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Five Lee County  
baseball players  
sign with colleges

**TUESDAY**  
April 28, 2015

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## Think LOCAL

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce

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## Holmes named interim Chamber president

By **CARLTON FLETCHER**  
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**Barbara Rivera Holmes**

ALBANY — As expected, the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce entered into a management agreement Monday with the Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission that will allow EDC Vice President Barbara Rivera

to serve as interim president of the Chamber for the next 90 days. The announcement came after a special called EDC board meeting early Monday morning.

No announcement came from the EDC immediately after the board meeting. Board Chairman Jay Smith called the meeting to order and immediately asked for a vote to go into executive session to discuss personnel. The board approved and met in private for roughly 23 minutes before reconvening. Once the public was allowed back into the meeting room

at the Riverfront Resource Center, Smith called for adjournment with no comment. The management partnership, announced by the Chamber about four hours after the EDC meeting, allows the EDC to manage the day-to-day operations of the Chamber for the next three months. During that time, Holmes will serve both the Chamber and EDC. The

move came after former Chamber President Chris Hardy's resignation last Monday. Hardy said only that he wanted to "pursue other opportunities" outside the state, but his resignation was effective immediately and came almost three years to the day after he started his tenure as Chamber President

Tommy Clark expressed appreciation to the EDC for its "support" of the 105-year-old organization. "The Chamber and the Albany-Dougherty EDC have a long, respectful and supportive relationship," Clark said in a Chamber release. "It felt like the right thing to do to reach out to

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District 2 Dougherty County Commissioner John Hayes, left, said Monday he expects more return on investment from the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce and the Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission. District 3 Commissioner Clinton Johnson, right, looks over materials. (Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher)

## Berry: City manager vetting has just begun

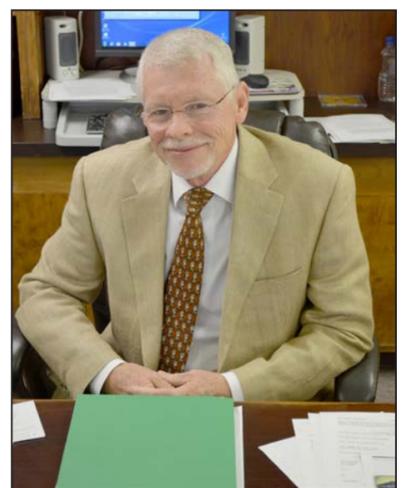
By **CARLTON FLETCHER**  
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ALBANY — Interim Albany City Manager Tom Berry said Monday he's aware of negative reports being circulated about three of the five finalists for the city manager's position that he currently holds, but that the vetting process for the position has "just begun."

Reportedly circulated by a local group interested in seeing Assistant Dougherty County Administrator Mike McCoy, one of the five finalists, named to the city manager's post, reports from Florida and Minnesota media outlets offer less-than-glowing accounts of candidates Sharon Subadan, Reggie Edwards and Pat Salerno.

Subadan, according to a report from a Tampa TV station, was terminated from her position as Hillsborough County, Fla., assistant county administrator partly because of a failed homeless recovery program. Edwards, who according to his resume has been a professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato since 2012, stepped down from his position as Region 9 Development Commission executive director in 2011 — according to a Minnesota TV station — after receiving a less-than-favorable performance review.

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Tom Berry, interim city manager, says the vetting process is just getting under way for the five finalists to replace him. (Staff Photo)

## 'A harder look'

Dougherty County leaders square off over chamber, EDC

By **CARLTON FLETCHER**  
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ALBANY — County Commissioner John Hayes told his colleagues Monday they needed to "take a harder look" at the return on investment generated by the local Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Commission, sparking a heated verbal exchange with fellow Commissioner Lamar Hudgins.

Referencing comments attributed to Albany City Commissioner Jon Howard in a story that appeared in Sunday's Albany Herald, Hayes said, "I'm glad somebody else recognizes that we need to take a harder look there. At \$250,000 a year (to the EDC), we ought to get a greater return on investment.

"I don't know that I'd be able to hang onto a customer at the bank I represent if I didn't have a better return on investment than we're getting. I feel that in this instance and others, we've

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Dougherty County Commission Chairman Chris Cohilas commends the "new leadership" of the Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission during the County Commission's meeting Monday morning. (Staff Photo: Carlton Fletcher)

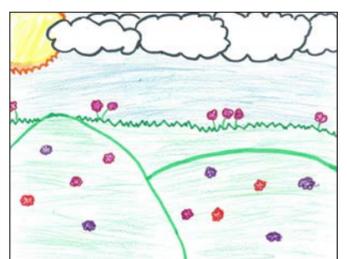


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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else."  
— **Judy Garland**, actress (1922-69)

**CORRECTION**  
This newspaper is committed to publishing fair and accurate information. Errors should be brought to the attention of Editor Jim Hendricks at (229) 888-9352. Corrections or clarifications will appear in this space.

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71°  
62°



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