

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

AUGUST 2016

the businessVIEW



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Mon Louis Island



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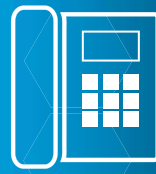
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From the Publisher - Bill Sisson

Diversification Fuels Strong Economic Growth

When asked what makes me most proud about the local economy, I always say without hesitation it is our diversified business community. It indicates not only what we produce locally, but also what we sell to the rest of the world. As a top 10 U.S. port we are in a competitive position to carry out international business.



Another strong growth sector is chemicals which account for roughly 37 percent of our total exports. Throw in the continued success of our steel industry, shipbuilding, tourism and port-related transportation projects, and it's easy to see why Mobile's economic growth and the exports associated with it

should be up for the foreseeable future.

Mobile's business sector with the most growth potential is undoubtedly aviation/aerospace. This is being driven by strong demand in the United States and the world for aircraft and parts.

The continued success and growth of Airbus, Continental Motors, Star Aviation, and VT MAE is good news for their suppliers. Thankfully, it doesn't stop there.

The Mobile Area Chamber's economic development strategic plan still calls for ensuring economic prosperity over the long term by fostering and retaining a diversified economy. It has been our region's key to job growth and will provide economic stability for generations to come.

ON THE COVER

Mon Louis Island is a cultural and ecological habitat in Mobile County, and is undergoing critical restoration. Pictured are the Mobile Area Chamber CEO and president Bill Sisson, who serves on the Mobile Bay NEP board of directors, and Roberta Swann, executive director of Mobile Bay National Estuary Program.

Read the story on page 6. Photo by Jeff Tesney.

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The Steeple Debuts

As the renaissance of downtown Mobile continues, The Steeple on St. Francis is one of the latest multi-function venues for parties, weddings, concerts and other special events.

Purchased by **Clif** and **Ginna Inge** in 2015, after they saw a commercial about the property, The Steeple is located at 251 St. Francis St., on the corner of Joachim, four blocks west of Water Street. It was a former Methodist church built in the 1840s and rebuilt following a fire in the 1890s.

A year-long, \$1 million renovation transformed the red-brick Queen Anne style building and its Tiffany-inspired stained glass windows with the help of local businesses, including Holmes & Holmes Architects and Rogers & Willard. The end product was a 10,000-square foot space on two levels with wood floors and a 35-foot high Cathedral ceiling.

The Steeple project was aided by a federal historic tax credit program, similar to the state version the Mobile Area Chamber and other organizations fought to continue during the 2016 legislative session. Ultimately, the legislature let it die.

"This is a great example of why the Chamber keeps the tax credit program on our legislative agenda and advocates to get historic tax credits reinstated," said **Ginny Russell**, the Mobile Area Chamber's vice president of community and governmental affairs.

Reviving abandoned or neglected urban churches sitting on valuable real estate is a national movement resulting in restaurants, bookstores, apartments and more, according to Ginna. One of the most famous examples is Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, home to the Grand Ole Opry.

Ginna visited New Orleans and conducted a tremendous amount of research on what The Steeple could be in Mobile. What tugged on her most was musicians and speakers.

The venue's first concert will be Saturday, Aug. 27. Organized by promoter The Southern Rambler as a benefit to raise money for benches for Wave bus riders, the concert will feature Shawn Mullins, The Mulligan Brothers and Eric Erdman. Learn more: <http://ramblinnight.brownpapertickets.com/>.



Owner Ginna Inge and Executive Director Mary Lacey Zeiders are working hard to build awareness of The Steeple as a multi-functional event space.



B&B Pet Stop Named 2016 Small Business of the Year

In June, the Mobile Area Chamber named B&B Pet Stop, a 35-year-old, Mobile-based pet store, as the 2016 Small Business of the Year. FusionPoint Media and Karen C. Simmons PC were also recognized for outstanding achievements. Pictured from left to right are Mark Nix, Infirmary Health and Chamber board chair; siblings Sally Trufant, Bill Trufant and Mary Trufant of B&B Pet Stop; and Bill Sisson, the Chamber's CEO and president.

Restoration Project Begins at Mon Louis Island

Photo by Sam St. John, Logical Computer Solutions

Restoration of the erosion-impacted and storm-vulnerable northern tip of Mon Louis Island in Mobile County is underway. The island is important from a cultural perspective and plays an important ecological role to the entire bay system.

The project includes construction of a continuous rock breakwater to protect the shoreline and dredging to create four acres of salt marsh, doubling the area currently providing nursery and refuge habitat for fish, shellfish and wildlife.

The rate of erosion, according to Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP), leaves the area vulnerable to storm-related breaching where it serves as a harbor for commercial fishers. Should a breach occur, significant wetlands would be lost, and with it nutrient rich plants and aquatic wildlife.

Thompson Engineering and Orion Marine Construction, with assistance from the Mobile Bay NEP and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Operations Division, will conduct the work.

Mon Louis Island is approximately two miles wide and six miles long, bound by Fowl River, Mobile Bay and the Mississippi Sound between Mobile and Dauphin Island. It was first settled in the 18th century by French Louisiana colonists. By the 19th century, people from various countries of origin and Creoles lived there.

It was once home to Mobile Shipyard, where, for more than 100 years, pleasure boats and fishing vessels were crafted from cypress trees.

The island is important from a cultural perspective and plays an important ecological role to the entire bay system.

Think You Can Become An Entrepreneur In A Weekend?

Aspiring entrepreneurs and anyone with a passion for small business success can learn to build a business from concept to completion during Mobile's first-ever Startup Weekend, happening this month.

During this exciting, intense, hands-on event, attendees will create a real business



and meet coaches, mentors, investors, sponsors and others who are ready to help start businesses. The weekend begins on Friday, Aug. 26, with participants pitching their concepts. Throughout the weekend, the teams receive constant feedback and expert advice. By Sunday evening, new companies will be established.

Matthew Roeder, CEO of RentGear, attended a Startup Weekend in Oxford, Miss., that played an integral role in the development of his company. "The ability to not only pick the minds of others in local business but network with them as well, develop a product and present in one weekend can provide invaluable insight into the startup of a company," he said.

"To call it Startup Weekend, though, sells the program short. The program gives its participants access to resources beyond the weekend and the privilege of being among a small group of businesses that have started this way."

Why Startup Weekend?

All businesses start small, and research shows that entrepreneurial training and mentoring are critical for new and emerging companies to succeed. Entrepreneurs are the visionaries, risk-takers and innovators in our society.

Startup Weekend hones the vision, reduces the risk and gets innovative


ideas to the marketplace.

Who should attend?

Entrepreneurs, business startup enthusiasts, web and software developers, designers, marketing gurus, business development specialists and anyone interested in building a business.

Startup Weekend an international program supported locally by the University of South Alabama's Office of Research & Economic Development, local nonprofit One Mobile, Mobile Area Chamber and Innovation PortAL.

Prospective participants are encouraged to follow One Mobile (www.onemobile.org) on Facebook and Twitter for more information. Sponsorships are available by contacting **Elyse Goonan** at **251-336-4322** or **info@onemobile.org**.

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Tech Firm Specializes in the 'Internet of Things'

Started in 2001, Altaworx is an internet communications protocol provider located in Fairhope. Pictured from left to right, are: Jaime Rawden, Lydia Walker, Danielle Kennedy, Matthew Conklin, Rickie Richey, Forrest Derr, Hillary Johnson, Susan Uston, Edwin Miller, Michael Sheldt and Ward Murphy.

As broad as the internet and the world of computer software are, Fairhope-based Altaworx has found a niche in IoT, the "Internet of Things."

"IoT is the world of devices, whether mobile or fixed, that connect to the internet to accomplish a task," explained **Forrest Derr**, director of information technology at Altaworx. "That could be as simple as ordering more drinks for a fountain machine or as complex as keeping a server updated on the health statistics of a horse in a pasture through sensors in its harness. Basically, it is anything that requires an internet connection to autonomously perform a task."

Established on the Eastern Shore in 2001, Altaworx is an internet communications protocol provider that has grown from two employees to a

dozen full-time workers in the past 15 years. The company, which moved into a 2,250-square-foot office space on U.S. Hwy. 98 in Fairhope in March, is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

Altaworx develops custom machine-to-machine apps, based on a customer's needs, and then bundles the software with other associated hardware and bandwidth. With data centers in Atlanta and Dallas to host the company's servers and equipment, the company currently works with more than 300 clients, ranging from small businesses to municipalities and universities, with a focus on IoT.

"We're the communication bridge for IoT by providing the mobile data connectivity for those devices," Derr said. "And

because we can pool our client base of data together, we can get better rates for our clients on internet and private network connectivity."

Altaworx was recently recognized nationally as a "Solution Provider Champion" by AT&T and is the first company in the U.S. to become an AT&T Partner Exchange reseller of AT&T machine-to-machine connectivity for IoT applications. Altaworx CEO **Rickie Richey** said it is a very exciting time for the company.

"It has the potential to expand our business rapidly," Richey said. "The wireline segment of our business (land line internet connections including DSL, T1, fiber connections, etc.) has grown over 2,000 percent since 2013. And now with IoT, we could see an even greater growth rate."

Altaworx is working with Fortune 100/500 companies to discuss their IoT connectivity, and Richey said the company is also working with other customers that could expand its business into Canada, Europe and the Middle East.

"Some of the accounts that we are working with could very quickly dwarf our entire VoIP (voice over internet protocol) business on a monthly basis if they grow as expected," Derr said. "While our VoIP continues to grow at exciting rates, IoT connectivity has exponential growth opportunities that will transform our business model."

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Three Speaking Tips to Make Sure Your Business Pitch Resonates



By: Ryan Foland

The person onstage reads the bullet points off the wall. She speaks so fast I can hardly understand. When she finishes, I have no idea what she was explaining.

We've all seen good presentations and we've all seen bad presentations. Here are three tips to make sure you take some basic steps to giving yourself a better chance at being someone who puts on a great presentation.

Start with a Story

People love stories, so give it to them. Start and end with a story.

Let me tell you a quick story. Did you know as soon as you read that last sentence you started to relax and become a little more engaged? That is because human beings are genetically wired to enjoy stories.

If you have a point to make, the best way to make it impactful is to use a story to illustrate.

Use Your Gestures to Increase Your Impact

Here is what to do with your hands: It's totally okay to have your hands resting at your sides. It feels weird to you, but doesn't look weird to the audience. One little trick to make it more comfortable to have your hands at your side is to just connect your index finger and thumb together. Doing this

makes it feel less weird holding them down like this.

You can use your hands to emphasize a point, but make sure not to overuse gestures. This is especially true for large gestures. If you use a big hand or arm movement, it is very noticeable, and you need to make sure to use it sparingly.

Holding a gesture in place is a great way to ensure emphasis of a point.

Slow Down

If it feels awkward to you, then it is the right speed.

Each of us has a natural pace of speaking. Some of us are faster, some are slower. There is no right or wrong speed, but as a general rule, you can slow your speaking rate by about 50 percent and still sound normal. Now, when you first try this, you will feel weird. It will feel like you are talking so slow.

A great way to start to slow down your speaking rate is to read passages out loud. Focus on placing more emphasis on certain words and leaving pauses.

Ultimately, what it comes down to for a successful pitch is preparation and practice.

Foland is a professional speaker who works to help start-up companies get off the ground. To learn more, follow him on Twitter at @ryanfoland or visit www.ryanfoland.com.

The board of advisors represents many of the Mobile Area Chamber's most generous supporters and provides member-company CEOs, owners and principals an avenue for valuable input on critical Chamber and community issues.

This group meets twice a year at various locations, hearing business and governmental leaders and other speakers address pertinent issues. In addition, the group receives invitations to other events for Chamber leadership.

For information on joining the board of advisors, contact Katrina Dewrell at 251-431-8611 or kdewrell@mobilechamber.com.

The ★ symbol indicates those whose companies are also investors in Partners for Growth, the Chamber's long-term economic and community development program. *As of 6/29/16*



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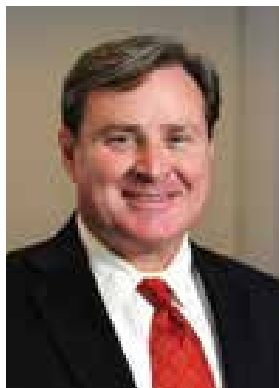
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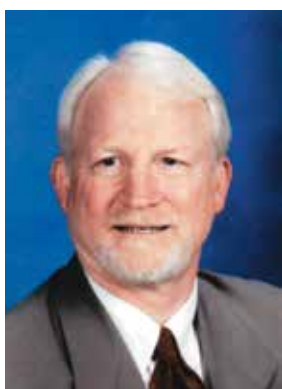
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This year marks 20 years that Arkema's Axis plant has hosted its annual Science Teacher Program. The Arkema Science Teacher Program brings together Arkema scientists and local science teachers to help spark students' interest in science, using hands-on experiments that make learning fun. The program is aimed at helping teachers of grades 3 – 6 become more effective at "hands-on" science. Teachers select a specific kit based on the coming year's curriculum. Along with the kits, Arkema provides school supplies and a stipend to the school and the teachers. This year's Axis plant program hosted teachers from McDavid-Jones and Council Traditional schools July 12-15, 2016.

For more information about Arkema's Science Teachers program and to apply, go to www.ScienceForTeachers.com.



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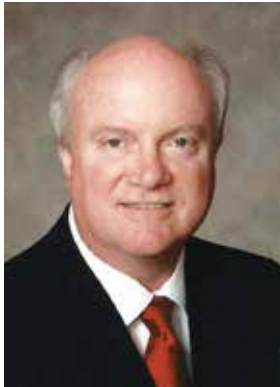
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BBVA Compass

Congratulations Claire McCarron

**We congratulate Claire on being named
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Claire G. McCarron

South Alabama Market CEO

O: 251.470.7330

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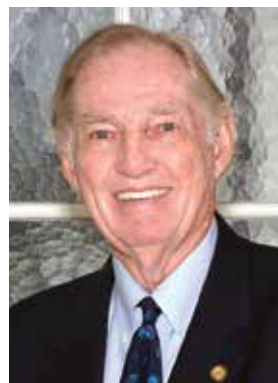
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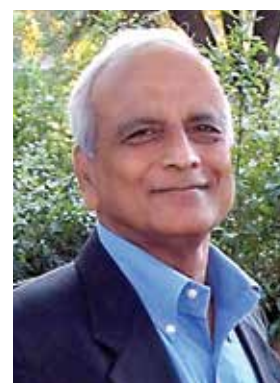
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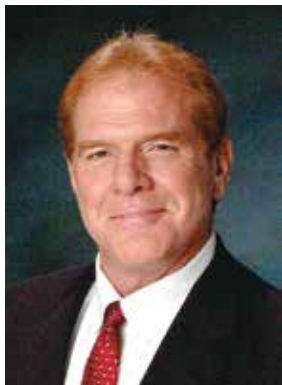
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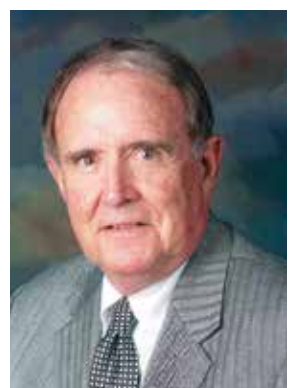
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Serving the Gulf Coast region for more than 50 years, BBVA Compass locally includes (from left to right) Chris Strength, April DePaola, Cassandra Burks, Jahn Paton, Tyrone Fenderson, Claire McCarron, Steve Rockwell, Debbie Latham, Danisha Maye, Ryan New, Jane Wasden and Tramaine Perry.

BBVA Compass Bank

Company officials: Lee Smith, East Region executive; Claire McCarron, South Alabama Market CEO; and Doug Wood, district retail executive

Years in business: BBVA Compass, formerly Compass Bank, formed in 1964 as Central Bank and Trust Co.

Brief company description: BBVA Compass is a Sunbelt-based financial institution operating 674 branches, including 345 in Texas, 89 in Alabama, 75 in Arizona, 62 in California, 45 in Florida, 38 in Colorado and 20 in New Mexico; and commercial and

private client offices throughout the United States.

Why are you located in Mobile? "As the third largest city in Alabama, Mobile is an important market for BBVA Compass," said McCarron. "BBVA Compass sees good growth potential in Mobile, as the city expands in its major industries including aerospace, shipbuilding, services and manufacturing."

Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners for Growth initiative? "BBVA Compass knows that a healthy and growing economy benefits

businesses and consumers alike," said McCarron. "Supporting the Chamber provides the resources for spearheading initiatives that individual companies don't have the time or inclination to tackle, which benefits everybody."

What do you see as Mobile's greatest potential? "As the world marketplace continues to shrink, Mobile will see growth opportunities related to its location as a port city," said McCarron. "Mobile is strategically placed on the Gulf of Mexico, and by providing a trained workforce to the aerospace, manufacturing and shipbuilding industries, the

city can capitalize on our unique opportunities."

Length of continuous Chamber membership: Since 1971.



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 kdewrell@mobilechamber.com.



New Leaders Reception

New area leaders recognized at a Mobile Area Chamber reception sponsored by Alabama Power. Back row, L-R: Todd Henderson, The First, A National Banking Association; Tim Wills, Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama; Glyn Agnew, AT&T; Dr. Reginald Sykes, Bishop State Community College; Janet Cobb, USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park; Michael Seltzer, Remington College; Jerry Carl, Mobile County Commission; Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber; Dr. Mark Foley, St. Paul's Episcopal School; and Philip Addy, UOP, A Honeywell Co.

Front row, L-R: Ken Brown, iBERIABANK; Cliff Grimes, United Way of Southwest Alabama; Hayley Van Antwerp, Innovation PortAL; Sandy Stimpson, City of Mobile; Claire McCarron, BBVA Compass; Liz Freeman, Long's Human Resource Services; Chris Jett, USA Children's and Women's Hospital; and Michael Mellstead, Alabama Media Group.

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AMBASSADOR of the month



Photo by Jeff Tesney

Huntsville native **Kasie Tanley**, who was named the Mobile Area Chamber's Ambassador of the Year in 2012, is once again Ambassador of the Month. As business development specialist for New Horizons Credit Union, Tanley oversees the credit union's community involvement and handles marketing and social media.

"I am a big proponent of networking and connecting with the surrounding business community, which the Chamber's ambassador program provides in abundance," she said.

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.

Feeding The Gulf Coast

Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, has served the Gulf Coast for more than 31 years, supporting hundreds of church pantries, serving food to 20,000 children annually through child nutrition programs, connecting families with

resources for nutritious food and educating the public about proper nutrition. The main office (pictured above) is located in Theodore. The organization is on call to supply food to the community in case of disaster.

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Chamber Hires Shelby Glover

As the newest member in the Mobile Area Chamber's economic development division, **Shelby Glover** will actively work business and industrial projects.



"I wanted to work on a lot of projects where I could also get a lot of exposure," she said. "I wanted to work at the community level and where I live. I found that I could do all that here at the

Chamber."

At the University of Southern Mississippi, she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in marketing, and a master's degree in economic development.

In graduate school, she interned with VisionFirst Advisors, assisting clients and working on economic development projects. By the time she graduated, Glover knew she wanted to work where she would be part of the economic growth of the community.

"Shelby's education in the economic development field and her experience working with a top tier economic development consulting firm have perfectly equipped her for her role as project manager on our team," said **Troy Wayman**, vice president of economic development for the Chamber.

Glover can be reached at 251-431-8616 or sglover@mobilechamber.com.

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10 COFFEE WITH THE CHAMBER **Members Only*

Start your day with the Chamber and network with other business professionals.

When: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Where: C Spire, 3952-A Airport Blvd.

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

No charge. Reservations are not needed.

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10 GULF COAST TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL LUNCH

A bimonthly lunch hosted by the Gulf Coast Technology Council.

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Kevin Hankins, chief operating officer with C Spire

Topic: "Business Continuity and Disaster Avoidance"

Cost: \$20 for Chamber members and \$25 for potential members

Contact: Ashlee Douglas at 251-431-8629 or adouglas@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required. Cancellations after Aug. 5 not reimbursed to cover lunch cost.

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AUGUST 2016

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

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The International Trade Series is a practical program for executives, managers and employees who conduct international business or plan to work in international markets. An official International Trade Training Certificate from the U.S. Department of Commerce will be presented to those who complete all four sessions.

11 SESSION ONE CREATING A STRATEGIC INTERNATIONAL SALES & MARKETING PLAN

When: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$25 per session, includes breakfast and lunch, or \$85 for the series

Contact: Christina Stimpson at 251-431-8648 or cstimpson@mobilechamber.com

Agenda details can be found at mobilechamber.com/calendar
Reservations required. Free parking.

11 SESSION TWO INTERNATIONAL FINANCE & EXPORT INSURANCE

When: 12:30 to 5 p.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$25 per session, includes lunch, or \$85 for the series

Contact: Christina Stimpson at 251-431-8648 or cstimpson@mobilechamber.com

Agenda details can be found at mobilechamber.com/calendar
Reservations required. Free parking.

12 SESSION THREE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

When: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$25 per session, includes breakfast and lunch, or \$85 for the series

Contact: Christina Stimpson at 251-431-8648 or cstimpson@mobilechamber.com

Agenda details can be found at mobilechamber.com/calendar
Reservations required. Free parking.

12 SESSION FOUR LEGAL CONSIDERATION IN THE GLOBAL MARKET

When: 12:30 to 5 p.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$25 per session, includes lunch, or \$85 for the series

Contact: Christina Stimpson at 251-431-8648 or cstimpson@mobilechamber.com

Agenda details can be found at mobilechamber.com/calendar
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16 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: Celia J. Collins Esq., Johnstone Adams Bailey Gordon & Harris

Topic: "New Developments in HR Requirements"

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

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

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17 WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE **Members Only*

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

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Pat Jones, admissions coordinator for Springhill Medical Center's Senior Residence

Topic: "Overcoming Challenges of Long Term Care for Your Loved One"

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

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

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Who's New

Visit Mobile hired **Valerie Longa** as tourism ambassador program coordinator.

The program will train local citizens to be resources for out-of-town visitors. Longa earned a bachelor's degree in integrated communications from Spring Hill College.



Longa

New Horizons Credit Union welcomed **Jearil Crawford** as chief operations officer.

Crawford received a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary social sciences with an emphasis on political and organizational leadership from Florida State University and graduated from the



Crawford

Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.



Henry



Monk

Bishop State Community College named **Karl Henry** dean of career technical education and **Austin T. Monk** director of workforce development. Henry brings more than 22 years of experience in the field of education. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology from The University of Alabama and a master's degree in industrial and technology education from Alabama A&M University. Monk earned a bachelor's degree in public administration and a master's of public administration degree with a minor in economic and community development from Auburn University. He

completed leadership studies at Harvard University, the Delta Regional Authority-Delta Institute and the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute.



McGehee



Scott

Wilkins Miller LLC hired **Courtney McGehee**, **Cody Scott** and **Amber Lawler**.

All three are University of Mobile graduates. McGehee earned a bachelor's degree in business management and a second bachelor's degree in accounting. Scott has a bachelor's degree in accounting and business management. Lawler has a bachelor's degree in accounting and business management.



Lawler

Franklin Primary Health Center Inc. welcomed **Sherpri Giles** as associate administrator and **Dr. Irfan Hashmi** as internist and endocrinologist.



Giles

Giles earned a master's degree in health administration from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree in speech communications and theatre with an emphasis in journalism from Tennessee State University. Hashmi has worked for more than 30 years in multiple areas of the world in positions including physician, clinical instructor and medical residency program coordinator. She completed a medical residency at the Veteran Affairs Hospital in Northport, N.Y., and endocrinology and metabolism fellowship at the Metropolitan Hospital Medical Center in New York, N.Y.

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University of Mobile announced the following promotions. In the College of Arts and Sciences, **Julie Biskner** and **Robert "Buddy" Landry** were promoted to associate professors and **Alison Henry** was promoted to assistant professor. In the School of Business: **Jane Finley** was promoted to professor, and **Amy Taylor** to associate professor.

In the School of Education: **Carolyn Corliss** was promoted to professor, and **Stephanie Hulon** to associate professor.

In the School of Music: **Kenn Hughes** was promoted to associate professor.



USA Health hired **Alan Whaley** as the system's new chief strategy officer. Whaley brings more

than 30 years of experience in healthcare to this newly created position, including serving as an executive vice

president and chief strategy officer at Infirmity Health. Whaley is a graduate of Georgetown College in Kentucky, where he earned a bachelor's degree with a double major in business administration and information systems. He received master's degrees in healthcare administration and business administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Chris Jett

is the new administrator of **USA Children's & Women's Hospital**. He holds master's degrees in health administration and business administration from The University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Jett

Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) hired **Felicia Patterson** as the new underutilized business enterprise (UUBE) program

coordinator. Patterson will focus on increasing opportunities for women and minority-owned companies to do business with MAWSS. Patterson holds a master's degree in human resource management from Troy University, with undergraduate degrees from Faulkner University.

BBVA Compass promoted **Claire McCarron** to South Alabama Market CEO. McCarron has



almost 30 years

of banking experience in the Mobile/Baldwin County area. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Davidson College and master's degree in business administration from The University of Alabama.

Mobile Airport Authority hired **Brian Belcher** as director of marketing and air service development. Belcher's 35-year career includes multiple successful

air service development campaigns, innovative marketing and social media efforts, crisis communications and collaborative stakeholder relations.



Catlin to its commercial office, 900 Hillcrest Rd.

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Cooper & Co. Inc. Realtors welcomed new associate **Brian Catlin**

Business Endeavors

Expeditors International - Mobile, a Seattle-based global logistics company, announced it is increasing its local presence to serve businesses looking to expand into international markets while continuing to support existing area customers. The Mobile office recently relocated to the Wells Fargo building at 61 St. Joseph St., Suite 1303.

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Bishop's Southern Tradition opened at the former site of Wings at 3673 Airport Blvd. Owner Bo Bishop is offering homemade Southern dishes like Nashville Hot Chicken and triple mac-n-cheese. For more information, visit www.BishopsSouthernTradition.com.

Willis of Alabama announced that the company's name changed to **Willis Towers Watson**, reflecting a recent merger. The address and phone remain the same. The website is www.willistowerswatson.com.

Covenant Care announced the acquisition of Pensacola-based Peoples Home Health, a Medicare-certified home health provider serving Florida's Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties. The acquisition comes shortly after Covenant announced it would open a memory care center for Alzheimer's this fall in Pensacola.

The not-for-profit organization also recently launched a home

care program, adding private duty nursing and companion care to its hospice and palliative care services.

The U.S. Navy modified **Austal USA's** Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) block-buy contract to include an 11th ship, LCS 26. LCS 26 will be the 13th Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ship built by Austal.

Providence Health System announced a partnership to provide care through the Veterans Choice Program, giving veterans the choice to receive care at Providence locations throughout the region. To determine eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program, visit www.va.gov/opa/choiceact, or call 1-866-606-8198.

Well Done

The Original Oyster House received the TripAdvisor certificate of excellence award for its Gulf Shores and Mobile

Causeway locations. The award, honoring hospitality excellence, is given to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor.

Providence Hospital received the Get With The Guidelines – Heart Failure Gold Quality Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology.



Hughes



Buchanan Miller

University of Mobile's highest faculty and staff honors, the Megginson Awards, were presented to **Kenn Hughes** and **Pamela Buchanan Miller** at its annual year-end faculty-staff luncheon. Recipients were

nominated by letters from other faculty and staff members describing their character, ethics, accomplishments and contributions to UMobile. Hughes is director of instrumental studies in the center for performing arts, and Miller is director of faculty support and the quality enhancement program.

Springhill Medical Center medical staff elected the following officers for 2016-17 at its recent annual meeting: **Kristie Burch**, president; **Brooke Lenz**, vice president/president-elect; **M. Wail Hashimi**, secretary; and **Brian Sumrall**, member-at-large. The following committee chairmen also were appointed: **Matthew Barber**, surgery; **Brian Sumrall**, medicine; **Katelyn Braswell**, OB/GYN; **Steven Sprayberry**, pharmacy and therapeutics; **David Inge**, radiation safety; **Liston Jones**, utilization review/HIM; and **Michael Bindon**, emergency department.

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Cunningham

Bounds LLC was the only law firm in Alabama to receive the highest ranking possible – a “Band 1” ranking – in the practice area of “Litigation: Mainly Plaintiff.”

Five of the firm’s partners were also recognized in the rankings: **Robert T. Cunningham, Joseph M. Brown Jr., Gregory W. Breedlove, George W. Finkbohner III and David S. Cain Jr.**

Jimmy Wilson, president and founder of **Bay Wood Products Inc.**, was elected to a second three-year term



Wilson on the board of directors for the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association, the largest international organization of wood packaging professionals in the world.



Chapman, the owner and CEO of **Chapman Development Corp.**, to its board.

Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) welcomed **Charles E.**

Chapman, the

Hargrove Engineers + Constructors ranked No. 76 on *Engineering News-Record’s* 2016 Top 500 Design Firms list. The magazine’s annual national rankings are based on design revenue for architecture, engineering and environmental firms.

In recently released results, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ Five-Star Quality Rating System recognized **Infirmity HomeCare** with a four-star rating in quality. According to the data, the Mobile home health provider achieved the highest rating possible in the patient satisfaction category.

Lesley P.

Baker, a manager at **Russell Thompson Butler & Houston LLP**,



completed the requirements of the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants’ Leadership Academy-Class V. Baker earned bachelor’s degrees in finance and accounting from the University of South Alabama and certification in financial forensics from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The **Radcliff Schatzman Group** at **Morgan Stanley** financial services firm announced senior vice president/financial advisor **Christopher C. Schatzman** successfully completed the Institute of Family Wealth Management, achieving the designation of Family Wealth Advisor. Schatzman graduated from Spring Hill College with a bachelor’s degree in communication arts.

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.

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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 Emily Hatcher at 251-431-8619 or ehatcher@mobilechamber.com or Jackie Livingston at 251-431-8642 or jlivingston@mobilechamber.com. Also, find a membership directory at www.mobilechamber.com.

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