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A.L. Girardin Winners Sue Cox, left, and Walter Hobgood, right, pose for a photo with Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce President Myrna Ballard at the 99th Annual Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce Meeting.

Chamber Celebration



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Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce 2010 Board of Directors Chair Terri Lupo is all smiles after she is presented with a Certificate and Gavel for her year of service as Board Chair at the 99th Annual Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce Meeting.

Cox, Hobgood win chamber's Girardin award

BY DAVID S. RODOCK
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Business owners, citizens and local politicians gathered Tuesday evening at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce (VLCCC) 99th annual meeting to eat and gain a better understanding of the various business initiatives being implemented by the VLCCC.

A number of changes were made for the meeting this year to reflect changes that participants have asked for: "We asked you what changes you wanted to see at this meeting. You told us you didn't want to allow speakers, so this year we don't have a speaker," said Terri Lupo.

Myrna Ballard, president of VLCCC presented both Sue Cox and Walter Hobgood with the A.L. Girardin award, which has been given by the VLCCC since 1975.

"These two chamber board members who truly have gone above and beyond for our community. Both winners have shown admirable courage in their advocacy in support of the business community."

CHAMBER | 4A



CHAMBER: A presentation was shown highlighting VLCCC initiatives

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said Ballard. "Both winners are examples of true business leadership. Their integrity is unquestionable, their motivation is transparent and their generosity is seemingly unlimited." Cox owns Covington's and 306 North restaurant and leads the chamber's pro-business enhancement effort.

"Her most important quality is her personality. She draws people together to make a difference in Valdosta," said Ballard. "She has made an exemplary advocate for the business community. Thank you for everything you do."

Ballard said Hobgood is a work-force for chamber initiatives.

"Walter has dedicated many hours of his time and expertise to this important community initiative. He has worked tirelessly to keep his projects on target. We admire his steadfastness, his courage and his dedication to com-



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The Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber staff poses for a photo with A.L Girardin Award Winners Walter Hobgood and Sue Cox at the 99th Annual Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce Meeting.

munity issues," said Ballard.

"This is a great organization and a great community to live in. I can't imagine living anywhere else," said Hobgood.

A video presentation was shown and highlighted numerous VLCCC initiatives in the community in-

cluding the SEEDS business resource center, triple town hometowns, work-force development and education and the THINK B.I.G. program.

After the multimedia presentation, Terri Lupo ceremoniously passed the gavel to 2011 VLCCC Chairman Tom Gooding.

"I want to thank you (Lupo) for all that you've done for the chamber," said Gooding.

