

C H A M B E R CONNECTIONS

Transportation Director To Be Guest Speaker

Chamber General Membership Luncheon

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce is now taking reservations for the organizations upcoming quarterly General Membership Luncheon scheduled to be held Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Clarion Inn and Suites. The Alabama Department of Transportation's Director, John Cooper, will be the guest speaker.

Cooper became Alabama's Transportation Director in January 2011, with the beginning of Gov. Robert Bentley's Administration. Cooper came out of retirement to head the Department.

From 2002 to 2008, Cooper was chief executive officer of Avocent Corp. in Huntsville, Alabama, a global provider of information technology infrastructure management; he was chairman of Avocent from 2003 to 2008.

Cooper has a business background that has seen him serve as a CEO, chief financial officer, corporate vice president and as a partner in large accounting firms. He holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in accounting from the University of Alabama.

ALDOT's mission is to provide a safe, efficient, environmentally sound intermodal transportation system for all users, especially the taxpayers of Alabama. To also facilitate economic and social development and prosperity through the efficient movement of people and goods and to facilitate intermodal connections within Alabama. ALDOT must also demand excellence in transportation and be involved in promoting adequate funding to promote and maintain Alabama's transportation infrastructure.

In his role as Transportation Director, Cooper recently announced the timeline for completing

the transition to a new organizational structure for ALDOT. Under the timeline announced in late September, efforts began immediately to finalize the process of consolidating ALDOT's nine divisions into five regions. The new organizational structure is aimed at providing increased decision-making authority at the local level, along with greater accountability and efficiency.

The remaining consolidations will create ALDOT's Northern Region, West Central Region and East Central Region. Previous consolidations created the Southwestern Region in July 2013 and the Southeastern Region effective Oct. 1.

For more information about the Alabama Department of Transportation, visit the organization's website at www.edaa.org/default.aspx?id=9.

We invite you to join the Dothan Area Chamber on Jan. 22 to welcome Cooper as our guest speaker. Tickets for the luncheon are \$15 per person or \$150 for a reserved table (seats eight). Reservations are required and may be made by contacting the Chamber's Director of Membership, LaRhonda Robinson, at (334) 792-5138.

Luncheon sponsorship opportunities area also still available. The sponsorship cost is \$350 and the benefits include: one table of eight

(\$150 value) in preferred location; logo recognition in the Chamber newsletter; recognition during the meeting from the podium; opportunity to place marketing pieces on a display table at the event; and logo placed on table card in center of guest tables. For more information, contact the Chamber's Membership Director.



ALDOT Director John Cooper will be the guest speaker at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's January General Membership Luncheon.

MARK YOUR CALENDER

General Membership Luncheon

Clarion Inn and Suites

Jan. 22, 2015 • Noon

\$15 Per Person or \$150 Reserved Table (Seats Eight)

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2015 Chamber Guide, Directory Set For January Mailing



The Chamber's 2015 *Dothan's Official Welcome Guide* and *Chamber Membership Directory and Business Guide* are currently being published by Chamber member Print Services Inc.

Combined into one convenient booklet, *The Welcome Guide* and *Membership Directory* will be mailed out to Chamber members (primary contact) in late January. Additional copies will be available at the Chamber, 102 Jamestown Blvd., for those Chamber members who need multiple copies.

www.dothan.com
(334) 792-5138



RIBBON CUTTINGS

All About Cleaning

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Dothan, AL 36301
Kathy Whelan-Loeffler
(334) 805-7321
CLEANING – RESIDENTIAL &
COMMERCIAL



Cobb, Boyd, White and Cobb

112 Jamestown Blvd.
Dothan, AL 36301
Bo Boyd
(334) 677-1000
ATTORNEYS



Fairway Outdoor Advertising

1658 Hickory Grove Road
Cottonwood, AL 36320
Melinda Chaney
(334) 714-0476
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING



H&H Construction of the Wiregrass

3054 County Road 25
Dothan, AL 36303
Alex Wascom
(334) 312-7082
FIRE/WATER DAMAGE
RESTORATION



NUW Graphics

2569 S. Brannon Stand Road
Dothan, AL 36305
Amy Kirkland
(334) 446-5260
SCREENPRINTING/
EMBROIDERY



NEW LOCATION First Class Diamonds and Jewelry

1230 Westgate Parkway, Suite 4
Dothan, AL 36303
Jim McGhee
(334) 794-0686
JEWELERS - RETAIL



NEW MEMBERS

Clip and add these to your Membership Directory.

ADT Security Services Inc.

Ricky Scott
516 Pinnacle Place
Prattville, AL 36066
Ph: (334) 301-3903
Fax: (334) 285-0346
SECURITY CONTROL EQUIPMENT &
SYSTEMS INTERFACE

Winco, LLC dba Bojangles'

B. Scott Applefield
1074 Ross Clark Circle (Physical)
106 Adris Place
Dothan, AL 36303
Ph: (334) 836-3590
Fax: (334) 836-3595
RESTAURANTS

Atlantic and Southern Equipment

Glen Gullede
1923 Kinsey Road
Dothan, AL 36303
Ph: (334) 793-9776
Fax: (334) 794-7757
TRACTOR EQUIPMENT

Southern Kept Clothing Co.

Alex Gardner
2932 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, AL 36301
Ph: (334) 350-0209
RETAIL - CLOTHING

RENEWING MEMBERS

40 OR More Years

WTVY-TV Gray Television
Inc.

15-19 Years

City of Slocomb
Dothan Education Foundation
Print Services Inc.
Southeast Alabama Dance Co.

The Landing and Five Star
Catering
The Sleep Center
Town of Cowarts
Tri-State Community
Orchestra
Wells Fargo Advisors
Wells Fargo Advisors
Financial Network
Whittaker Marketing
Winco, LLC dba Bojangles'

30 Years

Dothan Career Center
Gene McGriff State Farm
Insurance
Harley-Davidson of Dothan
Harts and Flowers
Jackson Thornton
Jackson's Trophies and Awards
Inc.
John J. Flowers Jr., DMD, PC
Southeastern Performance
Apparel
Southern Business Systems

10-14 Years

Blue Plate (West)
Deanco Auto Auction Inc.
Dothan OBGYN Inc.
Fort Rucker Morale, Welfare
and Recreation
Home Mortgage of America
Inc.
Horace Williams Mortuary
Pitcher and Associates, LLC
Pruitt Communications Inc.
Temple Emanu-el

1-4 Years
Aero-One Aviation
America's Home Place
By His Design/BHD Interiors
Comfort Suites
Dixieland Metals Inc.
DMC Outsourcing Inc.
Drew Owen State Farm
Insurance
Glass Doctor of Dothan
Healthy You Inc.
J. Michael Lee Associates Inc.
KPD Brands, LLC dba Auntie
Anne's
Magnolia Preserve, LLC
Maurices
The Norton Firm
Wiregrass BEST Inc.

25-29 Years

Eye Center South
Kelly Services Inc.
Wiregrass Commons Mall
WOOF AM/FM

5-9 Years

Carmike Cinemas
Coldwell Banker Commercial -
Alfred Saliba Realty
Delectable Edibles and More
Denton Road Mini-Storage,
LLC
Henry County Health and
Rehabilitation Facility
ServisFirst Bank

20-24 Years

Ferguson, Sizemore and
Associates
Saliba Construction Co. Inc.

New Chamber Members Will Now
Be Featured in Hi-Def at

• JUSTICE PARK MEDIA CENTER •

(Located in the Heart of Downtown Dothan)

Durden
MEMBER SERVICE BANK

Events *January* 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	31

Ambassadors & Diplomats Team Of The Month

Come "Sale" Away



Congratulations to the Ambassador and Diplomat Team of the Month "Come 'Sale' Away" for claiming this month's title. Pictured (seated l-r) are **Elaine Covington**, Health Link; **Sheila Cestaro**, WDHN TV-18; **Mary Helen Daniels**, Manpower; **Carrie McBride**, BBVA Compass Bank; (standing) **Donnie Wells**, The Real Estate Group; **Kyle Woodham**, *Dothan Eagle*; **Hunter Green**, Todd and Sons; Team Co-Captain **Kevin Murphy**, Southeast Alabama Gas District; and Team Co-Captain **Rob Heffner**, Flowers Insurance Agency, LLC. Team members not pictured are **Cheri Hall**, BBVA Compass Bank; and **Rick Jenkins**, Freedom Payment Systems, LLC.

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



Rich Merrell
PREmployer Inc.



Capital Campaign Continues To Move Forward

Since the last update, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Grow Dothan officials have continued to work hard on the capital campaign. Each week, meetings with area leaders and businesses are taking place to talk with them about the Grow Dothan Capital Campaign and the role it plays in the advancement of economic development in the Wiregrass.

The City of Dothan has contributed \$300,000, Houston County has contributed

\$140,000 and to date, the business community has raised \$228,116 for a total \$668,166. The three year goal is \$2 million.

Won't you consider how you and your business can join the area's leadership in the advancement of economic growth in our area? No commitment is too small, it's all through partnership that makes Dothan, Houston County and the Wiregrass what it needs to be the perfect place to live, work and play.



Grow Dothan Chairman Mark Saliba makes a presentation to the Home Builders Association of Dothan and the Wiregrass Area.



Grow Dothan Chairman Mark Saliba (far right) meets with the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's team to review current strategies for the Grow Dothan Capital Campaign. Pictured (l-r) with Saliba are the Chamber's President Matt Parker, External Affairs Director Dean Mitchell and Board of Directors Chair Hope Johnson, Friend Bank.



CJET Academy's first class of students graduated from the 8-week program in December. The next class is scheduled to start this month.



ImmunoTek Bio Center, LLC opened its doors in late November. An emerging bio-tech company committed to the safe collection and procurement of human blood plasma, the Dothan facility has 13 employees.



Glasstream Powerboats, LLC's manufacturing facility in Dothan has begun operations. The Dothan location currently has 25 employees. Glasstream builds quality powerboats for its customers by optimizing world-class design and integrating advanced manufacturing operations with highly skilled people.

Workforce Development By Industry Cluster



Steve Turkoski,
Project Manager

A fairly recent development in regional workforce development strategies is to develop collaboration within regional industry clusters in order for them to self-identify workforce needs within cluster employers and then to relay that information to the regional councils, who will then help coordinate action with the appropriate educational institution. The

Region 10 Workforce Council will be developing a structure within the council to work with the identified clusters that are prominent within the region.

A cluster is a regional concentration of related industries. Industry clusters are classified as “traded” and “local.” Traded clusters are groups of related industries that serve markets beyond the region in which they are located while local clusters, in contrast, consist of industries that serve the local market. Nationwide there are 51 traded clusters and 16 local clusters. In 2012, within Houston County, 75 percent of our clusters are local and 25 percent are traded. In general, the traded sectors are goods producing and the local sectors are services.

The ranking of our top local clusters in Houston County are:

- Health Services
- Hospitality Establishments
- Real Estate, Construction and Development
- Commercial Services

- Retailing of Clothing and General Merchandise

The top traded clusters in Houston County are:

- Distribution and Electronic Commerce
- Electric Power Generation and Transmission
- Business Services
- Vulcanized and Fired Materials
- Transportation and Logistics

Within the Region 10 area the largest clusters by employment are:

- Transportation and Logistics
- Livestock Processing
- Business Services
- Distribution and Electronic Commerce
- Textile Manufacturing
- Electric Power Generation and Transmission

The hope is that in looking at needs within clusters that companies within each cluster will discuss workforce issues among themselves and develop a sense of empowerment in regard to regional workforce initiatives. New operating guidelines provided to the regional councils by Post-secondary education and the Office of Workforce Development require that 75 percent of council voting members be representatives from business and industry.

Leadership Dothan Attends Diversity Workshop

The Leadership Dothan Class 33 met in mid-December for its monthly get-together. A program of the Dothan Area Chamber Foundation, Leadership Dothan is a nine-month program that provides participants with an intense orientation to the problems and issues facing our community.

During the morning session, Nicole Pinkham, senior training consultant with the Alabama Training Institute at Auburn University Montgomery, conducted a Diversity Workshop. The class learned why diversity is important not only to leaders, but to a community at whole.

After enjoying a lunch provided by Hot’s Deli, the class traveled to Enterprise State Community College’s Alabama Aviation Center for a presentation and tour with Veronica Crock, dean of planning, information services and institutional effectiveness.

The class ended the day back at the Chamber facility for a wrap-up and evaluation session.

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



Find The Job You'll Love

2015 Valentine's Day Career Fair

The Troy University, Dothan Campus will host its annual 2015 Valentine’s Day Career Fair Thursday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m. until noon in Malone Hall’s Harrison Room.

Individuals looking for a job are encouraged to dress professionally and bring plenty of resumes.

There is also still time for area businesses and organizations wishing to participate and help Troy University students, upcoming graduates and alumni find the job they’ll love.

To register for the fair, visit www.troy.edu/careerservices and look for the registration page under Announcements/Upcoming Events.

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



DEF Invites You To "Get Schooled"

“Get Schooled” on Thursday, Jan. 29. The Dothan Education Foundation, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Dothan City Schools and Wiregrass Commons Mall are joining forces to bring you the Sixth Annual Education Summit and Showcase.

Wiregrass Commons Mall will be booming with the enthusiasm our students have for learning. Come stroll the mall, visit with students and administrators, see how their school is showcased and show your support.

The event is free and everyone is invited to attend. Choral performances and other entertainment will be held in the Food Court.

So make plans to join us at Wiregrass Commons Mall Thursday, Jan. 29, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. as our community celebrates the students and education.

For more information about the event, contact the Dothan Education Foundation at (334) 794-6585 or visit www.dothaneducationfoundation.org.



Find out what business
is taking place. . .

Under the Sea

24th Annual 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:



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For more information, contact
LaRhonda Robinson at
(334) 792-5138 or
lrobinson@dothan.com



Don't Miss Out On These Great Sponsorship Opportunities!

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce hosts several exciting events throughout the year and we have some great sponsorship opportunities that you might be interested in.

Listed below are the sponsorship opportunities that we currently have available. If you are interested in taking advantage of any of the listed opportunities, please call or email LaRhonda Robinson at (334) 792-5138 or lrobinson@dothan.com. These opportunities are limited and are available on a first come basis.

▶ **General Membership Meetings - January 2015, May 2015, August 2015**

Date will be determined by speaker availability and these meetings will be held as a breakfast or luncheon. There is an expected attendance of 200-250 at each event. The sponsorship cost is \$350 and you will receive the following benefits:

- One table of eight (\$150 value) in preferred location;
- Logo recognition in the Chamber newsletter;
- Recognition during the meeting from the podium;
- Opportunity to place marketing pieces on a display table at the event; and
- Logo placed on table card in center of guest tables.

▶ **The Network Exchange - March 2015, June 2015, September 2015**

The Network Exchange is the Chamber's "after-hours" networking event. The event will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and includes a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and great networking opportunities. There is an expected attendance of 100-150 at each event. The sponsorship cost is \$250 and you will receive the following benefits:

- Opportunity to place marketing pieces on a display table at the event;
- Logo recognition on the invitation to the membership;
- Logo recognition in the Chamber newsletter; and
- Recognition during the welcome address.

▶ **Annual Meeting - October 2015**

Sponsorship opportunities to be announced at a later date.

▶ **Spotlight on Business - February 2016**

Spotlight on Business is the area's largest business trade show. We sell approximately 85 booths and have over 2,000 attendees at the event. The sponsorship cost is \$1,000 and you will receive the following benefits:

- One booth (\$375 value) in preferred location;
- Logo recognition in the Chamber newsletter; and
- Logo recognition in the event program and on the invitation that is distributed to the membership.



DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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 celebratercovery@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

Jan. 3 • 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 fun-filled 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.

DEF's "Raise The Steaks" Fundraiser

Jan. 8 • 4 p.m.

Logan's Roadhouse. The Dothan Education Foundation invites you to join them at Logan's Roundhouse to "Raise the Steaks" Jan 8, from 4 p.m. to close. When you mention to your server that you are dining in support of the Dothan Education Foundation, Logan's will donate up to a sizzling 20 percent of all pre-tax sales to DEF. For more information, contact DEF at (334) 794-6585.

Bridal Extravaganza

Jan. 25 • 1-4:30 p.m.

Dothan Civic Center. Couples preparing for their wedding day will have an all-in-one shopping experience during the Dothan Eagle's annual Bridal Extravaganza. The Extravaganza provides an assortment of shopping opportunities for brides-to-be. Meet with the area's most elite wedding professionals, see the latest trends during the fashion show and register to win fabulous door prizes. If you're getting married you won't want to miss this fantastic event! Tickets available at the Civic Center Box Office (334) 615-3175.

Have an upcoming event planned?

Send your event information to mmckean@dothan.com

DAYP Presents Aces For The Arts

The Dothan Area Young Professionals invite you for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, craps, roulette, blackjack and more at the organization's annual Aces for the Arts Casino Night. This year's event will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, at Dothan's Cultural Arts Center 6:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. with Happy Hour 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Young in age or young at heart, DAYP wants you to have some fun and experience this exciting night. The event is open to ages 21 and up, and all members of the community are encouraged to come out and support DAYP.

A raffle will also be held at the end of the night. Participants can use their winnings at the end of the night to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win some of the awesome prizes. The more you win, the better your odds.

Tickets can be purchased at the door on event night. Tickets are \$25 each for DAYP members and

\$50 each for nonmembers. And if your spouse is a DAYP member, you will also receive member pricing - limit two. DAYP membership will also be available at the door as well as ticket purchases. Dress is cocktail attire.

For more information, visit www.dothanyp.com.



Gala Art Exhibition And Auction

Temple Emanu-El • Jan. 24, 6 p.m.

Temple Emanu-el Sisterhood invites you to a Gala Art Exhibition and Auction Saturday, Jan. 24. There will be a Champagne Preview at 6 p.m. and then the auction will take place at 7 p.m.

Admission is \$10 per person and a portion of the proceeds benefit local charities. There will also be a

"Take a Second Look" Sunday, Jan. 25, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Bagels and coffee will be served.

For more information about the event, contact Temple Emanu-El at (334) 792-5001. The Temple is located at 188 N. Park Ave., Dothan.

Prim And Mendheim Become IACC Associate Members

The law firm of Prim and Mendheim, LLC recently became an Associate Member of the International Association of Commercial Collections Inc. With over 350 members, IACC is the world's largest organization of commercial collectors and commercial collection law attorneys.

For more than 30 years, IACC members and associate members have benefited from IACC

programs and services designed to provide members with the most current industry information. Associate Members receive a monthly newsletter and may participate in IACC's annual convention and other educational meetings.

For more information about the collection services provided by Prim and Mendheim, LLC, call (334) 671-9555 or visit www.pm-firm.com.

YOUR CHAMBER

Event Cancellation Policy

If you register for a Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce event and you do not cancel or attend, you will still be charged. All cancellations must be received in writing no later than three working days before a scheduled event. Cancellations will be accepted via fax or e-mail. Phone cancellations will not be accepted.

It is up to the registrant to confirm receipt of the cancellation request. Cancellations received after the deadline will not be honored.

In the event of circumstances beyond its control, the Chamber reserves the right to amend or cancel any event. If an event is cancelled by the Chamber, refunds will be processed accordingly.

5th Annual
MARDI Gras
Charity Ball

An Annual Benefactor of the
Exchange Center for
Child Abuse Prevention

Saturday, February 7, 2015
The Grand on Foster
(170 N. Foster Street)
7:00pm until 11:00pm

Live Music by Legacy, a Motown Funk Band
Silent Auction

Tickets are \$50, Sponsorship Table Opportunities are Available
Call (334) 671-1966 for More Information
Dress is either Mardi Gras costume or formal attire (cocktail attire/suits)



Healthy You Finishes Year On High Note

Healthy You Inc. recently completed its eighth grant year on a high note. Healthy You is dedicated to improving the lives of citizens in Alabama through healthy relationship education.

In the first five years, over 24,000 individuals across the state of Alabama were impacted by services provided by Healthy You.

During years six through eight:

- Over 8,500 high school students participated in Healthy Relationship workshops;
- Over 300 couples completed a marriage enhancement workshop;
- Of the 145 individuals who received soft skills and employment training, 60 have been hired for employment; and
- Over 2,000 individuals, including those who are incarcerated, in drug rehab, veterans and others in need, received Life Skills and Relationship training. From that number, over 300 enrolled in Healthy You's Case Management services.

All of the workshops offered through Healthy You teach communication skills, conflict resolution, managing emotions and celebrating strengths. Workshops are available to the public.

The goal of Healthy You is to create a better world for children. That goal is achieved by instilling a sense of personal value in individuals and providing the tools needed to maintain healthy relationships and intact families.

For more information, or to schedule a workshop, call Healthy You Inc. at (334) 671-7774 or visit www.jtfstraighttalk.com.

PrimeCare Welcomes New Physician



Dr. Brandy Duke, DO

PrimeCare of Dothan proudly announces the association of Dr. Brandy M. Duke, DO. Duke began seeing patients in December 2014.

A graduate from Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Duke completed her Family Medicine Residency at Oklahoma State University Medical Center in

Tulsa, Oklahoma.

PrimeCare has two locations - Dothan and Daleville, and offers family care, urgent care and occupational medicine.

For more information, contact the Dothan office at (334) 793-2120 or visit www.primecaredothan.com.

James Receives High Quality Program Award 4-H International Youth Exchange Program

Rosalind James, extension agent for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Houston County office, recently received the High Quality Program Award from the States' 4-H International Youth Exchange Program during its annual conference held in San Diego, California. James was responsible for coordinating the recruitment of 12 Wiregrass host families for Japanese delegates ages 12-15 years.

During the conference, James provided an overview of the impact that Alabama's Exchange Program had and the coverage it received from local media. "I really enjoyed the experience and appreciate Alabama's recognition for participation in the States' 4-H International Youth Exchange Program," expressed James.

In addition to recruiting host families, James also coordinated weekly bonding activities for the delegates and the families, which included watermelon tasting, scavenger hunt and a Wildlife Expo at Landmark Park, 4-H Chic-Chain Workshop, tours of the Wiregrass Museum of Art, participation in an International Cultural Talent Show, visiting Water World, weekly trips to Panama City Beach, World of Coca Cola. One host family even took their delegate to Disney World.

James said the delegates enjoyed eating Southern fried chicken, hamburgers and even gained an appreciation for the taste of grits.

James also said she shares the award with all the host families and wants to thank each of them: Chris and Terri Gauldin; Joel and Teresa Foster; Ron and Trina Walker; Brenda Boutin and family; Braxton and Yvette Bell; Naaman and Angie Strength; Ben and Jen Samuels; Ed and Gina Douglas; Lonnie

Wade and BeBe Thomas; Stephanie Fields; Russell and Vanita Sansom; and John and Sandi Hodge.

Applications for host families is now open for the 2015 summer inbound and outbound program. For more information, contact James at (334) 618-3421.



Rosalind James, extension agent for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Houston County office, recently received the High Quality Program Award from the States' 4-H International Youth Exchange Program.

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.

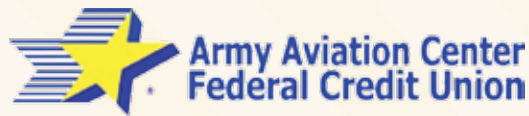


SOUTHEAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER

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



Top 10% in nation for patient safety



Credit Union Wins Awards For Financial Education, Youth Programs

Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union has been named the winner of the 2014 Desjardins Youth and Adult Financial Education Award by the League of Southeastern Credit Unions among credit unions throughout Alabama and Florida with \$500 million and larger in asset size. AACFCU also received second place for the 2014 Louise Herring Philosophy in Action Award.

The LSCU Desjardins Youth and Adult Financial Education Award recognizes leadership within the credit union movement on behalf of youth and adult financial literacy. AACFCU received this award because of its numerous educational programs such as adult financial education classes with the Department of Human Resources, Wallace Community College and Fort Rucker's Army Community Service.

The Louise Herring Philosophy in Action program recognizes the practical application of credit union philosophy through internal programs to improve members' lives with programs that set credit unions apart from other financial institutions. AACFCU received this award because of its implementation of a Youth Council that brought high school juniors and seniors together to give feedback to the Credit Union as well as allow AACFCU to educate them as they begin the next phases in their lives in high school and college.

"We are honored to be recognized with this award among such a great group of credit unions," said Lisa Hales, AACFCU vice president of marketing. "We have always been committed to helping our members,

and these programs are great ways to allow us to reach more people. We are always proud to see our members learn the steps to improve their financial situations."

Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union was founded 48 years ago by seven soldiers at Fort Rucker, Alabama on the principles of the "Credit Union Movement." Today, AACFCU serves more than 120,000 members worldwide with 20 locations throughout Southeast Alabama, Florida's Emerald Coast and the Mobile Bay Area. For more information, visit www.aacfcu.com.



Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union Credit Union recently won awards for its financial education and youth programs. Pictured (l-r) are April Ales, League of Southeastern Credit Unions member relations consultant; Lisa Hales, AACFCU vice president of marketing; Emily Darnell, AACFCU marketing manager; and Amanda Hahn, AACFCU marketing specialist.



Relay For Life Volunteers Needed

It's time to fight back against cancer and the American Cancer Society is relaying for a cure. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Houston County is searching for volunteers to help plan the fundraising event. Volunteers are needed to organize and recruit teams, seek community support, coordinate logistics, plan entertainment and support the fight.

Relay For Life is a unique fundraising event that allows participants from all walks of life to join together in the fight against cancer. Relay For Life is a team event where participants walk around a track relay style overnight. Teams of cancer fighting enthusiasts will gather to show their support and dedication.

Relay For Life of Houston County is as much an awareness raiser about the progress against cancer as it is a fund raiser. Individuals who are willing to give their time and energy to this exciting event, as a volunteer or participant, have made a commitment to fight back against this disease and let the community know that you can beat cancer.

Relayers, cancer survivors, community leaders, team captains and hard workers are all needed to help plan the Relay For Life. The first volunteer committee meeting for Houston County's Relay For Life will be held Monday, Jan. 5, at 5:30 pm at Flowers Hospital - CRC room.

If you would like to join the Relay For Life of Houston County as a volunteer or team participant, email Taylore Logan with the American Cancer Society taylorlogan@cancer.org.



SAMC Physician To Serve As EMS Medical Director



Fredrick A. Pich III, DO

Fredrick A. Pich III, DO, has been named the medical director for the Southeast Alabama Emergency Medical Services Council Inc. Pich is an emergency room physician at Southeast Alabama Medical Center.

The SEAEMS Council is one of six regional emergency medical services groups statewide which works with local emergency medical services, hospitals and first responders. SEAEMS's service area includes 18 counties in southeast Alabama and more than 60 patient transport agencies.

As medical director, Pich serves on the board of directors and ensures that all aspects of the council's

activities are medically based and appropriate. He also represents the regional group on the State Emergency Medical Control Committee and serves as co-chair of the Regional Trauma/Stroke Advisory Council. Dr. Pich also works with local physicians in developing the regional EMS system and provides continuing educational opportunities for EMS agencies.

Pich is a Dothan native who also serves as EMS medical director for the Dothan Fire Department, Dothan Ambulance Service, Headland Fire and Rescue and Abbeville Rescue.

Pich graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, WV and did his residency in emergency medicine at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He is board certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine and has advanced certifications in cardiac life support and trauma life support. He is also a certified rescue diver.



Ladi Vee's Seeks Contestants

Miss Spokesmodel Scholarship Pageant

Ladi Vee's Etiquette and Consulting, LLC is looking for contestants from the Wiregrass area to participate in the 2015 Miss Spokesmodel Scholarship Pageant being held Friday, Feb. 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Dothan.

The pageant is open to young women ages 18 to 25 who are Alabama residents and attend an accredited college or university.

The winner will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship along with other prizes and represent LVEC as the 2015 spokesperson. Cash prizes will also be awarded to first and second place winners.

Ladi Vee's Etiquette and Consulting specializes in etiquette training, seminars, producing and coordinating fashion shows, choreography, and special events. Visit www.ladivee.com for more information.

To register as a contestant, contact Vanessa Riley Harris at (678) 458-9660.

Without the Chamber...

- There would be no business development efforts to assist new entrepreneurial businesses from inception to viability.
- There would be no community retail promotion efforts which fill our government coffers with tax dollars.
- There would be no statistical data to assist commercial and retail businesses locate in our community.
- There would be no meetings set up with local, county, state and federal governmental groups so the business community can be heard.
- There would be no leadership development programs to create the next generation of community leaders.
- There would be no mixers, Network Exchanges, luncheons or any number of opportunities to increase business contacts for the business community.
- There would be no one to answer the thousands of inquiries about our community via phone, letter or email.
- There would be no organization to monitor legislation in all areas that affect the business community.

Flowers Hospital Opens Additional Operating Rooms

Flowers Hospital recently completed a \$3.7 million expansion project to add two additional operating rooms to the Surgical Services Department, taking the total number of suites in the main OR to 28.

These rooms are 200 square feet larger than any of the existing rooms. The additional square feet allow surgical robots to be moved with ease anywhere around the room. Additionally, the larger rooms promote efficiency in set up and turn over, reducing patient wait times prior to surgery.

Wiregrass Urology's Dr. Judd Williams performed the first procedure, a radical robotic-assisted prostatectomy in October. Dr. Mark Byard, also with Wiregrass Urology, performs robotic assisted surgery in the new rooms. Dr. Steven Fendley, a General Surgeon with Wiregrass Surgical Associates, has performed several procedures in the new area also.

"The size of the room is great. It's huge. Better lighting and room size help with the flow of operations, which is better for anesthesia, surgeons and staff. Makes everything easier and it helps with safety," stated Fendley.

Dr. Elias Quintos, cardiovascular surgeon with Southeastern Cardiovascular Associates, performed the first robotic assisted lobectomy at Flowers in the new OR. RN Lana Moulton, robotic team leader at Flowers commented, "All the surgeons that have worked in the new area find the whole experience very efficient. They have all commented, not only on the size of the room, but the safety and comfort the larger area provides."

Flowers Hospital has served the healthcare needs of the Wiregrass for over 60 years. The facility is not only an important resource for the Dothan community, it also serves as a major tertiary referral center for the

Tri-State area of south Alabama, southwest Georgia, and northwest Florida.

By combining responsible personnel of approximately 1,200 employees, modern equipment and supplies, effective management, sophisticated support services, up-to-date professional education programs, and a staff of over 280 exceptional physicians, Flowers Hospital is able to assure patients of quality healthcare.

Flowers Hospital was named as one of the nation's Top Performers on Key Quality Measures® by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of U.S. Healthcare Organizations, for attaining and sustaining excellence in the following measure sets: Heart Attack, Heart Failure, Pneumonia and Surgical Care.

For more information please visit www.flowershospital.com.



Flowers Hospital recently completed a \$3.7 million expansion project to add two additional operating rooms to the Surgical Services Department.



Register Now For Five Points Of Life Kids Marathon

It's time for the Second Annual Kid's Marathon right here in the Wiregrass. The Five Points of Life Kids Marathon is an event free for kids ages Kindergarten through eighth-grade until Feb. 10. The last 1.2 miles will be celebrated at Northview High School March 14.

The 2015 Five Points of Life Kids Marathon is just a few calendar pages away, and it's a good time for youngsters to register and start charting their miles. Last year, over 200 kids participated. Don't miss out, register today.

Five Points of Life is a foundation started by LifeSouth to raise awareness of the five ways to share life with others through the donation of blood, apheresis, marrow, cord blood and organ and tissue. It also offers classroom programs to students in the Wiregrass area that teach the science and social responsibility of donating. The kids marathon promotes fitness and offers lessons in goal setting.

Participants in kindergarten through eighth grade will run or walk the full 26.2 mile marathon distance a little bit at a time, logging their distance as they go. Then on March 14 at Northview High School, Dothan, they'll have the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishment and earn a medal at the finish line. It starts at 9 a.m. and all participants receive a T-shirt.

Registration is free until Feb. 10, and entry forms and running logs are available online at www.fivepointsoflife.org, or at LifeSouth's Wiregrass headquarters next to Jim Skinner Honda at 3833 Ross Clark Circle.

For more information, contact Melinda Hinds, district community development coordinator, at (334) 792-9997 or email mahinds@lifesouth.org.



The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce invites area businesses to join and receive valuable benefits for their business.



DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CORE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

NETWORKING

Who you know does make a difference! Make important business contacts at Chamber seminars, Spotlight on Business Trade Show, quarterly membership meetings and The Network Exchange.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Representatives from the Small Business Development Center of Troy University are available the second Tuesday of each month for free and confidential small business counseling sessions at the Chamber. You must make appointments through the Chamber.

PUBLICITY

Publicity and heightened name recognition through print, Internet and event exposure.

BENEFITS AND DISCOUNTS

Save money on supplies, travel, hotels, landscaping, appliances and more through the Chamber's Member-To-Member Discount Program.

INFORMATION

Everything you need to know about the Dothan area - population, wages, cost of living, taxes, labor force, economic development, recreation, business trends, business listings and much more can be found at the Chamber and on our website www.dothan.com

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the year the Chamber hosts seminars of interest to small business owners, entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations. The informative programs are conducted for a nominal fee and include a meal.

REFERRALS

On a daily basis, the Chamber receives dozens of requests for recommendations on goods and services to be purchased in the Dothan-Houston County area. We refer these newcomers, tourists, area residents and businesses to Chamber members only.

BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY EXPO

Attend the Chamber's annual Spotlight on Business Trade Show, Dothan's only business-to-business trade show. Booth space is available only to members of the Chamber.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Need advertising that is targeted, effective and affordable? The Chamber Connections, Membership Directory and Business Guide, Welcome Guide and Chamber website offer powerful advertising choices to reach businesses and consumers.

MAILING LABELS

Membership mailing labels are available in several different formats for a nominal fee.

GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce serves as an advocate on issues important to local business by monitoring local, state and federal legislation.

CREDIBILITY

Demonstrate your commitment to the community by becoming a part of the vision and strategies of the largest, strongest and most active business organization in the Dothan area - the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Building existing business, recruiting new jobs and marketing the Wiregrass area are three ways the Chamber works to strengthen our economy. With nearly 1,000 members, the Chamber is committed to the sustained growth and prosperity of the region.

WEB SITE

Take advantage of the "Members Only" link on the Chamber's website where members can link their website to the Chamber's, learn about member-to-member discounts, access small business development links, area demographics and more.

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: _____ E-mail: _____

Why this individual deserves recognition: (For additional comments, attach an additional sheet.)

Blank lines for providing additional comments on the nominee.

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!

CONNECTIONS

January 2015

THIS ISSUE:

Transportation Director To Be Guest Speaker

Capital Campaign Continues To Move Forward

Workforce Development By Industry Cluster

Prim And Mendheim Become IACC Associate Members

Healthy You Finishes Year On High Note

Credit Union Wins Awards

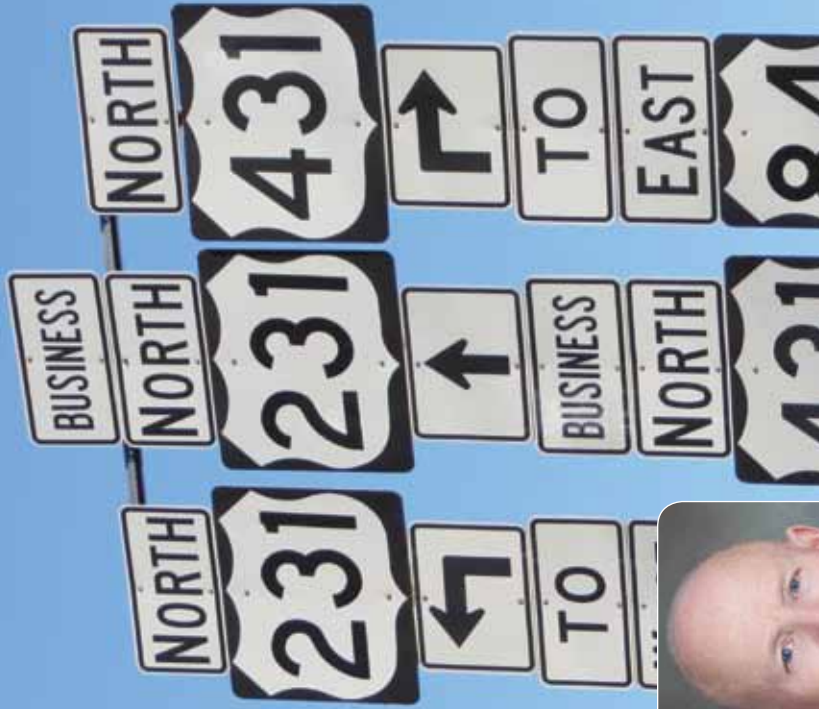
Registration Now Open For Kids Marathon

Small Business Person Of The Year Nomination Form

DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ALDOT Director To Be Guest Speaker At GM Luncheon



Guest Speaker:
John Cooper, Director
Alabama Department of Transportation


C H A M B E R

CONNECTIONS

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ECONOMIC INDICATORS

▲	Labor Force for the Dothan MSA for October: 61,624 in 2013; 62,325 in 2014 57,861 in 2013; 58,632 in 2014 Employed
▼	Unemployment for the Dothan MSA for October: 6.1% in 2013; 5.9% in 2014
▲	Residential Building Permits for the City of Dothan for October: 10 issued (\$2.42 million) in 2013; 18 issued (\$5.18 million) in 2014
▼	Home Sales in Dothan for October: 86 sold in 2013; Figure unavailable at press
▼	Enplanements for Dothan Regional Airport for October: 4,556 in 2013; 4,437 in 2014
▲	Houston County & Dothan Sales and Use Tax Collections (\$) for October: \$1,283,435 in 2013; \$1,401,781 in 2014 (County) \$4,419,984 in 2013; \$4,814,031 in 2014 (City)

Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details. Data as of 12/14/14. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.