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June 2018

Directions

A PUBLICATION OF THE DECATUR-MORGAN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Small Business Awards Celebration



Michael Tubbs



Mary Ila Ward



Tyler Jones

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I am happy to know the Chamber is concerned about the professional growth and development of the workforce population in our community. The Chamber offers opportunities and events for growth such as Breakfast & Biz, the Young Professional Leadership Luncheons, Excellence in Leadership, Edge Student Leadership, and Equip Student Leadership. Through the workforce and education mission of the Chamber, it is clear their goal is to *'expand public and private workforce training efforts for the emerging, unemployed, and underemployed workers in Morgan County'* while ensuring they produce quality business leaders and workforce personnel in our area. My Chamber membership is invaluable, and that is why we belong.

Yvette Rice
President and Owner
LLVE, LLC



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Chamber of Commerce**

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Deputy Chief of Staff, Business Council of Alabama
Executive Director, Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure

W^A Word
from *your* chamber

All over the state, at every level of government, the issue of fixing Alabama's crumbling road and bridge system is a policy matter that has risen to the forefront over the past few years.

Alabamians are looking for answers to address the ever-growing list of road and bridge problems that plague our state, county and city roadways.

Maintaining a safe and effective road and bridge system is an essential government service and is crucial to attracting and retaining job creators and growing our economy.

That's why the Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure (AAI) is leading the charge to solve this issue by connecting the public and the business community with the lawmakers responsible for improving Alabama's transportation infrastructure.

Alabamians simply can't afford to continue to drive on deficient roads which

cost Alabama drivers a total of \$4.2 billion annually in the form of additional vehicle operating costs, congestion-related delays and traffic crashes.

Business executives rank quality infrastructure as the second most important factor when selecting a new site. If Alabama is going to continue to recruit new industry, such as Mazda-Toyota, or encourage the expansion of existing industry, then we are going to have to address this critical issue.

Solving this issue will require a plan that invests significantly more dollars into Alabama's transportation system on an annual basis. A majority of this additional revenue will need to come from Alabama's primary source of transportation funding, the user-based state gas tax. This user-fee sits at 18 cents per gallon, currently the fifth lowest in the country, and has remained at that level since it was last increased by the legislature in 1992.

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Nathaniel Richardson, Jr., Decatur Morgan Hospital

Kelly Thomas, Courtyard by Marriott (President, Decatur Jaycees)

Terry White, Edward Jones

Member Spotlight

Huntsville International Airport Celebrates 50 Years



The Port of Huntsville is the bridge that connects our community to the rest of the world and so in turn it is a highly sought after location for businesses, industries and travelers alike. Home to the Huntsville International Airport (HSV), Jetplex Industrial Park (JIP) and the International Intermodal Center (IIC), the Port of Huntsville creates efficient and economical solutions for customers and helps stimulate the local economy through a strong transportation infrastructure, global connectivity and innovative improvements. In October 2017, Huntsville International Airport kicked off the celebration of 50 years of serving this region of Alabama and Tennessee. As a part of the celebration, the airport has been elevating and creating events as give backs to its customers and community.

The Port of Huntsville plays a major role in the economic growth and development of the Tennessee Valley region. A large factor helping to stimulate growth is the Jetplex Industrial Park, centrally located in one of the fastest growing high technology communities in the United States. From this strategic southeastern location, the 4,000 acre JIP offers a rare combination of air, rail and truck transportation, as well as a

high quality workforce available within a 50-mile / 45-minute commuting radius throughout north Alabama and portions of southern Tennessee. With on-site U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Foreign-Trade Zone No. 83, the Port of Huntsville's Jetplex Industrial Park offers an inviting and lucrative solution to customers looking to relocate, or expand operations.

The International Intermodal Center, located in the Port of Huntsville's Global Logistics Park, celebrated 30 years of operation in 2017. It provides a single hub location specializing in receiving, transferring, storing and distributing international and domestic cargo via air, rail and highway. The IIC rail terminal is served by Norfolk Southern, with dedicated stack train service to and from both east coast and west coast ports. U.S. Customs and Border Protection port inspectors, USDA inspectors, freight forwarders and customs brokers are all located on-site. Highly accessible via the interstate highway system, the Port of Huntsville is strategically located to serve the Tennessee Valley region and beyond.

Huntsville International Airport is ranked as the 17th largest airport in the U.S.

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Member Spotlight continued

for international air cargo freight. This is due largely to the partnership that has lasted just shy of 30 years between the Port of Huntsville and Panalpina. "Our partnership with Panalpina is a vital component in marketing the city of Huntsville for economic development in the global arena," said Richard Tucker, executive director of the Port of Huntsville. Cargo Carriers located at HSV are Atlas Air, Cargolux Airlines, Federal Express, Panalpina and UPS. This high-tech air cargo market is served by domestic and international all-cargo carriers. Weekly international nonstop is available to Europe, Mexico, Hong Kong and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Huntsville International Airport is the largest commercial airport in north Alabama, serving more than 1.2 mil-

lion passengers annually. HSV is known throughout its 18-county service region for outstanding customer service, state-of-the-art technology and convenience. Unlike larger metropolitan areas, the airspace at HSV is uncongested and allows for faster landing and take-off times.

The airport handles more than 56 passenger flights daily and has Alabama's only non-stop international air cargo service. There are two parallel runways - 12,600-foot runway (second-longest runway in the Southeast U.S.) and 10,000-foot runway; runways with 5,000 foot separation for simultaneous takeoff/landing. Also, it has an Instrument Landing System (ILS) on all four runway approaches and is Group VI aircraft capable.

HSV has nonstop service to nine destinations, including: Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston and two airports in Washington D.C. - Dulles and National. In September, Silver Airways will begin service to Orlando, adding a tenth nonstop travel destination for HSV. The airport is quick and easy to navigate, and very convenient to all the attractions and businesses located in north Alabama. Major capital improvements to the baggage claim area, parking deck, public waiting, security check-in and Four Points by Sheraton Hotel - all help to make the traveler's experience at HSV more enjoyable. Fly Local. Fly Smart. Fly HSV!



Save the Date!

The Clay Shoot Classic

Friday, June 22 / All Day
Limestone Preserve, Ardmore, Ala.

YP Leadership Luncheon

Tuesday, June 26 / 12 - 1 p.m.
CSFCO Board Room at the Chamber
Presented by Ascend Performance Materials

Office closed Wednesday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday

Coffee & Cards

Thursday, July 19 / 7:30 - 9 a.m.
Hosted and presented by the Doubletree
by Hilton Decatur Riverfront

Morgan County Schools New Teacher Breakfast

Tuesday, July 24 / 7:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church, Decatur

Three community leaders recognized at Small Business Awards Celebration



Mary Ila Ward acknowledged the “giants” who have tremendously impacted her while accepting the Arthur Orr Young Professional of the Year award at the annual Small Business Awards Celebration.



Michael Tubbs of Community Action Partnership of North Alabama highlighted the efforts of their organization and their meaningful partnerships while accepting the Lynn C. Fowler Non-Profit Professional of the Year award at the annual Small Business Awards Celebration.

On May 17, three area professionals were honored by the Chamber of Commerce at the annual Small Business Awards Celebration for their innovation, creativity and commitment to our city’s quality of life.

Tyler Jones, owner of The RailYard, Whisk’D Café and High Point Market was named the Raymon Baker - John Cook - Ralph Jones Small Business Person of the Year; Mary Ila Ward, owner and president of Horizon Point Consulting, was named the Arthur Orr Young Professional of the Year; and Michael Tubbs, chief executive officer of Community Action Partnership of North Alabama, was named the Lynn C. Fowler Non-Profit Professional of the Year. The luncheon was presented by **Redstone Federal Credit Union** and held at the Doubletree by Hilton Decatur Riverfront.

“Decatur has some tremendous business leaders in our community, and we are excited to celebrate Tyler,

Mary Ila and Mike this year,” said John Seymour, president and CEO of the Chamber. “Each are leaders in their fields and go to work each day wanting to do better than they did the day before. Those are the type of creative and innovative citizens that give our community a strong workforce that gives back to our area. Every day, their work makes Decatur-Morgan County a great place to live and work.”

Jones founded The RailYard in August of 2015 and has developed the restaurant into a regional destination specializing in locally sourced, “farm to fork” upscale southern cuisine. He is also the founder and owner of Whisk’D Café, a breakfast and brunch restaurant located in Decatur’s Albany Historic District, as well as High Point Market, a café and fresh goods market also located in downtown. Each of his ventures have played key roles in the successful redevelopment and revitalization of downtown, while bring-

ing new products and dining options to our hospitality community. Among his long list of community engagements, he is a Decatur Downtown Redevelopment Authority board member, a Decatur Downtown Merchant Association board member, a United Way Allocation Ambassador, was awarded the 2017 Decatur Morgan County Tourism “Mr. Tourism” award, and this year was awarded the Volunteer Center of Morgan County’s “Hero on Demand” award for 2018. A native of Decatur, Jones is a graduate of Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Ala., where he serves as an international alumni board member. He and his wife Anna – owner of Breathe Yoga Barre in Decatur – and their son live in Decatur.

Ward is president of Horizon Point Consulting, a company she established in 2011. With a background in corporate recruiting, economic and workforce development, talent management and leadership coaching,

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Small Business Awards continued



Tyler Jones expressed his appreciation for family, friends, staff and his grandfather Ralph Jones while accepting the Raymon Baker-John Cook-Ralph Jones Small Business Person of the Year award at the annual Small Business Award Presentation.



During the event, 36 members of the Chamber's Excellence in Leadership graduated following the 10-month program.

she helps employers and communities focus on growth using forward-thinking practices that are grounded in research, science and analytics. As a leadership and human resources trainer, she has worked with businesses and non-profit organizations across the country, served as a subject matter expert speaker at HR conferences, and written for news websites including the Huffington Post. Locally, she is the past president of the Decatur City Schools Foundation Board, previous board member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Managers (SHRM), previous board member of the North Alabama Society for Human Resource Management, a current board member for CASA of North Alabama, and president-elect of the Alabama Chapter of SHRM. Ward has a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and a master's degree in industrial and organizational psychology from Middle Tennessee State University. Ward and her husband Drew live in Decatur with their two children.

Tubbs is the chief executive officer of the Community Action Partnership of North Alabama, a position he's held since 2005. From its base in Decatur, the Partnership's more than 600 employees produce a broad range of comprehensive results for families in 28 Alabama counties where its primary mission is to reduce or eliminate the causes and consequences of poverty. The Partnership is the largest non-profit in north Alabama, and as a NeighborWorks affiliate is one of the largest developers of affordable housing in Alabama. Before joining the Partnership, Tubbs served for 30 years in various positions with Alabama Power Company, a subsidiary of Southern Company and the nation's leading provider of electric energy. He is a graduate of Faulkner University, the Auburn University Economic and Community Development Institute and the Chamber's Leadership Morgan County program (now known as Excellence in Leadership). He is a former member of Decatur Daybreak Rotary and is a Paul Harris Fellow. He recently was appointed to serve on the board of Regions Bank Community

Development Corporation. Tubbs and his wife Terry, who have two adult children and four grandchildren, live in Decatur. He is set to retire from the Partnership in the fall of 2018.

The Small Business Awards Celebration also served as graduation for the Chamber's Excellence in Leadership class. The 36 members of the class spent the past 10 months as part of a leadership development program intended to connect business, non-profit and education professionals with community issues like healthcare, education, public safety, state and local government, tourism and sociology. The program, presented by **Nucor Steel Decatur**, has graduated more than 1,100 participants since starting more than 30 years ago.



More than 230 people attended the annual Small Business Awards Celebration.

Milestones Acheived

Also during the event, the Chamber recognized members who within the last year reached a milestone year of service in the Morgan County business community.

50 YEARS: Air Products & Chemicals, Inc., Center for the Developmentally Disabled of North Central Alabama, Pettey Machine Works, Inc., Waters Brothers Contractors, Inc., Westmeade Baptist Church, and WRSA - FM Mix 96.9

60 YEARS: Gateway Commercial Brokerage, Holston Gases, and The EE Group

65 YEARS: J & M Signs and Wolseley Industrial

70 YEARS: Automatic SMP, McGriff Tire & Service and Wayne Farms

75 YEARS: Petroleum Sales and Tractor & Equipment Company

85 YEARS: First Southern Farm Credit and Hyosung USA

90 YEARS: Cook's Pest Control and Tennessee Valley Press

100 YEARS: American Red Cross Morgan – Lawrence County Chapter and S. S. Nesbitt & Company

120 YEARS: Central United Methodist Church, Decatur Baptist Church, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church

125 YEARS: St. John's Episcopal Church

130 YEARS: BBVA Compass Bank and Belk

175 YEARS: First Baptist Church Decatur

Presenting Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



New Members

We thank the following businesses and organizations who made new commitments to our area by their investment in the Chamber. We look forward to serving you!

AseraCare Hospice
Boys and Girls Club of North Central Alabama
Champion Windows & Home Exteriors
Dynetics

Hands Across Decatur
Latreuo Luxury Homes
Priority Electric Services, Inc.
Sigh Photo Booth
Southland International Trucks, Inc.

Stars and Strikes
Steam-Way Carpet Cleaners

Ribbon Cuttings



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www.insuredbyjasonpalmer.com

A Word from Your Chamber continued

Meanwhile, road and bridge construction costs have nearly doubled during that time span and vehicles have become much more fuel efficient causing a negative compound effect on our scarce transportation dollars.

With a future plan requesting Alabamians to pay a little more, AAI is dedicated to supporting legisla-

tion that requires every single dollar raised by that plan to go strictly to road and bridge maintenance and construction only.

We can't continue to let deficient roads and bridges cost us money, jobs and lives. The time to address this issue is now because: The more we delay, the more we pay.

Drew Harrell is the deputy chief of staff for the Business Council of Alabama and executive director of the Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure.

Renewing Members

The Chamber would like to thank the following members who reinvested in Decatur and Morgan County by renewing their Chamber membership.

1st Impression Cleaning Services	Hampton Inn	Renasant Bank
3-GIS	Hardy Chiropractic	Sam's Sports Grill
AAA Alabama	Harris, Caddell, & Shanks, PC	Security Finance
Alabama Center for the Arts	Home Pest Control	SGS Petroleum Service Corporation
Alabama Smile Builders - Paul Bishop, DMD	Honda of Decatur	Shivam Hospitality, LLC dba Holiday Inn Express
Alfonso's Pizza	Hospice of the Valley, Inc.	Sonny Craig
Alliance HR	International Paper - Decatur	Southern Development Council, Inc.
American National Insurance Webb Awtrey Agency	ITW Sexton	Supreme Beverage Company, Inc.
Anderson Office Interiors, LLC	J. T. Ray Company	Surgical Associates of North Alabama, PC
Animal Tracks Veterinary Hospital	Jimmy Smith Jewelers	The Perry Company, Inc.
API Digital Communications Group, LLC	JIT Services, LLC	The Terrace at Priceville
Austinville Church of Christ	Jon R. Sedlak, Attorney at Law	Tru-Line Manufacturing, Inc.
Bama Group	Kinder Morgan Bulk Terminals Decatur, Alabama	US Space and Rocket Center
Bridge Builders Church International	Lentz Thompson Retirement Advisors	Volunteer Center of Morgan County, Inc.
Bunge Corporation	Majestic Construction	WAAY 31 TV
Ceva Media Group	MarMac Real Estate	Watermark Property Group, LLC
City Cafe	Matthews Industries, Inc.	Woodmen Life
Corum's Building & Farm Center	Megabrook Processors	WQAH Radio
Courtyard by Marriott	Mental Health Association in Morgan County	Your Transmission Man, Inc.
Davidson Homes, LLC	Michael Jones Insurance	
Decatur Heritage Christian Academy	Morningside of Decatur	
Decatur Optical Dispensary	NEO Industries, Inc. (Alabama)	
Decatur Orthopaedic Clinic	New Life Family Chiropractic	
Decatur Public Library	North Alabama Chemical Co., Inc.	
DexYP	North Alabama Glass Co., Inc.	
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Decatur Riverfront	Occupational Health Group	
Dunagan Yates & Alison	Parker Towing Co., Inc.	
Edward Jones	Patti Fowler Consulting, LLC	
EFP LLC	PBS Services, Inc.	
Family Security Credit Union	Pill Box Pharmacy	
First Heritage Credit	Plastic Recyclers Southeast, Inc.	
Focus Radio Communications/WEKI	PNC Bank	
Guice Pharmacy	Price-Denton Endodontics, LLC	
H. R. Moore Company, Inc.	Priceville Foodland, LLC	
H.C.S. Engineering Co., Inc.	Pugh Wright McAnally, Inc.	
	Red Sage Communications, Inc.	
	RedX Fitness	
	Remax Platinum	

Chamber's annual DC trip features technology, defense experts



More than 200 representatives from north Alabama took part in the 2019 Washington D.C. public policy trip.

The Chamber's annual three-day trip to our nation's capital featured a slate of speakers and sessions with experts in the fields of technology, defense, space, education and trade – all subjects that impact members of this Chamber – as well as visits with our federal delegation. Monday's schedule began with breakfast and a presentation from Gen. (Ret.) Michael Hayden, former director of the CIA and National Security Agency, where he discussed with the group global threats and their impact on the United States. Later, breakout groups highlighting Army Acquisition Reform, tariffs, the National Foreign Trade Council, space policy, government contracting and an update on the FBI were available for attendees. Former Rep. Mike Rogers, former chair of the House Intelligence Committee, shared his thoughts on the state of the intelligence community during the working lunch. That afternoon, attendees had the option of touring the U.S. Capitol, FBI Headquarters, or an update on international trade. The evening ended with congressional reception in the Russell Office Building.

Breakfast Tuesday featured both Alabama senators – Sen. Richard Shelby and Sen. Doug Jones – discussing the current legislative session. Speakers that morning also included Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe, Rhode

Island Sen. Jack Reed, Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, and Senator Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. Reps. Mo Brooks and Robert Aderholt – both from Alabama – met with the group and brought along colleagues Rep. Mike Meadows, Rep. Justin Amash, Rep. Marsha Blackburn, Rep. Mark Walker and Rep. David Brat. Lunch, which was the final group event, featured keynote speaker Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, discussing farm policy and the impact on our economy.

The trip, April 15-17 and taken in partnership with the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce, featured dinners Sunday and Monday evening for the Decatur-Morgan County delegation. Sunday was sponsored by **Valley Budweiser** and **Huntsville International Airport**, while Monday was sponsored by **ServisFirst Bank** and **Nucor Steel Decatur**.

Sunday Dinner Sponsors



Monday Dinner Sponsors



Alabama Sens. Doug Jones (left) and Richard Shelby spoke to the more than 200 attendees of the 2019 Washington D.C. public policy trip.



Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, spoke to the attendees of the 2019 Washington D.C. public policy trip.

Breakfast & Biz focuses on workforce strategies for engaging employees

On May 22, Alan Ridgway - division president for the Staffing and Workforce Management Division of Lyons HR Inc. - spoke to a room of more than 40 business professionals about sharpening their management skills and developing employees as part of the Chamber's business development series Breakfast & Biz. Ridgway discussed with the group ways to keep employee turnover low, increase customer satisfaction and create a team culture where everyone understands the role they have in company success. Breakfast & Biz is presented by **Redstone Federal Credit Union**, along with May breakfast sponsor **The Terrace at Priceville** and venue sponsor **The Magnolia Room**.

Presenting Sponsor



More than 40 business professionals attended the May edition of the Chamber's Breakfast & Biz business development series.



Attendees are encouraged to introduce themselves to the group with their "elevator speech" as part of the Chamber's Breakfast & Biz business development series.



Alan Ridgway, division president for the Staffing and Workforce Management Division of Lyons HR Inc., shared with more than 40 attendees at the Chamber's Breakfast & Biz event strategies to help develop their workforce and create more employee engagement.

Coffee & Cards celebrates tourism in May

Our partner **Decatur Morgan County Tourism** on May 10 hosted the Chamber's monthly networking event - Coffee & Cards - at their Sixth Ave. office in Decatur. More than 50 people turned out to help celebrate National Tourism Month and meet DMCT's new executive director, Danielle Gibson. We are thankful for everyone stopping by on their way to work!

Presenting by



More than 50 people stopped by Decatur Morgan County Tourism to enjoy refreshment during the May Coffee & Cards networking event.

Networking events like Coffee & Cards or Business After Hours are member benefits and great opportunities to connect with other leaders in the community.



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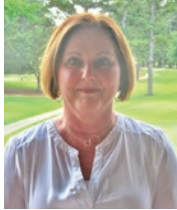
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The Chamber of Commerce Commodores

The Commodores are a group of area professionals from diverse backgrounds who act as a liaison between the Chamber and its members. Commodores are Chamber members in good standing who are enthusiastic, professional and outgoing and possess leadership qualities and skills. Every Commodore makes a commitment of one year of service. Commodores support and actively participate in the goals and action plans set forth by the Board of Directors, welcome and involve new members by encouraging participation in Chamber-sponsored events, attend ribbon cuttings, ground breakings, relocations, grand openings, and volunteer for Chamber-sponsored events, among other responsibilities. For more information, contact Louise Brown, director of community development and public policy at (256) 353-5312.



Bill Briscoe
Bank Street Art & Antiques



Belinda Bullard
EMI Power & Automation, Inc.



Regina Dean
Renasant Bank



Dewayne Eddy
LPL Financial Services



Sally Jo Green
CB&S Bank



Tore Haavik
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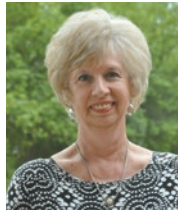
Diann Hammon
Athens State University



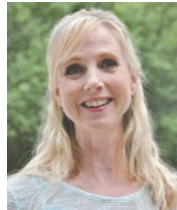
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Vanessa Johnson
State Farm, Patrick Johnson-Agent



Beth McGuire
Morgan County Association of REALTORS



Victoria McKenzie
First Baptist Church of Decatur



Barbara Milligan
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Dawn Owczarzak
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Benita Owens
Joe Wheeler EMC



Kelly Pate
The Greater Morgan Co. Builders Association



Jody Peterson
Realty Group



Raul Piers
Synovus



Chris Priest
Circuit Clerk



Lynn Reeves
Wear, Howell, Strickland, Quinn & Law, LLC



Brenda Reynolds
The Terrace at Priceville



Clarence Roberts
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Brooke Rollins
The Lioce Group



Darrell Wates
Tucker, Scott & Wates, LLC



Bo Weinman
Peck-Glasgow Agency, Inc.



Jennifer Wright
Remax Platinum

Commodores not pictured: Anita Walden, Decatur Morgan Hospital; Baretta Taylor, The Decatur Daily; Brylie Mason, Texas Roadhouse; Keith Skelton, Country Financial Insurance; Landis Griffin, Habitat for Humanity; Linda Broadhead, Restore Your Niche.

Leadership ends with celebration, accomplishment

In April, Edge Student Leadership celebrated “graduation day” for the more than 30 members of the organization’s Edge Student Leadership program. Aimed at high school students, Edge is open to students across Morgan County and exposes 10th and 11th graders to leadership opportunities in a creative and challenging manner, providing the students with the tools necessary to develop individual leadership skills. The graduation event provided the more than 30 students the chance to share with the 150 guests and family members their service projects and “lessons

learned” from the past nine months. Dr. Clotile Yvette Rice, owner of LLVE, LLC of Decatur, served as the graduation speaker for the evening. She discussed with the group the value of goal setting in your life and career, as well as how to learn lessons when you fall short of those goals – a lesson she stressed is valuable at any age.

During the event, Wesley Lowman – a junior at Austin High School – was awarded the Mary Shaw Ozier Award. Voted on by the class participants, the award is in memory of a student leadership graduate who passed away

soon after finishing the program. Ozier underwent cancer treatment during her school year, yet never missed a session of the 1999-2000 Edge class. She finished the program in May and died the following September. Each year since her passing, participants have recognized one of their own in Mary Shaw’s honor. The award was presented by Mary Ila Ward of Decatur, a member of the 1999-2000 Edge class and friend of Mary Shaw. Edge is presented by **Nucor Steel Decatur**.

The Excellence in Leadership program’s May gathering – entitled



Dr. Clotile Yvette Rice, owner of LLVE, LLC of Decatur, served as the speaker for Edge graduation.



Wesley Lowman, a junior at Austin High School, was awarded the Mary Shaw Ozier Award during Edge graduation.



More than 35 students representing each school system and high school in Morgan County take part each year in Edge Student Leadership.

“Leading the Way” – served as the group’s final class together and focused on implementing lessons they’ve discussed since the program’s September kick-off. The morning session at the Chamber featured four local leaders and their take on serving in our community. Scott Mayo, headmaster at Decatur Heritage Christian Academy, discussed with the group “Launch 2035” – a regional development initiative partnering Morgan, Limestone and Madison Counties – and the value of collaborating across municipal boundaries. State Sen. Arthur Orr, who represents in Montgomery parts of Morgan, Limestone and Madison Counties, shared with his group his perspective of leadership as an elected official

and working through conflict. Later in the morning, Mary Ila Ward of Horizon Point Consulting conducted a “deep dive” personal leadership training session, helping class members better understand how developing a sense of leading themselves can help them better lead their organization. The morning finished with Doug Bachuss, a partner in Nowlin, Bachuss & Gray Law Firm of Decatur, sharing his own development as a servant leader along with all the different ways we as leaders can build up our community.

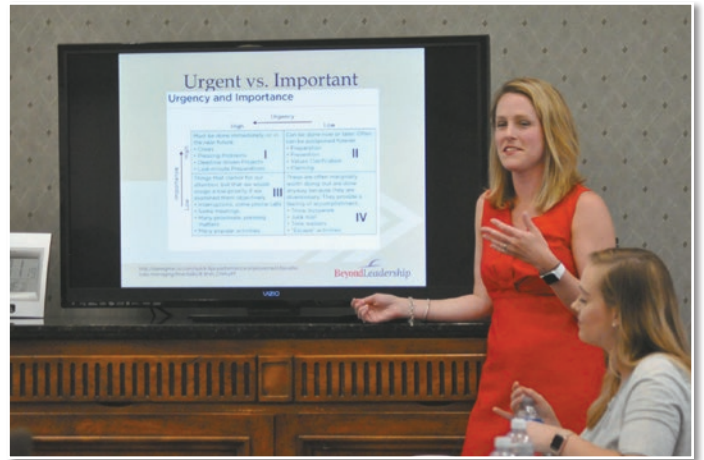
The group spent lunch on site at the Circle Ranch in Danville, which served as the recipient of the group’s year-long class project. The class had lunch in the newly refurbished pavil-

ion, which was made possible by several workdays and fundraising efforts by the 34 class members. To end the day, the group presented Ahbra and Clint Northcutt of the Ranch with a check for \$16,000, which reflects the total of all the money raised for the project since September. The amount is also the most any Excellence in Leadership class has raised in the 30 years of the program’s history. The group celebrated “graduation day” at the May 17 Small Business Awards Celebration. Excellence in Leadership is presented by **Nucor Steel Decatur**, as well as day sponsor **Decatur Heritage Christian Academy**.

Equip Leadership, the Chamber’s eighth grade program focusing on lead-



Scott Mayo, headmaster at Decatur Heritage Christian Academy, discussed with the Excellence in Leadership group “Launch 2035” – a regional development initiative partnering Morgan, Limestone and Madison Counties.



Mary Ila Ward of Horizon Point Consulting conducted for the Excellence class a development session focused on personal leadership growth.



The Excellence class presented representatives of Circle Ranch in Danville a check for \$16,000 for improvement, as well as held a ribbon cutting for the newly renovated pavilion.



Students from Equip Leadership group traveled to Valley Rubber in Falkville to discuss careers in manufacturing and chemical processes.

Leadership continued

ership development and career opportunities that require less than a four-year degree, met in late April and mid-May to end the school year. In April, following icebreakers and team building to start the day at the Chamber, the group traveled to Valley Rubber in Falkville to discuss careers in manufacturing and chemical processes. The Valley Rubber team presented to the group the wide range of areas where the work they do applies to a long list of fields and industries. On their way back to Decatur, the group visited Animal Tracks Veterinary Hospital to discuss careers in animal care in a clinical environment. Dr. Amanda Parker of Animal Tracks shared stories about her journey and what students need to focus on if they want to pursue that type of work. After lunch back

at the Chamber, Master Sgt. Robert Cornett of the Alabama National Guard discussed with the group the long list of career fields and how one can serve in military service. Everything from logistics, communications, transportation, engineering, healthcare and much more all are available in the National Guard and other Department of Defense branches.

In May, for the group's final session, students gathered at the Chamber and traveled to the main campus of Decatur Morgan Hospital to learn more about careers in health sciences and nursing. Following that briefing, students walked to different parts of the campus currently being renovated and discussed with several crew careers in construction and building

sciences. After lunch at the Chamber, the group was dismissed after talking with Chamber employees about what they enjoyed most about the program and how they felt it could be made even better. Equip Leadership is presented by **Nucor Steel Decatur**.

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Edge, Excellence and
Equip Leadership**



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The advertisement features three women smiling. The woman on the left is wearing a red shawl. The woman in the middle is holding a small ice cream cone. The woman on the right is wearing a black polo shirt with a logo. The background is a soft-focus image of ice cream. The text is in various fonts and colors, including red, black, and white.

Perfect afternoon at the Spring Golf Classic

On April 20, participants of the Chamber's annual Spring Golf Classic enjoyed perfect weather under sunny skies at our host site Burningtrees Country Club in Decatur. They, along with our other gold sponsor **Window World of Huntsville**, welcomed more than 80 players for an afternoon of great golf and competition. The event was also made possible by lunch sponsor **Topgolf** and beverage cart sponsor **Valley Budweiser**. Thanks to everyone who came out and enjoyed our "Chamber of Commerce weather!"



The team from the City of Decatur came out on top of the Spring Golf Classic.

A Flight

1st place

City of Decatur – 55

2nd place

Fite Building – 58

B Flight

1st place

Windmill Beverage – 66

2nd place

Wayne Farms Decatur – 67

Closest to the Pin

J. Robert Fite – Hole #3

YP Leadership Luncheon focuses on community healthcare

On April 17, Nat Richardson – president of Decatur Morgan Hospital – shared with more than 30 young professionals the state of healthcare in our community during the April gathering of the Chamber’s YP Leadership Luncheon series. Richardson, who oversees in his position the Decatur Morgan main campus, Decatur West campus, Parkway campus and two joint venture surgery centers, discussed with the group the current economic conditions of healthcare and the challenges they face at the hospital each day. They include con-

trolling costs, reimbursement rates, insurance coverage issues and the role healthcare plays in residential recruitment for an area. Richardson also discussed the recent announcement of Huntsville Hospital Health Systems, of which Decatur Morgan is a part, injecting \$20 million in capital for upgrades to the Decatur Morgan campus. Upgrades will include more private rooms, a new MRI suite, waiting and reception areas and a newly designed emergency department. Also part of his talk was the steps he and the System board took in developing

a strategic plan to meet the needs of the patients and the community, and how the success of an organization depends on the quality of planning and collaborating. The YP Leadership Luncheon series is an opportunity for members of the under-40 crowd across Morgan County to both connect and socialize while developing their leadership skills. The series is presented by **Ascend Performance Materials**, as well as April lunch sponsor **Kiwanis Club of Decatur**.



More than 30 young professionals gathered to hear from hospital President Nat Richardson about the state of healthcare in Morgan County.



Nat Richardson, president of Decatur Morgan Hospital, discussed with more than 30 young professionals the challenges and successes of healthcare in our community.



The YP Leadership Luncheon is a networking and leadership development opportunity for the under-40 crowd of Morgan County.

Presenting Sponsor



Lunch Sponsor

**Kiwanis Club
of Decatur, Alabama**

SWeETy Camps spark ideas for futures in welding, electrical trades

The week of June 4-7 featured session one of the Chamber's annual Summer Welding and Electrical Technology (SWeETy) Camps, presented by **Indorama Ventures** and hosted by the Decatur Campus of Calhoun Community College. The first session featured 20 area high school girls from across north Alabama learning about welding and electrical trade opportunities following their graduation by way of hands-on projects, collaborations, speakers and tours of industry partners. This year at the Calhoun camp, a third area of focus was introduced: advanced manufacturing and 3D drafting/printing. As part

of the Chamber's workforce development and education initiatives, the program is designed to meet the needs of our industry partners in shrinking the skills gap between available jobs and new members of the area workforce.

Lunch sponsors for the Calhoun session included **Fite Building Company, Inc., J.M. Smucker Company, Java Jaay Café** and **Kinder MorganBulk Terminals**.

Session Two of SWeETy Camp is set for June 11-14 hosted by the Chamber at Priceville High School.



Campers work in Calhoun training facilities used by professionals and receive instruction from both Calhoun faculty and professionals in the field.



Session One of SWeETy Camp featured 20 high school girls from across north Alabama.



SWeETy Camp provides opportunities for high school girls to learn more about careers in welding and electrical trades, as well as skills to help shape their future after high school.



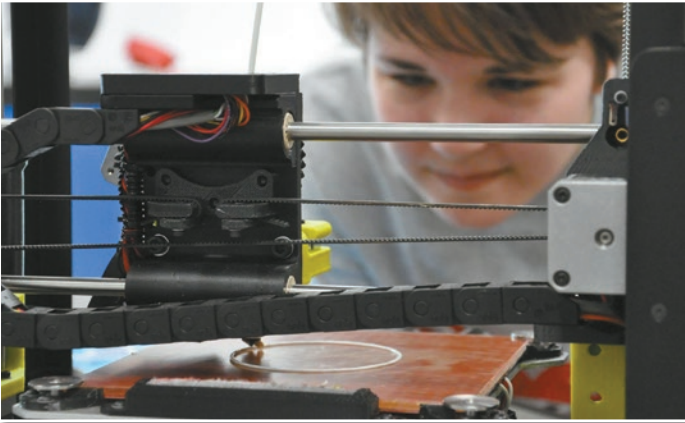
SWeETy campers are instructed by Calhoun welding teachers, using the same training facilities and equipment as already working professionals.



During the four-day camp, attendees learn about career opportunities in skilled trades and the types of instruction needed to secure a job in the field.

continued on page 22

SWeETy Camps continued



This year at the Calhoun camp, a third area of focus was introduced: advanced manufacturing and 3D drafting/printing.



Hands-on training from seasoned professionals is a critical part of the SWeETy Camp experience, where those in the field can provide “real world” perspective.



Many graduates from SWeETy Camp have gone on to work in the skilled trades field, while several have returned to serve as speakers and instructors years after having completed the program.



Training in the skilled trades – which is a central part of the Chamber’s workforce development initiatives – helps prepare the next generation of workforce professionals and closes the “skills gap.”

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