

**Calendar  
On Page Three**

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

176 West Court Street  
P. O. Box 127  
Mendenhall, MS 39114

601.847.2375  
Office

[scdf@bellsouth.net](mailto:scdf@bellsouth.net)  
Email

[www.simpsoncounty.biz](http://www.simpsoncounty.biz)  
Website

**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

**Joe Max Higgins** scheduled as featured speaker for SCDF's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting. Joe Max Higgins, CEcD, AICP, CES, is CEO of the Golden Triangle Development LINK. This regional economic development organization for Clay, Lowndes and Oktibbeha counties specializes in environmental planning, community and economic development projects, has completed more than 130 major community and economic development projects, has created nearly 15,000 manufacturing jobs, and has facilitated \$6 billion in industrial development.



Higgins was featured on CBS's 60 Minutes in 2016 for his role in the revitalization of the Golden Triangle. His many professional recognitions and awards include

- Economic Developer of the Year, National Economic Developers Association, 2006;
- Excellence in Economic Development Award from the Site Selectors Guild, 2013;
- Mega Developer of the Year by the Tennessee Valley Authority, 2014;
- Consultant Connect 50 Top North American Economic Developers, 2015;
- Mississippi Business Person of the Year by the Mississippi Business journal, 2016.

**SCDF's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting to have new format.** Our 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2018, on the campus of Boswell Regional Center. We are excited to offer a new format for this year's meeting.

Instead of an evening dinner, the meeting will feature a mid-day meal. The meeting and lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m., and Christ Williams and the Farm Bureau Cooking Team will be barbecuing for us.



**Agribusiness to be featured at Annual Membership Meeting.** At this year's annual meeting, we will be highlighting and expressing appreciation for our agriculture- and forestry-related businesses and industries in Simpson County. The SCDF staff are in the process of identifying and inviting agriculture-related businesses, industries, and organizations in our county.





**Council of Governments to meet in Magee.** The Council of Governments will meet on *Monday morning, April 9th, 7:30 a.m. at Zip's in Magee.*

These regular meetings are held for all elected officials in the county.

There will be a general discussion of the most recent legislation passed by our state government, and hopefully all our delegates can make the meeting to speak directly on the different subjects.

Breakfast will be provided by the Foundation.



**Magee Chamber of Commerce holds annual banquet.** On the evening of Tuesday, March 6, 2018, the Magee Chamber of Commerce held its Annual

Banquet. The entertaining and inspiring program included Marshall Ramsey, *Clarion-Ledger* cartoonist, as the featured speaker, and the following individuals were honored:

- Sue Honea, Hall of Fame;
- Nevis Rankin, Spirit of Magee;
- Skip and Tracey Russell, Outstanding Citizens.

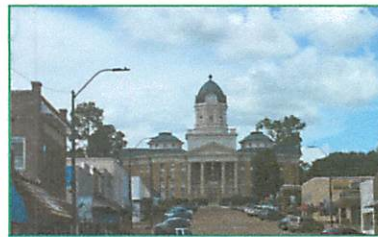


Sue Honea and  
Nevis Rankin



President Ian  
Cowart passes the  
gavel to incoming  
President LauraLyn  
Barr

**Mendenhall Area Chamber of Commerce schedules Annual Chamber Banquet.** The Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet will held on Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 7.00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory in Mendenhall. A silent auction begins at 6:30 p.m.



Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Chamber Office located at 288 Main Street. If you or your business is interested in sponsoring a table,

please notify the Chamber Office at 601.847.1725.



**New businesses open in Simpson County.** The Foundation is happy to welcome the following new businesses to Simpson County:

- In Braxton, the Main Street Café;
- In Mendenhall, Williams Good Old Days Restaurant;
- In Magee, the Vault Restaurant.

Mark and Angel Brister are the new owners of the Sears store in Magee.



In our previous newsletter, we noted that negotiations were ongoing in an effort to secure the location in Simpson County of a major agricultural products manufacturer.

Since that time, we have responded to a formal request for information (RFI), and subsequently we have been advised that the Simpson County site is one of the top three sites currently under consideration by the manufacturer.

To date, we have not been notified of a final decision.





Simpson County nears completion of goals for certification as Work Ready Community. As reported earlier, we have joined with other communities, employers, educators, and policy makers in the Copiah-Lincoln Community College district to make our county and our district more competitive, and the ACT® Work Ready initiative is how we are accomplishing that goal.

As of the end of February we have attained 85% of our goals toward being certified as a Work Ready Community.



We are still seeking to form another SIMPSON LEADERS class. 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.*

## CALENDAR

### Magee National Guard

On Thursday, March 15th, beginning at 10:00 a.m., the City of Magee is having a parade and luncheon for Magee's National Guard Unit, who are being deployed overseas.

### Simpson County Development Foundation Officers and Directors

Thursday, March 22, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Civic Center, Magee\*

\*Unless otherwise announced in advance of the meeting.

### Mendenhall Area Chamber of Commerce

#### Annual Banquet

Thursday, March 22, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

National Guard Armory, Mendenhall

### Council of Governments

Monday, April 9, 2018, 7:30 a.m.

Zip's Restaurant, Magee

### Simpson County Economic Development District

#### Board of Trustees

Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 11:30 a.m.

Berry's Restaurant, Magee\*

\*Unless otherwise announced in advance of the meeting.

### Simpson County Development Foundation

#### Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 11:30 a.m.

Boswell Regional Center

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.

### Welcome to Our Newest Members

#### Cooperative Energy

Town of D'Lo



**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 1, 2018**