

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

JULY 2016

the **business**VIEW



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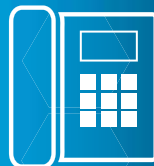
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From the Publisher - Bill Sisson

Airbus Delivers

Huge congratulations to Airbus on delivering its first A321 to JetBlue from its brand-new facility at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley. The world has been waiting, and Mobile delivered. There were so many who thought it might never happen, but it absolutely did on a picture-perfect “chamber of commerce” weather day in late April.

Within three years of breaking ground, the first Airbus airplane was flown and delivered to JetBlue, and several others will fly out of Mobile to a new home with American Airlines. Assembling and delivering aircraft from its only site in North America says a great deal about Airbus’s strength as a globally competitive company, and the company’s working relationship with partners across the state



of Alabama and, most specifically, in the Mobile region.

As production ramps up to four aircraft per month in this phase, Mobile can look forward to many more first deliveries to various airline customers. I know I will get a thrill every single time another plane takes off

from Brookley.

Perhaps the best news is that we’ve only just scratched the surface of what is to come in the development of our region’s aviation sector – unprecedented growth that will occur for decades to come. And that’s a lot to look forward to.

Mobile has officially entered a new era of commercial airplane production, and a new chapter of our region’s economic story. A chamber of commerce day indeed.

ON THE COVER

When you only have 36 hours in Mobile, there’s a great chance superb food and cocktails will be included. Here a group of local young professionals enjoy happy hour at Dauphin’s. Read the story on pages 15-17. Photo by Jeff Tesney.



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TekLinks and Mobile Chamber Form Partnership

Most things dealing with IT, including cyber security, cloud-based services, computer servers, etc., cause business owners and managers to hyperventilate – or avoid the issue altogether. Thankfully, through a new partnership with the Mobile Area Chamber, TekLinks can offer reliable, secure options to businesses, from a one-person operation to Mobile's largest employers.

“(Network) security creates a lot of inaction,” said David Powell, vice president of marketing and strategic development with TekLinks. Successful businesses must



work to make their technology infrastructure a little stronger every day, he added.

Through Chamber membership, local businesses can take advantage of discounted TekLinks services, including online/offsite server backup,

offsite hosted email and voice, virtual (cloud) servers and spam filtering, among other services.

“When visiting our members, we consistently hear their concerns with maintaining a robust and secure operating system,” said Carolyn Golson, vice president of membership for the Chamber. “Our partnership with TekLinks gives us a chance to provide a key benefit to them for being a member of the Mobile Area Chamber.”

To learn more about TekLinks services go to www.teklinks.com or call 205-314-6600.

When speaking recently to a group in Mobile about cyber security, Powell offered these seven areas to consider when thinking about your company’s technology plan:

- 1. Securing mission critical assets.** Businesses must know what they need to protect. Consider this statement: “Without access to _____ my employees cannot do their job.”
- 2. Perimeter security.** There used to be a solid answer to what was/was not in the perimeter but with so many hand-held devices being used by employees, this is a moving target.
- 3. Network security.** Give people and devices the access they need to do their jobs, but a ‘rogue’ device might have access to get in your network without approval.
- 4. End point security.** Lost and/or stolen devices account for 68 percent of all healthcare breaches. The key is to make devices and computers more secure and teach users to understand why they too need to protect all devices with passwords that cannot be easily detected by hackers.
- 5. Application security.** Your company is only as secure as its weakest access point. Free applications are risky and they often go unrecognized by the user.
- 6. Data security.** Data is the currency of cybercrime. Once someone gets behind your secure wall, all data must be encrypted and/or have a strong back up system in place if you need to “shake the etch-a-sketch” and start over.
- 7. Preventative security.** Don’t accept free gifts such as a USB stick at events. You don’t know where they’ve come from. Ultimately, human error is 95 percent of all cyber security issues.

You’ll see this symbol with stories featuring Chamber initiatives.

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New Dashboard Provides Statistics to Better Understand Community-Based Needs

What if you could communicate neighborhood data in a way that tells a story rather than a statistic, offering organizations and individuals a way to enable greater change to a region?

A new web-based platform is a virtual “one-stop shop” providing a variety of tools to assist nonprofits, businesses, local leaders and citizens alike in furthering their missions to achieve change in the community in an efficient and effective manner. Called SHARE Southwest Alabama (SHARE), this effort was developed by The Community Foundation of South Alabama.

Rebecca Byrne, president and CEO of The Community Foundation, says SHARE provides a new way to “connect the dots from our area’s greatest needs to our area’s greatest difference-makers.”

The dashboard was launched after the foundation saw a need to centralize data for more informed decision-making



and long-term assessment of the issues facing the region. The website (www.shareswal.org) illustrates needs through a series of indicators, using either a state or national average comparison for the given

indicator. Content is also provided, enabling users to examine the cause of an issue and better understand the whole picture.

“I have to say, it didn’t take long for me to start thinking

about how I can utilize the data found within this site into my work for the City of Mobile,” said **Matthew Capps**, the city’s senior director of parks and recreation.

“SHARE is an excellent tool to evaluate where the real needs exist in our region so we can focus on the greatest challenges and collaborate with other organizations,” said **Chris Lee**, executive director of The J.L. Bedsole Foundation.

The platform gives users the ability to customize reports and combine the different data, as well as easily drill down in the demographic and census data to the zip code level.

For nonprofits, this equates to stronger grant writing, offering a better understanding of the issue being addressed as well as underlying issues, an examination of data over a longer period of time and an avenue for long-term assessment.

UTC Aerospace Systems Expanding in Foley

The ripple effect of the Airbus U.S. manufacturing facility recently made waves in Baldwin County when UTC Aerospace Systems announced it would expand its Foley operations and create 260 additional high-paying jobs.

The company broke ground on an 80,000-square-foot manufacturing and nacelle assembly building in May. Nacelle refers to the outer shell of an airplane engine, and the UTC system for the new engine option on the Airbus A320 includes features to reduce drag and increase fuel efficiency.

A unit of Farmington,

Conn.-based United Technologies Corp., UTC has a three-decade history as an A320 supplier.

“The primary mission of the new facility will be to support the Airbus A320 – initially, the current engine option and eventually the new engine option,” according to a company news release. The site will also support the company’s other airplane client platforms.

“This expansion is a great opportunity to expand our ability to apply our innovative nacelle technology to one of the world’s most popular airplanes,” said **Marc Duvall**, president of UTC Aerospace Systems’

Aerostructures business.

“The Airbus final assembly line has had a good impact on our region. I am hopeful there are more suppliers on the horizon that are similar in size and substance to UTC,” said **Lee Lawson** with the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance.

“UTC and MAAS Aviation (an Ireland-based paint shop with a contract to paint Mobile-assembled Airbus aircraft) are two examples of how Airbus is attracting suppliers. Business growth and jobs – on either side of the bay – benefit the entire region,” said **Troy Wayman**,

the Mobile Area Chamber’s vice president of economic development. The Chamber has a long-standing regional relationship with the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance.

Construction of the new UTC facility will take about a year, with its opening slated for the second quarter of 2017. With the expansion, UTC will become the third largest aerospace manufacturer in Alabama, as measured by number of employees, currently at 800, according to Lawson.

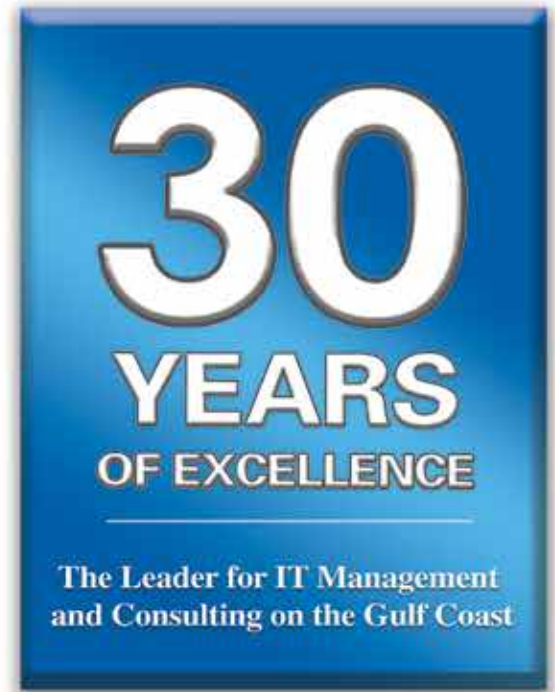
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Turning Customers into Cheerleaders

Professional Electrical Services Inc.

Richard Tanner founded Professional Electric Services Inc. in 1997. He is pictured here with wife, Sarita Tanner.

The owners of Professional Electrical Services Inc. believe the way to set their company apart is to create some cheerleaders. And the way to do that is through providing the kind of service that will get customers talking.

"We don't want our customers just to come away feeling like they got decent service," said office manager **Sarita Tanner**. "We want to create a cheerleader customer, one that's going to refer us to friends, family and co-workers. We want them to feel like they got excellent service at a reasonable price."

Her husband, **Richard Tanner**, founded the business in 1997 after starting as the youngest master electrician in the state, at 21 years old. "It was a dream, an idea of providing excellent service at a reasonable price," Sarita said. "He's self-proclaimed OCD (obsessive-compulsive), so he wants everything done a certain way,

is very neat and very proud of his workmanship. He thought he could offer something that no other company was currently doing."

The company has nine employees, including a team of licensed electricians who provide new construction installation, remodeling, repair, troubleshooting, inspections and more to residential and commercial clients in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

Professional Electrical Services, located on Tacon Street in midtown Mobile, is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

Along with its attention to customer service, Tanner said what sets the company apart is its up-front pricing and the extra steps it takes to ensure customers feel comfortable with their technicians in their homes and businesses – background checks, ID badges

and business cards.

"All our technicians have gone through a security clearance with the FBI, fingerprinting, just that extra level of security for our customers," she said. "Going into their homes, they're trusting us to not only do a good job but you've got to respect their homes and their privacy as well."

A Chamber member for 10 years, the company gives back to the community through regular participation with the Craftsmen of Life in various community service activities, such as debris cleanup, minor construction projects, painting and other projects.

"It's really geared more toward single moms and the elderly who may not have the resources to maintain their property or their houses in the way that they need to," Tanner said. "We just feel like it's our obligation to give back to the

community and help those who are less fortunate."

After weathering the recession, the Tanners are bullish on their company's future in their hometown of Mobile.

"We're adding new technicians every year and new vehicles to our fleet," she said. "We just think Mobile is a wealth of opportunity, with industry and people coming to town – Airbus and Austal and some of the other industries that are bringing people in from all over the world. We've got a lot of hopes and dreams for Mobile. This is our home and we love it here."

Want to be featured here?

Go to mobilechamber.com to submit an application, or contact Danette Richards at 251-431-8652 or drichards@mobilechamber.com.



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Mobile-Made Products Impact State and National Exports

Mobile-made products are shipped from the area domestically and internationally by air, land and sea. Many of the largest commodities become components of products we as consumers often use. Examples include paint, animal feed, paper towels, laptops, tablets, gasoline, jet fuel, airplane engines, Alabama-made cars and even rockets – only a few of the hundreds of the items that include pieces and parts produced locally.

In all, area manufacturers account for \$2 billion in total merchandise exports, giving Mobile the largest share of any metro area contributing to the state's exports, according to the International Trade Administration. The data is based on 2014 numbers, the latest available.

Add in service exports such as software and engineering, and the amount increases to \$2.97 billion, based on data from Brookings Global Cities Initiative, a five-year project designed to help U.S. metropolitan areas increase engagement in world markets.

According to Made in Alabama, the state's 2015 exports held steady at near-record levels. Using U.S. Department of Commerce statistics, Alabama exports were valued at \$19.37 billion, a slight decline from 2014's \$19.44 billion. The all-time high was in 2012 reaching \$19.58 billion.

"Alabama's exports remained vital last year in spite of turbulence in the global economy, which included a collapse in oil prices and a slowdown in China," said **Greg Canfield**, secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce.

Destinations of state-made products included 188 countries with transportation equipment – mainly automobiles – as the

leading category with shipments valued at \$9.3 billion, up 7.5 percent. Exports of Alabama-made aerospace products and parts rose 16 percent to \$868 million.

The Local Impact

High-strength steel produced by Mobile's AM/NS Calvert can be found in Alabama-made cars. The company invested more than \$140 million in the last two years to enhance automakers' strategy to make cars lighter without compromising vehicle safety, said **Scott Posey**, director of communications.

Two local companies contributing to the state's aerospace exports are Continental Motors and Star Aviation.

Continental is a leading manufacturer of FAA-certified piston engines, spare parts and components for small propeller-drive airplanes. Mobile-based Star Aviation specializes in aircraft engineering and manufactures components for commercial passenger aircraft.

"Both large and small Mobile exporters impact our local and state economy," said **Christina Stimpson**, the Mobile Area Chamber's director

of international trade. "We continue to work with state and federal offices to increase Mobile's exports by assisting local companies looking to enter or increase growing international markets."

"International trade is good for business and the people they employ," Stimpson added. As of 2014, there were 14,886 export-supported jobs in Mobile area companies and the Mobile metro area was ranked No. 15 out of the 381 metro areas for growth in export value from 2008 - 2014 across the nation, according to Brookings.

Both large and small Mobile exporters impact our local and state economy.

Christina Stimpson
director of international trade,
Mobile Area Chamber

In His Words

Robert Munisteri, director of international sales for Masland Carpets, is a longtime participant in trade missions, whether organized locally with the Mobile Area Chamber, or by state and federal contacts. He attributes many of Masland's international business ventures and relationships to those trips across the globe.



The latest example is a strategic partnership with a Chinese company that will open one of the world's largest markets to Masland's Mobile-made products.

The Business View asked for his impression on the impact of the Chamber's efforts in international trade and participating in trade missions.

"There is only so much information you can Google," said Munisteri. "Business, in any country, is still based on relationships. We've never conducted business internationally in a new market without first being involved in a trade mission.

"There is no substitute for being there, seeing the market and meeting with potential customers. It's the cheapest and easiest way to do it."

This spring, Masland and China's Kaili Carpets announced a new business venture. Masland will make the top cloth of its carpet tiles locally and ship them to Kaili, which will add the backing and distribute the carpets through its 65 offices and 200 sales representatives in China.

Many of Masland's competitors have built factories in China. With the market constantly changing, Masland chose to partner with an established company in China. And while the Kaili partnership is one example of the profits from the Chamber's first-ever trade mission, it is only one of many, said Munisteri.

Munisteri participated on the Chamber's first-ever trade mission in 1997 to China. He and Masland representatives continue to travel on other Chamber missions, most recently to Morocco in March.

The Dixie Group, the parent company of Masland, is based in Dalton, Ga. Masland has operated in Alabama since 1968 and employs nearly 500 people in its Atmore and Saraland facilities.

Alabama Top Export Categories

1. Transportation Equipment
2. Chemicals
3. Primary Metals
4. Factory Products
5. Machinery (Except Electrical)

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce

Mobile Top Export Categories

1. Chemicals
2. Transportation Equipment
3. Primary Metals
4. Petroleum & Coal Products
5. Paper

Source: Brookings Institute & International Trade Administration

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SERIES

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All sessions will take place at the Mobile Area Chamber located at 451 Government Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602

1-251-431-8648

2016 Schedule

August 11

Session One: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Lunch 12:30 - 1:00 pm
Session Two: 1:00 - 5:00

- 1 Session One: Creating a Strategic International Sales & Marketing Plan
- 2 Session Two: International Finance & Export Insurance

August 12

Session Three: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Lunch 12:30 - 1:00 pm
Session Four: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

- 3 Session Three: International Transportation & Logistics
- 4 Session Four: International Legal Issues: Contracts & Agreements

REGISTER

Online at mobilechamber.com/calendar or with Christina Stimpson at 251-431-8648.



Mobile To Provide New Service for Shipping to Asia

Mobile's capacity and competitiveness in getting shipments to and from Asia is increasing significantly, making Mobile the second Gulf of Mexico port with direct containerized shipping services to Asia. Houston is the other.

The Alabama State Port Authority and its partner, APM Terminals, announced a new service for containerized cargo shippers wanting to reach the Far East this spring.

Maersk, the largest international container shipping line, and MSC (Mediterranean Shipping Co.), the second largest container shipping line, have a new partnership, offering direct, weekly and all-water service from the Port of Mobile to Qingdao, Ningbo, Shanghai, Xiamen and Yantian in China and the port of Busan in Korea.

"In any given week, there will be two more vessels making weekly calls from Asia, and that's important because there are two more companies marketing Mobile and offering

contracts to Mobile," said **Brian Harold**, director at APM Terminals Mobile.

The French carrier CMA/CGM, the world's third largest, has offered direct water service from Mobile to Asia for six years.

"This service adds much-needed capacity and cost efficiencies for Alabama businesses and industries shipping to and from China and Korea," said **Jimmy Lyons**, director and CEO of the Port Authority.

In addition, the Port Authority and APM Terminals opened Phase 1 of a 70,000-acre intermodal container transfer facility in May. The new rail facility will add additional reach to U.S. Southeast and Midwest markets. Canadian National Railway is the first of the five class 1 railroads that call on Mobile to sign a memorandum of understanding with the new facility, and in turn offer containerized rail service to and from Mobile.

APM Terminals FAST facts

Opened: 2008

Expansions: Phase 2 will be complete later this year.

Current capacity: 350,000 TEUs (Twenty-foot equivalent units) annually

Capacity after Phase 2 expansion: 500,000 TEUs annually

Average daily activity: 900 containers a day transported by truck

Employees: 150

Most popular imports: Automobile parts and general consumer goods such as apparel and furniture

Most popular exports: Forestry products, resins and frozen poultry



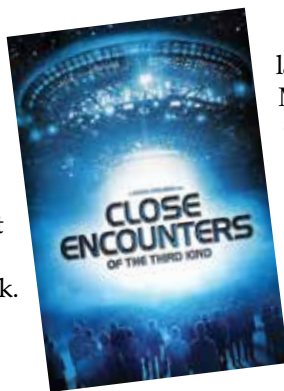
Mobile on the Big Screen

Nicolas Cage plays Captain McVay during a WWII saga. Pictured aboard the USS ALABAMA and based on a true story, *USS INDIANAPOLIS: Men of Courage* was filmed entirely in the Mobile area. Scheduled for release later this year, it is one of 178 productions filmed in Mobile since 1976. Before it appears in theaters, the Mobile Film Office will assist Hannibal Pictures with a screening in Mobile.

We've almost grown accustomed to movie stars in our midst – Nicolas Cage in Bienville Square, Kate Bosworth on horseback in downtown Mobile, Bruce Willis at The Garage, Robert De Niro at NoJa and Ryan Reynolds at Greyhound Park.

Producers and directors have recruited these and dozens of other actors to appear in productions filmed in full or in part in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

The results are movies, television series, music videos, documentaries and commercials, titled *October Baby*, *Yellow Day*, *The Prince*, *Heist*, *Under Siege*, *War & Remembrance* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.



To date *Close Encounters* is the largest blockbuster ever filmed in Mobile, winning an Oscar for Best Cinematography and a Best Director award from the Academy of Science Fiction given to Stephen Spielberg.

IMDB, a popular movie and television website, identified 27

filming locations for Spielberg's movie. Eight of them in Mobile and Fairhope, with the most popular being Brookley Field.

Beyond the prestige of rubbing elbows with some of Hollywood's hottest actors the

industry has brought millions of dollars and jobs to area companies, hotels, caterers and more.

The Local Cast

Before any movie decision-makers arrive, they are wooed and assisted by the Mobile Film Office team of Director **Eva Golson** and Location Coordinator **Diane Hall**.

The majority of requests for information come through the Alabama Film Office in Montgomery, and typically start with an email list of what the director needs with an attached script.

"Mobile gets the most features and independent movies, and reality and television series in the state," said **Tommy Lee**, location coordinator with the state film office. Birmingham is second with a number of commercials, documentaries and smaller cable series.

Continued on page 12

Samples of Movie and TV Productions Filmed Locally

The Mobile Film Office can track productions filmed in Mobile and Baldwin counties back to 1976. There are 178 in total, a few of the most popular programs are listed below.

Year Filmed	Working Title
2016	Sid & Rod/Get Out
2015	USS Indianapolis
2014 & 15	Prancing Elites Project
2014	Heist/Bus 657
2014	American Shipyards
2014	Nigel and Oscar VS. Sasquatch
2014	Great Food Truck Race
2014	Vice
2013	The Prince
2013	Rage/Tokarev
2013	The Band Perry/Pioneers
2012	Oculus
2012	Homefront/Sons of Liberty
2012	Toddlers and Tiaras
2012	Yellow Day
2012 & 13	Jay Chan/The Final Answer
2011 & 13	Undercover Boss
2011	Big Shrimpin'
2011	Dirty Jobs
2011	Hart of Dixie
2011	Man vs. Food Nation
2011	Sweet Home Alabama
2011 & 13	Hayride
2011	Picker Sisters
2010	October Baby
2010	Alan Jackson/Hard Hat & Hammer
2008	Final Destination 4
2007	Documentary/"The Order of Myths"
2004	The Novice
2003	Frankenfish
2002	Tough Luck
2001	Love Liza
2000	The Waking
1999	Mi Amigo
1998	The Insider
1997	Hostage
1996	The P.A.C.K.
1995	Executive Decision (2 nd Unit)
1994	Power Play
1993	Good Cop, Bad Cop
1992	Under Siege
1991	Mission of the Shark
1990	Brotherhood
1989	One for the Money
1988	Friday 13 th , Part VII
1987	War and Remembrance
1980	Back Roads
1979	Death Ship
1977	Close Encounters of the Third Kind
1976	Moving On (Four Segments)



A scene from the USS INDIANAPOLIS: Men of Courage, the story of a U.S. Navy ship sunk by the enemy, leaving Nicolas Cage as Captain McVay and his crew in the Philippine Sea for five days.

Continued from page 11

Once the request comes to Mobile, Hall emails photos of places that fit the script. From alleys and fire escapes to beaches and bayous, historic homes and gardens to bars and ballrooms to a WWII battleship, Mobile has a number of unique locations in nearly five dozen popular categories.

"Producers are keen on being prompt," said Hall. "If you know they are looking at another state, you want to be first."

On Location

A few popular locations in the area include Barton Academy, The Battle House Hotel, USS ALABAMA, downtown Mobile, Dauphin Island and several local restaurants and bars.

From **Scott Lumpkin's** perspective, an industry veteran with credits on a number of films, the final decision rests on three things: "Does the script match the director's vision? What are the

resources? And are there people like Eva and Diane who can help me navigate what I need? That saves time and money."

"Mobile is a very unique place because it is a very charming and friendly city that has a lot of diversified locations," said

Richard Rionda Del Castro, who wrote the Hannibal Pictures film *USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage* with Cam Cannon.

The movie, starring Cage, Tom Sizemore and Thomas Jane, is scheduled to arrive in theaters later this year, and tells the WWII

story of a U.S. Navy crew who after delivering a secret weapon are attacked by a Japanese submarine.

From the Archives

The Mobile Film Office is a department of the City of Mobile, first established in 2001 during Mayor **Mike Dow's** administration as the first of its kind in the state.

Until Dow called on Golson to make this her full-time job, she assisted with industry requests while serving as director of the Fort Condé Welcome Center.

"I began to see these people loved our region," Dow said referring to television, commercial and movie producers. "They even compared us to L.A. We're cost effective, friendly and we can get things done faster."

But Golson's initial introduction to the industry was when she worked with the Mobile Area Chamber. At the time, tourism was a Chamber department and then-Executive Director Jimmy Morris asked her to fill in and play the governor's wife in a network television show.

"After we shot the scene, I told them they did it all wrong. The governor's wife would never get out of the car by herself," said Golson. Her constructive criticism masked in Southern charm was taken in the spirit in which it was given. "They reshot the scene," she said. More importantly, it was the beginning of Golson's new career.

"Not as glorious as it sounds, but I love every minute of it," said Golson. Although she has a number of autographed magazine covers and movie posters, she's not starry-eyed when the actors are around because she's busy behind the scenes.





The Band Perry is one of several music videos tied to the Mobile area. Other artists include R & B/Pop artist Jay Chan and Country Music artist Alan Jackson.



Before I Wake is a fantasy thriller produced by Scott Lumpkin, who lives in Fairhope, scheduled to release this year. The movie stars Kate Bosworth and Thomas Jane. Lumpkin is known in the film industry for Oculus, Safe Haven and Dead Birds.



Action!

Lumpkin sings Golson's praises for her help in pulling off an explosion on the USS ALABAMA, wrecking a school bus in the tunnel and getting on the roof of city hall. "Eva's been able to get that all done."

Lumpkin's latest project, *Before I Wake*, is a fantasy thriller filmed entirely in Mobile and Baldwin counties and starring Jacob Tremblay, Kate Bosworth and Jane. It is set to release in 2016.

Box Office Receipts

"We were doing well with smaller budget films and shows," said Golson. "But the real change came after the Alabama legislature voted on an incentive package in 2009, making the state competitive with its Southeastern neighbors."

Of the 178 locally filmed projects (since they were first tracked in 1976) 84 percent of them – or 110 – came after the incentives

passed. However in 2015, a cap went into effect that is slowing the momentum of movies with famous actors like those Mobile has hosted the last several years, said Golson.

"This industry is economic development," she added. The year after the initial incentives took effect, she counted 11 completed projects and two more set to begin. The budgets totaled \$36 million.

The film office maintains a list of what any director would need, including ad agencies, carpenters, post-production facilities and potential employees skilled in music composition or hair and make-up, and much more.


Caterers, rental equipment companies and hotels are just a few of the beneficiaries of the money spent when a production team and the cast are in town.

"I wouldn't be doing this without Eva. She's the reason we're all here," said Lumpkin.

Rionda Del Castro added, "The flag of your city is raised high all over the world. I can't wait to come back for more adventure and films."



Mobile Film Office Director Eva Golson and Location Coordinator Diane Hall talk with Nicolas Cage and Hannibal Pictures Chairman and CEO Richard Rionda Del Castro.



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Thirty-Six Hours in Mobile

In April, Visit Mobile launched a new campaign designed to encourage beachgoers to stop in Mobile either on their way to the beach or back from it. With that spirit, along with an Anthony Bourdain show called “The Layover” and the *New York Times* “36 Hours” series, *The Business View* editors thought it would be fun to ask Chamber staff, members and social media followers how they would plan a mini #SoMobile vacation of 36 hours here.

Below is what we came up with. Have some better ideas? Send them to lherndon@mobilechamber.com. We’ll blog on this topic about a week after the magazine hits the streets, and we’ll try to add other ideas to the post.

Because beach rental check-in usually happens on Saturday afternoons in the summer, below is a 36-hour journey that begins around 8 p.m. on Thursday and runs through 8 a.m. on Saturday.

Thursday

8 p.m.

After checking in to your hotel in downtown Mobile, it’s time to do what we love best – EAT! Dinner tonight is at NoJa (www.nojamobile.com) on Jackson Street. Highly recommended by Chamber Facebook fans, they raved about owner Chakli Diggs and some of the restaurant’s signature dishes – Ethiopian Spiced Chicken, Smoked & Sous-Vide White Duck and Pickled Beet Salad. Reservations in advance are highly recommended, as Thursdays are always popular. Call 251-433-0377 to reserve your spot. If the weather’s nice, courtyard dining is a must.

9:30 p.m.

After a full meal and knowing you have a busy day tomorrow, it might be relaxing to finish up the evening with a nightcap at the Royal Street Tavern located in the first floor of the Battle House Hotel. Typically there’s live piano music and the chairs are comfortable. Locals enjoy hanging out here too. If you’re up for live music, there’s plenty of options as well. Lagniappe (lagniappe.mobile.com/category/music/listings/) offers the most up-to-date listings of music of all genres on both sites of Mobile Bay.

Friday

7 a.m.



Head out of your downtown hotel for a walk/run. Leave downtown Mobile heading west into the Oakleigh Historic District. About half way through it, stop for a cup of coffee, a Conecuh sausage biscuit and fresh fruit at Cream and Sugar café (www.creamandsugarmobile.com). There you’ll have a chance to talk with locals, and read up on all to do in Mobile as the restaurant is always stocked with the latest issue of *Mobile Bay* magazine (www.mobilebaymag.com) and other local publications. You may choose to walk back.

9 a.m.

After a shower, it’s time to head out for a fun-filled day in Mobile. And a must-see first stop will be GulfQuest (www.gulfquest.org), located in downtown Mobile on the waterfront. Opened in 2015, this massive museum dedicated to Mobile’s rich waterfront history features more than 90 hands-on activities, theater displays and simulators. It’s also hosting its first national touring exhibit through 2016 called “Treasures of NOAA’s Ark.” The museum is open Tuesdays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Costs range from \$14-18 per person. A bit of warning – it’s easy to spend the whole day here, but since you’ve only got 36 hours in Mobile, try and cram most of the fun through morning, and head out just before lunchtime.





Photo by Jeff Tesney

Leaving the museum, it's time to get even closer to the water for fresh seafood – lunch at BLUEGILL Restaurant (www.bluegillrestaurant.com) on the Causeway. Known for “Famous Flaming Oysters,” they also serve crawfish on Fridays and Saturdays. A lesser-known Chamber staff favorite is the French Dip Roast Beef Debris sandwich. Trust us, it's delicious.

1:30 p.m.

About a mile west of BLUEGILL is 5 Rivers – Alabama's Delta Resource Center (<http://www.outdooralabama.com/5-rivers-alabamas-delta-resource-center>). Where the Mobile, Spanish, Tensaw, Apalachee and Blakeley rivers flow into Mobile Bay stands an incredible facility for outdoor recreation, conservation and land stewardship in Alabama: 5 Rivers. It's the ultimate place to begin your adventure onto 250,000-plus acres of scenic waterways, woods and wetlands. Or, simply soak up the natural beauty and history of the region with plenty to do and see at the facility itself. But today you've got two choices – both are on the water.

If you're a kayaker, experience the swamps of the lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta on a wildlife kayak tour. Float in the open marsh watching for a variety of wildlife including alligators, bald eagles, ospreys and more. A guide provides commentary on the history, geology, ecology and characters of the delta, as well as the Alabama state lands mission in the



Mobile Delta

Mobile-Tensaw Delta and the 'Forever Wild' program. This is the “hands-on” tour for all avid lovers of nature and its creatures. Cost is \$49 for adults and \$34 under 21.

If kayaking is not your thing, then experience the delta kicked back and relaxing on a two-hour tour on 5 Rivers Delta Safaris (www.5rds.com) pontoon boat, “The Osprey.” The daily ecotour is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 6-15. Children 5 and younger are free. Make reservations for either kayaking or the pontoon boat by calling 251-259-8531.





Photo by Jeff Tesney

5 p.m.

After a quick trip back to the hotel for a shower and change of clothes, it's time to hit Happy Hour atop one of Mobile's newly renovated skyscrapers – the RSA Trustmark Building. Dauphin's restaurant (www.godauphins.com) sits on the 34th floor. The libations are half-off from 4 to 6 p.m. including all cocktails, beer and wine (bottles under \$100 also included). Plus, you can enjoy an appetizer of Oysters Bienville (pictured above) or freshly-shucked oysters.



BayBears

6:30 p.m.

Grab an Uber from Dauphin's and head out west a bit to Hank Aaron Stadium to take in a Mobile BayBears (www.mobilebaybears.com) baseball game. The team is at home on the following Fridays in July

Photo by Jeff Tesney

– July 8 and July 22 at 7:05 p.m.). Tickets can be bought at the box office and range from \$7-15. Friday night means a fantastic fireworks display following the game. Make sure to grab a hot dog, Cracker Jacks with a couple ice cold beers. You'll need food before heading back downtown to take in some live music before turning in.



Dauphin's

9 p.m.

If you're not exhausted after a jam-packed day, there's a bustling late-night bar scene in Mobile. A great venue for live music on the weekend is Moe's BBQ in the upper Dauphin entertainment district. (www.moesoriginalbbq.com/10/mobile/)

Saturday

7 a.m.

Wipe the cobwebs out of your eyes, and start the day off with a walk to Cathedral Square for Market on the Square (www.facebook.com/MarketsInMobile/). This farmer's market is a must-do for locals living in downtown and midtown on Saturday mornings. Be sure to pick up fresh veggies, flowers, and baked breads and treats to either take to the beach or home. The market opens at 7:30 a.m. every Saturday through July 30.



Market on the Square

8 a.m.

Before checking out of your hotel, walking back from Market on the Square be sure to stop at Panini Pete's (www.paninipetes.com) on Dauphin Street for beignets and fresh coffee. Here's a little known trick: make sure to squeeze a lot of lemon juice on the beignets (trust us). Sit back and relax a little to reflect on all the fun you've had in Mobile over the last 36 hours. Are you sure you want to leave?





CashMOB

In an effort to increase support of local small retail businesses, the Mobile Area Chamber held its third CashMOB at The Ivy Cottage. Attendees signed up to spend \$20 at the store while enjoying refreshments and networking.

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Matthew Wilson

Company: Mitsubishi Polysilicon

Title: President/chief operating officer

Hometown: Conyers, Ga.

Education: Wilson earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech.

First job: He was "a subcontractor" on his brother's paper route in the sixth grade.

Previous experience: Prior to Mitsubishi Polysilicon, Wilson was the chief mechanical engineer for Kemira Pigments in Savannah, Ga. Kemira's Savannah operation makes titanium dioxide, a whitening agent.

Accomplishments: "We have built and operated a high-purity polycrystalline silicon facility for almost 20 years," he said of the Mobile plant. "This is a unique industry and not typical for this area of the country."

Secret to success: "Never ask anyone to do something that you are not willing to do yourself."

Brief company description:

Mitsubishi Polysilicon is a supplier of semiconductor-grade polycrystalline silicon. "We produce material that is measured in parts per trillion for contamination, and our customers are the leading silicon wafer manufacturers in the world," Wilson said.

It's Summertime – Make Time for Time Off

Among the many reasons entrepreneurs start a small business is the ability to gain more freedom over their life. When and how long you work are your decisions, not someone else's. And your reward is more than a paycheck; it's the opportunity to watch something special grow and thrive.

But for many small business owners, this "freedom" soon evolves from routine to a rut that's not easy to escape. A sense of responsibility is inherent in being the boss. But some business owners are afraid to take even a short vacation from their companies. They fear that something will go wrong or they'll miss out on that next big opportunity.

According to the American Express OPEN Vacation

Monitor, less than half of 500 small business owners surveyed planned to take any kind of summer vacation. And since 79 percent of employees carry a computer or other work-related device with them on vacation, it's a good bet bosses like you do as well.

Dedication to your small business is important, but so is setting limits on how far it governs your life.

Entrepreneurs are at their best when they're well-rested, focused, physically healthy and can step out of that leadership role for a while to

just be themselves.

If you want to get away for an extended period, brief those in charge on the possibilities and chief concerns of each customer and express your confidence in their ability to

handle any issues that may arise. Tell key clients or customers in advance of any extended time away you are planning and introduce your key employees who will be working with them. You should be looking to

delegate tasks to others at your business anyway to cultivate a team of leaders to support your

small business as it grows.

Don't think of time off solely in terms of multi-day vacations. Taking your own "mental health" day will go a long way toward restoring your well-being. You could also designate certain hours in a day as "your time" to check email, answer the phone or make appointments.

It is a fact that the brain needs sufficient and regular downtime to perform at its optimal level of creativity, productivity and motivation. Taking time off is possibly the greatest gift entrepreneurs can give themselves, their employees, their businesses and especially their families.

For more information, contact Danette Richards at drichards@mobilechamber.com or 251-431-8652.

“Taking time off is possibly the greatest gift entrepreneurs can give themselves, their employees, their businesses and especially their families.”

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Norton Lilly International

Norton Lilly International has been in business for more than 175 years, with its corporate headquarters in Mobile since 2002. Its executives are (from left to right): Alejandro Barthold, president/CEO; J. Schley Rutherford, board member; and H.W. Thurber III, chairman.

Company officials: H. W. Thurber III, chairman; Alejandro Barthold, president/CEO; and J. Schley Rutherford, board member

Years in business: 175

Brief company description: Norton Lilly International is one of the largest and longest-standing steamship agencies in North America. Representing a wide range of services for numerous vessel types, Norton Lilly specializes in providing port services and logistics for tanker, dry bulk, break-bulk, liner and passenger vessels, as well as vessels in the oil and gas industry.

Why are you located in Mobile? "Norton Lilly's

corporate headquarters was moved to Mobile in 2002, when Mr. Thurber and Mr. Rutherford purchased the company," said Thurber.

"The Port of Mobile is a vibrant port where Norton Lilly provides services to our many customers making port calls here, but more than that, Mobile and the surrounding area is a business- and family-friendly area that provides an excellent quality of life for our 92 employees."

Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners for Growth initiative? "We believe it is important for local businesses to invest in the future of our city, and we are proud to

have supported the Partners for Growth initiative for many years," said Thurber. "We see the proven track record of economic development success and improved quality of life, and are excited about the opportunities ahead of us. We believe that the future for the Mobile area looks bright, and Partners for Growth has and continues to play a key role."

What do you see as Mobile's greatest potential? "Mobile's transportation infrastructure, supported by water, rail and land, definitely provides great potential, but I do believe that the collaboration between the public and private sectors has played a very large role in the area's successes; has made a

name for itself in the economic development realm; and will continue to provide great potential for economic growth and the creation of jobs," said Thurber.

Length of continuous Chamber membership: Since 2002



Partners for Growth (PFG) is the Mobile Area Chamber's long-term economic and community development program. For more information, contact **Katrina Dewrell**, the Chamber's investor relations coordinator, at **251-431-8611** or **kdwrell@mobilechamber.com**.

Mobile Chamber Meets with State Counterparts

In May, several Chamber staffers traveled to Montgomery to meet with their Metro 4 Chamber counterparts from Birmingham, Huntsville and Montgomery. There, attendees heard from Mick Fleming, president of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, who provided an overview of Horizons 2025 – a guide to help Chambers with long-term sustainability. In addition, there were small group discussions of common issues within departments such as communications, government, member retention, small business and workforce development. This group meets once a year for networking and idea sharing.

Golf Tournament Initially Rained Out, Then Sold Out

A washout in April didn't dampen the spirits of nearly 180 people who played in the annual Chamber Classic in May at TimberCreek. A special thank you to this year's event sponsors: BR Williams, ExxonMobil, First Community Bank, Hargrove Engineers + Constructors, International Shipholding Corp., and Mobile Gas.

Helping Exhibitors Prepare for Business Expo

The Chamber small business development department held two Business Expo exhibitor training sessions, offering tips, techniques and strategies to exhibitors to support their marketing goals and get the greatest return on their Expo investment. The two-hour workshops were presented by Meaghan Chitwood, executive director of BNI Alabama. More than 60 people attended the sessions.

Expo will be held Thursday, Aug. 25, from Noon to 5 p.m. at the Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center. If you are a Chamber member interested in exhibiting, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

Chamber 2017 Travel Destinations Selected

After feedback from past travelers, the Chamber selected its travel destinations for 2017. There will be a trip to Croatia from March 17-25 and a Christmas Markets Cruise on the Danube River Nov. 27-Dec. 5. If you're interested in these or other trip options, contact Leigh Perry-Herndon at 251-431-8645 or lherndon@mobilechamber.com.

MobileConnect Finishes Spring Series

MobileConnect, a program to acquaint new-to-Mobile professionals and executives with the community, completed its spring series with a reception at the home of program hosts Henry and Beth Morrisette. Fourteen couples and six individuals participated in the program. Partners for Growth investors served as hosts for the new executives, acquainting them with Mobile, along with a seminar series addressing Mobile's history, culture and assets.

Staffers Participate in Inaugural YP Summit

Several members of the Chamber staff participated in a Young Professionals Summit held in Mobile in May, one of several events hosted throughout the state by Alabama Media Group. The half-day session provided training on attracting and keeping young talent, technology and downtown development in Mobile.

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State of the City and County

On May 25, the Mobile Area Chamber hosted its 19th annual State of the City and County featuring remarks from (pictured from left to right) Chamber President and CEO Bill Sisson, City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson, Chamber Chairman and President and CEO of Infirmary Health Mark Nix and Mobile County Commission President Jerry Carl. The event was attended by a sold out crowd of more than 850 people and the discussion revolved around collaboration and infrastructure.

at



Pictured from left to right are: Pam Bailey with Trustmark Bank; Becky Minto with ServisFirst Bank; Michelle Cook with BB&T; and Lisa Owen with Trustmark Bank.



Pictured from left to right are: John Lakenan, Judy Smith and Terri Owler, all with Arkema; and Linda Faulkner with Evonik.



Chamber Chase Kick Off

Chamber Chase kicked off in May, and volunteers are aggressively working toward reaching their \$1.13 million goal in new members, event sponsorships and ad sales. Mark Hieronymus with Hieronymus CPA is serving as chairman of the campaign.

Pictured at left are Hieronymus and Clarence Johnson with Bama Pest Control.

AMBASSADOR of the month



Kristyn Robinson, who joined the ambassador program in January, is the Mobile Area Chamber's Ambassador of the Month. Robinson is a business development and client relations representative for Sirius Technical Services. The company provides engineering, IT, technical, professional and administrative personnel for contract and direct positions. Robinson said she loves being a part of the Chamber because it keeps her up to date with what's going on in the business community and active in local affairs.

Ambassadors are volunteers who support the Mobile Area Chamber by visiting members, assisting with events and ribbon-cuttings. To learn more, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

The advertisement features a background of orange and yellow circles. On the left is the Interstate Printing & Graphics logo, which includes a stylized 'I' and 'G' in a square. To the right, the text 'GO digital' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the logo, contact information is provided: 'interstate printing & graphics, inc.', 'Toll Free 1.888.670.7377', 'Ph 251.476.3302', and 'Fax 251.476.4072'.

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Frank Betts serves as chief operating officer of Marine Well Containment Co., where he leads the team to ensure containment equipment is ready to be deployed, installed and operated for clients in a safe and reliable manner. Previously, Betts served as ExxonMobil's Upstream Nigeria maintenance manager, leading the execution of maintenance, inspection, prevention and preservation programs. With more than 29 years of experience in the oil and gas industry,

Betts background includes production engineering, maintenance, operations and project management in regions including Nigeria, Indonesia, Qatar, Angola and the United States. He graduated from Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.



Jaquitta Powell-Green is president of Commonwealth National Bank, where she previously served as chair of the board of directors. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Alabama A&M University, and a master's in business administration from Spring Hill College. She is past president of the Dearborn YMCA and volunteers on the boards of several organizations including Penelope House and the Boys and Girls Clubs of

South Alabama. Powell-Green is a member of Delta Sigma Theta and the Greater Mobile Chapter of The Links Inc., and is a graduate of Leadership Mobile.



John A. Pryor is president of Al-Fla Plastics. He has experience with multiple private and public companies as an operator, consultant and CEO. He has created and implemented worldwide sales and marketing strategies for some of the most recognizable names in the food service, medical and restaurant industries, including Subway, McDonald's, Baskin-Robbins and Taco Bell, to name a few. Pryor earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northwest

Nazarene University, and a master's in education from the University of South Alabama. His current affiliations include CCS Health Technologies (Nashville), Homeowner's Choice (Tampa), Piccadilly Cafeterias (Baton Rouge), Fresh Alternatives-Crispers Restaurants (Winter Haven) and Church of the Nazarene (Mobile).

For more information about the Chamber's board of advisors, contact Katrina Dewrell at 251-431-8611 or kdewrell@mobilechamber.com.

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MOBILE AREA CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Potts
PMT Publishing

Potts Joins Chamber's Board of Directors

Stephen Potts, associate publisher of PMT Publishing, joined the Mobile Area Chamber's board of directors. PMT publishes locally known magazines such as *Mobile Bay*, *Business Alabama*, *The Scroll* and *Mobile Bay Bride*, as well as books including *Bay Appetit*, *The Homes of Spring Hill* and *The Mobile River*. Potts earned a bachelor's degree in communications management at the University of Georgia and joined PMT in 2004. He serves on the board of directors for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Athelstan Club, and is a member of the Government Street Presbyterian Church Coffee Club and Rotary Club. He previously volunteered with the Child Advocacy Center, Providence Foundation, Dauphin Way Methodist Meals on Wheels and Senior Bowl Committee.

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For information on Chamber events, visit events.mobilechamber.com.

4 CHAMBER CLOSED - INDEPENDENCE DAY

8 MEMBERSHIP 101

Meet other members and Chamber staff to learn about the many ways to benefit from your membership.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617 or aunger@mobilechamber.com

No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested. Free parking.

13 NETWORKING@NOON *Members Only

Make 40-plus business contacts in 90 minutes over lunch. One representative per company

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$10 and must be paid with reservation

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617 or aunger@mobilechamber.com

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19 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE *Members Only

A monthly forum for Chamber-member business owners and managers.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Sean Costello, assistant U.S. district attorney

Topic: "Legal & Privacy Concerns in Audio/Video Surveillance"

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested. Free parking.

Sponsor:



20 NONPROFIT ROUNDTABLE *Members Only

A bimonthly forum for Chamber-member nonprofit executives and managers.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speakers: Mary Booth, iHeartMEDIA community engagement coordinator, and Ronnie Bloodworth, iHeartMEDIA senior vice president of sales

Topic: "The ABCs of PSAs" (public service announcements)

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617 or aunger@mobilechamber.com

No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested.

26-27 AIDT TRAINING CLASS AIDT LEADERSHIP SKILLS I COURSE

Hosted by the Chamber, in partnership with AIDT, this leadership training program introduces team leaders, supervisors and managers to effective leadership, communication and motivation techniques.

When: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$50 per person, includes course materials, lunch and snacks

Contact: Emily McGrath at 251-431-8651 or emcgrath@mobilechamber.com

Reservations are required and class size is limited to 25 people.

28 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

When: 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Where: Ashley Furniture Home Store, 1310 Tingle Circle E., Suite H, McGowin Park

Cost: \$5 for members and \$10 for potential members

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617 or aunger@mobilechamber.com

Reservations are not needed.

Sponsor:



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Who's New

As the **City of Mobile's** new deputy director of long-range planning, **Brian Underwood** will lead the city's long-range planning and urban design functions. Underwood earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Auburn University and a master's of public administration degree from the University of West Florida.



Vailes



Carney



Blades



Foreman

Roberts Brothers added several agents: **Catherine Vailes** is at the Real Estate Center; **Brandy Carney** and **Johnny Blades** are in the west Mobile office; and **Jason Foreman** and **Kelsey Davis** are in the Fairhope office.



Davis

Owen Bailey, administrator of **University of South Alabama Children's & Women's Hospital**, was named chief operating officer of **USA Health**.



Bailey

The **University of South Alabama** named **Dr. John V. Marymont** vice president of medical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine. Marymont graduated from Northwestern University and obtained a medical degree from Vanderbilt University. He earned a certificate

in medical and healthcare management as well as a master's degree in business administration from the Jones School of Business at Rice University.



D'Amico



Smeraglia

BIS Technology Group hired **Taylor D'Amico** as a new digital marketing specialist in the social media marketing department. D'Amico received a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Auburn University. In addition, **BIS** also hired **Kim Smeraglia** as office manager. She will be responsible for managing the administrative staff, human resources, benefits and financial matters.

B. Wayne Black joined **New Horizons Credit Union** as collections manager. Black earned a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of South Alabama. **Tamela Bartlett** also joined the credit union as vice president of lending.

Also, **Nita Nichols** was promoted to call center manager. She previously held the position of supervisor.



Nichols



Foley

St. Paul's Episcopal School selected **Dr. Mark Foley** as interim head of school at St. Paul's for the 2016-17 school year. Foley earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas; and a master's of divinity and a doctorate in philosophy in psychology and counseling from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

3 Echoes Productions welcomed **Allison Kelley** to its staff as a producer. Kelley brings diverse experience to the team in public relations, newspaper journalism and television production.



Kelley

Mobile-based ASF Logistics, an international logistics provider, appointed **Roland Cardoza** to serve as sales manager for the Pacific Northwest region. Cardoza will serve clients throughout British Columbia, Washington and Oregon.



Cardoza

Bellator Real Estate & Development added 13 new Realtors. They are: **Sean Walker, Chris Miller, Cindy Kusnierz, Jonathan McGavock, Jeanie Reed, Bev and Len Chilton, Angel Flanagan, Krista Ross, Dori Goodrich, Jeff DeValk, Susanne Dicker, Christy Hotz and John Parker.**

Business Endeavors

Volkert Inc. formed a new entity, **Volkert Global**, to serve as an independent international affiliate for Volkert Inc. and further extend its ability to reach and serve its growing international client base.

Mobile County will break ground later this year on a new Emergency Operations Center that will house the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency and serve as the central command and control center in the event of an emergency such as a hurricane or chemical spill.

TAG/The Architects Group recently completed the design of the \$10 million, 31,000-square-foot new Mobile County Emergency Management Agency facility. The project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2018.

The **City of Mobile** announced it will build a state-of-the-art fire station on Spring Hill Avenue, designed by **Watermark Design Group.**

Well Done

FirstLight Home Care of Mobile & Eastern Shore received seven Employer of Choice, 51 Provider of Choice and one Leader of Excellence designation in Home Care Pulse's 2016 Best of Home Care awards. Awards are granted to businesses offering excellent in-home care, based on feedback from clients and caregivers.

Jerry Stump was named president of **Volkert**. Previously, he served as the firm's chief operating officer.

CoStar Group gave Mobile-based **White-Spinner Realty Inc.** the 2015 Power Broker Award. The award recognizes professionals in commercial real estate brokerage firms and individuals who closed the highest transaction volumes in commercial property sales and leases.

In other news, **Michael Wilson, 23**, of **White-Spinner Realty Inc.** is one of the youngest professionals in the country to earn the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation from the CCIM Institute.



Wilson



Guin

Gardberg & Kemmerly Attorneys announced **Nathan Guin** is now a member of the National

Organization of Veterans' Advocates Inc. Guin practices veterans disability law before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Wilkins Miller LLC appointed **Mandy Parker CPA** to the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants Young CPA Cabinet. Parker graduated from The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business administration and earned a master's degree in accounting from the University of South Alabama.



Parker



Mike Sims of **Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS)** received the Hatfield Award from Alabama's Water Environment Association during the organization's educational conference. Sims is



Sims

chief treatment plant operator for MAWSS' two wastewater treatment plants.

In addition, the C.C. Williams wastewater treatment plant received AWEA's Award of Excellence.



FASTSIGNS of Mobile was recognized for helping prospective franchisees at the 2016 FASTSIGNS International Convention. Owners **Pauline McKean, Joe Calagaz** and **Leo Calagaz** were also presented with the Franchise Growth Award.

In other news, McKean completed the Sales Management Leadership Academy training program at FASTSIGNS' corporate headquarters.



McKean

Austal was named Alabama's Manufacturer of the Year by the Alabama Technology Network and the Business Council of Alabama in Montgomery. Austal is a three-time honoree in the award's 16-year history, winning once as a medium company and twice as a large company.



Sonna Reynolds, vice president of compliance at **New Horizons Credit Union**, earned a Credit Union Compliance Expert (CUCE) certification.



Reynolds



The Leapfrog Group, an independent hospital ratings organization, released new data naming **Providence Hospital** as one of only 14 hospitals in the state of Alabama to receive an "A" rating for patient safety.

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 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.

The Mobile Area Chamber was awarded a five-star rating by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the highest designation given. Of the 6,936 chambers in the U.S., only 301 are accredited, and of those only 43 have achieved five-star distinction. The Mobile Area Chamber has been accredited by the U.S. Chamber since the designation's inception more than 40 years ago.



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Know a company interested in benefiting from Chamber membership? Contact Jackie Livingston at 251-431-8642 or jlivingston@mobilechamber.com or Emily Hatcher at 251-431-8619 or ehatcher@mobilechamber.com Also, find a membership directory at www.mobilechamber.com.

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