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**Developments:**  
*The Newsletter of  
The Simpson County  
Development Foundation*

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**Pat Brown**  
President

**Malory Yelverton**  
President-Elect

**Brien Hubbard**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Magee Designee**  
**Mendenhall Designee**  
**Greg Paes**  
Vice-Presidents  
Government Relations

**Stan Bulger**  
Vice-President  
Community Development

**Todd Booth**  
Vice-President  
Economic Development

**Jacob Blakeney**  
Vice-President  
Stakeholder Development

**Brian Barnard**  
Past President

**Donnie Caughman**  
Executive Director



**Governor Phil Bryant featured speaker for welcome of Richmond Family and RealPure Bottling to Simpson County.** Governor Phil Bryant was the featured speaker as Simpson County welcomed the Richmond Family and RealPure Bottling. The event, co-sponsored by the Magee Chamber of Commerce and the Simpson County Development Foundation, was held on

September 21, 2017, at the bottling plant located at McNair Springs, Magee.

RealPure is a significant addition to our county business community, projecting a total investment of over \$19 million and the ultimate creation of more than 35 new jobs. RealPure joins one of the largest family-owned private label bottled water groups on the East Coast, providing high quality bottled water products with innovative label designs to corporations and non-profits from New York to Texas. In addition to bottle manufacturing, they produce a variety of water products: steam distilled, purified, drinking, and spring.



Governor Phil Bryant (L) and  
Kane Richmond, CEO, RealPure  
Bottling

In addition to Governor Bryant's featured remarks, Pat Brown, president of the Simpson County Development Foundation, spoke on behalf of the Foundation, and Ian Cowart, president of the Magee Chamber of Commerce, made a special presentation to RealPure Bottling. Kane Richmond, CEO of RealPure Bottling, Inc., responded on behalf of the company. Belinda Berry, Minister of Children and Education, FBC Magee, gave the invocation, and Brien Hubbard, treasurer of the Foundation, led in the pledge of allegiance. Those present were afforded a tour of the plant following the ceremonies.



**Co-Lin President Dr. Ronnie Nettles announces Simpson County's launch as a Work Ready Community at RealPure Event.** In conjunction with the welcoming of RealPure, Simpson County also welcomed Dr. Ronnie Nettles, president of Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Dr. Nettles announced our launch as a Work Ready Community and recognized Entergy for a generous grant toward the implementation of the initiative.

Joining with other communities, employers, educators, and policy makers in the Copiah-Lincoln Community College district, we are taking a stake in making our county and our district more competitive, and the ACT® Work Ready initiative is how we are accomplishing that goal.

[Ed. Note: In our August 2017 newsletter we reported in detail on the WRC initiative.]



**Council of Governments meets in D'Lo.** The Council of Governments met on Tuesday morning, October 24th, at the newly remodeled D'Lo Corner Grocery which is owned and operated by Representative Andy Gibson and his wife Leslie. Breakfast was prepared by Andy and Leslie and provided by the Foundation. Buddy Mullins provided musical entertainment.



Pat Brown, president of the Foundation, and Donnie Caughman, executive director of the Foundation presented the program—an explanation of roles of the Simpson County Economic Development District and the Simpson County Development Foundation and relationship between the two—prepared especially for newly-elected municipal officials. James Smith, Chairman, SCEDD Trustees, made further comments.

This meeting of the Council was especially well-attended, with 28 individuals being present.

**Deployment of new high-speed Internet service from AT&T in rural Simpson County.** Mayo Flynt, President, AT&T Mississippi, has announced the deployment of new high-speed Internet service

from AT&T in rural Simpson County. He made the announcement at event on Wednesday, October 18th, in Pinola, at the site of the tower that will provide new high-speed internet service to the surrounding area.

Mr. Flynt explained that the Fixed Wireless Internet rollout is part of AT&T's FCC Connect America Fund commitment, and AT&T plans to reach nearly 133,000 locations with this technology across Mississippi by 2020.

Those present at the event and making brief remarks included Congressman Gregg Harper, Southern District Public Service Commissioner Sam Britton, and State Senator Chris Caughman. Pictured below, left to right, are Commissioner Britton, Mr. Mayo, Congressman Harper, and Senator Caughman.



While it is still too early to make any announcement, negotiations are ongoing in an effort to secure the location in Simpson County of a major agricultural products manufacturer.

In D'Lo, Andy and Leslie Gibson are planning a series of special events prior to the official opening of their new Corner Grocery restaurant.

In Mendenhall, Williams Good Old Day Buffet restaurant will soon open on Main Street.



**Mendenhall High School moves up to “B” rating in the accountability results report for the 2016-17 school year.** The Mississippi Department of Education has released the Accountability Results



Report for the 2016-2017 School Year.

Congratulations to Mendenhall High School which moved from a “D” to a “B” rating.

Mendenhall High joins Simpson Central as a “B School.” The overall District and the other individual schools retained their same rating as last year.

The 2017 Mississippi Statewide Accountability System assigns a performance rating of A, B, C, D, and F for each school and district based on established criteria regarding student achievement, individual student growth, graduation rate, and participation rate. Statewide assessments are used to measure proficiency and growth in proficiency for students in grades 3-8 and high school students taking end-of-course subject area assessments in Algebra I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History.



In the past few years, SIMPSON LEADERS – our Leadership Development program – has been very well received and favorably evaluated by the participants.

In order to form a new class for 2018, we need a minimum of ten (10) participants.

*Please call the Foundation Office – 601.847.2375 – if you are interested in participating.*

**Every member of the Simpson County Development Foundation is essential to attaining successfully our goals for the continued betterment and advancement of our community—Simpson County. Our goals are primarily economic; however, we are concerned with every element in the quality of life of our community. You, our Members, have a vital role in the success of each of the Foundation’s projects and programs.**

## CALENDAR

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

For the Remainder of this Calendar Year

**Simpson County Economic Development District**  
NONE

**Simpson County Development Foundation**

*Officers and Directors*

November 16, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Civic Center, Magee

Unless otherwise announced in advance of the meeting.

**MAGEE CRAZY DAY, SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 28, 2017**

