

CHAMBER CONNECTION



New Operations Support Center helps Jackson Police Department keep the city safe

The Jackson Police Department's new Operations Support Center with monitoring equipment in its downtown headquarters will help officers keep the city safe.

The core of the Operations Support Center is a bank of eight large computer-driven monitors, which provide video feeds from cameras placed throughout the city and the locations of police cruisers throughout the city via GPS. The system helps officers quickly detect crime patterns and effectively respond to developing situations.

"We've re-tasked a room with a video wall to provide additional eyes to monitor our growing crime deterrence camera program," said Police Chief Julian Wisner. "It provides supervisors with a real-time snapshot of what is going on in the city."

The monitors provide great flexibility in how the video wall can be used. In addition to its primary function of monitoring cameras deployed throughout the city, operators will have an active screen showing current police and fire calls and the status of their responses.

"Operators can also monitor weather radar, review crime data and remain as up to date as possible in order to deploy or redeploy officers to address ongoing or developing problems or situations," Wisner said.

To create the Operations Center, the Police Department bought monitors with funds from the Jackson Chamber's Forward Jackson initiative and consolidated them with monitors already purchased under a \$120,000 Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs grant. This grant also funds the surveillance cameras.



Lt. Rodney Anderson and Investigator Tikal Greer keep a watch on key Jackson locations from the new Operations Support Center.

"This new operations center, completed with the support of the community, is going to help us expand our crime deterrence capabilities," said Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist. "The program provides officers with real-time support and is a force multiplier for the Police Department. It is a critical component of our efforts to combat crime."

The money from Forward Jackson — a five-year economic development initiative led by the chamber — allowed the Police Department to procure monitors and rack systems to

build the video wall. One of the strategies identified in a recent Forward Jackson planning session attended by a cross section of community leadership was to enhance safety and security in Jackson.

"Forward Jackson is committed to improving the community," said Kyle Spurgeon, president and chief executive officer of the chamber. "One of our goals is to give local law enforcement the support and tools

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SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTION

Small Business Week Awards presented to area businesses

Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC-JSCC) of Jackson State Community College recognized the success of several small businesses as part of National Small Business Week in early May.

Receiving awards were ...

- **Spa Vita, Jackson**, owned by **Amanda Schrupp**: Outstanding Start-Up Business.
- **Samuel T. Bryant Distillery**, Jackson, owned by **Sam Bryant**: Outstanding Emerging Business.
- **Southern Chic Spatique**, Henderson, owned by **Stacey Ingold**: Outstanding Business for Job Creation.
- **Better Business Sources, LLC**, Adamsville, owned by **Robby Stadinger**: Outstanding Existing Business Fastest Growth.

"These awards prove that small businesses in our area are successful," said Ron Acree, director of the local TSBDC. "These clients have listened and applied business advice from our center, even exceeding their own expectations in some cases."

One such case is Southern Chic Spatique in Henderson. Ingold had no idea she would create so many jobs when she opened her business. Through planning and help from the small business center, her business has reached beyond her dreams, creating 12 jobs, she said. Acree and Joel Newman, senior small business specialist with the TSBDC, selected the award winners based on their performances.

The local small business development



Amanda Schrupp, center, holds the Small Business Award she received for her new company, Spa Vita. With her, from left, are Ron Acree, with the local Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), Spa Vita employees Rebecca Force and Layne Petty; Joel Newman, TSBDC; and Ginger Bailey of Spa Vita. Acree and Newman, below, award Sam Bryant, who is opening the Samuel T. Bryant Distillery.

center, housed at Jackson Chamber's West Tennessee Business Resource Center and part of the national Small Business Administration, has the mission to help small businesses succeed, Acree said.

"I really appreciate the advice received from Joel Newman and Ron Acree," said Bryant, distillery owner. After a successful Business After Hours in May, and a preview of the distillery, it will open at the end of June off of Lower Brownsville Road. Bryant's background is in chemical engineering and working with his family's tree business.

Spa Vita in Jackson has been in business for one year. "Hard work, prayers and the support of friends, family and clients made winning this award possible," says Schrupp. "This has been the best year of our lives, and winning this award tops off our wonderful experience. We look forward to the many years to come."

TSBDC offers a variety of free services to help any



start-up or existing small business. Services include free business counseling and support and information ranging on creating business plans, understanding cash flow projections, applying for business loans and other topics.

SBA was created as an independent agency of the federal government in 1953.

INSIDE:

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TOYOTA BODINE

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CHAMBER NEWS

Susan Morris becomes Emissaries 2015 Chairperson

When Susan Morris, co-owner of Express Employment decided to volunteer with the Jackson Chamber Emissaries group, she had no idea she would step into the role of chairperson for the volunteer group one year early.

Susan, an Emissary of five years, was scheduled to be the 2016 chairperson when recently elected chair, Blake Mansfield, was given an opportunity to relocate to East Tennessee. With Mansfield's relocation, Morris was next in line to serve as chairperson and graciously accepted the position this year.

The Emissaries are volunteers who contact members to develop relationships within the chamber.

"I joined the Emissaries in 2010 when my husband, Ronnie, and I opened Express Employment in Jackson," says Morris. "It was a great way for me to meet and talk to numerous business contacts in the community and make important connections that are vital to growing our business. It didn't take me long to realize that we were very blessed to be part of such a thriving and active chamber. I am honored to chair such a fun group of professionals!"

Lisa Cothran, Vice President, Membership Development with the Jackson Chamber, is happy to have Morris as the 2015 Emissaries chair. "The Emissaries' work is vital to the chamber," Cothran said. "This group of volunteers assists the chamber with keeping in touch with its 1,400 members. The Emissaries connect with existing chamber members to verify their contact information and to reinforce the importance of chamber membership."



Madison Academic Theatre Program invited to perform in Scotland

The Madison Academic Theatre Department, under the direction of Becky Fly, has been selected to perform at the International Edinburgh Festival Fringe, in Edinburgh, Scotland, in August 2016. The Fringe Festival is the world's largest and most prestigious arts festival and includes high school performances as part of the American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF).

Madison was selected by the AHSTF Board of Advisors, which is made up of college theater professionals. The Board reviews all completed applications and identifies the top high schools based on their most recent bodies of work, community involvement, philosophies and recommendations.

While in Scotland, AHSTF's professional Technical Team ensures that the company's lighting, sound and property needs are addressed. Travel also includes three days in London.

Fly's Theater Program most recently performed the play, "Steel Magnolia's" and a production of "M.A.S.H." in Fall 2014.

LEADERSHIP JACKSON

Students receive Leadership Jackson Alumni Association Scholarships

The Leadership Jackson Alumni Association (LJAA) is proud to announce that four high school students in Jackson and Madison County have been awarded the Judy Renshaw Leadership Jackson Alumni Association Scholarships.

Receiving scholarships are **LeeAnna Fewell**, Jackson Christian; **Taylor Paige Lindsey**, South Side High School; **Alexis Denea Murphy**, Madison Academic Magnet High School; and **Dylan Hunter West**, South Side High School. The students received their awards at Leadership Jackson Alumni Association's Quarterly Luncheon May 15 at Jackson Energy Authority's Training Facility.

Fewell plans to study in the motion pictures program at Belmont University. Lindsey will attend Union University where she will study nursing. Murphy will major in nursing at the University of Memphis and major in nursing. West will continue his civil engineering studies at Mississippi State University.

The idea to award scholarships to high school students was born from a Leadership Jackson alumni trip in 2012 to the Tennessee Association of Community Leadership (TACL). The alumni discovered other communities were awarding scholarships and decided to do the same in Jackson.

A Scholarship Selection Committee was formed

with Leadership Jackson alumni Beverly Absher, Jack Matthis, Jeffrey Head and Chris Ramey.

The scholarship, funded through dues to the association and gifts, ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per student that is paid to the student's college or university during the student's freshman year.

It was renamed the "Judy Renshaw Leadership Jackson Alumni Association Scholarship" in honor of Renshaw, who developed the Chamber's Leadership Jackson program over 35 years. Renshaw, who recently retired, is the former senior vice president of business and community services.

The scholarship is open to Madison County high school seniors from public, private and home schools. The application process usually starts in February and wraps up in March.

"We are proud to support our young adults with the Judy Renshaw Leadership Jackson Alumni Association Scholarship," said Anna Page, president, Leadership



Taylor Paige Lindsey; Dylan Hunter West; Judy Renshaw; Keena Middlebrooks, Jackson Christian School counselor representing LeeAnna Fewell; and Alexis Denea Murphy receive \$1,000 college scholarships.

Jackson Alumni Association. "Through Leadership Jackson, we are committed to producing leaders for the future of our community. Our board is pleased to prepare local students for a future of leadership by assisting with their post-secondary education."

A total of \$7,000 in scholarships has been given away since 2014.

For more information about the scholarship, contact Russell Cook, manager of accounting, at 731-423-2200 or rcook@jacksontn.com. To learn more about Leadership Jackson or the Leadership Jackson Alumni Association, visit www.leadershipjackson.com.



Stars from Leadership Jackson Alumni Association keep Shining

Awards to top performers from Leadership Jackson Alumni are presented quarterly to the alumni that continue service to Leadership Jackson and the community. The winners are selected by the Alumni Relations committee.

Winners for May's luncheon are: Monique Merriweather, City of Jackson, receiving the Star Performer award. Her husband, Errick Merriweather, pictured far left, accepted for her. This award goes to an individual who continues to serve beyond their graduation from Leadership Jackson.

Younger Associates received the Performing Star award, which goes to a business/entity that continues to support the ideas of Leadership Jackson and continues to send employees through the LJ program. Pictured at left, are Sharon Younger, Owner, Leigh Anne Bentley and Stephanie Riley.



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