

HEADLINES

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Expanding Companies

Colbert County

APC Forest Products, a full-service manufacturer of wooden pallets is increasing their labor force by 10% with the addition of a hand-built crew.

DeKalb County

Renfro Corporation will be creating 442 additional jobs through a contract with Wal-Mart to produce socks sold under various brands. This announcement will push their employment in Fort Payne to over 1,000.



Lawrence County

The Jack Daniel Cooperage announced a \$2,700,000 equipment upgrade. The project includes installing an automated

scanning / defecting rip cell that ties into existing equipment. This will allow the system to scan material and make decisions on how to cut the wood based on specifications entered into the system. The new technology will lead to less waste and better quality in the product. Other benefits are automated data collection and automated material handling.

Madison County

Aerojet Rocketdyne is expanding to manufacture the new AR1 rocket engine. Creating 100 additional jobs, the current decision to manufacture this engine in North Alabama makes this development the company's third announcement in the "Rocket City" in the past year.

IBM won a \$62 million contract with the Army to complete a pilot program that will consolidate current data centers and upgrade IT infrastructure at Redstone Arsenal.

Raytheon has been awarded a \$235 million U.S. Navy contract for Standard Missile-6 production at their assembly site on Redstone Arsenal.

AT&T is adding 40 full-time customer service jobs at its DirectTV Call Center currently employing 551 in Huntsville.

NAIDA Platinum Corporate Partner

BANK INDEPENDENT

A bank with local roots.

Now that's radically original.

Commemorating their 70th year, Bank Independent is a locally-owned bank that has invested more than a half-billion in loans to citizens and businesses through 28 convenient locations in North Alabama.

Bank Independent offers a complete range of banking products and services. Explore their website to determine which services and accounts are right for you www.bibank.com

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Rooted in tradition, focused on the future.

Member



Equal Housing Lender



Bank Independent has continually been named one of America's highest rated banks by Sheshunoff, Inc., an independent bank rating firm.

This company has made a commitment to economic development in North Alabama and we hope that companies considering a location in North Alabama will look to our Corporate Partners for their project services.

UPDATES

Colbert County

The legendary Muscle Shoals Sound Studio has been authentically restored through the generosity of Beats Electronics. The studio was founded in 1969 by the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section aka: "The Swampers" in the song "Sweet Home Alabama". Iconic musicians such as Bob Dylan, Bob Segar, Rod Stewart, and Paul Simon recorded hundreds of hits in this studio that the Rolling Stones call "rock and roll heaven." For 2017, the Alabama Tourism Department has selected the Muscle Shoals Sound Studio as the state's top attraction.

Lauderdale County

Observer.com has named Florence native, Billy Reid, the #1 most powerful man in the American menswear scene in their 2017 American Menswear Power List.

Madison County

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center was Alabama's most visited tourism attraction in 2016 with more than 657,000 visitors.

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UPDATES

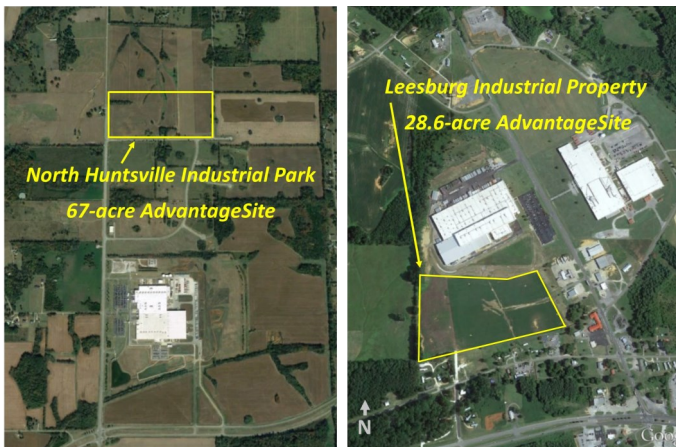
Announcing the launch of our new redesigned website!

take a look at:

NorthAlabamaUSA.com or NAIDA.com

Two Newly Awarded AdvantageSites

North Alabama now has 14 active AdvantageSites with the recent addition of the 67 acre North Huntsville Industrial Park in Madison County and the 28.6 acre Leesburg Industrial Property in Cherokee County. In total, these 14 sites represent **over 3,000 acres** designated as AdvantageSites.



Madison County

Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Alabama, Inc. (TMMA) set an all-time high production record of 702,014 engines produced in 2016. This represents an 11% increase from 2015. TMMA is also celebrating the recent production of their 5 millionth engine.

Morgan County

The booster engine called the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (ICPS), NASA's first piece of Space Launch System (SLS) flight hardware, was shipped from Decatur's ULA facility to Cape Canaveral.

Did you Know?

A recent Gallup Poll found that Alabama leads the U.S. States in Employee Engagement, meaning the employees are highly involved and enthusiastic about their work and workplace.

PROSPECT VISITS

During the months of January and February NAIDA assisted four prospect visits to North Alabama.

EDUCATION

Based on overall evaluations from the Alabama State Department of Education 2015-2016 report card, the following North Alabama school systems scored an "A"; Arab, Cullman, Hartselle, Madison, and Muscle Shoals. According to the information, North Alabama school systems as a whole attain an average graduation rate of 92% and all of our systems achieved a score of "C" or above.

AWARDS

Site Selection magazine has ranked Cullman the #2 Micropolitan in America for the second consecutive year. Micropolitans are cities with a population of 10,000 to 50,000. "This is an outstanding recognition for our community and the industrial base here," said Peggy Smith, Director, Cullman Economic Development Agency.

Forrest Wright, President of the Shoals Economic Development Authority, was the recipient of the Dave Echols Distinguished Service Award at the Economic Developers Association of Alabama 2017 Winter Conference.



Bob Smith - Assistant Director of Business Development, AL Department of Commerce
Rose Jones - SEDA Board
Forrest Wright - SEDA President
Steve Hargrove - SEDA Board Chairman & NAIDA Board Chairman
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