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*Truven Health Analytics Top 15 Health Systems 2013



TABLE OF CONTENTS |

Ambassador & Emissary Clubs	3
Ribbon Cuttings	3
Leadership Etowah.....	4-5
Business After Hours.....	6-7
Small Businesses of the Year.....	8-9
Healthcare	10
Business & Industry	12-13
Community Demographics	14
Culture	16-17
Education	18
Newcomers Information.....	20
Chamber Membership Investment	21
Boutique Guide	31
Restaurant Guide	56-57
Membership Index	62-68



a publication of



One Commerce Square
Gadsden, Alabama 35901

www.gadsdenchamber.com

256-543-3472

heather.new@etowahchamber.org

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CHAMBER STAFF

Heather Brothers New, President
Leslie Stephens, Operations Director
Will Mackey, Program Manager
Whitney Carter, Sales Associate

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING, WHOSE BOARD TERM EXPIRED IN 2015

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Walter Duminski
Charlie Hayes
Elizabeth Barnett

CHAMBER EVENTS & PROGRAMS |

Ambassador and Emissary clubs work to enhance Chamber benefits

Ambassadors and Emissaries are volunteers from within the Chamber membership that are enthusiastic, have outgoing personalities, possess good organizational skills, and are honest business people. Generally, representatives of Chamber members that are most successful in these volunteer roles have responsibilities that include outside sales and marketing, and believe in and support the efforts of the Chamber. They are able to balance the necessary time commitment of the clubs with the demands of their jobs. Together, both clubs' collective goal is to represent a wide variety of industries and business.

The primary objective of the Ambassador Club is to serve in volunteer opportunities at Chamber events, extending assistance to new members and guests, and attending members' functions. These club members are often the first faces seen at registration desks at an event, and are tasked with making sure new members and guests of an event get acquainted and connected with existing members. Among those activities are: ribbon cuttings, Business After Hours, and Chamber mixers. They also work to promote Chamber events.

The primary objective of the Emissary Club is to serve as a liaison between the Chamber and members, with a focus on existing members. Emissaries participate in a Mentor 40 program, in which they select 40 members from throughout different sectors of industry, and periodically visit, call and email them to keep them abreast of opportunities to enhance their business through Chamber benefits. For example, they make phone calls to remind members of upcoming

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote general membership services and enhance goodwill for The Chamber of Gadsden & Etowah County in the community; assist in the recruitment of new members through personal contacts, membership involvement, and to encourage involvement, awareness, and maximum retention.

events like Business After Hours, and build relationships with their mentored business to ensure a deeper connection to the Chamber and their own business. Emissaries often serve in volunteer roles at events, and attend ribbon cuttings as well.

Throughout the year, membership applications are received from interested individuals and when an opening is available the Club reviews applications and may consider them for membership. While participation does require a significant amount of time, the benefits to the business are outstanding. Membership in either club often provides a "warm welcome" to other businesses and creates a strong relationship between businesses.

Individuals interested in participating in the clubs should email their query to heather.new@etowahchamber.org.

2016 AMBASSADOR CLUB

Isha Bothwell, City of Champions Toastmasters
Amber Condyl, Express Family Care
Heidi Darbo, American Heart Association | American Stroke Association
Haley Dunston, Sarrell Dental
Tara Fulford, Advanced Imaging of Gadsden, LLC
Tena King, King's Olive Oil
Mary Anne Lincoln, Exchange Bank of Alabama
Daniel A. Spencer, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
Heather Williams, Allstate Insurance - Tyler Elliott Agency, Inc.
Deesha D. Wolfe, Dr. Roger D. Allen, D.M.D., LLC
Ben Weaver, Alabama Teachers Credit Union

2016 EMISSARY CLUB

Elizabeth Barnett
Jessica Brown, United Way of Etowah County
Morgan Lavender, Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial
Mike Major, WideNet Consulting, LLC
Darlene Temple, Holiday Inn Express and Suites
Brandon White, Merrill Lynch
Dedra Whittenberg, First Choice Personnel of Gadsden, Inc.
Liz Wood, FLD Landscaping & Garden Shop

Chamber can help with ribbon cutting ceremonies

The Chamber would be delighted to help your business celebrate with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony if the company has:

- Opened its doors in the last 6 months
- Changed ownership or is under new management
- Moved to a new location
- Has been remodeled or expanded at its present location

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is an important part of your overall marketing and advertising plan and is a great way to kick-off a grand opening of a business. It offers an opportunity to meet key leaders in the community and get acquainted with your neighbors and Chamber members. The Chamber would enjoy assisting you in planning a successful event for your company. Having participated in hundreds of ribbon cutting ceremonies, we know how to get optimum exposure for your company. Chamber Staff and Ambassadors attend and conduct the ceremony, complete with a large pair of scissors, photos, and ribbon in your choice of color. We generally begin with a welcome statement before the ribbon cutting and photos are taken to appear in an upcoming edition of *The Messenger Newspaper*.

Scheduling a Ribbon Cutting with the Chamber should take place a minimum of two weeks ahead of the event to allow the Chamber

time to invite members of the Chamber's Board of Directors, the Ambassadors and dignitaries from the appropriate city to join your celebration.

Hors d'oeuvres and beverages are usually served, but it is your decision. Your plan can be as simple or elaborate as you like, whatever fits your budget. Chamber Staff Members & Ambassadors will help to make things go as smoothly as possible:

We'll notify the Chamber's Board of Directors and Ambassadors, City Dignitaries and chamber members, per your directions, and encourage them to attend your event. We'll put you in touch with other Chamber businesses that can provide catering, deli and beverage services. We'll bring the giant scissors and a bow and take pictures at the appointed time. We'll include a photo and acknowledgment of your ribbon cutting in *The Messenger Newspaper* and on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/etowahchamber.

There is no charge for the Chamber's involvement — it's a value-added benefit of being a member. People generally anticipate spending about a half hour at the ceremony, so be prepared with collateral materials.

LEADERSHIP ETOWAH

Program prepares participants to become community leaders, set priorities, solve problems

Leadership Etowah is a program of The Chamber of Gadsden/Etowah which each year brings together class participants for ten one-day retreats. The program objective is to present to the participants a series of issues-oriented forums based on the belief that knowledge is a key element and prime motivator of leadership. Class members visit organizations and institutions across Etowah County. This allows them to seek a mutual understanding of the priorities and problems facing the county; they also seek to invent vital solutions to the challenges that define the future of our county. Program participants will gain a broader understanding of the complexities that our diverse community represents. Participants will leave the program prepared to use the information and skills they will gain from this experience to be a leader in the community.

Leadership Etowah is a personal development program designed to motivate participants to develop and enhance leadership skills through an educational process that addresses pertinent community needs.

The purpose of Leadership Etowah is to:

- Identify potential and existing leaders in business, labor, education, government and the community at large and help them prepare for voluntary responsibility in our area.
- Provide leaders with practical and sophisticated understanding of major opportunities and problems facing the Etowah County area.
- Facilitate access between emerging leaders and the current leadership in the community.
- Improve the communications network among leaders from unique and different backgrounds.
- Stimulate increased participation and commitment in the community.

The goal of each session is to open the mind of each participant to the perspectives that surround the issue and, through thoughtful consideration of those perspectives, to enable participants to become visionary leaders in the community. (Class order is subject to change.)

Session I — Orientation to Leadership

Session II — Non-Profits and Social Services

Session III — Education

Session IV — Workforce Development

Session V — Government

Session VI — Healthcare

Session VII — Economic Development

Session VIII — Arts and Culture

Session IX — Tourism

Session X — Public Safety



Enrollment begins in mid-September and lasts through the end of October each year. Interested individuals may visit the Leadership Etowah tab on The Chamber's website at www.gadsdenchamber.com.



2015 GRADUATES

Jennifer Boozer, Alabama Land Trust
Derrick Griffey, Somewhere in Time Antiques
Wardrick Griffin, Gadsden Regional Medical Center
Mike Hilton, City of Gadsden
Shaine Stewart, Honda Manufacturing of Alabama
Susan Stough, Chappell CPA
Darlene Temple, Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Susan Williamson, Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama
Steven Winston, Gadsden Steam Plant
Mary Wood, Downtown Gadsden, Inc./Gadsden Commercial Development

2016 CLASS

Jamie Armstrong, Gadsden Regional Medical Center
Jennifer Bishop, HealthSouth Rehab
Tabitha Bozeman, Gadsden State Community College
Mark Condra, community supporter
Haley Dunston, Sarrell Dental
Arema Granger, Gadsden Mall
Chet Hallman, Twin Bridges Golf Club
Jason Millirons, Gadsden State Community College
Trace Newton, Nationwide Insurance
Mallory Oliver, Peoples Bank of Alabama
Tony Smith, Alabama Power
Tom Strother, Goodyear
Kimberly White, Honda Manufacturing of Alabama
Quetz Williams, Boys & Girls Club
Liz Wood, FLD Landscaping

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Chamber members enjoy networking once a month in a relaxed social setting



February at Absolute Fitness



March at Healthsouth Rehab



April at Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts



May at TeamOne Toyota



June at Gadsden Country Club



July at Northeast Alabama Audiology Clinic



August at Gadsden Regional Medical Center
Women Imaging Center



September at Regency Pointe



October at McGuffey's/Rehab First



November at The Athletic Club



December at Gadsden Convention Hall
sponsored by:

Alabama Power Company
City of Gadsden Parks & Recreation
Comfort Care Hospice
Gadsden State Community College
Life Choice Hospice
Physicians Home Health SuperStore
The Southern Bank Company
Top Notch Events & Rentals
WQSB- Mix 102.9- Power 107.5



Taking time for fun at Business After Hours

2015 Small Businesses of the Year

Chamber recognizes a number of local businesses during awards luncheon in October



Alabama Retailer of the Year
Jireh's Boutique & Gifts



New Business of the Year
Gadsden Variety Antique Mall



Small Minority and/or Woman Owned Business of the Year
Rainbow City Pet Clinic



Non-Profit of the Year
Tigers For Tomorrow



Small Business of the Year, 25 or fewer employees
Frios Gourmet Pops



**Small Business of the Year,
25 to 50 employees**
Zaxby's



**Gold Business of the Year,
having served Etowah County
and the surrounding area
for 75 years or more years**
McKlesky Brothers



**Silver Business of the Year,
having served Etowah County
and the surrounding area
for 50 years or more**
Buck's Island



**Bronze Business of the Year,
having served Etowah County
and the surrounding area
for 25 years or more**
Gadsden Music Company



Community Improvement
The late Mike McCain, accepted by his family



Friend of Small Business
Nanda Patel, Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Gadsden Regional makes advancements in quality care

Gadsden Regional prides itself on being the premiere health care facility in Northeast Alabama – a place patients and their families have turned to for generations when there is a need for quality, top of the line care.

In the last several years, GRMC has made many advancements in the area of quality care, receiving many certifications and accreditations from various governing bodies in the health care industry, including the prestigious Joint Commission of Accredited Health Care Organizations. Most of these accreditations are not required of hospitals, but Gadsden Regional and its medical staff worked to achieve them to demonstrate to the community that GRMC both meets and exceeds national benchmarks.

In just the last few years, GRMC had received and/or maintained the following:

Orthopedic Hip and Knee Surgery reaccreditation, Advanced Primary Stroke Center reaccreditation from the Joint Commission

Chest Pain with PCI (Percutaneous Cardiac Intervention) reaccreditation from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care

Cancer Center accreditation from the Commission on Cancer/American College of Surgeons

Sleep Center accreditation from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine

Get with the Guidelines Gold Plus Award from the American Heart/Stroke Association

In 2016, several projects are planned to continue expansion and services provided at GRMC:

The hospital's Cancer Center will complete renovations and equipment upgrades for patients needing cancer treatment to receive top of the line care right here in Gadsden.

Our orthopedic program will continue to implement a national "best practices" program for total hip and knee replacement surgeries that help patients get back on their feet and back to living life to the fullest.



Gadsden Regional's cardiac program is making impressive strides, including implementing new procedures on the cutting edge of heart care.

Diagnostic imaging services are available at three locations in Etowah County to serve the needs of our growing population. Whether it's at the main hospital, our Women's Imaging Center in Building 400 on the hospital's campus or at Gadsden Regional Imaging in Rainbow City, Gadsden Regional strives to make care as convenient as possible.

The addition of GRMC's new, state-of-the-art Wound Healing Center, which opened in fall 2015, is just another way the hospital is expanding its services to fit the needs of our community.

Regardless of your health care needs, Gadsden Regional is here to serve you, your family and our community ... as we have for the last 110 years and counting.

About Gadsden Regional Medical Center: Founded in 1906, GRMC holds a high standard for patient care in Northeast Alabama. The hospital is owned by Community Health Systems, headquartered in Franklin, Tenn. GRMC employs more than 1,400 and is the second-largest employer in Etowah County. The hospital has a medical staff of more than 230 physicians representing dozens of specialties. For more information, call 256-494-4000 or visit www.gadsdenregional.com.

Riverview Regional Medical holds cross and chapel rededication ceremony

Riverview Regional Medical Center just recently rededicated the hospital's new 20 foot cross and its renovated chapel during a Cross and Chapel Rededication Ceremony held in the hospital cafeteria on Thursday, November 5th, 2015.

For more than 84 years, the illuminated green cross on the roof of Riverview Regional has been a beacon of hope for the Gadsden community. Now, under the leadership of the hospital's new owner, Prime Healthcare Services, and Chairman, President, and CEO Prem Reddy, MD, that symbol has been upgraded to a larger, more visible version.

"The cross at Riverview Regional is an important tradition to the people of Gadsden," said Sandy Agnone, CNO, Riverview Regional Medical Center. "Our current leadership, especially Dr. Reddy, appreciates its significance to our community and is honored to give this symbol a new size more appropriate to its location and visibility."

The original cross, dating back to the 1930's, has actually been replaced a total of 3 times. First in the 1980's, the original was replaced with a neon cross, then in 2013 due to maintenance issues it



was replaced again, and now it is a 20-foot LED lit cross brightly illuminated atop the original 1931 building.

Riverview Regional Medical Center began as Gadsden General Hospital which was built by Dr. Leach in 1917. It was operated by the

Sisters of Divine Providence until 1925 when it was purchased by the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity and renamed the Holy Name of Jesus Hospital. In the years since, the hospital has expanded to 281 beds, was renamed Riverview Regional Medical Center and now is owned by Prime Healthcare Services.

The ceremony also rededicated Riverview's beautifully renovated chapel. The chapel, illuminated by candles and skylight, is located on the third floor near the ER waiting room and open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Patients, families and hospital staff of all faiths are invited to use the chapel for prayer, meditation and reflection.

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

Same-Day Appointments Available



Dr. Mary Rutherford

Family Medicine

Michael Gross, CRNP

Family Medicine



Gadsden Physician Clinics
Internists Associates - RBC

105 Church St., Rainbow City, AL 35906

Call: (256) 442-5172 Fax: (256) 492-5507

*Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon*

Dr. Rutherford and Michael Gross are now seeing patients ages 6 and older

IDA assists, recruits industries to area

The Industrial Development Authority works to recruit new industries to Gadsden/Etowah County by:

- 1) Providing information to show companies and their consultants that Gadsden meets their project requirements better than any other location.

- 2) Maintaining information about available sites and buildings on the state database of available industrial property.

- 3) Maintaining a website (www.gadsdenida.org) that describes our advantages for new industries.

- 4) Promoting our industrial development activities on Facebook and other social media.

- 5) Getting favorable stories published about development activities in Gadsden, and using copies of resulting articles as attachments in prospect correspondence.

- 6) Making personal contact with prospect referral entities, to ensure their familiarity with our community. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Alabama Department of Commerce
- Economic Development Partnership of Alabama
- Economic Development Department of Alabama Power Company
- Industrial Development Departments of Norfolk Southern and OmniTrax
- Corporate site-selection consultants
- National industrial real estate firms

- 7) Conducting on-the-ground familiarization tours with representatives of the above referral sources.

- 8) Conducting direct mail marketing campaigns to generate prospect interest and inquiries.

- 9) Distributing promotional materials at relevant industry trade shows.

- 10) Preparing and delivering specialized sales presentations for individual companies, in person, in writing, and via electronic methods.

- 11) Compiling follow-up presentations to answer specific questions, and transmitting additional information that is requested. (This almost always requires responding within 24 hours.)

The IDA works to help our existing industries primarily by:

- 1) Developing financing plans.
- 2) Assembling incentive packages to reduce project costs.
- 3) Meeting their site, facility, and infrastructure needs.
- 4) Providing workforce development assistance.
- 5) Researching market information.
- 6) Acting to address other needs.

NEW PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF GADSDEN

Twenty-nine projects which the IDA was credited for

influencing are operating today in the City of Gadsden. They:

- Created 2,440 new jobs (this is 50% of the total manufacturing employment in Etowah County.)
- Have a \$65,000,000 payroll.
- Generate \$1,300,000 per year in new OLF revenues.
- New OLF revenues alone provide a 3-to-1 return on the city's annual investment in the IDA.

RETAINED PROJECTS IN THE CITY

The IDA helped save 1,915 jobs and \$1,860,000 in OLF revenues for the city, at 3 industries which were at risk of closing.

ADDITIONAL CITY BENEFITS

Besides ongoing OLF revenues from employee payrolls, the city also receives:

- One-time OLF revenues from plant construction payrolls.
- Sales taxes resulting from the spending of employee wages in local businesses.
- Sales taxes on company purchases of construction materials, fixtures, and consumable supplies.
- Use taxes on company purchases of machinery and equipment.
- Property taxes on land, buildings and equipment.
- Building permit and business license fees.

PROJECTS OUTSIDE THE CITY

The IDA located 10 projects in Etowah County outside the city of Gadsden, which employ a total of 490. Although there were no sites or buildings in Etowah County which met the requirements of these projects, the IDA also was influential in helping recruit 2 projects to adjacent counties, which employ another 900 local residents. Many of them spend their payroll money in Gadsden businesses, which generates sales tax revenues.

INDEPENDENT INDICATORS OF THE IDA'S EFFECTIVENESS

The IDA has been featured in these economic development periodicals:

- Site Selection magazine named the IDA as one of the top development groups in the U.S.
- Business Facilities magazine chose the IDA for its Economic Development Achievement Award.
- Economic Development Tomorrow cited the IDA as a model of professional practice.
- Office innovations at the IDA are a case study in Computer Applications in Economic Development.
- The IDA's recruitment techniques were highlighted in Marketing Cities in the 1980's and Beyond.

Economic progress requires a cohesive team effort of both the public and private sectors. Our local governments maintain a pro-business climate, support public education and skills training, support and encourage business and industry, and work to improve local infrastructure, all the while encouraging entrepreneurship and economic recruiting efforts. Business and civic volunteers oversee the Industrial Development Authority, the Commercial Development Authority, Downtown Gadsden Inc., Tourism, and the Chamber of Commerce, and together with our elected officials, work tirelessly to generate more job opportunities for our residents, more spending in our economy, and more tax revenues to fund public services.

Gadsden Commercial Development Authority 2014-2015 Fact Sheet:

New Development:

- Gander Mountain
 - Shoe Carnival
 - Sport Clips
 - Bubba Rito's
 - The Factory
 - Aqua Medispa
 - Southern Care
 - Absolute Printing
 - American Family Care
 - Ulta
 - Moe's
 - Gadsden Pet Clinic
 - Panda Express
 - Metro PCS
 - Ollie's Bargain Barn
 - Ross
 - Five Below
 - Hibbett Sports
 - Jimmy Johns
 - Starbucks
 - Popeye's
 - Beaute
 - Lemark Financial Services
 - Krispy Kreme
 - Bargain Hunt
 - Mi Pueblo
- **These businesses have created around 375 new jobs.

River Trace Shopping Center near completion. Ground work has begun for Panera and Aspen Dental. Once they open, only 2 acres remain to complete the center.

Mi Pueblo is expected to open in November 2015. This grocery store will fill 44,000 sq. ft. in the Canterbury Shopping Center in Alabama City previously occupied by Food World that closed in 2013.

GCDA continues to work with Equity Investment group to fill the former Hobby Lobby location on George Wallace Drive. Bargain Hunt opened in October 2015 taking up around 25,000 sq. ft. There is still about 35,000 sq. ft. available for another retailer.

2nd Annual Business Expo



The expo is held in August of each year and showcases displays of members' goods and services.



COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS |

• Population	104,430
• Average Household Size	2.46
• Median Age	39.44
• Median Home Price	\$98,200
• Number of Households	41,584
• Average Household Income	\$50,994
• Average Family Income	\$58,161

COUNTY'S TOP 10 EMPLOYERS NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

1. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Inc	1500
2. Gadsden Regional Medical Center	1200
3. Etowah County Board of Education	1054
4. Riverview Regional Medical Center	850
5. Wal-Mart (two locations)	737
6. Gadsden State Community College	727
7. Gadsden City School System	628
8. City of Gadsden	500
9. Koch Foods	500
10. Equity Group of Alabama/Keystone Foods	460

TOP 5 INDUSTRY SECTORS

1. Healthcare & Social Assistance
2. Manufacturing
3. Retail Trade
4. Accommodations and Food Services
5. Educational Services

Source: Alabama Department of Labor and US Census Bureau

REGION 5 TOP HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

(Base 2010 and Projected 2020)

1. Team Assemblers
2. Registered Nurses
3. Licensed Practical Nurses & Licensed Vocational Nurses
4. Home Health Aides*
5. Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics
6. Electrical Power Line Installers and Repairers
7. Personal Care Aides*
8. Medical Assistants
9. Computer Controlled Machine Tool Operators, metal and plastic
10. Mechanical Engineers

* Qualify as both high-demand and fast-growing occupations.

Source: Alabama Department of Labor and Center for Business and Economic Research, The University of Alabama. Workforce Dev. Reg. 5 consists of Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega, and Tallapoosa counties

TRANSPORTATION

Dart Trolley System Gadsden, Attalla, and Rainbow City, 256-549-4519

Dial-A-Ride System Gadsden, Attalla, and Rainbow City, 256-543-3278

Interstate Access I-59, I-20, I-440

Nearest Airport Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport, Birmingham, AL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Chamber, Gadsden & Etowah County
Heather New, President, 256-543-3472

Gadsden Commercial Development Authority
Lesa Osborn, Director, 256-547-1530

Gadsden-Etowah County Industrial Development Authority
256-543-9423

Downtown Gadsden, Inc.
Kay Moore, Director, 256-547-8696

Greater Gadsden Tourism Board
Hugh Stump, Director, 256-549-0351



CITY OF ATTALLA



612 4th St. N.W.



Ph.: 256-538-9986

“A Small City with Big Opportunities”



MAYOR:

Larry Means

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kenneth Scissum • Kenneth Dixon • Terry McClain • Virginia Smith • Bob Cross

CITY CLERK:

Sharon Jones

CITY ATTORNEY:

Richard Rhea

CITY JUDGE:

Kenneth Robertson

*** EVENTS ***

Heritage Day • Farmers Market • Train Day • Christmas Parade • Christmas Festival

**Industrial & Business Opportunities Available through
Attalla's Information Center Located in Historic Downtown Attalla**

CharACTers Theatrics

Award-winning production company is soaring to new heights with its 2016 season!

CharACTers Theatrics is soaring to new heights with its 2016 Season! Winner of three international musical theatre awards for their 2015 production of Les Miserables, CharACTers is the premiere theatrical production company in Northeast Alabama!

CharACTers offers weekly classes from beginning musical theatre to their nationally and statewide award winning musical theatre troupe, CCT KIDS. Additionally, CharACTers produces multiple LIVE theatrical productions throughout the year! If you haven't been to a CharACTers performance yet, try something new in 2016 and experience the MAGIC of THEATRE!

2016 SEASON

DISNEY'S MARY POPPINS

March 3-20, 2016 – Wallace Hall Fine Arts Center

The season will begin with a musical that is an enchanting mixture of irresistible story, unforgettable songs, breathtaking dance numbers, and astonishing stagecraft. The show delighted Broadway audiences for over 2,500 performances and received nominations for nine Olivier and seven TONY Awards, including Best Musical. One of the most popular movies of all time will capture your hearts in a whole new way: as a practically perfect musical! CharACTers is proud to announce our 2016 season will begin with the musical based on the books of P.L. Travers and the classic Walt Disney film, Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins.

DISNEY'S ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR.

**April 21-April 24, 2016
Wallace Hall Fine Arts Center**

The first Children's Theatre production of 2016 is a fast-paced stage adaptation of another timeless film, featuring updated dialogue and new arrangements of classic Disney songs. One of literatures most famous inquisitive heroines comes to life in this delightful tale. Travel down the rabbit hole and join Alice's madcap adventures in Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.

BIG RIVER

**June 10-19, 2016
Wallace Hall Fine Arts Center**

CharACTers third production of 2016 is an ageless adventure featuring hilarious, suspenseful and heartwarming moments and characters. Propelled by an award winning score from Roger Miller, the king of country music, this jaunty journey provides a brilliantly theatrical celebration of pure Americana that sweeps us down the mighty Mississippi as the irrepressible Huck Finn helps his friend Jim, a slave, escape to freedom in this eight time Tony Award winning musical, Big River.

DINNER THEATRE - TO BE ANNOUNCED

Summer 2016

The forth production of the CharACTers 2016 season will be our 3rd annual dinner theatre. The exact show is still up in the air as we finalize the performance details, but our four main contenders include Mama Won't Fly, Always a Bridesmaid, The Hallelujah Girls, and The Odd Couple. Each show features side splitting comedy and outrageous characters. We hope you will join us during the summer of 2016 for our 3rd annual dinner theatre.

GODSPELL

**August 11-21, 2016
Gadsden Museum of Art**

CharACTers fifth production of the 2016 season is a 3-time Grammy and

Academy Award winner by Stephen Schwartz (Wicked, Pippin, Children Of Eden); and it took the world by storm. A small group of people help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, story-telling techniques, and hefty dose of comic timing. An eclectic blend of songs ranging in style from pop to vaudeville is employed as the story of Jesus's life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus's messages of kindness, tolerance, and love come vibrantly to life. Boasting a score with chart topping songs, a book by a visionary playwright (John-Michael Tebelak), and a feature film, Godspell is a sensation that is sure to be a fan favorite of the 2016 season!

FLAT STANLEY JR.

**September 30-October 9, 2016
Wallace Hall Fine Arts Center**

CharACTers Children's Theatre's second production of 2016 is based on the beloved children's book written by Jeff Brown in 1964 which has become a literary and pop cultural phenomenon - delighting readers and travelers all around the world. Stanley Lambchop is your ordinary, every day, run-of-the-mill ten-year-old: normal mom and dad, normal little brother, normal life. That's just the problem...for Stanley, life is too normal. He wants to travel the world, do something amazing, something no one's ever seen before. Careful what you wish for, Stanley! In a whirlwind musical travelogue, Stanley is stamped, posted and cancelled from Hollywood to France to Honolulu and beyond. This musical is filled with infectious songs and non-stop adventure making this a perfect show to experience the magic of live theatre. Join us and everyone's favorite two-dimensional hero for The Musical Adventures Of Flat Stanley® JR.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

**Fall 2016
Outdoor Theatre**

The seventh production of the 2016 season goes something like this.... Girl meets boy. Girl falls in love with boy. Girl loses boy when a mischievous fairy sprinkles love "juice" on boy's eyelids, making him fall for another girl. Girl wins boy back (with the help of a little fairy magic). No, it's not the latest romantic comedy to hit theaters near you; it's a play that was dreamed up by William Shakespeare toward the end of the 16th century. Like the modern-day romantic comedy genre it's helped to shape and influence, this play features young lovers who fall comically in and out of love in a ridiculously brief period of time (over the course of a single, enchanted midsummer night) in William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

INTO THE WOODS

**December 2-11, 2016
Wallace Hall Fine Arts Center**

The eighth and final production of CharACTers 2016 season is a multiple Tony Award winning and Oscar nominated musical. This musically sophisticated show brings audiences on a fantastic magical adventure through the woods. The Brothers Grimm hit the stage with this epic fairytale about wishes, family and the choices we make in James Lapine's and Stephen Sondheim's storybook masterpiece that brings everyone's favorite fairytale characters together for a timeless yet relevant piece and rare modern classic, Into the Woods.

We hope you are as excited as we are about this amazing season. Season tickets are available for all of these AMAZING shows for the low price of \$60!

Visit us online at www.CharACTersEntertainment.com for tickets, audition information, and to join our email list!

Theatre of Gadsden

Group continues history of producing a variety of new and classic productions

Theatre of Gadsden had its beginnings in the late 1800s when plays were frequently produced at the Elliott Farm. A number of incarnations later, Gadsden Civic Theatre purchased the Ritz Theatre in Alabama City in 1971 and opened with a production of *Born Yesterday* in the former movie house. Gadsden Civic Theatre merged with two other local theatre groups to form the Theatre of Gadsden which continues to produce shows, rent space, and hold events in the Historic Ritz Theatre. This past season saw a resurgence in productions and audiences at The Ritz Theatre, as former Production Director Mike Beecham returned to Theatre of Gadsden after a number of years working professionally in theatres in Atlanta and around the Southeast.

Opening the 2016 season Theatre of Gadsden will reunite the cast of last year's sold out production of *Smoke on the Mountain* for a one weekend run. Audiences filled the Ritz Theatre last year for this down-home gospel family musical and TOG brings it back for one more round. To bookend the season, the 2016 season will close with the Christmas sequel to *Smoke on The Mountain*. Sanders Family Christmas joins the singing family as they have one last gospel sing before son Dennis heads off to the Navy in WWII.

Offering workshops and productions for all ages, Theatre of Gadsden is a non-profit community theatre that strives to promote local talent, provide an outlet for creative community involvement, and celebrate and enhance understanding of ourselves and others through the shared experience of live theatre, producing a variety of new and classic productions throughout the year.

SHOW BLURBS:

THE FANTASTICKS:

*Try to Remember the kind of September
When Love was an ember about to Billow....*

The world's longest-running musical takes audiences to a place where a wall and two feuding fathers separate young lovers, Matt and Luisa. Mysterious narrator El Gallo and a troupe of vagabond actors orchestrate everything from deception to reunion as the youngsters find the glittering, faraway world isn't quite what they'd dreamed it to be. It is love and family and friendship that our hearts should remember.....and follow.

SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN:

The Sanders Family (from up around Siler City) returns with its 2015 cast for a command performance ONE WEEKEND ONLY. Join Vera and Burl Sanders and their quirky family band as they help Reverend Mervin Oglethorpe revive the Saturday night singin' at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

NUNSENSE:

With only 19 survivors from an accidental vichyssoise poisoning, the Little Sisters of Hoboken are staging a variety show on cable access to raise money for the burials. Mother Superior Mary Regina (a former circus performer) has gathered rival 2nd in command Sister Mary Hubert, streetwise Brooklynite Sister Robert Anne, aspiring ballerina



novice Sister Mary Leo, and Sister Mary Amnesia, called so after a cranial "incident" with a crucifix, to help make her TV fundraiser a success. Join them as they sing, dance, and laugh their way into your heart and prove that "Nunsense is Habit-Forming!"

MAME:

Eccentric bohemian Mame Dennis won't let even the Great Depression get her down! But her fabulous life is interrupted when 10 year old nephew, Patrick, becomes her ward. Spanning the turbulent decades of the 1930s and 40s, this Tony Award-winning musical says "Come along, Agnes!" and takes audiences on a madcap ride from start to finish.

SANDERS FAMILY CHRISTMAS:

North Carolina's favorite family returns in this holiday sequel to *Smoke on the Mountain*. It's Christmas Eve 1941, and Vera, Burl, and the gang have gathered for a Christmas sing before son Dennis ships off to the Pacific in World War II. With a couple dozen of everyone's Christmas and gospel favorites, this family musical is sure to have audiences clapping and singing along with the good folks of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church!

OUR TOWN:

Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama follows the triumphs and disappointments of the citizen's of fictional Grover's Corners in the years leading up to the first World War. Using simplicity and honesty, *Our Town* tells us that life is fleeting and each person, each moment should be cherished. A classic of the modern stage, this play is a "must-see" for students and adults alike. "Does anyone ever realize life while they live it....every, every minute?"

GSCC programs give students early start on achieving goals

When Ashley Smith developed a love for mechanical design, she never dreamed it would lead her to a career in dental appliance creation.

W“If you need a crown, I can make it,” the 18-year-old said. “If you need dentures, I can make it. And, I can personally design and make partials, too.”

Smith enrolled in Gadsden State Community College’s Dual Enrollment and Early College Enrollment programs while still a senior at Gaston High School last year.

“I knew the programs would get me ahead,” she said. “I wanted college under my belt so I could join the workforce. Plus, being a part of the programs is like having a scholarship.”

She initially enrolled in architecture classes but soon discovered her love for mechanical design.

“My instructor, James Wilson, knew I’d be good in mechanical design, and he encouraged me to do it,” she said. “It’s nice having someone push you to do your best, and that’s what Mr. Wilson did for me.”

While still enrolled at Gadsden State, Smith is working at Roberts Dental Laboratory utilizing a computer-aided design system with 3D Technology to develop dental appliances.

“We are one of only five labs in the country using the Exocad 3-D system,” she said. “It’s highly technical and not a lot of people know how to use it. I took what I have learned at Gadsden State and expanded on it.”

Once she makes the design, Smith sends it to a lab in Wisconsin, where they laser print it. It is sent back to Gadsden and finished for the customer.

“It’s like making jewelry,” Smith said. “I take a concept and then I make it look nice and pretty.”

Because of the flexible course schedule offered at Gadsden State, Smith is able to take 15 credit hours towards her associate’s degree in Mechanical Design while working full time at the dental lab.

“I take morning and night classes,” she said. “It allows me to continue working and doing what I love while achieving my academic goals. It’s a tough schedule but I’m driven. I want to be something; be successful.”

Smith’s situation is a good example of collaboration between members of The Chamber.

“The Chamber is a supporter of workforce development and Gadsden State,” said Heather Brothers New, president of The Chamber. “It’s rewarding when members work together. Ashley was trained by Gadsden State so that she’s ready to embark on a promising career at another Chamber member business.”

Smith will graduate with her associate’s degree this spring.

“I know some day I want to own a business that designs prosthetic limbs for people,” she said. “I’m OK with staying in the workforce after I graduate. If I need more training, I’ll go back to school but, right now, I have what I need. I know engineering principles thanks to my education at Gadsden State. I know how things work in mechanical design, so I can go far with my associate’s degree.”



Ashley Smith got a jump start on her career in dental appliance creation through Gadsden State’s Dual Enrollment and Early College Enrollment programs.

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The Real Value of Your Chamber Membership Investment

There are many reasons that businesses join The Chamber, Gadsden/Etowah County. The following are benefits which are INCLUDED in your annual membership dues. As you can see, it PAYS to be a member!

BENEFIT	VALUE
Chamber Lobby Display Showcase your business brochure/information at the display counter in the Chamber lobby.	\$200
Annual Chamber Magazine As a member, you are automatically listed by category and alphabetically in the annual Etowah County Current and Buyer's Guide. Each member business receives an annual subscription and additional lobby copies upon request. Copies are also distributed to newcomers, tourists and other interested individuals throughout the year.	\$500
Radio Spotlight for New Chamber Members New members are featured on Mix 102.9, WTDR/WGAD, along with other new members with a "Welcome to the Chamber" intro.	\$520
Grand Opening Ceremonies and Ribbon Cuttings Includes promotion, electronic invitations, your choice of ribbon color, and photography. Chamber Board Members, Ambassadors and local dignitaries receive special invitations to attend. Includes a photo in The Messenger Newspaper, as well as a post-event photo album on The Chamber's Facebook page.	\$300
Chamber Website Business Listing and Benefits Contact information with link to your website and representatives' email addresses. Also includes the opportunity to post business events, job listings, news releases, coupons and member-to-member discount offerings. All member events, job listing, news releases and coupons automatically post to The Chamber's Facebook and Twitter pages, and the Chamber President's LinkedIn page.	\$400
Monthly Newsletter Includes a monthly mailed or emailed subscription to the Chamber Chinwag. Members may also insert a pre-printed, single-folded flyer once annually at no additional charge (first come, first served with a max of 6 insertions per month). Annual value includes one insertion.	\$3
Weekly E-Blast and Blog Members can submit digital flyers for inclusion in the weekly blog, which is linked to a weekly email blast that reminds recipients to check out the new deals and events that have recently posted. One-time flyer design with one proof is provided at no additional charge. Members also have the opportunity to submit guest articles for the blog at no additional charge. Annual value includes benefit of receiving and participating in e-blast and blog.	\$350
Member-to-Member Deals Members can submit online through their member profile a special discount or service to their fellow members. We expect this program to grow throughout 2014 to provide numerous additional \$ value to Chamber membership. These discounts are exclusive to Chamber members.	\$300
Business-After-Hours Networking Event The Chamber holds Business After Hours every month except for January, typically on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Exposure to the month's sponsor(s), networking with between 175-350 other Chamber members, amazing food and generous beverages from Buffalo Rock and Supreme Beverage are included in membership. Value includes attendance at all 11 events.	\$300
Business-and-Gravy Speed Networking Breakfast The Chamber holds Business and Gravy Networking Breakfasts six times per year. The event is a unique way to connect with between 35-47 other members in a quick, concise manner through interactive, guided speed networking that immediately follows a delicious sponsored breakfast and coffees from Buffalo Rock. Value includes attendance at all 11 events.	\$120
Knowledge Bites Lunch and Learn Workshops Monthly training workshops on topics pertinent to small business are offered typically on the second Friday of each month and are limited to the first 20 to RSVP. Members may bring their lunch and attend for free or have a meal provided for only \$10. Value includes attendance at all 12 events.	\$420
Emerging Issues Luncheons Quarterly Emerging Issues luncheons are offered to the first 40 members to RSVP and focus on developing issues that affect local commerce. Lunch is provided at no additional charge. Value includes attendance at all 4 events.	\$100
MINIMUM ESTIMATED VALUE	\$3,510
Discounts, Discounts and more Discounts Discounts are available toward other members' services and products and leadership training opportunities.	PRICELESS
Ambassador Club The Ambassador Club makes visits, phone calls, referrals and extends information to members throughout the year.	PRICELESS
Referrals Every day The Chamber provides referrals for products and services.	PRICELESS
Advocacy Chamber presence on the Region 5 Workforce Development Council, Economic Development Council, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, Membership in the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, Business Council of Alabama, Alabama Retailers Association, Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourism Association. In addition, The Chamber hosts legislative roundtables and meetings that connect business owners directly with elected officials on the city, county, state and national level.	PRICELESS
Small Business Counseling Offered through Jacksonville State University Small Business Development Center, individuals may receive free counseling to enhance or start a new business. PRICELESS	
AND MORE! The Chamber works hard to identify additional benefits as needs arise. Membership forums allow direct flow of information from members to the President, and when possible new ideas are cultivated into new programs or needed changes.	PRICELESS

CHAMBER MEMBERS

Orleans Apartments

Buddy Owens
129 Ilene St.
Rainbow City, AL 35906-6111
(256) 442-8435
www.dawsondevelopment.com
buddy@dawsondevelopment.com

Pine Ridge Apartments

Carren Litteral
305 West Air Depot Rd.
Gadsden, AL 35903-3949
(256) 492-4898
pineridgeapartme@bellsouth.net

Princeton Park Apartments

Charlotte Gilchrist
301 Princeton Ave.
Gadsden, AL 35901-2658
(256) 543-7061
princetonparkapt@comcast.net

Riverhill Estates

T.J. Norris
720 Ewing Ave.
Apt 145
Gadsden, AL 35901-2577
(256) 547-2912
riverhill@tamco.org

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1104 Goodyear Ave., Suite 100
Gadsden, AL 35903-2066
(256) 490-5499
1freck@comcast.net

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164 Christopher St., Box 100
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(256) 442-8439
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buddy@dawsondevelopment.com

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Kelly Trevino
515 George Wallace Dr.
Attn: Office
Gadsden, AL 35903-2281
(256) 546-2804
forestrivermanager@uaginc.com

Architecture

B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect

B. Craig Lipscomb
442 Chestnut St.
Gadsden, AL 35901
(256) 390-5657
www.bclarch.com
craig@bclarch.com

Chambless King Architects

John Chambless
12 W Jefferson St., Suite 300
Montgomery, AL 36104
(334) 272-0029
www.chamblessking.com
smosley@chamblessking.com

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Barbara Pavey
507 Cherry St.
Attalla, AL 35954-2402
(256) 691-0866
www.cherrycreekvillage.com
bpavey@cherrycreekvillage.com

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Retirement Village/Meadowood Properties, LLC
W. Bart Scott
509 Pineview Ave.
Glencoe, AL 35905-1803
(256) 492-0935
www.meadowood-village.com
wbartschott@gmail.com

The Meadows of Rainbow City

Elsie Gamblin
520 LaSalle St.
Rainbow City, AL 35906-6034
(256) 442-0102
egamblin@crownmanagement.com

Attorneys

Allenstein & Allenstein, LLC

Rose Marie Allenstein
141 South 9th St.
Gadsden, AL 35901-3645
(256) 546-6314
www.allenstein.com
rose@allenstein.com

KNOWLES & SULLIVAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

400 Brd. Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
256-547-7200
kkslawgroup.com



Cusimano, Roberts & Mills, LLC

Gregory S. Cusimano Michael J. Roberts
Emily Hawk Mills Donald D. Knowlton

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CHAMBER MEMBERS

Cusimano, Roberts & Mills, LLC

Betsy Wells
153 South 9th St.
Gadsden, AL 35901-3645
(256) 543-0400
www.alabamatorlaw.com

Day & Welch, PC

George C. Day, Jr.
1925 Rainbow Dr.
Gadsden, AL 35901-5505
(256) 543-1660
georgecday@bellsouth.net

Knowles & Sullivan, LLC

Jason Knowles
400 Broad St., Suite 105
Gadsden, AL 35901
(256) 547-7200
kkslawgroup.com
christie@kkslawgroup.com

Rhea, Boyd & Rhea

Charles Boyd
930 Forrest Ave.
Gadsden, AL 35901-3668
(256) 547-6801

Strawn & Robertson, LLC

John Robertson
2401 Rainbow Dr.
Gadsden, AL 35901
(256) 459-4548
www.strawnrobertson.com
rstrawn@srlawfirm.comcastbiz.net

Tameria S. Driskill LLC

Tammy Driskill
246 South 8th St.
Gadsden, AL 35901
256-546-5591
driskill_law@bellsouth.net

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John Coggin
222 South 8th St.
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www.cadencebank.com

Cadence Bank - Rainbow City

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3201 Rainbow Dr.
Rainbow City, AL 35906-5807
(256) 413-7400
www.cadencebank.com

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Chris Daniel
3003 Rainbow Dr.
Rainbow City, AL 35906-5818
(256) 442-3003
www.exba.com
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www.exba.com
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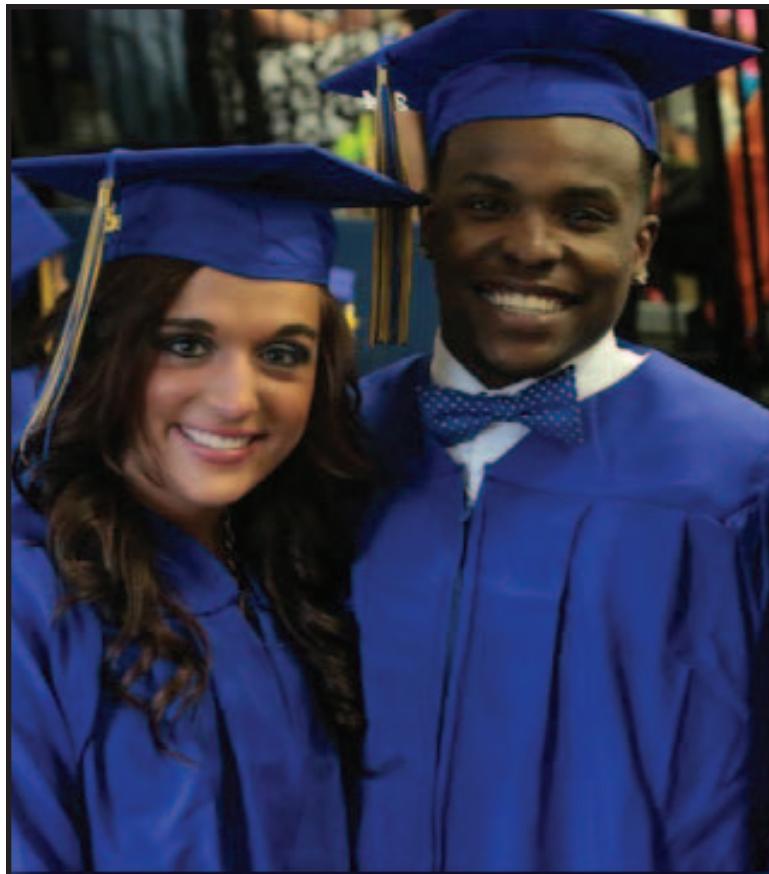
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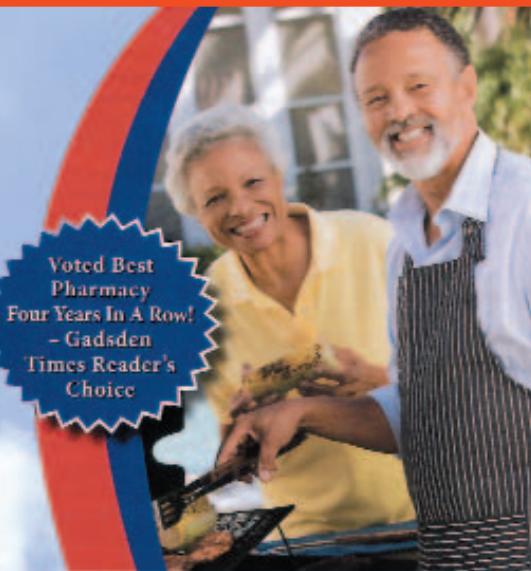


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MEMBERSHIP INDEX |

360 Painting.....	32
A-1 Insulating & Exterminating.....	53
A+ Printing	54
ABC 33-40.....	30
Able Portable Toilets & Septic.....	54
ABS Business Systems.....	52
Absolute Fitness	39, 44
Absolute Printing Solutions.....	54
ACE All Stars of Gadsden.....	60
ACME Brick & Tile Company.....	32
Acopia Home Loans	38
ADS Security	59
Advantage Emergency Medical Services	22
Advanced Cardiovascular Associates	53
Advanced Imaging of Gadsden, LLC.....	46
Advantage Properties	55
Alabama A&M University, Gadsden/Etowah County Chapter	50
Alabama Cancer Care, LLC	53
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services-Vocational Rehabilitation Serv.	50
Alabama Gas Corporation	61
Alabama Institute for Deaf & Blind/Talladega Regional Center	50
Alabama Power Company	Inside Back Cover, 36, 44, 61
Alabama Publishing Group.....	22, 54
Alabama Scrap & Salvage, LLC	59
Alabama Teachers Credit Union	34, 35
Alabama Waste Disposal Solutions, LLC.....	61
ALFA Insurance, Bo Arthur	46
ALFA Insurance, Paula Bell.....	46
Allenstein & Allenstein, LLC	23
Alley's Carpet	40
All Roads Lead to Christ Media Group, LLC.....	53
Allstate Insurance - Tyler Elliott Agency, Inc.....	46
Alpine Advertising	30
Alzheimer's Association.....	50
Amedisys Home Health of Gadsden.....	45
Amedisys Hospice Care	45
American Cancer Society.....	50
American Family Care.....	42
American Heart Association.....	50
American Income Tax Service.....	22, 60
American Real Estate, LLC.....	55
American Red Cross	50
America's Car-Mart	24
Americas Thrift Stores.....	58
AmeriCold Logistics, Inc.	48
Ancro Door Company	32
Anderson's Shoes & Boots, LLC	60
Animal Health Care	61
Apple-A-Day Health World.....	44
Aqua Medispa & Vein Studio	42
ARG Arby's Restaurant Group	55
Arrow Graphics	54
Asahi Sushi House	55

AT&T - Alabama	60
ATN - Bevill Center, Gadsden	36
Awards to Remember	60
B & B Pawn & Jewelry	48, 53
B & C Tire Company	25
B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect	23
Back Forty Beer Company.....	29
Badcock Home Furnishing.....	44
Baker Tire, LLC	24, 25
Baptist Retirement Village.....	59
Baptist Retirement Village II	59
Barnhart Crane & Rigging Co.	44
Barricks Manufacturing Company.....	48
Batey & Sanders, Inc.	44
BB&T Bank.....	28
BB&T - Southside.....	28
BBVA Compass Bank - Gadsden	28
BBVA Compass - Rainbow City.....	28
BD Welch Construction LLC	32
Beauty Ovations Hair Salon	59
Belk	35
Best Western Gadsden Hotel & Suites	46
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama.....	50
Big Wills Outfitters	38
Blackstone Pub & Eatery	29, 57
Blair Auto Body, Inc.....	25
Blendz Smoothie & Nutrition Shop.....	55
Boatner Construction Company	32
Blood Assurance	50
Blooms On Broad.....	40
Blount County-Oneonta Argricribusiness Center	50
Bob Roberts & Company, Inc.....	32
Body Maxx Fitness 4 Life, LLC.....	44
Boho Chic.....	30
Bojangles' Restaurants, Inc.	55
Bone Realty - John Bone	55
Boral Bricks Direct	32
Boy Scouts of America.....	50
Boys & Girls Clubs of Gadsden/Etowah County	50
Bradford Health Services	42
Breaking Bread.....	55
Brice Thomas Radiator Shop	25
Brown Oil Company.....	52
Bubba Ritos Southwestern Grill - Attalla	55
Bubba Ritos Southwestern Grill - Noccalula	56
Buck's Island	30
Buffalo Rock Company	30
Burke & Associates, LLC	22
Butler Electrical Contractors, LLC.....	32
CDG Engineers & Associates, Inc.	36
Cadence Bank - Gadsden	28
Cadence Bank - Rainbow City	28
Camellia Hospice	45
Candles by Stevie.....	41

MEMBERSHIP INDEX |

Capeside Fish Company, LLC	41	Core ENT, LLC.....	53
Capital Choice.....	38	Cornerstone Church	31
Cardiology Consultants.....	53	Corporate South Realty, Inc.....	55
Career Services-JSU	36	Cosmeceutical Labs, LLC	44
Caregivers On-Call, LLC	45	Cothran's Bakery	28
Casey-Hale Agency.....	46	Cotton Belle	22
CashSaver	39, 41	Council On Aging of Etowah County	50
Cellular Sales, LLC.....	60	Country Financial	40
Center for Cultural Arts, Mary G. Hardin	50	Courtyard Cafe.....	56
Chambless King Architects	23	Crabtree Surgical Clinic.....	43
Champion, Partners in Rehab.....	42	Credit Central	40
Chappell Professional Group, P.C.	22	Crestwood Cemetery	41
CharACTers, Inc.....	50	Crosson Agency.....	60
Charity Pig Roast	50	Culp Demolition	59
Charles Gough Insurance & Financial Services	40	Cusimano, Roberts & Mills, LLC	23, 24
Charter Media	30	Cycle World-Honda, Kawasaki, Yamaha & Sea-Doo	49
Chase Building Group	32	D. Styles Barber & Beauty Salon	59
Chateau Apartments	22	Daniels Sharpsmart, Inc.....	43
Cherry Creek Village.....	23	Darden Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc.	50
Chevalier Productions, LLC	38	Dawson Development Company	22
Chevrolet of Gadsden.....	24, 26, 27	Day & Welch	24
Chick-Fil-A at Fourth Street	56	Days Inn.....	46
Chick-Fil-A at Gadsden Mall	56	Dean Sausage Company, Inc.	41
Childcare Network, Inc.	36	Delaney's Moving & Storage.....	49
Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Gadsden.....	24, 26, 27	Deleath Rives	46
Cintas	60	Devan Lowe Cadillac Buick GMC Lincoln	24
City of Attalla	15, 42	Diamond Pest Control/Solutions	53
City of Attalla Water Works Board	61	Diamonds Collection	48
City of Champions Toastmasters	50	Direct Auto Insurance	46
City of Gadsden.....	42	Divine Divas Boutique, LLC.....	30
City of Gadsden Water Board	61	Doctors' Care, Inc.	43
City of Glencoe.....	42	Doctor's MedCare of Gadsden, P.C.	43
City of Hokes Bluff.....	42	Dogwood Trace Apartments	22
City of Rainbow City.....	41, 42	Donald W. Causey & Associates, P.C.	22
City of Southside	42	Donna Quinn Photography	53
C King Benefit Auctions, LLC	24	Don's Paint and More.....	32
Clinical Urology Associates, P.C.	53	Dowdy's Office Equipment.....	52
Clokey Realty, Inc.	55	Dowling & Caldwell, M.D., P.C.	53
Cobbs, Allen.....	46	Downtown Gadsden, Inc.....	48, 50
Collier-Butler Funeral Home	41	Dr. Charles Brentnall, MD	53
Colours Decorating	44	Dr. Donald Sutton, DMD	35
Colvin's Welding & Plumbing, LLC	32	Dr. Gordon Isbell, III	35
Comcast Cablevision	30	Dr. K. Delton Hartzog	52
Comfort Care Hospice Gadsden	45	Dr. Riggins MASC, LLC	53
Comfort Suites of Gadsden	46	Dr. Roger D. Allen, D.M.D., LLC	35
Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama	50	Dr. Stephen F. Blackstock, MD	53
Complete Sweep, Inc.	31	Dr. Thomas R. Corley, MC.....	53
Cooks Pest Control, Inc.	53	Dr. Vitkins Weight Reduction & Control Clinic	44
Cooper Vision Center, P. C.	52	Dynamic Applications, LLC.....	31
Coosa Christian	36	East Gadsden Clinic	53
Coosa Industrial Supply, Inc.	44	Edgar and Associates, LLC	22
Coosa Pain and Wellness, P.C.	42	Edward Jones Investment - Rodney Scott	40
Coosa Properties.....	55	Effina's Tuscan Grille.....	30, 56
Coosa Valley Steel Company, Inc.....	48	Elias Ghafary	46

MEMBERSHIP INDEX |

Elite Business Systems/Xerox.....	52	Fuller Medical	45
Elizabeth Barnett.....	38	Gadsden Animal Clinic.....	61
Elwood Staffing.....	60	Gadsden Career Center.....	60
Emma Sansom Middle School	36	Gadsden Church of Christ.....	31
Enterprise Rent-A-Car.....	24	Gadsden City Board of Education.....	36
Episcopal Day School.....	36	Gadsden City High School.....	36
ERA King Real Estate	55	Gadsden City Pharmacy	53
Ernest Wardner Designs	44	Gadsden Commercial Development Authority.....	31
Etowah Builders Supply, Inc.....	32	Gadsden Country Club.....	54
Etowah Center For Internal Medicine	53	Gadsden Cumberland Presbyterian Church	31
Etowah Chemical Sales & Service.....	30	Gadsden Dental Implant and Denture Clinic	35
Etowah County Board of Education.....	36	Gadsden Eye Associates, P.C.	52
Etowah County Commission.....	42, 43	Gadsden Family Practice	53
Etowah County District Attorney's Office	42	Gadsden Gastroenterology	53
Etowah County Fair Association	50	Gadsden Health & Rehab Center.....	52
Etowah County Farmers Federation	50	Gadsden Empowerment Initiative	50
Etowah County Health Department	50	Gadsden-Etowah Co. Industrial Dev. Authority	46
Etowah County Sheriff's Office	35	Gadsden-Etowah Habitat for Humanity	50
Etowah DeKalb Cherokee Mental Health Board, Inc.....	50	Gadsden-Etowah Patriots Association	51
Etowah Family Practice	53	Gadsden Job Corps Center	36
Etowah High School	36	Gadsden Mall.....	60
Etowah Historical Society	50	Gadsden Middle School	36
Etowah Pediatrics, PC	43	Gadsden Mortgage Service	40
Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center	50	Gadsden Museum of Art.....	48, 50
Etowah Pulmonology	53	Gadsden Music Company, Inc.....	50
Eugenias Advisory Group, LLC	40	Gadsden Orthopedic Associates	53
Eura Brown Elementary School.....	36	Gadsden Outfitters	52
Events on Court.....	38	Gadsden Pioneer Rugby, Inc.	50
Exchange Bank of Alabama - Altoona	28, 29	Gadsden Public Library	50
Exchange Bank of Alabama - Attalla	28, 29	Gadsden Regional Home Health & Hospice	43
Exchange Bank of Alabama - Gadsden	28, 29	Gadsden Regional Medical Center	45
Exchange Bank of Alabama - Noccalula	28, 29	Gadsden Regional Medical Center Physician Clinics	11, 53
Exchange Bank of Alabama - Rainbow City	28, 29	Gadsden Rotary.....	51
Exclusive Communicatinos	58	Gadsden Runners Club	51
Express Family Care.....	53	Gadsden Service Guild.....	51
Fairfield Inn & Suites at Marriott.....	46	Gadsden State Community College.....	Inside Front Cover, 36
Fambrough Drapery & Design Center	36	Gadsden Steam Plant	36
Family First Health Clinic, Inc.	43	Gadsden Surgery Center	53
Family Savings Federal Credit Union	34	Gadsden Symphony Orchestra	51
Family Savings Federal Credit Union - Rainbow City	34	Gadsden Tool, Inc.	48
Family Success Center	50	Gadsden Variety Antique Mall	22
Farmers Home Furniture	45	Gadsden Warehousing, Inc.	60
Farmers Insurance - Ford Office	46	Gadsden Weight Control, LLC	44
First Choice Personnel of Gadsden, Inc.	60	Gander Mountain	58
First Federal Mortgage	40	Gardens on Air - A Local Farm	41
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden.....	31	Gary Plimpton	32
FirstBank Mortgage Partners	40	Gentiva Home Health	45
Five Star Industrial Service, LLC	32	Gentiva Hospice.....	45
FLD Landscaping & Garden Shop.....	48	George Gruver Optical.....	52
FlipSide Cafe	56	Georgia-Alabama Land Trust	51
Foote Bros. Carpet One	40	Gerald G. Pentecost, Jr., CPA	22
Footworks of Gadsden.....	60	GKL Companies, Inc.	32
Freeman Land and Development	55	Glam Salon & Spa	59
Frios Gourmet Pops	41	Glencoe Jewelry Sales	48

MEMBERSHIP INDEX |

Globe	51	Jack's Family Restaurant - Southside.....	56, 57
Godfrey's Piping Specialties, Inc.....	48	Jacksonville State University	Back Cover, 36
Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc.....	38	James E. Watts & Sons Contractors.....	32
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company	49	James M. Barrie Center for Children	51
Gravel.....	30	Jared's Tactical & Firearm	58
Greater Gadsden Area Tourism.....	49, 51	Jason D. Gray, CPA, P.C.	22
Greater Gadsden Greeters.....	31	Jay Mid-South, LLC.....	49
Greater Gadsden Housing Authority.....	46	JBW&T, Inc.	38
Greater Gadsden Speakers - A Toastmasters Club	51	Jefferson's	56, 57
Greer Building Contractors	32	Jimmy John's.....	56
Gregerson's Pharmacy	39, 53	Jireh's Boutique & Gifts.....	30, 31
H & R Block	60	Joey Jones Construction, LLC	32
H.M. Freeman Motors, Inc.	24	Johnson Giant Food, Inc.	41
Hampton Inn, Gadsden	46	Joseph A. Bank #879	58
Hampton Inn West Gadsden/Attalla.....	46	Joy's Flowers & Marketplace	41
Hands of Creation	51	Julia Blue Entertainment Group	38
Harrison Radiation Oncology, P.C.	53	Junior Achievement of Gadsden/Etowah County	51
HealthSouth Rehab. Hospital of Gadsden.....	43	K & K Financial Group	40
Healthy Horizons	54	KALON	59
Hill's Moving and Storage Company, Inc.	50	Kerry Wilson Insurance Agency	47
Hillstar Business Intelligence	31	Kessler Land Agency	55
Hindsman - Davis, P.C.	22, 23	Keystone Bank	28
Hodges - Ford Insurance Agency, Inc.	46	Keystone Foods	54
Hokes Bluff Elementary School	36	KFC-Taco Bell, Hokes Bluff	56
Hokes Bluff Lions Club	51	KFC-Taco Bell, Southside.....	56
Holiday Inn Express and Suites.....	44, 46	King's Olive Oil Company	58, 59
Holman Heating, Air & Refrigeration, Inc.	44	Kirkpatrick Concrete, Inc.	34
Holy Comforter House	51	Kiwanis Club of Gadsden	51
Hometown Values	22	Klean-Co Carpet Cleaning, LLC.....	31
Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC	25	Knowles & Sullivan, LLC.....	23, 24
Hospice of Marshall County	45, 48	Koch Foods, Inc.	54
Humane Society Pet Rescue & Adoption Center	51	Krispy Kreme	56
Huntingdon College	36	Krystal - Gadsden	56
Hyundai of Gadsden	24, 26, 27	Krystal - Rainbow City	56
Impact Accounting	22	Lamar Advertising Company	22
Impact Realty	55	Laural E. Boutique	30
Ina Black Realty and Auction Co., LLC.....	55	Life Choice Hospice	45
Infectious Disease Specialists of NE Alabama	53	Life Insurance Company of Alabama	47
Inland Real Estate Corporation	55	LifeSouth Community Blood Center	52
InsLink	40	Lendmark Financial Services, LLC	40
Insurance Facilities, Inc.	46	Little Caesars Pizza	56
Integrity Medical, LLC	43	Little Bridge Marina, LLC	49
International Contractors.....	32	Local Joe's Trading Post - Gadsden.....	57
Internists Associates - Gadsden	54	Local Joe's Trading Post - Rainbow City	57
Internists Associates - Rainbow City	54	Louie's Pickles & Italian Deli	57
Inteva Products, LLC.....	49	Lowe's of Gadsden	32
Ira Phillips, Inc.	52	LST - A Division of Lee Investment Consultants.....	32
It's Yogurtime	56, 57	Lyons HR, Inc.	60
Jack's Family Restaurant - Alabama City	56, 57	Maaly's Monograms & Gifts	41
Jack's Family Restaurant - Attalla	56, 57	MAB American Management, LLC	55
Jack's Family Restaurant - Coosa	56, 57	M & L Systems	60
Jack's Family Restaurant - Gadsden	56, 57	Manpower, Inc.	60
Jack's Family Restaurant - Hokes Bluff	56, 57	Marella Winery - A Division of Lee Investment Consultants	61
Jack's Family Restaurant - Noccalula.....	56, 57	Marie Tatum	46

MEMBERSHIP INDEX

Mariella H. McNair.....	46	Northeast Alabama Kidney Association.....	52
Marvin's Home Center.....	32	Northeast Alabama Neurological Services.....	54
Master Care, LLC	31	Northeast Alabama Regional Aviation.....	25
Master Clean LLC	31	Northeast Imaging, PC	54
Mater's Pizza & Pasta Emporium	57	Northeast Orthopedics	54
MATTRESSmax.....	58	Northside Health Care.....	52
Max Packaging Company.....	49	Northwestern Mutual Financial Service	47
Mayer Electric Supply Company, Inc.	36	O.K., Inc.	60
McCartney Construction Company, Inc.	32, 34	Observer Supply, Inc.	52
McClellan Chiropractic Clinic, P.C.	30	Office Max/Office Depot.....	52
McCleskey Brothers, Inc.	48	Oishi Hibachi Express	58
McClure, Sewell & Associates, P.C.	22	Old Havana Cigar	29
McCord Communications, Inc.	55	Old Mexico Cantina.....	58
McDonald's (CLP Corporation)	58	Oral Surgery Associates	34, 35
McDonald's (R/C Restaurants)	58	Orleans Apartments	23
McGuffey HealthCare Center/Rehab First	51, 52	O'Rear Enterprises	55
McMichael Waste Services, LLC.....	61	O'Reilly Auto Parts - Attalla	25
McNair Jewelers	48	O'Reilly Auto Parts - Gadsden.....	25
MDA Professional Group, P.C.	22	O'Reilly Auto Parts - Rainbow City	25
Meadows Rainbow City, The	23	Osborn Brothers, Inc.	41
Meadowood Retirement Village/Meadowood Properties, LLC	23	Oscar Adams Elementary School	36
Medical Uniforms.....	61	Outback Trailers.....	49
Melodie Meadow Apartments	22	Overhead Door Company	32
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.	40	Pacific Trading and Recycling, LLC	55
MetLife Auto & Home	47	Panda Restaurant Group, Inc.	58
MetLife Financial Services - Greg Frith	47	Paradise Lanes, Inc.	38
Metro Bank.....	28	Partners Medical Clinic.....	43
Micro Excell Computers	32	Patti Cakes	28
Mike Johnson Construction, Inc.	34	Peaceful Vibrations.....	43
Milam Bedding Outlet.....	58	Pediatric Dentistry East P.C.	35
MIX 102.9.....	33	Pediatric Dental Associates, PC	35
Model Tees	54	People's Bank of Alabama	29
Modern Woodman of America	40	Peoples Independent Bank	29
Moe's Southwest Grill	58	Personal Fitness of Gadsden.....	44
Moman's Eye Care	52	Personnel Staffing, Inc.	60
Money Matters of Alabama	40	Phillips Fikes Agency-Farmer's Insurance Company.....	47
Monogram Creations by Jorus	58	Physicians Apothecary.....	53
Mountain Top Flea Market, Inc.	40	Physician's Choice Dialysis (Attalla)	43
Mountain View Hospital.....	46	Physician's Choice Dialysis (Gadsden)	43
Mr. Dan's Plumbing	54	Physicians Home Health SuperStore.....	46
Nanney and Son, Inc.	49	Physicians Who Care	48, 52
Nationwide Full Service Insurance Station	47	Pierson Leasing, Inc.	24
Natural Illusions Salon & Spa	59	Pine Ridge Apartments	23
Network Solutions, Inc.	31	Plexamedia.....	32
Neurological Specialists, P.C.	54	Popeyes Fried Chicken.....	57, 58
Never Surrender	52	Porter Testing Services	34
New Destiny Church.....	31	Power 107.5 FM.....	33
Nissan of Gadsden	24	Premiere Cinema 16 Gadsden	38
Noble Signs.....	22	Pretty Plus Clothing.....	30
Noccalula Improvement Association	52	Prince Metal Stamping USA, Inc.	49
Nomad Homestead Supply	52	Princeton Park Apartments	23
North Alabama Cardiology Center.....	54	Professional Opticians	52
North Alabama Family Practice.....	54	ProMaxx Performance Products LLC	49
Northeast Alabama Audiology Clinic	44, 45	Quality of Life Health Services, Inc.	43

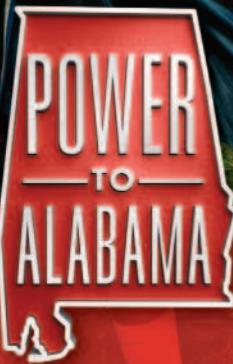
MEMBERSHIP INDEX |

Quality Transmission Service.....	25	Smith & Bailey Dental.....	35
Quik Nails / Hannah's Closet	59	Snap Fitness, Inc.	44
Rainbow City Pet Clinic.....	61	Snead Ag Supply & Service, Inc.	38
Rainbow Gold Products	53	Snead State Community College.....	36, 37
Rainbow Middle School.....	36	Sodexo	30
Raines Family Medicine	54	Somewhere In Time Antiques & Collectibles.....	22
Raymond James and Associates	40	Southern Cardiovascular Associates, P.C.	54
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.	40	Southern Care	45
Red Barn Farm & Garden Center.....	38	Southern Data Automation, Inc.....	32
Red Leach & Sons Insurance.....	47	Southern Roots Lawn & Landscaping.....	48
Red Lobster Restaurant.....	58	Southern Security Specialists, Inc.	59
Redneck Yacht Club Canoe and Kayak Rental.....	38	Southern Skies Dermatology & Surgery.....	54
Regency Pointe	59, 61	South Point Bank	40
Regions Bank - Clubview	29	Southside Family and Cosmetic Dentistry.....	35
Regions Bank - Eastside	29	Southside Family Pharmacy & Medical Supply.....	53
Regions Bank - Gadsden	29	Southside Garage Doors, LLC.....	34
Regions Bank - Glencoe.....	29	Southside Medical Clinic.....	54
Regions Bank - Rainbow City	29	Southside Vapes.....	59
Rehab Partners, P.C.	43	Southside Pet Clinic	61
Remona's LaDiva Boutique.....	30, 31	Sport Clips	59
Republic Services	61	S P Enterprises	34
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	52	Springleaf Financial Services.....	40
Rhea, Boyd & Rhea	24	Stacey Family Dentistry.....	35
Riverbend Family Dentistry.....	35	St. Christopher Apartments	23
Riverfest Community & Economic Development Corp.....	38	Starbucks - Ta-Petro.....	58
Riverhill Estates	23	Starpower Performing Arts Center	60
Riverview Regional Medical Center.....	1, 46	State Farm Insurance - B. Todd Davis	47
Riverwalk Apartments & Townhomes	23	State Farm Insurance - Blaise A. Jarecki	47
Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail At Silver Lakes.....	42	State Farm Insurance - Bob Haller	47
Rome Braves.....	38	State Farm Insurance - Danny Clayton	47
Ronnie Watkins Ford	25	State Farm Insurance - Darrin Wade.....	47
Rumley Center for Plastic Surgery	54	State Farm Insurance - Mike Alfred.....	47
Rural/Metro Ambulance	22	Stevi B's Pizza Buffet	58
Rush Wines	30	Strategic Marketing Consultants, LLC	22
Sacret Art Tatoo Studio	60	Strawn & Robertson	24
Safeway Industrial Services, LLC	61	Striplin, W.E., Elementary School	36
Salon Envi	59	Sunbelt Worksite Marketing	47
Sam Puckett	46	Sun Loan and Tax Service	40
Sandpiper Management.	44	Super 8 Motel	46
Santos Printing.....	54	Super B Pharmacy	53
Sarrell Dental-Attalla	35	Supreme Beverage Company	30
Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.....	59	Surgical Associates of Gadsden, P.C.	54
Security Solutions	59	Susie Weems Real Estate, LLC.....	55
Sequel Electrical Supply	32	Sutton Bridge Exxon-Storage.....	34
ServiceStar Outdoor Solutioins.....	59	Taco Bell	58
Sew Irresistable.....	44, 59	Talladega Superspeedway	55
Shannon and Banks	47	Tameria S. Driskill LLC	24
Sherman Industries-Gadsden	34	Tameron Honda Gadsden	25
Sherwin Williams Company.....	45	Tara's on Third	30
Shoe Carnival.....	60	Target Auction & Land Company, Inc.	24
Shoe Sanctuary.....	60	Tasty Haze, LLC	59
Shoney's	58	TaxBreak	60
Simmons Signs & Graphics	22	TeamOne Automotive Group.....	25, 26, 27
SkyApps.Us	32	TeamOne Toyota	25, 26, 27

MEMBERSHIP INDEX

Tele-Systems, Inc.	60
The Alabama Gift Company	41
The Anniston Star	54
Theatre of Gadsden	52
The Athletic Club	44
The Bridal Garden	52
The Chamber, Gadsden & Etowah County	22, 52
The Coggins Firm, LLC	24
The Cupboard	56, 58
The Decorator Store	45
The Fish Market Restaurant	57, 58
The Fisherman Restaurant, LLC	58
The Gadsden Times	54
The Glass House Gifts	41
The Hollar Company	34
The Honeybaked Ham Company	56, 58
The Lodge at Greenbridge	59
The Messenger Newspaper	54
The National Auction Group, Inc.	24
The New You Bra Boutique	30
The Real Estate Book, Bara Inc.	54
The Scotsmans Crew	31
The Southern Bank	28, 29
The Sports Zone	58
The Stone Market	59
The Taming of the Ewe	44
The Tax Store	55, 60
The Trading Post Western & Outdoor Store	59
The Willow Tree	30, 31
Thompson Gas	55
Tigers for Tommow at Untamed Mountain	52
Tillman, Allen & Sizemore, LLC	55
Timbers at Rayleigh	23
Titan Cafe	58
Top Notch Events & Rentals	52
Top O' The River	58
Total Cell Phone Repair	60
Tower Loan of Gadsden	40
Tre Ragazzi's Italian Cafe'	58
Trim-It-Up	22
Trinity Broadcasting Network-WTJP TV26	30
Trinity Industries	49
Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Lloyd, Frederick & Smith, P.C.	24
Tuxedo Inn	41
Twin Bridges Golf Club	42
Ultra Care, Inc.	45
Union Hill United Methodist Church	31
Unipres	49
Unique Choices,, Etowah Extension SAFE, Inc.	52
United Way of Etowah County	52
University of Alabama - Gadsden Center	19, 36
Velocity Food & Spirits	58
Venture Marketing Group, LLC	22
Veteran's Freight Brokers, LLC	60

Villa Fiesta Mexican Restaurant & Cantina	.58
Visiting Angels	.45
Viva Health	.43
VS Forest River, LLC	.23
Vulcan Materials Company	.49
Walgreens Co.	.53
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Store #301	.35
Walnut Gallery	.52
Walt Higgins	.46
Walter J. Duminski, CPA - Financial Advisor	.40
Water Way Distribution Co.	.30
Watts, Charles E., Inc.	.34
Watts Promotional Products (formerly Frank Shew Adv.)	.54
WAY-FM 91.1	.30
WCKA-Alabama 810 Radio	.30
WEAC - TV24	.30
Webb Concrete & Building Materials	.32
Webb-Stiles of Alabama	.49
Wells Fargo Advisors	.40
Wells Fargo Bank-Alabama City	.29
Wells Fargo Bank - Attalla Office	.29
Wells Fargo Bank - Coosa Valley	.29
Wells Fargo Bank - Gadsden	.29
Wendy's, Deason Foods	.58
Westbrook Christian School	.36
Western Sizzlin	.58
Whirl Events & Creative	.61
Whiteside Insurance	.48
Wholesale Paper & Chemical	.48
WideNet Consulting, LLC	.22
Wilborn Orthodontics, LLC	.35
Willis Boatner Pugh, LLC	.22
Willow Productions, Inc.	.22
Willow Tree	.30, 31
Wills Creek Vineyards	.38, 61
Winn-Dixie	.59
WinSouth Credit Union	.34
Wireless Advantage	.60
W-J Body Shop, Inc. - Johnsons Hot Rod of Gadsden	.25
WKXX-FM/Mix 102.9	.30, 33
WMGJ 1240AM	.30
Woman's Club	.31
Women's Health Partners	.54
Woodard Broadcasting Co./WVOK-FM/AM	.30
WPXH-TV, Ion Media Network	.30
WQSB-FM	.30, 33
Wrapid Graphics	.54
WVTM NBC 13HD	.30
Yellow Jacket Booster Club	.52
YMCA of the Coosa Valley	.44
YP	.22
Zaxby's	.58
ZLA Solutions	.60



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