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AUGUST 2022



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MOBILE CHAMBER

AUGUST 2022

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## 16 ON THE COVER:

Bradley Byrne is the Mobile Chamber's president and CEO. Here he is with his family pictured from left to right: his son Colin, his wife Rebecca, his granddaughter Ann Roberts, daughter-in-law Carolyn, grandson MacGuire and son Patrick. Not pictured are his daughters Kathleen and Laura. Read more on page 16. Photo by Chad Riley.



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## ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER:

## WELCOME TO THE NEW MOBILE CHAMBER PRESIDENT AND CEO

Matt White, Mobile Chamber Board Chair

It is with great pleasure we announce former Congressman Bradley Byrne has been named the president and CEO of the Mobile Chamber.

Bradley will lead the Mobile Chamber's 1,800-plus members in advancing its mission of aggressively championing free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of southwest Alabama.

Following Bill Sisson's resignation last fall, we formed a 10-member search team comprised of former Chamber chairs as well as area elected officials and business leaders and conducted an extensive, nationwide search. Terry Harbin, the immediate past chair of the

Chamber, led the search committee. Out of 67 applicants, the team unanimously recommended Bradley for the position of president and CEO.

As you know, Bob Chappelle has been serving as interim president and resumed his role as chief operating officer. On behalf of the board of directors, I extend our sincere appreciation for his efforts during the seven-month search.

It's a bright new day for the Chamber, and I know you'll share in my excitement for Bradley stepping into this role. He is precisely the leader the Mobile Chamber needs, and he has all the tools needed to support the business growth that will



# AIRBUS ANNOUNCES NEW ASSEMBLY LINE AND 1,000 NEW JOBS



*The Airbus announcement was made at Bishop State Community College alongside the latest class of FlightPath9, an ongoing recruiting effort to train and educate local students with the skills needed to work in the Airbus manufacturing facility.*

Airbus announced a third final assembly line will be built at the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley, as the airplane manufacturer ramps up production in Mobile to 20 planes per month.

The new A320 final assembly line (FAL) will create 1,000 new jobs.

“The fact that Mobile will lead our unprecedented global production rate increase in the coming years is a tribute to the world-class labor force in Alabama,” said **C. Jeffrey Knittel**, chairman and CEO of Airbus Americas. “I’m so proud of our Mobile employees for proving through years of hard work what Alabama is capable of, and I’m also immensely grateful to state leadership for making Alabama such a great place to invest and do business.”

Airbus will break ground on the 350,000-square-foot facility in the first half of 2023, with planes slated to roll off the new final assembly line in the second quarter of 2025. The expansion will also include a new paint shop and major modifications to its existing hangar.

“It’s wonderful to see Airbus continue to grow its only U.S. airliner manufacturing operation with another expansion in Mobile,” said **Gov. Kay Ivey**. “This growth is made possible

by the company’s skilled workforce in Alabama and our commitment to developing a pipeline of future aerospace workers.”

Airbus produced the first Alabama-built A320 aircraft in 2015, and it launched production of the A220 single-aisle passenger jet in Mobile in 2019, with a new assembly line specifically for the A220 opening the next year.

Airbus has invested more than \$1 billion in its Alabama manufacturing facility. **Greg Canfield**, secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce, said the state’s aerospace/aviation industry is primed for growth.

“Aerospace industry growth continues to be a high-value opportunity for Alabama, not only in terms of capital investment but also in job creation,” he said. “There are a lot of exciting things going in aerospace and aviation in the state, and we’re seeing that today with the expansion at Airbus.”

“Mobile is quickly becoming a global epicenter for the aerospace industry, and the addition of a third final assembly line in Mobile is a testament to our area’s workforce,” said **David Rodgers**, vice president of economic development at the Mobile Chamber.

# AUSTAL AWARDED \$230.5M U.S. NAVY CONTRACT



Photo courtesy Austal USA

Austal USA announced it was awarded a \$230.5 million contract for the detail design and construction of EPF 16, the Navy's newest Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) ship.

Having already successfully delivered 12 EPFs on schedule and on budget, Austal has three additional EPFs currently under construction.

EPFs have operational capabilities to conduct a variety of missions, including humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, maritime security, surveillance, command and control and counter-narcotics missions.

"Like the previously delivered EPFs, EPF 16 will benefit from the serial production of this program, resulting not only in a world-class ship but also providing assurance to the U.S. Navy that capability will be delivered on budget and on schedule," said Austal USA President **Rusty Murdaugh**. "Our reputation for delivering quality is a direct reflection of the commitment and dedication of our talented shipbuilders and suppliers."

EPF 16 will be the third ship constructed in the Flight II configuration. Flight II ships will enhance the original capabilities of the Spearhead class through incorporation of reconfigurable spaces for operating rooms and postsurgical recovery efforts. Combined with the ship's flight deck, which is capable of landing V-22 aircraft, Flight II ships provide versatility.

Construction efforts on EPF 16 are expected to commence later this year, with delivery projected for 2025. Austal USA is currently under contract to build additional EPFs, the Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and the Navajo-class Towing, Salvage and Rescue ships (T-ATS) and is supporting Navy unmanned vessel programs leveraging its advanced machinery control system.





# APM TERMINALS TO EXPAND CAPACITY AT CONTAINER TERMINAL

APM Terminals and the Alabama Port Authority have signed an agreement to add 32 acres to the current 134-acre container terminal yard to keep pace with future demand. The expansion will bring the facility's annual throughput capacity to one million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) and will allow the terminal to handle cargo containers from larger ships (14,000 TEU ships).

The announcement includes plans for an expansion of the terminal yard adding approximately 80 new jobs with an average annual salary of \$143,000. The expansion also includes adding two new super post-Panamax ship-to-shore cranes (handling vessels of about 22 or more containers wide) and related support equipment to complement the current four cranes.

The \$104 million terminal expansion will begin later this year. The first 19 acres are expected to be completed in 2024, and the remaining 13 acres by early 2025.

"APM Terminals is extremely excited by this next step," said **Brian Harold**, managing director of APM Terminals Mobile. "This is our third expansion in six years, which underscores the high level of demand by the shipping community to utilize the Mobile gateway. We have high growth aspirations for our Mobile facility,

and this next infrastructure improvement will help ensure that we meet those expectations in full."

"We have a great partner in APM Terminals and incredible community support to further world-class infrastructure for our carriers and shippers," said **John C. Driscoll**, director and chief executive officer of the Alabama Port Authority. "This added capacity will allow our port to keep pace with demand and maintain fluidity and service for our customers."

According to APM Terminals, container volumes through the port in April 2022 showed a 39.7 percent increase over April 2021 volumes. The port's intermodal container transfer facility posted 112.6 percent growth during the same period. Refrigerated cargo also maintained its double-digit growth, posting a 57.9 percent gain over the same period.

"This is great news for the future of economic development in our region," said Mobile Chamber Vice President of Economic Development **David Rodgers**. "Additional capacity at the port makes Mobile even more attractive to site selectors considering our area for future growth."



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# DISTRIBUTED LEDGER BRINGS BITCOIN MINING TO ALABAMA AND MOBILE

Distributed Ledger Inc. (DLI), a blockchain and cryptocurrency service provider, announced Bitcoin mining is coming to the City of Mobile, in partnership with the GulfQuest Maritime Museum Board, in the form of a new, sustainable revenue source poised to fuel growth for the next decade.

GulfQuest plays an integral role in portraying city and state history, while keeping its eyes on the area's maritime industry's competitive growth. Maersk Shipping, the world's largest container shipper, already has 50 percent of all containers globally on its dynamic TradeLens Blockchain.

DLI is using a modified shipping container to house 100 of Bitmain's Antminer S19s, all of which will be fully air-cooled on-site. These machines will mine Bitcoin around the clock as DLI lays the groundwork for government funding and subsequent infrastructure funded through crypto mining revenue.

"The high-tech revenue source of Bitcoin mining is tied to the education, adoption and growth of the next level of encrypted and secure growth of the internet, designed to provide a dramatic time and cost savings and a higher level of security for the global maritime industry," said former City of Mobile Mayor **Mike Dow**, the current executive director of the GulfQuest Board.

"We couldn't be more excited at the opportunity to bring blockchain technology and Bitcoin to the state of Alabama and, more importantly, the great city of Mobile," said **Mike Francis**, CEO of DLI. "Our goal at DLI is simple: help companies and institutions with the understanding, accumulation and usage of cryptocurrency."



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# MASTER BOAT BUILDERS DELIVERS HYBRID TUG

Master Boat Builders Inc. announced it delivered Spartan, an electric-hybrid tugboat, to Seabulk Inc., a British Columbia company.

“The Spartan is the latest addition to our fleet and constitutes the first of two hybrid, diesel-electric vessels commissioned from Master Boat Builders,” said **Daniel Thorogood**, chief executive officer of Seabulk. “She is representative of their advanced workmanship and ability to deliver modern, cutting-edge marine technology. We look forward to continuing to deliver service excellence and offering our customers a more sustainable towing solution.”

“As the maritime industry continues to evolve and modernize its fleet, Master Boat Builders is proud to deliver this hybrid tugboat, which will serve as the most efficient technologically advanced tug operating in the U.S.,” said **Garrett Rice**, president of Master Boat Builders. “Spartan is the latest in a series of innovative and alternative-powered work boats that we are constructing and that we will continue to deliver as demand in this market expands.”

Spartan was designed by Robert Allan Naval Architects & Marine Engineers. The tug is built to meet United States

Coast Guard regulations and is classed through the American Bureau of Shipping, including escort notation. The vessel has an overall length of 98 feet, beam of 43 feet, and bollard pull of 90 tons. The integrated hybrid propulsion system was provided by Thompson Tractor and includes two EPA Tier 4 certified Caterpillar 3512E main engines, each producing 2,550 horsepower, and two Berg MTA 628 azimuth thrusters, three Caterpillar generators and two ABB propulsion motors and associated variable frequency drives.

Berg’s hybrid electric propulsion system includes high levels of redundancy for safety as well as the ability to switch seamlessly between operating modes with the push of a button. A vessel can run on main engines only, gensets (engine-generator set) only, or a combination of the two, optimizing energy use across the entire operating profile.

“This has been a landmark delivery for Master Boat Builders in next-generation tug construction, and a testament to the value of teamwork,” said Rice. “The approach was collaborative throughout the design, engineering, and building phases and we look forward to completing work on the second of these innovative Seabulk tugboats later this year.”





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## **WELCOME MICHAEL BARNETT, JR.**

We are proud to announce that Michael Barnett, Jr. has joined our firm after more than a decade in the financial services industry.

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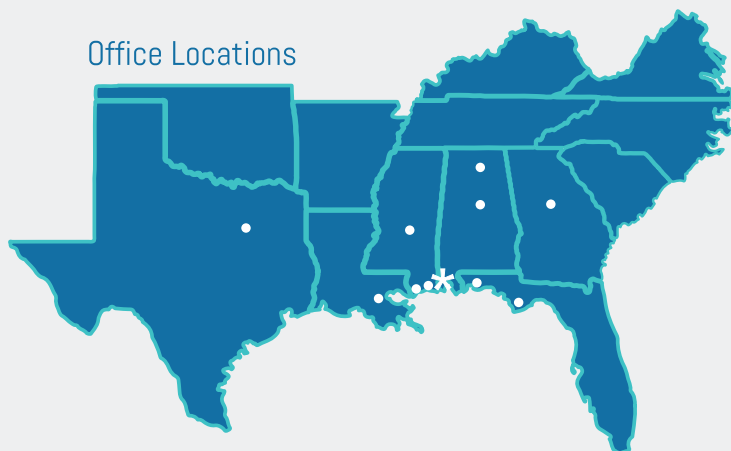
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# BRADLEY BYRNE NAMED MOBILE CHAMBER PRESIDENT AND CEO

**Bradley Byrne** is no stranger to the Mobile Chamber and its mission to be a leading catalyst for economic expansion in the Mobile area. In fact, he credits his first exposure to the Chamber with igniting his passion for public service. Now, three decades later, his career has come full circle and brought him back to the Chamber as its new president and CEO.

"I first got involved with the Chamber in the late '80s at the encouragement of former Congressman Jack Edwards," said Byrne. "I was working as a lawyer and had not thought to get involved until I spoke to him. I didn't think he knew who I was, but he eventually became my mentor."

Byrne volunteered to serve on the Chamber's Education Committee, whose mission was to help improve Mobile County Public Schools. He ended up chairing the committee. "I believe this involvement led me to want to run for the Alabama State Board of Education, then run for Alabama State Senate, then serve as chancellor of the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education and then Congress. The leadership skills I learned from working with the Chamber seemed a natural progression as I watched the Chamber be the driving force for improvements in Mobile."

Another way Byrne was involved with the Chamber was through its Leaders Exchange trips, where local elected officials and

business leaders visit a similar city to learn from its business leaders and elected officials on lessons learned and best practices. The trips started in 1987 to Jacksonville, Fla., and have continued nearly every year since (except for 2001).

"I was on that first trip to Jacksonville and was on every trip through 1996," Byrne said. "Those trips are so valuable to help us as a community work together and be a part of a team with a common purpose – and that purpose is to grow our area."

Looking back now, Byrne said he can see where the Chamber has laid the groundwork for some of the projects being celebrated today, by the collaboration of Team Mobile and through these Leaders Exchange trips.

A native of Mobile, Byrne has more than 30 years of experience as an attorney in private practice and more than two decades of public service.

"I became a lawyer and I practiced labor employment law," said Byrne. "In this practice, I was able to help people in real-world circumstances. I studied public policy in school, where politics would have been natural for me to pursue, but I stayed a lawyer first. As such, I learned real-world applications to the law and how labor laws affect people."

## BRADLEY BYRNE AND THE MOBILE CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS



### BYRNE - JANUARY 2003

*The Chamber invited Mobile and Baldwin County elected senators and representatives to send us their New Year's resolutions.*

*"My New Year's resolution is to work with all of the*

*state senators and house members from southwest Alabama to make sure we start receiving our fair share of state funding and services, which we have been denied over the last several years."*

Sen. Bradley Byrne

### JUNE 2003 - LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEETING

*The Chamber and its Legislative Task Force presented its community agenda to the southwest Alabama delegation. During the meeting Chamber representatives voiced their support for the University of South Alabama's Cancer Institute and State Docks. Each year, the Chamber's Legislative Task Force (now known as the Governmental Affairs Committee) creates a list of legislative priorities with input from members. Networking and communicating those priorities to local, state and national legislators makes decisions-makers aware of Mobile's needs and economic impact.*

*Pictured from left to right are: Charlie Jackson, Rep. Bill Clarke, Sen. Bradley Byrne and Rep. Randy Davis.*





Byrne says he learned a lot about business from his father, who sold trucks at a dealership. He said his father taught him the importance of teams, and that we all work better when we work together. “Everyone in a team plays an important role and listening to all team members benefits all,” he said.

He finds it inspiring to watch the evolution and years of hard work put into moving Mobile forward through Team Mobile.

From 2002 to 2007, Byrne was a member of the Alabama State Senate. Prior to that, he served on the Alabama State Board of Education for two terms. In 2007, Byrne was named chancellor of Alabama’s two-year college system, where he restructured the system to make it more accountable.

Byrne represented southwest Alabama in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2014 to 2021. He was appointed by two speakers to the powerful Rules Committee, which considers all bills and determines whether, and in what order, they are considered on the House floor.

With his background as a labor and employment attorney and in education policy, he was appointed to the Education and Labor Committee, and he chaired the Workforce Protections Subcommittee. Byrne was known as a fierce supporter of business and industry and led initiatives that have increased access to education and job training, benefiting Alabama’s workforce and businesses alike.

But Byrne said his greatest accomplishment while in Washington, D.C., was the four terms he spent on the House Armed Services Committee. He said the spending bills he helped pass turned around the lack of investment in our armed services.



## FEBRUARY 2004 - RUNNING FOR – OR AWAY FROM – PUBLIC OFFICE

Mobile County Commissioner Sam Jones and State Senator Bradley Byrne presented the opening session on “Defining Yourself As A Candidate” at the 2003 Campaign Workshop held at the University of South Alabama.



## AUGUST 2012 - NEW LEADERS RECEPTION

The Mobile Area Chamber held a welcoming reception for new CEOs in the Mobile area in summer of 2012. Sponsored by Hand Arendall LLC, the event also included a briefing by Mayor Sam Jones and Mobile County Commission President Connie Hudson. Pictured from left to right are: (front row) Hudson and Jones. Back row: Win Hallett, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; Mark Berte, Alabama Coastal Foundation; Eric Jefferson, Housing First Inc.; Rusty Miles, 1 Source Power & Equipment LLC; Bradley Byrne, Jones Walker LLC; Michael Molyneux, WellNow LLC; Mark Fillers, BBVA Compass Bank; Phil Savage, Mobile Arts & Sports Association/Senior Bowl; and Chamber Chairman Michael Pierce, Commonwealth National Bank.



"I was proud to be a part of aiding our military, but also in what I was able to help with locally: the new federal courthouse, Austal shipbuilding, the new VA hospital and managing red snapper fishing in the area."

In 2021, Byrne returned home to Mobile and resumed his legal practice. At the Chamber, he succeeds Bill Sisson, who resigned his position last fall to pursue other opportunities.

**I was proud to be a part of aiding our military, but also in what I was able to do locally: the new federal courthouse, Austal shipbuilding, the new VA hospital and managing red snapper fishing in the area.**

**Bradley Byrne, president and CEO, Mobile Chamber**

"I am excited to be selected as president and CEO of the Mobile Chamber and to have the opportunity to lead this organization into the future," said Byrne. "I knew after the announcement was made that I made the right decision. It was met with such positive feedback from all over the state.

"We are living in a golden age in Mobile," he continued. "The Chamber plays a key role in being the keeper of the responsibility to take full advantage of all the opportunities out there. When people ask me why they should be a Chamber member, it's because the Chamber can put your business in our vast network to give you a better chance of success. The Chamber is at the forefront of growing Mobile's economy, and that means everyone benefits."

Photo by Chad Riley



**The Chamber is at the forefront of growing Mobile's economy, and that means everyone benefits."**

**Bradley Byrne, president and CEO, Mobile Chamber**



#### **MARCH 2014 - RURAL SOURCING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Headquartered in Atlanta, Rural Sourcing Inc., announced in late January it would open an office in downtown Mobile, ultimately employing more than 100 software developers. Pictured from left to right for the company announcement were: Troy Wayman, Mobile Area Chamber; Congressman Bradley Byrne; Connie Hudson, Mobile County Commission; Nicole Locklear, RSI; Margaux Kaynard, RSI; Monty Hamilton, RSI; Mayor Sandy Stimpson, City of Mobile; Ingrid Miller, RSI; and Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber.



#### **MAY 2014 - MOBILE CHAMBER'S SPRING BOARD MEETING**

The French Ambassador to the United States visited Mobile in late March to speak to the Chamber's spring meeting of the Board of Directors and Board of Advisors. Pictured from left to right are: French Consul General Denis Barbet of Atlanta; Chamber President/CEO Bill Sisson; Chamber Chairman Dr. Michael Chambers; His Excellency François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States President/CEO, SNCF (Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français) America Alain Leray; Mobile Airport Authority Executive Director Roger Wehner; U.S. Congressman Bradley Byrne; Synchrony CEO Jerry Ray.



### JUNE 2014 - MILITARY APPRECIATION LUNCH

The Mobile Area Chamber hosted its inaugural Military Appreciation Lunch to honor Mobile's military men and women and high school JROTC cadets in April at Battleship Memorial Park. Participating in this event were from left to right: LTC (Ret) Robert Barrow, Director of Army Instruction for MCPSS; Rep. Bradley Byrne, Mobile County Public Schools Superintendent Martha Peek, City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson, Mobile Area Chamber Vice Chair for Military Affairs Steve Carey; and Chamber President & CEO Bill Sisson.



### SEPT. 2015 - BRADLEY BYRNE FORUM

Rep. Bradley Byrne (center) spoke to members of the Mobile Area Chamber on a variety of topics including the importance of trade to Alabama's economy and the I-10 River bridge. Pictured left to right are: Frank Lott, Heritage Homes; Clark Thomason, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Rep. Bradley Byrne; Mark Drew, Maynard Cooper; and Jay Watkins, Maynard Cooper.



### APRIL 2016 - PORK & POLITICS IN THE PARK

More than 300 people attended the Mobile Area Chamber's political mixer, Pork & Politics in the Park. The event, held in February at the USS Alabama Battleship Park, drew a number of candidates for local, state and federal office and their supporters. Pictured from left to right are: Jerry Carl, James Patterson, Young Boozer, Rep. Bradley Byrne, Jackie Ziegler, Fred Richardson and John McMillan.



### JUNE 2019 - BRADLEY BYRNE FORUM

U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne was in Mobile in April to address members of the business community at the Chamber's Forum Alabama breakfast. During this event, Byrne discussed the most pressing issues facing the state and region.

Pictured from left to right are: Lance Covan, Mitternacht; Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson; Alvin Hope, Maynard Cooper & Gayle; Mobile County Commission President Connie Hudson; Byrne; Clark Jackson, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Southeast Region; Terry Harbin, Chamber Board Chair-elect; and Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber.



### JUNE 2021 - INVESTOR FOCUS ADAMS AND REESE

Seated, left to right: Garrett Zoghby, Patrick Dungan, Jay Ross and Michael Berson. Standing, left to right: Vicki Clarke, Sherry Cates, Bradley Byrne, Kris Stanton, Britton Bonner, Becky Gibson, Nash Campbell, Leigh Lods, Jackie Parks, Sherri Charles, Brian Smithweck, Andrea Mitchell, Andy Freeman, Kayla Seawell, Rachel Mahoney, Nicole Bourg and Bob Campbell. Not pictured: David Johnson, Vic Lott, Jannea Rogers, Blake Richardson, Matt Jackson, Scott Hetrick, Blake Hardwick, Sontrease Williams-Maynard, Rusty Russell, April Smith, Bradley Sanders, McLean Bramlett, Suzanne Clark, Joy Massey, Joni Huddleston, Christopher Lewis and RA Crumbley.





"This is a slam dunk for the Chamber and Mobile. Bradley has a proven track record in the areas of education, government, politics and law. He brings a wealth of knowledge and relationships to the table, and I can't think of a more distinguished leader to take on this critical role and help continue moving Mobile forward."

**City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson**



"Having someone with Byrne's experience, relationships and reputation – along with his passion and lifelong commitment to helping grow Mobile and south Alabama – is a grand slam, not only for our Chamber, but for Mobile's place as a leader throughout the Gulf Coast and the southeastern United States. Bradley knows Montgomery, he knows Washington and perhaps more importantly, people who know him and

have worked with him throughout the years understand that he is a consummate professional and will be a tremendous asset in this new role. My hat is off to the Chamber for finding the best person to help position Mobile to continue to grow, prosper and lead."

**University of South Alabama,  
President Jo Bonner**



"We are thrilled to welcome Bradley as the Chamber's new president and CEO. Throughout the state and in Washington, Bradley is recognized as a leader who knows how to get things done. He has all the tools we were looking for to support the business growth that will drive our economy in the years ahead."

**Chamber Chairman Matt White  
White Spinner Realty**



"After an extensive, nationwide search, we are excited to share that native Mobilian, former state senator, former chancellor of Alabama's Community College System and former Congressman Bradley Byrne will become the next president and CEO of the Mobile Chamber. We had many outstanding applicants for this top-level leadership position, and the committee invested much time and due diligence in finding the next leader of the Mobile Chamber."

**Former Chamber Chairman Terry Harbin  
Chairman of the Chamber's search committee**

## ABOUT BRADLEY BYRNE

Byrne is married to Rebecca Byrne, who is the president and CEO of The Community Foundation of South Alabama, and together they have four adult children.



Photo by Chad Riley

### EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate, The University of Alabama School of Law  
Bachelor of Arts, Duke University

### HONORS

- Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission Patriot of the Year (2021)
- International Franchise Association Legislator of the Year (2017)
- U.S. Navy Distinguished Public Service Award (2016)
- Business Council of Alabama Bubba Lee Political Courage Award (2016)
- Healthcare Leadership Council Champion of Healthcare Innovation (2016)
- National Association of Manufacturers Champion of Manufacturing (2016)
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Enterprise Award (2015 - 2019)
- Alabama Restaurant and Hospitality Association Legislator of the Year (2020)
- Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee Leadership Award (2007)
- Alabama Wildlife Federation Legislative Conservationist of the Year (2005, 2014, 2015)
- Alabama Humane Federation Award (2005)



*Pictured outside the OHC clinic are Dr. Alexander Minney, Dr. William McDowell and Dr. Terry Taylor, OHC medical director.*

## OHC FOCUSES ON CONVENIENCE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Companies large and small are bolstering benefits packages in the hopes of maintaining and recruiting top talent within their ranks, and healthcare is a major component of those incentives. Fewer and fewer industry leaders are putting the onus on their employees to navigate insurance requirements like physical exams, vaccinations and drug tests alone, which is how Occupational Health Center has enjoyed sustained success for more than a decade.

The Brookley Aeroplex-based company is the Mobile Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

The company has always operated under the "glad you asked" philosophy, according to one of its founders, **Dr. Terry Taylor**, who serves as OHC's medical director.

"We like to say, 'We're glad you asked, so how can we help you?'" he said.

Taylor is one of several providers working at OHC, which approaches patient care in a number of ways. The company operates healthcare centers in Mount Vernon, Alabama, and Pascagoula, Mississippi, in addition to its headquarters on Michigan Avenue across from the entrance to Brookley. Patients

can access healthcare in these traditional medical centers, but OHC also operates on-site clinics with its industrial clients, so employee services are available at the workplace. And the company also has a mobile unit that can be scheduled to reach sites when physical exams and hearing tests are needed.

"What we want to do is offer quality services in a timely manner and focus on excellent communication with the employers," Taylor said.

In 2009, he and one of his co-founders were working in occupational health for a local hospital system when they decided they wanted to strike out on their own, organizing a board of directors including five physicians to help guide the company. Its services were loosely based on others Taylor and his partners saw in operation elsewhere in the marketplace, but OHC quickly became a unique, full-service organization no matter where its client base might be located.

The business model focuses on convenience in providing employee evaluation and care, Taylor said, which is why there are larger health centers near the industrial complexes in north Mobile County as well as the aerospace and shipping hubs in south Mississippi and downtown Mobile.





Anitra Brown, receptionist for OHC, welcomes a patient to the clinic.

"The safety program for an employer starts with the hiring process," Taylor said. "So using a facility that has skilled occupational medicine providers helps them make sure it's a good fit for the worker for the job they want to do."

That long-term relationship with the employee could begin as early as a pre-employment drug screening and continue through such unforeseen issues as workplace injuries.

Part of OHC's success has been achieved due to its proximity to emerging industries, such as Airbus and Austal, both of

which are clients. When Taylor and his partners saw that Brookley was expanding, they planned accordingly. He and Dr. Alexander Minney became certified by the Federal Aviation Administration to provide physicals to pilots.

Because of its status within various industries, Taylor said the Mobile County Health Department reached out to OHC during the recent coronavirus pandemic to help administer free vaccines throughout the community. The company continues to offer vaccinations and booster shots each Thursday without need of appointment. OHC also supports initiatives such as Breast Cancer Awareness and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which supports military veterans and first responders nationwide.



Lauren Real, a drug screen tech for OHC, examines test results.

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

**COMPANY NAME:** Occupational Health Center (OHC)

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR:** Dr. Terry Taylor

**PHONE:** 251.434.6770

**WEBSITE:** [occupationalhc.com](http://occupationalhc.com)

**LOCATION:** 2050 Michigan Ave., Mobile

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# SOUL CAFFEINE

## SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

**T**he finalists for the Mobile Chamber's 2022 Small Business of the Year award are Altaworx LLC, Mount Man of Mobile LLC and Walks and Wags Inc. The winner will be announced at the summer reception of the Chamber's board of directors and board of advisors on Sept. 1.

From the applications, a volunteer committee experienced in management, finance and business development selected the finalists based on criteria:

- business growth, operations and impact;
- financial position;
- innovation and entrepreneurship;
- customer service;
- market strategy; and
- community involvement.

This year, the finalists gathered at Soul Caffeine, 1412 Dauphin St., to pose for pictures and exchange congratulations for a job well done. Thank you to Eric Friese for the use of the beautiful café.





# ALTAWORX LLC

**Head of firm:** Rickie Richey,  
chief executive officer

**Founded:** 2003

**Number of Employees:** 27

**Address:** 455 Magnolia Street, Ste. B,  
Fairhope, AL 36532

**Phone:** 844.387.7383

**Website:** altaworx.com

Altaworx LLC was founded in 2003 to address emerging demand for Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) business telephone systems. The owner's vision was to build a company that not only provided leading-edge technology, but truly focused on helping customers drive revenue, control expenses, increase their productivity and operate more efficiently. Today, Altaworx operates from two AT&T data centers in Dallas and Atlanta. With a focus on empowering resellers to build equity value in their business, Altaworx continues to grow and now has a presence in 46 states.

Altaworx's mission is to always have a positive impact on its customers, employees, agents, resellers and vendors. This mission builds on its core values: the desire to be the best in its industry; to have fun, be humble and help first; to take ownership and be responsible; and to grow, evolve and be respectful.

When the pandemic hit, the company went remote but didn't miss a beat, offering virtual connections to its clients, and saw an uptick in VOIP sales. By investing in automating data flow, the company has increased profits and value to customers.

"We focus on business impact first and technology second," said **Rickie Richey**, chief executive officer. "This means when we meet potential clients we focus on what we can do to make them successful over selling a product."

Photo by L.A. Fotographe





# 2022 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FINALIST





# 2022 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FINALIST





# MOUNT MAN OF MOBILE LLC

**Head of firm:** Keith Turner, owner/president and Tori Turner, chief of operations

**Founded:** 2013

**Number of employees:** 7

**Address:** 3929 Airport Blvd. 2-300, Mobile, AL 36609

**Phone:** 251.295.3085

**Website:** MountManofMobile.com

Mount Man of Mobile was formed in 2013 to provide professional television installation and other installation services along the Gulf Coast. For residential and commercial clients, they provide audio/video installation, home improvement services and more. Licensed with the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors and the Alabama Board of Electronic Security, the company's mission is to provide quality, honesty and reliable services to a diverse clientele, whether electrical, home improvement or security systems.

The company has recently developed a "Fix It" program with Bishop State Community College in which it recruits directly from the program and trains workers on electrical fundamentals and safety. Quality service begins with its employees, and Mount Man subscribes to annual evaluations to help improve its staff and offers continuing education courses.

Mount Man's target market includes homeowners, investors, small business owners and commercial construction. Expanding its services has helped the company reach new clients, and creating relationships with area vendors has helped it keep the supplies it needs for its clients on hand and readily available.

"We pride ourselves in our overall experience," said **Tori Turner**, chief of operations. "At Mount Man, we separate ourselves from our competitors with our organization skills, our promptness, our reliability, fair pricing and honesty. We resolve issues immediately and communicate on every aspect of the job from start to finish. Our reviews speak for us; it's an experience."

Photo by L.A. Fotographe

# 2022 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR FINALIST





## WALKS AND WAGS INC.

**Head of firm:** Cindie Carter, president

**Founded:** 2005

**Number of employees:** 12

**Address:** 631 Azalea Road, Mobile, AL 36609

**Phone:** 251.643.1615

**Website:** walksandwags.com

Walks and Wags is a family-owned and operated pet care business whose passion is to enrich the lives of dogs in our area.

President and owner **Cindie Carter** says that affection, diet, exercise and socialization are essential to a dog having a great life, and that's why Walks and Wags provides a high standard of service for dogs, such as daycare, lodging, training and grooming.

Regardless of the services your pet receives, Carter and her team will identify your dogs' unique characteristics and customize these services for your pet. She says just like people, each dog has its own personality and the staff determines which "pack" your dog will be most comfortable and make the most friends. Lodging (overnight stay) includes daily play care and grooming before you pick up your furry friend.

Carter started Walks and Wags in 2005, when she and her family relocated to the area after Hurricane Katrina. She says the business has grown through higher standards of care, education and staff training.

"There are plenty of dogs in the sea," Carter says. "I want my company to give 110 percent, so I try to anticipate our guests' needs, greet them warmly and sincerely, and have a passion for excellence and an eye for detail and respect."

Photo by L.A. Fotographe

# STARTING A BUSINESS IN MOBILE

# RESOURCE GUIDE

This resource guide is updated and maintained by the Mobile Chamber's Small Business Development department. This guide is intended to be an informational resource for businesses wishing to locate or start in the Mobile area. To learn more about how the Mobile Chamber can help you, call 251.431.8607 or visit [mobilechamber.com/small-business/](http://mobilechamber.com/small-business/).

## City of Mobile

[cityofmobile.org](http://cityofmobile.org)

The City of Mobile's online portal, Citizen Self Service (CSS), is a one-stop shop for doing business in the city limits. A business license is required to operate each separate business activity within the city, including acquiring a business license and filing and paying taxes.

**(Remember: businesses operating within the city limits need both a city license and a county license.)**

The state, counties and municipalities regulate businesses within their boundaries. A company acquiring a license from the City of Mobile satisfies the city's requirement however the city is within the confines of Mobile County and the State of Alabama and is subject to the license requirements of those jurisdictions also.

## buildmobile.org

If you are a developer, the city online portal, Build Mobile, lets you track, manage and view plans, permits, inspections and code enforcement cases throughout the building process, as well as pay invoices and request an inspection on active permits.



## Mobile County

[mobilecountyal.gov](http://mobilecountyal.gov)

A privilege (business) license is required for all businesses operating in Mobile County. On the county website, you can acquire a business license and file and pay county sales taxes online. Business owners are required to pay taxes on inventory of personal property (i.e. office equipment, office supplies, furniture, etc.)

The county's inspection services department regulates the construction, demolition, alteration and repair of structures in unincorporated Mobile County. This includes plan review, permitting and inspection of all work that is subject to the adopted building codes and flood damage prevention.



## State of Alabama

[myalabamataxes.alabama.gov](http://myalabamataxes.alabama.gov)

Any business that hires employees and pays wages in Alabama needs an Alabama income tax withholding number to hold and remit taxes to the Alabama Department of Revenue. My Alabama Taxes (MAT) is the state's electronic filing and remittance system for the filing of state, city and county sales, use, rental and lodging taxes. Proprietors, partners, corporate shareholders and others must report estimated earnings and pay income tax each quarter.



## Federal

[irs.gov](http://irs.gov)

An Employer Identification Number (EIN) issued by the IRS is used to identify a business entity and is needed to pay federal withholding tax.

A sole proprietor may use his or her Social Security number as the EIN, unless the proprietorship has employees or is required to file any business tax forms. A partnership or corporation must have an EIN whether or not it has employees.

Employers are required to withhold federal income tax (FIT), Social Security and Medicare taxes (FICA) from the wages paid to employees. FICA taxes are paid by both the business and the employee. All employees must have a Social Security number. If self-employed, contributions are made through the self-employment tax reported on the employer's quarterly tax return.

## E-Verify

[e-verify.gov](http://e-verify.gov)

E-Verify is a web-based system that allows employers to confirm the eligibility of newly hired employees to work in the U.S. by electronically matching information provided by employees on the Form I-9 against records available to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

While E-Verify is a voluntary program (with the exception of employers working on federal contracts or subcontracts) under federal law, Alabama employers are required under Alabama law to use E-Verify to verify the work eligibility of all employees. Alabama employers may use the federal E-Verify website ([e-verify.gov](http://e-verify.gov)) or businesses with 25 or fewer employees may elect to use the Alabama E-Verify Employer Agent Service ([verify.alabama.gov](http://verify.alabama.gov)).

## Form I-9

Federal law requires that every employer who recruits, refers for a fee, or hires an individual for employment in the United States must complete Form I-9,





Employment Eligibility Verification. Form I-9 is used to document and verify the identity and employment authorization of individuals to work in the United States. This includes citizens and noncitizens.

## Insurance

**labor.alabama.gov**

Business owners with employees may be required to provide worker's compensation insurance. Companies with five or more employees, part-time or full-time, are required to have worker's compensation insurance, obtained through a local insurance agency.

## Occupational Safety & Health

**osha.gov**

All businesses with employees are required to comply with state and federal regulations regarding the safety and protection of employees.



## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

**ada.gov**

The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of disability, including handicap accessibility.



## Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

**eeoc.gov**

Employers must be aware of equal employment opportunity regulations. It is illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information, among other issues.



## Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)



The PPACA (Affordable Care Act) was a health care reform bill enacted in 2010, making significant changes to the American health care system. An employer-sponsored health plan may be "grandfathered" and exempt from the requirements of the Act if it has remained essentially unchanged in carrier, benefits, co-pay amounts etc. since March 2010. Otherwise, companies that maintain over 50 full-time employees must meet certain requirements in plan benefits and costs to employees. Employers that do not comply with the affordability and essential coverage requirements of the law will be subject to penalties. Employers are required to distribute specific notices to employees and annually submit informational reports to the IRS.

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# SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

## Alabama Department of Commerce Office of Small Business Advocacy

401 Adams Ave., Montgomery, AL 36130  
800.248.0033  
[madeinalabama.com](http://madeinalabama.com)

Provides resources for small business development, including regulatory or financial assistance.

## Alabama Department of Revenue

Mobile Taxpayer Service Center  
955 Downtowner Blvd., Mobile, AL 36616  
251.344.4737  
[revenue.alabama.gov](http://revenue.alabama.gov)

The Alabama Department of Revenue administers many services for businesses looking for information on obtaining licenses, registering a business, and filing taxes, such as business and license tax, sales and use tax, property tax, entity registration and other services.

## Alabama SBDC at the University of South Alabama

555 University Blvd., Room 308, Mobile, AL 36688  
251.460.6078  
[southalabama.edu/sbdc](http://southalabama.edu/sbdc)  
[asbc.org](http://asbc.org)

Provides small business counseling, loan packaging assistance, international trade and procurement technical assistance for businesses, including those wanting to do business with the government.

## Alabama Technology Network

205 College Dr., Brewton, AL 36426  
251.809.1675  
[atn.org](http://atn.org)

ATN provides extensive workforce training, technical assistance and engineering services to incumbent workers across the state in areas of continuous improvement, environmental health and safety, food safety, industrial maintenance and technology, leadership and management.

## Bank On South Alabama

251.431.0115  
[Bankonsouthalabama.org](http://Bankonsouthalabama.org)

Empowering and encouraging unbanked and under-banked individuals through financial education and awareness to take steps toward financial stability.

## Better Business Bureau of Central and South Alabama (BBB)

150 Government St., Ste. 1004, Mobile, AL 36602  
251.300.3388  
[bbb.org/us/al/mobile](http://bbb.org/us/al/mobile)

BBB offers dispute resolution services to the public by assisting in resolving consumer complaints through conciliation. It also provides arbitration and mediation services, referral services and information.

## The Connection Center

Ben May Main Mobile Public Library  
701 Government St., Mobile, AL 36602  
[connectioncenter.mobilepubliclibrary.org](http://connectioncenter.mobilepubliclibrary.org)  
251.340.1536

Career and small business assistance, tools, resources and access to experts.

## Downtown Mobile Alliance

261 Dauphin St., Mobile, AL 36601  
251.434.8498  
[downtownmobile.org](http://downtownmobile.org)

Supports the redevelopment of downtown Mobile through marketing, advocacy and management of BID services. It also operates Urban Emporium, a retail incubator for new or expanding retailers in downtown Mobile, and offers training, from loss prevention to inventory control.

## Hatch Entrepreneurial Development Center

36 N. Section St., Fairhope, AL 36632  
251.270.2670  
[hatchfairhope.com](http://hatchfairhope.com)

A business resource hub and incubator for startups and technology-based entrepreneurs in Baldwin County. It fosters entrepreneurial culture by developing a resource ecosystem.



# SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

## **Innovation Portal**

358 St. Louis St., Mobile, AL 36602  
251.202.7165  
[innovation-portal.com](http://innovation-portal.com)

Provides a growth-focused space for entrepreneurs to connect with each other and gain access to targeted programming, expertise, resources and funding to encourage successful launch, development and scaling of their ventures.

## **Internal Revenue Service (IRS) – Stakeholder Liaison**

820 S. University Blvd., Bldg. 3, Ste. 3C, Mobile, AL 36609  
251.341.5937  
[irs.gov](http://irs.gov)

Provides information and assistance about IRS policies, practices and procedures to business owners and tax practitioners to ensure compliance with tax laws.

## **Mobile Chamber Small Business Development Department**

451 Government St., Mobile, AL 36602  
251.431.8607  
[mobilechamber.com/small-business/](http://mobilechamber.com/small-business/)

Assists local entrepreneurs starting, managing and growing their businesses by providing business training programs, educational materials and one-on-one consulting, as well as referrals to local resource providers and other business experts.

## **South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC)**

110 Beauregard St., Mobile, AL 36602  
251.433.6541  
[sarpc.org/rlf.asp](http://sarpc.org/rlf.asp)

Manages a revolving loan fund used to finance small business start-up and expansion projects to create permanent jobs.

## **South Alabama SCORE**

327 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532  
251.928.6387  
[southalabama.score.org](http://southalabama.score.org)

Provides small business counseling, training and mentoring for existing and potential business owners.

## **Southwest Alabama Partnership for Training and Employment (SWAPTE)**

515 Springhill Plaza Ct., Mobile, AL 36608  
251.432.0909  
[swapte.org](http://swapte.org)

Works with local businesses to leverage their training investments. The On-the-Job training program provides wage reimbursement for hiring eligible individuals. The Incumbent Worker training program will reimburse a portion of training costs for existing staff.

## **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

1141 Montlimar Dr., Ste. 1007, Mobile, AL 36609  
251.544.7401  
[sba.gov](http://sba.gov)

Provides business and financial assistance programs specifically designed to meet key financing needs, including debt financing, surety bonds and equity financing. The SBA does not make direct loans, but provides loan guarantees to lenders to reduce risk.

## **University of South Alabama (USA) Melton Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation**

5811 USA Drive S., MCOB Room 123, Mobile, AL 36688  
251.460.6730  
[southalabama.edu/colleges/mcob/mcei/](http://southalabama.edu/colleges/mcob/mcei/)

Provides consulting and training services to start-up, mid- and late-stage companies, as well as nonprofit organizations.

## **Vivian's Door Inc.**

P.O. Box 40534, Mobile, AL 36640  
251.618.9880  
[viviansdoor.com](http://viviansdoor.com)

Named for civil rights activist Vivian Malone Jones, the first black University of Alabama graduate, Vivian's Door offers diverse business owners and the residents of their communities the resources, education and support needed to grow strong businesses.



# Business EXPO

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10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mobile Convention Center - Exhibit Hall

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Acton Academy Mobile  
**Alabama Dept. of Commerce, Office of Small Business Advocacy**  
All About Relaxing RV Park  
**All In Credit Union**  
Altaworx LLC  
American Weatherstar  
America's First Federal Credit Union  
APCO Employees Credit Union  
ATSS Group  
BankPlus  
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Cooper & Co. Inc. REALTORS  
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Junior Achievement  
Junior League of Mobile  
K & R Staffing HR Consulting LLC  
**Keesler Federal Credit Union**  
**Lagniappe**  
**Lamar Advertising Co.**  
Landshark Promotions  
Lush Home Garden Event  
MB Greene  
McAleer's Office Furniture  
Mediacom Business  
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management  
**Mobile Area Association of Realtors**  
Mobile Area Council, Boy Scouts of America  
Mobile Christian School  
Mobile Mask  
Mobile's Best Storage  
Mount Man of Mobile LLC  
Najla Solutions  
New Horizons Credit Union  
Nothing Bundt Cakes  
Occupational Health Center  
Onin Staffing  
Orangetheory Fitness Mobile  
Printing One  
Prosperity Home Mortgage  
Roberts Brothers Inc.

Rock & Roll-Offs  
S & S Sprinkler Co. LLC  
Schooley Mitchell  
Service 1 Federal Credit Union  
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Somerby of Mobile  
Southern View Media  
Spring Hill College  
**Springhill Medical Center**  
The Grounds and Greater Gulf State Fair  
The Joint Chiropractic  
The PACT Theater Company  
Threaded Fasteners Inc.  
T-Mobile  
**Troy University**  
TVTC Mobile  
Uniti Fiber  
University of Mobile  
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# CHAMBER AT WORK

## Ribbon Cuttings



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



### AAA UNITED STATE INC.

11 N. Water St., Ste. 16250, Mobile, AL 36602 | 251.434.6354  
*Aerospace Industries*



### ACTON ACADEMY MOBILE

2344 Schillinger Rd. S., Ste. 2C, Mobile, AL 36695 | 251.404.6124  
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# CHAMBER AT WORK



**1-2 MILITARY HONOREES RECOGNIZED** The Mobile Chamber and its Military Affairs Committee honored retired, current and future military leaders during its 35<sup>th</sup> annual Military Appreciation Lunch at the USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park. The presenting sponsor was Atlas Industrial Outsourcing. The program included awards presented to each branch of the military and recognized outstanding ROTC and JROTC cadets and the Gen. Gary Cooper Award.

**3 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HOLD EVENTS** Young Professionals of Mobile (YP of MOB) and Mobile Baykeeper joined forces to host a community cleanup on Dunbar Street. The event was organized as an Earth Day partnership to help clean up the community.

YP of MOB participated in The Lifelines Counseling Services Rape Crisis Center Sexual Assault Awareness Month kickball tournament and fundraiser at Sage Park. This event was organized to raise money for the Rape Crisis Center. Multiple companies were represented at the event.

Finally, YP of MOB held a member social at Oyster City Brewing Co. with more than 80 attendees. Thanks to event sponsors Direct Auto Insurance and Visit Mobile and to the City of Mobile for its continued support of young professionals in the Mobile area.



**4 MAST INDUSTRY LEADERS GATHER** The Mobile Chamber joined Alabama Power to host a social for MAST industry leaders at Iron Hand Brewing LLC. MAST is the sector council for the Alabama Gulf Coast Chemical Corridor stretching 60 miles through the Mobile area, including McIntosh, Axis, Saraland and Theodore.

**5 CHAMBER HOSTS EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE** The Mobile Chamber hosted its monthly Executive Roundtable featuring Dr. Todd Greer (pictured on right), executive director of Innovation Portal, who shared his insights on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the community.





## 6 SMALL BUSINESS WEEK IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In recognition of National Small Business Week, City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson presented a proclamation to Brent McMahan, senior area manager for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), joined by the Mobile Chamber's Small Business Development team. For more than 50 years, the SBA has celebrated National Small Business Week, taking the opportunity to recognize and highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners working every day to create 21st century jobs, drive innovation and increase America's global competitiveness.

**7 DOING BUSINESS WITH THE STATE** The Mobile Chamber and the Mobile County legislative delegation hosted "Doing Business with the State of Alabama Procurement Forum and Expo" at The Battle House Hotel. Alabama Department of Transportation, Alabama Department of Corrections and State Purchasing Director Michael Jones made presentations to help small businesses interested in doing business with the state. The event was funded in part by a grant from the Alabama Department of Commerce and Alabama Innovation Fund.

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9

**8 UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING** The Mobile Chamber staff volunteered its time and painting expertise for the United Way Day of Caring at Via Health Fitness & Enrichment Center.

**9 MSU STUDENTS VISIT** Students from Mississippi State University recently toured Mobile-area industries as a Mobile Chamber outreach effort to recruit talent to the Mobile area.

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## MEL'ISA MOREL HIRED AS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



New Orleans native **Mel'isa Morel** is the new executive assistant to Mobile Chamber President and CEO Bradley Byrne. Morel will assist Byrne with the day-to-day activities and overall management of the Chamber. She will serve as the staff liaison to the governing board of directors and its executive committee, as well as assist with the board of advisors' events.

Morel's career includes several years in the education industry. She previously held positions at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. She was an executive secretary to the surgery department chairman, who oversaw 32 surgical residents and 37 surgeons in the school of medicine. She later became the surgical residency coordinator, coordinating training and accreditation programs for surgical residents, and served as the liaison between the department and affiliated hospitals. Most recently, she was executive assistant to the dean of Tulane's School of Social Work, managing the daily activities of more than 160 students across three graduate degree programs with 30 faculty members and 60-plus adjunct teachers.

"We're proud to welcome Mel'isa to our Chamber team," said **Bob Chappelle**, the Chamber's chief operating officer. "She's proving to be an excellent addition to our staff."

"I've really become enchanted with Mobile," Morel said. "Everyone at the Chamber has been so welcoming and is a true ambassador for the city. I'm excited to be a part of Mobile's vibrant future and part of the wonderful team at the Chamber that works so hard to keep Mobile growing and establishing itself as the place to be for a great work/life opportunity."

Morel can be reached at 251.431.8655 or [mmorel@mobilechamber.com](mailto:mmorel@mobilechamber.com).

## ALICIA SPIZZIRRI WELCOMED AS FINANCE AND OPERATIONS ASSISTANT



The Mobile Chamber hired **Alicia Spizzirri** as the finance and operations assistant. She will assist the Chamber's chief financial officer and other executives with assigned responsibilities that include supply management, coordination of building maintenance and operations, serving as backup for essential accounting functions and other clerical needs.

Spizzirri, a Chicago native, earned an associate's degree in legal secretarial from Triton College of River Grove, Illinois; a bachelor's and master's degree in education from the University of St. Francis at Joliet, Illinois; and continues her studies in human resources.

"I am fairly new to Mobile and very honored and excited to be a part of a wonderful and caring culture here at the Mobile Chamber," said Spizzirri. "I look forward to learning more about the Port City and making new connections."

Spizzirri previously worked as an office manager/HR at On Point Technology LLC. Her duties included employee engagement, training coordination, recruiting and onboarding, employee benefits management and more. Before joining the Chamber, she most recently worked at CNC Catastrophe and National Claims as a human resources generalist.

"Alicia's skill set is a great compliment to our finance and operations team and the work this department does," said **Neil Christopher**, the Chamber's chief financial officer.

Spizzirri replaces longtime employee Jackie Davidson, who recently retired. She can be reached at 251.431.8605 or [aspizzirri@mobilechamber.com](mailto:aspizzirri@mobilechamber.com).



# JENNIFER RICHBURG NAMED PROJECT MANAGER



The Mobile Chamber expanded its Economic Development department by hiring **Jennifer Richburg** as project manager. Richburg will help manage the program of work for the business development division and will focus on increasing Mobile's global competitiveness, job creation and enhancing economic growth.


Before joining the Mobile Chamber, Richburg worked for Wabash Valley Power Alliance in Indianapolis as an economic development specialist coordinating and facilitating development projects. She was also a business attraction specialist, creating business strategies to enhance new growth. Prior to that, she worked as a research assistant at the Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship in Hattiesburg, Miss.

"We are very happy to have Jennifer as part of our team," said **David Rodgers**, the Mobile Chamber's vice president of economic development. "She's well versed and ready to help our projects flourish."

Richburg earned a bachelor's degree in tourism management and a master's degree in economic development from the University of Southern Mississippi.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the Mobile Chamber's Economic Development team," she said. "The Mobile region has the assets needed to compete nationally for large economic development projects. I'm looking forward to playing a role in winning these projects that will attract businesses to locate here and promote economic growth in our region. I believe that the future will be bright for Mobile County."

Richburg can be reached at 251.431.8648 or [jrichburg@mobilechamber.com](mailto:jrichburg@mobilechamber.com).



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# AROUND TOWN



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

## **Boy Scouts of America Council Volunteer & Eagle Scout Recognition Event**

**Aug. 2 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.**

**USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park  
Mobile Area Council, Boy Scouts of America**

Gather and celebrate as the Boy Scouts honor the recipients of the 2022 Silver Beavers, Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award, Fretwell Award, Vale La Pena, North Star Award and Class of 2022 Eagle Scouts.

[bsamac.org/events](https://bsamac.org/events)

## **Living History Crew Drill**

**Aug. 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park**

Come see history come to life with WWII historical reenactors, activities, demonstrations and meet-and-greets.

[ussalabama.com/get-involved/living-history-crew](https://ussalabama.com/get-involved/living-history-crew)

## **Saturdays at the Coop**

**Aug. 13 from 7 to 10 p.m. • Cooper Riverside Park**

Relax and enjoy an evening under the stars, live music, food trucks and local vendors. Chairs and blankets are encouraged. This month's event features Disco Kiss (rock cover band).

[cityofmobile.org/parks-rec/events](https://cityofmobile.org/parks-rec/events)

## **Mobile International Speedway Race Day**

**Aug. 13 from 2 to 11:30 p.m.**

**Mobile International Speedway, 7800 Park Blvd., Irvington**

Alabama's fastest half-mile is the fastest fun around. Racing starts in March and runs through October.

[mobilesportsauthority.com/facilities/mobile-international-speedway](https://mobilesportsauthority.com/facilities/mobile-international-speedway)

## **Vintage Market Days of Mobile**

**Aug. 25 through Aug. 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (each day)**

**The Grounds, 1035 Cody Rd.**

Vintage Market Days is an upscale, vintage-inspired market featuring original art, antiques, clothing, jewelry, handmade treasures, home décor, outdoor furnishings, consumable yummys, seasonal plantings and a little more.

## **Friday Night Live**

**Aug. 26 from 6 to 11 p.m. | Concert starts at 7 p.m.**

**Downtown Mobile between Dauphin and Franklin Streets**

The City of Mobile will host a night of gospel and jazz performances in downtown Mobile.

[cityofmobile.org/parks-rec/events](https://cityofmobile.org/parks-rec/events)



# AUGUST 2022

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

## 3 FORUM ALABAMA WITH JERRY CARL

*The Forum Alabama series provides a platform for Mobile's business community to hear directly from federal and state elected officials on policy and business issues directly affecting our community.*

**When:** 8 to 9 a.m. / Registration opens at 7:30 a.m.

**Where:** The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel and Spa

**Cost:** \$35 for members/\$50 for guests

**Contact:** Carolyn Wilson at 251.431.8606 or [cwilson@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cwilson@mobilechamber.com)

**Gold Sponsors:** Alabama Port Authority, Bishop State Community College

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

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## 10 COFFEE WITH THE CHAMBER

*Start your day with the Chamber and network with other business attendees.*

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

**Where:** Soul Caffeine, 1714 Dauphin St.

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

**Sponsor:** S&S Sprinkler

## 16 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

*\*Members Only*

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

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

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

**Speaker:** Dr. Ken Styron, Columbia Southern University

**Topic:** Columbia Southern University Update

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

*Registration requested due to limited seating.*

**Sponsor:** BancorpSouth

## 18 BUSINESS EXPO

*Mobile's premier business-to-business trade show featuring local companies showcasing the latest products and services, along with business resources, giveaways, food and beverage samples, and more.*

**When:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Where:** Mobile Convention Center – Exhibit Hall

**Cost:** \$5 general admission (with business card)

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

**Sponsors:** Alabama Dept. of Commerce, Office of Small Business Advocacy, All In Credit Union, Bay Business News, Bay Landscaping, Cintas Corporation, C Spire, Easy Heating & Cooling, Express Employment Professionals, Keesler Federal Credit Union, Mobile Area Association of Realtors, Springhill Medical Center, Troy University, USA Alumni/Athletics

*Note: See a list of exhibitors on page 36.*

## THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF OUR AUGUST EVENTS



## WHO'S NEW

## Franklin Primary Health Hires Deputy COO



Mangena

**Franklin Primary Health Center** hired **Fundisani Mangena** as deputy chief operations officer.

Mangena has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Siena Heights University in Michigan; a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University South Bend; and a master's degree in accounting from Purdue University. He is also a certified healthcare financial professional, Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt and a member of the American College of Medical Practice Executives.

## BSCC Names Interim President



Jones

The Alabama Community College System appointed **Charles Jones** acting president of **Bishop State Community College**. Jones

most recently served as regional external affairs and workforce manager for the system. He earned an associate's degree from Shelton State Community College in machine tool technology; a bachelor's degree in industrial education from The University of

Alabama; and a post-baccalaureate certification in construction management from Louisiana State University.

## Visit Mobile Welcomes Managers



Gagliano



Floyd

Visit Mobile hired two new team members, **Brittany Gagliano** and **Allison Floyd**.

Gagliano, a graduate of Spring Hill College and former Visit Mobile intern, will assume the role of partnership manager to enhance partner relations and development. Floyd, the marketing and events manager, has worked for The University of Alabama and most recently Alpha Phi International Fraternity Inc. As the program coordinator for collegiate extension, she supervised multiple chapters under five years of age in risk management and events, finance, philanthropy, member recruitment and management, and volunteer training.

## Exit Realty Lyon Adds New Hires

**EXIT Realty Lyon** announced **Alisha Whitfield** and **Kathedral Brown** have joined its growing team of dedicated real estate sales professionals.

## Gulf Orthopaedics Hires Orthopedic Traumatologist



Hulick

**Dr. R. Miles Hulick**, an orthopedic traumatologist, joined **Gulf Orthopaedics**.

He earned a medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine and completed a residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Hulick is also fellowship-trained by the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute in orthopedic trauma.

## New Agents Join IXI Real Estate



Brannon



Colli



Gulley



Hayes



Isaac



McClain



Walker

**Sandy Brannon**, **Brittney Colli**, **Sherra Gulley**, **Dustin Hayes**, **Nicky Isaac**, **Rhonda McClain** and **Hallie Walker** are new agents at **IXI Real Estate**.

## UWSA Hires Manager of Donor Relations



Bell

**United Way of Southwest Alabama** announced **Kimberly D. Bell** as its new manager of donor relations. Bell earned a bachelor's degree in secondary English education at Alabama A&M University and was an educator for 13 years in Mobile County Public Schools.

## Thomas Hospital Appoints New VP



Glisson

**Dr. Paul Glisson** accepted the position of vice president, chief medical officer and assistant chief information officer for **Thomas Hospital**, an affiliate of Infirmity Health. Glisson earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Auburn University; a master's degree in healthcare administration and a doctorate in osteopathic medicine from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. He is also a published author. Glisson succeeds Dr. Michael McBrearty, who recently retired.

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## University of Mobile Adds Alumni to Board of Trustees



Cox



Moore



Carter

The **University of Mobile (UM)** welcomed three alumni to its board of trustees during its spring meeting. **Tim Cox**, a senior pastor, earned a bachelor's degree in religion at UM and a master's degree in divinity and a doctorate in ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. **Ron Moore**, a project manager with Alabama Power Co., earned a master's degree in business administration from UM and a bachelor's degree in marketing from Talladega College. **Paul Carter** earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from UM.

## Mobile Bay NEP Hires Communications Manager



Messick

**Marti Messick** is the new communications manager for the **Mobile Bay National Estuary Program**. She will work with partner organizations to engage key stakeholders and the general public in the shared mission of promoting the stewardship of water quality and living resources in Alabama's estuaries.

## Anchor QEA Hires Principal Scientist



Markey

**Richard Markey** joined **Anchor QEA** as a principal scientist. Anchor QEA is an environmental and engineering consulting firm that focuses on serving clients in the energy and utility industries. Markey has degrees in civil engineering and geology.

## Wilkins Miller Announces New Employees

**Wilkins Miller LLC** accounting and advisory firm hired **Paighton Becker** as an accounting clerk and **Alison Bunch, Will Eichstaedt, Evan Mahone** and **Savannah Stephens** as new associates.

Becker earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and statistics from the University of South Alabama.

Bunch received a bachelor's degree in business management from Huntingdon College and is completing a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of South Alabama.

Eichstaedt earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and economics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Mahone received a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of South Alabama.

Stephens earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of South Alabama.

## BUSINESS ENDEAVORS

### Silver Ships Makes Deliveries

**Silver Ships** announced it recently delivered a custom fire rescue boat to Florida's Cape Coral Fire Department, with a second boat on contract. The Freedom 20 Fire Boat is part of Silver Ships' Freedom series, featuring a reliable hull design and all-welded aluminum, allowing vessels to have exceptional strength and durability. These vessels are typically used for law enforcement.

The company also delivered a customized vessel to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Research Fish Biologist team. The NOAA vessel is a custom-built Ambar 6 meter (AM600), designed to be operated from NOAA oceangoing ships. At just under 28 feet in length, with a hull length of 20' 5", this vessel is powered by two Mercury SeaPro 115hp, with an

80-gallon fuel tank, along with an 8'10" beam, 22" draft, a trailer and a boat cradle for deck storage to make this custom vessel meet the needs for NOAA.

## Turner Supply Acquires INPRO/SEAL

**Turner Supply**, an industrial supply distributor, acquired the INPRO/SEAL product line and territory from A-Team Industrial Products, formerly located in Mobile. INPRO/SEAL is a leader in the design and manufacture of permanent bearing protection and complete shaft sealing solutions. Turner Supply will serve A-Team Industrial Products' customers with a broad product offering, including many complimentary lines associated with pumps and other rotating equipment.

## Spring Hill College Offers New Master's Program

**Spring Hill College** announced a new Master of Public Health program. Students can complete the program in two years, and it has received approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The program is currently accepting students and will have six admission cycles per year. Courses are offered in an accelerated format (7-week sessions) and are completely online. The program will begin in the fall semester of 2022.

## Infirmity Health Offers Robotic-Assisted Solution for Knee Replacement

**Infirmity Health** is now the first healthcare system in Alabama to offer the VELYS Robotic-Assisted Solution for Total Knee Replacement. This technology offers improved patient outcomes, increased movement and shortened recovery time. Thomas Hospital completed the first replacement using this technology in March, and Mobile Infirmity completed its first case in April.

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## Mobile Participates in SCEI Initiative

The **City of Mobile** will participate in a new initiative led by the National League of Cities committed to increasing economic inclusion and resilience for communities of color across the southeastern United States. As one of sixteen cities participating in the Southern Cities Economic Inclusion (SCEI) initiative, Mobile received \$25,000 in grant funding to implement strategies that will help close racial and economic equity gaps and expand economic opportunities for residents and businesses of color. In addition to working on inclusion internally, the city will also be setting up community seminars to assist small business owners – particularly minority business owners – with launching and expanding their operations in Mobile.

## WELL DONE

### Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Advisor Makes List



Financial Advisor **S. Wesley Carpenter** was recently named to the 2022 *Barron's* "Top 1,200 Financial Advisors" list. Carpenter is a managing director and senior resident director - wealth management advisors at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

### Alabama Shipyard LLC Recognized for Safety

**Alabama Shipyard LLC** was among recipients of two of three "Shipyard Safety Awards" for 2022 by Washington D.C.-based Shipbuilders Council of America (SCA). The "Excellence in Safety" and "Significance in Safety Achievement" awards are given each year for enhancement of operations and promotion of safety and accident prevention.

## Wright Transportation Driver Honored



Lewis

Fundamental Underwriters, a division of AF Group and a specialty managing general underwriter with expertise in commercial auto insurance, has recognized **Richard Lewis** of **Wright Transportation** as its 2021 Driver of the Year. The award is presented annually to drivers in the commercial trucking industry with an exemplary driving record who demonstrate strong leadership and make significant contributions toward a positive safety culture within their organization. Lewis, who joined Wright Transportation in 2010, has since driven more than 1.5 million safe miles, and in 2021, earned high praise for his efforts to help Wright manage the supply chain crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### White-Spunner Construction Receives Awards

**White-Spunner Construction LLC (WSC)** was awarded the General Aviation Project of the Year Award by the American Association of Airport Executives for the recently constructed air traffic control tower at Gulf Shores International Airport. The company completed the multimillion-dollar project at Jack Edwards Field in late 2021. The tower stands 95 feet tall and contains a state-of-the-art communications system that allows aircraft to connect with tower controllers from more than 30 miles away.

In other news, the Mobile section of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) awarded WSC their nineteenth consecutive Construction Safety Excellence Award. The award recognizes construction companies that exemplify a substantial commitment to safety, compliance, occupational health standards and risk management. White-Spunner Construction was recognized in the building division for companies that worked between 300,000 and 350,000 hours in 2021.

## University of Mobile Announces Staff Awards and Promotions

The **University of Mobile's** highest faculty and staff honors were announced. The Megginson Awards recognize outstanding contributions to the university in the areas of teaching, research, and service, and the Faculty Engagement Award honors a faculty member who demonstrates excellence in student engagement inside and outside the standard classroom setting.

The 2022 William A. Megginson Teaching Award was presented to **Tammy Brown**, assistant professor of nursing and chair of the undergraduate program in the School of Nursing, College of Health Professions.

The 2022 Mitford Ray Megginson Research Award was presented to **Dr. Gyro Newman**, associate professor of communication in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The 2021 Emma Frances Megginson Service Award was presented to **Jeremy Harford**, director of media and production, director of the Production Technologies program, and instructor in the Alabama School of the Arts.

The 2022 Faculty Engagement Award was presented to **Dr. Lori DeLong**, dean of the School of Health and Sports Science in the College of Health Professions.

The following promotions and tenure were announced: **Dr. Pam Buchanan-Miller** was promoted to vice president for academic affairs.

**Dr. Glenn Hollingsworth** was promoted to associate professor of marriage and family counseling in the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Dr. Cassidy Cooper**, associate professor of sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences, received tenure. **Dr. Sarah Barnes-Witherspoon**, dean of the School of Nursing in the College of Health Professions, received tenure. **Larkisha Winbush** was promoted to chief information officer. Years of service awards were also presented to eligible staff.

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SCAN TO DONATE



## Austal USA Recognized for Safety Excellence

**Austal USA** was recognized by The American Equity Underwriters (AEU) as one of the safest shipyards in the maritime industry. AEU, the leading provider of workers' compensation for waterfront employers, uses this safety award program as a way to celebrate shipyards that go above and beyond to keep workers safe. Austal USA has been recognized repeatedly for the company's proven safe high-tech manufacturing processes. This is the seventh AEU award the company has received, and the 21<sup>st</sup> industry safety award earned overall, making Austal USA one of the safest shipyards in America.

## Providence Hospital Gets 'A' Grade

**Ascension Providence** in Mobile has once again been awarded an "A" from The Leapfrog Group's Hospital Safety Grade for Spring 2022. The national designation recognizes the hospital's efforts in protecting patients from harm and meeting the highest safety standards.

In 2020, Blue Cross and Blue Shield recognized Ascension Providence as a Blue Distinction Center+ for total hip and knee surgery, spine surgery and cardiac care. The hospital also was rated as a 4-star hospital in the 2021 ratings program of The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

## Mediacom Selected Best Managed Company

**Mediacom Communications Corp.** was selected a 2022 U.S. Best Managed Company. The program recognizes outstanding U.S. private companies and the achievements of their management teams. This marks the second year in a row that Mediacom has earned this honor.

## New Horizons Credit Union Receives Savings Excellence Award

**New Horizons Credit Union** earned the designation of Savings Excellence Award from the America Saves Program. The award recognizes those who effectively promoted saving during America Saves Week.

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



## FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER CHAD RILEY

A native of Mississippi, Chad Riley is a commercial photographer and photojournalist located in Mobile.

He graduated from the University of Mississippi and moved to Mobile in 2008 for his wife Cameron's graduate school studies. In 2010, Riley launched a career as a wedding photographer and has since photographed more than 300 weddings and 1,000 assignments. Today, his focus is primarily in commercial photography and photojournalism. His work has been featured in magazines and newspapers locally and nationally including *Mobile Bay Magazine*, *Alabama Magazine*, *Lagniappe*, *Business Alabama*, *Business View*, *Forbes Magazine*, *Best Magazine*, *TheKnot*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Philadelphia Daily News*. In this issue, Riley's photography is featured on the cover and can be seen in the article on the Chamber's president and CEO, Bradley Byrne.

To see more of his portfolio, visit [chadrileyphoto.com](http://chadrileyphoto.com).



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