

C H A M B E R
CONNECTIONS

WHAT'S
 INSIDE

March 2014

Business Under The Big Top

Community Supports Annual Trade Show

Over 90 Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce members gathered to do "Business Under The Big Top" during the organization's 23rd Annual Spotlight on Business Trade Show. The area's largest trade show attracted over 1,000 visitors and was held at the Dothan Civic Center Thursday, Feb. 13.

The annual 4-hour event provides the community a unique opportunity to see what's taking place in Dothan's business community. It also gives members the chance to network with one another while making important business contacts. Both new and long-standing Chamber members ranging from health care to insurance, internet services to banks and credit unions, office supplies to pest control were all on hand showcasing their products and services.

While walking through the exhibits, you could sample a variety of food items from local area establishments like Papa John's Pizza, Oak and Olive, Atlanta Bread Co., Pans and Petals Catering, The Landing and Five Star Catering, and Delectable Edibles and More. And to help quench your thirst, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. offered a variety of refreshments to choose from.

You also might have even come across Mary Beth Reynolds (Personnel Resources), Stephanie Fields (Belk - Wiregrass Commons Mall), Dewayne Williams (SunSouth John Deere) and Pat Thomas (Dothan Awning and Exteriors) strolling through the event judging the exhibits on their creative decorating skills.

Each year a theme is chosen by the Chamber to help create some enthusiasm, excitement and even a little "decorating" competition among booth participants. This year's theme was "Business Under The Big Top" and using the theme as their basis, Chamber members artistically decorated their

booths to represent different characteristics and sights you would see at the circus.

Congratulations to this year's Best of Show Award winner Wiregrass Commons Mall. Flowers Hospital and Pans and Petals Catering took the second and third place awards respectively.

When asked about Affordable Dentures experience at the trade show as a first-time participant, Sarah Tyson, a dental assistant for Dr. Shai Miles, said they had seen many visitors to their booth thus far throughout the event.

"We have enjoyed being a participant and it's been nice to meet so many different people," stated Tyson. "This has been a wonderful opportunity for Affordable Dentures to not only network with other Chamber members, but also with the community.

Tyson also forewarned this year's Best in Show winner to watch out next year, because Affordable Dentures plans to claim the title.

With small business being the backbone of the community, Spotlight on Business each year has received huge support from not only its members, but also from those individuals that come out to support the area's local businesses. A special thank you goes out to the Spotlight on Business 2014 sponsor - **WOW! Business**. It's their sponsorship that helps make this annual trade show possible and such a big success.

Plans are already underway for next year's activity. So be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2015, at the Dothan Civic Center. Hope to see you there!

▶ See page 6 for a list of the 2014 Spotlight Participants and additional pictures.

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- ▶ Leadership Dothan **15** and Dothan Business Hall Of Fame Nomination Form

Spotlight on Business



Second Place Winner
 Flowers Hospital



Best In Show Award Winner
 Wiregrass Commons Mall



Third Place Winner
 Pans and Petals Catering

Quote
 of the Month

"Fresh approaches keep new ideas flowing."

— Unknown

www.dothan.com
 (334) 792-5138



RIBBONCUTTINGS

Alabama Motor Express Logistics

130 E. Main St.
Dothan, AL 36301
Collins White
(334) 699-3111
TRANSPORTATION
SUPPORT SERVICES



The Norton Firm

739 W. Main St.
Dothan, AL 36301
Jake A. Norton
(334) 699-2020
ATTORNEYS



Charter Spices & Oils

3702-1 Ross Clark Circle
Dothan, AL 36301
Linda DeFord
(334) 792-6505
FOOD PRODUCTS



360 Premier Car Care, LLC

1318 Hartford Highway
Dothan, AL 36305
Debbie Henderson
(334) 791-2540
AUTOMOBILE DETAIL



Dothan Houston County Library System

445 N. Oates St.
Dothan, AL 36302
Bettye Forbus
(334) 793-9767
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Dothan Houston County Library System

535 Recreation Drive
Dothan, AL 36303
Bettye Forbus
(334) 793-9767
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Dothan Photo Booths

4789 N. County Road 55
Ashford, AL 36312
Dawn Tucker
(334) 714-4941
PHOTOGRAPHERS



MH Yoga Health Studio

2312 W. Main St.
Dothan, AL 36301
Mary Helen Richards
(334) 699-4141
HEALTH & WELL-BEING



Thank you!

Your membership is an investment in the future of your business and the economic progress of the Wiregrass area.

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

- JUSTICE PARK MEDIA CENTER •

(Located in the Heart of Downtown Dothan)

NEWMEMBERS

Clip and add these to your Membership Directory.

E.K. Kitchen

Emily McCord
105 S. Cherokee Ave., Suite 3
Dothan, AL 36301
Ph: (334) 791-4297
RETAIL - PREPARED
FOOD

Folklore Brewing & Meadery

Jeremy Pate
153 Mary Lou Lane
Dothan, AL 36301
Ph: (334) 702-2337
BREWERY

Jezabels

Leisa Manzella
392 Westgate Parkway
Dothan, AL 36303
Ph: (334) 791-8726
BOUTIQUE - WOMENS

The Loft on Foster

Robin Thagard
191 N. Foster St. (Dothan)
3512 Campground Road
Ozark, AL 36360
Ph: (334) 714-4513
Fax: (334) 702-6530
RESTAURANTS

TGI Creative Services

Nick Stakelum
108 Dearborn Drive
Dothan, AL 36305
Ph: (334) 796-3540
MARKETING

Vector Security

Ben Thomley
17960 U.S. Highway 431,
Suite 106
Headland, AL 36345
Ph: (334) 785-5012
SECURITY CONTROL
EQUIPMENT & SYSTEMS
INTERFACE

RENEWINGMEMBERS

1-4 Years

Apaxx Inc.
Architectural Expressions
Faulkner University
First Light Home Care
Good Morning Mattress
Center
Holiday Inn Hotel
J.C. McCleod, MD
Psychiatric, PLLC
The Real Estate Group
Wells Fargo Bank, NA
Zonta Club of Dothan

5-9 Years

Captain D's
CareSouth Homecare
Professionals
Carnes Chiropractic &
Wellness Center
Delectable Edibles & More
Dothan Area Chamber
Foundation
Dothan Association of
Realtors
Dothan Janitorial & Paper
Supply
Evans Automotive Service
Express Employment
Professionals
First South Farm Credit
Holiday Inn Express Hotel
& Suites
LaQuinta Inns & Suites
Lewis Construction, LLC
Northview Christian Church
Praestare Engineering Inc.
Red Elephant Pizza & Grill
Red Lobster
Road-Runners Delivery
Services
Wiregrass Orthodontic
Specialists
Zack's Family Restaurant &
Catering

10-14 Years

Alabama Technology
Network
Atlanta Bread Co.
Construction Partners Inc.
Cummings Resources, LLC
Deanco Auto Auction Inc.
Dothan Pilcher Ambulance
Service
Hall Housing Investments
Inc.
Prim & Mendheim, LLC
RealTime, LLC
Southeastern Printers of
Dothan

Southern Heritage Funeral
Home & Crematory
WASTE MANAGEMENT
of Dothan

15-19 Years

Alabama Department of
Rehabilitation Services
American Cancer Society,
Mid-South Division
GGG Foods Inc. - A
Franchisee of KFC Corp.
Nypro
The Terrace at Grove Park
Ward Wilson Memory Hill
Funeral Home

20-24 Years

Anesthesia Consultants
Medical Group, PC
Golf+
Max Fitness
Real Estate Services of
Dothan Inc.
Scott-Cook Pharmacy
Southern Nuclear Operations
Company / Plant Farley

25-29 Years

BBG Specialty Foods Inc. - A
Franchisee of Taco Bell
Corp.
Borden Dairy of Alabama
Bremner Food Group
Professional Lane Dental
Associates
Shelley Office Furniture &
Printing
U.S. Business Products Inc.
Wiregrass United Way
Wiregrass Warehouse Inc.

30-39 Years

Action Buick GMC
Alabama Power Co.
Coldwell Banker - Alfred
Saliba Realty
Dothan Pediatric Clinic
Durden Outdoor Displays
Inc.
Southeastern Oral-
Maxillofacial & Facial
Cosmetic Surgery Center,
PC
Troy University

40-49 Years

AAA Cooper Transportation
Barge, Waggoner, Sumner
and Cannon Inc.

Beasley Pharmacy
Blue Cross and Blue Shield
of Alabama
Bob Woodall Air Care
Systems Inc.
Century 21 James Grant
Realty
Dothan Animal Hospital
Dothan Brace Shop
Dothan Eagle
Dothan Powersports
E.E. Bentley Insulation
Faulkner Construction Co.
Hardwick, Hause, Segrest &
Walding
Hathcock Roofing &
Remodeling Co.
Higgins Electric Inc.
Home Oil Co. Inc./Hobo
Pantry Food Stores
Houston County Farmers
Federation
Lee, Livingston, Lee &
Nichols, PC
McClintock, Nelson &
Associates, CPA's, PC
MidSouth Bank, NA
Mike Schmitz Automotive
Group
Northcutt Drug Co.
Palmer Electric Construction
Co.
PeoplesSouth Bank
Polyengineering Inc.
Regions Bank
Smith's Inc. of Dothan
Southeast Alabama Gas
District
Southern Clinic, PC
Swedish Match Cigars Inc.
Twitchell Technical
Products, LLC
Whatley Supply Co.

50-59 Years

Davis Oil Co.
Todd & Sons
Tom West Co.
W.P. Shealy Advertising Inc.

60-69 Years

Mayer Electric Supply

70 Or More Years

Hudson Office Supply Inc.
McDaniel & Associates, PC

There's Still Time To Register!

Second Annual "Wacky" Networking Golf Tournament

Highland Oaks Golf Course
March 13, 2014 - 1:30 p.m.

There's still time to register your team for this member appreciation event filled with fun, relaxation and networking. So get those golf clubs out and get ready for some "wacky" golf where the score is NOT important (no score cards), and lets "non-golfers" be on a team.

This nine-hole tournament is limited to 27 four-person teams and the cost per team is \$100.

Wait, you don't like to play golf? Then be a tournament hole sponsor. The fee is only \$25.

Sponsors are required to give away a minimum of \$200 worth of goods (i.e., trinkets or a large raffle item with the winner announced at The Network Exchange immediately following in the clubhouse. Please note alcohol items are not allowed).

Sponsor tables will be provided; however, it is recommended that sponsors provide their own pop-up tent to put over their table.

Register now and don't miss out! Registration forms are available at www.dothan.com.

You can either stop by the Chamber office or mail your registration with payment. Payment is required with your registration. No faxed registrations will be accepted.

Contact LaRhonda Robinson for more information at (334) 792-5138 or lrobinson@dothan.com.

Ambassadors & Diplomats Team Of The Month

Business A To Z



Congratulations to the Ambassador and Diplomat Team of the Month "Business A To Z" for claiming this month's title. Pictured (seated l-r) are team members **Kadie Crowell**, Dothan Education Foundation; **Stephanie Fields**, Belk - Wiregrass Commons Mall; **Anna Coe**, Kelly Services Inc.; (standing l-r) **Brandon Ziegenfelder**, Slingluff United Insurance; Team Co-Captain **Sheila Cestaro**, WDHN TV-18; Team Co-Captain **Kassie Glover**, Alabama Telco Credit Union; **Angie Bell**, Hilton Garden Inn; and **Brannon Woodall**, Bob Woodall Air Care Systems Inc. Not pictured are **Freddie Bacher**, Harley Davidson of Dothan; and **Shelly Philips**, Houston Academy.

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



Jennifer Ford
Vaughn-Blumberg Services

Events *March* 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					

- 3** ▶ **Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting** - 7:30 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 4** ▶ **Ambassador & Diplomat Committee Meeting** - 9 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 5** ▶ **Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Education Day** - 7:45 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)

Ribbon Cutting: Brian Jones State Farm Insurance - 10:30 a.m.
Location: 109 Westgate Parkway
- 6** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Mary Kay Cosmetics** - 10:30 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 11** ▶ **Troy University Small Business Counseling** - 9:30 a.m. to noon
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
*Reservations required: (334) 792-5138

Ribbon Cutting: Great Clips - 10:30 a.m.
Location: 3500 Ross Clark Circle, Suite 110

Dothan Area Young Professionals' Business Brews - 5:15 p.m.
Location: 2620 Montgomery Highway, Suite 1 (Oak & Olive)
- 12** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Freedom Business Technologies, LLC** - 10:30 a.m.
Location: 188 N. Foster St., Suite 205
- 13** ▶ **Second Annual "Wacky" Networking Golf Tournament** - 1:30 p.m.
Location: 904 Royal Parkway (Highland Oaks Golf Course)

The Network Exchange - 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Location: 904 Royal Parkway (Highland Oaks Clubhouse)
- 19** ▶ **Board of Directors' Meeting** - 8:15 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 20** ▶ **Leadership Dothan Public Safety Day** - 7:45 a.m.
Location: 102 Jamestown Blvd. (Chamber)
- 27** ▶ **Ribbon Cutting: Jezabel's** - 10:30 a.m.
Location: 392 Westgate Parkway

Save The Date! The Network Exchange

Highlands Oaks Clubhouse • March 13, 2014

Join the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce at The Network Exchange event Thursday, March 13, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Highlands Oaks Clubhouse immediately following the "Wacky" Networking Golf Tournament. Be sure to join us for an evening of excitement filled with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. The event is free and it's the perfect opportunity to network and exchange business cards! For more information, call LaRhonda Robinson, membership director, at (334) 792-5138.

Thank You To Our Networking Sponsors:



On 50th Anniversary Of War On Poverty, Education And Employment Still The Key

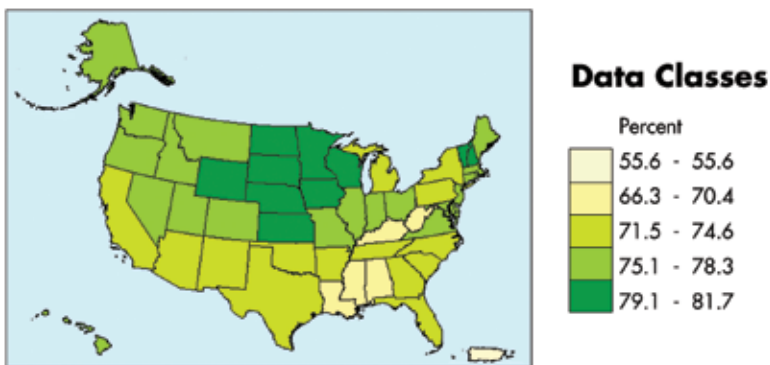


Steve Turkoski,
Project Manager

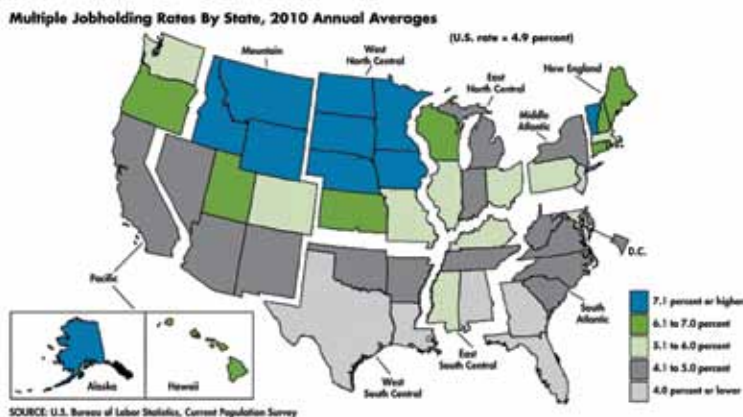
I was recently interviewed by a local TV station and was asked about the state poverty level in consideration of the 50th anniversary of the declared "war on poverty." I made the points included here, but did not have the benefit of providing graphics to tell the story.

Poverty is a measure of income and the usual sources of income are employment and investment. Employment usually precedes investment for younger citizens as they accumulate wealth to invest. In 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that annual personal income in the U.S. was \$13,729,063,000,000. Of that, \$9,821,404,000,000 was earnings through employment and \$2,495,206,000,000 was from dividends, interest and rent.

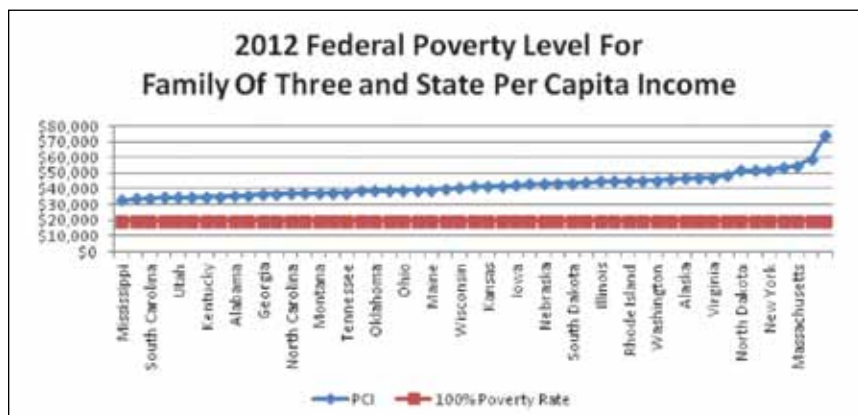
The best way to raise per capita income is to have more people working. As shown on the following two maps, Alabama is on the low end for labor force participation rate and has very small percentage of people working more than one job.



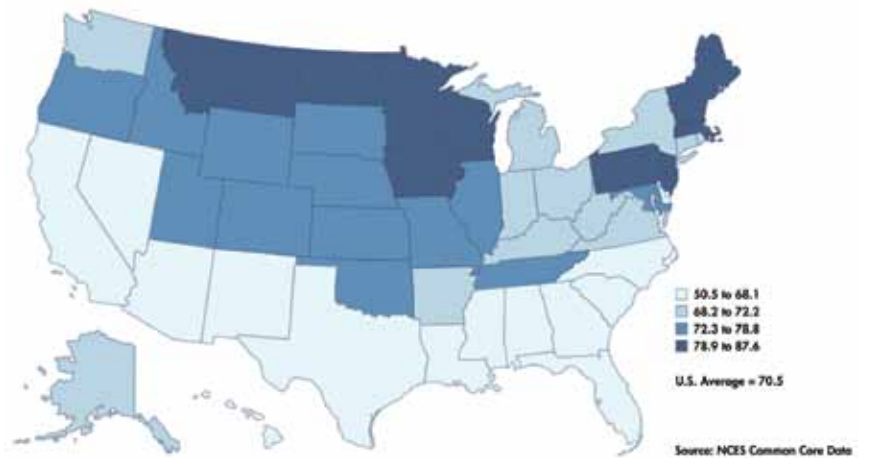
The U.S. Census Bureau 2008-2012 Community Survey showed the Alabama labor force participation rate as 56 percent, which was 7.5 percent less than the average of all the states. With 3,116,152 Alabama residents in the 16-64 age group considered in the labor force participation rate calculation, we need to employ 233,711 more people statewide to reach the average for the states.



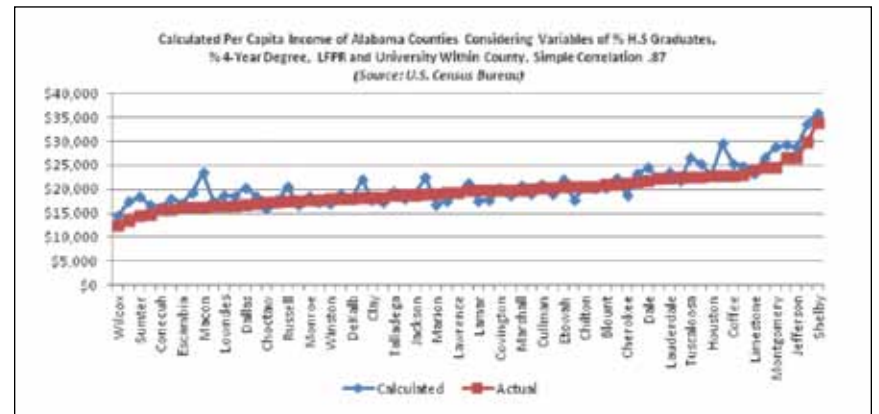
A consideration not often mentioned in the discussion on poverty rates is the fact that poverty thresholds are set at the national level and make no adjustments for local cost of living, which for the state of Alabama is 93 percent of the national average. It stands to reason that Alabama would have more people designated as living in poverty when a national standard is used and Alabama per capita income is on the low end of the scale due to low labor force participation rates which, by the way, correlate with high school graduation rates.



The map below depicts 2009 high school graduation rates by state.



In a previous article, I showed how it is possible to estimate with 87 percent accuracy the per capita income for Alabama counties by considering the variables of education and labor force participation rate.



The point being that work and productivity provide income, which raises per capita income and community standard of living and quality of life. Job creation and employment are the tools required to fight poverty, and education is the key to both.

Businesses Needed For AIDT/SkillsUSA Career Expo

The Alabama Industrial Development Training, in collaboration with the Alabama Department of Career and Technical Education, will host the annual AIDT/SkillsUSA Career Expo Friday, April 25, 8 a.m. until noon at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex.

The purpose of the career expo is to provide career pathways, and potential post-secondary training/job opportunities to over 3,800 K-12 and college students in Alabama.

The Economic Development Association of Alabama is currently seeking existing business throughout the state to set up exhibits of their particular industry at the career expo. The purpose of the industry exhibits are so students can browse with different companies and find out additional information about the skill set, and education requirements for a specific industry and business.

There is no cost for the event. Additional event details, including the online registration information can be found at www.aidt.edu/skillsusa-registration/.

YOURCHAMBER

Attention Members!

If you know of a business interested in benefiting from joining the Chamber, please contact LaRhonda Robinson at (334) 792-5138 or lrobinson@dothan.com.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 SPOTLIGHT PARTICIPANTS

Advantage Staffing
 Affordable Dentures
 Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
 Alabama Telco Credit Union
 American Family Care
 Ameris Bank
 Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union
 ATC Services, LLC
 Atlanta Bread Co.
 Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon Inc.
 Larry Blumberg & Associates (LBA Hospitality)
 Charter Spices and Oils
 Circle Pharmacy
 Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
 Coleman World Group
 Comfort Suites
 Covenant Hospice
 Delectable Edibles & More
 Doctors Center Pharmacy
 Dothan Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Dothan Education Foundation
 Dothan Houston County Library System
Dothan Magazine
 Dothan Networking Alliance
 Enterprise Rent-A-Car
 Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention
 Extencicare Health & Rehabilitation Center
 Faulkner University

Five Star Credit Union
 Flowers Hospital
 Fort Rucker Morale, Welfare and Recreation
 Fortis College
 Gentiva Hospice
 George T. Bagby State Park & Lodge
 Harris Security Systems Inc.
 HEALTHSOUTH Rehabilitation Hospital
 Henry County Health & Rehabilitation Facility
 Highland Oaks Golf Course
 Hinson Communications Inc.
 Holloway Credit Solutions, LLC
 The Home Depot #0808
 Houston County Republican Women
 Hudson Office Supply Inc.
 Humana
 Jeffers Inc.
 The Joy FM 94.3
 The Landing & Five Star Catering
 M4 Development, LLC
 Manpower
 Mattress USA
 Mosquito Squad of the Wiregrass
 Oak & Olive
 Panhandle Converter Recycling
 Pans & Petals Catering
 R & L Enterprises Inc. dba Papa John's Pizza
 Party America

Prudential Showcase Properties
 Royal Cup Coffee
 Scenic Cable Network & Production
 ScreenTech
 SERVPRO of Dothan
 Slingluff United Insurance
 Southeast Alabama Gas District
 Southeast Pain Management Center
 The Terrace at Grove Park
 Todd & Sons
 TriState Graphics Inc.
 Troy Cable
 Troy University
 Tyndall Federal Credit Union
 Veterans Carpet Cleaning & Lawn Services, LLC
 Wallace Community College
 Weezers
 Westside Terrace & Rehab First
 Wiregrass Apps
 Wiregrass Commons Mall
 Wiregrass Hope Group
 Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center Inc.
 Wiregrass Warehouse Inc.
 Wireless Advantage
 Bob Woodall Air Care Systems Inc.

WOW! Business SPONSOR
 WTVY-TV Gray Television Group Inc.



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 e-mail celebraterecovery@harvestdothan.com. "You can't heal a wound by saying it's not there!"
- ▶ **Carmike Cinemas' Weekend "Kidtoon"**
Every Weekend • Times Vary
Dothan Pavilion. Carmike Cinemas will play a special "Kidtoon" every weekend for only \$5. For more information, contact the local theatre at (334) 836-0813 or visit www.carmike.com for show times. Some locations will be able to have a special showing on Tuesday mornings for schools and daycares to take advantage of Carmike's Stimulus Tuesdays.
- ▶ **1st Saturday Family Day**
March 1 • 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.
- ▶ **26th Annual Travel Extravaganza**
March 5 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The Landing at Fort Rucker. Come check out some amazing discounts and vacation destinations for all travelers. From day trips to week long, you'll find it here. Enter for a chance to win door prizes provided by the vendors. Door prizes will include attraction tickets, hotel stays, dinner show tickets and much more. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Leisure Travel Services at (334) 255-2997. Valid ID, vehicle registration and proof of insurance are required to enter Fort Rucker.
- ▶ **The Drowsy Chaperone**
March 11-15 • Times Vary
Dothan Opera House. The Southeast Alabama Community Theatre presents this Tony Award winning musical boldly addressing everyone's unspoken desire to be entertained. Nightly performances 7 p.m.; 2 p.m. Saturday matinee. Tickets are adults \$18; students, seniors and military \$15. Visit www.seact.com or call (334) 615-3175.
- ▶ **Complete Works of Shakespeare**
March 19-22 • 7 p.m.
Flagship Theatre. The Flagship Theatre presents the *Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$12 for adults. All middle school and high school students are encouraged to see this production. For more information, call (334) 699-FLAG(3524) or visit www.theflagshiptheatre.com.

Have an upcoming event planned?

Send your event information to mmckean@dothan.com

Coleman Appoints Sirhan HR Vice President



*Karla Sirhan,
Vice President of
Human Resources*

Coleman World Group is pleased to announce the promotion of Karla Sirhan to vice president of human resources. Sirhan oversees all human resources initiatives to include talent management, new associate recruitment, compensation, benefits and HR information systems.

Sirhan joined Coleman World Group in June 2013 and possesses over 15 years of HR experience. She holds

the professional designation of Senior Professional in Human Resources. She earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from Montreat College in Montreat, N.C.

Recently, Sirhan was instrumental in overhauling and upgrading Coleman World Group's HR information systems.

"Karla has quickly shown herself to be an important member of the Coleman World Group family," said Jeff Coleman, Coleman World Group president and

CEO. "Karla's many years of experience has presented our team with new 'forward thinking' ideas and structure in human resources management. She was instrumental in researching and implementing a new system for human resources management and time and attendance throughout our system. A well-structured system for HR will help us to continue to be a leader and an innovator in the moving and storage industry."

Coleman World Group is a full-service worldwide moving and storage company that is dedicated to serving the needs of corporations, governments and individuals. Coleman World Group is a family company and it is one of the largest privately held transportation companies headquartered in the Southeast.

The company operates over 50 service centers throughout the United States, a top 10 van line carrier, Covan World-Wide Moving, and Coleman American Moving Services, one of the largest agents for Allied Van Lines.

For more information about Coleman World Group, visit www.colemanwg.com or call (800) 239-7700.



Spirit of Service

Spirit Of Service 2014 Set For April 5

The Spirit of Service Task Force has begun making plans for the 25th Annual Houston County Spirit of Service Day, which will be held Saturday, April 5, 2014.

Houston County's annual Spirit of Service Day first began in 1990. The day was initially coordinated by the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Since 1996, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce has coordinated the activities.

This year's Spirit of Service Day is partnering with Houston County Gives Day. The main focus this year is to spotlight nonprofit organizations in Houston County and the valuable services they provide to our community.

Beautification projects will be underway throughout the county and 22 nonprofits will set up booths at Eagle Eye Outfitters in Dothan. The nonprofits will provide information on how their particular organization helps those in need.

In addition to the event at Eagle Eye Outfitters, volunteers will be needed at Landmark Park to help with a huge cleanup day, Wiregrass Habitat for Humanity will start a new home, Wiregrass Area Food Bank cleanup and packing brown bags. Spirit of Service Chairman Pat Thomas and the Task Force are recruiting volunteers to help with these projects and others throughout the county.

If you or your business would like to take part in the 2014 activities, or for more information about the activities planned, contact Linda Kelley, Chamber's director of community development, at (334) 792-5138 or lkelly@dothan.com.

A Day Of Giving And Learning

Houston County Gives Day

The third annual Houston County Gives Day will be held Saturday, April 5, 2014. Its mission is to educate the Wiregrass community on area nonprofits through a 24-hour period of intense public relations.

The goal is to connect potential and existing volunteers and donors with the nonprofits of their choice, thereby building a stronger community of resources to help those in need.

At least 22 nonprofits will again set up booths at Eagle Eye Outfitters. In partnership with the Spirit of Service Day, agency representatives will be on hand to answer questions and share valuable information on how their particular organization helps those in need. For a list of participating agencies, visit www.houstoncountygives.com.

During the event, donations can be made online from 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., and in person between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, visit www.houstoncountygives.com or follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/houstoncountygivesday.

American Cancer Society Hosts Gut Run



Gutsy moves prevent colorectal cancer and the American Cancer Society is teaming up once again with title sponsor, Digestive Health Specialists of the Southeast, for the third annual 10K/5K Gut Run and one-mile fun run/walk team event. This year's race will be held Saturday, March 15, at Kiwanis Park and will begin at 8 am. Registration information is available at www.active.com.

New for 2014 is the addition of teams, encouraged to walk in celebration of colon cancer survivors or in honor of loved ones who have lost their battle. Families, friends and the community are strongly encouraged to form teams and celebrate the fight against this preventable disease.

Teams will be awarded prizes for categories such as best dressed, most money raised and most participants on a team. You can help the American Cancer Society share the news that NO ONE should lose this fight and education and prevention is the key to winning against colorectal cancer.

Proceeds from this event benefit the Wiregrass area. The American Cancer Society recognizes that one in two men and one in three women in their lifetime will be diagnosed with cancer. Monies raised through this event allow colorectal cancer patients within our area to participate in free programs and services.

For more information on participating, or sponsoring the 2014 Gut Run 10K/5K/1M event, call (334) 670-8174 or visit "The Gut Run" on Facebook. After all, do you have the guts to help prevent colon cancer?

WDHN Continues To Show Community Support

Tri-State BBQ Festival

Local ABS affiliate, WDHN TV-18, continues to show its community support by partnering again this year with the Tri-State BBQ to present the 2014 festival, April 11-12, at the Houston County Farm Center.

Friday night is the BBQ Bash and a concert featuring the popular KJAMS. There will be great food and drinks for sale, a kids area open from 5-9 p.m. and the concert at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, gates will be open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. There will be a car show from 10 a.m. until 2

p.m. and barbecue sampling at 2:30 p.m. There will also be music all day long. And be sure not to miss the barbecue awards of over \$11,000 being presented on the stage at 5:30 p.m.

Advance weekend passes are only available until April 1 at the cost of just \$10 each and are good for both days. Otherwise, the cost is \$10 per person, per day at the gate, with children 6 and under free. Active duty military and students are just \$5 with ID.

For more information, visit <http://tristatebbq.com/tag/dothan/>.

17th Annual Community-Wide Prayer Breakfast

April 8 • 7:30 a.m.

Dothan Civic Center



Guest Speaker
Robert M. (Buster) Holmes

Dothan's own Buster Holmes will be the guest speaker at the 17th Annual Community-Wide Prayer Breakfast at the Dothan Civic Center Tuesday, April 8, at 7:30 a.m.

Holmes was educated in Dothan public schools and is a product of First Presbyterian Church. Since his college days at Auburn University, he has been involved in ministry with Youth With A Mission, Campus Crusade For Christ or Mastermedia International Inc. West Coast, where he now serves as president.

Individual tickets are now on sale for \$12.50 at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. Corporate tables of eight are \$110. To purchase a ticket by phone with a credit card, or for more information, call Janice Shepard at (334) 792-5138 or e-mail janice@dothan.com.

Come Enjoy A Night Of Bowling



Grab your friends and join the Dothan Area Young Professionals Friday, April 4, for a night of bowling beginning at 6:15 p.m. All proceeds help fund DAYP's annual operating budget.

The cost per team (four people) is \$120, which includes two games, shoes and a team trophy for the tournament winner.

There are only 22 team slots available, so interested participants are encouraged to turn in their registration form and money to claim a lane.

To get your team's registration form, or for more information, contact Aaron Craig at (334) 648-0466 or e-mail craig@fivestarcu.com or Hunter Green hgreen@toddandsons.com

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Wesley Manor Offers Quality Improvement Update Program

Quality improvement is an everyday term in the health care arena, and Wesley Manor Retirement Center continually strives to improve its care. With education being an important part in moving change forward, the Southeast Area Regional Council on Aging, Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation and Wesley Manor will offer a Quality Improvement Update program to the health care community Thursday, March 20, 5-7 p.m.

Topics for the program include Care Transitions, a specialized program provided by SARCOA to assist families with transitioning from hospital care to home; and Patient Safety and Pharmacy Collaborative, a national quality improvement initiative for the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services.

Wesley Manor Retirement Community is participating in PSpC and has achieved national recognition. One of only nine skilled nursing facilities across the nation, Wesley Manor is the only nursing home in Alabama to achieve this recognition.

The event will be held at Wesley Manor and health care professionals can receive one CEU credit for the free program. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. with refreshments. The program will conclude at 7 p.m.

To register for the program, or for more information, call Wesley Manor at (334) 792-0921.

“Wolves Among Our Lambs” Class Being Offered

Friend Bank announces plans to support the efforts of the Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention. This community partner is a trusted resource to help parents navigate the difficult task of raising healthy, happy kids.

Exchange Center Executive Director Pamela Miles will teach a class titled Wolves Among Our Lambs at the Slocomb branch (220 E. Lawrence Harris Highway) Monday, March 10, at 5:30 p.m. This class for parents helps them recognize the red flags that can signal trouble within a child’s personal relationships, including those online.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited. The class is free and open to the public. To register, or for more information, contact Amy Van Hoose at (334) 886-2367 or visit the Friend Bank Facebook page.

Friend Bank also encourages the community to support the work of the Exchange Center, as they provide no cost services to families right here in our community, by purchasing tickets for the Fourth Annual Mardi Gras Ball Saturday, March 1, from 7-11 p.m. at St. Andrews Market. Ticket information and event details can also be found on the bank’s Facebook page.

Friend Bank is a third-generation family business and one of Alabama’s oldest community banks. The bank operates two full-service banking offices, one in Slocomb and one in Dothan and a loan office in Geneva. For more information, contact Ann Marie Cook at (334) 792-2550, e-mail acook@friendbank.net or visit www.friendbank.net

Kirkland Jewelry Approved For American Gem Society Membership

Kirkland Jewelry is proud to announce it was approved for firm membership in the American Gem Society. The American Gem Society is an international association of fine jewelry professionals dedicated to proven ethics, knowledge and consumer protection.

AGS awards professional titles to member firms that have an established jewelry business and have earned an unquestionable reputation for ethics and honesty in their community.

Kirkland Jewelry has Pat Costello on staff who holds a Certified Gemologist Certificate with the American Gem Society. He has been employed with Kirkland Jewelry for the past four years and is there to take care of all appraisal needs.

Kirkland Jewelry is a locally family-owned jewelry store where building relationships has been their business since 1958.

“We take pride in our excellent customer service, quality jewelry, personal staff and most of all, the very best selection of unique jewelry at affordable prices.

It is an honor to be inducted into the American Gem Society,” stated Ken Kirkland. “Please come in and let us show you the difference a full-service jewelry store can make from taking care of the most treasured and valuable items to repairing, appraising and custom designing that one-of-a-kind piece of jewelry for you.”

For more information, contact Kirkland Jewelry at (334) 793-1793. For more information about the AGS award, visit www.americangemsociety.org.



Kirkland Jewelry was recently approved for firm membership in the American Gem Society.

Dothan Eagle Presents Home And Garden Expo

The 2014 Wiregrass Home and Garden Expo will be held Friday, March 14, and Saturday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Dothan Civic Center. Admission is \$5 per day, and tickets are on sale at the Dothan Civic Center Box Office.

Stop by and see the latest in landscaping; decorating

ideas; floor covering; kitchen and bath makeovers; windows, doors and siding; home products and services; and other great products for you home.

For more information, call the *Dothan Eagle* at (334) 702-2600 or visit www.dothaneagle.com/homeexpo.

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Four Star Freightliner Sales Manager Receives Elite Recognition



Truman Ingram,
Account Manager

Four Star Freightliner's Utility and Municipal Account Manager Truman Ingram recently received an honor that only nine people in North America have received for work done in 2013. Ingram, who has received numerous other awards and recognition, was named an Elite Winner for 2013.

The Leland James Sales Achievement Program, named after the company's founder, recognizes the best sales managers in the Freightliner Dealer Network. The awards are based on the amount of units sold.

"I was surprised," Ingram said. "I was not expecting it whatsoever. It's nice that your hard work is recognized by Freightliner corporate and that they do something like this for you."

Ingram and more than 19 other Elite winners

were treated to a trip and special awards ceremony in Charleston, S.C. Ten of those winners were selected for on-highway sales. Ingram was chosen because of vocational (utility and municipal) sales.

"It's nice to be recognized," added Ingram. "We obviously work hard and I've been fortunate to work with a lot of good people who bought a lot of trucks this past year."

As for winning the award again, Ingram said that Four Star is headed in that direction and this year is shaping up to be better than last year.

Four Star Freightliner prides itself on providing customers with world class truck products from Daimler (Freightliner, Western Star and Fuso) and a full spectrum of services. It maintains one of the most comprehensive networks of dealerships and service centers in the Southeast.

Freightliner has five locations to support customers' needs: Montgomery and Dothan, Ala.; Tifton and Valdosta, Ga.; and Tallahassee, Fla.

BBVA Compass Makes Local Donation

BBVA Compass Bank recently presented a \$50,000 gift to the Southeast Alabama Medical Center Foundation. The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine was presented a check for \$25,000 as their share of the gift and the remaining \$25,000 will be available to the Medical Center to assist with future programs and services.

The check was presented to the Foundation by retiring BBVA Compass President Steve McCarroll and Jeff Williams, who is now serving as president of the bank in the Dothan market.

Launched in 2006, the Southeast Alabama Medical Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is dedicated to developing a strong base of philanthropic support to help SAMC and its affiliates provide quality health care and promote wellness.

The Foundation seeks and receives charitable gifts to help the Medical Center enhance services, build new facilities, provide medical education and on-going training for health care professionals, fund cutting-edge equipment and technology, and bring unique and specialized services to the regional community faster than before.

Gifts can be made in honor or memory of a health care professional, family member or friend, and can be designated for one or more areas of the hospital or the new Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine.

For more information, call (334) 673-4150 or visit www.samcfoundation.org.



BBVA Compass Bank recently presented a \$50,000 gift to the Southeast Alabama Medical Center Foundation. Pictured (l-r) are Angie Casey, SAMC Foundation major gifts officer; Steve McCarroll, retiring BBVA Dothan market president; Jeff Williams, BBVA Compass Dothan market president; Valerie Barnes, SAMC Foundation executive director; and Ron Owen, SAMC chief operating officer and Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine president.

Ace Hardware Adds New Paint Line

Ace Hardware and Nursery is excited to welcome the addition of Clark & Kensington and Valspar paint to its line. Along with the addition comes a completely remodeled paint department presenting a bright, inviting and fresh appearance.

With the new additions, Ace Hardware is fully capable of meeting all their customers' painting

needs. They welcome individuals, designers and contractors to come by and visit the Dothan store, located at 2541 Ross Clark Circle.

For more information, contact Store Manager Brandon Watford at (334) 792-4121. Their friendly and helpful sales staff looks forward to helping add color to your life.

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Phillips Completes PHR Certification



Anna Brooke Phillips,
Director of Operations

Personnel Resources is pleased to announce that Anna Brooke Phillips, director of operations, has successfully completed her Professional in Human Resources certification.

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To partner with Phillips or one of the other experts at Personnel Resources, call (334) 794-8722 or visit www.prdothan.com.

Chamber Committee Presents JROTC Cadet Leadership Awards

During its regular quarterly meeting, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee honored five local area high school JROTC cadets for their outstanding leadership and performance during the current 2013-2014 school year.

The committee annually dedicates a meeting to honoring the cadets and their commanders in order to show its appreciation and support of the local JROTC programs.

Col. Tom Boyle (Ret.), Military Affairs Committee chairman, presented the Cadet of the Year Leadership awards to:

1. **Cadet 2nd Lt. Nick Flores**
Carroll High School Army JROTC
Commander: First Sgt. Anthony Hill accepting on behalf of Chief Len Stanford
2. **Cadet Maj. Marco Zuniga**
Daleville High School Army JROTC
Commander: Lt. Col. (Ret.) Christopher Miller
3. **Cadet Capt. Jessica Majors**
Dothan High School Army JROTC
Commander: Chief Robert Irvine accepting on behalf of Sgt. Maj. Tracy Adams

4. **Cadet Lt. Col. Monica Green**
Northview High School Marine JROTC
Commander: Maj. Danny Odom

5. **Cadet Lt. Cmdr. Angela Brown**
Rehobeth High School Navy JROTC
Commander: Maj. Danny Odom accepting on behalf of Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Treude

"The Military Affairs Committee is proud to have the opportunity to honor these outstanding students and their commanders," stated Boyle. Our committee looks forward to recognizing these cadets each year and this is just one avenue this committee takes to meet our goal of enhancing the positive interaction between the Dothan area community, Fort Rucker and the area's military command and personnel."

During the presentations, the cadets and their commanders had the opportunity to talk about their involvement in the JROTC program and future plans. Several also expressed their gratitude to the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and the Military Affairs Committee for this special recognition. Currently, the Dothan Area Chamber is the only area chamber that holds such an activity in their honor.



The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee presents Cadet of the Year Leadership awards to five local area high school JROTC cadets. Pictured (l-r) are Cadet Lt. Cmdr. Angela Brown, Rehobeth High School Navy JROTC; Mayor Mike Schmitz, City of Dothan; Cadet Lt. Col. Monica Green and Maj. Danny Odom, Northview High School Marine JROTC; Col. Tom Boyle (Ret.), Military Affairs Committee chairman; Lt. Col. (Ret.) Christopher Miller and Cadet Maj. Marco Zuniga, Daleville High School Army JROTC; Chief Robert Irvin and Cadet Capt. Jessica Majors, Dothan High School Army JROTC; First Sgt. Anthony Hill and Cadet 2nd Lt. Nick Flores, Carroll High School Army JROTC.

Stakelum Launches Local Marketing Firm



Nick Stakelum

Nick Stakelum had his eye on a new creative goal when he decided to leave his position as *Dothan Magazine's* editor and art director late last year. He created TGICreative Services, a new Dothan-based marketing services agency which provides clients with a polished and unified vision for all its text, graphic and image needs.

As an experienced writer, designer and photographer, Stakelum says it's crucial for all three methods of presenting information to work together in support of a message.

"I have a passion for developing creative ways of presenting information to the public," said Stakelum. "And no matter what message you're trying to communicate, you'll always find that you need to use

some combination of text, graphics or images to do it. Through TGICreative, I'm excited to be helping clients define and refine that message."

In addition to full-service print marketing, copywriting, branding, graphic design and photography services, the company also helps clients with online content development.

"You might have a fantastic website, but how often do your visitors return to it?" asked Stakelum. "It's important to keep your website updated with valuable information that keeps readers engaged. I'm now working with clients to create original content through articles, interviews and photo galleries for their sites. Using social media and other means to promote new content, you can increase your site's traffic while continuing to inform readers about what you do -- and keep them coming back."

For more information about TGICreative, call Stakelum at (334) 796-3540 or visit www.tgicreativeservices.com.

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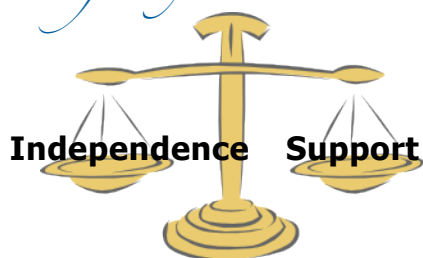
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Boyd Joins Home Mortgage Of America



*Pam Boyd,
Loan Originator*

Home Mortgage of America Inc. is excited to announce Pam Boyd has joined its team as a loan originator. Boyd has been in the mortgage industry since 1996. She has been with Synovus/CBT for the past 10 years to which she was honored in the Chairman's Club and as a Top Producer corporate wide.

Boyd is a graduate from Troy University and a member at Wiregrass Church. She is married to Bobby Boyd and together they have a daughter, Baylor.

Providing a wealth of knowledge and great customer service, Boyd is eager to help individuals with their home mortgage. Home Mortgage of America knows that she will be a valuable asset to the company.

Stop by and visit Boyd at the Dothan office located at 3230 Ross Clark Circle or give her a call at (334) 618-4596 (cell) or (334) 712-9170 (office).

Zonta Club To Host International Food Festival

The Zonta Club of Dothan will present the 27th Annual International Food Festival Monday, March 24, at Calvary Baptist Church. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Come enjoy different foods and entertainment from around the world. Tickets are \$25 each and reserved tables are available with tickets. Sponsorships are also available.

For more information, contact Tami Page at (334) 618-2791 or Angie McKinney at (334) 714-8958.

James Bowman Realty Announces New Property Manager



*Carrie Blankenship,
Property Manager*

James Bowman Realty is pleased to announce it has a new property manager, Carrie Blankenship. A licensed realtor, Blankenship will manage the realty company's property management department.

Blankenship has many years of residential experience in the area and looks forward to helping homeowners and tenants connect to give them

professional management of each individual property.

James Bowman Realty offers the Wiregrass area professional leasing and management of rental homes, office spaces and lots for mobile homes. They provide personal service and with over 35 years in real estate, have an outstanding history in the area.

To find out more, call the office at (334) 794-7211 or visit www.dothanforsale.com.

APAC Mid-South Wins National Award

The National Asphalt Pavement Association announced recently that APAC Mid-South Inc., an Oldcastle Materials Co., has won a 2013 Quality In Construction Award for excellence in construction of an asphalt pavement.

"As an industry, asphalt pavement producers have devoted a great deal of time and effort to determining the best practices necessary to construct long-lasting, high-quality asphalt pavements that offer durable performance pavement owners and the public value," stated John J Keating, NAPA Board of Directors 2013 chairman. "The Quality In Construction awards compare nominated pavements against best practices and standards, and honor those that exemplify excellence in construction standards, such

as the project completed by APAC Mid-South Inc."

APAC Mid-South Inc. won the award for the mill and overlay of U.S. Highway 84 in Houston County. Work also included the removal of existing crossovers, construction of new turn lanes and crossovers and the installation of 30-inch curb and gutter. Traffic control was a challenge because the road tied into one of the busiest intersections on Ross Clark Circle, which serves the Southeast Alabama Medical Center.

The company incorporated green paving techniques into the project including the use of warm-mix asphalt and the use of reclaimed asphalt pavement and recycled asphalt shingles in the mix. APAC Mid-South produced a smooth, durable and safe road for area residents.

Express Employment Professionals To Present Refresh Leadership Live Simulcast

Dothan Express Employment Professionals will present the fifth Refresh Leadership Live Simulcast Wednesday, April 16, from 8 a.m. until noon at Wiregrass Rehabilitation Services Inc.'s Sterling Event Services Rotary Hall.

The event provides the opportunity for participants to come together with members of the business community to learn more about the principles of leadership. Participants will also learn about great leadership from an incredible lineup of speakers who will share their insights and experiences.

During the event Whole Foods Market co-founder and co-CEO John Mackey will discuss how

leaders can personally grow and evolve, and in turn, encourage growth and engage employees within their companies; Sports broadcasting legend Dick Vitale will share, with boundless humor and optimism, how the lessons he has learned from sports can be used to meet the problems of life head-on; and professional speaker Christine Cashen will wrap things up with the secret to getting what you want with what you've got in order to make a difference in your workplace and your life.

For more information or to register, visit www.refreshleadership.com/live.

Doctors.

Our hospital makes a difference because our doctors do. Every day, doctors touch the lives of individuals and families across our community. So in honor of National Doctors' Day, we proudly acknowledge the accomplishments of the doctors on our medical staff and thank them for bringing so much healing and dedication to our hospital and patients.

Celebrate National Doctors' Day, March 30.



Flowers Hospital

FlowersHospital.com



Fort Rucker Exchange Seeks Vendors

Are you a small business looking to expand? Fort Rucker's Exchange (PX) is currently seeking both a short-term and long-term vendor for its facility. Vendors including food, crafts, sports, jewelry, etc. are welcome and encouraged to consider the Fort Rucker PX for their business.

To be a vendor is very easy. Vendors don't have to pay for rent, utilities or area maintenance fees. There is also a variety of space and merchandise set ups available. The

Exchange receives a fee based upon a vendor's sales. Fees are negotiable and can start from 10-25 percent. A signed contract is good for one year.

If your company is interesting in locating or expanding to Fort Rucker, or for more information, contact Apple Olsen, Fort Rucker Army and Air Force Exchange, at (334) 503-9338, ext 107, (334) 235-0156 or e-mail olsenp@aafes.com.

Visit their online store at www.shopmyexchange.com.

Highlands Elementary Conducts Seussapalooza Fundraiser

Highlands Elementary officials are pleased to present their new reading-themed spring fundraising event, Seussapalooza, a Dr. Seuss-themed event that will celebrate Dr. Seuss Friday, March 7. Students will listen to Dr. Seuss books, play Seuss-themed games and make Seuss-themed crafts and the day will culminate in a parade.

Highlands Elementary School is the only non-magnet school within the Dothan City School system that does not qualify for Title I funds for serving high-poverty students. While other schools may receive more than \$300,000 per year for technology and other expenditures, Highlands relies on fundraising efforts to meet those needs.

This year's fundraising goal is to purchase two classroom iPad carts to be shared throughout the school at a cost of \$31,000. The use of iPads in the classroom has revolutionized teaching methods and has proven extremely beneficial for teacher/student collaborative education.

New this year, Highlands Elementary has taken its fundraiser online providing a new "Donate" button on the school's website at <http://highlands.al.dcc.schoolinsites.com/>. No more need to hassle with writing a check, you can just donate via your PayPal account.

Are You A Member-To-Member Participant?

Through the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Member-to-Member Discount Card program, members are encouraged to network with and buy from other members. The program has seen a huge response from members and their employees since inception.

Today the card continues to offer discounts off services and products from over 25 participating Chamber members upon presentation. Are you a participant? Being a participant not only helps promote your business, but also demonstrates your membership commitment.

Any Chamber member may participate in the

program by deciding on the discount or promotion to offer. Participation in the program is all voluntary, and the only requirement is that the discount be offered for at least 30 days.

A current and printable version of the Participating Chamber Member Discount List is available on the Chamber's website www.dothan.com under the "Chamber" tab for easy reference. The list is updated monthly.

For more information about this Chamber benefit or to become a participant, call LaRhonda Robinson, director of membership, at (334) 792-5138 or lrobinson@dothan.com.



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

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 over 950 members, the Chamber is committed to the sustained growth and prosperity of the region.

WEBSITE

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.

Community Resources For Small Business

Our community is fortunate to be filled with resources to assist in business start-up and development. These resources include: the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Troy University Small Business Development Center and its developing Ethics and Entrepreneurship Center, Auburn Cooperative Extension System, the Mixson Business Center, "The Nest" retail incubator, the entrepreneurial committee of the Mayor's Economic Summit on Jobs and the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission with their microloan and revolving loan programs.

The latest addition to our gallery of resources is the two new public libraries that will have areas dedicated to small business assistance. Over 55 percent of the

businesses throughout the United States employ less than five people and the majority of job creation every year is due to new and expanding small business.

According to Steve Turkoski, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's workforce development coordinator and projects manager, says that small business is the backbone of our community, but one other entity holds that spot in his opinion and that is our schools. Not only are the schools major employers, but they are centers for the mental, cultural, social, artistic and physical development of our youth.

Between the development of our youth and the programs supporting entrepreneurship and small business, we are poised to make or mark in this innovation-based economy.



Small Business Seminar

Hire Right! How To Create A Blueprint For Finding Great Employees

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

Presented by Mary Beth Reynolds and Jane Fletcher, these ladies have been helping companies

build great teams for over 18 years. They will assist you in constructing an employment toolkit for finding valued employees.

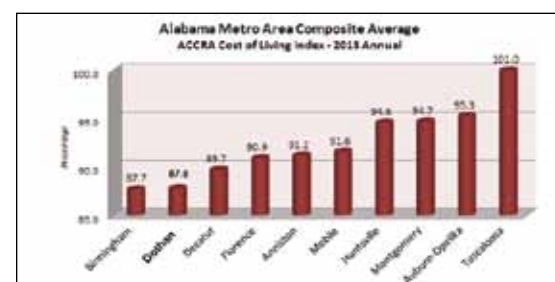
The cost to attend is \$10 per person, which includes a box lunch. Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, April 8, at noon. To reserve your seat, contact Susan Tatom at (334) 792-5138.

Dothan Annual MSA Second Lowest ACCRA 2013 Annual Cost-Of-Living Index

ACCRA recently released its' *Cost-Of-Living Index* report that provided the average annual data for the year 2013.

In the annual report, 10 metropolitan statistical areas were included in the Alabama data, with Dothan reporting the second lowest composite index in the state at 87.8 percent, falling a tenth of a point above Birmingham which was at 87.7.

The composite index is based on six components – Grocery Items, Housing, Utilities, Transportation, Health Care and Miscellaneous Goods and Services. Out of the six, the Dothan MSA had the lowest index in three categories: Utilities 90.3, Health Care 82.6 and Miscellaneous Goods and Services 87.7 percent.



What Does A Dozen Of Eggs Cost In Alabama? ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)

Annual 2013

Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Huntsville, Ala.	\$1.55
2	Decatur-Hartselle, Ala.	\$1.57
3	Florence, Ala.	\$1.61
4	Birmingham, Ala.	\$1.77
5	Auburn-Opelika, Ala.	\$1.81
6	Dothan, Ala.	\$1.88
7 & 8	Mobile and Tuscaloosa, Ala.	\$1.93
9 & 10	Anniston and Montgomery, Ala.	\$1.95

The ACCRA Cost of Living Index is published quarterly by C2ER – The Council for Community and Economic Research. The *Index* measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile. It is based on more than 50,000 prices covering almost 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations or university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Small differences should not be interpreted as showing a measurable difference.

Small Business Tip

How to keep your best workers from jumping ship
Tess Taylor writes a strong compensation package will help a business hold on to its best workers, but it's not the only factor in employee retention. You can also limit turnover by creating a positive culture, providing workers with learning opportunities and establishing a clear set of values. Read more: www.payscale.com/compensation-today/2013/12/7-tips-for-hiring-and-retention-of-top-performing-employees. (Source: *PayScale.com/Compensation Today* blog, Tess Taylor, "7 tips for hiring and retention of top performing employees," Dec. 6, 2013.)

6th Annual WIREGRASS ECONOMIC FORUM

Presented by CapSouth Partners

We are pleased to announce the 2014 Featured Speaker:

Dr. David Bronner
CEO, Retirement Systems of Alabama



Join Us April 24th!

Table Sponsor -----\$350.00
Includes a reserved table for eight, recognition in the program, and an advertisement slide in the presentation that will be rolling before and after the program.

Individual Tickets -----\$20.00

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

Thank you to our Forum Partners:



Who

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

When

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

Where

Wiregrass Church
900 W. Main Street
Dothan, Alabama

What

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



Nomination Form
Deadline: May 2, 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name: _____

Business/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Person Nominating Candidate: _____

Business/Organization: _____

Either mail or fax this form to:

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

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



Laureate Nomination Form

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

Name of Nominee: _____

Born (date and place): _____

Deceased (date and place): _____

Company/Organization (if currently employed): _____

Work Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Web Address: _____

Work E-mail: _____

Present Title/Position: _____

No. of Years: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

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

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

Nomination Submitted By: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

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

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

CONNECTIONS

March 2014

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APAC Wins National Award

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DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



C H A M B E R

CONNECTIONS

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ECONOMIC INDICATORS

▼	Labor Force for the Dothan MSA for December: 63,397 in 2012; 62,068 in 2013
▼	Unemployment for the Dothan MSA for December: 6.5% in 2012; 5.5% in 2013
▲	Residential Building Permits for the City of Dothan for December: 13 issued (\$3.53 million) in 2012; 16 issued (\$4.55 million) in 2013
▲	Home Sales in Dothan for December: 67 sold in 2012; 73 sold in 2013
▲	Enplanements for Dothan Regional Airport for December: 3,336 in 2012; 4,732 in 2013
▲	Houston County Sales and Use Tax for December: \$1,378,380 in 2012; \$1,510,351 in 2013

Editor's Note: Sources for this information vary; call the Chamber for details. Data as of 2/6/14. Visit www.dothan.com for the most current information.