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## NEWS RELEASE

### **THIRTY-EIGHT BUSINESSES NOMINATED FOR 2015 THOMAS H. SCOTT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

MONROE, LA – Thirty-eight Ouachita Parish businesses have been nominated for the 2015 Thomas H. Scott Awards of Excellence. The nominations honor companies making significant contributions to the Ouachita Parish economy through capital improvements, expansion, job creation, and community involvement during 2014/2015. This year’s nominees have created or retained an astounding 5,970 jobs in Ouachita Parish and made capital investments totaling almost \$162.6 million.

The eighteen finalists in the small business (less than 10 employees) category are: Affinity ENT Clinic, Affinity Industrial Medicine, Bayou Insurance, Blake Wheelis Insurance Agency, Inc., Carl Stanitzky and Associates, Carol Powell Lexing and Associates, Direct Auto Insurance, Dynamic Solutions Worldwide, Inc., Homeland Bank, I. T. Biz Solutions, Infiniti Coatings, Gypsy Soul, Khan Mongolian Grill, Monroe Endodontics, Robert Davis Photography, Sleepy Hollow Furniture, Sweet Lucy’s Bakery, and The Fleurty Ginger Boutique, LLC.

The eight finalists in the medium business (between 11-50 employees) category are: Interstate Hyundai, Inc., Helping Hands Pediatric Day Health Center, Kelsey Klean, LLC., Learning Solutions, Inc., Planet Fitness-Monroe, Trapp’s, Vieux Carre Market, and Zaxby’s.

In the large business (51-100 employees) category, the seven nominees are: First National Bank, NewWave Communications, Ouachita Valley Federal Credit Union, Southern Hospitality, LLC., Specialty Management Services of Ouachita, LLC., Tyner-Petrus Company, Inc. and Whataburger.

The five nominees for the Corporate category (over 100 employees) are: Affinity Corporate Annex, Central Oil, CenturyLink, St. Francis Medical Center and Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market.

A reception will be held Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the ULM Conference Center to honor each nominee and recognize their accomplishments during 2014-2015. The highlight of the reception will be the presentation of the Thomas H. Scott Awards of Excellence to one winner in each of the four business categories. In addition, special Judge's awards will also be presented. Tickets for the event are \$30 per person. For more information or to register for the event, call the Monroe Chamber at 318-323-3461.

The Thomas H. Scott Awards of Excellence Reception is hosted by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, the University of Louisiana at Monroe's College of Business and The News-Star. Presenting sponsor for the event is Scott Powerline and Utility. Additional sponsors for the reception are: Atmos, Allen, Green and Williamson, All Star Trophies and Awards, Brookshire's, Car Town, Delta Style, IberiaBank, Progressive Bank, Patty Stewart Photography, Lagniappe Broadcasting, KTVE/KARD, P & S Surgical Hospital, Strauss Interests, ANGUS, The News-Star, The ULM College of Business, the City of Monroe and the Radio People.

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