

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

AUGUST 2018

the businessVIEW



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Clarence Ball Named
Outstanding Entrepreneur

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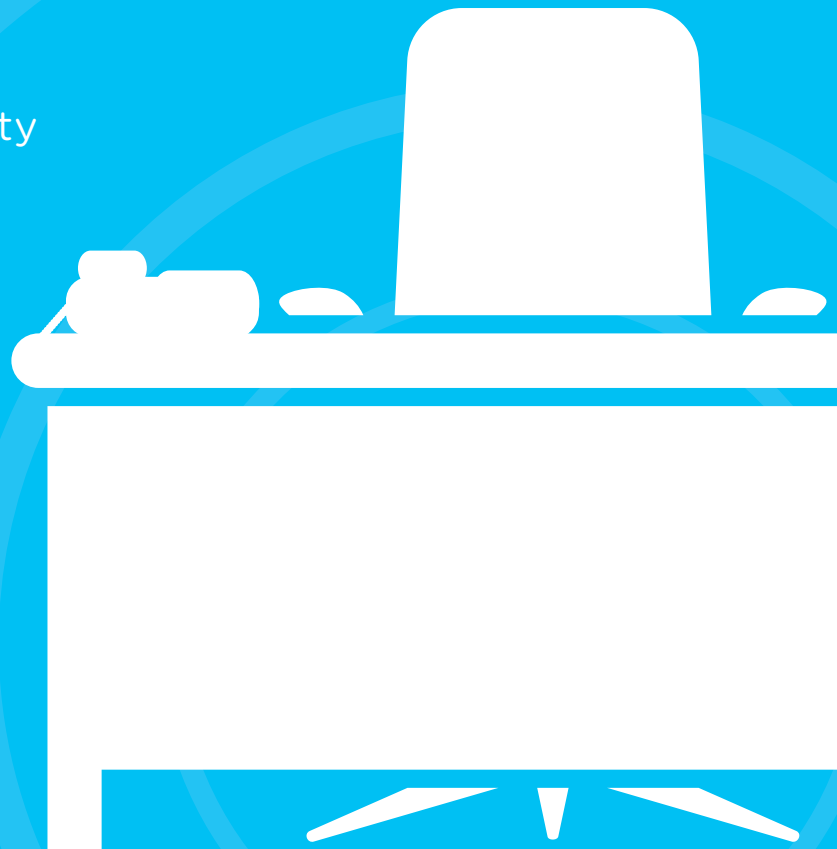
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From the Publisher - Bill Sisson

Talent Development is Key to Job Growth

Our community has had a tremendous run of job creation over the past number of years. From Austal to Airbus to AM/NS Calvert and Outokumpu to SSAB, the list goes on and on.

How do we continue to bring jobs to Mobile in various business sectors? One thing is for sure: There is no silver bullet. However, through our Partners for Growth economic development strategy, we have a solid pathway to capitalize on the sound economic development base that has been developed over the past decades.

Businesses we recruit to this area are looking for common items such as utility costs, incentives, building and land availability, transportation infrastructure, education, workforce and quality of life. Are we stronger in some and weaker in others? You bet. But, like all great Chambers of Commerce, we focus on our strengths



while working to improve on our weaknesses.

Nationwide, the biggest challenge all communities face is related to workforce. Communities that figure out talent development, both from within their communities and by successfully recruiting talented workers from outside their regions, will be the ones

that prosper in the future. While there is no easy answer, the thing our community can do collectively to help the most would be to invest more time and more resources into education and workforce development. Just imagine how site selectors would line up to bring more companies to Mobile if we had a large pool of trained workers ready and able to fill newly created jobs.

So what can we do? As business leaders, we can start by talking with our youth every chance we get about the importance of a strong work ethic, good communication skills, a positive attitude and the ability to accept and learn from mistakes and criticism. We need to do a better job helping our children identify career opportunities right here at home while in the K-12 system and beyond.

Let's never forget that we have talent right here in our own backyard. We just need to work together to bring it to harvest. An all-hands-on-deck approach to developing talent would bring more jobs to Mobile. Let's work together to develop it. It might just be the silver bullet after all.

ON THE COVER

The 2018 finalists for the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Year Award were staged at Joe Jefferson Players. Read more about Blue Fish, Harper Technologies and Lagniappe on pages 30-31, and the award event details on page 34.

Photo by Jeff Tesney.

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Publisher William B. Sisson
Executive Editor Leigh Perry-Herndon
Managing Editor Jennifer Jenkins
Copy Editor Michelle Irvin

Additional Writers and Editors
Mike Herndon, Ashley Horn,
Susan Rak-Blanchard and Carolyn Wilson

Printing Services: Interstate Printing/Direct Mail
Graphic Design: Wise Design Inc.
Advertising Account Executive: René Eiland
251-431-8635 reiland@mobilechamber.com



Airbus to Increase Production — More Jobs, More Planes

A lot can happen from Friday to Monday, and that certainly was the case in June at the Airbus Final Assembly Line in Mobile.

On Friday, June 8, after receiving all regulatory approvals, Airbus announced it was set to acquire a majority stake in the Bombardier C Series aircraft effective July 1. The Mobile Area Chamber worked this project since 2017, and the joint venture had Mobile buzzing with the news a second final assembly line (FAL) would be added here and create more than 400 jobs.

Three days later, Airbus celebrated the delivery of the first U.S.-produced A321 aircraft. It is also the first new engine option (NEO) aircraft produced in the United States. What makes the NEO stand out is it is

more fuel-efficient and quieter.

The Airbus and Canadian-based Bombardier partnership brings together two complementary product lines projected to drive 6,000 new aircraft orders over the next 20 years.

“Additional capacity has always been a goal of our economic development team,” said **David Rodgers**, vice president of economic development for the Mobile Area Chamber. “Since the initial Airbus FAL opened in 2015, more than 20 aerospace companies have located to Mobile. We’re looking forward to continuing to see additional investment here, as we work to grow our aerospace cluster.”

The partnership’s head office, primary assembly line and

related functions will be based in Mirabel, Québec.


Officials of both companies expect to see significant C Series production efficiencies by leveraging Airbus’ production ramp-up expertise. Airbus also brings to the table its global reach, scale, procurement organization and expertise in selling, marketing and producing the C Series – a state-of-the-art jet aircraft family in the 100- to 150-seat market.

“The strength of the entire Airbus organization will be behind the C Series,” said Airbus CEO **Tom Enders**. “Not only will that enable this outstanding aircraft to fulfill its market potential, but we are convinced the addition of the C Series to our overall aircraft product offering brings

significant value to Airbus, our customers and shareholders.”

“Airbus’ unmatched global scale, strong customer relationships and operational expertise are necessary ingredients for unleashing the full value of the aircraft,” said **Alain Bellemare**, Bombardier president and CEO.

“All of us at Airbus are excited to welcome the employees of the C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership into the extended Airbus team, and to welcome the C Series aircraft to Airbus’ product offerings beginning July 1,” said **Kristi Tucker**, spokesperson for Airbus. “It will also be exciting to see us grow further in Mobile.”

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

New Leaders Reception

In June, the Mobile Area Chamber hosted a reception to welcome new executives to the Mobile area who are either Chamber Partners for Growth investors, Board of Advisors members or nonprofits. Prior to the reception, a roundtable discussion was led by City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson, Mobile County Commission President Connie Hudson and Chamber President & CEO Bill Sisson.

Pictured here from left to right are: Stimpson, Hudson, Jill Chenoweth, United Way; Sisson; John Baker, Thompson Engineering; Jennie Campbell, The Stewart Lodges; Abe Harper, Harper Technologies; David Price, Arkema; Shellie Teague, Mobile Arts Council; Tim Last, Quincy Compressor; Kendall Wall, SMG Mobile Convention & Civic Centers; Jim Nagy, Mobile Arts & Sports Association/Reese’s Senior Bowl; Michele Rumpf, Mobile United; and Duncan Gillis, BBB Industries.



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Chamber Welcomes Canadian Delegation to Mobile

The Mobile Area Chamber co-hosted the 11th annual Southeastern United States – Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS-CP) with the Alabama Department of Commerce in June. Conference events took place at the Battle House Hotel and the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf Coast.

SEUS-CP is a strategic partnership between six Southeastern U.S. states and six member provinces from Canada, established in 2007 to enhance economic ties and encourage technological and scientific exchanges between the two regions.

The 2018 conference featured panel discussions focusing on transportation, energy, and trade

and investment; a leading expert on the impact of generational change and its impact on the workplace and marketplace, Cam Marston; and a high-energy Mardi Gras-themed gala dinner. With 240 registrants, over 300 business-to-business matchmaking appointments were made with the “anchor companies” and between

conference attendees. This year’s anchor companies were Alabama Power Co., Airbus; Austal USA; BL Harbert International; CGI Federal; Continental Motors; Kamtek (a division of Magna); Mercedes-Benz U.S. International; NASA; PowerSouth; Prism Systems Inc.; and Tennessee Valley Authority.



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Legal Imaging LLC: Mission Accomplished for Lawyers

Legal Imaging staff members, from left to right: front, John Kilpatrick and Max Reed; back, Michael Plattenburg, Elizabeth Garriz, Stephen Dolan and Kyle Stewart.

In the military, soldiers, airmen and sailors are taught to accomplish the mission and take care of their brother and sister servicemen and women in the process.

A 32-year veteran with multiple deployments, **John Kilpatrick** has the same goals with his business, **Legal Imaging LLC**, a full-service litigation support company providing turn-key, cost-effective solutions for attorneys.

"As a 100 percent veteran-owned business, everything we do is impacted by our military service," Kilpatrick said. "As military officers, we've been trained to ensure mission accomplishment while caring for those who serve with us. We take the same approach with our business. We always get the job done but we ensure our employees, clients and partners are well cared for along the way."

Legal Imaging is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

The company was founded in 1997, offering legal video and forensic photography services to attorneys and their clients in Mobile. Over the years, services have been added as demand for them has grown, from trial presentations and document-scanning services to computer forensics, electronic discovery and hosted review services.

"Most recently, with the significant cybersecurity threats and the regulatory requirements for attorneys to protect their clients' confidential information, we noticed a significant gap in information technology, cloud computing and phone services," Kilpatrick said, "so we've added those services with specific focus on the unique needs of attorneys and their clients."

Kilpatrick's military experience has led to a focus in his company on people and processes, making sure his employees have the best training available and ensuring adherence to stringent policy and procedural guidelines to achieve predictable, consistent results. Legal Imaging has grown rapidly since his last deployment with the Army Reserve in 2016, adding four positions to bring his staff to six and tripling revenue in less than two years.

His military background also led Kilpatrick to seek out qualified veterans to hire, and to help others by founding Veterans Recovery Services, which is currently building a residential treatment facility for veterans in Mobile to fill a critical gap in mental health services.

Kilpatrick says technology will continue to evolve in the

legal profession, as in practically every other line of work, and those who embrace it will thrive. Legal Imaging is here to help them.

"Like many industries, we'll continue to see a migration to cloud computing and the use of technology to lower litigation costs," Kilpatrick says. "Our approach has stayed consistent. We meet each client where they are and help them develop a plan to get them where they want to be."

"There is no technological replacement for good lawyering. Good technology, properly implemented, can make good lawyers better and more productive."

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The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce provides Board of Advisors members an avenue to give valuable input on critical chamber and community issues; facilitates peer-to-peer interaction; and delivers a high level of recognition.

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

For information on joining the board of advisors, contact Shelly Mattingly at 251-431-8655 or smattingly@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.

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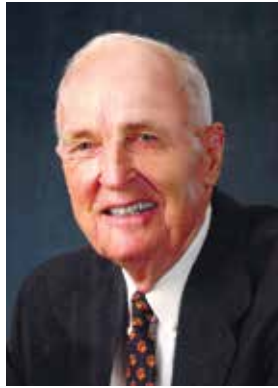
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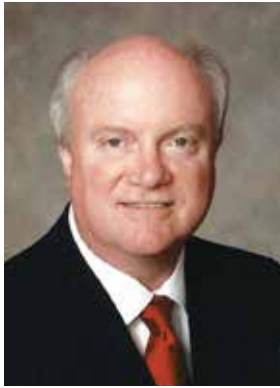
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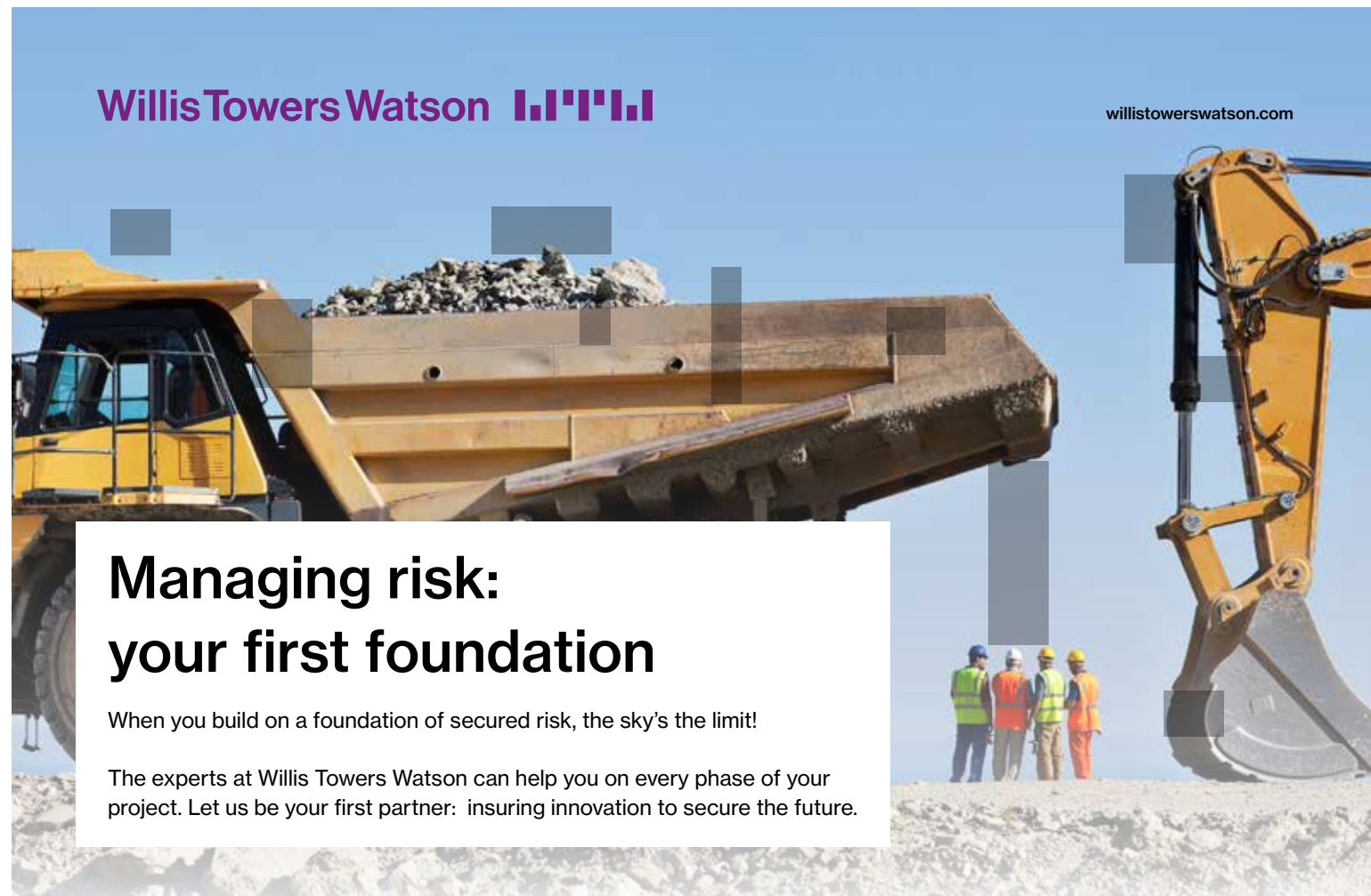
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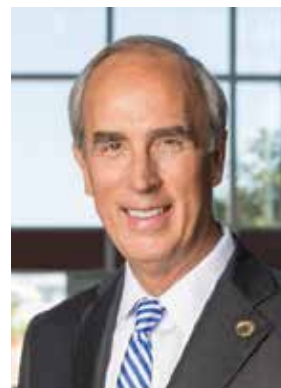
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Not Pictured

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Math and Science*

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d/b/a McDonald's
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Lucian Lott
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Thursday, August 23

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center Exhibit Hall

*\$5 Admission (with business card)
or Pick Up a Free Pass at the Chamber*

2018 Business EXPO Exhibitors *(as of 06/25/2018)*

To find out if space remains to promote your company, call 251-431-8649.

ADECA State Small Business
Credit Initiative
AHL Properties & Corporate Housing
Alabama Baptist Children's Home
Alabama Career Center
Alabama Coastal Foundation
Alabama Department of Revenue
Alabama Dept. of Commerce,
Office of Small Business Advocacy
Alabama Productivity Center
Alabama Small Business Development
Center
AltaPointe Health
American WeatherStar
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Arrow Exterminators Inc.
Baron's Inc.
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South Alabama
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama
Buffalo Rock-Pepsi
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Cruise Planners
Delta Disaster Services
Dick Russell's Bar-B-Q
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EcoView Windows, Doors and Siding
Elegant Knights Limo & Party Bus
Express Employment Professionals
Faulkner University
FCS
Feeding the Gulf Coast
Felder Services
Fit Recruiting
Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama
Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center
Half Shell Oyster House
Harvey and Thomas Orthodontics
HeroMan Services Plant Co. LLC
Hilton Garden Inn Orange Beach
Hub Enterprises Inc.
iCater Weddings & Events LLC
iHeartMEDIA
Island House Hotel

Junior Achievement of Mobile
Junior League of Mobile
JWL
KidsStreet Urgent Care
Lagniappe
Lamar Advertising Co. of Mobile
LiftFund
Marriott Hotels Eastern Shore
Mediacom Business
Mobile Mask
Mobile Memorial Gardens
Mobile Popcorn & Party Rentals
Mobile SPCA
Mobile United
NAIFA - Mobile
Naman's Catering
Newk's Eatery
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PNC Bank
Publix Supermarket at Sunset Point
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5 Reasons to Exhibit at Business Expo

If you're a Mobile Area Chamber member, chances are one reason you joined was to gain exposure for your company. On Thursday, Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center Exhibit Hall, 200-plus companies will participate in Business Expo, one of the largest avenues the Chamber offers for promoting your company.

A few booths are still available for the 2018 show. If you're interested in one, contact **Dawn Rencher**, the Chamber's director of member relations, at **251-431-8649**.

If you're not sure about the \$250 investment to host a booth, here are five reasons Rencher believes Business Expo is important to your company's marketing activities:

1. Showcasing yourself and your products. People do business with people they know. Expo is a powerful platform to stand out from the crowd, meet people face to face and tell them about your company and its benefits.

2. Customer relations. Whether you're looking to expand your customer base or build stronger relationships with existing companies, Business Expo will draw 2,000-plus attendees. Research shows that trade shows produce qualified leads, and sometimes it's with the person in the booth next to yours.

3. Networking. If you're attending or exhibiting, you'll see community and industry leaders at Business Expo. Shaking hands with a few of them could earn you a connection that could lead to more business.

4. Measuring the competition. Everyone does it. Knowing your competition is a strategic move every entrepreneur should employ. In a friendly environment, you'll be able to observe those in your industry as well as others. How are they different? What can you learn from them?

5. Generating leads. There's a difference between collecting business cards and finding a quality lead. At Business Expo, you can experiment with different sales techniques, gaining immediate feedback through responses and body language on what works and what doesn't. You'll have a sea of representatives from the business community to attract to your booth. The key here is follow-up, Rencher says. Prove your tenacity beyond the Expo with personalized phone calls or emails to set a time to visit with them one-on-one and keep your business in the forefront of their decision-making.

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2018 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Blue Fish
Marcus Neto

Harper Technologies
Carl Harper

Lagniappe
Ashley Trice

Harper Technologies
Abe Harper Jr.

Lagniappe
Rob Holbert

Blue Fish, Harper Technologies and Lagniappe are located within a mile of each other, employ a combined total of 25 people and are making a significant impact on Mobile's economy.

These three outstanding companies were selected by a

panel of judges as finalists for the Mobile Area Chamber's 2018 Small Business of the Year award. This year's winner will be announced at an awards breakfast on Thursday, Aug. 23 at 8 a.m. at the Mobile Convention Center. (See page 34 for more information.)

The judges used five primary criteria –

- staying power (defined as proof of growth, expansion, reputation and good business practices);
- economic impact, evidence of job creation and revenue and profit;

- innovation illustrating creativity and ingenuity;
- community contribution, either financially or encouraging/allowing employees to participate; and strategy, future growth plans with specific and measureable goals.

Blue Fish

Chief: Marcus Neto, owner/creative director

Founded: 2008

Number of employees: 6

Address: 412 Dauphin St.

Blue Fish began 10 years ago as an advertising agency specializing in branding and digital advertising. Today, the company serves clients from New York to California.

Recently, the agency added content strategy, social media management, email marketing and video production services to its menu of offerings.

"Blue Fish has taken the time to consider the needs of their clients by putting into practice their advice," said one of the judges. And in the words of **Marcus Neto**, "We eat our own dog food." Examples of that practice include the company's focus on educational content via webcasts and podcasts.

"Today's advertising world is highly technical. We are consultants that understand the creative side of business," said Neto.

Harper Technologies

Chiefs: Abe Harper Jr., president and Carl Harper, vice president

Founded: 2004

Number of employees: 7

Address: 50 N. Broad St.

Harper Technologies is a comprehensive IT support and consulting firm founded in 2004. In the beginning, residential clients were the company's primary customers, but the focus was quickly expanded. Now, the firm serves small- to medium-sized businesses, nonprofits and local government entities throughout Mobile and Baldwin counties, as well as surrounding counties in neighboring states.

One thing the judges thought made the Harper Technologies team unique was how it takes time to learn about customer needs in the client's natural working environment.

Brothers Abe and Carl Harper believe the company's future is tied to customer feedback, and the technology company builds relationships through asking clients to evaluate accuracy, efficiency and customer service.

The Harpers purchased and renovated a building at the corner of Broad and St. Francis streets in 2016.

Lagniappe

Principals: Ashley Trice, co-publisher/editor and Rob Holbert, co-publisher

Founded: 2002

Number of employees: 12

Address: 704 Government St.

Ashley Trice and **Rob Holbert** describe *Lagniappe* as an alternative newspaper. When it first launched in 2002, featuring arts and entertainment news, 5,000 copies of the publication were printed every two weeks. The paper has since expanded into investigative reporting, covering local municipalities and other topics, and in 2014 began publishing weekly, with a current circulation of 30,000 copies. *Lagniappe* is dropped in 1,500 area locations and offers home delivery.

Readership continues to increase – in print and online, and according to the Neilson/Scarborough media survey, reaches 80,000 readers weekly and close to 50,000 online readers per month.

"There is still a lot of room to grow," said Holbert.

In 2017, the company bought a building of its own in downtown Mobile on Government Street. The recent investment and continued growth prove, regardless of what some media experts say, print is not dead, according to Holbert.

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Chamber Honors Clarence Ball as Outstanding Entrepreneur

As a young man from New Braunfels, Texas, **Clarence Ball** started out as a high school standout defensive back with a promising athletic future. He headed to Texas A&I University on a football scholarship. A chop block he never saw coming ended that dream, only to make way for a new one.

Following that life-changing injury, Ball transferred to Southwest Texas University, where a gerontology article posted on a bulletin board helped him find a new plan for his future. He finished with a bachelor's degree in sociology and went on to North Texas State University, earning a master's degree in long term care administration.

Ball became the first black administrative intern with Wesley Woods Retirement in Atlanta, and was an associate research specialist at Emory University's Center for Research in Social Change, before moving to Tuskegee as a licensed nursing home administrator in 1974.

He found he had a passion for caring for the elderly and the poor, and after managing the facility for several years, took a leap of faith to create Ball HealthCare Services.

Twin Oaks in Toulminville was his first purchase in 1983. Ball, president and CEO of Ball HealthCare Services Inc., is the Mobile Area Chamber's 2018 Outstanding Entrepreneur. The Chamber will honor Ball, along with the three Small Business of the Year finalists, at a breakfast on Thursday, Aug. 23.

At the time Twin Oaks had a provisional license, meaning there was a lot of work needed to turn it around, and he did so within a couple of years. Ball found he had a knack for seeing beyond a rough exterior to the potential. That vision became his strategy – to look for



underperforming senior care facilities and go in with good management, upgrade patient care and invest in the physical facility.

His quest to treat the whole patient led to several other endeavors. Thirty five years later, Ball HealthCare has under its wings 10 skilled nursing homes in Alabama and one in Florida, Hi-Tech Medical

Services, Nursing Home Physician Services and Medchoice Pharmacy Services. To complement the company's skilled nursing services, Ball has constructed 11 independent living apartment complexes to serve the elderly, handicapped and low- to moderate-income families. Ball is also involved with developing another 240 luxury apartments.

Whatever the supply chain path identified as his patients' needs, he created.

Business Alabama ranked Ball HealthCare as the fifth largest in the state, based on its 1,007 beds and 1,300 employees.

"Clarence Ball exemplifies the spirit of entrepreneurship. He's put in hard work, become an expert in his field, and is a team builder, risk taker and a visionary with the fortitude to overcome obstacles," says **Bill Sisson**, president and CEO of the Mobile Area Chamber.

"I may be the one receiving the award, but I know the shoulders I stand on," says Ball.

Grateful for the many people who he said took an interest and helped him, Ball strives to give back to others.

The company sponsors scholarships for employees and for those who attend Friendship Missionary Baptist Church with him. There are also scholarships set up at his alma mater and the University of South Alabama. Ball also strives to make sure high school seniors know the jobs available in healthcare and offers some of them part-time jobs.

He was an original board member of the Alabama State Port Authority and served on several other state boards. Ball is a former chairman of the Mobile Housing Board, YMCA, Mobile Area Chamber and Salvation Army, to name a few. He recently joined the University of South Alabama's Mitchell College of Business Executive Advisory Council.

Ball is an early riser with a relentless work ethic, and is quick to credit his parents for that, and quotes them, saying, "Work hard. Be honest. Keep the faith and you'll have a chance to be successful."

AMBASSADOR of the month



Photo by Jeff Tesney

"I love being an ambassador because it allows me to meet with local businesses and interact with the community," says **Nichelle Evans-Pugh**, who has volunteered as a Mobile Area Chamber ambassador for three years. She was selected as Ambassador of the Month. Evans-Pugh works as a sales manager for five hotel properties of McKibbin Hospitality in Mobile, including Hampton Inn and Suites at Airport I-65, Courtyard by Marriott, Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott and Residence Inn by Marriott.

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.



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8 COFFEE WITH THE CHAMBER

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

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

Where: Parkside at Cottage Hill, 3220 Cottage Hill Rd.

Contact: Elizabeth Nelson at 251-431-8617 or enelson@mobilechamber.com

No charge to attend and reservations are not needed.
Free parking.

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9 GULF COAST TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL LUNCH

A bimonthly lunch hosted by the Gulf Coast Technology Council.

When: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: USA Technology & Research Park,
739 N. University Blvd., Bldg. 1

Topic: "Cyber Liability/Insurance Panel Discussion"

Moderator: Glenda Snodgrass, The Net Effect

Panelists: Yenu Wodajo, Willis Towers Watson;
Bo Mattei, Thames Batre; Jim Hlavin, FBI; Tim Hasser,
Hasser Enterprises

Cost: \$20 for Chamber members/\$25 for potential members/
Free for students and includes lunch

Contact: Kayley Edwards at 251-431-8629
or kedwards@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required. Cancellations after Aug. 2 not
reimbursed to cover lunch cost.

Sponsor: Willis Towers Watson

21 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE *Members Only

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

When: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. (note special time)

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Mayor Sandy Stimpson

Topic: City of Mobile Update

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

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

Sponsor:



23 SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS BREAKFAST

Join local and regional business and community leaders and
elected officials at the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business
Awards breakfast, kicking off the annual Business Expo.

When: 8 to 9:30 a.m.

Where: Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center

Cost: \$30 for Chamber members/\$35 for potential members

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

Reservations must be made by Aug. 16.

Sponsors:



AUGUST 2018

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

23 BUSINESS EXPO

See page 30 for more details. New hours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Free passes available at the Chamber.

29 WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE *Members Only

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

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.,
Tricentennial Room

Speakers: Panel discussion

Topic: "Social Media Impact on Corporate Privacy
and Security"

Contact: Carolyn Golson at 251-431-8622 or
cgolson@mobilechamber.com

No charge, but RSVP requested.

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Who's New

John Peavy was named the **City of Mobile** senior director of public works and interim executive director of public works. He previously served as president of Peavy Construction Co. and holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of South Alabama.



Vince W. Cave Jr. as a commercial sales and leasing agent. Cave earned a bachelor's degree in commerce and business administration from The University of Alabama.



Coastal Alabama Partnership (CAP) added **Andrew Levert** to its team as vice president of policy and project initiatives. Levert will help coordinate CAP's five regional program initiatives in policy and planning, insurance, tourism, seafood and infrastructure.



University of Mobile (UM) named **Scott Tindle** director of athletic partnerships and innovation. Tindle is the entrepreneur behind Gulf Coast Ducks and The Fort of Colonial Mobile. A graduate of the Disney Institute, he earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Auburn University and a juris doctorate degree from The University of Alabama School of Law.

NAI Mobile hired **Vince W. Cave Jr.** as a commercial sales and leasing agent. Cave earned a bachelor's

Coastal Alabama Partnership (CAP) added **Andrew Levert** to its team as vice president of



Taylor

In other news, **Josh Taylor** was named assistant vice president for marketing creative services at UM. Taylor received a bachelor's degree in theology from University of Mobile and a master's degree in pastoral ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Matthew Carnes MD joined **Infirmary Health Diagnostic and Medical Clinic** as a



Carnes

gastroenterologist. Carnes received a medical degree from the University of South Alabama, and completed his residency in internal medicine and fellowship in gastroenterology and hepatology at the Medical University of South Carolina.



Walker



Walters



Baxter



Wilder

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Cooper & Co. Inc. Realtors added new associates **Nicole Walker, Denise Walters, Alex Baxter, Miranda Grimes Wilder and Melissa Grimes Marks.**

The **Alabama School of Mathematics and Science (ASMS)** school board appointed **Dr. John Hoyle**, the school's vice president, as interim president.



Hoyle

Hoyle has a doctorate degree in instructional design and development from the University of South Alabama, a master's degree in education from the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans and a bachelor's degree in mass communication and political science from Principia College in Elmhurst, Ill.



Hunt



Schraeder

United Way of Southwest Alabama promoted **Sherri Hunt** to vice president of resource development and named **Leslie C. Schraeder** marketing specialist and American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) labor engagement liaison. Hunt previously served as manager of donor relations. She graduated

from Talladega College with a bachelor's degree in biology, earned a master's in business administration from St. John's University's Tobin School of Business, and has a graduate certification in human resource management from New York University. Schraeder recently served as the AFL-CIO community services liaison. She is a graduate of Spring Hill College with a bachelor's degree in history.

Neel-Schaffer Inc. announced **Lance Taylor** joined the firm and will manage its Alabama



Taylor

operations. Taylor, who recently retired from the Alabama Department of Transportation, received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from The University of Alabama at Huntsville and is accredited as a professional engineer.



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Business Endeavors



Chemical engineer **Ellie Rome** officially launched her full-time health coaching business, **Mindfulbellie Inc.** Rome, also a certified health coach, helps clients transform their health by losing weight through personalized, sustainable routines. For information, call or text 281-384-2287 or visit www.mindfulbellie.com.



The **Park at OWA** recently unveiled its newest addition, "Wacky Waters," a 9,500-square-foot splash pad with a 20-foot-tall dump bucket, a towering coconut tree showering guests with 54 gallons of water per minute and more. The park also added an air-conditioned quick-serve dining area, shaded resting areas throughout the park, misters, fans and sunshades above several of the rides.

Well Done

Merchants

Bank announced **Elizabeth Bedwell Bailey**

graduated from the American Bankers Association's (ABA) Bank Marketing School. Bailey is a graduate of The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in communication and information sciences. She is also a graduate of Alabama Banking School and earned the ABA's Advanced Bank Marketing Certificate.



Bailey

CorroMetrics Services Inc. announced it is an IMPACT PLUS program/navigator. IMPACT PLUS is a new corrosion management tool developed by the NACE International Institute to advance corrosion management performance across all industry sectors.



Evans



Cox



Wilson



Clayton

During Nurses Week, **Springhill Medical Center** recognized employees nominated by co-workers for their outstanding dedication and support. **Valetta Evans RN** received the 2018 Nurse of the Year Award; **Caleb Cox RN** was selected Rookie of the Year; **Abby Wilson MSN, RN** earned Employee of the Year; and **Gloria Clayton** was recognized as Manager of the Year.



Providence Hospital announced the winners of its 2018 Annual Clinical Nursing Excellence Awards during Nurses Week: leadership, **Cynthia Kinney**; medical-surgical, **Mesha McDonald**; critical care, **Kathleen Boren**; telemetry, **Elizabeth Mosley**; maternal-child, **Rachael Sellers**; perioperative, **Christina Barnes**; emergency department, **Megan Byers-Fowler**; charge nurse, **Lisa Davis**; and nursing support, **Traci Glover**. Winners were nominated by their peers based on patient care and teamwork.



Taylor

In other news, the hospital's labor and delivery registered nurse **Candis Taylor** received the first DAISY award for extraordinary nurses. The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes by members of his family.

The **University of Mobile's** highest faculty and staff honors, the Megginson Awards, were presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to the university in the areas of teaching, research and service. The William A. Megginson Teaching Award was presented to **Dr. Jamie O'Mally**, assistant professor of psychology. The Emma Frances Megginson Service Award was presented to **Dr. Debra Chancey**, assistant vice president for accreditation and the office for academic affairs. The 2018 Mitford Ray Megginson Research Award was presented to **Dr. Michael Robinson**, assistant professor of history.

Additionally, the 2018 Faculty Engagement Award was presented to **Nick Cillo**, assistant professor of finance and management.



Bell

Adams and Reese Mobile special counsel **Raymond L. Bell Jr.** was elected to a statewide at-large position

on the Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners (BBC). Bell is a graduate of the University of Montevallo with a bachelor's degree in political science. He earned a law degree from Faulkner University. He has been mentioned among the *Best Lawyers in America* by *Best Lawyers*.

In other news, the firm was included in the BTI Consulting Group's *Brand Elite 2018: Client Perceptions of the Best-Branded Law Firms*.



Wilkins Miller LLC received the 2017 Alabama Performance Excellence Award for leadership, strategic planning, attention to customers and stakeholders, market focus, process management and analysis of organizational performance.



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Smart Home America received the annual \$100,000 Travelers Excellence in Community Resilience Award presented by the Travelers Institute and the Travelers Foundation for its leadership in building stronger communities using a ground-up approach based on partnership, education and collaboration across both public and private sectors.

✱

The Edison Electric Institute recently presented **Alabama Power** with the association's special 2018 Emergency Assistance Award for helping restore power to Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria, a Category 4 hurricane that made landfall in Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, 2017, damaging at least 80 percent of the island's energy grid and leaving all island residents without power.

✱

Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway Association elected the following new board members and officers, Chamber members include: **Charlie Haun**, chairman; **David Carroll**, vice chairman; **Tom Leatherbury**, secretary/treasurer; and **Larry Merrihew**, president. Newly elected board members include **John Murray III**, **David Goin**, **Wood Neely**, **Melissa Holley** and **David Rodgers**.

✱

WKRG News 5 was named "Outstanding News Operation" by the 2018 Alabama Associated Press Broadcasters at the Alabama AP Media Editors Awards Banquet in June. It is the top award given to broadcast news organizations by the Alabama Associated Press. WKRG won a total of 13 awards, with nine of them being 1st place.

Community News

Wind Creek Casino & Hotel is donating \$27,218 to **Feeding the Gulf Coast** for disaster relief as well as disaster boxes in preparation for Atlantic hurricane season, which started in June.

BASF Corp. awarded \$30,000 in college scholarships to four local students to attend Coastal Alabama Community College (CACC) and BASF is also providing them with internship positions. **Gracie Etheredge**, a graduate of Leroy High School, and **Mason Holston** of Millry High School, each received a \$10,000 scholarship toward their studies in chemical process technology. **William Phillips** and **Donovan Smith** received approximately \$5,000 each to support their second year in the chemical process technology program at CACC.

✱

Mobile Area Education Foundation received a grant from Lumina Foundation and was named among 24 cities as a Talent Hub designation. Each talent hub focuses on one of three populations critical to raising the nation's overall post-high school attainment level to 60 percent of working-age adults by 2025. Cities earn this designation by meeting rigorous standards for creating environments that attract, retain and cultivate talent. Lumina Foundation is an independent private foundation committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

Members are our greatest asset. Please show your support through the patronage of these businesses.

50 years

BMW of Mobile

30 years

Seibert Baxter & Co. PC
Threaded Fasteners Inc.

20 years

Bay Area Contracting Inc.
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The First, A National Banking Association
TKO Offshore Contractors LLC
University Oaks Office
Von's Bistro
Worthington Industries
Young Transport
Zarzour Companies Commercial Real Estate Services

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 203 are accredited, and of those only 103 have achieved five-star distinction. The Mobile Area Chamber has been accredited by the U.S. Chamber since the designation's inception more than 60 years ago.



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

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