

BLOUNT COUNTY-ONEONTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2009

Membership Coffee

*Tuesday
November 24, 2009*

*7:30 a.m.
Twin Oaks*

SPEAKER

Kay Ivey

SPONSOR

**New Beacon
Hospice**

**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS**

Convenience Store — **Busy Bee Food Mart** — Diane Pate: 25812 State Highway 75, Allgood, AL 35013. 205-274-0101.

Individual — **Pat Bryant** — 648 Valley Road, Oneonta, AL 35121.

Individual — **Phyllis Ratliff** — 1201 Park Avenue, Oneonta, AL 35121.

State Treasurer, Kay Ivey, set to speak at November breakfast

State Treasurer Kay Ivey (Republican) will be the featured speaker at the monthly chamber breakfast that is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2009. The program will be held at Twin Oaks, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and our sponsor is New Beacon Hospice. The breakfast has been changed to Tuesday to avoid conflicting with the Thanksgiving holiday. The program continues the chamber series featuring the eight candidates seeking nomination in the parties for the 2010 governor's race.

A Camden native and a 1967 graduate of Auburn University, Kay Ivey began her career as a

high school teacher before becoming an officer with Merchants National Bank in Mobile. She served as an assistant hospital administrator, as well as assistant director of the Alabama Development Office where she authored the Prepared Cities Program. She also worked as director of government affairs and communications for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and as a reading clerk for the Alabama House of Representatives.

Kay Ivey, elected in 2002, is the first Republican to be inaugurated as state treasurer. She was re-elected in 2006 with the most votes by any individual candidate on a statewide contested ballot that year. Kay has a long and impressive record in banking and state government. She has been a champion of taxpayers' interests focusing on cost savings and efficiencies in treasury operations. She has compiled an impressive list of bi-partisan legislative accomplishments to improve Alabama's unclaimed property program and two college savings plans. Recognized by her peers as a national leader in treasury management, she has served as president of the southern region of the National Association of State Treasurers and currently serves on the executive board of the College Savings Plans Network.

Treasurer Ivey is a member of the Capital City Republican Women, First Baptist Church of Montgomery, the Montgomery Rotary Club, the Board of Directors of the Montgomery YMCA, and the Tukabatchee Council of the Boy Scouts of America. She has been named a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow by the Montgomery Rotary Club.



BREAKFAST continued on page 3

Chamber Update...

The 26th annual Covered Bridge Festival (CBF) was a rousing success despite breezy, misty, and cool weather early on Saturday, October 24. Remarkably, only eight vendors were no-shows. Even more remarkable, this year's CBF had a record number of vendors attending the event.

The beauty pageant, golf tournament, arts and crafts festival, Saturday evening concert hosted by the Arts Council, 5K run sponsored by The Gym, and the breakfast benefitting the Children's Center provided a wide variety of activities for all to enjoy. A more detailed description of the events will be provided in a forthcoming article.

A special thanks to all the volunteers for making the festival successful and well-run. There were a minimum of problems due to great planning by chamber officials, Oneonta Police Department, and the City of Oneonta. *The Blount Countian* deserves special notice for excellent advertising and promotion of the annual event. Also, Mayor Darryl Ray, City Administrator Ed Lowe, Police Chief James Chapman, the Oneonta City Council, and the Oneonta Street Department deserve credit for making the event a success. And, the Oneonta Business Association provided invaluable insight during the planning process.

We also would like to thank our sponsors for helping make this event a success: Platinum Sponsors -- Alabama Power, Coca-Cola, McMillian Fabrication Works, Superior Bank, Region's Bank; Silver Sponsors -- Trinity Management, Hydra Service, Legacy Federal Community Credit Union, Otelco, Snead Ag Supply, Alabama Water Blasting.

BLOUNT COUNTY CHRISTMAS PARADE

The 2009 Blount County Christmas Parade begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 3. Help us usher in the holiday season as we celebrate a "Hometown Christmas." The Chamber invites everyone throughout the county to take part and enjoy the fun and festivities. Show off your bands, beauty queens, churches, businesses, clubs and organizations, scout troops and any other groups. We hope all of Blount County will be represented.

All non-profit groups are encouraged to enter floats and compete for the cash prizes that are awarded the top three entries.

Floats entered by businesses will also be judged and presented with awards. Because of liability, the chamber no longer allows horses, three or four wheelers, or all-terrain vehicles in the parade.

And, of course, no Christmas Parade would be complete with the star of the show -- old St. Nick. Santa Claus is definitely coming to town for the parade and transportation will be provided by St. Vincent's Blount.

For more information on guidelines for entries and registration, please contact us at 205-274-2153 or download the application at www.blountoneontachamber.org.

CHAMBER MOVES INTO NEW OFFICE

Beginning November 1, your Blount County-Oneonta Chamber of Commerce moved. We are now located at 225 2nd Avenue East. You will still find us on highway 75 across from the courthouse, but the new office gives us additional space as well as our own meeting room. We hope you will come by and visit.

LEADERSHIP BLOUNT COUNTY

The Blount County Leadership Class sponsored by the chamber will have its first session on November 19. The people, leaders, institutions, organizations, government, and processes that make Blount County a special and unique area will be studied. The class will meet once a month for nine months and will include as one of those meetings a chartered bus trip to Montgomery for a state government day.

CONCLUSION

The Blount County Veteran's Day Parade held on Saturday, November 7, 2009, was a resounding success and a fitting tribute to all Blount County veterans.

Blount County remains a faith and patriotic-based community. It is altogether fitting to honor veterans who served this great nation. The lives and works of our veterans have helped make this a great community. Be thankful and grateful for their services.

By working together, we are making a very good community even better.

September Unemployment Rate Released

Alabama's unemployment rate during the month of September 2009 jumped to 10.7 percent, almost twice the rate recorded one year ago and the highest in more than 24 years. September's rate is up from the 10.3 percent in August 2009. It is nearly double the 5.4 percent recorded a year earlier. It is the highest since the state reached 10.9 percent in February 1984. Alabama's modern day high was recorded in November and December 1982 at 14.4 percent.

A number of interesting facts can be found in the September 2009 numbers. Madison County, not Shelby County, recorded the lowest county jobless rate

during the month. This is the first time in years that Shelby County has not enjoyed the lowest rate.

Alabama's September rate was higher than the national rate of 9.8 percent. Blount County tied with Chilton County for the second-lowest jobless rate in the Birmingham metro area. Forty-nine Alabama counties had unemployment rates higher than 10 percent. Forty other states had unemployment rates lower than Alabama's rate.

Alabama's jobless rate of 10.7 percent represents 223,165 unemployed persons during September. Wage and salary jobs for September registered losses in leisure and

hospitality; trade, transportation, and utilities; manufacturing; and financial activities. Gains were realized in the areas of government, education and health services, construction, and professional and business services.

Blount County's unemployment rate rose to 9.9 percent in September, up from 9.7 percent in August. This represents 2517 countians without jobs. During September, 22,789 countians had jobs. The civilian labor force has declined from 26,225 in September 2008 to 25,306 in September 2009. Blount County was tied with two other counties for the 13th-lowest rate in the state.

Breakfast Continued from page 1

You may access Kay Ivey's gubernatorial website at www.kayivey.org.

BREAKFAST SPONSOR

New Beacon Hospice, an active and important chamber member, will sponsor the November breakfast. It is the corporate generosity and civic spirit of New Beacon that allows the chamber to present another public speaker of note.

New Beacon was the first Medicare certified hospice agency in the state of Alabama. They have been serving Blount County since 1979. In this time, they have built a long-standing reputation with our citizens. Most families in our county have been touched at some point through a ministry provided by this organization of caring individuals.

The care administered by the New Beacon staff is personalized to meet each patient's individual needs. They work with a network of community resources to provide a holistic approach to physical, spiritual and emotional care at a time when life matters most. Their experts are trained to

reduce anxiety, assist families with insurance and related matters, provide on-going bereavement counseling and offer spiritual support in addition to traditional physical care.

New Beacon Hospice professionals are available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Care is provided in a number of different settings, including private residences, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, apartments or hospitals. Through these efforts, patients have the ability to remain in a familiar environment.

New Beacon Hospice provides consistent, compassionate support for those facing life-limiting illnesses. Coping with the news of a terminal diagnosis or wrestling with the decision of what is best for an individual's care is difficult, confusing and potentially overwhelming. New Beacon Hospice understands the challenges patients and families face as they live with terminal illness. Their assistance clears the way for meaningful time to be spent with one another. Their staff is committed to each and every visit to listen and offer solutions.

If anyone has questions, a need for their service, more information, or a desire to volunteer with New Beacon, please visit the Web site at www.newbeacon.org or call 205-274-0549.

Join the Chamber Today!



THE CHAMBER... *Your Bridge to a Brighter Tomorrow*

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