

# THE CORNER

*AUGUST 2023*



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## Letter From the President

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce plans to kick off the last weekend of July with its 10th Annual Kid's Day. We hope you will come join the fun as we celebrate going back to school by giving away free school uniforms and 1,200 backpacks filled with school supplies. This year's event will feature an exotic petting zoo, wrestlers, foam parties, bouncy houses, a Beach Ball Drop, and Mobile's largest ice-cream sundae! Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, donators, board members, and staff for making this event possible.

Tuesday, August 1st marks the beginning of our Annual Gun Giveaway ticket sale. Tickets will be available at the Chamber Office for \$50 through October 31st. The 10 Gun Giveaway winners will be drawn November 1st - 10th.

With football season around the corner, the SWMCC has partnered with University of South Alabama Football to provide its partners with discounted tickets for the 2023 Jaguars home opener. The team will play Southeastern Louisiana on Saturday, September 9th at 4:00 pm at Hancock Whitney Stadium. For more information please email [info@swmccchamber.com](mailto:info@swmccchamber.com) or subscribe to their weekly emails. #gojags

Speaking of the Jags, this month's Luncheon speaker will be University of South Alabama President Jo Bonner. The Luncheon is set for Wednesday, August 2nd from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. I would like to thank Keesler Federal Credit Union for sponsoring and Naman's Catering for preparing our meal. If you plan to attend, please purchase your tickets in advance through the Chamber website.

Our Chamber has "Strength in Numbers" because we are built from all of our unique individuals working together. Webster defines individuality as the quality or character of a particular person that distinguishes them from others of the same kind. In my personal life I always try to do business with individuals and businesses that are uniquely individual because of their work ethics or personalities. Take advantage of our networking events to meet our Chamber Partners not only to promote yourself and your business but to also find a good match for any services or products you may need in your personal life.

*Curtis Polk*

BLP Stores Division Manager

*"Strength in Numbers"*





# AUGUST EVENT CALENDAR

## 1 Gun Giveaway Begins



Be sure to purchase a raffle ticket for our Annual Gun Giveaway!

Tickets available in the Chamber Office.

## 2 Monthly Business Luncheon

**Time:** 11:30am - 1:00pm

**Location:** John C. Williams Auditorium

**Speaker:** University of South Alabama President Jo Bonner



## 15 Coffee With The Chamber

Start Your Morning With Coffee & Networking 7:30-8:30. No reservations needed. Make this a priority to come and meet other Business Professionals over coffee.

## 15 Coffee Chat

Join us for our monthly Coffee Chat as Leigh West from Southern View Media discusses “The 4 P’s of Marketing and How to Apply them in Your Business.”



## 21 CAPS Meeting

**4:30 pm**

The Community Advisory Panel Meeting will be taking place at the Tillman’s Corner Community Center.



# SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY

CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

## AUGUST BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023

Networking 11:30am / Meeting 12:00-1:00pm



**Jo Bonner** is the fourth president of the University of South Alabama.

Previously, Bonner served as chief of staff to Alabama Governor Kay Ivey. He joined the Ivey Administration in December 2018, as Senior Advisor to the Governor. Before joining the Governor's Office, he served as Vice Chancellor for Economic Development at The University of Alabama System (UAS) from 2013 to 2018. During his final year at UAS, he was an executive on loan, serving as Interim Executive Director of the Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority.

For more than a decade, he represented Alabama's First District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was first elected to the 108th Congress in November 2002 and was reelected to five additional terms. As a student at The University of Alabama, he worked on Capitol Hill as an intern for Congressman Jack Edwards. After graduation, he returned to Washington as press secretary and later chief of staff to Congressman Sonny Callahan.

In Congress, he earned a reputation as a respected and influential voice of reason in both Alabama and Washington. He was a member of the House Appropriations Committee, where he served on three key subcommittees, and chaired the House Ethics Committee. Widely respected on both sides of the aisle, he was selected by House Speaker John Boehner to serve as chairman of Ethics during the 112th Congress. His crowning Congressional accomplishment came in 2012 when Airbus announced plans to build its first U.S. Final Assembly Line in Mobile. Over the years, Congressman Bonner developed friendships and strategic partnerships with the top corporate leaders at Airbus, one of the world's largest aerospace and defense companies. Airbus has invested more than \$1 billion in Alabama, creating thousands of new jobs in the aerospace industry. This puts Mobile on track to become the fourth largest commercial aviation city in the world.

President Bonner has received numerous awards and honors, including a 2021 induction into the Alabama Academy of Honor; the Academy is the state's premiere recognition of 100 living Alabamians for their outstanding accomplishments and service. In 2016, the Business Council of Alabama (BCA) created the inaugural Congressman Jo Bonner Spirit of Leadership Award and honored Bonner as its first recipient. In 2013, he received the Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest honor the U.S. Navy bestows on a civilian. He also received the 2012 Governor Bob Riley Building a Better Alabama Award by the BCA.

Bonner earned a B.A. degree in Journalism from The University of Alabama in 1982. He is married to the former Janée Lambert, of Mobile, and they are the parents of a daughter, Lee, and a son, Robins.

BUSINESS

NETWORKING





# LUNCHEON SPONSOR



With over 75 years of stellar service under our belt, Keesler Federal is not only the largest Mississippi-based credit union, but also one of the largest credit unions in the Southeast.

From a modest beginning in 1947, the founding members of Keesler Federal Credit Union had a shared vision. A vision of unity and the common good. Of building a cooperative financial partnership that would pool funds for the benefit of all members. An enduring vision of People Helping People. Fast forward seven decades and that guiding vision remains as crystal clear as it was then.

Our service footprint has broadened beyond the Mississippi Gulf Coast to include the Hattiesburg and Jackson metro areas, St. Tammany and Orleans parishes in Louisiana and the Mobile, AL area. As we welcome more members to the Keesler Federal family, add more products and services, refine technologies, and embrace innovation, we will never lose the relationship-based, local focus that is an essential part of the credit union experience.

**\*\* \$15.00 Current Partners  
\*\* \$18.00 for Future Partners  
EVENT TICKETS ARE LIMITED.**

**RSVP to reserve your seat!**

**Tickets can be purchased online at [www.swmcchamber.com](http://www.swmcchamber.com) or call the office to pay by phone at 251-666-2488.**

# LUNCHEON CATERER



Naman's Catering has been the Premier Caterer for the Gulf Coast for over 30 years. Naman's Catering specializes in full-service catering and event management for corporate events, galas, fundraisers, and weddings. "Throughout our expansion, we have kept to the exceptional standards that have distinguished our company since we began. We bring this outstanding service and presentation to many venues across the Gulf Coast."



# SWMCC BUSINESS EXPO

**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**  
**SWMCC**  
**SMALL BUSINESS**  
**EXPO**

PLEASE RSVP FOR THIS EVENT  
[swmcchamber.com](http://swmcchamber.com)  
251-666-2488

Location:  
Tillman's Corner  
Community Center  
5055 Carol Plantation Rd  
Mobile, AL 36619

Thursday, October 19th 2023  
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
VENDOR SOIREE  
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Business Expo has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 19th! The event will take place from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. There will also be a Vendor Soiree from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. If you are interested in participating and did not sign up earlier this year, we have space available. Please email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com) or call (251) 666-2846 for more information.

# SPLIT THE POT

**\$1 = 1 TICKET**

**\$5 = 10 TICKETS**

**\$20 = AN ARM'S LENGTH**

**(APPROX. 40 TICKETS)**

## GUNS & GEAR GIVEAWAY

Our Annual Gun Giveaway ticket sale is set to begin August 1st, 2023. Tickets will be sold in the Chamber Office for \$50.00 per ticket. The last day to purchase tickets will be October 31st. Beginning November 1st, two raffle winners will be drawn for ten consecutive days. Gun Giveaway winners will receive a predetermined gun from Eddie's Wholesale Jewelry. The second drawing is for our Gear Giveaway winner. Gear may include the following items: cooler, binoculars, beach chairs, gift cards, and tumblers. Winners will be drawn at 10:00 am each day and have 5 days to claim their prize. For more information please call (251) 666-2846 or email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com).

### Eddie's Wholesale Jewelry

3400 Government Blvd  
Mobile, AL 36693

## ANNUAL SKEET SHOOT



Get your guns oiled and shells loaded to join us Friday, September 15th for our 1st Annual Skeet Shoot at Taylor Creek Sporting Clays. Registration will begin at 8:00 am, the game will start at 10:00 am, and we will end with Lunch and Awards. Trophies will be given to 1st and 2nd place teams and Best Individual Shooter. Participation is \$100 per shooter or \$400 per team. There is a limit of 20 teams so we encourage participants to preregister. Teams are comprised of four shooters; therefore, any entries that do not make a full team will be assigned to another partial team on the day of the shoot. We are also offering sponsorship opportunities ranging from Title Sponsor to Bronze Sponsor, Shotgun Raffle Tickets for \$50, and Spectator Lunch for \$10 per person. All proceeds will go to the SWMCC Foundation to support T.A.L.L. Scholarships for upcoming 2023-2024 graduates. If you would like to preregister, become a sponsor, or receive more information please email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com) or call (251) 666-2846.

## CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS NETWORKING AT ITS BEST...

We are looking for businesses to host a monthly Business After Hours event at your location. It is a great opportunity to have the Chamber in your office and showcase the many wonderful items you sell, the services you provide or the activities that you perform. Schedule today and get more information on how to get on our calendar for 2023.

Hosting an After Hours Networking event gives members/partners an opportunity to network and socialize in a fun, relaxed atmosphere after the regular working day. This event is meant to be fun and is a great way for business to connect. This is a great way to meet new clients for your business.



Theodore-headquartered **Core Industries** entered into an agreement in July with **CM Biomass**, one of the largest independent wood pellet trading companies in the world, to construct a modern processing and storage facility. As part of the terms, Core will receive, store and load wood pellets for shipment. To accommodate this collaboration, Core will invest **\$8.75 million** in the construction of **two new warehouses**, each with a footprint of **57,600 square feet**, at its current locale found at 2460 Claudia Lane in the Theodore Industrial Park. The project is expected to create **28 new jobs** over the next five years. Copenhagen, Denmark-based CM Biomass also has a production facility in Jackson, Alabama, and recently bought a pellet mill in Washington County. The new processing site at Core's existing space in Theodore will allow CM Biomass to enhance its distribution and logistics capabilities for these operations.

**Stirling Properties** recently announced the following real estate transactions:

**Premier Transport**, a provider of nonemergency medical transportation for the elderly and disabled, has leased an 1,800-square-foot space at 1708 Dauphin Street in Mobile.

**Amanda Goldman** represented the tenant and **Jay Roberds, II** of **CRE Mobile**, worked for the landlord in the deal.

**A local investor** bought a 2,400-square-foot building found at 3954 Demetropolis Road in West Mobile, according to Jay O'Brien. The new owner will have 1,150 square feet of flexible space with a roll-up door available for lease.

**Trintalya's Boutique & Gifts** has leased a 1,300-square-foot suite within the shopping center at Cottage Plaza found at 8306 Cottage Hill Road in West Mobile, **Jill Meeks** managed the transaction.

**Knots Salon** is moving to Airport Oaks at 7449 Airport Boulevard in West Mobile. **Angela McArthur** represented the landlord and helped the tenant in this transaction.

**Vallas Realty**, working closely with listing agent **Manning Courtney** at **Courtney & Morris Real Estate Inc.**, reported that an out-of-town buyer was found in July to buy the long empty 33,625-square-foot former **Moorer YMCA** building found at 101 North Water Street in Downtown Mobile. The new owner will begin the

process of converting the building, with construction expected to begin soon.

**10 acres of land** located at 1341 West I-65 Service Rd North, within **Mobile County's "Opportunity Zone"**, with easy access to both North and South I-65 was sold for \$340,000 last month by local owner, **Reverend Thomas J Rodi**. The buyers, **CRIMSIMF Inc., An Illinois Corporation**, plan on developing the property sometime this year. **Pratt Thomas with Merrill P Thomas Co., Inc** represented both the buyer and seller in this transaction.

**Habitat for Humanity of Southwest Alabama** held a dedication ceremony last month for homes it calls "the side-by-sides" at **7245 and 7249 Third Street** in West Mobile. Completion of the properties has been a long time coming, as staff have dealt with supply and labor shortages over the past three years. The houses are the **226th** and **227th** new homes constructed by the local nonprofit, which will celebrate its 35th anniversary in September.

**Chris Harle of White-Spinner Realty** recently represented the landlord in the lease of a 2,410 square foot property for **Mojeaux's**, a new restaurant founded by local chef **Chris Banks**. The site is situated at 396 Azalea Road in West Mobile.

The 1,900 square foot **Christian Warehouse Store** found at 1128 Hillcrest Road in West Mobile opened for business last month, according to husband-and-wife co-owners **Doug and Bette Meduna**.

WE'D LOVE TO ADD YOUR  
NAME HERE!!

CALL THE CHAMBER FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ON BECOMING AN  
ACTIVE PART OF YOUR  
COMMUNITY BY JOINING THE  
SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY  
CHAMBER!

call 251-666-2846  
or email [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com)



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

# The Most-Awaited **SUMMER EVENT**



# 2023 **KID'S DAY**



**GAMES**

**FREE UNIFORMS**

**FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

**PETTING ZOO**

**VENDORS**

**BEACH BALL DROP @ 12**



**WE ARE GOING TO BUILD MOBILE'S LARGEST ICE CREAM SUNDAE!!!!**

**LOCATION:**

**TILLMAN'S CORNER COMMUNITY CENTER  
5055 CAROL PLANTATION ROAD  
WWW.SWMCCHAMBER.COM  
(251) 666-2846**



# JULY 29, 2023 Saturday 9-1PM



**Brown & Root**



**RANDALL DUEITT  
DISTRICT 3  
COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Thank you to Alabama House Representative Margie Wilcox of District 104 for her generous support of this event.



**Integrity IT Services**





# KID'S DAY ITINERARY

9:00 AM PLEDGES & NATIONAL ANTHEM

10:00 AM WRESTLING

11:00 AM BUILD MOBILE'S LARGEST ICE CREAM SUNDAE

11:30 AM FOAMPARTY FOR AGES 5 & UNDER

12:00 PM BEACH BALL DROP

12:30 PM FOAMPARTY AGES 6 TO 12



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By August 31, 2023

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## Diamond

Holcim

## Platinum

## Gold

Integrity IT Services  
Keesler Federal Credit Union  
Mobile County Commission  
Mobile County Sheriff's Department  
Payroll Vault

## Silver

Alabama Power  
Evonik Corporation  
Pro 1 Painters  
Treasured Moments Lifestyle Photography

## Bronze

Accelerated Accounting  
American Weather Star  
Brown and Root  
Corsentino Chiropractic  
CRE - Mobile  
Family Security Credit Union  
Godfathers Pizza  
Gulf Coast Graphix  
Huntington Learning Center  
Proshield Pest Control  
Rock & Roll Offs  
Singing River Health Systems  
Southern View Media  
The Grounds  
Uniti Fiber

## Friends of the Chamber

A Spot of Tea  
BASF Corporations  
Dex Imaging  
Dick Russell's BBQ  
Elite Mobile Real Estate  
EverLoved Veterinary, LLC  
Fremin Ventures, LLC  
Gulf Coast Graphix  
Kalifeh Bedsole Adams PC  
Lindsey and Waldo, LLC  
Magnolia Mortgage Company  
Occupational Health Center  
Poplar Home Waterproofing Inc.  
The Shoulder of the Central Gulf Coast  
Touching Hearts Senior Care

# "BUILT FOR THIS" WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



**August 25th, 2023**  
**from**  
**8:00 am to 5:00 pm**  
**at the**  
**GulfQuest Maritime Museum**

Join us as we discuss building confidence, financial wealth, and social media presence/branding. Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith will serve as the keynote speaker and plans to give insight into building resilience. The event will include door prizes, networking, vendors, and more!

**Hosted By:**



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE



**SARALAND AREA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

*Topics include*

- "Building Your Confidence"
- "Building Financial Wealth"
- "Building Your Social Media Presence & Brand"

*door prizes  
networking  
vendors- and more*

*Presenting Sponsor*

**Laurel Flowers State Farm**

# WE APPRECIATE YOU!

*Celebrating*

## National Health Center Week

August 6-12



[Accordia-Health.org](http://Accordia-Health.org)



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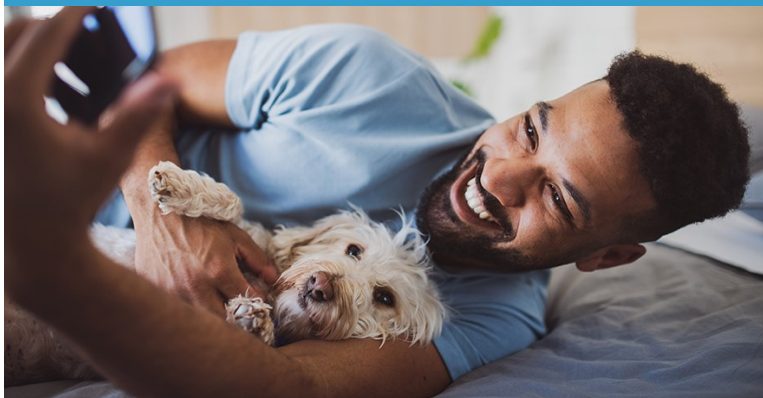
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## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



The details, exceptional customer service, personal relationships, and customer success — Bryant Bank cares because those things matter.

To be legendary, we put care into action and work hard each day so that every Alabamian can experience a financially stable future. While banking will change and communities will grow, our traditional culture will remain consistent as we embrace innovation and change together.

We will do everything with exceptional ethics and integrity in mind. We will offer sound advice and honest evaluations, always. Our relationships will be built on trust and communication.

We care because family is at the heart of what matters most. And, in doing so, our customers reach their full potential, businesses excel, and Alabama thrives.

Founded in 2005, Bryant Bank proudly operates 18 branches located in five of the six largest metropolitan markets in the state of Alabama: Huntsville, Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Mobile, and Baldwin County. We offer personal, business, and mortgage banking services as well as Treasury Management Services, Correspondent Banking, and Capital Markets.

### **BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!**

**CALL: (251) 666-2846**

**EMAIL:  
[info@swmccchamber.com](mailto:info@swmccchamber.com)**



# OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Photographed By: TREASURED MOMENTS & MEMORIES

Thank you Officer Joseph Joiner for your commitment to our community!

**LUSH**  
Florist & Gifts  
Susan George  
Owner / Florist  
[susan@lushfloristandgifts.com](mailto:susan@lushfloristandgifts.com)  
West Mobile  
251.287.2053  
6808 Airport Blvd. Mobile, AL, 36608

**THEODORE DAWES**  
  
**FIRE RESCUE**

We would like to thank Theodore Dawes Fire Rescue for their dedication to our Chamber as well as to providing the Theodore Community with proper fire protection and prevention.

## Chamber and Community Center Staff

### Executive Director

Tina Poiroux, AACE  
[tpoiroux@swwcchamber.com](mailto:tpoiroux@swwcchamber.com)

### Administrative Assistant

Hope Driskell  
[hdriskell@swwcchamber.com](mailto:hdriskell@swwcchamber.com)

### Event Specialists

Calvin Dickerson  
Gary Turk

**CONTACT US at 251-666-2488 or the Chamber at 251-666-2846**  
[www.swwcchamber.com](http://www.swwcchamber.com)

## Strength in Numbers



SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND OTHER CHAMBER OPPORTUNITIES BY EMAILING US AT [INFO@SWMCCHAMBER.COM](mailto:INFO@SWMCCHAMBER.COM)



2020 - 2024



ALABAMA ACCREDITED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE