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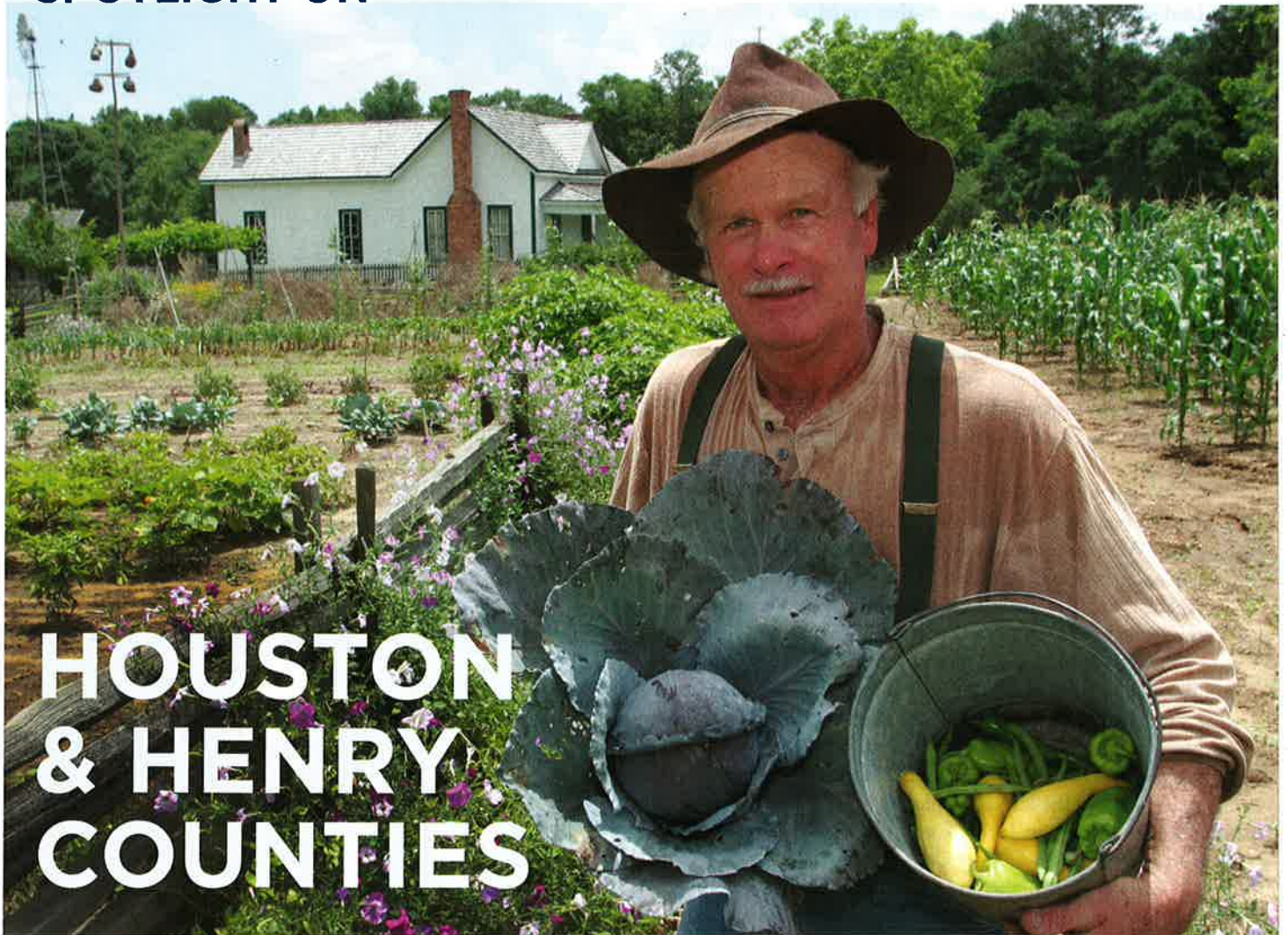
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SPOTLIGHT ON



HOUSTON & HENRY COUNTIES

Houston and Henry counties are located in the southeast corner of the state, the heart of the Wiregrass region. Both border Georgia on the east and Houston shares its southern border with Florida.

Houston County and its surrounding areas make up the peanut capital of the U.S., along with cotton, corn and chicken production. However, it has a very diverse economy that helps it weather economic storms. Retail is big business for the county, especially in the city of Dothan. And developers are looking for more, particularly with the announcement that Commercial Jet is coming to Dothan, bringing 500 jobs.

“We’re after aviation, fabricated metal, chemical companies and looking at food processing to add to our distribution park,” says Matt Parker, president of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. “What’s interesting, though, is that, because of our infrastructure, we have a good, diverse

manufacturing sector, and we can accommodate many types of industry.”

Houston County’s largest overall employer is Southeast Alabama Medical Center, followed by Dothan City and Houston County schools, Flowers Hospital and the city of Dothan. The county’s largest manufacturing employer is the Farley Nuclear Plant, operated by Southern Co., followed by Wayne Farms, a poultry producer, Michelin tires and Twitchell Technical Products. In between are distribution and transportation companies and a variety of other industries.

Dothan is progressive on community investment, with a spectrum of development projects downtown and in outlying areas that are set to improve the quality of life in the area. And the region is known for cooperation.

Recently, three community development organizations — Education Foundation for Dothan’s Future Inc., Yes We Can! Dothan and Adopt-a-School!



Top: Agriculture has been a staple of Houston and Henry counties economies. Workers at Landmark Park, in Dothan, still sow seeds the old-fashioned way. This farmer holds some of the bounty. *Photo courtesy of Alabama Tourism Department/Jeff Greenberg*

Above: Huggin’ Molly’s, in Abbeville, is an authentic 1950s soda fountain and restaurant.

SPOTLIGHT ON HOUSTON & HENRY COUNTIES

Dothan — merged into one, so they could work more efficiently to improve student achievement for all Dothan City School students, maintain continuous school improvement and engage Dothan citizens in the public school system. The foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that helps pay for special projects.

“It made sense, because we all are involved with education, and together we can accomplish a great deal,” says Tami Culver, director of the Dothan Education Foundation. “We do many things to get the community more involved in our schools, even if they do not have children in the schools, and make them aware of what our schools offer.”

The foundation — supported by grants and donations from the public — also awards grants to help teachers develop special projects. Teachers have applied for grants for everything from a butterfly garden to a weather station, Culver says.

“We are unique in what we do, because we can bridge the gap between business, the community and the schools,” she says. “We can engage business to help with projects, and our adopt-a-school program has many chances to enrich schools.” The foundation also can help with something as simple and important as a winter coat drive.

The city school system’s technical center is being revamped to include a pre-engineering program and welding program.

In Henry County, the largest industrial/manufacturing employers include Great Southern Wood Preserving, Golden Peanut and American Machine and Manufacturing, a steel maker. The largest employers are the Henry County Board of Education, Henry County Health and Rehabilitation and the Henry County Commission.

“Farming and timber are two forces that drive us more than anything in this county, but we also have a strong health care sector, and our county and schools are large employers,” says Probate Judge and Commission President David Money.

A spirit of cooperation exists in both counties between chambers of commerce, government entities and private foundations, along with local businesses and industry leaders who help recruit and offer incentives. “We have a lot of good, progressive people here,” Money says.

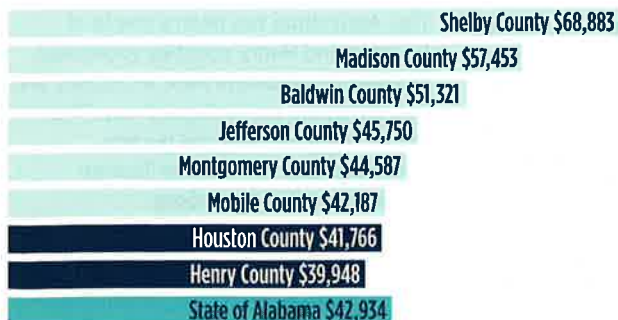
Lori Chandler Pruitt is a freelance writer for Business Alabama. She lives in Birmingham.



Houston County, and especially Dothan, is a retail magnet, with people coming from a 100-mile radius to shop, eat out and visit its medical facilities. This shopper is visiting the business district on Foster Street. Photo courtesy of Alabama Tourism Department/Jeff Greenberg

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

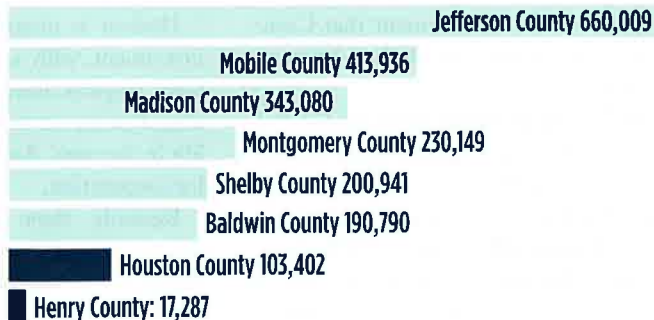
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2007-2011



POPULATION

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2012 estimates

Total Alabama Population: 4,822,023





ECONOMIC ENGINES

Health Care

With more than 3,880 people working for the two largest hospitals in the area, health care is far and away the largest economic sector in the county. Southeast Alabama Medical Center, the largest employer, has 2,526 employees, while Flowers Hospital has 1,359. Houston County also has a healthy rehabilitation/nursing home sector.

SAMC's Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, set to receive its first class in August 2013, is expected to have a major economic impact over the next several years. Overall, SAMC supports annual economic activity of nearly \$640 million in Alabama. It has a \$138.4 mil-

Houston County ranks second in peanut production in Alabama, a major export for the state.

lion annual payroll, generates about \$26 million in local and state government revenues and provides about \$130.8 million in uncompensated care annually.

Flowers Hospital has an annual payroll/benefits of more than \$75 million, provides more than \$36 million per year in charity and uncompensated care, and pays nearly \$4 million in property and sales taxes.

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital in Dothan is working on a major addition and renovation of its facilities.

Agribusiness/Peanut production

Peanut production is big business here. Houston County ranks second in peanut production among all Alabama counties, and the state ranks third in the nation for peanut production.

Agribusiness is important in this area, with a diverse number of crops that also

include livestock, poultry, cotton, corn and soybeans. Three of the county's largest employers purchase agricultural products from area farmers for poultry processing, snack foods and milk distribution.

Aviation

Dothan is located on "South Alabama's Aviation Business Corridor," and, in April, it landed aviation maintenance company Commercial Jet. The company, based in Miami, announced it will convert the former Pemco Aeroplex building for its operations, resulting in 500 direct jobs.

Commercial Jet is projected to create 1,500 other local jobs to support it, and over 10 years, the company's investment in Dothan will create \$740 million in wages, along with nearly \$23 million in sales and property taxes, both indirectly and directly, according to a Troy University study.

As a result, the Dothan Houston Coun-

The City of Abbeville proudly displays that it is the home to Great Southern Wood Preserving, a manufacturer of lumber products employing 175 people.

ty Airport Authority will spend more than \$13 million to renovate the Pemco facility, with other airport improvements that will be paid for with state and federal grants, along with a bond issue.

“We had a great opportunity,” says Matt Parker, president of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, the area’s economic development arm. “We will also track potential suppliers.”

In Henry County, city officials have applied for federal funding to expand the runway and other improvements at the Abbeville Municipal Airport, says Pam Ward, Abbeville city clerk/treasurer.

In addition, Fort Rucker, only 30 miles



away, has an estimated \$1 billion impact on the Wiregrass area and is a major job generator not only for military personnel, but for civilian contractors and other businesses that serve it.

Retail

Houston County is no. 1 in retail sales per capita, says Steve Turkoski, the chamber’s project manager. The city’s population grows to about 131,000 people daily — many more on the weekends — from people coming from a 100-mile radius to shop, go to the medical facilities and eat out.

With two malls, many national chain restaurants and a variety of retail stores from big boxes to regional stores, Dothan is on the map for potential retailers. The area just opened an Academy Sports, and Cabela’s and Dick’s Sporting Goods recently have announced plans for Dothan stores.

Houston County reaps the benefits from such commerce. “The highest percentage of income for municipal operations comes from sales tax income,” says Turkoski. “About 10,000 people in our MSA work in retail, second only to health care.” And Do-

than’s sales tax collections are 1.7 percent higher than the state average.

Manufacturing/ Distribution/ Transportation/Timber

The area has at least eight industrial and business parks and has attracted a diverse group of manufacturers. The area has several distribution centers and plans to recruit more. Houston County has a business park that is ideal for distribution and call center use. And Henry County is actively recruiting for a tenant to fill the former West Point Pepperell building, which would lend itself to development.

Trucking in the area has helped with distribution recruitment. The Houston County Distribution Park has large lots to serve distribution-related projects up to 1.2 million square feet in size. AAA Cooper Transportation is one of the largest employers.

In Henry County, Great Southern Wood Preserving is one of the major employers, and this area is one of the state’s largest timber producers.

Taxes

PROPERTY TAX

Houston County total:

13.0 mills

Henry County total:

56.5 mills

Property tax rates above do not include individual city or school rates

State of Alabama: 6.5 mills

SALES TAX

Houston County: 1 percent

Cities within the county:

Ashford: 4 percent

Columbia: 3 percent

Cottonwood: 3 percent

Dothan: 4 percent

Kinsey: 4 percent

Taylor: 3 percent

Webb: 3 percent

Henry County: 2 percent

Cities within the county:

Abbeville: 3 percent

Haleburg: 2 percent

Headland: 3 percent

Newville: 2 percent

State of Alabama: 4 percent

Source: Alabama Department of Revenue



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For Dothan Downtown property availability and information, please contact the Dothan Downtown Redevelopment Authority at **334-699-8118**.

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L to R: Brett Stockland, Ken Bailey, Jeff Moody, Mark Culver, Kendall Karrh and Danny Sharp

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LARGEST MANUFACTURERS

HOUSTON & HENRY COUNTIES

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR PLANT (FARLEY) Dothan
Electricity generation 860 employees

WAYNE FARMS Dothan
Chicken processing 800 employees

MICHELIN NORTH AMERICA INC. Dothan
Tire production 542 employees

AAA COOPER TRANSPORTATION Dothan
Motor freight 425 employees

TWITCHELL CORP. Dothan
Textile manufacturing 387 employees

BRENNER FOOD GROUP Dothan
Food products 350 employees

MCLANE CO. INC. Dothan
Food distributors 300 employees

ONCOLOGY SUPPLY CO. INC. Dothan
Oncology supplies 255 employees

ALABAMA MOTOR EXPRESS Ashford
Motor freight 250 employees

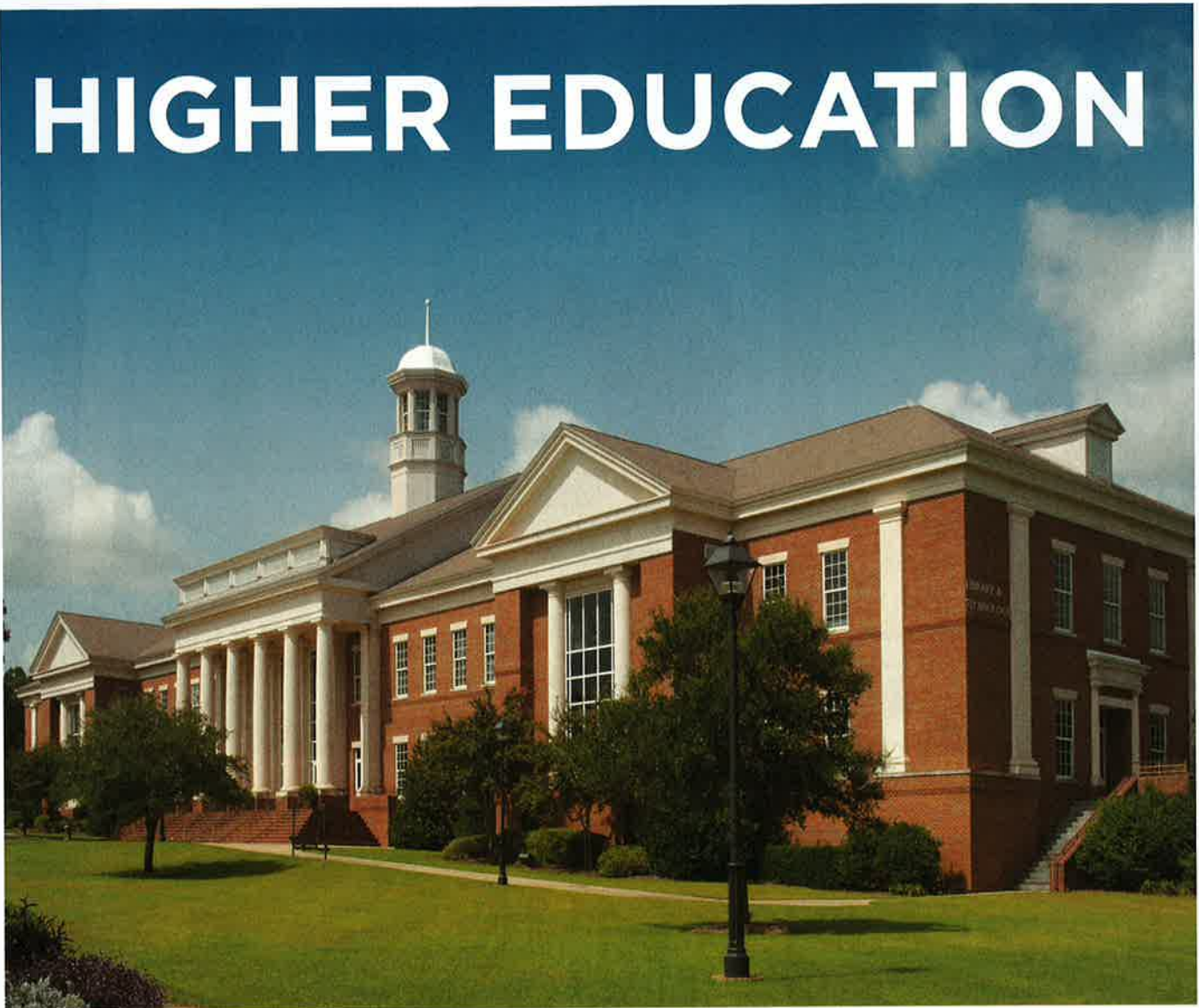
GREAT SOUTHERN WOOD PRESERVING INC. Henry County
Lumber 175 employees

GOLDEN PEANUT CO. Henry County
Agriculture 140 employees

AMERICAN MACHINE AND MANUFACTURING AWA MANUFACTURING Henry County
Steel 45 employees

Source: Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

HIGHER EDUCATION



Troy University Dothan

Troy's Dothan campus is located on 400 acres off U.S. Highway 231 and has about 1,650 students. An additional 650 Dothan students take Troy University classes online.

The Dothan campus has 64 graduate and undergraduate degree programs in five academic colleges – the College of Arts and Sciences, the Sorrell College of Business, the College of Communication and Fine Arts, the College of Education and the College of Health and Human Services.

The Dothan campus has about 117 full-time faculty and staff members and 126 part-time and adjunct employees. Payroll is estimated at about \$6.1 million.

The campus has three academic buildings — Malone Hall, Adams Hall and the Library/Technology building — on 400

acres, 130 of which are forested. The campus includes a two-acre pond and one-acre freshwater stream that serves as an outdoor classroom. It also includes walking and biking trails.

In January, Troy cut the ribbon on a \$1.2 million expansion to Malone Hall that added classrooms, a lab and office space by converting the building's third floor attic into a new home for the College of Health and Human Services.

And in fall 2012, the Wiregrass Archives moved to a new, larger location on campus on the first floor of the Library/Technology Building, doubling its storage and adding a reading room named in honor of retired Congressman Terry Everett. The archives are a collection of papers and other documents that record the history and development of the Wiregrass region of Alabama, Georgia and Florida.



Top: The Troy University Dothan campus has three academic buildings.

Above: Comprised of 400 acres, 130 of which are forested, Troy University's Dothan campus provides walking and biking trails for its students.



Dr. Kelli Cleveland, DNP, CRNP
Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner
Troy University Alumna

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Wallace Community College

Wallace Community College, based in Dothan, has 3,601 students at its main campus, along with 594 students at its Sparks campus in Eufaula and 188 dual enrollment students.

WCC provides educational opportunities for those seeking a degree, as well as those seeking to enter the local workforce, providing both academic and technical training. Wallace offers the largest allied health and nursing program in the state and one of the largest selections of career and technical programs.

Most of its students are in programs that will transfer to four-year colleges, followed closely by career-tech programs, health sciences and pre-health sciences. It is a major employer in the region, with 453 full and part-time faculty and staff.

Some of the major recent developments at WCC's Dothan campus are:

- ▶ WCC auto body students volunteered with the Dothan Police Department to refurbish an area bomb squad vehicle.

- ▶ The new Center for Academic Success opened in August 2012. The 15,843-square-foot building has two com-

puter labs, three smaller computer labs and two instructional rooms, with 285 computers available for student use. It will help students achieve college-level work in math, writing and reading.

- ▶ WCC's associate degree nursing and practical nursing graduates exceeded national and state board scores for the 2011-12 school year. The NCLEX is an exam taken by all candidates for licensure in nursing.

- ▶ WCC received a \$10 million welding grant, which involves a consortium of five colleges from southeast Alabama and Florida. It will enable the schools to purchase mobile welding units with "green" welding simulators that will reach rural areas and provide training for industry.

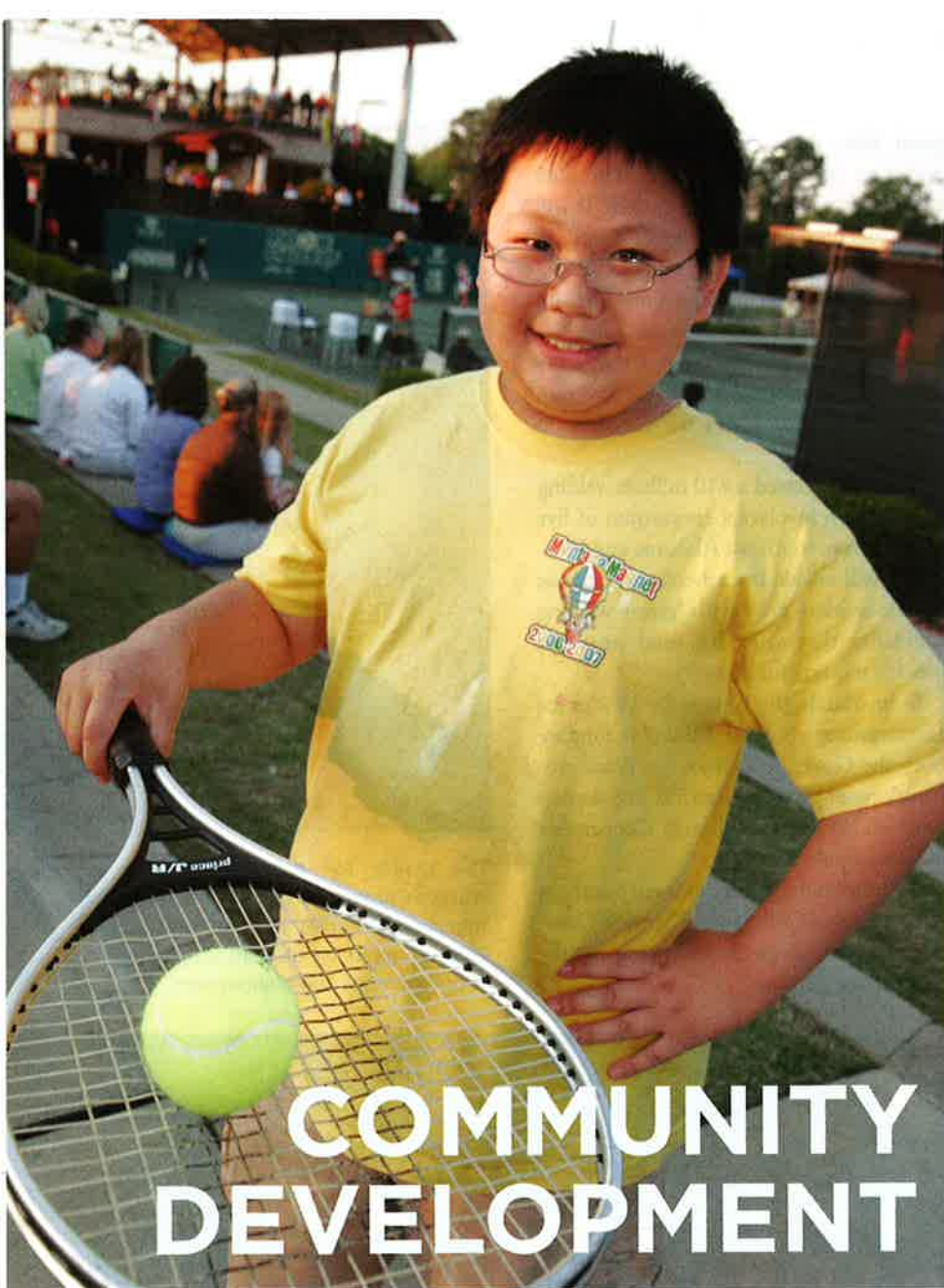
- ▶ In March, the Center for Workforce Development received \$100,000 funding from the Governor's Office for Workforce Development for its electrical line worker program. Wiregrass Electric Cooperative donated a pole trailer.

- ▶ The school received renewed Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges accreditation for the next 10 years.



The Center for Academic Success at Wallace Community College is home to the Transitional Studies Division, and houses 285 computers for student use, as well as 14 offices and a conference room.

An advertisement for Flowers Insurance Agency. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds. Two wooden crates are shown, one in the foreground and one slightly behind it. The text "For our clients, we're willing to work OUTSIDE THE BOX" is written in a white, typewriter-style font across the sky. The logo for Flowers Insurance Agency, featuring a stylized 'F' in a blue square, is on the front crate. Below the logo, the text "FLOWERS Insurance Agency" and "ESTABLISHED 1953" is visible. At the bottom right, the phone number "334.794.8646" and the website "www.flowersinsurance.com" are listed, along with the text "business . personal . employee benefits".



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Houston County

In the city of Dothan, where visitors already can enjoy a series of murals and bronze sculptures downtown, the Dothan Downtown Redevelopment Authority has started “The Nest on Foster Street,” a

retail incubator, says Jansen Tidmore, director. It has four entrepreneurs currently and is part of the city’s ongoing revitalization efforts.

“It is one of our proudest accomplishments,” Tidmore says. “It’s fresh and new

and has sparked life downtown.” The DDRA already owned the building for the incubator, which was rehabbed for that purpose, giving it an historic flavor outside yet modern inside.

“We are fortunate that there is a lot of synergy and energy around here, and we want to keep it going,” Tidmore says.

Other important projects underway or planned include:

- Two libraries are under construction — one downtown and one in Westgate Park. An old library is being demolished, and the new ones will have the latest in high-tech resources.

- The Westgate Sports Complex is undergoing improvements that will include the library branch and more sports fields.

- The Howell School Senior Housing Project will take a former school building and renovate it to provide low-income senior housing by a group of private developers, The Bennett Group, along with government entities. This reuse could provide 19 housing units in the old school building and 42 units on surrounding parcels. City officials hope to assist the \$14 million project by providing matching funds from the Section 108 program. Groundbreaking is expected in 2015.

- The East Side Fire Station is undergoing an extensive renovation and expansion.

- Foster Street is undergoing many improvements, helped with a \$500,000 economic development initiative grant. The project includes a new park with a clock tower and gathering place. Pioneer Park will honor pioneers of downtown Dothan.

- The Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center will undergo an expansion that will provide room for job training and employment for low-income, disabled people.

BUSINESS BENCHMARKS

May 2013: The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine opens to accept its first class of 150 students in August. The freestanding facility in Dothan is affiliated with Southeast Alabama Medical Center.

April 2013: Commercial Jet announces it will invest \$12 million to open a new

400,000-square-foot facility at the Dothan Regional Airport, employing several hundred people.

April 2013: Academy Sports opens in Dothan, and city officials recently announced that Cabela’s and Dick’s Sporting Goods also will locate in Dothan.

March 2013: Dollar General, in Headland in Henry County, announces it will build an expanded location that will include more food merchandise. It is expected to open at the end of the summer.

March 2013: Flowers Hospital begins a \$3.5 million renovation of four patient floors.

March 2013: KFH Industries Inc. in Dothan, formerly Key Fire Hose, celebrates 25 years. It began moving its corporate office and plant from Miami to Dothan in 2005 and the process was completed in 2010.

February 2013: Panhandle Converter and Scrap Co. announces it will expand its Dothan opera-

Left: The Westgate Sports Complex, which includes this tennis center, is undergoing improvements, adding a library branch and more sports fields at the facility. *Photo courtesy of Alabama Tourism Department/Jeff Greenberg*

Right: Visitors to Dothan can learn part of the area's history simply by walking down its streets — murals depict some of the people and items that have had a significant impact, like this one painted by Wes Hardin in 2001 of Tuskegee Airmen instructor Sherman Rose, who was a Dothan resident until his death in 2008. *Photo by Lori Pruitt*



The project will be bid in mid-summer.

General infrastructure improvements underway or about to start including repair and resurfacing on South Saint Andrews Street, an area where water mains are more than 90 years old; a partial rehabilitation of two blocks of North Foster Street; sidewalks on Montana Street, and a drainage project on Wilson Street.

The DDRA has adopted a new logo and slogan, “Shop, Dine, Unwind” to promote the city, and is working on a long-range plan that provides more lofts and retail space downtown.

Many of the projects are part of a partnership with Houston County, says Mark Culver, commission chairman. “The county and city work together on several projects, and that adds value for all of us,” he says. “We try to be a regional partner with our surrounding counties. We try not to look at county lines and help each other, especially if it will benefit everyone.” Partnering on the projects means that no one entity has to bear the entire cost, he says.

The city of Ashford recently received a federal grant to add playground equipment to its recreational park. It also has

NEW & EXPANDING

New Companies	Product	Investment (millions)	Number of Employees
Ala. College of Osteopathic Med.	Medical School	100	45.0
Commercial Jet Inc.	Aircraft MRO	500	12.0
Mingledorff's	HVAC	20	1.5
Yura Corp.	Wiring Harnesses, spark plugs, stick coils	70	not reported

Expanding Companies	Product	Investment (millions)	Additional Jobs
Wayne Farms	Poultry processing	25	10.5
Panhandle Converters & Scrap Co.	Recycling	30	4.2
Dothan Warehouse	Logistics	18	4.0
KFH Industries Inc.	Fire hoses	30	2.5
Hornsby Tire Distributors Inc.	Tire wholesalers	30	1.5
Pioneer Telephone Directories Corp.	Typesetting, telephone directories	5	not reported

Source: Alabama Department of Commerce

tions, purchasing the former Dunbarton building on Murray Road. The expansion is expected to create at least 20 more jobs.

December 2012: Higgins Electric celebrates 80 years in Dothan. The company is a leader in the repair, construction, service and sales of motors,

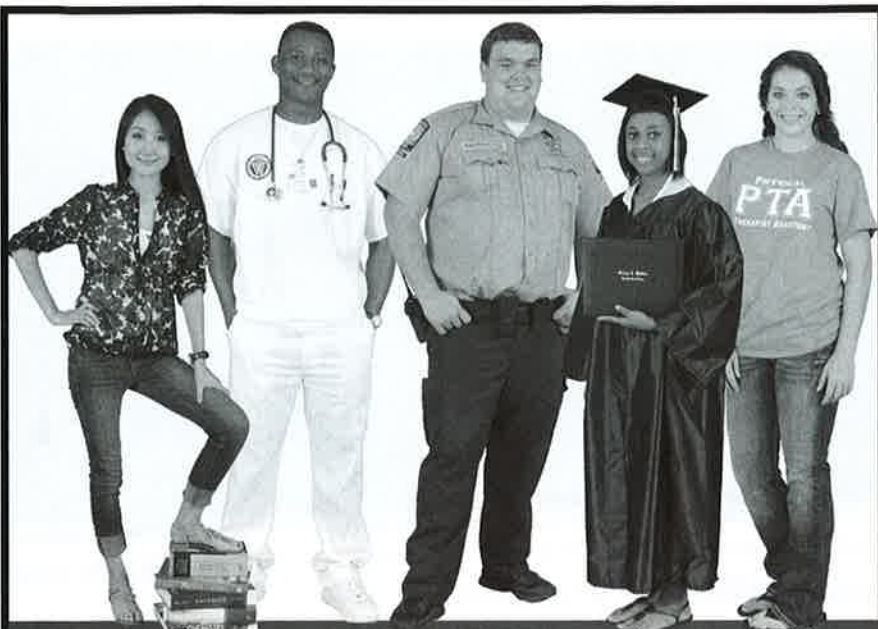
as well as design, construction and maintenance of industrial electrical systems.

October 2012: Dothan Warehouse announces it has completed a 52,000-square-foot cold storage facility at the company's headquarters. Dothan Warehouse can manage a company's entire refrigerated

storage and shipping operation in its facility.

September 2012: Gov. Robert Bentley's office grants \$2 million of infrastructure assistance to the Dothan area in support of the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine.

August 2012: The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce enters into an agreement with the Troy University Center for International Business and Economic Development to “develop synergy through a stronger connection” between the two entities.



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applied for a grant to add walking trails to the Hugh Summerlin Recreational Park, which includes baseball and softball fields.

The city also received a FEMA mitigation grant to help with flooding and drainage issues, and has applied for a grant to fund water and sewer improvements in low-income housing areas.

Henry County

Henry County Probate Judge David Money, who also serves as county commission chairman, says the county is trying to coordinate more industrial recruitment among the cities and county. "I want to see us get up a combined committee to work on this," he says. Much of this is due to the arrival of Commercial Jet to Dothan, which will be only five minutes from Henry County. "We will profit from that, and I want to see us take that opportunity and expand it."

The county is working on a Leadership Henry program to make people aware of the resources it has, Money says. And the county has applied for a federal grant to hire a school resource officer.

The city of Abbeville has a pretty downtown that has been enhanced by Great Southern Wood Preserving owner Jimmy Rane. Sidewalks, lighting and finished facades even on buildings that are not occupied has made a difference in the city's appeal.

The city also is working on a comprehensive plan, says Pam Ward, the city's clerk/treasurer. "We want to look at future uses for our land and recreational areas, and once we do that, we'll revisit zoning codes to create opportunities."

The city of Headland has been working on a new streetscape project that includes lighting and sidewalks, says Mayor Ray Marlor. "We have also applied for a grant to make downtown ADA compliant," he says. The project includes a safer route to school, so that schoolchildren do not have to walk near the railroad tracks.

The city also contracts with Wiregrass Transit to help transport seniors to the doctor and on errands, Marlor says. "I'd like to see us improve on that, because a lot of our seniors do not have a driver to help them."

The city of Headland will host a Dixie Youth Baseball tournament in July, the city's first time as host of a major event like this, Marlor says.



HEALTH CARE



Southeast Alabama Medical Center

Southeast Alabama Medical Center, in Dothan, is a nonprofit 420-bed regional referral center. It is the county's largest employer, with about 2,500 employees.

SAMC offers a complete array of services, from its cancer center to pain management to inpatient and outpatient surgery, heart and vascular, emergency medicine, wound care, orthopedic services, rehab and women's services.

Classes begin this August in the new Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, the first in the state, developed by the Houston County Healthcare Authority and operated by a private nonprofit board with local and state representation. Osteopathy emphasizes prevention, lifestyle intervention and a holistic approach to medicine. Dr. Craig Lenz is dean. The hospital's economic impact is expected to reach nearly \$300 million by 2030.

Other SAMC features include:

- ▶ A new heart and vascular center, as well as a 19-bed cardiovascular interventional unit for patients under medical short-term observation
- ▶ A hospital-based prosthetic center
- ▶ Number 1 ranking in the market for medical excellence in cardiac care, major cardiac surgery, general surgery, heart attack treatment and major bowel proce-

dures by CareChex, a national healthcare quality ranking company.

▶ The region's only neuromuscular rehab and balance center that specializes in treating patients with Parkinson's and other neuromuscular disorders.

▶ A new StrokeCare Network, including SAMC and four other area hospitals, working together to provide stroke care in rural areas. The Telemedicine base network allows for continual access to a neurologist, among other features.

Flowers Hospital

Flowers Hospital in Dothan, open for more than 60 years, has 235 beds and about 1,300 employees, making it one of the area's largest employers. It offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient services, including a cancer center, cardiac department, cardiopulmonary/respiratory, dialysis, emergency department, labor and delivery and more. It also is a tertiary referral center for the tri-state area of south Alabama, southwest Georgia and northwest Florida.

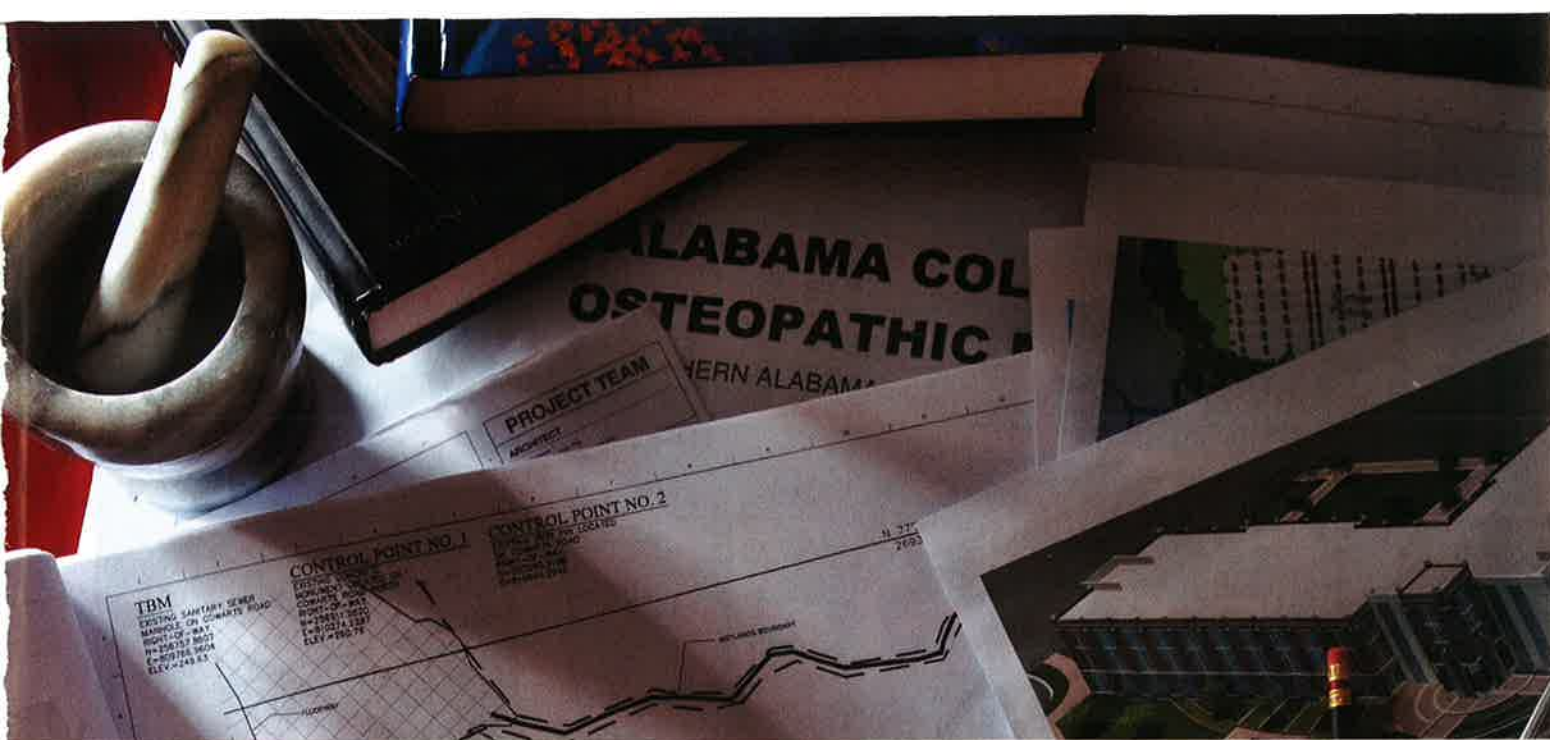
Flowers recently embarked on a \$3.5 million renovation of four inpatient nursing floors. Although minor renovations have been done over the years, this is a complete renovation with new contemporary interior finishes that include new floors, walls, cabinetry, nursing station

Top left: Southeast Alabama Medical Center's new Heart and Vascular Center.

Topright: Cardiologist Srinivasa Chennareddy performs a cath lab procedure at SAMC.

Middle: Flowers Hospital has 235 patient beds.

Above: Pawsitive therapy is conducted with some of the patients at SAMC.



A Medical Milestone in Dothan

The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM) will welcome its inaugural class of 162 this fall. A comprehensive, four year osteopathic medical college, ACOM will be the first of its kind in the state and is affiliated with Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan. In addition to addressing the critical shortage of primary care physicians in the state, the medical college will have an economic impact of almost \$300 million to Alabama by 2030. It will also create approximately 2,000 jobs. For more information about ACOM, visit www.acomedu.org.



and medical staff areas. The third floor is completed, which adds 20 inpatient rooms and will feature children's artwork from the hospital's Healing Art Project.

Flowers was named a 2012 Summit Award winner by Press Ganey Associates Inc. It recognizes top-performing facilities that sustain the highest levels of core measures performance for three consecutive years and is one of the health care industry's most coveted symbols of achievement.

The hospital also received advanced certification for primary stroke centers from the Joint Commission, in conjunction with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. It also received the Get With the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association, recognizing the hospital's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment according to nationally accepted guidelines.

The hospital in April received the Blue Distinction Centers designation for Knee and Hip Replacement by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care.

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Dothan

A 39-bed acute medical rehabilitation hospital, HealthSouth offers comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehab services. The 46,700-square-foot hospital serves patients throughout southeast Alabama, northwest Florida and southwest Georgia.

The hospital is currently undergoing a complete renovation and an addition that will add 12 beds, a cafeteria and a gym. The hospital is open, but when the project is completed in October, a grand re-opening is scheduled.

Noland Hospital Dothan

As part of the network of Noland Health, this 39-bed facility, located on the fourth floor of Southeast Alabama Medical Center, specializes as a long-term acute care hospital, treating medically complex patients, such as those needing ventilator/pulmonary care, wound care, long-term IV therapy and those with multi-system failure.



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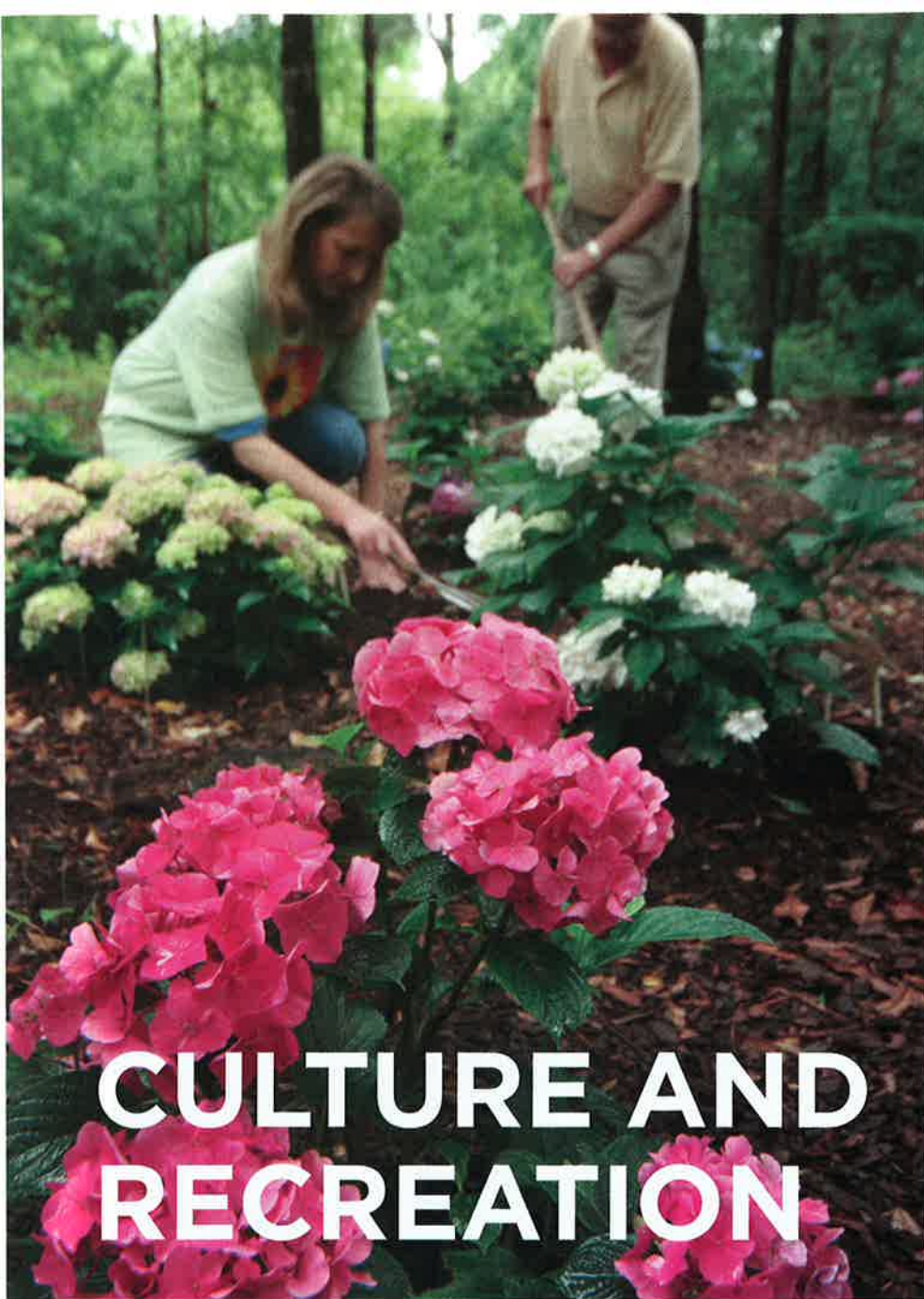
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Top: A tranquil, paved nature trail meanders through a beautiful rose garden, through herbs, daylilies, camellias, azaleas, past a peaceful koi pond, Victorian gazebo and a demonstration garden at the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens.

Below, left: The Joseph Monument - a 10-foot cast bronze sculpture, located in the historic downtown area, is the centerpiece of Millennium Park. It depicts the Bible verse "For I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan'" Genesis 37:17, which inspired the city founders in 1885 to change the name of the town from Poplar Head to Dothan.

Landmark Park & Alabama Agricultural Museum

Visit an early 1900s farmstead complete with farmhouse, outbuildings and farm animals, stroll the boardwalk and nature trail, see a planetarium show and more.

Murals of the Wiregrass

This is an ongoing project of murals depicting the area's history, painted by nationally and internationally acclaimed muralists on the walls of buildings in the downtown historic district in Dothan.

National Peanut Festival

About half of the peanuts grown in the U.S. are grown within a 100-mile radius of Dothan, and this festival - the nation's largest peanut festival - is held each November to honor peanut growers and celebrate the harvest. It's a fun-filled family event.

Water World

Enjoy the triple-flumed and Great White Water slides, giant wave pool, video arcade, concessions and picnic/kiddie play areas.

Wiregrass Museum of Art

Six galleries feature changing exhibitions of visual and decorative arts in a historic building. A Youth Art Gallery has a hands-on exhibit for children and a gift gallery.

Peanut Monument/Visitor Information Center

Giant gold peanut sculpture at the Visitors Information Center helps to proclaim Dothan as the "Peanut Capital of the World."

CULTURE AND RECREATION



G.W. Carver Museum and Monument

The museum and monument are tributes to Carver as a catalyst for Southern agronomic prosperity and symbols of the creative link between science and art. The monument is located on the National Peanut Festival fairgrounds. Carver devised more than 300 uses for the peanut.

Highland Oaks Golf Course

Part of Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, it is proclaimed by Golf Digest as the seventh best public course in the U.S. The world-class 36-hole facility offers three championship courses, clubhouse, pro shop, dining room, lounge and meeting room.

Fun Zone

Family entertainment center housing an indoor skating rink, laser tag arena, soft play gym with tunnels and slides, Sponge-Bob ball war, rock wall, "The Chair," arcade and pizzeria.

Adventureland Theme Park

Family oriented mini-theme park with two 18-hole miniature golf courses, figure-8 go-cart track featuring adult, rookie and double go-carts, water-gun/bumper boats, arcade, batting cages and the Mad Max virtual roller coaster.

Roundabout Plantation Golf

Kilgore's Roundabout Plantation has a professional and friendly staff that is able to help improve anyone's golf game. Novices will have the help of experienced teachers; seasoned golfers can practice on the convenient driving range. The entire family is welcome to come practice for a better game.

Dothan National Hotel and Golf Club

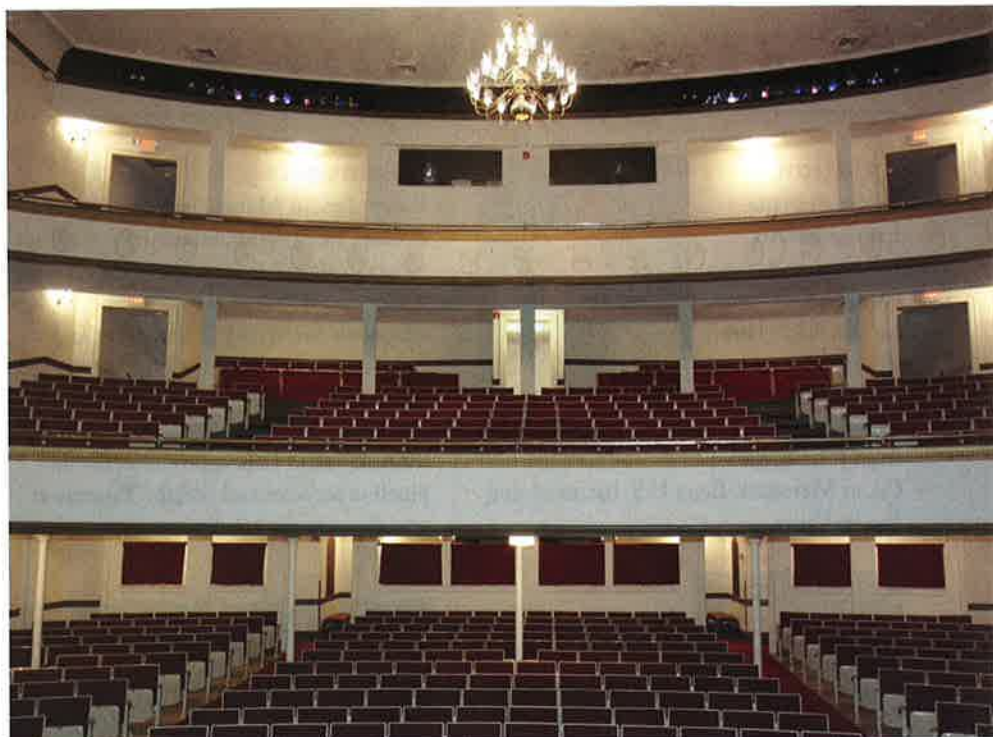
The 18-hole golf course was built in 1968 to complement the Hot Mineral Pool. The course is a championship caliber layout of over 7,500 yards. It has hosted the SEC Championship numerous times. It has a course rating of 75.8 and a slope of 129. The architect, Robert Simmons, is known for allowing the golf course to take the shape of the land. Each hole at Dothan National is elegantly placed into the flowing hills of lower Alabama. Majestic pine trees line the holes.

Porter Hardware

The oldest operating hardware store in Alabama, Porter Hardware opened in 1889. The interior and exterior remain virtually unaltered, and the store maintains a large inventory of hardware and hard-to-find items. Open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Shute Pecan Co.

Come by for a complete selection of fresh quality nuts, local honey and pralines. Shop the display of Old South gifts, souvenirs, Indian artifacts, woodcrafts, collectibles, antiques, dolls and much more.



World's Smallest City Block

Recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records, this land triangle features a stop sign, yield sign and street signs. Drive by.

Cherry Street AME Church

Declared the "Mother Church" of the A.M.E. denomination in Alabama, organized in 1877.

Flagship Theatre

The Flagship Theatre is a new children's theatre located in the Wiregrass area. Children ages 2-18 can register for theatre classes leading up to a play.

Must-have food

Three restaurants in the area are listed on the Alabama Tourism Department's "100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama before You Die," including grouper at the Old Mill Restaurant, homemade soups at the Basketcase Café and pulled pork at the BBQ Shack.

Huggin' Molly's

This old-time soda fountain and restaurant in the heart of downtown Abbeville is a must-visit. The restaurant features an authentic 1950s soda fountain. It's named for a town legend, a ghost named Molly, who gives huge hugs to unsuspecting people.

Above: Built in 1915, the Dothan Opera House building represents the elegance of turn-of-the-century Southern life. Theatrical productions, ballets and symphony performances are still held in this landmark.

Downtown Abbeville

Abbeville's picturesque downtown is populated by a growing number of shops and restaurants, and for those storefronts without tenants, antiques and other period items adorn the windows. Local citizen and CEO of Great Southern Wood Jimmy Rane has invested a great deal in the downtown area, including renovating the Archie Theater.

Festivals on the Square

The city of Headland has merged its love of daylilies and blueberries into "Festivals on the Square," celebrated in June. It also celebrates harvest time and has a Christmas parade.

Alabama Midland Railroad Depot and Museum

This depot in Ashford is a fully restored Victorian-era structure that has a museum, exhibits and a conference center, as well as a restored caboose and cargo railcar. The Ashford Area Heritage Foundation operates it.