



Grow Dothan Chairman Mark Saliba (top center picture) meets monthly with officials from Houston County, City of Dothan and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce to provide an update on the area's economic development projects.

WORKFORCEDEVELOPMENT

Governor Announces Partnership To Ensure More Competitive Alabama Workforce

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley announced recently a cooperative effort between business and education to ensure that Alabama has a competitive workforce that is trained not only in technical skills, but also in essential interpersonal or soft skills.

Joining the governor in their support of this effort were Dr. Mark Heinrich, chancellor of the Alabama Community College System; Dr. Tommy Bice, state superintendent of education; Dr. Robert Witt, chancellor of the University of Alabama System and chair of the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents; Ella Bell, vice president of the State Board of Education, as well as other educators and business leaders.

"I pledged to the citizens of Alabama that creating jobs would be one of my highest priorities as governor, Bentley said. "I have remained true to that pledge, and we have aggressively recruited new industries and worked closely with our existing businesses and industries to create 60,000 new jobs in Alabama. I'm proud of the progress we've made, but much work remains to be done to achieve our goals of providing full employment for our labor force and ensuring a bright future for our children."

Most of the jobs being created today and in the future will require education and training beyond the high school level. "Without exception, employers in every segment of business and industry have also told us that they need something else... they need a greater pool of workers who possess the 'soft skills' or the 'essential workplace skills' to be successful in the competitive global economy," added Bentley. "I've often said, 'You can teach a skill, but you can't teach attitude."

As Heinrich explained, "Research suggests that 85 to 90 percent of those who lose their jobs do so because of poor essential workplace skills. Without question, soft

skills can make all the difference between success and failure in a career."

Bentley called on the state's educational institutions and training providers to redouble their efforts in providing for essential job skills. Unlike academic and technical skills that can be taught in academic institutions, many of the essential workplace skills (soft skills) must be instilled as a value system from a very early age.

"If we are to be successful, a team effort will be required," Bentley said. "So, I am also calling on parents, grandparents, youth program directors and churches and other faith-based organizations to work alongside our educational institutions in helping to instill these skills and values in our young people.'

"Just as students must be prepared to meet the academic and skilled-labor expectations of colleges and industry, they must also possess the soft skills to succeed and be leaders in their chosen fields," Bice said. "A strong work ethic, positive attitude and the ability to think critically and communicate effectively are invaluable traits for anyone expecting to get ahead in life."

Bentley also noted, the future economic success of Alabama depends upon our ability to continue to provide a world-class workforce - a pool of highlyskilled workers who possess a comprehensive set of skills, including the essential workplace skills.

Both Heinrich and Bice said that they will continue incorporating soft skills training into the K-12 and postsecondary education curriculums.

For more information, contact E.J. Cooper-Starks, Alabama Community College System's assistant director of communication - media and public relations at (334) 293-4513.

Youth Leadership Visits ACOM, **Panhandle Converter**

The Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Class 23 met in mid-December for its Business and Industry Day. A program of the Dothan Area Chamber Foundation, Youth Leadership is a sevenmonth program that prepares high school juniors for leadership, involvement and participation in the future of the Wiregrass area.

Youth Leadership started the day with Matt Hinson, MarketPlace Chaplains USA, who presented a workshop titled Developing a Business - Mission, Vision and Strategic.

Later in the day, the class visited both the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine and Panhandle Converter Recycling for tours of the facilities. A delicious lunch was enjoyed at the Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s Sterling Events Services in Rotary Hall.

For more information about the Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County program, contact Linda Kelley, director of community development, at (334) 792-5138 or lkelley@dothan.com.



LBA To Host Fundraiser For Dothan Education Foundation

The five Dothan Larry Blumberg and Associates (LBA Hospitality) properties will join together to produce a spaghetti lunch fundraiser Friday, Feb. 13, with all profits being donated to the Dothan Education Foundation.

This fundraiser has been a great success throughout the Southeast through the LBA C.A.R.E.S. (Caring Associates Ready and Empowered to Serve) program. A national community service initiative of LBA Hospitality.

The Dothan Education Foundation is excited about the opportunity to partner with LBA Hospitality on this fundraiser to assist in its mission to support public education within the community.

Each spaghetti plate is \$7 and includes spaghetti, bread, a cookie and plastic wear. Individuals and businesses can place their order by faxing Angie or Tiffany at (334) 671-1356 or by email at cydothanfd@ lbaproperties.com.

When ordering, specify how many plates need to be ordered, if the plates will be picked up or delivered (10 plate minimum for delivery) as well as address. Spaghetti plates may be picked up at the Courtyard by Marriott at 3040 Ross Clark Circle Friday, Feb. 13, 11 a.m.

more information, call the DEF at (334) 794-6585 or visit www. call the DEF For dothaneducationfoundation.org.

7th Annual

WIREGRASS ECONOMIC FORUM

Presented by CapSouth Partners









Join Us April 23rd!

Table Sponsor----\$350.00 Includes a reserved table for eight, recognition in the program,

and an advertisement slide in the presentation that will be rolling before and after the program.

Individual Tickets ----

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

www.wiregrasseconomicforum.com

Wiregrass Church 900 W. Main Street Dothan, Alabama

A first-class event that you will not want to miss, providing economic updates and insights, featuring local businesses and recognizing their contributions.

Thursday, April 23, 2015 Doors and Buffet Open 11:00a Program 11:30a to 1:30p

Thank you to our Forum Partners:











CapSouth Partners is an independent Registered Investment Advisor.

Chair's Message... Your Chamber Of Commerce

A Solid Foundation For Our Community



Hope Johnson

Since 1919, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce has served a meaningful role in our community. In the end, we are here to foster broad prosperity.

The Chamber's mission is pretty simple – to serve as a catalyst for job creation and economic development. But execution and the organization itself is fairly

complex. With almost 1,000 members, hundreds of volunteers, dozens of programs and a broad network of partners, the organization has many moving parts that have to work together effectively.

And make no mistake, we operate in a highly competitive and challenging environment. Tens of thousands of communities across America compete daily for job creating projects. Incentive funding at the State and Federal levels are increasingly limited. And our local businesses face strong ongoing competitive and economic headwinds.

So for your Chamber to succeed, first, our foundation must be solid. As a four-star accredited chamber, you can take comfort in knowing that your Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce meets certain minimum requirements in eight foundational areas including: governance, finance, HR and staff, governmental affairs, program development, technology, communications and facilities. This accreditation speaks volumes about our organization given that fewer than 5 percent of U.S. Chambers are awarded accreditation.

Second, today's chamber organization must be high performing. Similar to other high performing economic development organizations, your Chamber is driven by community service, operates with a strong strategic plan, measures results and adjusts accordingly, is a creative risk taker, builds strong alliances and networks, earns the trust and respect of its community, is efficient with funding and resources, and invests in our employees.

The Chamber is focused on five very specific goals. The Chamber is furthermore divided into five Council areas, each focused on one of the five strategic goals. Our Council chairs, staff coordinators and committee volunteers are doing some amazing work within the five strategic goals:

- 1. Grow the economy of the Wiregrass;
- 2. Develop a seamless education and workforce system;
- 3. Enhance the Wiregrass region's quality of life;
- 4. Foster collaboration and trust between the Chamber and elected officials through improved communication; and
- 5. Grow membership and provide resources necessary for business people to create, sustain and expand regional companies.

In the next couple of newsletters, I look forward to sharing more about each of our five strategic goals. But for now, know that we value your support.

If your business is not currently a member of the Dothan Chamber, consider this an open invitation. The Dothan Area Chamber is very much an organization based on the principles of creative cooperation and synergy. Simply put, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

For more information, contact the Chamber office at (334) 792-5138.

Hope Johnson is chair of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and CEO and chair of Friend Bank.

Make Your Voice Heard In Montgomery And Washington





One of the priorities of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce is to advocate for you and your issues in Washington D.C. and Montgomery that will improve and help make the Wiregrass' business climate more competitive. Therefore, it is essential that we hear from you so we can share your voice and concerns with our local Wiregrass federal and state legislators.

The 114th Congress has just commenced, and the Alabama State Legislature will begin its session in March.

Advocating and fighting for a pro-jobs, prosmall business and pro-Alabama competitiveness legislative agenda begins with the business owners, entrepreneurs and leaders here at home. Whether it is taxes, spending, regulations, workforce development, health care, infrastructure, education or any other concern, please share with us any broad or specific issues that you would like for us to consider as we develop the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's 2015 federal and state legislative agenda.

Please contact Dean Mitchell at (334) 792-5138 or email **dmitchell@dothan.com** with your thoughts and issues.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. Remember, your voice can only be heard when you speak up!

Chamber To Begin Accepting Nominations

Dothan Business Hall Fame

Do you know someone who has made a significant impact in the development of Dothan and/or Houston County by promoting the free enterprise system and entrepreneurship? Someone who has demonstrated civic leadership, philanthropy and humanitarianism toward their fellow citizens?

If you answered yes to the above, then be sure to mark your calendar to check out the *Chamber Connections'* March issue. The Dothan Business Hall of Fame's Board of Directors will be announcing they are going to begin accepting nominations for the 2015 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.

Stay tuned!

79th Annual Tri-States Junior Beef Expo

The 79th Annual Tri-States Junior Beef Expo, sponsored by the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20 and 21, at the Houston County Farm Center.

Approximately 100 active 4-H, FHA and FFA members from southeast Alabama, southwest Georgia and northwest Florida will compete for cash awards, ribbons, silver buckles and qualification for the state steer show that is held in Montgomery in March.

Joe Carothers will serve as general chairman of the show with Steve Donaldson as the show judge.

Co-sponsors for the event include the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Cattlemen's Association and the Alabama Department of Vocational Agriculture.

The event involves volunteers from all over the tri-state area and has a positive economic impact on Dothan and Houston County. Admission is free.

For more information concerning the show, contact Janice Shepard at (334) 792-5138.

Schedule of Events

Friday, Feb. 20 – 6 p.m. Showmanship Division

Saturday, Feb. 21 – 8:30 a.m. Weight Class Division and Heifer Show



BUSINESSBRIEFS

Continued from page 1.

They are required to attend all membership events which include Ribbon Cuttings, Groundbreakings, General Membership Events, Networking Events and Trade Shows.

The Ambassadors and Diplomats also assist the Membership Director in coordinating these same events throughout the year. Diplomats also serve as mentors to existing and new Ambassadors coming in to that program.

Each year, Ambassadors are chosen in October to coincide with the beginning of the Chamber's fiscal year. Anyone who is an active Chamber member is eligible to apply for the program. The application

is available in the *Chamber Connections* newsletter during the months of July and August.

For more information about the Ambassador and Diplomat programs, please contact the director of membership at (334) 792-5138 or lrobinson@dothan.com.

A special thank you to this year's Chamber Ambassadors and Diplomats for all their devotion and commitment to their local Chamber! If you know an Ambassador or Diplomat, be sure to take a moment and thank them for volunteering their time and service to making your Chamber a success.



Helping Thousands In Need

Annual Half Marathon And 5K

Flowers Hospital and the Southeast Alabama Community Foundation invite you to join them Saturday, Feb. 7, for the Fourth Annual Half Marathon and 5K. This is a community-wide event that raises funds for grants distributed to the Wiregrass region of Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston counties.

The race will have a shot gun start at 8 a.m. at Flowers Hospital across from the Emergency Room and includes a team competition, One-Mile Fun Run, live DJ, food, beverages, noncash awards and fun for the whole family. In the past three years, the

marathon has raised \$68,000 for the community.

The fee is \$75 per person. A \$10 off military discount can be applied with a valid military ID. Walk-up registrations are accepted at packet pick-up and the morning of the race at 6 a.m. There is no age minimum for the half marathon, but a waiver must be signed by the parent/guardian if under 18 years of age. Strollers and headphones are allowed.

To register or for more information, visit www. sacfhalfmarathon,org or call (334) 446-0247.



Fit.

After our weight loss surgery, you might be surprised what does.

Losing a great deal of weight can be very difficult on your own, and sometimes diet and exercise just aren't enough. But at Flowers Hospital, you have a partner in healthy, successful weight loss. With our minimally invasive LAP-BAND® surgery, you will feel full with less food, which can help you lose weight faster. So take the first step toward a healthier, more active life. To learn more, visit FlowersHospital.com or call 334-944-7095.



Patient results may vary. Before you decide on surgery, discuss treatment options with your doctor

Upcoming Member Events

Celebrate Recovery Every Friday • 6 p.m.

Harvest Church. This is a biblical 12-step program for anyone struggling with life's hurts, hang-ups or habits. The program is free and all are welcome. Optional dinner starts at 6 p.m.; free to first-time guests. For those with children, age specific children's program available. For more information, call Harvest at (334) 702-6555 or email celebraterecovery@harvestdothan.com. "You can't heal a wound by saying it's not there!"

Carmike Cinemas' Weekend "Kidtoon" Every Weekend • Times Vary

Dothan Pavilion. Carmike Cinemas will play a special "Kidtoon" every weekend for only \$5. For more information, contact the local theatre at (334) 836-0813 or visit www. carmike.com for show times. Some locations will be able to have a special showing on Tuesday mornings for schools and daycares to take advantage of Carmike's Stimulus Tuesdays.

1st Saturday Family Day Feb. 7 • 10:30 a.m.

Wiregrass Museum of Art & Conference Center. This is a program that provides entertainment for the whole family. Children and their families can enjoy a different funfilled activity each month. The program is free and open to children of all ages who are accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact the Museum at (334) 794-3871 or visit www.wiregrassmuseum. org.

Annual Mardi Gras Charity Ball Feb. 7 • 7 p.m.

The Grand on Foster. Join the Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention for its Fifth Annual Mardi Gras Charity Ball. There will be a silent auction, delicious food and live entertainment provided by Legacy. Tickets are \$50/person; sponsorship tables are also available. For more information, contact Cindy Watt at (334) 671-1966 or visit www.exchangecap.org.

Meet and Greet Feb. 20 • 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Gulf Coast Dermatology. All are invited to join Gulf Coast Dermatology as it welcomes new physician Dr. Jeffrey Stricker. For more information, call (334) 699-3376.

Have an upcoming event planned?

Send your event information to mmckean@dothan.com

BUSINESSBRIEFS

Houston Academy Presents Musical

"Beauty And The Beast Jr."

The Houston Academy Upper School will be putting on their first-ever musical Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27-28, at 7 p.m. Students in seventh- through 12thgrade will present Disney's "Beauty and the Beast Jr." in Dunning Hall at the Academy. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Julie Arthur at (334) 794-4106 or arthurj@ houstonacademy.com.

James Bowman Realty Welcomes Ivey To Team



Rich Ivev.

James Bowman Realty is excited to introduce Rich Ivey to its team of realtors. Ivey is excited to be back in the Wiregrass area to do big things in the real estate market.

Originally from Dothan, Ivey is a 2000 graduate of Northview High School. He previously lived in Auburn and worked at the Auburn Armory, USDA and did surveying for a civil engineer.

Ivey enjoys spending his free time with his Doberman Pincher, family and friends and being in the outdoors.

For more information, contact James Bowman Realty Inc. at (334) 794-7211.

Cancer Society Seeks Sponsors

The American Cancer Society urges local businesses to help finish the fight against cancer by becoming sponsors of Houston County's Relay For Life. Cancer touches everyone, and involvement in Relay For Life is a great way for companies to demonstrate their commitment to help the American Cancer Society transform cancer from deadly to treatable and from treatable to preventable.

Many options for corporate sponsorship are available, including forming a team at one or more local events; providing in-kind donations of goods; purchasing event sponsor signs for track display; encouraging employees to volunteer at events; and collecting donations at places of business.

"One in every 100 Americans participates in this fundraising event that has become a global phenomenon," said Taylore Logan, Relay for Life specialist. "Everything we do at Relay For Life contributes to reducing cancer mortality and incidences, whether it's raising dollars that support free patient programs and services, research or volunteering to commit to advocacy and education efforts."

Relay for Life, the world's largest grassroots fundraising movement, continues to grow as tens of thousands of people will participate in Relay events across Alabama. Relay For Life is aimed at furthering the American Cancer Society's efforts to save lives by helping people stay well, by helping them get well, by finding cures and by fighting back.

If you or your company would like to help the American Cancer Society achieve its mission of saving lives, email Logan at taylore.logan@cancer.org or visit www.relayForLife.org/houstonal.

Ladi Vee's Announces Fashion Week Dates

Ladi Vee's Etiquette and Consulting has announced the dates and activities planned for Fashion Week Dothan 2015. Activities are set for Feb. 25 - March 1, 2015. Festivities will kick off with a VIP Reception at Chico's Women's Clothing and Accessories.

A Spokesmodel Competition will be held Friday, Feb. 27, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn for females ages 18 to 25. On Saturday, Feb. 28, an Etiquette Boot Camp for Kids will be held at Westgate Recreation Center from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Also on Saturday, A Kids Fitness Challenge, conducted by Steve "Hammer" Cunningham, will be held at Synergy Gym from 1-2:30 p.m. for kids ages 7 to 18. A \$10 registration fee, including lunch, will be required to participate.

Prizes will be awarded to kids in various age categories and funds will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project.

The week will wrap up Sunday, March 1, with the fashion show Wiregrass Chic: Featuring Style, Elegance and Grace, and a Salute to Wiregrass Veterans at Mercedes Benz of Dothan. LVEC will honor a Wiregrass area veteran with the Second Annual LVEC's Veteran's Award. A VIP reception will be held prior to the show from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with an appearance by celebrity guest vocalist Xavier Lewis.

For ticket information or to order tickets for any of the events, go online to www.ladivee.com or contact Vanessa Riley Harris at (678) 458-9660.

Child Advocacy Center Prepares For Blue Ribbon Campaign

The Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center is preparing for the 21st Annual Blue Ribbon Campaign to be held during April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Blue Ribbon Campaign is an effort to raise awareness about the severity of child abuse and is used to help raise funds for the CAC.

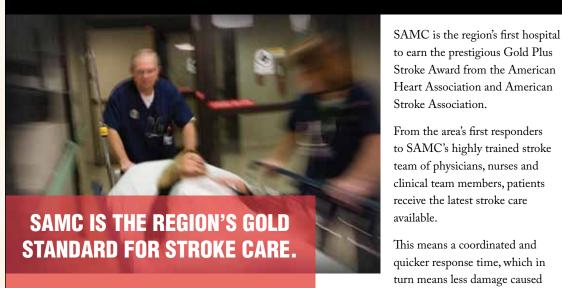
The CAC exists to minimize trauma for local child abuse victims and serves over 700 child sexual and physical abuse victims each year by offering specialized help in the form of therapy, interviews, court support, follow up and more.

CAC invites you to stand with them today to give hope and help to child abuse victims by ordering your special 2015 Blue Ribbon Friday For Kids T-shirts. This year's Blue Ribbon Friday For Kids will be celebrated April 24.

A free Blue Ribbon/CAC yard sign will be given to orders with 20 shirts or more, and deliveries can be made for orders of more than \$200. To ensure correct size, place your preorders for shirts by Feb. 20.

For sponsorship opportunities and order forms, visit www.southeastcac.org or call (334) 671-1779.

WITH STROKE, TIME LOST IS BRAIN LOST.



PROVIDING PATIENTS THE **HIGHEST LEVEL OF ADVANCED** STROKE CARE.



turn means less damage caused by the stroke.

SOUTHEAST ALABAMA

quicker response time, which in

Stroke Award from the American

MEDICAL CENTER



1108 Ross Clark Circle Dothan, Alabama 36301 334-793-8111 samc.org

BUSINESSBRIEFS

少 HEALTHSOUTH。

HEALTHSOUTH Receives Marketing Team Award

HEALTHSOUTH Rehabilitation Hospital of Dothan recently received the Marketing Team of the Year honor at HEALTHSOUTH's Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. Chief Executive Officer Margaret Futch accepted the award for the team.

HEALTHSOUTH Dothan is one of only six hospitals in HEALTHSOUTH'S nationwide network of 103 rehabilitation hospitals to receive the award. They were selected based on their overall performance.

"Our marketing team is a stellar group of individuals that make every patient's experience a personal and exceptional one," Futch said. "This award is just further proof of their commitment to serving our growing patient population and to providing some of the best patient outcomes in the industry."

HEALTHSOUTH Dothan is an inpatient rehabilitation hospital that serves patients who are recovering from conditions such as stroke and other neurological disorders, cardiac and pulmonary conditions, brain and spinal cord injuries, complex orthopedic conditions, and amputations.

HEALTHSOUTH Rehabilitation Hospital of Dothan is a 51-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital that offers comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services. Serving patients throughout southeast Alabama, northeast Florida and southwest Georgia, the hospital is located at 1736 E. Main St.

For more information or to take a tour, call (334) 712-6333 or visit www.healthsouthdothan.com.

Home Instead Senior Care Announces CAREGiver Of The Year

Home Instead Senior Care proudly announces its 2014 CAREGiver of the Year Linda Zito. Since starting with the company in 2013, Zito has provided over 3,000 hours of services. She is one of the most requested CAREGivers among clients because she has the true heart of a CAREGiver.

Zito has exceeded client and company expectations by not only handling with grace regular client issues, such as dementia, mobility, anxiety and personal care, but also the not-so-regular tasks. She has searched out recipe books to prepare special meals for seniors clients to encourage eating, knitted shawls and given as gifts to make them feel special, and even repaired a broken client's vacuum cleaner.

With regards to company standards and policies, Zito is the ideal employee. She arrives before scheduled shifts, clocks in on time and visits the office weekly to give personal updates on clients. With Home Instead Senior Care's service territory being over 180 miles, she also does not hesitate to travel great distances to meet a client's need.

Zito is a star CAREGiver, having won every award given by HISC's local franchise to included

CAREGiver of the Month, Above and Beyond Award, No Call Outs Award and Taking Unscheduled Shifts Award.

If you would like the opportunity to work for Home Instead Senior Care as a CAREGiver, apply in person at 1231 W. Main St, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or online at www.homeinstead.con/689.



Linda Zito (right) was recently named as Home Instead Senior Care's 2014 CAREGiver of the Year. Pictured with Zito is Co-Owner Lan Berry.



SAMC Announces Senior Driving Classes

The Southeast Alabama Medical Center is offering four driver safety classes for older drivers in 2015 through its Senior Discovery program.

Classes, which are for drivers aged 50 and older, are taught by certified instructors from the American Association of Retired Persons and include a membership to the Senior Discovery program.

The classes offer older drivers the opportunity to refine their existing driving skills and develop safe defensive driving techniques. Attendees are also advised that many auto insurance companies offer discounts for taking the class.

Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. in the 7th Floor Conference Room of the Doctors Building on the SAMC campus. Classes are scheduled for Monday, Feb. 23; Tuesday, May 12; Tuesday, Aug. 11; and Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The cost of the program is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members; the cost includes a light lunch. Free diabetes, vision screenings and blood pressure checks will also be conducted.

Registration is required. Call the Medical Center at (334) 712-3336 or (800) 735-7998.



SEACT Presents Les Misérables

The Southeast Alabama Community Theatre began the journey almost two years ago when its board of directors decided to make a milestone out if its 40th year with something big, and something special. It's a production that has left an indelible mark on 65 million people in the world.

SEACT will stage *Les Misérables* at the Dothan Opera House March 9-15 with a full cast, orchestra and crew of local talent. Tickets go on sale Feb. 23, for this epic and uplifting story about the survival of the human spirit.

The modern classic is based on Victor Hugo's novel and features one of the most memorable scores of all time. In 19th century France, Jean Valjean is released from 19 years of unjust imprisonment, but finds nothing in store for him but mistrust and mistreatment. He breaks his parole in hopes of starting a new life, initiating a life-long struggle for redemption as he is relentlessly pursued by police inspector Javert, who refuses to believe Valjean can change his ways.

This production is being directed by Eddie and Sam Farnham, and produced by Kendall Sirkis, Liz Smyth and Dale Saliba.

For more information on show dates, times and ticket prices, visit www.seact.com.



Tickets Now Available

Covenant Hospice is delighted to announce the Fourth Annual Pumps and Pearls event to be held Thursday, March 5, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Mercedes-Benz of Dothan.

Pumps and Pearls is a Kentucky Derby themed cocktail party, fashion show and silent auction of art, jewelry, travel packages, health, beauty and fashion products and services to benefit Covenant Hospice's unfunded and non-reimbursed programs, such as children's support, bereavement services and indigent care.

Participants are encouraged to wear their Kentucky Derby hats as a prize will be awarded to the best one.

Several in-kind media sponsorships opportunities are also available. Pumps and Pearls has grown to be the most exciting event of the year and benefits Covenant Hospice in Dothan. The event is host to approximately 500 attendees.

Tickets are \$75 per person and are limited. To purchase your ticket or for sponsorship information, call Lauren Pike at (334) 794-7847 or visit http://eventsatcovenant.org/pumpsandpearls.

Revenue Department Adds Sales Tax Rate Lookup To Website

On Nov. 14, the Alabama Department of Revenue posted an online sales tax rate database on its website. Retailers can put a delivery address in the online lookup and get the sales tax rate for the various jurisdictions that apply to that address.

Since the first day of 2014, a seller using its delivery trucks and its employees to deliver goods outside of its physical location has been responsible for collecting and remitting the applicable local sales taxes.

The Revenue Department had initially planned to make local sales tax rates readily available to retailers early in 2014, but ran into issues with overlapping tax jurisdictions, especially in police jurisdictions, and the reliability of the resulting tax rate in the online database.

Legislation will be proposed in the 2015 regular session that will hold retailers harmless if the tax rate information provided by the Alabama Department of Revenue's or a local government's website database is wrong.

If you need a sales tax rate, visit www. alabamainteractive.org/ador_taxrate_lookup/welcome.action.

Source: "Alabama Retail Quarterly," Volumne 14, Number 5. Article reprinted with permission of the Alabama Retail Association. To read the article online, visit www.alabamaretail.org/news/years/reports-2014.

Wells Fargo Advisors Providing Free Social Security Planning

In partnership with Dothan-Houston County Library System, Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network will host a series of educational seminars to empower baby boomers to maximize their benefits made available through Social Security planning. The eight-part seminar series will include sessions on when to file for Social Security benefits, which claiming strategy to select, Medicaid planning, retirement planning, beneficiary planning, senior financial abuse and more.

The seminars, hosted by Mike Woodham of Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, will be held on Mondays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Westgate Branch and Saturdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Main Library (excluding holidays). The first three seminars will be: (1) Monday, Feb. 2: Introduction to Social Security, Medicare and Retirement Income Planning; (2) Monday, Feb. 9: Social Security and the Different Claiming Strategies; and (3) Monday, Feb. 16: Medicare and Health Care Planning for Boomers.

Additional Social Security and Medicare resources made possible from a generous donation from Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network are now available at all locations in the Dothan-Houston County Library System.

For more information, call the local Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network office at (334) 671-9393.





Move to the Next Level of Business Success with the NxLeveL For Business Start-ups Planning Series 2015

Thursdays, Feb. 26 – April 30 (Except March 19) 5:30–8:30 p.m. Troy University, Dothan Campus Adams Hall, Room 206

The NxLeveL for Business Start-ups course is a nine-session course designed for people who want to start a business and need the skills to test the feasibility of their business concept. Participants develop a business plan which acts as a blueprint for their start-up venture.

The course will be held Thursdays, Feb. 26 – April 30 (except March 19), from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on the Troy University Dothan Campus in Adams Hall, Room 206.

The course cost \$100, which includes all nine sessions, books and materials. Seating is limited and reserved for the first 25 paid attendees. To register for NxLeveL, go to http://bit.ly/NxLeveL2015A or call Judy Callin at (334)674- 2425 or email jcallin@ troy.edu.

This program is sponsored by:

Troy University
Small Business Development Center
Continuing Education
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

The SBDC at Troy University is a member of the Alabama SBDC Network. Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Reasonable accommodations for person with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact Brenda Marcum, Troy University SBDC, 100 Industrial Blvd., Troy, AL 36801, (334) 674-2425.

Small Business Seminar

The Top 10 New Year's Resolutions Employers Should Make

Feb. 17 • 11:30 a.m.

The year 2015 is definitely here! With the coming of a new year, comes the need to change certain employment policies and practices to coincide with the changing landscape of new laws, court decisions and new enforcement guidelines being released by regulatory agencies. Employers would be wise to have a strategy in place to address these new developments.

Mark your calendar and join the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. to learn how you can prepare for the required changes to policies and workplace practices in order

to stay compliant and penalty-free.

Presented by Dan Sinus, vice president of the PR Companies, discussion topics will include independent contractor arrangements, updating email policies to comply with employee's right to communicate with coemployees, correct employee classifications to meet new U.S. Labor standards, new EEOC guidelines, OSHA reporting standards and more.

The cost to attend is \$10, which includes lunch. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, Feb. 12. To reserve your seat, contact Susan Tatom at (334) 792-5138.

Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

February 20-22

Alabama's fourth severe weather preparedness sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20, 2015, and ends at midnight, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015.



Alabama shoppers can stock up tax free on common supplies costing less than \$60 that every home and business needs to prepare for a natural disaster, or even a general emergency. Generators costing \$1,000 or less can also be purchased free of the state's 4 percent sales tax during the three-day tax holiday.

For more information, go to www.alabamaretail.org/alabamasalestaxholidays/.



Find out what business is taking place...

ander the Sea

Spotlight on Business

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 Dothan Civic Center • 3-7 p.m.

Not only will you have an amazing time, but it's also a chance to discover new prospects.

- Mingle and meet individuals looking for your services.
- See what's new, what's changed and what over 80 Chamber area businesses have to offer.
- · Explore new business-to-business opportunities.

Don't miss this once-a-year chance to meet new prospects by being part of the 2015 Business Under the Sea trade show. And don't forget to bring plenty of business cards! Admission is \$3 to public; Chamber member employees admitted FREE. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by:







2015 Small Business Person Of The Year Award Nominations

In 1987 the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Agnes Simpson of WOOF Radio as the first Small Business Person of the Year. Today the Chamber hands out this prestigious award on an annual basis to individuals for their outstanding success in a small business. The award is based on business growth and longevity, community development, innovation, and success in the face of adversity. While nominees will be judged in these areas, they need not exhibit outstanding performance in every area to win.

Who will be our next winner? Do you know a small business owner with a success story and who is making a contribution to the local community and the economy? If so, nominate them. The Chamber will accept nominations for the 2015 Small Business Person of the Year from Jan. 1 to Feb. 11, 2015. Nominees will be interviewed and the top three finalists will be announced at the General Membership Meeting held during Small Business Week, May 11-15, 2015. The winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting to be held in October 2015.

Each nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Business employs between 1-25 employees.
- Business is a member in good standing of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Have been an active Chamber member for at least three continuous years.
- Business must have been operating in the Dothan area for a minimum of three years.
- Business must exhibit growth and longevity, involvement in community development, innovative practices and success in the face of adversity.
- Adhere to ethical business practices.
- Candidate can not have won award within the past 10 years.

To nominate a small business person, fill out the information below. (*Please type or print*)

Nominee:	
Company:	
Phone Number:	
Nominated By:	
Company:	
Phone Number:	
Why this individual deserves recogn attach an additional sheet.)	

Either mail or fax this form to:

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Attn: LaRhonda Robinson P.O. Box 638, Dothan, AL 36302 Fax: (334) 794-4796.

Nominations are due by Feb. 11, 2015. Thank you for your nomination!

meeting the challenge

The Chamber's Shining Stars

February 2015

THIS ISSUE:

Capital Campaign Off To Fast Start

Governor Announces Partnership

Chairman's Message

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Ladi Vee's Announces

Fashion Week Dates

Home Instead Senior Care Announces CAREGiver

Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



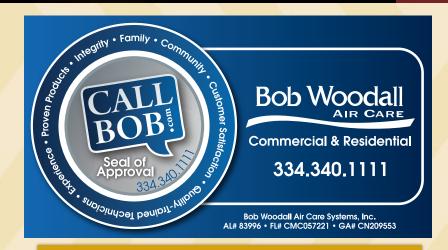




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ECONOMICINDICATORS

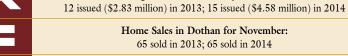


Labor Force for the Dothan MSA for November: 61,454 in 2013; 61,430 in 2014 57,994 in 2013; 58,055 in 2014 Employed

Unemployment for the Dothan MSA for November:



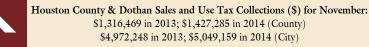
5.7% in 2013; 5.5% in 2014 Residential Building Permits for the City of Dothan for November:



Home Sales in Dothan for November: 65 sold in 2013; 65 sold in 2014



Enplanements for Dothan Regional Airport for November: 4,384 in 2013; 4,035 in 2014



Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details. Data as of 1/8/15. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.