



# THE Lebanon Reporter

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

WWW.REPORTER.NET

50¢

## Gabriel metals unveils new facility

BY AARON KENNEDY  
For The Lebanon  
Reporter

**LEBANON** — Gabriel Metals, a local scrap metal processing company, unveiled a new 30,000-square-foot recycling center and corporate office complex on Ransdell Road Thursday morning. Lebanon City Council President Jeremy Lamar, Boone County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Michelle Wiltermood and Jenny Finney, Boone County Chamber of Commerce administrative coordinator, were on hand for the 10 a.m. ceremonial ribbon-cutting, followed by a tour of the complex.

"It's the result of our rapid growth over the last three years," said Gabriel Metals founder and president Matt McKinney of the new facility. "We just needed a lot more space for our retail customers and for our industrial growth."

"We wanted to have a more corporate image as our company has grown," McKinney added. "We wanted to be as professional as we can, and back up the way we do business. We want to be above board with all of our customers. We try to make sure that everybody is always treated fairly and has good experience here. That is very, very important to us."

After 12 years in the scrap metal business, McKinney opened Gabriel Metals at 1016 W. Main St. in Lebanon on April 1, 2007.

"I was my only employee



PHOTO BY AARON KENNEDY

Shown at the Gabriel Metals ribbon cutting Thursday are, from left, Boone County Chamber of Commerce Administrative Coordinator Jenny Finney, Boone County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Michelle Wiltermood, Gabriel Metals President Matt McKinney, Gabriel Metals Operations Manager Ryan Herald, Gabriel Metals CFO Steve Stine and Lebanon City Council President Jeremy Lamar.

for about seven months," McKinney remembered. "Until we got our first, nice industrial account. That led to our first three or four guys getting hired and the first truck that we purchased. That's where this all began."

It didn't take very long for Gabriel Metals to grow to a staff of 18 at the Main Street location. Since moving to the new complex, the local company has hired nine more employees and could hire four more in the near future.

"It is nice to know that we are benefiting so many families," said McKinney. "Most of our employees live and work

here in Lebanon. That's huge for us."

The increase in workforce for the local company is refreshing, especially when many are still cutting back to survive.

"To come through the economy that we came through and have nothing but growth every month — that's where we knew that we had the legs to be in this industry. Hopefully, in five years we will be moving into a 100,000-square-foot (building). We have room to grow here."

Besides improving the quality of service for the company's current retail and

industrial customers, the new location also includes upgrades in security and protection from the elements that will exceed standards that state law requires. A system of cameras and monitors covers every aspect of each transaction, and the new layout is quicker for customers, with separate sides for public and industrial customers.

"We're excited and encouraged that Gabriel Metals, in a tough economy, is growing and expanding," Lamar said after the tour. "We're excited for them and we look forward to future growth and the partnership that we have."