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TO: Kevin Cahill
FROM: Steve Bradley
DATE: May 4, 1999
SUBJECT: Solutia Education Connection Media Coverage

Anniston

(Have) Anniston Star – Article 4/27/99.

(Have tape & transcript) Channel 13 (NBC) – Story 6:00 p.m. news (shown in both Anniston and Birmingham markets).

(Tape & transcript to come) Channel 33/40 (ABC) – Covered Blake Hamilton's teacher luncheon 4/26/99. To include Education Connection story in luncheon coverage.

(Have) St. Clair News Aegis (weekly) – Article 4/29/99.

(Checking) Talladega Daily Home (daily) – Article to appear 4/28/99 or 5/1/99.

(Checking) Cleburne News (weekly) – Article to appear week of 5/3/99.

AM 1450 Radio (Anniston News Talk) – Interviewed Blake Hamilton 4/26/99. Several broadcasts 4/26/99.

Decatur

(Tape & transcript to come) Channel 43 WMJN – Interviewed Paul Meganck for "Valley Happenings" public affairs program to run four times on 4/27/99 (reaches 100,000 households in Morgan Co.).

(Have) Athens News Courier (daily) – Story 4/28/99.

(Article to come) Huntsville Times (daily) – Story/photo 4/27/99.

DSW 138517

STLCOPCB4038472

(Have) Decatur Daily – Brief story 4/27/99. Commitment to do more extensive follow-up later.

(Checking) Hartselle Enquirer – Article expected week of 5/3/99.

(Checking) Moulton Advertiser – Article expected week of 5/3/99.

Foley

(Have) Foley Onlooker (weekly) – Story 4/28/99.

(Checking) The Independent (Robertsdale – weekly) – Story 5/1/99 – largest circulation of week.

(Checking) Baldwin Times (Bay Minette – weekly) – Story 4/28/99.

(Usually stories running in Foley Onlooker run in The Independent and Baldwin Times since all three owned by same group.)

(Checking) Mobile Register – Baldwin Edition (daily) – Unsure when story ran.

WHEP AM Radio – Interviewed Jim Green 4/27/99 for use on broadcast that day.

NOTE: I believe these dates are correct in regard to when articles and broadcasts appeared or aired. However, in our final report on coverage, some articles may have appeared on different dates, etc.

Grants for education

Solutia program may improve technology at Anniston, Calhoun County schools

“

**I can't
think of
anything
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higher
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It opens
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new world.**

— Jacky Sparks,
superintendent
of Calhoun
County schools

”

By Jonathan Lifland

Star Staff Writer

May the best plan win.

Eleven school districts, including Anniston and Calhoun County school boards, are eligible for \$250,000 in technology grants announced Monday by Solutia.

Solutia's purpose is to create a partnership among business, government and school systems.

Educators in Decatur and Foley, plus St. Clair, Talladega and Cleburne counties where some plant employees live, will also be given the chance to propose plans for upgrading technological programs in their school systems. The school systems that present the best plans will receive portions of the money.

Repeated grant amounts will be distributed each of the next three years. Solutia plants, formerly known as Monsanto, are located in the two towns.

Requests for initial-year funding will be solicited by June 1 for use next fall, according to Solutia. Review teams will analyze school board suggestions for the program; which is intended to install new computers or educational programs.

“This is to give our students educational

abilities and flexibility for the work force now and in the future — whether it's for Solutia or for the business society,” said Blake Hamilton, plant manager for the Solutia Anniston plant. “We're trying to provide a foundation for education.”

The “Education Connection” program is expected to provide between 75 and 100 computers for school districts eligible for the program.

Local school boards hope to enhance existing plans to place one computer in each classroom.

Since computers dominate colleges and the business world, adding technology to learning helps prepare kids for the future, said Jacky Sparks, superintendent of the Calhoun County school system.

“I can't think of anything that's a higher priority for our students,” he said. “It opens up a whole new world.”

County schools hope to quintuple the one computer per classroom goal, and this program will contribute to reaching that, Sparks said. Teachers, though, still need to be taught themselves the best way to use computers in the classroom and how to integrate teaching with technology, he added.

Computers may not be the main need for

today's students, but they can help provide an individual learning experience to propel them above expectations, said Matt Akin, technology coordinator for the Anniston school system.

“Our greatest need is for greater instruction, and technology helps us to get there,” he said. “This will hopefully allow us to expand our offerings. By teaching kids the skills to use a computer, we get started; we'd like to take those a step further.”

Calhoun County state legislators Sen. Del Marsh and Rep. Barbara Boyd welcomed business interests in student needs at the announcement at Cobb Elementary School in Anniston. The plan was called a model partnership to raise the level of local education.

The business community will continue to support educational opportunity if it sees a successful program, said Marsh, R-Anniston. Mrs. Boyd was unavailable for comment Monday.

“I can see that anything that can help, from anywhere it comes from, would be greatly appreciated here,” Marsh said. “It's a great commitment and challenge to those in Calhoun County who support education.”

SS

The News-Courier

Wednesday, April 28, 1999 Page 6A

Decatur company helps schools get technology

DECATUR — Science and technology education in public school districts in and near Decatur and two other Alabama cities will get a major boost with new computers and other technology assistance to be funded under a program launched by plants in each community.

The new program will be made available to all public city and county school districts in Athens and Limestone County, Morgan and Lawrence Counties.

The company announced the Solutia Education Connection Program — a three-year commitment to help city and county public school districts in and near Decatur, Anniston and Foley acquire new computer equipment to advance each district's technology access for students, especially in science.

Teams of educators from each district will work with Solutia employees to identify computer and related needs for each district that will best assist the schools in providing more opportunities for their students.

"Solutia has long been an active participant in the Decatur community," said site manager Paul Meganck, "and we believe this is an

excellent way to partner with the community to help meet crucial educational needs. Educators throughout the area have made us aware of the increasing needs in this arena and urged us to help. We are pleased to be able to play a part in improving educational opportunity in the communities where our plant is located and where our employees live."

The company's Decatur site has previously partnered with local schools on environmental stewardship and science education programs with schools in Decatur. The new program will broaden this focus and will work closely with the individual school districts to recommend equipment that will best serve their educational programs. Proposals will be submitted on behalf of each district to the Solutia Fund this spring, with first year funding decisions to be made by June. Decisions on specific equipment needs for the second and third years will be made during the two coming school years.

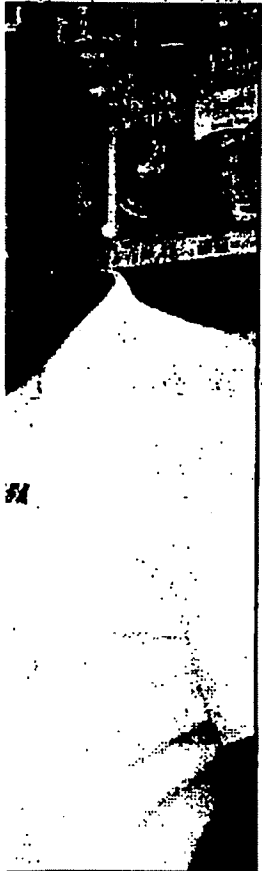
Each school district will have a major role in shaping its request for computers and related technology assistance. Science education at the

high school level is a company priority, but each district and the company will work together to determine where computers are most needed.

The Solutia Education Connection program has been endorsed by the Alabama State Department of Education, Alabama Education Association, and the Alabama Association of School Boards.

"Solutia is a leading company in applied chemistry, and we have a special interest in promoting strong science and technology education," said Solutia's chief operating officer, John Hunter. "This program will not only support families and students in our plant communities, but it will also strengthen the science awareness and knowledge of our future employees. This is an important investment in these communities and our future in Alabama."

"We are looking forward to making this connection with educators in our area to make a real difference in science and technology opportunities for our students," Meganck said. "This is an exciting step forward for our schools, our communities and our company."



News-Courier/Kim Rynders
to benefit Habitat for
al Coffman, Habitat for

vistar ntsville

and as many as 1,000 jobs

Information coordinators: The wave of the future

In a future workplace defined by remote project teams, instant com-

workplace experts.

OfficeTeam will release an edu-

by administrative assistants by 2005, executives in the same survey cited

the Morgan County Advisory Council
the county's Contingency Fund.

Authorized Chairman Larry Berrich to
advertis for bids for recreational equip-
ment and trophies for the Parks and Recre-
ation Department.

Authorized Berrich to execute a con-
tract with Xerox Corp. to lease a copier for
the probate office.

Adopted a resolution to honor Jerrell
Cook, who retired from District 1 shop after
35 years of service.

District 1.

Approved a recommendation made by
the Morgan County Personnel Review
Board concerning Ruth Owens, who
worked in the juvenile probation office.

Authorized Berrich to advertise for
bids for a 24-ton, lift-bed trailer for District
1.

— Sherry Mizrah

more information.

Georgia Fantasy 5: 5-12-15-29. One ticket had 5-of-5: \$139,209; 101
tickets had 4-of-5: \$71; 4,158 tickets had 3-of-5: \$8. Call 340-1111, category
1038, for more information.

Kentucky Cash 5: 3-5-4-16-28. Lotto jackpot is \$3 million. Call (502) 683-
2000 for more information.

Louisiana Call (504) 287-2000 for more information.

Powerball: National jackpot is \$41 million.

released i
\$1,500 for
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and mibe
prohibited
County is
Morgan &
Gary
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bonds in
John
ving und
driving w
arrest a
held to
teasing
Traffic
DEC
Carroll

AREA NEWS IN BRIEF

Workman injured at new Boeing site

A construction worker at the Boe-
ing Co. site was injured Monday
about 10:45 a.m. when several tons
of sheet metal fell off a forklift, ac-
cording to a police report.

William W. Henderson, 52, of 2126
Clifton Hill Road, Somerville, was
struck in his legs by the metal, the
report showed.

Solutia Inc. to give \$750,000 in grants

Area schools' technology pro-
grams may soon get a boost from So-
lutia Inc.

The company announced on Mon-
day a new education initiative that
will fund about \$750,000 in school
technology equipment over the next
three years.

The Solutia Education Con-
nection Program will provide funds for

computer equipment with a focus on
improved technology for science
classes.

City and county school systems in
counties surrounding Solatia plants
in Decatur, Armstrong and Foley are
eligible for the grants.

The counties are Morgan,
Lawrence, Lincolnton, Calhoun, St.
Clair, Chebure, Talladega and Bald-
win.

School systems must submit pro-
posals to Solatia Fund, the philan-
thropic arm of Solutia Inc. by June 1,
and grants will be awarded this
summer.

DU warns of filter salesmen's pitch

Beware of callers claiming to be
utility employees testing the water.

They are probably trying to sell
you a water filter, according to De-
catur Utilities.

"We don't have a water-sampling
program going on right now," said
Miles Wright, customer service su-
pervisor for DU.

"It is probably somebody trying to

sell water filtration equipment.
They do the test and then tell you
that you have bacteria or inorganic
matter in your water."

The callers imply that they are DU
employees, he said.

"They are saying they are utility
employees," said Wright. "Though
they do not actually say they are em-
ployees of Decatur Utilities."

DU wants to warn customers so
they can make informed choices.

"Our water is first class, so we
don't think people need filters," said
Wright.

"If somebody wants one, that's
fine... but they don't need to be
tricked into buying one."

If you have questions about water
testing, call DU at 532-1444.

Chamber report to be in the paper

The Decatur-Morgan County
Chamber of Commerce's monthly
newsletter will be inserted into THE
DECATUR DAILY beginning in Ju-
ly.

It will be inserted on Sundays.

"We feel like we can reach more of
our members and the general public
and let them know what the cham-
ber is doing for the community," said
Carole Hollingsworth, program di-
rector and head of member ser-
vices.

The chamber will no longer mail
its newsletter to its 1,100 members.
The eight-page newsletter will be
printed by THE DAILY.

Doctor to discuss anxiety disorders

Barry Wood, a licensed clinical
psychologist at Albany Clinic, will
tell about his research concerning
anxiety disorders at the Panic/Anxi-
ety Support Group meeting tonight.

His discussion particularly will fo-
cus on phobias and the behavioral
treatments for these disorders.

The meeting is sponsored by the
Mental Health Association in Mer-
gan County and will occur at its of-
fice at 221 Gordon Drive S.E. The
meeting starts at 7.

For more information, call 353-
1160.

Sky

Continued from page C1

thing was flying and I was sitting in it
and I built it."

Members of the Decatur

tripe and that meant speed and com-
fort.

"This thing is very fast and also
very quiet because the engine is in
the rear end," he said.

"My mom is still living in Wiscon-
sin, and that's going to be my first
cross-country trip. I think it will take
3 1/4 to four hours, depending on the

weather. She's 96 and I promised I
would take her out for a ride."

Butler said Swertinger's Velocity
is one of the fastest planes for its pas-
senger capacity at Pryor Field.

"I'm not sure there is a four-per-
son airplane out here that can out-
run this airplane," he said.

Decatur Daily
4-27-99

Attn: Lynn



Ken Elkins/The Anniston Star

Blake Hamilton, plant manager for the Solutia Anniston facility, announces the company's plan to help schools upgrade their technological programs. Eleven school systems, including Anniston and Calhoun County, are eligible for \$250,000 in technological grants. The company announced the grants Monday at Cobb Elementary School in Anniston.

DSM 138522

STLCOPCB4038477