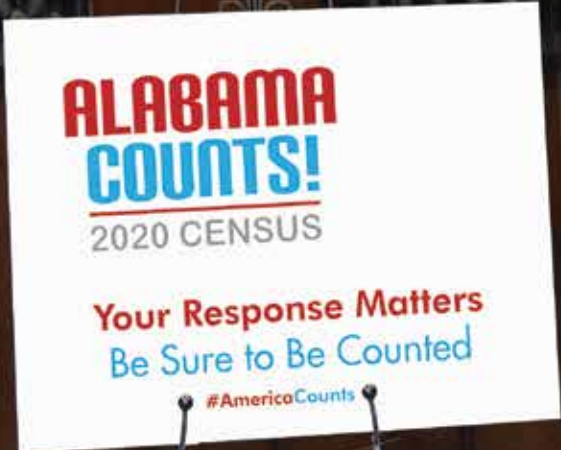


Connections

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

February 2020



YOUR RESPONSE MATTERS

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LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

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ALABAMA GEARS UP

To Meet Industry Credentials Demands

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Your Cover Photo



Your cover photo features Lori Wilcoxon who has been hired to coordinate efforts between Houston, Henry and Geneva counties in preparing the area for the upcoming 2020 Census.

www.dothan.com
(334) 792-5138

UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED



Events Calendar

February

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

- 4 ▶ **Ambassador and Diplomat Committee Meeting – 9 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
Ribbon Cutting: Amber Roads Travel – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 5 ▶ **LEADS Group 1 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
Military Affairs Committee JROTC Recognition – 9:30 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 6 ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: The Ark – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 1177 Andrews Ave., Ozark
- 11 ▶ **Troy University Small Business Counseling – 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
*Reservations required: (334) 792-5138
Ribbon Cutting: Jack's Family Restaurants – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 3401 Reeves St.
- 12 ▶ **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Local Government Day – 7:45 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
LEADS Group 2 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
Ribbon Cutting: Jack's Family Restaurants – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 915 W. Main St.
- 13 ▶ **Small Business Seminar: Workplace Violence and Safety – 9-10:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
*See page 14 for more information. Reservations required: (334) 792-5138
Ribbon Cutting: Dothan Education Foundation Core Store – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 1928 Wise Drive
- 17 ▶ **President's Day – Chamber Closed**
- 18 ▶ **28th Annual Spotlight On Business Trade Show – 3-7 p.m.**
Location: 126 N. St. Andrews St. (Dothan Civic Center)
- 19 ▶ **LEADS Group 1 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 19-20 ▶ **Southeast Worlds of Work**
Location: 5622 U.S. Highway 231 South (National Peanut Festival)
- 20 ▶ **Leadership Dothan Economic Development Day – 7:45 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
Ribbon Cutting: Bobcat of Dothan / Leppo Rents – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 3837 Ross Clark Circle
- 26 ▶ **LEADS Group 2 Biweekly Meeting – 8 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
Ribbon Cutting: Meme K' Diner – 10:30 a.m.
Location: 1970 Reeves St., Suite 201
- 27 ▶ **Business Connections and Dothan City Schools State of Education Address – 4-6 p.m.**
Location: 1665 Honeysuckle Road (Dothan City Schools Central Office)
*See page 3 for more information.
- 28 ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: G & G Auto Parts, LLC – 10:30 a.m.**
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

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YOURCHAMBER



Mark Your Calendar
Business Connections

Dothan City Schools Central Office
 Feb. 27 • 4-6 p.m.



In celebration of Public Schools Week 2020, make plans to join the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and Dothan City Schools at the Chamber's next Business Connections event Thursday, Feb. 27, from 4-6 p.m. at Dothan City Schools Central Office, 1665 Honeysuckle Road.

Come hear about what's happening in education, meet the teachers and make some great business connections in

a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying some hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. It's a great opportunity to network with other Chamber members. The event is free and everyone is encouraged to bring plenty of business cards to exchange!

For more information, call Hayden Camp, director of membership, at (334) 792-5138 or hcamp@dothan.com.

Your Response Matters!

Let's Ensure #AlabamaCounts

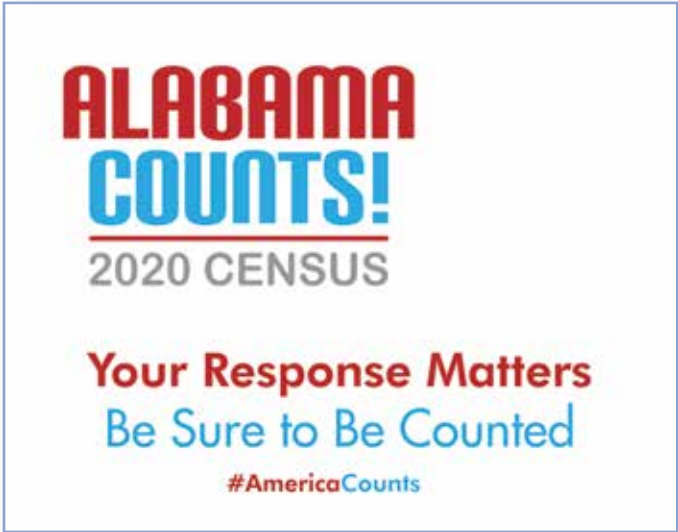
In collaboration together, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Dothan, Houston, Henry and Geneva counties, the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission and the Wiregrass Foundation have formed a Census 2020 partnership to help make sure every person living in these counties are counted and to also make sure these areas have the representation and resources to help our cities, towns and communities.

All of us working as partners is critical to the success of a complete and accurate count in 2020. Do you know why the 2020 Census matters? Do you know how participating can help your community? Federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Your community benefits the most when the census counts everyone. People in your community use census data in all kinds of ways.

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States, creating national awareness of the importance of the census and its valuable statistics. The decennial census was first taken in 1790, as mandated by the Constitution. It counts our population and households, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats (if a state's population is under-counted, it could lose representatives), redistricting and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities' vital programs — impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy (*Source: www.census.gov/partners/2020.html*).

Ten years ago, the Wiregrass struggled to achieve a high participation rate – Geneva County was 73 percent, Henry County was 59 percent and Houston County was 73 percent. In 2020, Gov. Kay Ivey has set a goal of 90 percent participation rate for Alabama, and officials want to make sure our area does its part to reach and exceed that goal.

So, to make sure Houston, Henry and Geneva counties have the representation needed and are counted, the Census 2020 partners



have pooled their resources to hire Lori Wilcoxon, former manager of Wiregrass Commons Mall and a strong community leader, to lead the charge and to coordinate the efforts in these counties.

Responding to the 2020 Census is easy, safe and important. Ten minutes, 10 questions brings \$1,600 per person in federal funds back to our area. All personal information is kept confidential. The Census is bound by federal law to protect your information, and your data is used only for statistical purposes. Responses are combined with information from other homes to produce statistics, which never identify your home or any person in your home.

In March, most households in the U.S. will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You are encouraged to respond as soon as possible. Households will be able to respond to the 2020 Census online, over the phone or through a paper questionnaire. In May 2020, the Census Bureau will begin following up with homes that have not responded.

Ultimately, the success of the 2020 Census depends on everyone's participation ... and that's YOU. The 2020 Census is important for you and your community, and YOU can help.



Leaders from Houston, Henry and Geneva counties formed a Census 2020 partnership. Pictured (l-r) are Daniel Webster Jr, U.S. Census Bureau, Atlanta Regional Census Center partnership specialist; Jessica James, U.S. Census Bureau, Atlanta Regional Census Center partnership specialist; Rep. Steve Clouse, 93rd District; Mayor Mark Saliba, City of Dothan; Rep. Jeff Sorrells, 87th District; Cliff Mendheim, Prim & Mendheim, LLC and Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce chairman; Barbara Alford, Wiregrass Foundation executive director; Commission Chairman Mark Culver, Houston County; Scott Farmer, Southeast Alabama Planning & Development Commission executive director; Lori Wilcoxon, Census 2020 coordinator; Probate Judge/Commission Chairman Toby Seay, Geneva County; and Probate Judge/Commission Chairman David Money, Henry County.

DISCOVER & EXPLORE

COSTA DEL SOL

WITH THE DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



9-DAY JOURNEY

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Round trip scheduled airfare
- Round trip transfers between airports and hotels
- Personal airport VIP greeting and check-in service
- Pre-departure orientation and travel documents
- 7 nights First Class Accommodations
- Includes breakfast daily and 5 dinners
- Discovery Program Guide
- Chamber Exchange
- Full day tour of Granada
- Tour of Ronda & Mijas

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1

- Transatlantic flight

DAY 2

- Arrive in Spain and transfer to our hotel for the next 7 nights
- Remainder of the day at your leisure
- Dinner at your hotel

DAY 3

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Tour to Ronda

DAY 4

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Day at leisure, Optional Tour to Tangier
- Dinner at your hotel

DAY 5

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Half-day Tour of Mijas
- Chamber Exchange

DAY 6

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Full day optional tour to Gibraltar
- Dinner at your hotel

DAY 7

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Full day optional tour of Seville
- Dinner at your hotel

DAY 8

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Full day tour to Granada
- Dinner at your hotel

DAY 9

- Transfer to airport for flight home



Costa Del Sol



Ronda

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& SAVE**

~~\$3,399 PER PERSON~~

\$3,199 PER PERSON

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For more information, please contact:
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Harley-Davidson of Dothan
Jackson Thornton
Saliba Construction Co. Inc.
Southern Dental Group
Wiregrass Warehouse Inc.
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25-29 Years

Women's Medical Center, PC

20-24 Years

Alfred Saliba Family Services Center
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Oakley, Wright & Hart, PC
Print Services Inc.

15-19 Years

Coldwell Banker Commercial - Alfred
Saliba Realty
Deanco Auto Auction Inc.
Denton Road Mini-Storage, LLC
Town of Midland City
Murray's Irrigation
OSM Services Inc. dba ONE Source
Management
Temple Emanu-el
Weezers

10-14 Years

Town of Cowarts
Whittaker Marketing
Wiregrass BEST Inc.
Wiregrass Spay/Neuter Alliance

5-9 Years

All About Cleaning, LLC
Atlantic and Southern Equipment
Bart Liddon Homes, LLC
Stephanie W. Brookins, CPA
Collier, Jack
Dothan Houston County Library System
Edward Jones - Greg Wakefield,
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1-4 Years

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Dove Christian Supply
Edward Jones - Brandon Apida,
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Emerald Coast Collections, LLC
Freedom Payment Systems, LLC
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New York Life
Orangetheory Fitness Dothan
RCS Construction, LLC
Viva Health
Wal-Mart SuperCenter #2534
Windmill Station

DON'T MISS IT!

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SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

29TH ANNUAL TRADE SHOW
TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 18, 2020
DOTHAN CIVIC CENTER • 3-7 P.M.

COME DISCOVER SOME
OF THE BRIGHTEST STARS
OF DOTHAN'S BUSINESS
COMMUNITY.

Sponsored By



Star Of The Month



Mary Colburn
Wiregrass Auto Care

Team Of The Month

Team High Voltage



Congratulations to our Ambassador and Diplomat Team of the Month “Team High Voltage.” Team members (seated l-r) are **Amber Abercrombie**, WASTE MANAGEMENT of Dothan; **Parrish Smith**, Friend Bank; **Sabrina Dejong**, Woof AM/FM; (standing) **Pat Evans**, Evans Automotive Service; **Donnia Rambin**, Go Digital with Donnia; **Debbie Beasock**, Tyndall Federal Credit Union; and **Samantha Jo Conrad**, FASTSIGNS of Dothan.

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.



CAC Invites You To Join Its Annual Blue Ribbon Friday

Each April during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center coordinates a community-wide Blue Ribbon Campaign. The blue ribbon is a national symbol of the need to protect our children. The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness about child abuse and to generate support for programs and services to help victims.

Last year, your Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center provided interviews to 354 children with new allegations of abuse. More than 1,400 victims of abuse received therapy, crisis counseling and criminal justice support services. Child abuse is a problem that is too big for one person or one agency to solve. It takes an entire community working together to take a stand and speak out on behalf of our children.

The CAC invites readers to join it by participating in the organization’s Blue Ribbon Friday for Kids T-shirt event. The 2020 T-shirt is \$20 and available for pre-order only until Feb. 28. Business sponsorships are also available to put your name/logo on the back of the T-shirt. The sponsorship deadline is also Feb. 28.

To order T-Shirts, be a sponsor or for more information, contact Lindsey Wagner at (334) 671-1779 or lindsey@southeastcac.org.



Feb. 11 Is National 2-1-1 Day

United Way Worldwide has declared Tuesday, Feb. 11, as National 2-1-1 Day by recognizing the powerful resource that local 2-1-1 call centers are to connecting residents with health and social services throughout the year 24/7. A free service, 2-1-1 is available throughout the U.S. by phone, text, chat and web. Contacting 2-1-1 connects you to critical services and resources that improve and save lives.

The 2-1-1 service, www.211.org, was first launched by United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta in 1997 and is spearheaded by United Ways, information and referral agencies nationwide. Approximately 95 percent of people living in the U.S. have access to the 2-1-1 service. The entire state of Alabama is covered to include Wiregrass counties.

For 12 years now, the local Wiregrass 2-1-1 program with its call center in Dothan has been bringing people and services together. Over 168,000 calls have been answered, 300,000 referrals for those calls were provided to help people living in our local communities. Whether it’s a mom with a son addicted to drugs, a family needing food assistance or an elderly couple with house damage due to a terrible storm, contacting 2-1-1 is the first step to get help.

Wiregrass 2-1-1 is a local nonprofit program that would not be here without support from Wiregrass United Way and local communities. You can help by clicking the “Donate” tab at www.wiregrass211.com or mailing a donation to Wiregrass 2-1-1 at 545 W. Main St., Suite 313, Dothan, AL 36301. In addition, you can text “Wiregrass211” to 44321 to donate. And 100 percent of your contribution remains local.

For additional information visit www.wiregrass211.com or Wiregrass 2-1-1 on Facebook. To speak with a call specialist, call 2-1-1 or (888) 421-1266.



Dothan Nursing Home Recognized Nationally

Westside Terrace Healthcare is proud to announce it has been recognized by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living for its achievements in the quality of care it provides. The long-term healthcare center accomplished four out of four national goals, including improved customer satisfaction, functional outcomes (mobility) for residents, safe reduction of hospitalizations and safe reduction of off-label use of antipsychotic medication.

Only 27 facilities in Alabama achieved this recognition and Westside Terrace is the only one in Dothan to have received it.

“The entire team at Westside Terrace Healthcare is honored to be recognized for this incredible achievement,” said Kristie Hughes, administrator. “We are proud to improve care for our residents. Our commitment to quality is always our number one priority.”

AHCA/NCAL recognized long-term care providers for their achievements through its Quality Initiative Recognition Program, which honors member facilities for their individual work in achieving AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative goals.

“This achievement represents progress on important quality measures that will positively impact the lives of residents,” said Dr. David Gifford, senior vice president of quality and regulatory affairs and chief medical officer at AHCA/NCAL. “We applaud these organizations for their hard work and dedication to this significant quality improvement effort.”

Westside Terrace’s eligibility for the recognition was determined by data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Nursing Home Compare, as well as customer satisfaction scores submitted via AHCA/NCAL’s data tracking tool LTC Trend Tracker.

To learn more about the AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative Recognition Program, visit www.ahcancal.org/quality_improvement/qualityinitiative/Pages/RecognitionProgram.aspx.



Fire Department Expands With Fire And Life Safety Self-Inspection Program

The Dothan Fire Department is working hard to make your community safe. In doing so, the department is expanding a new community Fire and Life Safety Self-Inspection Program.

The self-inspection program was created in hopes of assisting businesses to be their own advocates for fire and life safety. This program allows business owners, or a manager of the property, to conduct the same level of inspection the Dothan’s fire inspectors do each day, but within a timeframe that’s more convenient for the business.

Businesses that have a statistically lower risk of fire and also a history of favorable past annual fire and life safety inspections, will be asked to complete a Fire Safety Self-Inspection Form.

The Fire Department’s hope is by allowing

businesses to self-identify this will eliminate common fire and life safety hazards. Thus providing a safer environment for the business, their employees and customers while promoting community risk reduction efforts.

In January 2020, the department began mailing self-inspection forms to selected businesses in the city. If you receive a Fire Safety Self-Inspection form from the Dothan Fire Department, please take the time to accurately complete the form and send it back to: Dothan Fire Department, 600 Columbia Highway, Dothan, AL 36301.

During your fire and life safety self-inspection, if you have any questions or if anything is confusing, contact the Chief of Prevention, David Hasty, at (334) 615-3500 or fireinspections@dothan.org.



Our old name wasn't broken, it just couldn't keep up with the breakthroughs.

Throughout our 60 years we've grown in our ability to bring world-class medicine to our hometown. Today we're doing things that couldn't have been imagined in our early days. We're a regional leader in emergency care, heart care, women's services and more. Our Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine attracts some of the best and brightest minds to Dothan, creating a new generation of much-needed physicians. And our wide-reaching network of primary and specialty care clinics are focused on wellness and prevention, helping our growing population lead healthier lives.

We are no longer just a medical center. We're a medical leader in the region and beyond. And our name is Southeast Health.



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#SaveTheDates For These Upcoming Member Events

- ▶ **Celebrate Recovery**
Every Friday • 7 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. For those with children, age specific children's program available. For more information, call (334) 702-6555 or e-mail celebraterecovery@harvestdothan.com. "You can't heal a wound by saying it's not there!"

- ▶ **Art of Yoga**
Feb. 7 • 9-10 a.m.
Wiregrass Museum of Art & Conference Center. WMA hosts a monthly yoga series the first Friday each month. The class combines the therapeutic nature of art with the healing properties of yoga under the instruction of a certified teacher. Participants will be guided through an all-levels appropriate class and should bring own mat and towel (if needed). The cost is \$10. No pre-registration is required. For more information, call (334) 794-3871 or visit www.wiregrassmuseum.org.

- ▶ **Catholic Mom's Group**
Feb. 7 • 9 a.m.
St. Columba Catholic Church. On the first Friday each month, moms and kids are invited to come to the 9 a.m. Mass. After Mass, moms and kids are invited to the gym for story time and crafts for kids, and coffee and fellowship for moms. All moms and children are welcome. For more information, contact the church at (334) 793-5802.

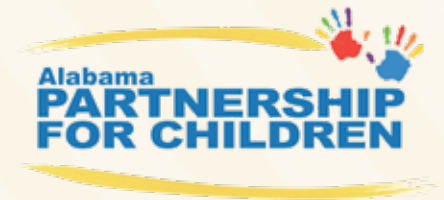
- ▶ **Scrabble Club**
Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 • 2 p.m.
Dothan Houston County Library Westgate Branch. If you are a lover of the Scrabble word game, then the library has a group just for you. Scrabble Club get togethers are held every Sunday from 2-4:30 p.m. For more information, call (334) 699-2950 or visit www.dhcls.org.

- ▶ **Play the Café**
Feb., 11 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Mural City Coffee Co. Held the second Tuesday each month, Play the Café features local singer/songwriters performing their original songs. A family-friendly event, there is no cover charge. For more information, call (334) 464-0070 or visit www.facebook.com/muralcitycoffeeco.

- ▶ **Health Chat**
Feb. 25 • 5:30 p.m.
Friend Bank Communication Room. Carnes Chiropractic's Health Chats are held the fourth Tuesday each month. The monthly topic varies and Health Chats are free and open to the public. When existing patients attend four Health Chats, they receive a free office visit. For more information, call (334) 794-2225.

- ▶ **HCRW Monthly Meeting**
Feb. 27 • 11 a.m.
Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.'s Sterling Event Services Rotary Hall. The Houston County Republican Women hold monthly luncheon meetings the fourth Thursday each month. Meetings include a Meet and Greet at 11 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. and the meeting at noon with a guest speaker. Reservations are required by noon the Tuesday prior to the meeting date. To make your reservation, or for more information, contact Barbara Wheelless at bwheelless@gmail.com or (941) 539-0917.

Have an upcoming event planned?
Send your event information to melia@dothan.com



Working To Address Childcare Challenges

Officials from the Alabama Partnership for Children, Southeast AlabamaWorks and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce recently held a community luncheon meeting to discuss with area businesses the challenges they are experiencing with not having sufficient childcare available to employees.

The availability of adequate childcare is a major challenge in the state of Alabama. Families are reducing work hours or dropping out of the workforce all together due to these challenges. And the need is growing.

If you would like more information about the efforts of the Alabama Partnership for Children in addressing these challenges, contact the APC's Outreach Director, Jill West, at (334) 271-0304 or visit www.alabamapartnershipforchildren.org.



Area officials recently held a luncheon meeting to discuss Alabama's childcare challenges. Pictured (l-r) are Dean Mitchell, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce executive director; Jeff Coleman, Alabama School Readiness Alliance board member; Gail Piggott, Alabama Partnership for Children executive director; Marian Loftin, APC founding board member; Stephen Woerner, VOICES for Alabama's Children executive director; and Ryan Richards, Southeast AlabamaWorks director of workforce development.

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Dothan Pediatric Healthcare Welcomes New Pediatrician



Dr. Meghan Benak

Dothan Pediatric Healthcare Network is excited to welcome Dr. Meghan Benak. A great addition to the medical staff, Dr. Benak brings a strong passion for providing community-based pediatric healthcare to the Wiregrass.

Dr. Benak earned her doctorate degree from the University of South Alabama, College of Medicine and completed her three-year Pediatric Residency program at Louisiana State University, Children's Hospital New Orleans. She is certified in general pediatrics by the American Board of Pediatrics.

"It's such a joy and a dream come true to have my daughter grow up and join me in my work," said Dr. Bob Benak, pediatrician and Meghan's proud father. "Meghan has always been a very hard worker and will be a great addition to Dothan Pediatric Clinic."

Dr. Meghan Benak grew up in Dothan and is pleased to make it her home again with her husband, Matt Brandt. In her spare time, she enjoys Auburn University sports, New Orleans Saints football, traveling, bargain shopping and exploring New Orleans cuisine.

Dothan Pediatric Clinic has been caring for infants, children and adolescents since 1953. For more information, or to make an appointment with Dr. Meghan Benak, call Dothan Pediatric Clinic at (334) 793-1881.

The Ark Thanks LTC Partners For Its Support

The Ark recently presented LTC Partners CEO Dr. Paul Forte and (Ret.) Col. Hunt Kerrigan with a plaque thanking them for their company's financial support to help homeless veterans in the Wiregrass. Dr. Forte and Col. Kerrigan made the trip from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to the Wiregrass to tour The Ark and to meet with local leaders, including Dothan District 2 Commissioner Janasky Fleming and Fort Rucker leadership.

While in town, Dr. Forte and Col. Kerrigan attended the Fort Rucker Retiree Activity Day where they helped educate local veterans about various benefits available to them. They also attended the Command Group Retiree Lunch where they met with key leaders of military service organizations, Army retiree leadership and other Fort Rucker unit leaders.

This trip to the Wiregrass, and the partnership with The Ark, shows LTC Partners' commitment to partner with agencies supporting veterans across the United States, venturing out of the Northeast region.

"We could not exist, let alone help as many people as we do, if it was not for the support of individuals and organizations like LTC Partners," said Dr. Jeff Peacock, The Ark executive director. "Their generosity is very humbling and the heart and compassion they have to help veterans is very evident. We were blown away by the fact they took the time to fly down and tour our facilities, but even more

with the time and interest they had about our program while they were here."

"We were pleased to visit Fort Rucker, the hub of U.S. Army Aviation, and to meet so many fine people," said Dr. Forte. "The Ark deserves special thanks and support because of the important work it does on behalf of the veterans community and the very innovative approaches it is taking to assist veterans who need extra help making the often-difficult transition to civilian life."

For more information, contact The Ark at (334) 794-7223 or visit www.thearkdothan.org.



The Ark recently presented LTC Partners with a plaque thanking them for their financial support. Pictured (l-r) are (Ret.) Col. Hunt Kerrigan, Chris Smith, The Ark Executive Director Dr. Jeff Peacock, LTC Partners CEO Dr. Paul Forte and Dothan District 2 Commissioner Janasky Fleming.

Hotel & Restaurant Hiring Event

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020
2 PM - 4 PM
WRC Sterling Events Hall
795 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, AL 36303

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- PrimeCare of Daleville • 144 Virginia Ave., Dothan • 793-2120
- PrimeCare of Dothan • 4126 W. Main St., Dothan • 793-2120

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Woodall, Turner And Cox Create Partnership



Kyle Cox

Bob Woodall Air Care Systems Inc. has been synonymous with comfort in the Wiregrass area for over 52 years. During these years, the company has provided heating and cooling solutions for a vast number of applications focusing

predominantly on the residential sector.

As the company grew, Woodall Air Care Systems started taking on larger commercial applications, which mandated the need to hire Kyle Cox as commercial division leader. For the last 10 years, Cox has been instrumental in the growth of the commercial division wherein in his first 18 months he grew the commercial revenue substantially.

Cox has been an integral part in the development of the commercial business. Because of this, Bob Woodall Commercial Air was established, and a partnership was created between Bob Woodall, Cal Turner and Cox.

Cox's specialty in HVAC Design-Build projects is taking a project from scratch through CAD drawings to quoting to completion. His expertise and experience at every stage of a project is a key component to Bob Woodall Commercial Air, and with him at the helm the company looks forward to the continued commercial growth.

Cox is a Wiregrass native and a 1995 Cum Laude graduate from Auburn University receiving a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He is married to Kathryn Hanson Cox, and they have two daughters - Olivia and Camille. They attend Mt. Gilead Baptist Church where Cox has served as a Sunday school teacher and Deacon.



Did You Know ...

Did you know that a single field trip to an art museum can help students learn new skills? A recent study from The National Art Education Association Museum Education Division and its partner, the Association of Art Museum Directors, shows that inquiry-based field trip experiences at an art museum help students learn crucial skills, like complex questioning, interpretation, and in-depth analysis, among other communication skills.

The Wiregrass Museum of Art & Conference Center's Pre-K to 12 field trip program, Bus on Us, helps area students gain these analytic and interpersonal skills, and inspires their creativity and innovation. The museum works closely with teachers and administrators to make

field trips an extension of their classrooms, and encourages cross-curricular learning for Pre-K to 12 students that participate in this program each school year.

With help from members and supporting foundations, WMA eliminates barriers for Dothan City and Houston County schools to participate in this program by providing transportation reimbursement for eight buses per each school, every year. This partnership has helped provide comprehensive educational experiences through visual art at WMA for more than 4,700 students since the start of the program in 2017.

Want to support creative learning as a Bus on Us docent, or shadow an educational field trip? Contact the museum at (334) 794-3871 or email info@wiregrassmuseum.org.



DACC Welcomes Morris To The Team

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to welcome Art Morris to the team as the organization's director of aviation and military affairs.

Morris, who has an extensive history in both the aviation and coordinating events and projects with the military, recently retired from the Dothan Regional Airport as the director where he served for over 33 years. Working now on a part-time basis at the airport, he is filling the shoes of director of special projects where he will provide advice, assistance and special project management to the new Airport Director Adam Hartzog.

Please join us as we welcome Morris aboard.



Art Morris joins the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce team. Also pictured is DACC Executive Director Dean Mitchell.



We are pleased to welcome Bob Woodall to our Dothan Local Advisory Board.



Synovus Bank, Member FDIC.

Make Your Voice Heard in Montgomery!

One of the priorities of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce is to advocate for you and your issues in 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 state legislators.

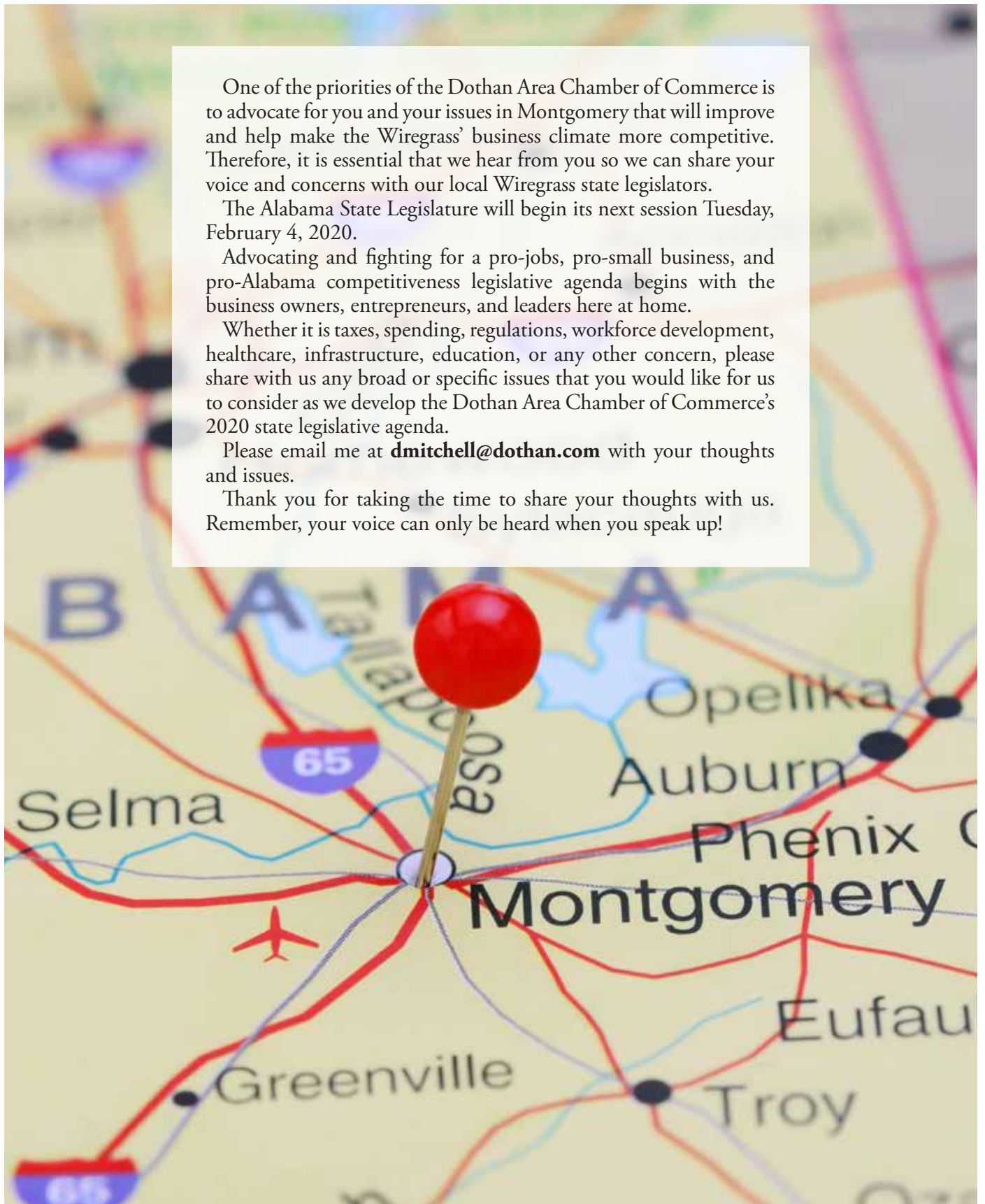
The Alabama State Legislature will begin its next session Tuesday, February 4, 2020.

Advocating and fighting for a pro-jobs, pro-small 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, healthcare, 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 2020 state legislative agenda.

Please email me at 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!



Alabama Gears Up To Meet Industry Credential Demands



Ryan Richards,
Southeast AlabamaWorks
Director of Workforce
Development

In December 2019, at the Hyundai Training Center in Montgomery, Gov. Kay Ivey and other distinguished state leaders launched the new Alabama Committee on Credentialing and Career Pathways.

The ACCCP was established as a subcommittee of the Alabama Workforce Council to annually identify regional and statewide in-demand occupations, career pathways and credentials of value. This mandate is a direct result of Gov. Ivey's Success Plus Plan, a post-secondary education attainment goal of adding 500,000 highly-skilled employees to Alabama's workforce by 2025 (www.AlabamaWorks.com/SuccessPlus).

The ACCCP will work alongside 16 Technical Advisory Committees, one for each of the 16 career and technical education career clusters. The TACs will analyze labor market data to determine in-demand occupations and career pathways at the regional and state level. Each career cluster will then develop industry-endorsed competency models for occupations within the industry. These will include a progression of academic, technical and personal competencies, beginning with basic skills.

Southeast AlabamaWorks nominated one industry expert for each of the 16 TACs and appreciate the support and willingness to serve of those

regional leaders who advocate for their industry.

Industry groups and education partners may apply for the inclusion of a credential possessing one or more of the required characteristics of a valuable credential. The ACCCP and TACs will review applications to compose an annual regional and statewide Compendia of Valuable Credentials for in-demand career pathways which will be completed no later than Jan. 1, 2021.

The final Compendia will lead to the ATLAS on Career Pathways. It will serve as Alabama's integrated workforce and education credential registry to help Alabama citizens and companies identify in-demand careers and credentials. Creating the ATLAS will help adjust Alabama's workforce and economic development programs to meet the needs of the state's economy.

Finally, the Alabama College and Career Exploration Tool will be designed to serve as a one-stop digital dashboard, created using data from the ATLAS, which will allow Alabamians to compare all college and career options before choosing a career pathway. The ACCET will guide students through all 79 pathways within the 16 CTE industry clusters, create interest and career profiles, and a graduation plan. The ACCET will allow someone to map a career pathway that will lead to graduation with industry-recognized credentials, postsecondary credit and work-based learning experience.

Regional Members

Career Cluster	Name	Organization	Email
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	Gavin Mauldin	Alabama Extension - Coffee County	gpm0006@auburn.edu
Architecture and Construction	Mike Tew	Tremco Services	tewboys@aol.com
Arts, Audio/Video Tech & Communications	Melissa Rea	Wiregrass Museum of Art & Conference Center	mrea@wiregrassmuseum.org
Business, Management & Administration	Brooke Goff	Alabama Power	bhgoft@SOUTHERNCO.COM
Education & Training	Steve Hawkins	Eufaula Chamber of Commerce	shawkins@eufaulachamber.com
Finance	Kelli Pylant	Friend Bank	kpylant@friendbank.net
Government & Public Administration	Jason Wright	Wiregrass Public Safety Center	jasonallenwright1@gmail.com
Health Science	Jeffrey Brannon	Wiregrass Medical Center	jeff.brannon@wiregrassmedicalcenter.org
Hospitality & Tourism	Robert Hillman	Visit Dothan	robert@visitdothan.com
Human Services	Pat Daugherty	Voc Rehab	patrick.daugherty@rehab.alabama.gov
Information Technology	Conley Freeman	Troy Cable	conley.freeman@troycable.com
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	Jared McPhaul	State of Alabama Probation & Parole - Elba	jared.mcphaul@paroles.alabama.gov
Manufacturing	Chris Brackett	Michelin North America Inc.	chris.brackett@michelin.com
Marketing, Sales & Service	Angi Stalnaker	Virtus Solutions	angi@virtuscomm.com
Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics	Greg Summerlin	GL Robotics USA	greg@glroboticsusa.com
Logistics, Distribution & Logistics	Chris Lasseter	Summerford Pallet Co. Inc.	chrisL@summerford.com

Mark Your Calendar For This Upcoming Small Business Seminar

Workplace Violence And Safety
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
Feb. 13 • 9-10:30 a.m.

Workplace violence has emerged as an important safety and health issue in today's workplace. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, its most extreme form, homicide, is the third leading cause of fatal occupational injury in the United States. Are you and your employees prepared to handle a critical situation in the workplace?

To help you get prepared, make plans to join the Dothan area Chamber of Commerce and Dothan Police Sgt. Sammy Hancock on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 9-10:30 a.m. to learn some of the safety tips, strategies and procedures the Police Department uses in its two-day ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Training program.

ALICE is the leading program for response to violent critical incidents. VCI are man-made forms of violent disaster, including active shooter, violent intruder, mass shooting, terrorism, workplace violence and other unexpected tragedies. The mission of ALICE is to save lives. This training program empowers individuals to participate in their own survival using proactive options-based response strategies when faced with violence.

This is a free event; however, pre-registration is required. To reserve your seat, contact Susan Tatom at (334) 792-5138 or statom@dothan.com. Deadline to register is noon Tuesday, Feb. 11.

We hope you can join us!



Recent Legislation Requires Tax Exempt Organizations To E-File Forms

Did you know that the Taxpayer First Act, enacted July 1, 2019, requires tax exempt organizations to electronically file information returns and related forms? The new law affects tax exempt organizations in tax years beginning after July 1, 2019.

The following IRS forms are included in the mandate:

- Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax.
- Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation.
- Form 8872, Political Organization Report of Contributions and Expenditures.
- Form 1065, U.S. Return of Partnership Income (if filed by a Section 501(d) apostolic organization).

Those who previously filed paper forms will receive a letter from the IRS informing them of the change. Filing deadlines vary by form type. The IRS will postpone the required e-filing of Form 990-EZ for one year, while optional e-filing continues to be available. Although Forms 990-T and 4720 will come under the e-filing requirement next year, the IRS will continue to accept these forms on paper pending conversion to electronic format. (Source: www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-recent-legislation-requires-tax-exempt-organizations-to-e-file-forms)

Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

February 21-23

Alabama's ninth severe weather preparedness sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, and ends at midnight, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.



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, visit

www.AlabamaRetail.org/Resources/SalesTaxHolidays

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Small	\$210	\$189	\$178.50	\$168
Medium	\$260	\$234	\$221	\$208
Large	\$375	\$337.50	\$318.75	\$300

* Estimated total based on 2,400
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DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**2020 Small Business Person of the Year
Award Nominations**

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce has been presenting the Small Business Person of the Year award to deserving outstanding business owners since 1987. Agnes Simpson of WOOF Radio was the Chamber's first Small Business Person of the Year award recipient. This prestigious recognition is awarded annually to an individual owner of a local small business (1-25 employees). The candidate must show growth or sustainability of their business, have strong employee relations, show commitment to social responsibility and exemplify strong community involvement. Although the candidates will be judged in all of these areas they do not have to excel in every area to win.

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 2020 Small Business Person of the Year from Jan. 16 to March 13, 2020. The winner will be announced in May at the Small Business Week General Membership Luncheon.

Each nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Employ between one and 25 people.
- Be the founder, partner or owner of the business.
- Business must be 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)

Name of Nominee: _____

Company: _____

Nominated By: _____

Your Phone Number or Email Address: _____

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

Return this form to:

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

Or email Hayden at hcamp@dothan.com

Nominations are due by March 13, 2020, 5 p.m.

Thank you for your nomination!



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 February 2020
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Economic Indicators

▲	Labor Force for the Dothan MSA for November: 62,325 in 2018; 63,667 in 2019 60,132 in 2018; 62,073 in 2019 Employed
▼	Unemployment for the Dothan MSA for November: 3.5% in 2018; 2.5% in 2019
▲	Residential Building Permits for the City of Dothan for November: 7 issued (\$2.38 million) in 2018; 9 issued (\$2.35 million) in 2019
▲	Home Sales in Dothan for November: 102 sold in 2018; 108 sold in 2019
▲	Enplanements for Dothan Regional Airport for November: 4,819 in 2018; 5,013 in 2019
▼	Houston County & Dothan Sales and Use Tax Collections (\$) for November: \$1,765,501 in 2018; \$1,625,929 in 2019 (County) \$6,075,167 in 2018; \$5,909,670 in 2019 (City)



Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details.
 Data as of 1/06/19. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.

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DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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