



# Chamber News



INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VISITORS BUREAU

## Happenings

### Chamber Ambassador Lunch Monday, March 2, noon

Chamber Board Room  
Anyone interested in becoming an Ambassador is welcome.  
For more information call  
865-376-5572

### Chamber Coffee: Infrared Surveys

Friday, March 13, 9—10 am  
For more information call  
865-376-5572

### Chamber's Monthly Speaker Series Luncheon

Tuesday, March 17, noon – 1 pm  
"Making Your Membership Work for You"  
Roane State Community College  
Harriman  
For reservations call  
865-376-5572

### Chamber After Hours

The Delaney House, operated by  
The Gibson Girls Southern Goodies &  
Special Events  
Thursday, March 26, 5-7 pm  
Hosted by Express Personnel  
Call for reservations at 865-376-5572

### Chamber Coffee

Big Fish Computers  
Wednesday, April 1, 8:30—9:30 am  
For more information call  
865-376-5572

### Chamber Open House at Music Karaoke Cafe

Saturday, April 4, 10am—12pm  
Kids are invited  
For more information call  
865-376-5572

### Chamber Coffee: Staff One

Thursday, April 16, 8:30—9:30 am  
For more information call  
865-376-5572

### Annual Chamber Banquet Friday, April 17

Whitestone Country Inn  
If interested in attending or being a sponsor call  
865-376-5572

### Home and Garden Show

Saturday, May 2, 9 am—2 pm  
Booths are \$100 for Chamber Members  
Sponsorships Available  
For more information call  
865-376-5572

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The Official Newsletter of the Roane County Chamber of Commerce

Visit us online at [www.roanealliance.org](http://www.roanealliance.org)

For information about joining the Chamber, call the Roane Alliance at 865-376-5572

## Roane Faced Many Challenges in 2008 – But Fared Better Than Most

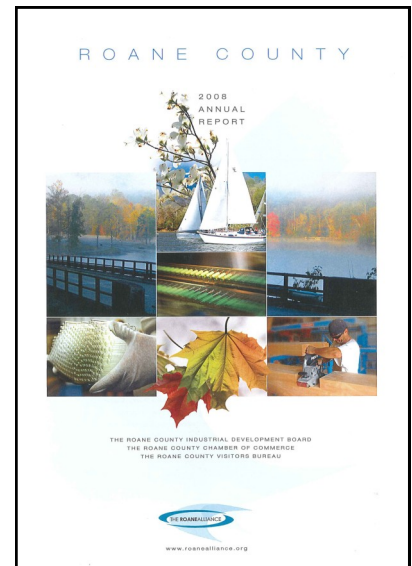
The year of 2008 will be remembered as one that brought a lot of challenges to The Roane Alliance and Roane County – but also as one that could have been a whole lot worse, according to The Roane Alliance's 2008 annual report.

For example, although more than 200 new jobs were created in Roane County in 2008, for the first time in five years, The Alliance is not reporting any net gains in new jobs in its annual report, because at least as many other jobs were lost over the same time. Neither were there any increases in building permits or record years of industrial prospect activity to be reported at year's end, as there had been in years past, the recently-released report says.

But, according to Leslie Henderson, President/CEO of The Alliance, in many ways, Roane was more fortunate than most. For example, she said, "Roane was the few counties in the area not to experience any massive layoffs in 2008."

And, she continued, as can be seen in a number of key economic indicators, regionally, statewide, and nationwide, Roane County was still doing relatively well as 2008 closed, even as the global recession took hold elsewhere. Some excerpts from the report include:

- Sales tax collections continued to climb, even through the last half of 2008 -- when the rest of the country was slowing to a crawl -- the collections were nearly 12% higher than the same period the year before.
- Although the county's unemployment rate did rise over the record lows of 2007 -- hovering around 5 and 6% through the year -- it stayed an average of 10% below that of Tennessee's as a whole throughout.



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## New Date For Annual Chamber Banquet, April 17

This year's banquet will be held on April 17 at the Whitestone Country Inn beginning with a wine reception and silent auction at 6 pm and dinner to follow at 7. Tickets are priced at \$100 and tables of eight can be reserved. A limited number of sponsorships are available for this event. We are currently seeking donations from Chamber members for the silent auction.

Awards will be presented at the banquet to several deserving businesses and individuals to include the Distinguished Service Award, the Athena Award and the Business of the Year Award. The deadline for submitting nominations for these awards is March 31<sup>st</sup>. These ballots were included in the previous newsletter.

The Roane Chamber of Commerce is composed of approximately 400 members and new memberships are welcomed. For reservations and new memberships, contact the Roane Alliance at 376-5572.

## Charlie Daniel speaks, adds humor to Chamber Luncheon

The well-known local editorial cartoonist, Charlie Daniel, delighted Chamber members with stories and of course, cartoons during February's Monthly Chamber Luncheon Speaker Series. One of 80 newspaper editorial cartoonists nationwide he has been a Knoxville newspaper cartoonist for more than 50 years. He has drawn more than 15,000 cartoons, most political, during his career. Four books have been published of his cartoons.



Daniel's favorite cartoon is Peanuts but his cartoons are full of political satire. His comparison of political cartoons to an "ice cube down your back—too cold and wet to be ignored" is not surprising then considering his advice to kids who want to be a cartoonist when they grow up—"don't grow up." His unique wit was evident throughout his speech, complete with cartoons that helped to illustrate his style of humor and made for a very enjoyable lunch.

## Roane Faced Many Challenges in 2008 – But Fared Better Than Most

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- And although Roane's tourism industry struggled through 2008, the latest state figures showed tourism dollars spent were still increasing through 2007, and Roane County continued to rank in the top 25 counties in the state in tourist spending overall.
- Meanwhile, Chamber membership and financial support remained strong. Our membership stayed at nearly 400 in the Chamber and our annual Alliance fund-raising Gala met its goal.

The Roane Alliance is Roane County's economic development organization with the goals of improving the quality of life and bringing increased prosperity to Roane County. The Alliance consists of both public and private organizations, including the Roane County Chamber of Commerce, the Roane County Industrial Development Board and the Roane County Visitors Bureau. Every year, the Alliance compiles information and releases an annual report, providing a snapshot of the Roane economy and the activities of the Alliance over the year.

## Welcome New Members

**Davis Appraisal**  
**Donnie Davis, Owner**  
P.O. Box 1065  
Kingston, TN 37763  
865-376-0605

**Roane County Habitat for Humanity**  
P.O. Box 1124  
Kingston, TN 37763  
865-376-5770

**Roane County Republican Party**  
**Bruce Cantrell**  
190 Van Stowe Rd.  
Harriman, TN 37748  
(865) 376-5423

## EnergySolutions Foundation Scholarship Program Begins

The **EnergySolutions** Foundation is beginning their scholarship program again for a third year. The scholarship program is for sophomores in eligible high schools who want to pursue a bachelor's degree in math, science, or engineering when they go to college. The initial scholarship is \$2,000, and then the scholarship recipients are entered into a national distinguished award competition with a chance to receive an additional \$2,500, \$5,000 and \$25,000 scholarship and a laptop upon entering college.

The past two years, the \$25,000 distinguished award recipient has been from Oak Ridge High School. The long term goal of the scholarship program is to help create the next generation of mathematicians, scientists, and engineers for America's future. For more information on the scholarship program and a list of schools, please visit their website at [www.energysolutionsfoundation.org](http://www.energysolutionsfoundation.org) or call Sharon Templeton at (865) 220-1263.

## Lil' Angels Thrift Shop Grand Opening

The **Lil' Angel Thrift shop** is located on 1205-A South Roane St. Harriman and owned by Chuck McPherson. Committed to offering great quality merchandise, the well organized shop has a variety of new and used goods, including all-natural gourmet candles. Visit their website [www.lilangelthriftshop.com](http://www.lilangelthriftshop.com) to get a glimpse of this unique shop.



*From L-R Aleta Phillips, Express Employment Professionals; Darlene Brandel, The Bridge Radio 90.1; Chuck McPherson, owner; Joe Clapp, Lil' Angel Thrift Shop; Dave Conrad, Cartridge World; Leslie Henderson, CEO/President The Roane Alliance (second row) Drew Bowman, Best Dressed Media; Diana Knobloch, Roane County United Way; Jan Treadway, Griffin Insurance.*

## Community Events

### A Streetcar Named Desire

February 26-March 1

A play by Tennessee Williams  
Roane State Community College Theatre  
For times and reservations  
call 865-882-4507

### This is Our Country

March 1 at 3pm (arrive by 2:15)

A patriotic concert presented by The Roane Choral Society  
First Baptist Church, Kingston  
For times and reservations  
call Lou Anne Bennett ????

### Ladies Get Away Day

March 14

The John Knox Center  
For more information call 865-376-2236

### A Musical: Barbeque & Broadway

March 29 at 1pm

The Roane Choral Society presents a tribute to  
the greatest shows on and off Broadway  
Harriman High School, Harriman  
For ticket prices & advance reservations  
call Debi at 865-376-1031

### Thunder Road Festival

April 25

Downtown Rockwood  
A festival that captures the notorious Thunder Road days!  
For more information call Erika Schenk 865-354-6800

### Yonder Hollow Productions

Bluegrass & Mountain Music

Every Friday Night at 6:30 pm

319 W. Rockwood Street, Rockwood  
For more information call  
Nick Barrett at 865-250-6717

### Bradbury Club Bluegrass Concert

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 7 pm

### Bradbury Club Jammin' Sessions

Every Tuesday 6-10 pm

3343 Buttermilk Road, Kingston  
For more information call  
Paul Reagan at 865-376-6626

### Three Rivers Ramblers Square Dance

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 8 pm

American Legion Hall, Harriman  
For more information call 865-717-3949

### Roane County Chamber of Commerce

A Partner of The Roane Alliance

1209 North Kentucky St.

Kingston, TN 37763

Tel: (865) 376-5572 Fax: (865) 376-4978

www.roanealliance.org

Newsletter prepared by the Roane Alliance Staff:

Leslie Henderson, Pam May, Wanda Pinkerton, Brenda  
Lunsford & Paulette Ray

## LAKE LEVELS NORMAL

The TVA spill on the Emory River should not effect Watts Bar Lake levels this year. According to the manager of TVA's River Forecast Center, plans are to follow the typical operating guide for reservoir levels.

## Business Briefs

### Making Your Membership Work For You

*A Special March Chamber Luncheon Seminar*

In today's economy, Chamber members need to make sure they are taking advantage of all the benefits their memberships provide. This month, we are dedicating our monthly speaker's series to make sure each of our members knows how to make the most of out their membership.

At the luncheon, Membership Chair Diana Knobloch will be explaining membership benefits to make sure all the members can help their bottom lines in these difficult times.

For example, as a Chamber member you receive the following benefits:

- one free half-day rental of the Chamber board room at the Alliance building at no charge once a year — valued at \$75
- a direct link from the Chamber website to your business website—typically can cost hundreds of dollars, and
- the Chamber doesn't refer anyone but Chamber members in our office—resulting in increased business.

These and more will be explained at the luncheon held at Roane State Community College on Tuesday, March 17 from 12 to 1pm.

## By The Numbers

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

JANUARY 2009

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 4.0 percent in January, before seasonal adjustment, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The January 2009 level of 211.143 (1982-84=100) was the same as January 2008.

22 New business licenses were issued in January 2009

## Ambassador of the Month

Aleta Phillips is the Branch Manager for the Roane County office of **Express Employment Professionals**. Aleta is a Roane County Chamber of Commerce Ambassador working with the Economic Community Development Committee and is also a member of the Roane County Employers Association. She is a lifelong resident of Roane County and has a BS degree in Organizational Management from Tusculum College.



Aleta enjoys working with the Chamber Ambassadors as a way of giving back to the community.

Express Employment is a full service-staffing agency that provides traditional temporary/contract staffing, evaluation hire, direct hire/search and onsite services. Express Employment also provides an HR Hotline for clients, organizational effectiveness surveys, employee handbook creation/review, human resources audits, and safety program reviews as well as on-site training/workshops.

One reason she enjoys working with Express is that the owner, Celia Smith, stresses the importance of community involvement. Express partners with clients in order to promote success for all involved.

## The 2009 Leadership Roane County class recently traveled to Nashville to talk with county legislatures.



*L to R: (front row) Mike Hammond, voice of the Titans, Joan Turbeyville, Principal, Dyllis Elementary; Debbie Hankins, Branch Manager, ORNL Federal Credit Union; Brenda Murphy, Murphy-Cates Learning Center; Mona Wright, Publishing Supervisor, B&W Y-12; Racia Futrell, ReMax Realty; Paulette Ray, Membership Services, Roane County Chamber of Commerce; Cyndy Steele, Office Manager, Brummett Insurance; Joyce Marsalis, Philotechnics; (second row) Sonny Hunter, Leadership Alumni; Ralph Stewart, Roane County Solid Waste Director, Mike Miller, Pastor, Cedar Grove Baptist Church; Bobby Collier, Roane County Administrator; Billy Kurtz, Pastor, Luminary Methodist Church; Theresa Duncan, Leadership Facilitator, Roane State Community College; Johnny Griffin, Leadership Board*

## RENEWALS

**Clean Living Solutions**  
**Mary or Michelle Colyer**  
841 Nelson Drive  
Kingston, TN 37763  
865-603-1506

**The UPS Store**  
**Claudette Coulombe**  
1824 Roane St. Hwy, Bldg 2, Ste 2  
Harriman, TN 37748  
865-376-1773

**City of Kingston**  
**Jim Pinkerton**  
125 West Cumberland St.  
Kingston, TN 37763  
865-376-6584

**Coleman Bird Associates**  
**Charlie Bird**  
131 Shady Oaks Lane  
Kingston, TN 37763  
865-376-1454

**Capstan Tennessee, Inc.**  
**Loren Bone**  
315 Cardiff Valley Road  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
865-354-5600

**Accu-Rite Machining**  
**Tom Grizzard**  
816 Swan Pond Circle  
Harriman, TN 37748  
865-882-2519

**Light Weaver Group**  
**Dan & Cathy McDowell**  
243 Grant Farm Road  
Kingston, TN 37763  
865-376-7616

**Roane County Habitat for Humanity**  
**Jack McNew**  
PO Box 1124  
Kingston, TN 37763  
865-376-5770