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Austal USA introduces the addition of steel line production in its state-of-the-art module manufacturing facility, continuing its proud tradition of innovation and a commitment to excellence. Austal USA will use its proven lean manufacturing principles to deliver world-class steel ships to the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard.



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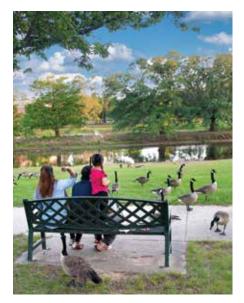
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BUSINESS

JUNE/JULY 2022

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38 ON THE COVER:

A family sits on a bench at Municipal (Langan) Park and feeds the ducks and geese that are residents of the 720-acre municipal park. See other fun things to do in Mobile this summer starting on page 38. Photo by Brian Jordan, FusionPoint.







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ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

CHAMPIONING COMMUNITY **LEADERS**

Nancy Wall Hewston

This year marks the end of U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby's storied career. For 44 years, he has been a force for the advancement of the state of Alabama. His leadership has not only transformed Mobile and south Alabama, but his legacy stretches to all corners of the state and will be felt for generations to come.

As a thank-you to Sen. Shelby's commitment to our area, and with help from his office, we've compiled a list of his many accomplishments. It's a tremendous reminder of all that we have gained as a community because of his efforts. We congratulate Sen. Shelby on his upcoming retirement.

Speaking of change, have you noticed the Mobile Chamber has a new name and a new logo? Read all about it in this issue.

We also spotlight the Mobile Chamber's board of advisors, our highest duespaying members, and we recognize their commitment to helping the Chamber accomplish our work.

This issue is all about champions and change. We're grateful to all who have supported the Chamber over the years. Together, we'll continue to champion the economic prosperity and quality of life for our region by being the voice of business, promoting collaboration and helping Chamber members grow.

NATIONAL COMPANIES ANNOUNCE MOVE TO SOUTH ALABAMA LOGISTICS PARK



Pictured at the SALP announcement is (from left to right) Phillip Burton, Burton Property Group; Randall Dueitt, Mobile County Commission; State of Alabama Governor Kay Ivey; Peter Murphy, DC Safety Sales Co. Inc.; City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson; and Barry Blakely, Averitt Express.

Alabama Gov. **Kay Ivey** recently announced two national businesses are the first to relocate to the South Alabama Logistics Park (SALP) in Mobile County, developed by Burton Property Group.

- **DC Safety** is relocating its headquarters and operations to the SALP with 51 new jobs and a \$33.5 million investment.
- Averitt Express is expanding its Mobile operations and moving to the SALP with 32 new jobs and a \$23 million capital investment.

DC Safety, founded in 1975, is the nation's leading manufacturer and distributor of first aid and preparedness accessories for the automotive industry.

"Mobile is unique in combining a very supportive business climate with a wonderful quality of life for workers and their families," said **Peter Murphy**, president and CEO of DC Safety. "This location places us closer to our customers and allows us to take advantage of all the resources here with respect to port, road and rail logistics. We're eager to commence operations."

Tennessee-based Averitt Express was established in 1971 and has had operations in Mobile since 1988. Averitt Express is a leading provider of freight transportation and supply chain management solutions with an international reach of 100-plus countries.

"Averitt is proud to have been operating in Mobile since 1988," said **Barry Blakely**, chief operating officer of Averitt Express. "We're

humbled by the trust Mobile has placed in us and the growth we've experienced over the past 34 years. While we're proud of our past, we're even more excited about the future. We believe relocating to the South Alabama Logistics Park will fuel our growth in Mobile for decades to come. The future of Averitt in Mobile is bright."

"Days like today prove why Alabama's economic comeback is leading states around the country and why the Mobile area is a major catalyst for the entire state," Ivey said. "Companies like DC Safety and Averitt and places like the South Alabama Logistics Park are making this success possible."

These two moves are the first major relocations to SALP, a 1,300-acre master-planned logistics park located off Interstate 10 in Theodore. With its proximity to the Port of Mobile, the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley, and interstate and rail connections, SALP is expected to become a major contributor to economic growth in the area. SALP is the largest industrial park development along the Gulf Coast, with the potential to bring 5,000 new jobs to the area by the end of the decade.

"These announcements are proof that the South Alabama Logistics Park was needed, and site development for economic development is vital to future success," said **David Rodgers**, vice president of economic development for the Mobile Chamber. "We are looking forward to many more economic development announcements to follow."

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Bishop State's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC) is an 80,000 squarefoot state-of-the-art facility that features worldclass equipment for workforce development. This center's mission will focus on STEM education and training. Classes are set to begin in Fall 2022.

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AUSTAL USA CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW STEEL FACILITY

Austal USA opened its new state-of-the-art steel manufacturing facility with a celebration and more than 200 guests, including representatives from the U.S. Navy; U.S. Coast Guard; federal, state and local government; and the Embassy of Australia.

"The opening of the new steel manufacturing line at Austal USA means south Alabama will be able to continue providing high-quality ships for the Navy," said U.S. Rep. Jerry Carl. "This massive \$100 million investment will also create jobs and spur economic growth throughout the region, while continuing to develop and grow our local workforce with the hiring of countless folks in the trades to meet the demands of the new line. I'm proud of the incredible work being done right here in my district, and I look forward to seeing south Alabama become a major player when it comes to steel shipbuilding."

Financing for the new steel production line was provided in part by a Defense Production Act (DPA) Title III Agreement between the U.S. Department of Defense, in support of the U.S. Navy shipbuilding industrial base, and Austal USA. The agreement, valued at \$50 million, was announced in June 2020 and was part of the national response to COVID-19 to maintain, protect and expand critical domestic shipbuilding and maintenance capacity. Austal USA matched these funds and invested an additional \$50 million into the completion of the steel facility.

"We are so excited to see our plans to add steel to our capabilities come to fruition," said Austal USA President Rusty Murdaugh. "The addition of steel capability is a game-changer as it opens up our capability to support the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and other customers with high-quality ships. We

appreciate the confidence the Department of Defense and the Department of the Navy have shown in us with the award of the DPA grant to get this project started, and look forward to repaying that confidence with our future performance delivering high-quality steel ships."

The 117,000-square-foot manufacturing addition will house the latest state-of-the-art computerized and robotic steel processing equipment to handle all of the current and future demands of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard. A 60,000-square-foot stockyard will handle raw steel, and a 19,500-square-foot paint facility will provide the ability to paint and blast simultaneously.

The addition of steel shipbuilding capability complements the company's well-established aluminum shipbuilding expertise.

Austal has delivered 15 Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) and 12 Expeditionary Fast Transports (EPF) to the Navy. Another seven aluminum Navy ships are under construction. The company is also under contract to build two Navajo-class Towing, Salvage and Rescue Ships (T-ATS), which will be the first steel ships constructed in the new facility.

"Austal USA will operate our steel production line using the same lean manufacturing principles that we've refined over the last 15 years building LCS, and EPFs for the Navy," said Murdaugh. "That process has resulted in Austal's reputation for delivering quality ships on time and on budget, ship after ship. We will bring that same reliable production capability to steel ship construction."



Gina Hitchens speaks to a group about financial awareness and opportunity.

GHG FINANCIAL PLANNING: GUIDING CLIENTS TOWARD SAFER INVESTMENT CHOICES

When she was in college, **Gina Hitchens** thought her career path lay in education, which is the degree she pursued at the time. And while she wasn't wrong about the educational component of her true vocation, a lifelong love of finance led her to make a career through helping people become financially independent while thoughtfully creating generational wealth for their families.

Although she'd been working in the field since the 1980s, in 2008 she officially formed **GHG Financial Planning**, the Mobile Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

Born in Detroit, Hitchens spent most of her career in Indianapolis before moving to Mobile in late 2018 to be closer to her family. Her company has always maintained a stable of loyal clients, but Hitchens said her roster hit a whole new level of success during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Ever since then, has been my busy season," she said.

In the last couple of years, she and GHG Financial Planning have gravitated toward the retirement income planning

space and guiding their clients toward safer investment choices. Hitchens said many of her newer clients are young professionals who aren't connected to traditional retirement approaches, have reframed their priorities and are looking to leave their corporate jobs.

I'm still very much an educator at heart.
I just have a different classroom and a different set of students."

Gina Hitchens, owner, GHG Financial Planning

"They are very knowledgeable when it comes to wealth and making a greater impact, and I get extreme value from that," she said. "It's so satisfying to help my clients live a life defined by dignity, independence and choice, whatever that means to them and the legacy they want to leave."

Another key component of the company's current direction is education, whether it's speaking to a conference of women business owners, or coaching clients one-on-one.

Hitchens said she's excited to delve into the financial education side of her industry, especially when it comes to communitybased initiatives such as the e-book series she's working on called "The Smart Woman's Guide to Financial Success."

"I'm still very much an educator at heart," she said. "I just have a different classroom and a different set of students."

Hitchens credits the Mobile Chamber for helping her get her footing in Mobile about three years ago. She has made countless connections through its programs, including the Growth Alliance Task Force.

"I'm always looking for opportunities to collaborate with others who have shared services and synergies in providing that financial wellbeing to our community," she said.

COMPANY NAME: GHG Financial Planning

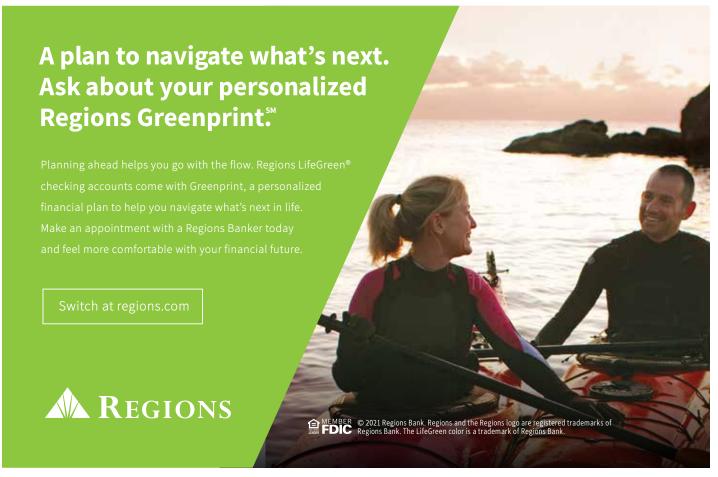
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Want to be featured as a Mobile Chamber Small Business of the Month? Go to mobilechamber.com to submit an application online, or contact Danette Richards at drichards@mobilechamber.com or 251.431.8652 for questions and/or additional information.





JMF & DLI: **SOLVING ADVANCED PROBLEMS WITH TECHNOLOGY**

Mike Francis said he's been an entrepreneur since 18. He has founded and built multiple businesses focused mostly on solving problems through technology with his ideas; always helping other companies along the way. "Helping others grow and build a business is a passion of mine," said Francis.

Back in 2005, he started JMF Solutions, an Inc. 5000 telecom provider offering reliable data, VOIP, cloud, TV and managed services to reach people and businesses not being serviced. That business grew and acquired other businesses doing the similar work. Over the years he and his team grew this company to offer fiber to residential customers, enterprise service for larger clients and wholesale to businesses.

"It is all about connectivity and selling the core or backbone of our services to companies who need it," said Francis.

In 2017, he started playing with blockchain and cryptocurrency by deploying services in the JMF Cloud and network. He started reading all he could about the topic and the process of how it worked. He was able to use his company's infrastructure to mine and trade in Bitcoin and other Cryptos. "What I learned in a few months was pretty eye opening," said Francis. He invested a small amount of money, and that initial investment yielded a 5x return in a couple months and he was hooked. "The returns, while impressive, are very small in comparison to what blockchain and crypto will do for our planet and everyone

He was able to attract new investors and he learned how to trade in cryptocurrency and now he helps others get involved, speaks on panels, advises various projects, and he is involved in over 100 blockchain projects globally.

In 2020, he started Distributed Ledger Inc., known in the industry as DLI, and the company was listed for the first time in the Inc. 5000 Regionals as the second fastest growing company in the southeast U.S. with 3,830 percent growth, (https://www. inc.com/regionals/southeast).

"Bitcoin is the perfect financial reserve for the world," he said. "Nobody owns it, the participants do not have to trust each other, the math always works, and that's how it was designed." He explained that "Bitcoin is backed by energy and that it is stored energy in digital form."

With the resources to pivot, Francis was in the right place at the right time again and recently found a data center available in Columbus, Ga. The datacenter processed transactions for



Distributed Ledger Inc. exhibited at the Bitcoin 2022 Conference in Miami as a 3 Block Sponsor.

600 million credit card subscribers. Now, Francis and his team are converting the 132,000 square foot Tier 3 Soc II Datacenter and they call it DLI ONE as the center of the DLI Blockchain universe. The facility will host carrier and enterprise services; provide Bitcoin and other crypto mining services for enterprise and institutional clients using 99 percent renewable energy; and the rest of the space will be used to host a tech incubator focusing on the Southeast Region.

"Rick (Miller) and I are friends and I see what he's done with Hatch (his small business incubator in Fairhope) and I love how he's able to help other entrepreneurs work through a process to develop their ideas and turn them into a business. I hope to do the same at DLI ONE," said Francis.

To concentrate on this new venture, Francis completed the sale of Benchmark Communications LLC in February 2022. This \$12.5 million deal included all residential clients, fiber to the home, cable systems, and the WaveFly brand name. His main company, JMF Solutions (JMF) moving forward will be focused specifically on healthcare, state and local government, nonprofit and wholesale services to other MSPs and ISPs as the core business.

In his crypto studies, he learned about cryptocurrency's sustainability and how it can use clean energy in addition to its security and environmentally friendly community of investors and developers. Francis is now involved in a sustainable clean water initiative for South America where they are cleaning up pollution and using the energy created to mine Bitcoin.

Starting with JMF and continuing to try new things and grow, Francis says he has learned from his experiences and that has helped him in his endeavors moving forward.

Francis now owns companies that help others and believes in giving his employees ownership in what they do and how they run the business. He says when someone has a problem, he encourages them to always have a possible solution. His company culture is built around entrepreneurs and self-starters with simple ideas that scale, low entropy and low bureaucracy. With \$40 million in 2021 revenue, it seems like the structure, process, and culture is working to their advantage.

In his spare time, Francis is a veracious reader and loves spending time on the water with his family.

"Family is important, and I like to think of my businesses as family, and my employees as family because family comes first," said Francis. "In fact, Family First is one of our biggest core values across all businesses. Our companies are very innovative in this regard providing unlimited sick days, unlimited paid vacation, and many other benefits not seen in a normal corporate environment."

"I love Alabama," he explains. "I love this area and this is home to me - where I visited as a child. There is so much to offer everyone here and I am happy to be here and be a part of a prosperous community. This area is very abundant with good people and natural resources, and we are very fortunate to love here. There are a lot of good people here, and I strive to be one of them."

JMF Solutions is the holding company behind award-winning companies in the telecommunications, cloud and blockchain industries. JMF ranked No. 3,842 on the 2021 Inc. 5000 list (83% 3-year growth) which is the company's 6th year in a row for the last six years in a row and on the CRN Fast Growth 150 (87 percent growth from 2017 to 2019) from 2017 to 2020.

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Advisors are top company executives with a desire to engage in peer-to-peer interaction in a variety of venues, connecting with the inner workings of the Mobile-area business community.

The Mobile Chamber provides advisors with access, interaction and a high level of recognition for their companies.

For information on joining the board of advisors, contact Michael Galvin at 251.431.8628 or mgalvin@mobilechamber.com.





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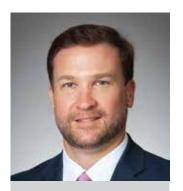


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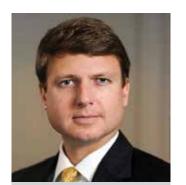


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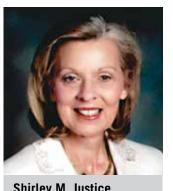
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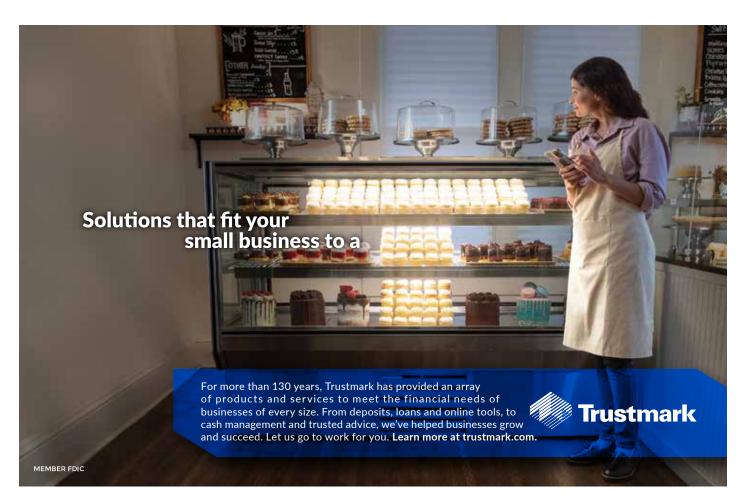
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Michael H. Payne Gwin's Commercial Printing



Marcus Pezent BASF Corp.



W. Davis Pilot Jr. Pilot



Craig Pouncey Coastal Alabama Community College



Ben M. Radcliff Jr. Ben M. Radcliff Contractor Inc.



Lyman M. Ramsay Gulf Equipment Corp.



Forress Rayford Jr. Rayford & Associates Inc.



Burruss "Buzzy" Riis Hand Arendall Harrison Sale LLC



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Maxey J. Roberts University of South Alabama Foundation



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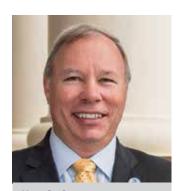
Downtown Mobile Alliance



W. Sandy Stimpson
City of Mobile



Lee Stokes *Alabama Shipyard LLC*



Ken G. Styron

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MOBILE CHAMBER HAS A NEW LOOK AND A NEW NAME

The Mobile Chamber has a new name and look, focused on moving Mobile forward with a strong focus on the business community. The Mobile Chamber announced it new name and new logo at its Annual Meeting in March.

Hummingbird Ideas was chosen to help the Mobile Chamber rebrand and this would include a new name, a new logo, and a new website.

"The Mobile Chamber is a 186-year old organization that has continuously evolved to provide Mobile area businesses with the imagination and resources they need to succeed," said **Nancy Hewston**, the Mobile Chamber vice president of communications and advocacy. "Our fresh new look breathes excitement and energy into our organization and is a continuation of our forward momentum."

To begin the process, Hummingbird recommended a house of brands approach to their work because they determined the identities the Chamber was conveying should be separate entities but still under the same umbrella.

The name change started with dropping the "area" and the "of commerce" since removing this last part of the name has become a common practice among chambers of commerce across the country.

"In our research, we found that most of the target audience in our area was already calling the organization 'Mobile Chamber' so it made the most sense to move in that direction with the new branding efforts," said **Whitney Christopher**, director of accounts, Hummingbird ideas.

The logo's M icon is made up of three shapes representing the Mobile Chamber bringing big business, small business and the area's legislative bodies together to propel our city forward.



"The blue color palette not only reflects our coastal landscape, but also represents the deep tradition that the Mobile Chamber holds in this community," said **Jennifer Cooley**, account manager, Hummingbird Ideas.

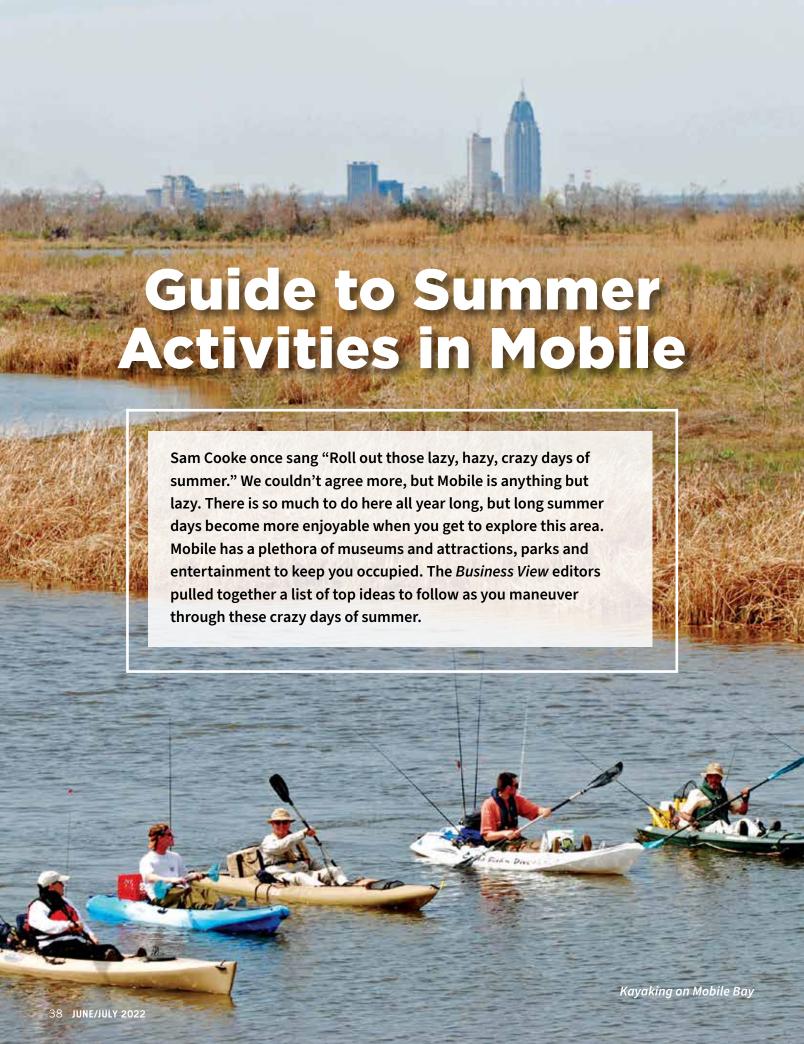
Finally, a new marketing campaign is being rolled out in Mobile Chamber ads and billboards across the city with the new tagline "Knowing business. Knowing you."

"We landed on the tagline 'Knowing business. Knowing you.' because it communicates both the knowledge and expertise of the Chamber as well as the collaboration and advocacy that is central to the Chamber's mission, vision and strategic goals," said **Courtney Harris**, associate creative director, Hummingbird ideas.

"Our new brand identity better reflects our programming and initiatives as we work to attract the next generation of leaders, visionaries and businesses to Mobile." said Hewston.

The Chamber will soon release a refreshed website geared toward connecting members with the resources and tools needed to thrive in Mobile.





Museums and Attractions

Mobile has museums and attractions celebrating almost any local topic: history, art, science, horticulture, marine biology, antebellum architecture and, of course, the pageantry and revelry of Mardi Gras. These world-class museums not only make Mobile a cultural destination, but also provide educational facilities seldom found in a city its size.

Alabama Contemporary Art Center

301 Conti St., Mobile 251.208.5671 / alabamacontemporary.org

The Alabama Contemporary Art Center shows modern art in an industrial setting in the center of downtown.

Exploreum Science Center

65 Government St., Mobile 251.208.6881 / exploreum.com

From hands-on science education and entertainment to educator-led experiments and demonstrations, the science center features permanent exhibitions as well as major traveling exhibits and movies in the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Digital Dome Theater.

GulfQuest National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico

155 S Water St., Mobile 251.436-8901 / gulfquest.org

GulfQuest National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico is an interactive, educational attraction with exhibits, theaters, simulators and displays, as well as educational programs and events dedicated to the Gulf Coast's rich maritime traditions.

The History Museum of Mobile and Welcome Center

111 S. Royal St., Mobile

251.208.7569 / museumofmobile.com

The History Museum of Mobile, located in a national landmark building, uses interactive exhibits to tell the story of Mobile's more than 300-year history. The museum also serves as the city's official welcome center.

Mobile Carnival Museum

355 Government St., Mobile 251.432.3324 / mobilecarnivalmuseum.com

The William J. and Emily Staples Hearin Mobile Carnival Museum showcases Mobile as the birthplace of Mardi Gras in the United States.

Mobile Museum of Art

4850 Museum Dr., Mobile 251.208.5200 / mobilemuseumofart.com

The Mobile Museum of Art is the setting for a permanent collection of more than 9,000 works of art spanning two centuries, as well as a changing series of traveling exhibitions and regional art exhibits.







HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS

Bragg-Mitchell Mansion

1906 Springhill Ave., Mobile 251.471.6364 / braggmitchellmansion.com

The Bragg-Mitchell Mansion gives a glimpse of lavish plantation life.

Condé-Charlotte Museum House

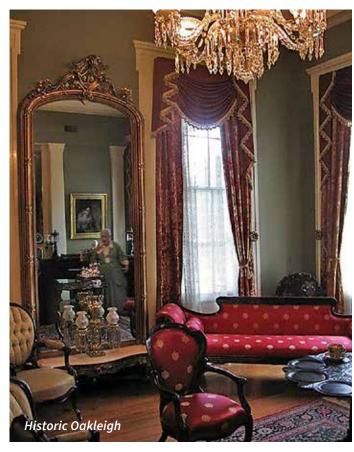
104 Theatre St., Mobile 251.432.4722 / CondeCharlotte.com

The Condé-Charlotte House, built in the 1820s, is one of the city's oldest surviving houses and is furnished to represent five periods of Mobile's history.

Historic Oakleigh

350 Oakleigh Place, Mobile 251.432.1281 / historicoakleigh.com

Built in 1833, Oakleigh, a classic example of Greek Revival architecture, is Mobile's official antebellum mansion. Other house museums include the Richards-DAR House, known for its exceptional iron-lace balconies, and the Portier House, home to Mobile's first five Catholic bishops.











PARKS AND RECREATION

There are more than 70 parks and playgrounds in the Mobile area offering facilities for picnicking, canoeing, biking, hiking, camping, disc golf and other leisure activities.

Bienville Square and Cathedral Square are popular downtown spaces, while the 720-acre Municipal (Langan) Park to the west offers golf, tennis, disc golf, outdoor concerts, a children's playground and picnic areas.

Arlington Park, on Mobile Bay near Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley, includes a pier, a kayak launch point and picnic gazebos.

Medal of Honor Park in west Mobile features a dog park and a pavilion for outdoor concerts.

Chickasabogue Park, a county park, has bike and foot trails, fishing, camping, canoeing and swimming.

The Alabama Coastal Birding Trail is a birdwatcher's paradise. The trail spans two counties and is enhanced by directional and interpretive signage.

Across the U.S. Hwy. 90 Causeway, Meaher State Park also serves as a gateway to the Mobile River Delta. Swamp tours are the easiest way to view this unique natural resource, where visitors can learn about birds, fish, alligators, bald eagles, black bears and other wildlife in the area.

The white sands of the Gulf of Mexico are a short drive away to Dauphin Island in Mobile County or to the shoreline of Baldwin County.

Discover Alabama's Water Resources











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101 Bienville Blvd., Dauphin Island, AL 36528 251-861-2141 www.disl.edu



The 2022 Alabama Legislative Session convened on January 11. The session was officially declared "sine die," or in other words finished, on April 11. According to the Alabama State Bar, at the end of the 2022 Legislative Session, there were a total of 339 bills introduced in the Senate and 534 bills introduced in the House of Representatives. Of those, 172 bills have been signed by the governor and became official acts. Another 96 bills have been sent to the governor for review and action. Below is a summary of some of the bills introduced that could impact businesses in Alabama.

Business Privilege Tax

Governor Ivey signed HB 391, by Rep. Steve Clouse, R-Ozark, which would eliminate the business privilege tax. The bill, which passed the House, was approved by a vote of 30-0. The eventual elimination of the minimum business privilege tax would allow more than 230,000 small businesses in Alabama save more than \$25 million a year beginning in 2024. The bill also reduces the minimum business privilege tax from \$100 to \$50 beginning December 31, 2022.

Bills Aimed at Curtailing Tax Incentives Fail

Not all legislative victories come in the form of passing legislation but in ensuring legislation does not pass. A bill that would have negatively impacted economic development efforts did not receive approval from the Senate. SB 303, by Sen. Arthur Orr. R-Decatur, would have repealed up to nine economic development incentives effective December 31, 2027, unless those incentives were extended by an act of the legislature. These incentives included the Loan Production tax credit, Veterans Employment tax credit, Rural Physician tax credit, and the Irrigation Equipment tax credit, among others. This bill also would have put extension limitations on all tax incentives going forward. Additionally, SB 303 would have created new reporting requirements for any state agency that administers any economic tax incentive. This legislation, a

replacement to the more aggressive SB 57, received approval from the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee but was not brought to the Senate floor for consideration.

Tax Relief and Reducing Red Tape for Businesses

HB 82 by Rep. Danny Garrett (R-Trussville) passed the legislature and was signed into law by Gov. Ivey to provide immediate tax relief to small businesses. The Small Business Relief and Revitalization Act of 2022 will help alleviate the sales tax burden on more than 2,400 small businesses by allowing them to increase the calculation threshold to \$5,000 up from \$2,500. HB 82 also allows businesses to exempt up to \$40,000 of personal property market value from ad valorem tax, which will exempt nearly 75 percent of Alabama businesses from paying this portion of the tax.

Working Families Tax Relief

Two bills, SB 152 and SB19, were passed during the session to provide tax relief to working families and employees in the state. SB 152 was authored by Dan Roberts (R-Mountain Brook) and passed quickly after its introduction for the bill to become law for Alabamians to take advantage of the tax relief prior to individuals filing tax returns. With its passage, families will not be penalized on a state level for the increased child tax credit received through the American Rescue Plan Act and provides an increased dependent care credit. This new law accounts for an additional \$87 million for Alabamians, bringing the total amount to over \$2 billion in pandemic relief benefits. On the last day of the session, Senate Bill 19, sponsored by Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) and Rep. Lynn Greer (R-Rogersville) was passed. The bill provides for an increase in individuals' standard tax deduction. Those filing single or head of household will be allowed an additional \$500 deduction and those filing married will be allowed an additional \$1,000 deduction. SB 19 would also raise the maximum optional standard deduction from \$33,000 up to \$35,000.



American Rescue Plan Act - Special Session

Early into the session, Gov. Ivey called a special session, and both the House and Senate gave final approval to legislation that directs how to spend the state's federal pandemic relief funds.

The primary focus of the special session was legislation appropriating the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The bill directs most of the funds to be spent on broadband internet infrastructure, water and sewer projects, and healthcare.

The House passed the bill 100-1-2, and the Senate passed it 26-0-1. The legislation was signed by the governor.

"I commend our legislators for their efficient work in directing these funds to meet some of Alabama's toughest challenges. We are making smart investments to increase statewide broadband connectivity, improve our water and sewer infrastructure, as well as health care infrastructure," Ivey said in a press release.

"We are also addressing measures to reduce employment taxes paid by Alabama businesses as they continue to rebound from the pandemic," she said. "This was an overwhelmingly bipartisan effort by the men and women of the Alabama Legislature, and I am proud of their good work in dealing with the task the federal government dealt us."

A key component of the ARPA spending plan is the replenishment of the Alabama Unemployment Trust Fund, which is funded primarily by a tax on all Alabama employers. This bill appropriates \$79.5 million to the state's Unemployment Trust Fund (UTF). This infusion of funding will bring the fund closer to its pre-pandemic level. As a result, employers will see a 29 percent decrease in the "shared costs" tax rate. Due to the depletion of the UTF caused by the COVID pandemic, employers saw a tax increase of 72 percent last year, even after lawmakers allocated about \$385 million in federal CARES Act money to the fund.

Alabama will receive \$1.06 billion, the second portion of its ARPA funds, in May or June. Legislators have not made plans for these funds. With the arrival of new ARPA funds, it is anticipated that a special session will be called by the governor for the legislature to appropriate those funds. Speculation centers around late June or August.

BY THE NUMBERS

873
Bills Introduced

297
Bills Passed

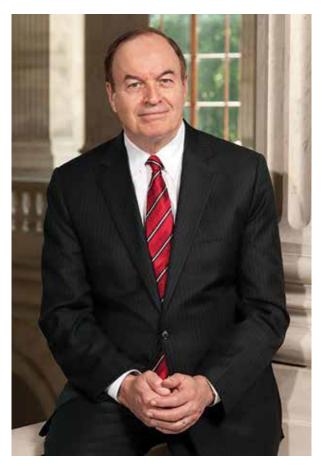
270
Bills Enacted

Constitutional
Amendments Pending
Referendum



To join the Mobile Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee, contact Layton Little, the Mobile Chamber's director of government affairs at 251.431-8601 or llittle@mobilechamber.com.

SEN. RICHARD SHELBY LEAVES A LEGACY OF GROWTH IN ALABAMA



Since he was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986, **Sen. Richard Shelby** has chaired four committees: Senate Committee on Appropriations; Senate Committee on Rules and Administration; Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, of which he is the longest-serving member in history; and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Shelby currently serves as the vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its defense subcommittee, and he remains a senior member on both the Banking and Rules Committees. He is also a member of the on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Serving on these committees has given him the opportunity to work with colleagues on specific policy areas, develop and consider legislation, and conduct oversight of matters of national interest. While on these committees, Shelby has worked tirelessly to bring jobs and economic growth to Alabama.

Born in Birmingham, Shelby attended The University of Alabama and The University of Alabama School of Law.

In 2021, Shelby – the longest serving U.S. Senator in the history of the state of Alabama – announced he would not seek re-election when his current Senate term ends in January 2023. The Mobile Chamber congratulates the senator on his retirement from public service.

In acknowledgment of his impressive work for the state of Alabama, the *Business View* editors have compiled a list of his major accomplishments in his 44 years of public service in the United States Congress, Shelby's Washington and Mobile offices helped provide this information.

Thank you, Sen. Shelby, for all you have done for Alabama.

U.S. SEN. RICHARD SHELBY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SOUTH ALABAMA



- Austal has produced 27 ships with the support of Senator Shelby (15 LCS, 12 EPF).
- In FY22, he secured \$330 million for one additional Expeditionary Medical Ship (EMS). The EMS, or "hospital ship," includes an intensive care unit and other healthcare accommodations, while maintaining most of the original mission requirements.
- in FY22, he secured \$260 million for one additional Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF).



MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT

 Senator Shelby secured \$162 million for improvements for Mobile Airport Authority and Downtown Airport Expansion, including funding to purchase land, conduct surveys and renovate and relocate on-site facilities.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA MEDICAL SCIENCE BUILDING

 Senator Shelby secured \$60 million in FY22 for construction of a new medical science building at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA/ RESEARCH

- USA Campus Transit
- Birth Defects Monitoring Program
- Center for Coastal Transportation Research
- Cruise Ship Safety Research Program
- Center for Estuarine Research
- Center for Study of Vehicular Trauma
- Youth Violence Prevention Research
- Diabetic Lower Amputation Prevention Program
- Telemedicine Project
- Mitchell College of Business Library



PORT OF MOBILE

- Secured \$170.7 million for the Port of Mobile, including for intermodal facility expansion, design and construction of docks, wharves and piers, as well as for land acquisition and site development.
- Secured \$274.3 million for Mobile
 Harbor modernization and expansion, deepening and widening, and turning basin.
- Increased federal cost-share from 50% to 75% for deep draft construction.
- In FY22, he secured \$67.3 million for freight and intermodal rail infrastructure improvements at the Port of Mobile and the Montgomery inland intermodal transfer facility.



May 2004 - Washington Fly In - Keith King, Volkert & Associates; Sam Jones, Mobile County Commission; Shelby; Gordon Moulton, University of South Alabama; and Ronnie Koh, ST Mobile Aerospace Engineering Inc.



2005 - EADS North America announced it is moving its U.S. headquarters to Mobile and will build a new Coast Guard aircraft used for homeland security.



2008 - Sen. Shelby updates Chamber members on the Air Force's KC-45 aircraft refueling tanker contract.





February 2008- Washington Fly In - Bill Seifert, Regions Bank and Mobile Area Chamber board chairman, is pictured with U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby and City of Mobile Mayor Sam Jones.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

- \$65 million in FY22 to support dredging of the Port of Mobile and multiple inland and intercoastal waterways throughout the state of Alabama.
- \$50 million in FY22 for the operations and maintenance of Donor and Energy Transfer Ports, which benefits the Port of Mobile.
- Included language in FY22 bills to encourage the Army Corps of Engineers to examine beneficial uses of dredged material in Mobile Bay.



U.S. COAST GUARD

- \$67 million in FY22 for the Coast Guard's Waterways Commerce Cutter program.
- \$6 million in FY22 for cyber compliance upgrades to critical training center simulators and trainers, including Coast Guard Aviation Training Center.



FISHERIES

- Extended Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana state seaward fishery boundaries from three miles out to nine miles for these states to regulate red snapper and other reef fish.
- In FY18-FY22, \$5 million annually to ensure successful implementation of NOAA's "Reef Fish Amendment 50," which delegates the federal management of red snapper to the Gulf Coast states, including language delaying state specific recalibration until 2023.
- In FY18-FY22, \$3 million annually to support implementation of electronic logbooks for federally permitted Gulf Coast charter fishermen.
- Dauphin Island Sea Lab Fisheries
- Management and Dauphin Island Sea Lab Center
- \$10 million for the Great Red Snapper count
- \$10 million to USA for the Amberjack count

ADDITIONAL GRANTS

- Fire grants
- Energy and water grants
- Rural development water and sewer upgrades across SW Alabama
- Rail and bridge improvements
- Agriculture and farming USDA-RD grants and loans
- Airport grants



ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- USA Hospital System Medical Science Building funding, Nursing **Building funding**
- RESTORE Act funding
- Shrimp Industry Trade Protection and Oyster Recovery program funding
- NOAA Gulf Coast Red Snapper Fisheries Management funding
- Watershed shoreline protection and restoration - Mobile and Baldwin
- Robinson Island land acquisition
- Area Agency on Aging funding
- Dauphin Island Causeway Shoreline Restoration



August 2012 - Papers signed confirming Airbus' \$600 million investment at Brookley Aeroplex, and the creation of 1,000 jobs for its Final Assembly Line.



April 2016 - Liz Freeman, Long's Human Resource Services; Jimmy Lyons, Alabama State Port Authority; Shelby; and Mark Nix, president/CEO of Infirmary Health.

SIGNIFICANT FUNDING SPECIFIC TO MOBILE AND SURROUNDING AREA

- I-10 Bridge Match of \$125 million
- USACE inland waterways and ports
- Area Agency on Aging funding
- Austal LCS program
- Airbus to Alabama, which has produced 307 A320/A220 planes to date for the U.S. airlines
- EADS Casa program
- USA Hospital System Medical Science Building funding, Nursing Building funding
- Dauphin Island Sea Lab Fisheries Management & Dauphin Island Sea Lab Center
- Shrimp Industry Trade Protection and Oyster Recovery program funding
- NOAA Gulf Coast Red Snapper Fisheries Management funding
- Watershed shoreline protection and restoration - Mobile and Baldwin
- Robinson Island land acquisition



Forum Alabama

Mobile Chamber featuring U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby

Monday, July 25

8 a.m. | Doors open at 7:30 a.m. The Battle House Hotel & Spa, Moonlight Ballroom



Presenting Sponsor

Celebrating Senator Shelby

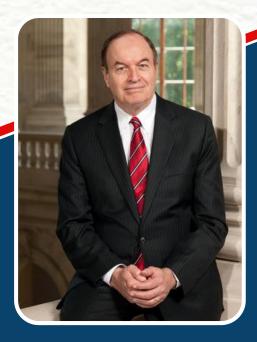
U.S. Senator Richard Shelby has dedicated himself to the service and well-being of the citizens of Alabama for nearly 60 years.

Join us July 25 as the Mobile Chamber business community honors Senator Shelby for his leadership and years of service.



\$35 for Members / \$50 for Guests

Reservations Required: Call 251-431-8606 or RSVP Online at bit.ly/ShelbyForum



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11-DAY TRIP INCLUDES STOPS IN EDINBURGH, GLASGOW AND MORE - AUG. 7-18, 2022

Edinburgh | Glasgow | St. Andrews | Inverness | Stirling | Belfast

he Mobile Chamber invites you on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Scotland, leaving Aug. 7, 2022.

This eight-day journey includes two nights in Edinburgh, two nights in Inverness, two nights in Glasgow and three nights in Belfast, Northern Ireland. You will tour the cities of Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Inverness, Stirling and Glasgow; visit castles, cathedrals and historic monuments; tour the Old Course; see the famous Loch Ness; and visit Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, one of Scotland's most popular museums. Continue on to Belfast and check out the world-famous Titanic Museum.

The trip includes an optional trip to the Military Tattoo Festival in Edinburgh.

The cost of the tour is \$4,149 per person, based on double occupancy. The price includes round-trip airfare from Mobile, round-trip transportation between airports and hotel, nine hotel nights and 11 meals (daily breakfast, one lunch and one dinner).

To learn more about the tour, or to book it, contact Brooke McIngvale at 251.431.8640 or bmcingvale@ mobilechamber.com.

Early bird savings extended until June 15th. Book now and save.

TRIP AMENITIES

- Roundtrip scheduled airfare
- 2 nights in Edinburgh
- 2 nights in Inverness
- 2 nights in Glasgow
- 3 nights in Belfast, Northern Ireland
- 24-hr. coffee and tea stations
- 11 meals (daily breakfast, one lunch and one dinner)
- Optional trip to the Military Tattoo Festival in Edinburgh

CHAMBER AT WORK











1-5 TECHSTARS STARTUP WEEKEND For the fifth time, the Mobile Chamber, Innovation Portal and community volunteers hosted the Techstars Startup Weekend Mobile, featuring more than 40 budding entrepreneurs working as teams to create and start a business. With the help of subject-matter experts, the teams worked for three days on concept-building, pitching and building teams. The competition ended with seven teams presenting their plans to a panel of experts, who provided feedback and selected three outstanding teams.

2022 Techstars Startup Weekend Mobile Winning Teams:

1st Place: Just B – a meditation and relaxation app for teens

2nd Place: Certifyd Hires - a database of employees with verified certifications that employers require for a job

3rd Place: Repromptly – a notification system to improve hospital supply and equipment inventory restocking for patient rooms.







6 MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY The Mobile Chamber hosted its annual Member Appreciation Day event featuring a "chamber of commerce" weather day, a fish fry by Wintzell's Oyster House and live music by The Tommy Morse Band. Members and vendors enjoyed the day of networking and toasting the start of spring. More than 300 people attended this event.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS SPEAKER The Mobile Chamber held a Government Affairs committee meeting to discuss the final happenings within the legislative session. The meeting featured William Filmore, the director of legislative affairs for Gov. Kay Ivey.

7-8 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS returned and was held at iHeart Media. The popular networking event was attended by more than 150 people.

EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE The Mobile Chamber hosted its monthly forum for business executives. This month's meeting featured a presentation by Lawrence Battiste, executive director of public safety for the city of Mobile, who provided an update on safety.



9 MOBILE AREA BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Mobile Chamber held a joint reception for members of the Mobile Area Black Chamber of Commerce. Both organizations have worked together to promote the area's economic development efforts, job creation and advocacy critical to growth.

10 HIRING OUR HEROES SAWDC Alabama Works! and the Mobile Chamber welcomed Preston Webb with Hiring Our Heroes as the guest speaker for an Accelerate Your Workforce event - the launch of an Accelerate Your Workforce series. The event was held at the Innovation Portal and was attended by more than 20 people.

11 CHAMBER CHASE IS UNDERWAY Chamber Chase kicked off its 26th year at the Mobile Chamber board meeting. This year's campaign, led by Tommy Faust with Trustmark, includes 22 teams and more than 50 volunteers working towards reaching a \$1 million goal.



JACKIE DAVIDSON RETIRES

After working at the Mobile Chamber for more than 23 years, Jackie Davidson announced she is retiring. A longtime presence in the administration department, Davidson oversaw the functions related to the president and to the finance and operations team. Davidson plans to pursue her dream as a full-time artist in her retirement.





REEL USA CORP.

Company officials: Jonathan Bujold, executive director; and Sebastien Darveau, executive vice president

Address: 11890 Third St., Mobile Number of local employees: 20 Website: reelinternational.com

Years in business: 7 in the United States

Brief company description: REEL USA Corp. is the U.S. entity of REEL International, with 75 years of experience in the custom design and manufacturing, inspection, service, refurbishment and modernization of lifting and handling systems, making it one of the North American leaders in the field. With 2,500 employees contributing to the success of the group worldwide and 280 employees in the North American business unit throughout the USA and Canada, the company's objective is to develop the U.S. market and expand accordingly by building and maintaining strong business relationships with important clients. REEL is one of 65 "strategic suppliers" to Airbus.

Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of **Commerce's Partners for Growth Initiative?** "REEL

strongly believes in the value added by a local chamber of commerce," said Bujold. "The Mobile Chamber provides access to valuable resources and relationships that help our company thrive and market our products and services. Being part of the Partners for Growth initiative helps boost sales and significantly improves our local business visibility, credibility and networking opportunities."

How long have you been a continuous Mobile Area **Chamber Member?** 7 years

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.

DAWN RENCHER RETURNS TO CHAMBER

After working at the Alabama Kidney Foundation (AKF) as Mobile area director, working to obtain and secure donors and sponsors for the organization's fundraising events, **Dawn Rencher** has returned to her previous position at the Mobile Chamber.

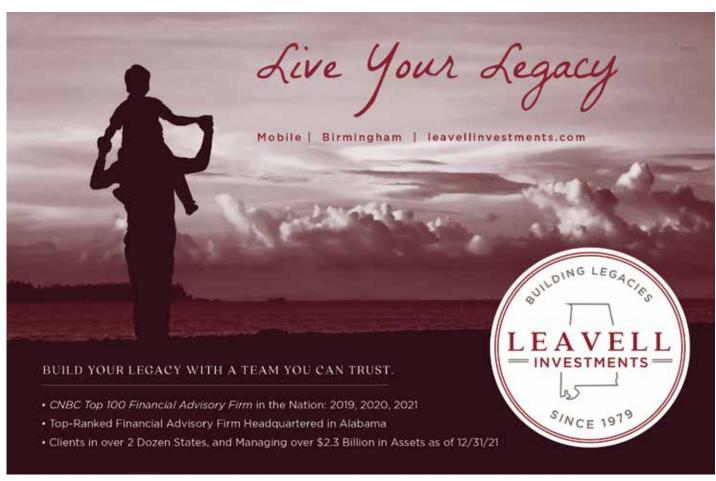
Prior to working for AKF, she spent nine years working as the Chamber's director of member relations with responsibilities for internal and external customer service programs. She coordinated several key Chamber events including Business Expo and the annual Chamber Classic golf tournament and oversaw the Ambassador program.

"We are thrilled that Dawn has rejoined the Chamber team," said **Michael Gavin**, the Chamber's senior vice president of member engagement. "She has significant institutional knowledge, fresh ideas and a reputation as one of the nicest people in Mobile."

"It feels good to be back in a familiar place with familiar people," said Rencher. "I believe 100% in the work the Chamber does, and I think this is what I'm meant to do."

Rencher can be reached at 251.431.8649 or drencher@ mobilechamber.com.





SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WELCOMES BARBARA



The Chamber's Small Business Development department has contracted **Barbara Peters** as a business development navigator. In this newly created position, Peters will assist underserved women and minority-owned businesses to get help and information from local resources and existing programs and services available to them. As the business navigator, she will put them in touch with local resources and programs that they may not be aware of and follow up on their progress. The position is funded through a grant from the Mobile Chamber Foundation-Alabama Innovation Fund (AIF) for one year.

"Barbara brings an impressive portfolio of experience to our team, said **Darrell Randle**, the Chamber's vice president of small business development. "She has already hit the ground motivated, energized and passionate about finding innovative ways to connect small business owners to essential local resources."

Peters earned a bachelor's degree in organizational communication from the University of South Alabama and a master's in business administration from Capella University, Minneapolis. She is a certified corporate wellness specialist, international integrative nutrition health coach, certified grant writer and owner of Start Living LLC.

"I am looking forward to working with women and minority business owners to share resources that will help their businesses thrive and grow," said Peters.

Peters can be reached at 251.431.8617 or bpeters@ mobilechamber.com

JENNIFER TREMAYNE JOINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM



The Mobile Chamber has hired **Jennifer Tremayne** as the existing industry manager in the economic development department. She will administer the Chamber's business retention efforts and respond to requests for assistance from members, the public and business prospects. She will also communicate and build relationships directly with the business community, especially the Partners for Growth investors.

Throughout her 20-year career, Tremayne has held various positions in economic development, including executive director of Marshall County Economic Development Corporation in Plymouth, Indiana; senior project consultant for Thomas P. Miller & Associates in Indianapolis, Indiana; planning manager, community and economic development for Regional Council in Pensacola; and most recently development director for POWER 10 Capital Campaign Management in Atlanta.

"Jennifer brings a wealth of experience and resources to this position that will strengthen existing relationships with the business community and open doors for prospects," said **David Rodgers**, the Chamber's vice president of economic development.

"I look forward to representing the Chamber in working to ensure our local industries succeed, said Tremayne. Mobile has a unique set of amenities and ideal geography that make living here and doing business an easy choice."

Tremayne earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Birmingham-Southern College.

Tremayne can be reached at 251.431.8648 or jtremayne@ mobilechamber.com.

CHAMBER AT WORK

Ribbon Cuttings



For information on how the Mobile Chamber can help your business with a ribbon cutting or grand opening, contact Michael Galvin at 251.431.8628.



ALABAMA SCHOOL OF MATH AND SCIENCE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

1255 Dauphin St., Mobile | 251.441.2101 Schools-Academic-Special Education



J&D MONARCH WHOLESALE GROCERIES

3958 Government Blvd., Mobile | 251.408.9128 Grocery-Candy-Tobacco-Wholesale-Retail



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CARLOTZ

3016 Government Blvd., Mobile | 251.441.2101 Auto Sales



SOUL CAFFEINE

1714 Dauphin St., Mobile | 251.408.9386 *Coffee Shop*



TRINOVA ENDRESS HAUSER CORE OF EXCELLENCE EDUCATION AND WELLNESS CENTER

4485 Laughlin Dr. S., Mobile | 251.378.7837 *Process Control*

WILSON IS CELEBRATED AS AN AMAZIN ADMIN

At an inaugural award breakfast in honor of Administrative Professionals Day, 12 executive assistants were honored from different industries in the Mobile area.

The Celebration of Administrative Professionals was hosted by the Ambitiously Him and Her King Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) organization with a mission to provide teenage and young parents with the appropriate skills to live productive, positive and contributing lives. The 12 honorees will act as mentors to young parents enrolled in the foundation's job development program, Blue Ocean Admin Academy.

The organization presented **Carolyn Wilson**, the Mobile Chamber's administrative assistant in the communications and advocacy department, with an Amazin Admin award for her dedication to the Mobile Chamber.

Wilson has worked at the Chamber since 2004. As the department's point of contact, she handles clerical office duties including all department event reservations, invoicing, budgeting, assisting with advertising sales and writing for the *Business View* magazine.

"Carolyn is a highly valued team player and is most deserving of this recognition," said **Nancy Hewston**, the vice president of communications and advocacy. "Her professionalism is



apparent in everything she does. She is an integral part of the Chamber and deserves to be celebrated for her hard work."

"For the past 18 years, I've been a part of an 'amazing' organization with 'amazing' people doing great things for the good of our city and community," said Wilson.

"That's rewarding itself. Thanks so much to Amazin Admin and the Chamber for such a distinctive recognition."





Note: These events are subject to change by the organizers. Check the websites listed below for more information and correct times and dates.

Mobile Symphony Summer Strings

June 7 through July 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Larkins Music Center, 257 Dauphin St., Mobile

Hosted by the Mobile Symphony, this program is for youths in K5 through 12th grade. Learn how to play a string instrument during the summer, or develop new skills under the expert guidance of a professional string teacher artist.

251.432.2010 or mobilesymphony.org

Juneteenth

June 19

Hosted by the city of Mobile, Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S. **juneteenthmob.com**

Distinguished Young Women

June 23 & 24 -Preliminary Competitions
June 25 - National Finals, Mobile Civic Center

The 65th National Finals of this scholarship competition brings the best and brightest high school seniors from all 50 states to Mobile.

251.438.3621 or distinguishedyw.org

Grand Bay Watermelon Festival

July 3 from 3 to 7 p.m./July 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 10327 Taylor F. Harper Blvd., Grand Bay, AL

The 48th annual Grand Bay Watermelon Festival includes entertainment, arts and crafts and the best watermelon around.

251.865.3456 or grandbaywatermelonfestival.org

Mobile's Fourth of July Celebration

July 4 • Downtown Mobile

Hosted by the city of Mobile, this celebration of our nation's independence includes live music and fireworks over the river. Viewable from Cooper Riverside Park and the USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park.

251.470.7749 or cityofmobile.org

The Roy Martin Young Anglers Tournament

July 9 • Dauphin Island

A program of the Mobile Jaycees, the Roy Martin Young Anglers Tournament is designed to bring families together and encourage sportsmanship. The tournament is for children 15 years and younger.

Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo and Dauphin Island Young Anglers Tournament

July 15 - 17 • Dauphin Island

A program of the Mobile Jaycees, the 89th Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo is the world's largest fishing tournament.

251.277.7079 or adsfr.com

Gulf Coast Ethnic and Heritage Jazz Festival

July 18 - July 31, 2022 from 5:30 to 10 p.m.

The Downtown Temple, Cooper Riverside Park

Terrific jazz performances highlight a weekend of art, education, culture and music

251.478.4027 or gcehjazzfest.com





THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mobile Convention Center - Exhibit Hall \$5 admission (with a business card)



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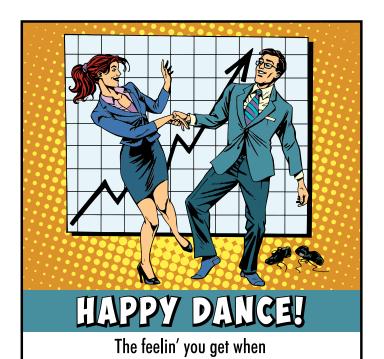
• Design Services

For more information and to reserve a booth, visit bit.ly/2022businessexpo



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JUNE 2022

NETWORKING@NOON

*Members only; one representative per company

Make 20-plus business contacts in 90 minutes over lunch.

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Via Health, Fitness and Enrichment

Center, 1717 Dauphin St.

Cost: \$10; must be paid with reservation

Contact: Dawn Rencher at 251,431,8649 or

drencher@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required.

SELL ONLINE WITH E-COMMERCE TOOLS

Learn how to sell your products online using Google's free Business Profiles and Merchant Center, and build an e-commerce store with Shopify.

When: 11 a.m. to noon

Where: Virtual

Speaker: Demming Bass, Grow with Google

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Registration required for the virtual invitation.

CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC

When: 7 a.m. registration / 7:30 a.m. putting and chipping contests / 8 a.m. shotgun start

Where: Magnolia Grove Golf Course

SOLD-OUT EVENT

Title Sponsor: Alabama Power

Major Sponsors: Arkema, Cart Dr., Continental Motors, Dunn Building Co., Southern Earth Sciences, Ward International Trucks

Contest Sponsors: Palmers Toyota Superstore, Greer's, White-Spunner Realty, YellowHammer Investments

Printing by: Calagaz Printing

Beverages by: Coca-Cola Bottling, Gulf Distributing Holdings

EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

*Members Only

A monthly forum for Chamber-member small business owners and managers featuring speakers on important business topics.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber,

451 Government St.

Speakers: Panel discussion of executive

directors and board chairs

Topic: Volunteer-led, But Professionally Guided: Measuring Your Organization's

Performance

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Reservations requested.

Sponsor: BancorpSouth

21 & 23

BUSINESS BOOT CAMP

Presented by the Chamber's Growth Alliance Task Force (GATF), this boot camp provides information and tools to small and minority -owned business owners to better manage their day-to-day operations and to grow their companies to the next level. The two-day session offers an interactive learning experience from proven experts on a wide array of topics.

When: 6 to 8 p.m. both days

Where: Bishop State Community College

Topic: Finding Your Voice – How to Get the

Cost: Free

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Reservations requested.

Sponsors: PNC Bank, Bishop State Community

College

NASA BUSINESS PROCUREMENT FORUM

Meet NASA business procurement experts, major aerospace and support prime contractors. Find out about the new contracting opportunities and learn the process for becoming a supplier, subcontractor or service provider.

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza

Hotel

Cost: \$75 per person; virtual/Zoom \$50

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Reservations requested.

JULY 2022

4

CHAMBER CLOSED - INDEPENDENCE DAY

19

EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

*Members Only

A monthly forum for Chamber-member small business owners and managers featuring speakers on important business topics.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Chamber, 451 Government St.

Topic: Welcome to the Port City: Creating a

Legacy in the Community

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607

 $or\ brembert @mobile chamber.com$

Reservations requested **Sponsor:** BancorpSouth

25

FORUM ALABAMA WITH U.S. SEN. RICHARD SHELBY

Hear from U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby in his last event with the Mobile Chamber before his retirement. Come hear his accomplishments over the years and his plans for the future.

When: 8 a.m./Doors open at 7:30 a.m.

Where: The Battle House Hotel & Spa

Cost: \$35 per person for members/\$50 for all others. Payment must be made with reservation.

Contact: Carolyn Wilson at 251.431.8606 or cwilson@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required.

Presenting Sponsor: Alabama State Port

Authority

Series Sponsor: University of South

Alabama



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

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mobilechamber.com/blog

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF OUR JUNE/JULY EVENTS







































WHO'S NEW

USA Health Names Associate Chief Medical Officer



Pettv

Dr. Melody Petty, a pediatric hospitalist at USA Health Children's & Women's Hospital, was appointed associate chief medical officer for pediatrics, a new position created within the

region's only academic health system to better optimize quality, safety, efficiency and patientcenteredness across the scope of care for children seen within the health system.

Southern Cancer Center Welcomes Board-Certified Surgeon

The Southern Cancer Center added Dr. Lindsey W. Beakley to help enhance its comprehensive care provided to breast cancer patients. Beakley, a board-certified surgeon, completed a fellowship in breast surgical oncology. Originally from Mandeville, Louisiana, Beakley received her medical degree and completed her general surgery residency at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. She then completed her fellowship training at the Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oaklawn, Illinois.

Infirmary Cancer Care Names New Executive Director



Josh Roy, formerly the director of Infirmary Medical Clinics, is now executive director for Infirmary Cancer Care, where he will oversee the daily operations of services. Roy earned a master's

degree in healthcare administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Spring Hill College Names New Provost



Spring Hill College (SHC) named Rebecca Cantor Ph.D. as its new provost. She comes to SHC from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Savannah, Georgia,

where she was assistant provost. As provost, Cantor will serve as the chief academic officer. Cantor earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut, a master's degree in English from Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles, California, and a doctorate in English from Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. She has authored two books and published several journal articles.

IXL Real Estate Adds New Agents

















Snider







Wasdin

IXL Real Estate welcomed the following new agents: Shundra Barnes, Dewayne Carpenter, JoRosalyn Edwards, Paula Messer, Al Miller, Daniel Moore, Rachael Sewell, Necole Snider, Roslyn Spencer, Brooke Threlkeld, Stacey Wasdin and Hope Wilbur.

Hand Arendall Harrison Sale Expands Staff









Cunningham

Matranga

Vaughn



Roselius

Martin Cunningham joined **Hand Arendall Harrison Sale** LLC as an associate in the firm's business section. He received a law degree from the University of Mississippi.

Charles Matranga joined the firm as an associate in the litigation section. After receiving a bachelor's degree from Spring Hill College, Matranga earned a law degree from the

University of Mississippi. Matthew Vaughn also joined the form as an associate in the business section. Vaughn's practice focuses on representing developers. owners, sellers, builders and lenders in a broad range of real estate transactions, including the acquisition, development and conveyance of real property. Vaughn received a bachelor's degree in communication from the University of South Alabama and a law degree from Faulkner University.



Jennifer Roselius returned to the firm as Of Counsel following her tenure as in-house counsel for a national homebuilder. Roselius practices in the firm's business section. She has extensive experience in corporate transactions, real estate and commercial finance. Roselius earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and a law degree from Fordham University.

Bellator Real Estate & Development Hires New Realtors







Bellator Real Estate & Development has added four new Realtors: Meagan Bailey, Rachel Ott, Bill Starling and Melissa Surovich. Bellator is a full-service real estate company specializing in listing and marketing real estate in Baldwin and Mobile counties

Visit Mobile Announces Staff Changes

Charlotte Keel joined Visit Mobile as the executive coordinator in the administrative department. Keel brings extensive experience and several earned awards reflective of her work and dedication to the industry.

Tracy Adams was hired as the national sales manager. She brings more than 20 years of hospitality experience in sales and marketing. Adams has worked extensively in the corporate and association market throughout the Southeast.

Abby Wise is the digital content director in the marketing and communications department, where she will create and implement content for various marketing efforts through social media,

email marketing and blog writing. Wise recently completed Louisiana Tourism Leadership Academy. In addition, the organization's marketing and communications department promoted Meredith Guzy Turncliff to director of digital strategies. Previously, she served as digital marketing manager.

BUSINESS ENDEAVORS

Mobile Airport Authority Gets \$15 Million

The Mobile County Commission voted to approve \$15 million to the **Mobile Airport Authority** for the proposed Mobile Downtown Airport (BFM). Commissioners approved \$5 million payable in installments of \$1 million a year over the next five years as general support to BFM. In addition, \$5 million was authorized in road projects for BFM in each of the 2022 and 2024 Mobile County Pay-As-You-Go road improvement programs.

USA Adding New Operating Rooms

USA Health received unanimous approval from the Alabama Certificate of Need Review Board to construct four new traditional operating rooms, a hybrid operating room and a post-anesthesia care unit at University Hospital. The project, expected to take about a year, will be constructed in space that formerly housed the trauma center. The hybrid operating room is an advanced procedural space that combines a traditional operating room with an image-guided interventional suite. The construction costs of the project are estimated at \$9.5 million. The new equipment is expected to cost \$9.77 million.

In other news, **USA Health Pediatrics** has expanded its practice to include a medical office in Semmes located at 7885 Moffett Road, Suite 102, in the Walmart shopping center.

City of Mobile Launches 'Open Now'

The City of Mobile's new website, "Open Now," was designed to help small businesses understand the construction and development process from start to finish. "Open Now" will complement existing tools like the Customer Self Service Dashboard and Buildmobile.org that offer convenient access to information about departments, regulatory boards, permitting and inspections as well as easy remote payment options.

USA Physician Receives \$1.9 Million

Ji Young Lee M.D., Ph.D., a pulmonary and critical care physician with **USA Health**, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) totaling \$1.9 million over a five-year period, to study how the lungs handle acid. Lee, principal investigator of the project, is the recipient of the NIH's Research Project Grant, also known as an R01 grant, which provides support for health-related research and development.

Wilkins Miller Named a Regional Leader

Wilkins Miller accounting and advisory firm was named a "Regional Leader" in the Gulf Coast area by Accounting Today. Wilkins Miller rounded out the "Top Firms: Gulf Coast" rankings out of firms surveyed in the Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast regions. These firms posted the "third best average growth rate of any region" with "five [firms] reporting growth rates above 20%." Wilkins Miller was the only firm headquartered in Mobile or Baldwin County to be named to the list.



White-Spunner Construction Builds Award-winning Air Traffic Control Tower

White-Spunner Construction LLC announced that the recently constructed air traffic control tower at Gulf Shores International Airport has been awarded the General Aviation Project of the Year Award by the American Association of Airport Executives. The multimillion-dollar project contains a state-of-the-art communications system that allows aircrafts to connect with tower controllers from more than 30 miles away.

Thompson Engineering Safety Program Receives National Recognition

Thompson Engineering, a multi-disciplined engineering and architecture firm headquartered in Mobile, earned two Associated Builders and Contractors awards for its safety program. The company was awarded the National Safety Merit Award. Winners were selected from ABC member firms that achieved diamond, platinum or gold status in ABC's STEP Safety Management System. During the selection process, contractors were judged on self-evaluation scores, lost workday case rates, total recordable incident rates, leading indicator use, process and program innovations and video interviews conducted by members of ABC's National Health and Safety Committee.

Additionally, Thompson Engineering is ranked 79th on the Associated Builders and Contractors' 2022 Top Performers list, which ranks its commercial and industrial contractor members based on work hours

Infirmary Health Increases Imaging Units

Infirmary Health will add five new 3D mammography units to its imaging and breast centers in Mobile and Baldwin counties, including three new locations. 3D mammography is essential for women with dense breasts or those who are at high risk for breast cancer and can detect the disease up to 15 months sooner than 2D mammography alone.

J.O. Acree Co. Certified as **Women-Owned Business**

J.O. Acree Co. Inc. has been certified as a women-owned business by the Alabama Department of Economic Affairs. The 73-year-old business provides public and private enterprises and individuals with printed forms, wearables, advertising specialties, wedding invitations and accompaniments.

WELL DONE

Jakayla Armstrong Named Eagle Scout

The Boy Scouts of America Mobile Area Council recognized its first African-American female Eagle Scout. Jakayla Armstrong of Troop 283, a senior at Murphy High School, reached the highest rank earned in the Boy Scouts of America. Her community project involved building care packages at Wilmer Hall Children's Home, where she volunteered her time in community service for three weeks

Maynard Cooper & Gale Receives Recognitions

Maynard Cooper & Gale was recognized among the leading law firms delivering superior client service, as reported in the recently released BTI Client Service A-Team: Survey of Law Firm Client Service Performance 2022, which measures service solely from the client's perspective.

In November 2021, four of Maynard's litigation practices were also nationally recognized by BTI as the "best of the best" in the BTI Litigation Outlook 2022 - Post Pandemic and Beyond Report. The firm's cybersecurity and privacy practice, intellectual property practice, and securities and financial services litigation practice were all ranked among the top 25 firms across the country in their respective areas. Maynard's complex commercial litigation practice was among the top 50 firms.

MCHD Earns Gold Seal of Approval

The Mobile County Health Department (MCHD) earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Ambulatory Health Care and Primary Care Medical Home by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

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





ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

BRIAN D. JORDAN

Brian D. Jordan, a photography and videography professional with FusionPoint, has been capturing moments his entire life. Shortly after college graduation, Jordan started his own company to provide video and photo services to Mobile-area businesses. This began an almost 40-year career behind the lens.

In 1999, Jordan started FusionPoint, a creative services firm known for providing comprehensive marketing support solutions backed with a personal touch. In this role, he has truly gotten to showcase a wide range of expertise as he supports clients both locally and across the country.

With this longevity in the business, Jordan has had the opportunity to get to know Mobile, its businesses and people in depth. His skills include proficiency in staged, candid and action photography; in-studio and on-location production; and photography and videography for a broad range of mediums.

In this issue, Jordan's work can be seen on the cover and in the summer fun story. To see more of his portfolio, visit fusionpointmedia.com/services.

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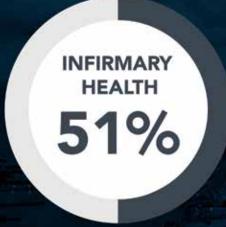
Real Estate - Commercial Leasing

As of April 29, 2022

Know a company interested in benefiting from Chamber membership? Contact Jackie Hecker at 251.223.2190 or jhecker@mobilechamber.com. Also, find a membership directory at web.mobilechamber.com/search.



Infirmary Health is proud to be the **leading healthcare system** in Mobile & Baldwin County.



MOBILE INFIRMARY THOMAS HOSPITAL NORTH BALDWIN INFIRMARY

COMPETITOR A

competitor B

14%

15%

Annual Inpatient Visits by Percentage

