

# BUSINESSVIEW

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NOVEMBER 2020

## SERVANT LEADERSHIP – INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE



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# BUSINESSVIEW

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NOVEMBER 2020

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## 16 ON THE COVER:

*Cody Scott, an accountant at Wilkins Miller and Big Brothers & Big Sisters volunteer, is pictured with his 'little' Ayden. To learn more about volunteer opportunities in Mobile, see page 16. Photo by Elizabeth Gelineau.*



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## ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

# THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Bill Sisson, President & CEO, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

As the great Alabamian Helen Keller once said, "The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves." If that philosophy is not reason enough to give back to the community, keep in mind that giving back to the place we call home helps to unite us and bridge many of the social, economic and political gaps that exist in the world.

And don't forget that giving back to the community is an excellent way to promote your business and get the word out about your products or services. Doors open when you volunteer and you can widen your network.

I often say that here at the Chamber, we have some of the best volunteers on the planet – and those types of volunteers exist in organizations throughout our region. It is without a doubt what makes the Mobile Bay area the superior place to live that it is.

So let's celebrate those individuals and companies that continually give back to our great community, because giving back is among the most important and valuable things a business can do.



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## BENDPAK CHOOSES MOBILE – A ‘LOGISTICS HOTSPOT’

**N**ews that APM Terminals and the Port of Mobile gained another distribution center trickled out this summer, followed by plans for an immediate expansion.

Santa Paula, Calif.-based BendPak manufactures and sells automotive lifts used in car dealerships and parking garages. This summer, company officials announced the opening of a 100,000-square-foot distribution center in Theodore to serve U.S. Gulf, Midwest, East Coast and Canadian markets via Mobile’s five Class I railroads. In September, the company announced it would add another 70,000-square-foot warehouse adjacent to existing operations to enhance its East Coast presence.

Upon opening, company officials called Mobile the “heart of one of America’s largest logistic hotspots.”

“This new distribution center will enhance our ability to get our customers what they need, when they need it,” said

**Jeff Kritzer**, BendPak’s executive vice president. “Today’s consumer expects immediate delivery, and we’re focused on helping that become a reality. The definition of Mobile is agile and transportable.”

“Mobile’s logistical assets continue to draw interest from companies looking to reach their customers faster and more efficiently,” said **David Rodgers**, the Mobile Area Chamber’s vice president of economic development.

**‘Today’s consumer expects immediate delivery, and we’re focused on helping that become a reality. The definition of Mobile is agile and transportable.’**

**Jeff Kritzer**, executive vice president, BendPak

# TOP MANUFACTURERS AUSTAL AND AIRBUS MAKE SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Austal

Austal USA expanded its footprint to extend its new construction and service business, buying waterfront land, buildings and an existing dry dock along the Mobile River previously owned by World Marine of Alabama, an indirect subsidiary of Modern American Recycling and Repair Services of Alabama.

The purchase includes 'Pete B' a 20,000-ton Panamax-class floating dry dock (pictured below), 100,000 square feet of covered repair facilities and 15 acres of waterfront property along the Mobile River and Gulf of Mexico.

"As we've consistently done over the course of our history, we're adding capability to meet the growing demand from our customers," Austal's President **Craig Perciavalle** said.

The acquisition further increases Austal's growing steel and aluminum business portfolio that includes U.S. Navy multi-ship contracts for the Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and the Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF), research and development on unmanned and autonomous surface vessels, and an expanding global services business in San Diego and Singapore.



## Airbus

In mid-September, Airbus celebrated the five-year anniversary of its U.S. Manufacturing Facility operations in Mobile.

The first aircraft assembly began on Sept. 14, 2015, an A321 destined for JetBlue. Since then, the Airbus production team has:

- Directly employed more than 1,000 people; 90 percent currently live in Mobile or Baldwin County and 26 percent are military veterans;
- Delivered more than 180 A320 family aircraft to eight customers that have subsequently flown 60 million passengers 500 million miles;
- Announced and opened a second assembly line for A220 aircraft, doubling the size of its footprint at Brookley Field; and
- Supported more than 40 local charitable and community organizations through money, time and donations.

A University of South Alabama report measured the company's economic impact on the region at \$1.1 billion, supporting more than 12,000 jobs through construction and payroll. Statewide, that estimate increases to \$1.2 billion and more than 15,000 jobs.

"When we announced our intent to build A320 family aircraft in the United States, and to locate that facility in Mobile, Alabama, we also stated our intent to be a good neighbor, to create jobs and opportunities, and to help strengthen the U.S. aerospace industry," said **C. Jeffrey Knittel**, president & CEO of Airbus Americas.

# NEW WEBSITE MAKES IT EASIER TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE CITY OF MOBILE

Whether you're just starting out or already have an established business, the City of Mobile recently developed a new tool to make it easier for small companies to prepare to do business with the city.

Workwith.CityofMobile.org is a user-friendly online portal addressing the challenges some businesses encounter when pursuing a contract with a government entity.

The website has two areas – one for starting or growing your business and the other to certify your business and bid on a project.

“The website breaks down what could be an intimidating process to bite-size pieces,” says **Danette Richards**, the Mobile Area Chamber’s director of small business development. Richards



and **Darrell Randle**, the Chamber’s vice president of small business, served on the research committee advising the city on what the new software needed to do.

Available to all area businesses, the site acts like a decision tree. Depending on your answer, you are given a custom list of steps to complete.

Examples include getting your insurance in order, enrolling in e-Verify and registering to be a vendor.

For disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs), the site offers a detailed checklist on what is needed to qualify.

In addition, the city created a list of local DBEs, minority business enterprises, service-disabled veteran-owned companies, Section 3 certified organizations and women-owned business enterprises for prime contractors to use.

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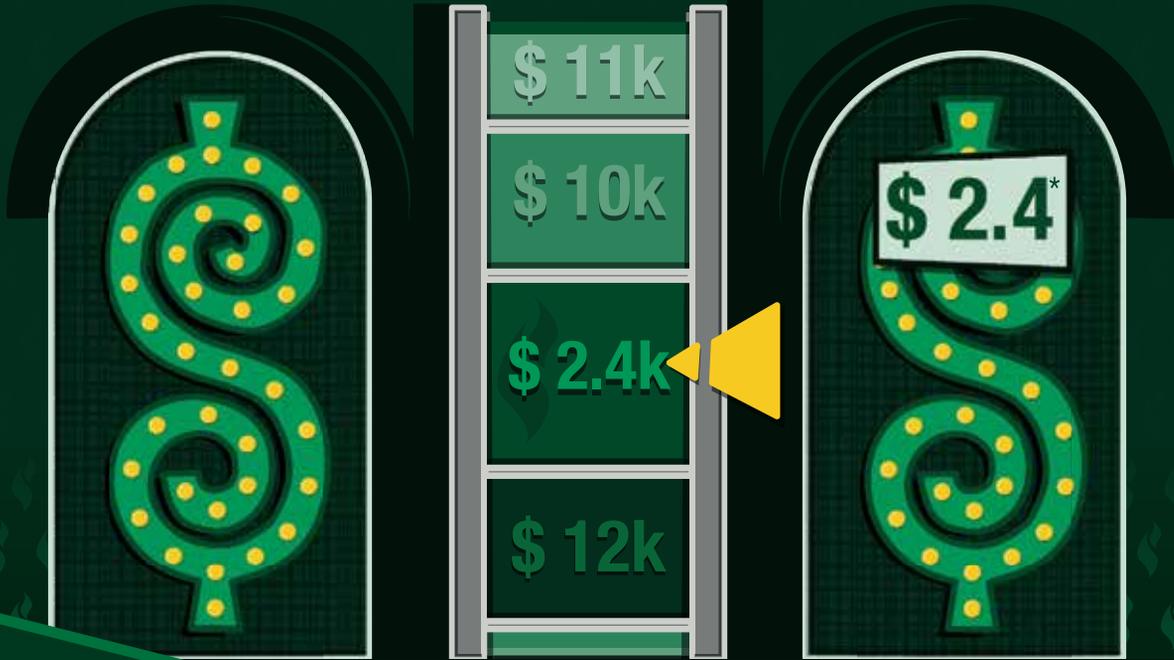
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# THE GREATER GULF STATE FAIR - THE THRILL IS ON

**O**fficials with The Grounds announced the Greater Gulf State Fair is a “go.” The new 2020 fair dates are Friday, Oct. 30 through Sunday, Nov. 15, an extra five days from the traditional run usually beginning in late October.

“We can all agree that 2020 has been a very challenging year, but we are very proud and excited to be able to put on the 66<sup>th</sup> annual Greater Gulf State Fair. While it may look a little different this year, the core is still there and we’re looking forward to sharing that experience with our community,” says Greater Gulf State Fair and The Grounds Executive Director **Josh Woods**.

Featured attractions will include: Balster Magic Productions, Paul Bunyan’s Lumberjack Thrill Show, Pirate Man Dan, Cowboy Circus featuring Danny Grant and more.

Vendors, rides and fair food will all be outdoors. Contingency plans and safe precautions include hiring a “clean team” to ensure constant sanitation, social distancing, screening employees and volunteers and requiring masks.

Last year, organization officials say the Greater Gulf State Fair had a \$4 million-plus economic impact, generating \$376,247 in taxes and creating more than 1,000 jobs.

Visit [greatergulffair.com](http://greatergulffair.com) or [facebook.com/greatergulffair](https://www.facebook.com/greatergulffair) for real-time updates.

## AT-A-GLANCE

### GREATER GULF STATE FAIR

**WHEN:** Friday, Oct. 30 - Sunday, Nov. 15

**WHERE:** The Grounds

**SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:** All rides and food outdoors, constant sanitation, social distancing, screening employees and volunteers, masks required

**WEBSITE:** [greatergulffair.com](http://greatergulffair.com)  
(watch the website for the latest updates)



Owner Bry Shields and Ashley Victory are pictured at the insurance agency's Mobile office. The company also has an office in Birmingham and their third employee, Matthew Castro, is based in the Philippines. *Photo by Jeff Tesney Photography*

# SHIELDS INSURANCE SPECIALIZES IN STARTUPS

Three years ago, **Bry Shields** made the decision to open his own insurance agency. From there it has grown to include locations in both Mobile and Birmingham. With three full-time employees, **Shields Insurance Agency** is licensed to write property and casualty insurance for clients across the Gulf Coast, from Texas to Florida, and into Tennessee. This includes commercial and personal insurance.

Shields Insurance Agency is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month. "I have many clients I would not have if it weren't for my involvement at Chamber events," said Shields.

He says some of the agency's primary specialties – industries in which they are the most competitive – include construction and contractors, real estate (landlords), healthcare providers, restaurants/food service, nonprofit/religious, auto services,

retail store and ecommerce, manufacturing and distribution, marine and professional services.

Shields Insurance has also found a niche in startup businesses. "As you start your business, it's important to cover yourself and your team for the potential risks that come with it," Shields says. As a business owner, if you don't have insurance coverage, you'll have to pay out-of-pocket for any damages or legal claims made against you, and that's the last thing you want when starting up."

**'As you start your business, it is important to cover yourself and your team for the potential risks that come with it.'**

He says startup insurance policies businesses need to consider are a business owner's policy, general liability, commercial property insurance, worker's compensation, commercial auto, flood and umbrella, and professional liability. Shields works with clients to help them evaluate their risks, apply for coverage and review quotes before issuing coverage.

Potential and existing clients can stay up to date with the latest trends in insurance and more by subscribing to the company's blog, social media and YouTube channel, where there's information ranging from tips to keep a company safe from cyber-attacks to the best risk management strategies to what millennials need to know about life insurance.

In the community, Shields has been actively involved in raising money and awareness for several nonprofits, including this spring when he worked with Feeding the Gulf Coast on a project to provide food for school-aged children and their families. "As a company, we provide an annual donation of our profits to a selected charity," Shields said. In 2018, it was Dumas Wesley, and last year it was Via! Health, Fitness, Enrichment.



Photo by Jeff Tesney Photography

**COMPANY NAME:** Shields Insurance Agency  
**OWNER:** Bry Shields  
**PHONE:** 251.283.3800  
**WEBSITE:** shields-insurance.com

# Happy Holidays

During this magical time of year, full of hope and love, we're reflecting on all the reasons why we're thankful to be a part of your community. We extend tidings of comfort and joy to you and your loved ones this holiday season and look forward to a new year of serving you.

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# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SERVANT LEADER

by Brad Israel

At our family of companies, we believe in servant leadership. From our perspective, the concept of success goes well beyond job descriptions and goals. We must pour into another to help them be successful so they may grow and develop.

Robert Greenleaf defined servant leadership this way: “The servant-leader is servant first. It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then, the conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. That person is sharply different from one who is leader first, perhaps because of the need to assuage an unusual power drive or to acquire material possessions. The leader-first and the servant-first are two extreme types. Between them there are shadings and blends that are part of the infinite variety of human nature.”

If you lead by serving others first, then you will inspire a call to action for them to do the same. Our purpose statement is “to see all we can do with all we have been given,” meaning we must all be good stewards of the influence we carry in a community and within our own companies. Positive energy is just as contagious as negative energy.

**Our purpose statement is ‘to see all we can do with all we have been given,’ meaning we must all be good stewards of the influence we carry in a community and within our own companies. Positive energy is just as contagious as negative energy.**

A belief system and best practices centered around service over self both enhances the lives of our fellow society members and helps us create a more caring environment. A mentor of mine, Gen. Sam Wilson, who would have turned 97 on Sept. 23, used to always tell me, “Take care of the people, and the people will take care of you.” We must be intentional with this. Things will not happen without a desire to serve and the steadfast effort that must go into it. Care and empathy are powerful; they are fueled by courage.

## So what does this mean for you?

As we approach the end of a tumultuous year full of stress, anxiety, divisiveness, election cycles and the like, we still get to have an opportunity to find a way to serve others. Our community needs each one of you to serve in some capacity.

If you are a business leader, I challenge you to support this initiative by demonstrating your actions and going first. Remember, that is what authentic leaders do: we model the behavior we would like to see in others.

By you, getting to do this, you empower your teams to know that they can do the same. In fact, you encourage it. Every company can go out and talk about making money, but how many of you can talk about making meaning as well? What do you want your legacy to be? You still get to make that choice.

Remember, it is the small, seemingly insignificant things that we choose to do each day that will ultimately achieve the compounding effect in our lives. Just a few examples include bringing someone a meal, volunteering with a nonprofit you’re passionate about, donating food or clothing to groups that collect and distribute, helping build, restore, clean up a house or our parks, supporting veterans initiatives or mentoring at-risk youth. And before we start the self-justification on why we can’t do it this year, yes, all of these actions can still be done while social distancing.

Hundreds of opportunities exist throughout our community. Envision it, plan it, schedule it, then go out and do it. I can promise that you will not regret serving others. In fact, you might even enjoy it.

What will you choose?



## ABOUT THE EXPERT

*Brad Israel is the chief leadership officer with 68 Ventures LLC. He can be reached at 251.625.1198 or [bisrael@68ventures.com](mailto:bisrael@68ventures.com).*



Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama CEO Aimee Risser talks with Wilkins Miller Managing Partner Allen Carroll (center) and Auditor Cody Scott (right) about the accounting firm's successful partnership.

*Photo by Mike Dumas*

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY MAKES A ‘BIG’ DIFFERENCE AT WILKINS MILLER

Colleagues who volunteer together help each other grow as team members, leaders and compassionate individuals, while bolstering charitable causes and organizations that couldn't survive without them. And the benefit to the companies who employ and support their efforts is tremendous, as they usually experience reduced turnover rates and higher levels of promotion and development among their employees.

“We want our firm to be a place where people make their careers and do good work, and giving back to the community is a natural extension of that,” said **Allen Carroll**, managing partner at the accounting and advisory firm Wilkins Miller. “When they're excited and have the room and support to do what they're passionate about, it makes for good business.”

Earlier this year, Wilkins Miller was awarded the Mobile Area Chamber's Corporate Community Service Award in recognition of the company's extensive history of charitable contributions. In 2019 alone, the firm provided 2,684 hours' worth of in-kind accounting services to area nonprofits, sponsored 25 community activities, and its employees volunteered nearly 1,100 hours of their time.

Nine years ago, Wilkins Miller began its support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama (BBBSSA), through that organization's Corporate Big program. To partner with BBBSSA, a company needs passionate employees along with a culture of community support woven into the fabric of its business. In 2012, Wilkins Miller agreed to a year's contract with the nonprofit, broken into one-hour-a-week commitments from employees (acting as big brothers and sisters, or “bigs”) and the little brothers and sisters (“littles”) with whom they were paired.

In nominating Wilkins Miller for the Corporate Community Service Award, BBBSSA CEO **Aimee Risser** wrote, “What separates Wilkins Miller from others in our eyes is that they not only give charitably, they go above and beyond by rolling up their sleeves weekly, for over eight years now, to invest their human capital in our mission that results in lives being truly changed for the better, forever.”

In the near-decade-long partnership, more than 20 of the firm's employees have volunteered as “bigs,” affecting the lives of 28 “littles.” BBBSSA prides itself on measuring the impact of those relationships. Of those 28 mentees, said Risser, “91 percent improved academically, 93 percent had improved relationships

with their peers, 91 percent avoided risky behaviors and 98 percent reported being more confident they will graduate from high school.”

**Cody Scott**, a 27-year-old auditor at Wilkins Miller, is going into his second year as a big brother with the organization. A Louisiana native, Scott said his passion for volunteering comes from a mix of Southern hospitality and several role models who stepped in when his father died when Scott was 13.

“My mom was always a big proponent of ‘If I stayed busy, I'd stay out of trouble,’ and it paid off for sure,” he said. “And I know how those people poured into me, so I feel like it's my duty to pour into other people. Once I got on that path, I've enjoyed it from that point on.”

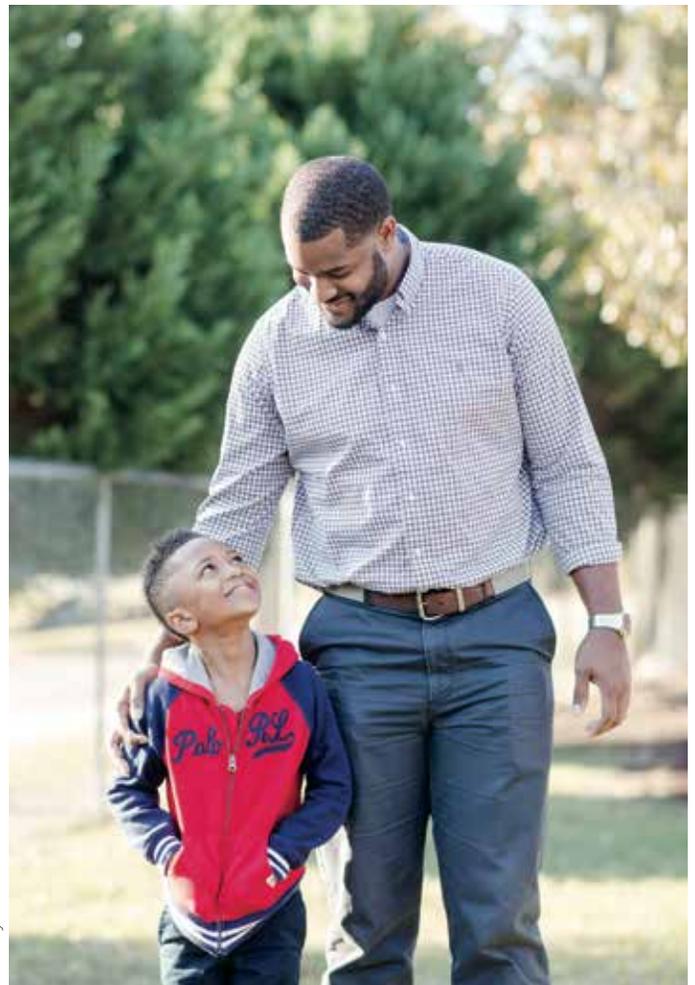


Photo by Elizabeth Gelineau



Stacy Cummings is a partner with Wilkins Miller. She and her 'little' Kalaysia are pictured above.

Photo by Elizabeth Gelineau

Scott graduated from the University of Mobile, and it was through one of the school's many open houses that he became aware of Wilkins Miller and the firm's commitment to helping people achieve through business and volunteerism. He's been there four years, and during that time has taken advantage of the company's open-door policy to present volunteer opportunities and to lead his colleagues when needed.

During weekly team meetings and the company's annual retreat, employees are encouraged to share their stories and thoughts on issues, which directly led to Scott being asked to helm discussions surrounding inclusion and diversity.

"Whether it's sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, whatever, we value diversity and wanted to open those conversations up," Carroll said. "And Cody did a great job leading them."

Scott said his volunteerism — going all the way back to fixing meals in homeless shelters as a kid — has taught him to be empathetic and selfless. He has not only become a more focused and effective employee, he said, but "those qualities alone help me be a better husband and a better father one day."

He's already a better big brother, according to BBBSSA's Risser. She said several of the first matches between Wilkins Miller employees and their "littles" continue to this day, whether in the school-based or community-based programs. The relationships can last a lifetime, which is not only a testament to the commitment of the volunteers, but the growth of their mentees.

"This is a transformational volunteer opportunity, more than just transactional," Risser said. And the encouragement built into certain company structures empowers those who "might have a good heart and want to do good, but feel like they're not supported or confident enough in themselves."

That empowerment is Wilkins Miller's bread and butter, Carroll said.

**Several of the first matches between Wilkins Miller employees and their 'littles' continue to this day, whether in the school-based or community-based programs. The relationships can last a lifetime, which is not only a testament to the commitment of the volunteers, but the growth of their mentees.**

"It's great to learn from each other and have some empathy for the different experiences that we all have. And volunteering is a big part of that," he said. "I couldn't be more proud of our team for coming together and giving back to the community."

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### Nichole Edwards

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### AVAILABLE DATES

Monday, November 2, at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, November 3, at 1 p.m.
Tuesday, November 10, at 9 a.m.
Wednesday, November 11, at 1 p.m.
Thursday, November 12, at 9 a.m.
Friday, November 13, at 10 a.m.
Monday, November 16, at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, November 17, at 1 p.m.
Wednesday, November 18, at 3 p.m.
Thursday, November 19, at 11 a.m.
Friday, November 20, at 2 p.m.
Tuesday, November 24, at 10 a.m.



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# GIVING BACK: LOCAL AGENCIES LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS AND/OR RESOURCES

Heading into the holiday season this year, it's obvious more individuals and families will need help more than ever before. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced people out of work, kids are being challenged by remote learning and the aftermath of Hurricane Sally has displaced families in Baldwin County. Local nonprofits who step up to assist are also facing similar crises.

So how can you help? Below is a list of Mobile Area Chamber member nonprofits looking for volunteers and partners as they

gear up to support the community this holiday season. Talk with your co-workers and select a nonprofit to call and work with over the holidays, whether it's organizing an in-office winter coat drive, preparing meals for families in need, collecting disposable diapers to donate or Christmas shopping for families in need. Your generosity and servant leadership will have a long-lasting impact on those you help, and yourself.

## **Alabama Coastal Foundation**

joinacf.org  
251.990.6002

## **Alabama Kidney Foundation - Mobile Region**

alkidney.org  
251.455.2123

## **American Cancer Society**

cancer.org  
251.344.9858

## **Anchor Cross Cancer Foundation**

anchorcrossfoundation.org  
251.607.5081

## **Autism2Ability Inc.**

autism2ability.com  
251.287.2420

## **Babies First - United Methodist Children's Home**

umch.net  
205.837.0141

## **Big Brothers & Big Sisters of South Alabama Inc.**

bbbs.org  
251.344.0536

## **Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama Inc.**

bgsouthal.org  
251.432.1235

## **Camp Rap.A.Hope**

rapahope.org  
251.431.9055

## **Coastal Conservation Association Alabama**

ccaalabama.org  
251.478.3474

## **Child Advocacy Center Inc.**

cacmobile.org  
251.432.1101

## **Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council**

dauphinislandarts.org  
251.861.3300

## **Dearborn YMCA**

dearbornymca.org  
251.432.4768

## **Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail**

dffaaht.org  
985.226.2748

## **Feeding The Gulf Coast**

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251.653.1617

## **Friends of the Animal Shelter**

Adoptapetmobile.org  
251.208.2830

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251.265.3873

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## **Girls on the Run South Alabama**

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251.366.9978

**Team Share the Road Alabama**  
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251.654.6121

**The Learning Tree Inc.**  
learning.tree.org  
251.331.2633

**The Light of The Village**  
lighofthevillag.me  
251.680.4613

**The Mobile Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**  
mobilespca.org  
251.633.3531

**The Nature Conservancy in Alabama**  
nature.org  
205.251.1155

**The Widowed Persons Service of Greater Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia Counties**  
widowedpersonsmobile.org  
251.470.6866

**United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile Inc.**  
ucpmobile.org  
251.479.4900

**United Way of Southwest Alabama Inc.**  
uwsua.org  
251.433.3624

**Veterans Recovery Resources**  
veteransrecoveryresources.org  
866.648.7334

**Victory Health Partners**  
victoryhealth.org  
251.460.0999

**Waterfront Rescue Mission**  
mobilerescuemission.org/  
251.433.1847

**Wilmer Hall Children's Home**  
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251.342.4931

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## MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL MEETING

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- Wednesday, February 3, 2021
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Photo by Jeff Tesney Photography

Chamber Ambassadors from left to right are: Kirsten Loper, Missy Lynam, Phillip Moore, Laura Williams and Scott Henne.

# Ambassadors Critical to Chamber's Success

**A**lways willing to step in on a moment's notice to help at an event, this hard-working group of professionals plays an integral role in the Mobile Area Chamber's effort to reach a larger audience. You've probably seen them en masse at ribbon-cuttings and groundbreakings, or maybe they have greeted you with a firm handshake and a smile at a Chamber after-hours networking event.

These are the Chamber's Ambassadors, who, for more than three decades, have stepped in and supported the Chamber's program of work while boosting their own connections in the business community. They meet bi-monthly and receive briefings from Chamber staff on news and upcoming events to keep them in the loop.

"Our Ambassadors are second to none," said Chamber President and CEO **Bill Sisson**. "One call for help, and they're

stepping up to the plate helping with event registrations, visiting Chamber members and supporting our team."

Chaired in 2020 by **Meg Murdock** with Hampton Inn Providence Park, the work of this year's group of 30-plus Ambassadors was stifled by COVID-19 due to the number of events postponed and ribbon-cuttings cancelled. That said, they're ready to hit the ground running for the remainder of 2020 and beyond.

Joining the Ambassador program is easy. Your company must be a member of the Chamber, and you need to have some job flexibility that allows you to attend in-person events during the work week to network. Typically, the program is limited to one representative per company.

To learn more about joining this energetic group of volunteers, contact **Dawn Rencher** at **251.431.8649** or **drencher@mobilechamber.com**.

# We asked our Ambassadors what they like about being a Chamber volunteer, and here's what they had to say:



## Michelle Ard

Division Account Manager  
Seabulk Towing  
*Ambassador since 2017*

A friend of Ard's who had been involved with the ambassador program for a while talked her into joining. "Personally, it has gotten me 'out of my shell,' and professionally, it has given me a better understanding of why Seabulk has been a Chamber member. The things that the Chamber does for the local economy helps the shipping industry."



## Andrea Cape

Account Manager  
Kloud7 Business Voice Services  
*Ambassador since 2019*

Cape was looking for like-minded, business-focused individuals with shared common interests and professional goals when she joined the Ambassadors. "I've built lifelong relationships while making strong connections within the Mobile community."



## Lane R. Elmore

Financial Advisor  
Edward Jones  
*Ambassador since 2019*

Elmore was looking for an opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of Mobile's economy when he joined the Ambassadors program. "(It) has connected me to the community in a way I would not have been able to without it. I have been able to connect with like-minded individuals with interests in the continued growth of this area. One cannot help but get a sense of the bright future this city has to offer by getting involved."



## John Garrett

Financial Advisor  
Edward Jones  
*Ambassador since January 2020*

Garrett was looking for a way to make business connections and get more involved in his community. "Personally, I've established relationships with great people that I wouldn't have otherwise met and learned about other businesses my family and I support. Professionally, the Chamber's Ambassador program has helped build awareness for my business."



## Cecily Harper

Public Relations  
Harper Technologies LLC  
*Ambassador since 2018*

Harper personally experienced the benefits of the Chamber within her business and wanted to help other small businesses recognize value in their membership. "Aside from establishing friendships, you have a source of well over 30 people in various industries across Mobile and Baldwin counties. If you are in need of a product or service, need knowledge on a particular subject or just insight on something, it's almost guaranteed that you have someone in the ambassador program you can reach out to for help. It also helped me gain confidence in speaking to others about products and services. Business promotion does not always have to be a high-pressure situation, and the ambassador program allows you the opportunity to develop your business presentation in a safe space."



## Emily Hatcher

Realtor  
Roberts Brothers Inc.  
*Ambassador since 2018*

Hatcher worked for the Chamber for three years as an account executive. When she moved into real estate, she joined the Ambassador program. "Being involved with the Chamber allows me to always learn new things about Mobile, and I enjoy helping the Chamber carry out its mission to its members."



Ambassadors work with the Chamber staff to assist with a variety of special projects, including ribbon cuttings at new businesses. Pictured here are Ambassadors at Home2 Suites by Hilton's grand opening.



Chamber Ambassadors are always willing to support local businesses and celebrate successes. Pictured here are Ambassadors at Harper Technology's grand opening.



**Jourdan Henderson**

Community Director  
Stone Ridge at Somerby Park  
*Ambassador since 2017*

Henderson decided to join the Ambassador program to become more involved in the business community. "Being an ambassador allowed me to learn so much about what makes Mobile not just an incredible place to live, but also the perfect location to start or grow your business. The friends I've made and people I've met while taking part in ribbon-cuttings and networking events are the icing on the cake."



**T. Scott Henne**

Financial Services Professional  
New York Life Insurance Company  
*Ambassador Since 2018*

Henne joined the Ambassador program as he was starting his business and looking to get involved with other business owners in Mobile. As personal interaction and support is key to relationships and business growth, Henne said, "I have been able to expand my business network, a tremendous opportunity as I work with and help other businesses, as well as meeting new friends. With the craziness that has filled 2020, the value of relationships has only been enhanced."



**Susan Kangal**

Account Executive  
Lamar Advertising  
*Ambassador since 2017*

Kangal was looking for ways to network and keep up with current happenings in Mobile when she joined the Ambassadors. "I've gotten to network with other business professionals and stay in the know. I love Mobile, and I'm very proud of the strides we've made."



**Austin Key**

Service Center Manager  
Arrow Exterminators  
*Ambassador since 2016*

Key wanted to meet new business people and increase awareness of his company. "It has allowed me to meet new people in a different forum and build a working relationship with businesses I may not have otherwise called on for their business. Although they may not need our services at the time, they might have people they know who need it."



**Kirsten Loper**

Account Development Representative  
Calagaz Printing  
*Ambassador since 2019*

The desire to join a group of like-minded people with a passion for Mobile drove Loper to the Ambassador program. "Volunteering with the Chamber has provided me with renewed creativity, motivation and vision that has carried over into my professional life. It has also strengthened my ties to the community and helped grow my support network."



Pictured above are Ambassadors at Honest Air's grand opening.



### Whitney Lutley

Account Executive  
Cox Media  
*Ambassador since 2019*

In order to meet business professionals in the Mobile area, Lutley joined the ambassador program. "The Chamber has helped me make personal and professional connections that will last a lifetime. Business starts with a relationship, and the Chamber has created the perfect platform to do so. Through member visits and networking events, I have the opportunity to expand my professional network as well as my personal network."



### Missy Lynam

Senior Account Manager  
iHeartMedia Mobile  
*Ambassador since 2017*

Lynam's company is a longtime Chamber member, and she always attended Business After Hours. From there, she decided she wanted to get more involved to help grow her business. "Joining the Chamber has given me the opportunity to meet some amazing people and help get my foot in the door with local businesses. Talking about the Chamber is an excellent icebreaker, and I get the reward of making new contacts, strengthening relationships and accessing a wealth of information and resources."



### Phillip Moore

Account Manager  
AHI Corporate Housing Mobile  
*Ambassador since 2009*

Moore, a longtime Chamber volunteer, initially joined the program to promote the Chamber to prospective businesses and network with individuals from companies he normally wouldn't be able to get face-to-face with. Since then, "I have made so many close friendships that will follow me throughout life, not just through the Chamber. Professionally, it has given me knowledge of how businesses work and how the Chamber genuinely cares about small business and small business owners."



### Meg Murdock

Director of Sales  
Hampton Inn Providence Park  
*Ambassador since 2016*

Murdock became an Ambassador when she was looking for ways to get more involved in her community and opportunities to network. "Volunteering over the years has provided our company with referrals and recommendations to help us grow our business. I've personally grown as a person from the Ambassador community we've built, and I look forward to many more years of service."



### Jessica Turner

Account Executive  
WKRG News 5  
*Ambassador since 2016*

A client and friend recommended the program to Turner, who says she's drawn to the peer interaction. "I have enjoyed being in a group with people who have similar jobs and getting to meet everyone."



### Laura Williams

Assistant Manager M&R  
APM Terminals  
*Ambassador Since 2017*

Williams joined the Ambassador program three years ago to learn more about the community and make some peer connections. She says her favorite part of volunteering for the Chamber is attending ribbon cuttings. "This program has given me the opportunity to show up on a company's first and probably most stressful day and allow them see that fellow Mobilians are here for them and want to see them succeed. I leave with knowledge of a local company I can support and recommend to others."

# MEET OUR AMBASSADORS

**Michelle Ard**  
Seabulk Towing

**Trish Banker**  
Regions Bank

**Andrea Cape**  
Kloud7

**Torrian Davis**  
All In Credit Union

**Patrick Dungan**  
Adams and Reese LLP

**Lane Elmore**  
Edward Jones

**Nichelle Evans-Pugh**

**John Garrett**  
Edward Jones

**Chris George**  
Christopher L. George PC

**Karyl Hanisch**  
Renaissance Mobile  
Riverview Plaza Hotel

**Cecily Harper**  
Harper Technologies LLC

**Emily Hatcher**  
Roberts Brothers

**Jourdan Henderson**  
Stone Ridge at Somerby  
Park Apartment Homes

**T. Scott Henne**  
New York Life

**Susan S. Kangal**  
Lamar Advertising

**Austin Key**  
Arrow Exterminators Inc.

**Marylee Kilday**  
The SSI Group Inc.

**Kirsten Loper**  
Calagaz Printing

**Whitney Lutley**  
Cox Media

**Missy Lynam**  
iHeartMedia Mobile

**Dorothy S. May**  
The Gathering of Jewels Inc.

**Sarah McAleer**  
McAleer's Office Furniture

**Phillip Moore**  
AHI Corporate Housing

**Megan Murdock**  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
Providence Park/Airport

**Dixie Pellegrino**  
The Hillard Cos.

**Justin Rodgers**  
University of Alabama -  
Alabama Productivity  
Center

**Ron Sivak**  
DataPerk

**Michelle Tice**  
Strategic Wealth Specialists

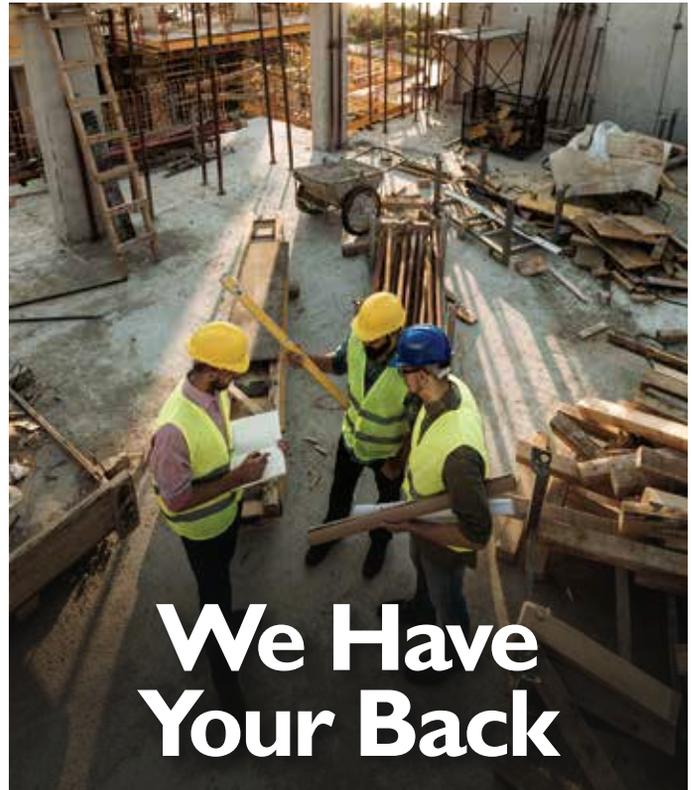
**Donna Turner**  
Southeast Toyota Finance

**Jessica Turner**  
WKRG-News 5

**Laura Williams**  
APM Terminals Mobile LLC

**Tim Wills**  
Boys & Girls Clubs of South  
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# CITY OF MOBILE NAMED MINORITY BUSINESS ADVOCATE FOR 2020

Today, it's easier than ever to do business with the City of Mobile. While a number of new programs, policies and procedures are in place, what stands out are those that assist disadvantaged businesses and service-disabled Veteran-owned companies.

As a result, the city is hiring more of these types of businesses for contracted jobs such as landscaping, construction, mechanical work and more. Even its prime contractors are required to include at least 15 percent minority and/or service-disabled Veteran-owned companies.

For this work, the Mobile Area Chamber named the City of Mobile as its Rev. Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate at the Eagle Awards in October.

A couple of key initiatives, beginning in 2016, paved the way for progress. First came the creation of the city's Office of Supplier Diversity. **Archnique Kidd**, who has a vast background in establishing supplier diversity programs in the public sector, was named manager.

"In the Office of Supplier Diversity, we are expanding economic opportunity for disadvantaged business by giving these businesses access to the procurement process and providing a framework to successfully do business with the city and other governmental agencies," says Mayor **Sandy Stimpson**. "Through these measures, we are encouraging job growth and business opportunity for all citizens in every area of our city, which is necessary for the City of Mobile to grow and thrive."

Tracking spending and breaking large projects into smaller projects also created more opportunities for small and disadvantaged business enterprises.

Mobile's blight program is specifically geared toward hiring small, minority-owned businesses to refurbish or demolish distressed houses. This initiative brought attention to the gap between companies



Photo by Jeff Tesney Photography

*Archnique Kidd (left) leads the City of Mobile's office of supplier diversity, established by Mayor Sandy Stimpson (center). A newly hired assistant, Daphney Portis (right), contributes to the team's progress of employing more diverse companies.*

ready to start work and those needing additional education, licensing, bonding and insurance before they could be approved as a city contractor.

Kidd says the mind shift from "best effort" to "requirement" for all contracts over \$250,000 has had the greatest impact.

"Our prime contractors and consultants know that we expect them to be intentionally inclusive when providing services for the City of Mobile and in their business practices," says Kidd.

This past summer, in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city rolled out a new website, [workwith.cityofmobile.org](http://workwith.cityofmobile.org),

along with an interactive software program. These resources help prepare companies to competitively bid as well as outline needed certifications. (Read more about this initiative on page 8.)

"The city has the unique ability to nurture small businesses, which contributes directly to their likelihood of success and their ability to grow," says **Darrell Randle**, the Chamber's vice president of small business development. "The latest programs not only expand the city's supplier base, they help establish a bigger pool of minority-owned businesses for all contractors."

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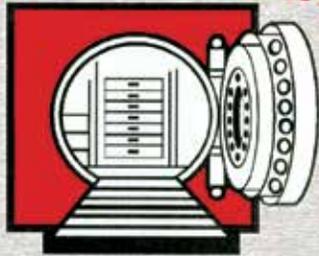


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# CHAMBER CHASE EXCEEDS GOAL ‘LIKE A BOSS’

This year’s annual Chamber Chase campaign kicked off at the end of May in the early stages of a global pandemic, with a goal of raising \$1.5 million through memberships, sponsorships, advertisements and in-kind sponsorships for goods and services.

The campaign kicked off a month late and extended two months longer due to COVID-19, but Mobile Area Chamber volunteers never skipped a beat. Under the creative, enthusiastic leadership of campaign chair **Melissa Cross**, president of McAleer’s Office Furniture, a committed group of 37 volunteers, representing 28 member companies, once again exceeded goal.

Using the slogan #ChamberChase LikeABoss, the campaign started with a bang and never slowed down, even when Hurricane Sally blew through the Gulf Coast in September.

Cross started each weekly reward session with a motivational comment or sales tip and coached everyone to share her “aggressive positivity,” suggesting that “if you don’t get a no, then there’s a chance for a yes!” Cross also had her marketing team at McAleer’s create “Bill Bucks,” featuring a photo of Chamber President and CEO **Bill Sisson**, to shoot out of a money gun at top producers each week.

“This was our 24<sup>th</sup> campaign,” said **Carolyn Golson**, the Chamber’s vice president of membership. “We have a core group who participates year after year, and there are always new volunteers



*Melissa Cross, president of McAleer’s Office Furniture, chaired the 2020 Chamber Chase campaign.*

looking to get involved in the fun.”

To keep the group energized each week, Cross made the reward sessions lively, entertaining and full of surprises. “Nobody wanted to miss a weekly meeting,” Golson said, noting that she even went live on Facebook each week for volunteers working from home.

Volunteers surpassed their goal by bringing in \$1.5 million through member investments, sponsorships of Chamber events such as the annual meeting, advertising for *Business View* and *Business View Weekly* and securing in-kind goods and services from member businesses. Volunteers recruited 56 new members and 11 new board of advisors members, and 14 of the teams exceeded their goal.

While the 2021 campaign will officially kick off next April, volunteers are welcome to get involved at any time during the year.

“The Chamber is the only organization in Mobile bringing business together for a common goal: improving Mobile,” said Cross.

The primary goal of the campaign is to bring in new members and raise resources that ultimately come back full circle to the business community through the work of the Chamber. “Chamber Chase offers unique networking opportunities for the volunteers, a fun cooperative spirit and a great social outlet as well,” said Cross.

To learn how your company can get involved in Chamber Chase, contact Golson at **251.431.8622** or [cgolson@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cgolson@mobilechamber.com).

## Why Volunteer with Chamber Chase?

### We asked our volunteers why they volunteer year after year for Chamber Chase, and here’s what they said:

- Enjoy being around energetic people and supporting the Chamber
- Helps me grow professionally
- Meeting people
- Networking
- Connecting with new folks
- Access to business leaders
- Great camaraderie

### How to Help

- Sponsor an event by visiting the campaign website [ChamberChase.com/sponsorship.aspx](http://ChamberChase.com/sponsorship.aspx), to see the variety of options available.
- Register a team to represent your company. This gives your company great exposure and provides your staff fun opportunities to meet others in our business community.
- Participate as a volunteer.

Call the membership department at **251.431.8622** for details.

# TOP PRODUCERS

## TOP VOLUNTEERS

### OVERALL

Jennie Campbell, The Stewart Lodges  
Rachel New, Trustmark Bank  
Bernadette Windle, Roberts Brothers

### CATEGORY ONE

Rachel New, Trustmark Bank  
Bernadette Windle, Roberts Brothers  
Jennie Campbell, The Stewart Lodges

### CATEGORY TWO

Jennie Campbell, The Stewart Lodges  
Linda Faulkner, Evonik Corp.  
Kirsten Loper, Ambassador Team

### TOP ROOKIE

Kirsten Loper, Ambassador Team

### MOST NEW MEMBERS

Dawn Finch

## TOP TEAMS

### OVERALL

Trustmark Bank  
The Stewart Lodges  
Regions Bank

### CATEGORY ONE

Trustmark Bank  
Regions Bank  
McAlee's Office Furniture

### CATEGORY TWO

The Stewart Lodges  
Evonik Corp.  
Ambassador Team

### MOST NEW MEMBERS

Trustmark Bank

### TEAMS OVER GOAL

Alabama Power  
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Alabama  
Blue Fish  
Century Bank  
Hancock Whitney Bank  
LLB&B Inc. Real Estate  
McAlee's Office Furniture  
Mobile Area Chamber Ambassador Team  
Regions Bank  
Renasant Bank  
Roberts Brothers  
ServisFirst Bank  
The Stewart Lodges  
Trustmark Bank

# TEAMS

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Vice President,  
Mobile Division



**Valencia Chaney**  
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Valencia Chaney ..... \$35,757  
Team ..... \$7,050

## ARKEMA INC. \$38,050



**Rene Neron**  
Plant Manager



**Terri Owler**  
Captain

Terri Owler ..... \$38,050

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**Terry Harbin**  
Market President



**James Alexander**  
Captain

James Alexander ..... \$31,800  
Elizabeth Bailey ..... \$6,000  
Team ..... \$3,708

## BB&T NOW TRUIST \$21,252



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Market President



**Mark Spivey**  
Captain

Mark Spivey ..... \$12,078  
Team ..... \$5,974

**“aggressive  
positivity”**

## BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF ALABAMA \$29,570



**Clay Walden**  
District Manager



**Kay Williams**  
Captain

Nichole Edwards ..... \$13,485  
Kay Williams ..... \$16,085

## BLUE FISH \$30,035



**Marcus Neto**  
Creative Director

Marcus Neto ..... \$30,035

**C SPIRE**  
\$29,507



**Philip McKibbin**  
*Director of Sales*

Team ..... \$29,507

**CENTURY BANK**  
\$31,111



**Peter vanLingen II**  
*President*



**Janet Johnson**  
*Captain*

Janet Johnson ..... \$31,111

**CROW SHIELDS BAILEY PC**  
\$8,930



**J. Kenny Crow Jr.**  
*Managing Partner*

Team ..... \$8,930

**EVONIK CORP.**  
\$39,663



**Ken Boisvert**  
*Vice President and Site Manager*



**Linda Faulkner**  
*Captain*

Linda Faulkner ..... \$39,663

**HANCOCK WHITNEY BANK**  
\$49,360



**Guy Helmsing**  
*Senior Vice President and Market President*



**Spencer Wiggins**  
*Captain*

Spencer Wiggins ..... \$22,755

Team ..... \$26,605

**“Chamber Chase like a boss”**

**HARGROVE ENGINEERS+ CONSTRUCTORS**  
\$1,453



**Vicki Studstill**  
*Vice President Relationship Building*



**Ashley McKeithan**  
*Captain*

Ashley McKeithan ..... \$1,453

**HARPER TECHNOLOGIES**  
\$8,124



**Abe Harper**  
*President*

Abe Harper ..... \$8,125

**iBERIABANK**  
\$5,075



**Ken Brown**  
*Executive Vice President and Market President*



**Virginia Knight**  
*Captain*

Virginia Knight ..... \$5,075

**JEFF TESNEY PHOTOGRAPHY**  
\$1,525



**Jeff Tesney**  
*Owner*



**Elissa Tesney**  
*Captain*

Elissa Tesney ..... \$1,525

**“Wake up. Kick ass. Repeat.”**

**LLB&B REAL ESTATE**  
\$17,404



**Melissa Morrissette**  
*Captain*

Melissa Morrissette ..... \$17,404

**MCALEER'S OFFICE FURNITURE**  
\$80,489



**Melissa Cross**  
*President*



**Sarah McAleer**  
*Captain*

Jennifer Hanscom ..... \$6,500  
Sarah McAleer ..... \$30,000  
Team ..... \$43,989

**MOBILE AREA CHAMBER GROWTH ALLIANCE TASK FORCE**  
\$17,591



**Nate Patterson**  
*Captain*

Carita Koen ..... \$2,268  
Nate Patterson ..... \$3,390  
Team ..... \$11,933

**ROBERTS BROTHERS**  
\$54,505



**Daniel A. Dennis IV**  
*President*



**Ann Akridge**  
*Captain*

Ann Akridge ..... \$640  
Bernadette Windle ..... \$50,565  
Team ..... \$3,300

**“another COVID record”**

**MOBILE AREA CHAMBER AMBASSADORS**  
\$19,868

Kirsten Loper ..... \$18,068  
Donna Turner ..... \$1,800

**REGIONS BANK**  
\$104,270



**Christian White**  
*South Alabama Area President*



**Stephen Schlautman**  
*Captain*

Trish Banker ..... \$13,437  
Julye Jenkins ..... \$32,299  
Stephen Schlautman ..... \$18,600  
Team ..... \$39,934

**SERVISFIRST BANK**  
\$45,469



**Bibb Lamar**  
*Chairman and CEO*



**Sherry Coker**  
*Captain*

Sherry Coker ..... \$42,803  
Team ..... \$2,666

**“But wait, there’s more.”**

**MOBILE AREA CHAMBER BOARD**  
\$6,400

**Melissa Cross**  
*Captain*

Team ..... \$6,400

**RENASANT BANK**  
\$24,915



**Mark Fillers**  
*South Alabama Market President*



**Ryan New**  
*Captain*

Ryan New ..... \$24,915

**SPIRE**  
\$29,148



**Karl Ficken**  
*General Manager*



**Harris Oswald**  
*Captain*

Harris Oswald ..... \$29,148

## THE STEWART LODGES \$109,400



**Jennie Campbell**  
President and CEO, Captain

Jennie Campbell.....\$99,500  
Team.....\$9,900



## TRUSTMARK BANK \$116,230



**Mike Fitzhugh**  
South Alabama  
Region President



**Rachel New**  
Captain

Dawn Finch .....\$32,000  
B.J. Griswold.....\$4,700  
Rachel New .....\$70,293  
Team.....\$9,237



Chamber Chase reward sessions may have looked a little different in 2020, but the volunteers had a blast, thanks to Chamber Chase Chair Melissa Cross and her team.

# FINAL TOTAL \$1,511,280

Chamber Chase volunteers help recruit much-needed resources in support of the Chamber's core programs.

### Advertising

5% \$70,431

### Member Investments

11.5% \$173,567

### Board of Advisors

28.5% \$432,025

### Sponsorships and In-kind

55% \$835,257

# THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF 2020 CHAMBER CHASE

## EVENT SPONSORS

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Burton Property Group  
Container Yard  
Harper Technologies  
McAleer's Office Furniture  
Taco Mama  
The Stewart Lodges  
Trustmark Bank  
Which Wich

## MEMBERS THAT SUPPORTED CHAMBER CHASE 2020

1031 Meals  
22<sup>nd</sup> State Bank  
3 Circle Church  
A and Remodeling  
Adams and Reese  
AEB Technology & Enterprises  
Airbus  
Alabama Court Reporting  
Alabama Insurance Agency  
Alabama Power  
Alabama State Port Authority Co.  
All A Bloom  
All In Credit Union  
AltaPointe Health  
America's First Federal Credit Union  
Anytime Storage  
APM Terminals  
Arkema  
ASM Global  
ASM Recycling  
AT&T  
Austal USA  
Autry Greer & Sons Inc.  
Azalea Insurance Advisors  
Ball HealthCare Services  
BancorpSouth  
Baumhower's Victory Grill  
Bay Area Printing & Graphics Solutions  
BB&T now Truist  
BBVA  
BCM Moring  
Bienville Bites Food Truck  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama  
Bishop State Community College  
Blackwell Realty  
Blaze Pizza  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama  
Blue Fish  
Blewater Yacht Sales

BNI South Alabama  
Bonefish Grill  
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama  
Buffalo Rock-Pepsi  
Burr & Forman  
Byrd Safety and Maintenance Professionals LLC  
C Spire  
Cakes by the Pound  
Calagaz Printing  
Campus Book Store  
Century Bank  
Chevron  
Chickasaw City Schools  
Chicken Salad Chick  
Chris & Carla's Catering  
Claimpay Inc.  
Clark Personnel  
Coast Diagnostics  
Coastal Alabama Community College  
Commonwealth National Bank  
Container Yard  
Convention Center  
Cooper & Co. - Andreda Randelson  
CORE Industries Inc.  
Counterthreat Analysis Mitigation Ops  
Courtyard & Fairfield Marriott Eastern Shore  
Crow Shields Bailey  
Crowne Health Care of Springhill  
Cumulus Radio  
Cypress Employment Services  
D&L Construction  
Dauphin's  
Dick Russell's BBQ  
Dortch, Figures & Sons  
EAP Lifestyle Management  
Easy Heating & Cooling  
EcoView Windows, Doors, Siding & Bath  
Employers' Administrative Services  
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Everbee's Bright  
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Express Employment Professionals  
FASTSIGNS of Mobile  
Faulkner University  
Fausak Tires & Service  
Feeding the Gulf Coast  
Firehouse Subs  
First US Bank  
Fort Condé Inn

Fortis College  
FusionPoint Media  
Georgia Roussos Catering  
Gilmore Services  
Green Magic Landscape  
Guardian Integrators  
GulfQuest National Maritime Museum  
Gulf Coast Containers  
Gulf Coast Studios  
Gulf Electric  
Gwin's Commercial Printing  
Hampton Inn Providence Park  
Hancock Whitney Bank  
Harper Technologies  
Harvest Jewels  
Harvey and Thomas Orthodontics  
Haul It Off  
Hembree Heating & Air  
Herc Rentals  
Hickory Pit Too  
Homestead RV Community  
Horne LLP  
Hummingbird Ideas  
Hydro Technologies  
iCater Weddings & Events  
Identity Signs  
iHeartMEDIA Mobile  
IMMIX Strategic  
Imperial Dade Paper  
Infirmary Health  
Ingalls Shipbuilding  
Jeff Tesney Photography  
Jet Services  
JJPR  
Jubilee Youth Service and Leadership Academy  
Junior Achievement of Mobile  
Karen's Kleaning Services  
Keep Mobile Beautiful  
Keesler Federal Credit Union  
Lagniappe Home Store  
Lamar Advertising  
Landshark Promotions  
Las Floriditas  
Leaf & Petal Gift Shop  
Leavell Investment Management  
Lenzing Fibers  
LLAHDOT Inc.  
LXIS Management Solutions  
Lynn Nolen Construction  
M&M Bank  
Mark Nelson Preston - Roberts Brothers  
Matthew Roberts Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a MRE Inc.  
McAleer's Office Furniture

MCG Business Solutions  
Mediacom Business  
Merchants Plaza  
Merchants & Marine Bank  
Meridian at the Port  
Merrill, a Bank of America Co.  
Mighty  
Millard Maritime  
Mississippi Export Railroad/Alabama Export Railroad  
Mitternacht  
Mobile Airport Authority  
Mobile Area Council Boy Scouts of America  
Mobile Area Interfaith Conference  
Mobile Area Water and Sewer System  
Mobile Christian School  
Mobile County Commission  
Mobile Sports & Entertainment Group  
Mobile's Best Storage  
Mott MacDonald  
Mount Man of Mobile  
Naman's Catering  
New Horizons Credit Union  
Nudraulix  
Oak Hollow Farm  
Olive Garden  
Omega Properties Inc./Mobile's Best Storage  
On the Run Logistics  
Orangetheory Fitness  
Outokumpu  
Palmer's Toyota Superstore  
PangeaTwo  
Parker Human Resource Services LLC  
Payroll Vault  
Peak Alkalinity  
Personal Edge Fitness  
Phelps Dunbar  
Pittman Tractor Co.  
PNC Bank  
Pollman's Bake Shop  
Port City Industrial  
Portofino Apartments  
Premier Medical  
Prism Systems  
Quality Valve  
Quincy Compressor  
Red or White  
REEL USA Corp.  
Regions Bank  
Renasant Bank  
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Scott Strategic Solutions  
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State Farm - Makeda Nichols  
Stone Ridge at Somerby  
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The Admiral Hotel  
The American Equity Underwriters Inc.  
The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa  
The Maids  
The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail/Magnolia Grove  
The Stewart Lodges  
The Tommy Morse Band  
The Weavil Co.  
Thompson Engineering  
Titanium Wireless  
Troy University  
Trustmark Bank  
Tyndall Federal Credit Union  
University of South Alabama  
USA Alumni/Athletics  
Vader's Fortress  
Village at Midtown  
VisionSpot Consulting Group  
Volkert  
Walks and Wags Inc.  
Ward International Trucks  
Which Wich  
Williams  
Williams Appraisal  
Willis Towers Watson  
Wilson Dismukes Parts & Equipment  
Wind Clan Construction  
Wintzell's Oyster House  
Women's Business Alliance  
Wonderfully Made Gourmet Organic Treats  
Workforce Ancillary Management  
Yellowhammer Investment Group  
Yesterday's Treasures & More LLC

# 2021 TOP GIVEAWAY TRENDS

This year has been one for the record books, with cancelled in-person events, trade shows, remote learning and more. But as the United States begins to open up to more face-to-face marketing opportunities, promotional/specialty companies have been working to find the top trends in specialty/giveaway items for the coming year.

It's no surprise that the top trending products are personal items individuals can use with their laptops for remote learning, or to keep them safe and appropriately distanced.

If your company is interested in purchasing any of these or other specialty items, the Mobile Area Chamber encourages you to shop local and buy from a member business.

## TouchTool

Give attendees something they won't want to leave the house without. This giveaway is a small and compact tool to keep hands from touching surfaces with a lot of germs like door handles and buttons. Available in durable, high-strength plastic or in solid, antimicrobial brass, this tool can be attached to keys for quick and easy access.



## Reusable Two-Ply Face Masks

Face masks are a giveaway that attendees can use daily to protect themselves and others. With an over-the-ear-loop that allows for comfort and ease of taking on and off, and a fully sublimated exterior, this promotional product will prevent the spread of germs and promote your brand.



## Blue Light Glasses

Blue light glasses are a triple threat promotional item: useful, durable and customizable.

As people spend more time looking at screens, they need to protect health and sleep cycles from the intense blue light that screens and other modern LED lights give off. As promotional products, blue light glasses deliver a low cost-per-impression because people will want to wear them everywhere and can showcase your brand with messaging around the temples.



## Screen-Cleaning Spray and Microfiber Cloth

A spray and wipe is a modern microfiber cloth that easily removes smudges and fingerprints from phone or laptop screens. It's the perfect size and contains both a screen cleaning spray and microfiber cloth.

## Custom Socks

Logo socks are a great trade show giveaway because they are inexpensive for an apparel item, yet highly effective for making big impressions. Customers want apparel items they'll actually wear, and socks are a gift that universally pleases everyone. Socks can be custom-knit with a unique design for trade show giveaways, but don't forget to order some pairs for employees as well.



## Microfiber Cloth with Full-Color Booklet

Why settle for a typical pamphlet when you can combine it with a promotional item? A Tek Booklet with Microfiber Cloth is versatile, portable and the ideal way to get your message across. The microfiber cloth, a must-have for cleaning screens, cameras and glasses, comes packaged neatly in a PVC pouch.

## Reusable Metal Straw with Case

This eco-friendly reusable metal straw will be a hit with any recipient. The extendable design can become any length you need, and the rubber tip makes drinking from this straw enjoyable. Recipients will love the carrying case that allows them to keep this straw in their bag and use it at a moment's notice.



## Webcam Covers

Show clients and leads you've got their privacy covered in a fun and creative way. Instead of just a rectangle with a logo, webcam covers can be personalized to the exact design of your choice. Because people spend so much time looking at screens, earning a spot on a laptop or monitor is a huge marketing win. For a bonus, pair the webcam cover with a custom card. Expand on the messaging of the webcam cover itself with a fully customizable card that the webcam cover comes attached to. The cover itself is a reminder of your brand every time your lead or customer looks at their device. The card is your space to explain why they should remember you. Your company's imprinted logo is sure to stand out.



## Card Holder with Metal Ring

Cell phone accessories are never out of style when it comes to trade show giveaways. This phone pocket, made of polyurethane leatherette, includes a rotating metal ring that can be used as a grip or a stand. Credit cards and more can be inserted into the useful pocket.



## Mobile Area Chamber Member Promotional Item/ Specialty Companies

### Ad Venture Specialties Co.

251.344.0526  
adventurespecialties.net

### Calagaz Printing

251.478.0488  
calagazprinting.com

### Camellia Trophy & Specialties

251.342.9638

### e-worc marketing & advertising

251.414.3130  
e-worc.com

### FastSigns of Mobile

251.410.7446  
fastsigns.com/2068-mobile-al/about

### Geiger Brothers

251.342.5704  
geiger.com

### Gwin's Commercial Printing

251.438.2226  
gwins.cc

### Image360 West Mobile

251.344.5491  
westmobileal.image360.com

### J.O. Acree Co. Inc.

251.473.3764  
joacree.com

### Landshark Promotions

251.259.5432  
landsharkpromos.com

### MH3 Printing & Ad Specialties

251.476.4643  
mh3printing.com

### Zebra Marketing

251.438.2422  
zebrapromos.com



## MOBILE AREA WATER & SEWER SYSTEM

*Pictured from left to right are Director Charles Hyland; Assistant Director, Administration Bud McCrory and Assistant Director, Operations Doug Cote.*

**Company officials:** Kenneth Nichols, chair; Walter Bell, vice chair; Sheri N. Weber, secretary-treasurer; Commissioners Raymond Bell Jr., Barbara Drummond, Maria Gonzalez, Thomas Zoghby; and Charles E. Hyland, director

**Address:** 4725 Moffett Rd., Mobile

**Number of Employees:** 400

**Website:** mawss.com

**Years in business:** 68

**Brief company description:** The Mobile Water Service System started Oct. 1, 1952, when the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners entered into a contract with the City of Mobile to purchase water and sanitary sewer systems on behalf of the city. Raw water was purchased from the City Water Works Board from 1952 to 1968. The two boards were merged on Jan. 1, 1968, with the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners taking over the raw water system. Today, water is delivered from the 3,600-acre lake and pumping station by pipes to two reservoirs, where it is diverted either to domestic or industrial use. The reservoirs are at an elevation of 220 feet, and industrial water is delivered by gravity to industry at an elevation of about 25 feet. Pumps at Big Creek Lake provide treated water to Mobile and untreated water to local industries.

**Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners for Growth Initiative?** "The Partners for Growth Initiative is an investment in our community which benefits all of us," said Hyland. "The focus for this initiative includes supporting existing businesses, recruiting new businesses and investment, developing and retaining a strong workforce, helping to develop a diverse business

community and proudly telling the story of the great resources we have to offer here in Mobile. All of these actions help us grow economically and provide a better quality of life for our citizens."

**How long have you been a continuous Mobile Area Chamber Member?** Since 1985

**About Partners For Growth:** Growing Global, Investing Local 2018-2022, Partners For Growth is a



five-year, public-private initiative of the Mobile Area Chamber, to grow and diversify Mobile's economy. Its five pillars include: 1) new business recruitment and investment attraction; 2) existing industry support, innovation and entrepreneurship; 3) workforce attraction, retention and development; 4) diverse business development; and 5) business advocacy and quality of place.

Join the Chamber's economic development investors by contacting David Rodgers, vice president, economic development, at 251.431.8657 or [drodgers@mobilechamber.com](mailto:drodgers@mobilechamber.com).



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# MICHAEL LEDGER

## FEEDING THE GULF COAST



Photo by Devon Ford

**TITLE:** President & CEO

**HOMETOWN:** Springfield, Ill.

**EDUCATION:** Ledger earned a bachelor's degree in management from the University of Illinois, Springfield, along with a degree in electronic technology from the U.S. Navy.

**WHO/WHAT INSPIRES YOU?** Building systems and teams that can make a difference and accomplish goals.

**HOBBIES:** Fitness/athletics and music

**HIDDEN TALENT:** Singing

**WHAT WORD WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF?**  
Thoughtful or funny

**SECRET TO SUCCESS:** Passion, kindness and hard work

**WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR LONG-TERM PROFESSIONAL GOALS?** I hope to be able to use my experience and skills in ways that can make a difference for organizations and individuals.

**WHAT IS THE MOST USEFUL THING YOU OWN?**  
Smartphone

**YOUR FIRST CAR?** Cutlass Supreme

**WHAT ARE TWO OF YOUR FAVORITE NAMES?** Dolly and Floyd (the names of my dogs)

**WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?** Bringing people together to find the best ways to help others.

**BRIEF COMPANY DESCRIPTION:** Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, serves a 24-county area spanning the Florida Panhandle, south Alabama and south Mississippi. In 2019, the food bank distributed more than 24 million meals to more than 400 church pantries, soup kitchens and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple hunger-relief and nutrition programs. Feeding the Gulf Coast is a United Way member agency and a member of Feeding America. For more information, visit [feedingthegulfcoast.org](http://feedingthegulfcoast.org).



## KEN R. BROWN

### iBERIABANK

**Brown** is executive vice president and market president for iBERIABANK. With more than 15 years of banking experience, he most recently served the bank as senior vice president and private banking and business banking manager for the Mobile market. Brown serves on the board of Goodwill Easter Seals of the Gulf Coast and on the UMS-Wright Preparatory School alumni advisory board. He is a past board member for United Way of Southwest Alabama. Brown is a graduate of The University of Alabama.

## ABE L. HARPER JR.

### HARPER TECHNOLOGIES LLC

**Harper** is president/CEO of Harper Technologies LLC. He is a graduate of the Alabama School of Math and Science and attended both Florida A&M University and The University of Alabama. Harper is a member of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, the Eastern Shore Coastal Conservation Association, Prichard Preparatory School board of directors and the CityHope Church. He was named a member of the Alabama Innovation Commission or Innovate Alabama, Gov. Kay Ivey's statewide commission on entrepreneurship and innovation.



## J. DAY PEAKE III

### PHELPS DUNBAR

**Peake**, an associate with Phelps Dunbar, practices labor and employment law. He counsels businesses on employment practices, from developing an employment handbook and drafting non-compete agreements to protecting trade secrets and proprietary information. Peake is a member of the Alabama State Bar, the Tennessee State Bar and the American Bar Association, and serves on the board of directors of Ronald McDonald House. He was recognized by Mobile Bay Magazine in 2012 with a 40 Under 40 award and as a Mid-South Super Lawyers rising star. Phelps Dunbar is a Partners for Growth investor.



# CHAMBER AT WORK

**NEW STRATEGIC PLAN** Over the summer and into early fall, the Chamber worked on updating its long-range strategic plan. Board members and staff met regularly to identify new areas of focus and enhanced services. The board is expected to approve the plan in January.

## **CHAMBER PLANS ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS OWNERS**

In response to having to cancel Emerging Leaders in 2020 due to COVID-19, the Chamber's small business development team, in partnership with University of South Alabama Office of Research and Entrepreneurship, University of Mobile, Melton Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and the Alabama Small Business Development Center, created Roadmap for Growth, an intense executive-level entrepreneurial education program for small business owners. The program includes 12 participants and will run through December.

## **EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE CONTINUES MONTHLY MEETINGS**

The Chamber's Executive Roundtable of small business owners and managers continues to meet the third Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m., via Zoom for the time being. These monthly sessions provide an opportunity for business owners to discuss common issues, network with one another and hear timely presentations. If you're interested in joining this group, contact Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607.

**SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETS** To meet the demand of its clients and members, the Small Business Council moved from quarterly to monthly Zoom meetings. The group is collaborating on programs, counseling and other issues, discuss best practices, and how to serve the community.

**NEW BOARD OF ADVISORS NAMED** Calagaz Printing, Easy Heating & Cooling, Hummingbird Ideas, JJPR, Merchants & Marine Bank, The Cowart Group, PangeaTwo and WaveFly joined the Chamber's board of advisors, bringing the number to 262. To learn more about this group of influential members, contact Shelly Mattingly at 251.431.8655 or smattingly@mobilechamber.com.

**NETWORKING – IN PERSON!** The Chamber's Coffee with the Chamber is a quarterly event providing attendees the opportunity to network before work. The August event was held in person at the Hampton Inn Providence Park. To learn about the November session, to be held on Nov. 4 at Stone Ridge at Somerby Park Apartment Homes, see the calendar of events on page 47.

## **MEMBERS MEET TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT LAW**

In August, the Chamber hosted a Business First seminar on employment law during the pandemic. Day Peake with Phelps Dunbar discussed best practices and recent changes from the Department of Labor.

## **BUSINESSVIEW WEEKLY**

### **GET CONNECTED...**

To the latest business news and community events in the Mobile area on a weekly basis.

**SIGN UP** to receive the **BUSINESS VIEW WEEKLY** email [info@mobilechamber.com](mailto:info@mobilechamber.com).

# NOVEMBER 2020

For more information on Chamber events, visit [mobilechamber.com](http://mobilechamber.com)

**Note:** Watch the Mobile Area Chamber's website, [web.mobilechamber.com/events](http://web.mobilechamber.com/events), and our social media channels for updates as we balance in-person and virtual events.

## 4 COFFEE WITH THE CHAMBER

Start your day with the Chamber for coffee and networking.

**When:** 8 to 9 a.m.

**Where:** Stone Ridge at Somerby Park Apartment Homes, 1200 Somerby Dr.

**Contact:** Carolyn Golson at 251.431.8622 or [cgolson@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cgolson@mobilechamber.com)

No charge.

**Sponsor:** Stone Ridge at Somerby Park Apartment Homes

## 17 VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

*\*Members Only*

**VIA ZOOM:** A monthly forum exclusively for Chamber-member small business owners and managers featuring speakers on important business topics.

**When:** 8 to 9 a.m.

**Speaker:** Dr. Stephen McNair, owner, McNair Historic Preservation Inc.

**Topic:** "Historic Preservation Efforts and the Expiring Historic Tax Credit program"

**Contact:** Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or [brembert@mobilechamber.com](mailto:brembert@mobilechamber.com)

RSVP required for ZOOM meeting code.

**Sponsor:** BancorpSouth

## 18 NETWORKING@NOON

*\*Members Only; one representative per company*

Make 20-plus business contacts in 60 minutes over lunch.

**When:** Noon to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

**Cost:** \$10 and must be paid with reservation

**Contact:** Dawn Rencher at 251.431.8649 or [drencher@mobilechamber.com](mailto:drencher@mobilechamber.com)

**Sponsors:** Keesler Federal Credit Union and Outback Steak House

## 26 & 27 THANKSGIVING

The Chamber will be closed for Thanksgiving holidays.

## COMING UP: DECEMBER

### 2 A GLOBAL TRADE OUTLOOK

**\*VIRTUAL EVENT:** The Mobile Area Chamber presents a virtual discussion on U.S. trade policy and global supply chain issues featuring a panel of national experts and local industry leaders.

**When:** 9 to 10:30 a.m.

**Cost:** \$15 for members; \$25 for potential members

**Contact:** Kayley Shepard at 251.431.8629 or [kshepard@mobilechamber.com](mailto:kshepard@mobilechamber.com)

Registration requested for virtual meeting code.

**Sponsors:** Alabama Department of Commerce, Alabama State Port Authority, APM Terminals, Export Alabama Alliance and Page & Jones

## THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF OUR NOVEMBER EVENTS



## WHO'S NEW

## USA Health Names First Chief Human Resources Officer

**Andrea Rosler** joined USA Health as the health system's first chief human resources officer. Rosler earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., before earning master's degrees in business administration and hospital administration from The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

## New Agents Join Roberts Brothers



Baranyuk

Bryant

Gamble



Hatcher

Holbart

Ramey



Teet

Tidwell

Natalya Baranyuk,  
Morgan Bryant,  
Cheryl Gamble,  
Emily Hatcher,

Margo Holbart, Dea Ramey, Jessica Teet and Carmen Tidwell are the latest new agents to join Roberts Brothers Inc.

## Clark Joins Hill Hill Carter



Clark

Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black PC announced attorney **Paul A. Clark** joined the firm. His practice will focus on civil defense litigation in the practice areas of transportation, insurance, healthcare and transactional law. Clark earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and criminal justice from Faulkner University and received a law degree from Cumberland School of Law.

## White-Spinner Realty Hires Office Manager



Jackson

White-Spinner Realty hired **Jennifer Jackson** as office manager. Jackson earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Central Florida in

Orlando. She has more than 13 years of experience as a financial analyst in the title, energy, construction and property management industries.

## Infirmary Health System Announces New Hires



Ball

Bedeir

Clarke

**Infirmary Cancer Care** hired **Dr. Olivia Claire Ball**. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Washington and Lee University in Richmond, Va. She completed a medical doctorate and radiation oncology residency with the University of Alabama at Birmingham as well as an internship with Baptist Health System in Birmingham.

**Dr. Kareem H. Bedeir** joined Cardio-Thoracic and Vascular Surgical Associates (CTVSA) following the completion of his fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery. Bedeir earned a medical degree from the University of Alexandria in Egypt. He completed surgical residencies at the University of Alexandria as well as Sinai Hospital in Baltimore.

**Infirmary Medical Clinics** announced the affiliation of **Dr. Christopher Clarke** with Coastal Medical Group (CMG). Clarke joined CMG following the completion of a fellowship in pulmonary disease and critical care medicine at the University of South Alabama. He is a graduate of Tulane University and received both master's and medical degrees from the University of Louisville.

## Spring Hill College Appoints Interim Co-Provosts

Spring Hill College appointed **Steven Almquist PhD** and **Lisa Hager PhD** as interim co-provosts for the 2020-21 academic year. Almquist serves as a professor of English, the chair of the division of languages and literature and the faculty athletics representative. Hager is a professor of psychology and the chair of the social sciences division.

## Brennan Moves to FMTalk 106.5

Longtime local radio personality **Dan Brennan** joined **FMTalk 106.5**, where he is partnered with Dalton Orwig on the three-hour radio Mobile Mornings program from 6 to 9 a.m. weekdays.

## Promotions Announced at Wilkins Miller

**Wilkins Miller LLC** accounting and advisory firm made the following promotions: **Sallie Byrd, Trae Catrett, Simon Fox, Jack Johnson, Mandy Parker, Kristian Reeves** and **Jing Yu** were promoted to managers; **Brandon Bradley** and **Courtney McGehee** were promoted to supervisors; **Katherine Bowen** and **Mary Katherine Hudson** were promoted to consultants; and **Ben Murray** was promoted to senior accountant.

In other news, **Tammy Smith** passed the certified bookkeeper exam administered by the American Institute of Professional Bookkeepers.

## Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Cooper &amp; Co. Welcomes Associate



Robinson

**Deborah Robinson** recently joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Cooper & Co. Inc. Realtors as a sales associate in Semmes. She brings more than 17 years of real estate experience.

## Staff Changes at Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) hired **Henry Perkins** as community relations manager. Perkins studied community organization at The University of Alabama and received a master's degree in business administration at the University of South Alabama.

Also at MBNEP, **Christian Miller** is expanding his role to include management of ecosystem restoration projects. Since 2008, he has overseen the signature Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans that lead much of the group's work, as well as provided guidance to millions of dollars in grants each year for projects in Alabama's coastal watersheds.

## Winstead Joins Infirmary Medical Clinics



Winstead

**Dr. Nathaniel "Teddy" Winstead** joined the staff at **Gulf Coast Gastroenterology**. Winstead earned his medical degree from the Tulane University in New Orleans. He completed a residency at Tulane University Health Sciences Center where he served as chief resident and clinical instructor of medicine.

## BUSINESS ENDEAVORS

## Crow Shields Bailey PC Builds Gulf Shores Office

**Crow Shields Bailey PC** broke ground on the construction of its new, 3,600-square-foot building at 1550 2nd St. W. in Gulf Shores. The building was designed by **Holmes & Holmes**, a division of **Clark, Geer, Latham & Associates Inc.**, with construction by **Rogers and Willard Inc.** Construction is scheduled to be completed in January 2021.

## Spring Hill College Reduces Tuition

Starting in fall 2021, Spring Hill College will reduce tuition to make its Jesuit Catholic education more accessible and affordable to more students. The new tuition price will be reduced by approximately 50 percent from the previous year. This price reduction makes Spring Hill among the most affordable private colleges in the country.

## USA Health Extends Reach in West Mobile

**USA Health** is expanding its primary care network to better serve patients in west Mobile with the addition of Family Practice Associates/USA Health. The practice, formerly named Family Practice Associates of Mobile, will remain open at its current location at 2270 Hillcrest Rd.

Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

## WELL DONE

### Swann Named President-Elect of ADLA



Swann

**Gerald Swann**, a partner of **Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novack PA**, was named president-elect of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association (ADLA). He practices in the areas of construction litigation, products liability, serious personal injury and wrongful death. Swann is a graduate of The University of Alabama and Samford University.

### Maynard Cooper & Gale Attorneys Make Best Lawyers List

The *Best Lawyers in America 2021* includes 168 **Maynard Cooper & Gale** attorneys. **Evan N. Parrott** was recognized among the "Ones to Watch" in bankruptcy and creditor debtor rights / insolvency and reorganization law and bankruptcy litigation. "Lawyer of the Year" awards were presented to 21 of the firm's attorneys.

### Wilkins Miller Receives Recognition

**Wilkins Miller**, an accounting and advisory firm, was named one of the 2020 "Best Companies to work for in Alabama" by *Business Alabama* and the Best Companies Group. The firm earned second place for best companies in Alabama and was the only accounting firm recognized.

In addition, Wilkins Miller was named a "Top 400 Firm" by *INSIDE Public Accounting*. The firm came in the 355th spot and was one of two Mobile-based firms named to the list.

### More Than 100 Adams and Reese Attorneys Recognized

One hundred fifty **Adams and Reese** attorneys were recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (by BL Rankings LLC) 2021.

Also, Adams and Reese attorneys were included in the inaugural edition of *Best Lawyers*' "Ones to Watch" listing that recognizes associates and other lawyers who are earlier in their careers for their outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States.

## Family Health Receives Funding to Combat Opioid Crisis

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**, through its Health Resources and Services Administration, was awarded funding for its Integrated Behavioral Health Services program. Family Health, the primary care division of the **Mobile County Health Department**, will use the money to combat the nation's opioid crisis.

### Attorneys for Johnstone Adams Make Best Lawyers & Lawyers of the Year



Collins



Welch

**Johnstone Adams LLC** announced 10 attorneys were recently selected by

their peers for inclusion in the 2021 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. **Celia J. Collins** was also named the 2021 Best Lawyers: Lawyer of the Year for the Mobile area in *Labor Law - Management*. Additionally, **Jessica L. Welch** received *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* in the category of Tax Law. This award recognizes extraordinary lawyers who have been in private practice for less than 10 years in the United States.

### Spring Hill College Receives SSS Grant

**Spring Hill College** received a \$1.3 million federal Student Support Services (SSS) TRIO grant aimed to help low-income, first-generation and students with disabilities succeed in and graduate from college.

### Alabama State Port Authority Recognized for Safety

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association awarded two of its president's awards to the **Alabama State Port Authority's** Terminal Railway – Alabama State Docks for achieving rail safety standards.

### UM Records Highest Enrollment in 5 Years

The **University of Mobile (UM)** recorded its highest enrollment in five years for fall 2020. UM reported a total enrollment of 2,016 for the fall semester, up from 1,989 in 2019. The increase includes the largest class of graduate students in the school's history, along with a significant jump in transfer students.

### NAI Mobile Agents Achieve CCIM Designation

**NAI Mobile** announced **Brandon Broadus**, **Niki Coker** and **John Thomas (J.T.) Jenkins** earned Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designations from the Realtors National Marketing Institute.

## 14 Armbrecht Jackson Lawyers Honored

**Armbrecht Jackson LLP** announced that 14 of its attorneys were named in *The Best Lawyers in America 2021*. Of those, four attorneys were selected as "Lawyers of the Year" for 2021:

**Duane A. Graham** for business organizations; **M. Kathleen Miller** for admiralty and maritime law; **James D. Smith** for corporate law; and **Norman E. Waldrop Jr.** for product liability litigation – defendants. One attorney, **Robert S. Walker**, was selected for inclusion in the 2021 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch for Commercial Litigation*.

### Inc. List Includes Altaworx

For the fourth time, **Altaworx** appears on the *Inc. 5000* List. Altaworx is ranked No. 2,756 on the annual list, the most prestigious ranking of the nation's fastest growing private companies.

### UM Dean Earns Alabama Nurse Educator Award



Barnes-Witherspoon

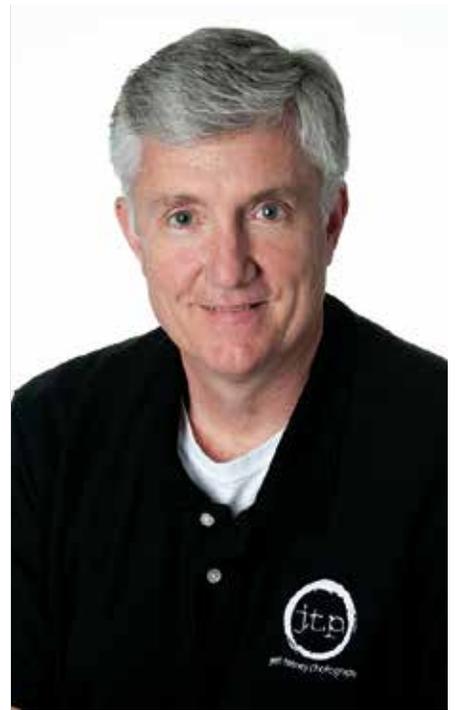
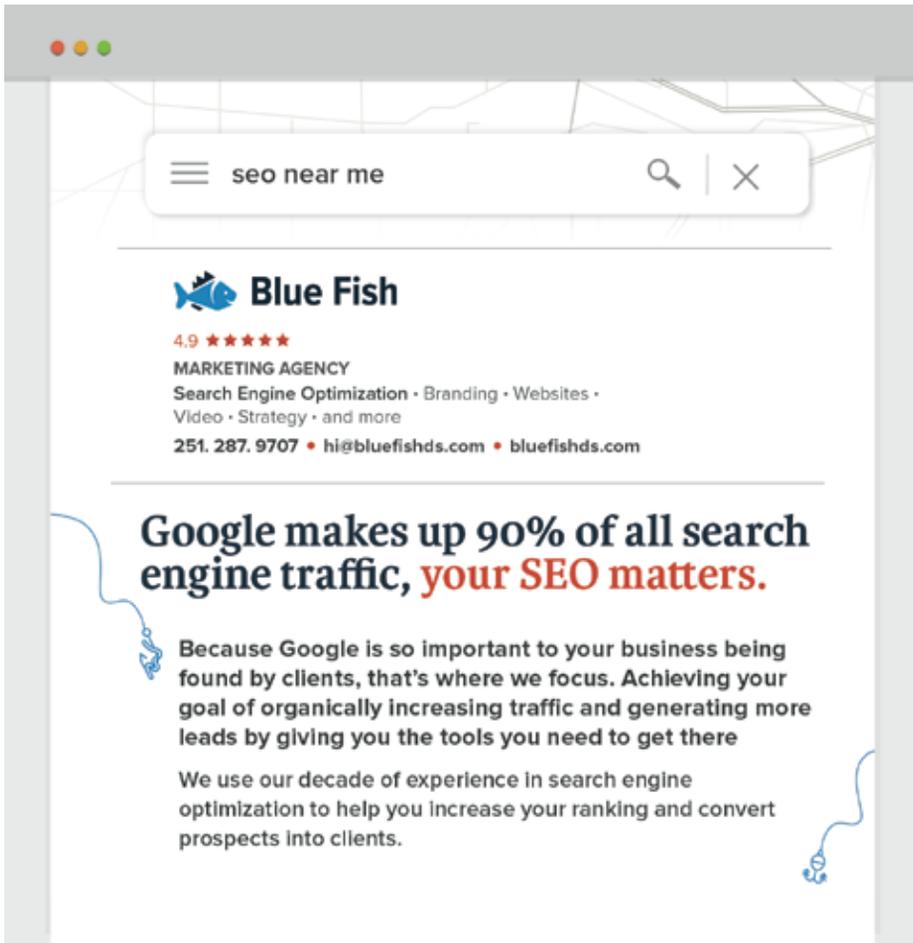
**Dr. Sarah Barnes-Witherspoon**, dean of the school of nursing at the University of Mobile, received the Alabama Nurse Educator Award honoring a career of outstanding accomplishments in the field of nursing education.

A panel of healthcare leaders and the Alabama State Nurses Association identified the Top 10 most inspiring nurses across the state, chosen from more than 500 nominations from patients, healthcare professionals and nurses.

### Bishop State Community College Awarded \$1.3M Grant

**Bishop State Community College** received a \$1.3 million TRIO Student Support Services Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant is designed to provide students from disadvantaged backgrounds with opportunities for academic development and assistance with basic academic requirements. It will provide an array of comprehensive services including academic advising, financial aid advising, career and college mentoring and assistance with academic tutoring.

Submission deadline for Member News is two months prior to publication. News releases should be one or two brief paragraphs. Photos must be professional headshots labeled with the person's first and last name, and must be 300 dpi at full size and saved in an eps, tiff or jpg format. Send your information to [news@mobilechamber.com](mailto:news@mobilechamber.com).



## FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHER

### JEFF TESNEY

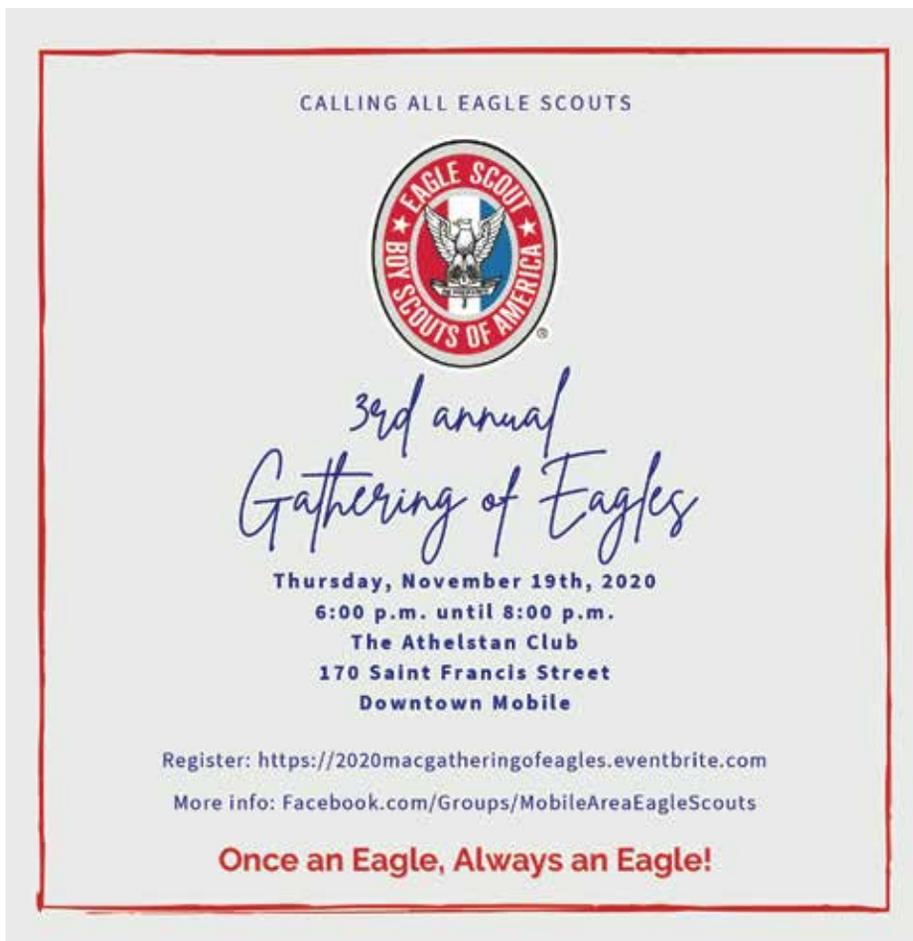
Tesney has been around the photography business his entire life. The son of a former newspaper photographer, he has helped cover major local social events since his early teens. Because he had apprenticed with his father from such a young age, most people thought he was a professional photographer before the idea even crossed his mind.

Tesney officially went into business for himself in 1989. Over the past three decades, he has photographed more than 1,000 weddings and has shot portraits, social events and commercial projects around Mobile and throughout the United States.

He has been involved with the Chamber for more than 20 years.

In this issue, Tesney's work can be seen in the feature on Ambassadors, the Small Business of the Month and the Chamber's 2020 Minority Business Advocate.

To see more of Tesney's portfolio visit [jefftesneyphoto.com](http://jefftesneyphoto.com).



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The Mobile Area Chamber was awarded the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's highest designation. Of the 6,936 chambers in the U.S., only 3 percent achieved five-star distinction.

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b. (3) Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors, counter sales	none	none
b. (4) Other classes mailed	none	none
c. Total paid and/or requested circulation	none	none
d. (1) Free distribution by mail outside county	300	6,114
d. (2) Free distribution by mail in county	2,892	0
d. (3) Free distribution - other classes mailed by U.S.P.S.	6,963	0
d. (4) Free distribution - outside the mail	100	300
e. Free distribution	10,255	6,414
f. Total distribution	10,255	6,414
g. Copies not distributed	29	0
h. Total	10,284	6,414
i. Percent paid and/or requested circulation	none	none

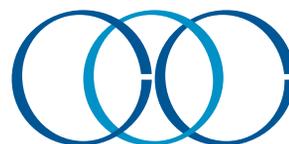
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**value**

... we provide value in the services,  
opportunities and recognition we  
give to our members



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