



# TER FROM THE PRESI

YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR BUSINESS"

# WELCOME TO THE SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

It's hard to believe that we are entering the final quarter of the year. As you all know, it is one of the chamber's busiest times of the year, with us already having kicked off our Guns and Gear Giveaway. Tickets are on sale at <u>www.swmcchamber.com</u> through the end of October for \$50.00 per ticket. What makes this raffle so unique is that only 200 tickets are sold and each ticket is re-entered into the daily drawing regardless of whether it has been drawn previously. That means each ticket has the chance to be drawn up to twenty times! The drawings will begin on November 1st and will end on November 10th. Proceeds from the raffle support the SWMCC Foundation which provides scholarships for our T.A.L.L. students, so be sure to purchase yours today!

Speaking of supporting our T.A.L.L. students, we also have our 2nd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot Fundraiser which will be held on September 13th. This would be a great team-building opportunity for many businesses, so please consider participating. It is \$100.00 per person or \$400.00 for a four-person team. If you are interested in signing up, you can register online now. If you would like more information, please contact Tina or Hope by emailing info@swmcchamber.com. The preregistration period is open through Friday, September 6th.

Our September Luncheon is quickly approaching and we are excited to have David Clark, President and CEO of Visit Mobile, as our guest speaker. We hope you all take advantage of the networking opportunity provided at our monthly luncheon. This is a great way to spread the word about your business, special sales, or celebrations with like-minded business owners and employees. Please be sure to preregister if you plan to attend as there is limited seating.

The holidays are also quickly approaching and the Chamber Board and staff are in the midst of planning our four Christmas events. If you are a partner and would like to be involved in the planning and execution of these events, please consider joining our events committee. If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out to a member of our staff. The biggest of these upcoming Christmas events is the Tillman's Corner Christmas Parade. Last year, we had a record number of participants and we are looking to continue growing. Applications to participate in the parade are available in the Chamber Office or you can email info@swmcchamber.com for a digital copy.

With the holidays approaching, we want to encourage you to let the chamber staff know of any special events, sales, or anniversaries you would like the chamber to promote on your behalf. "YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR BUSINESS" and we want to help make this last quarter of the year as successful as possible for all of our partners. Annual nominations for the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber's Citizen of the Year and Impact Award are open through October 1st. These nominations are a great way to recognize fellow partners for their outstanding work and community outreach efforts.

Sharon Murrill

SWMCC Board President



SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER of COMMERCE

5055 Carol Plantation Rd Mobile, AL 36619 (251) 666-2846 www.swmcchamber.com Cover Photo: Alabama Travel

#### TILLMAN'S CORNER MOBILE COUNTY, AL

**Executive Team** President: Sharon Murrill Vice President: Councilman Josh Woods Treasurer: Elaine Sessions Secretary: Christy Myers

### THE SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER'S

# EVENT CALENDAR

# SEPTEMBER 2024

2

#### Guns & Gear Giveaway Tickets

Tickets for the SWMCC's Annual Guns & Gear Giveaway will be available through October 31st. Tickets are available through the Chamber Office or online at: www.swmcchamber.com

Winners will be drawn November 1st through 10th.

#### Labor Day

The Chamber Office will be closed on Monday, September 2nd in honor of this holiday. Normal business hours will be resumed on Tuesday, September 3rd.

#### <u>Luncheon Preregistration</u> Deadline

The deadline to purchase an online ticket for the September Luncheon is September 3rd. Any tickets purchased at the door will be \$20.00 per person, regardless of partner status.

#### **Monthly Business Luncheon**

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Location: John C. Williams Auditorium Speaker: David Clark, Visit Mobile Caterer: Time to Eat

# $6 \frac{S}{Pro}$

#### Sporting Clay Shoot Preregistration Deadline

Be sure to preregister for the Sporting Clay Shoot at Taylor Creek Sporting Clays by Friday, September 6th as there is a limit of twenty teams.

#### **Sporting Clay Shoot**

**Location:** Taylor Creek Sporting Clays

We are still accepting teams for our 2nd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot. Please email info@swmcchamber.com to register your team!

#### <u>CAPS</u>

**Time:** 4:30 pm **Location:** John C. Williams Auditorium Community Action Panel

# 17

16

#### Coffee with the Chamber

Our monthly Coffee with the Chamber is a great opportunity to network with other business leaders and representatives. This event is open for both current SWMCC

## BUSINESS INTERNET The speeds you need to grow your business.

Get the speed, reliability and security of a pure fiber connection. Uniti's Internet products enhance your collaboration efforts and productivity, while giving more for your budget.

25Mbps to 10Gbps | 24/7/365 Support

# **Uniti** Uniti



# MONTHLY BUSINESS LUNCHEON NETWORKING

# SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2024

# LUNCHEON SPEAKER

David Clark joined Visit Mobile as President & CEO in 2017. He has over 37 years of hospitality, lodging, and tourism leadership in Coastal Alabama. Visit Mobile is the city's official destination marketing organization charged with attracting visitors and conventions to the



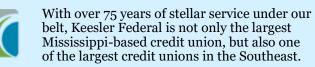
Mobile area to experience and enjoy our history, culture, and attractions in order to further strengthen Mobile's image as a national destination, increasing economic stability and enhancing the region's quality of life. He leads the tourism destination's development through innovative collaborations with Carnival Cruise, Mobile Airport Authority, Amtrak, Cultural Heritage tourism, and engagement with domestic and international travel writers. David serves as an ex-officio Board of Directors member of the state's first Tourism Improvement District {TID} since its establishment in 2020. The Mobile TID has provided innovative marketing and capital improvement resources to tell Mobile's story in ways that were never possible before. Mobile's economic impact from tourism in 2023 includes important increases and record numbers. According to data collected by the Alabama Tourism Department and the State of Alabama, more than 3.4 million visitors traveled to Mobile in 2023. These visitors accounted for \$1.8 billion in total travel-related spend in Mobile. In 2023, Visit Mobile Convention Sales Team has doubled their annual booking pace in each of the last 3 years to over 100,000 room nights

annually - \$50M direct impact. Additionally, more than 22,000 jobs in Mobile during that year were travel -related employment. David believes travel and tourism commerce is crucial to the success of every industry and will continue to be a critical part of the City of Mobile's economy, development, and workforce. Prior to joining the Visit Mobile team, David worked 4 years for Spectrum Resorts, the management company of The Beach Club and Turquoise Place and worked at The Grand Hotel Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Point Clear, Alabama for 23 years. During that time David and his teams earned several national industry awards. David serves in leadership roles on numerous industry, civic, and cultural boards. He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and a lifetime member of the Professional Golfers Association of America. He is married to Melinda Murphy Clark and has a daughter, Savannah.



# SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON SPONSOR

# 



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.

# **BUSINESS OF THE MONTH**



Since 1986, Crow Shields Bailey PC continues to reach beyond the numbers as the Gulf Coast region's premier accounting and consulting firm. With headquarters in Mobile, Alabama, and offices extending to Daphne and Gulf Shores, Crow Shields Bailey has a dedicated team of financial experts committed to partnering with our individual and corporate clients to maximize their wealth and reach their goals.

With more than 32 years of expertise in accounting, tax, client advisory services, and consulting services, our team looks forward to continuing to serve the Gulf Coast community and add value to your financial future. Contact us today to learn more about Crow Shields Bailey.

We appreciate the support of our loyal clients and look forward to continuing to serve you, as well as becoming the trusted advisor for our new clients.

Best regards,

Kegina L. Mclellar

Gina McKellar Managing Shareholder

# LUNCHEON TICKETS

If you plan to attend the Chamber's Monthly Business Luncheon, you must purchase a ticket for the event by **Tuesday, September 3rd.** Event tickets are available online at <u>www.swmcchamber.com</u>. Prospective partner and guest tickets are \$20.00 per person, while current partners can purchase a discounted ticket at \$15.00 per person. If your business purchased prepaid luncheon tickets, please email info@swmcchamber.com to reserve your seat(s). **Individuals who purchase a ticket online or reserved a prepaid** seat will be eligible for the new "Fast Pass" **Registration.** An email will go out to those who are eligible on September 4th with further instruction on this new process.

For anyone who does not preregister, you will be charged \$20.00 per person at the door. This change applies to all attendees, regardless of whether they are representing a renewed partner or prospective partner. Businesses who have renewed receive a discounted ticket price of \$15.00 per person if they preregister online prior to the luncheon or purchase prepaid luncheon tickets.

These changes will go into effect on Wednesday, September 4th, 2024. Please be sure to preregister by Tuesday, September 3rd to avoid an upcharge at the door.



#### **Honorary**

Evonik Corporation Mobile Coca-Cola Bottling Company Polysurveying of Mobile

#### Diamond

CrowderGulf LLC Holcim

#### Platinum Keesler Federal Credit Union

#### Gold

Mobile County Commission Mobile County Sheriff's Office Payroll Vault Southern View Media

#### <u>Silver</u>

Alabama Power Evonik Corporation Polysurveying of Mobile Proshield Pest Control The Grounds

#### **Bronze**

Accelerated Accounting American WeatherStar **Blue Rents Brown and Root Industrial Services** Cadence Bank **Corsentino Chiropractic CRE** - Mobile **Family Security Credit Union** Godfather's Pizza **Gulf Coast Graphix** Hammerhead Kayaks Huntington Learning Center **Premier Cleaning & Janitorial** Rock & Roll Offs Singing River Health System **Touching Hearts Senior Care** Uniti Fiber

#### Friends of the Chamber

Broussard Agency, Inc Core Industries Dick Russell's Bar-B-Q Express Employment Professionals Kalifeh Bedsole Adams PC Lindsey & Waldo, LLC Mobile Memorial Gardens Funeral Home Occupational Health Center The Shoulder of the Central Gulf Coast



# SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY CHAMBER

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Congratulations to Detective Christian Holt from the Mobile Police Department Precinct II on being selected as the Officer of the Month for August of 2024.



Detective Christian Holt was recognized for his accomplishment at our Business Luncheon on Wednesday, August 7th, 2024. The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to say thank you for your outstanding efforts and continued commitment to our community! He is pictured to the right, alongside Captain Matthew James and Century Bank Representative Jason Prater.





Deputy Tanner Whipkey was also

recognized for his efforts on Wednesday, August 7th by being named the Deputy of the Month. The Chamber would like to thank him for making the sacrifices he has to protect others in our community. Deputy Whipkey is pictured to the left with Chief Deputy Andrew Peak

and Jason Prater, who is a representative of Century Bank. We would also like to thank Sheriff Paul Burch for his continued support of this recognition program. The Chamber is proud to have the opportunity to recognize local first responders and greatly appreciate those who help make this recognition possible.



In addition, the SWMCC would like to commend Firefighter Shelby Lambert of the Theodore Dawes Fire Rescue for his exceptional work. Lambert was recognized on August 7th as our Firefighter of the Month for his faithfulness to serve and protect our community. He is pictured to the right with Chief Deputy Andrew Peak of the

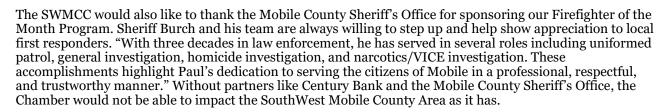


Mobile County Sheriff's Office and Bonita Tanner of the Theodore Dawes Fire Rescue. The Chamber is honored to have the opportunity to show appreciation towards these individuals for their bravery and dedication to our city. We appreciate the efforts of all three departments as well as their leadership for continuing to support the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber and its partners.



# **BROUGHT TO YOU BY**

The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Century Bank for sponsoring our Officer of the Month and Deputy of the Month Programs. We so appreciate their willingness to continuously recognize such outstanding members of our community. "Century Bank is a proud member of the communities we serve. Our involvement in extracurricular activities, fund raisers, organizations and other local events is a priority for directors, officers and employees of Century Bank."









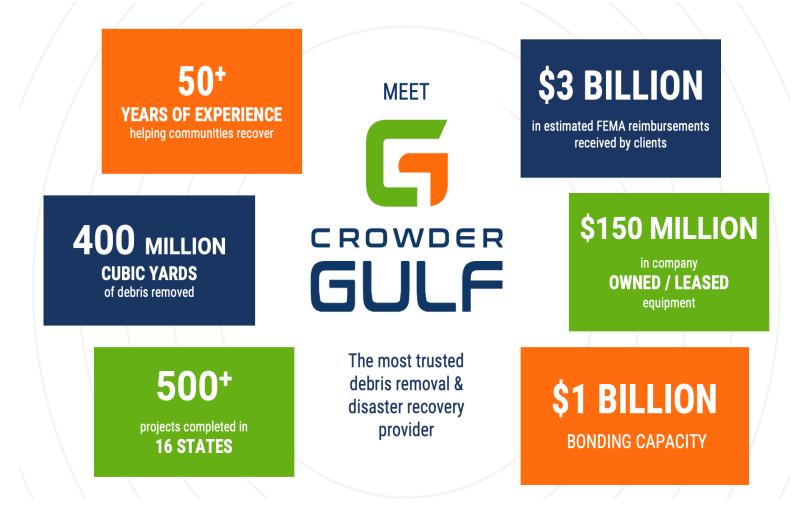
#### **2nd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot**

SIGN UP NOW The SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its 2nd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot on Friday, September 13th. The event will take place at Taylor Creek Sporting Clays (11910 Windsor Rd Theodore, AL 36582). Registration will begin at 8:00 am and the game will begin at 10:00 am, with lunch and awards following the shoot. Trophies will be given to 1st & 2nd place teams and Best Individual Shooter.

We highly encourage participants to preregister as there will be a limit of 20 teams. The cost is \$100 per shooter or \$400 per team. We also have Title, Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze Sponsorships available.

All proceeds from the event will go to the SWMCC Foundation to support T. A. L. L. Scholarships for 2024-2025 graduates. This year there were twelve high school seniors selected for the program from seven local schools. If you would like to learn more about the program or are interested in sponsoring a student scholarship, please reach out to our staff or visit our website at www.swmcchamber.com.

If you are interested in participating, you can visit the chamber's website to register or stop by the Chamber Office for an application. On the website, you will have to option to register individually or as a team of four. Those who do not have a full team will be paired up with other participants on the day of the event. If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please stop by the Chamber Office or email info@swmcchamber.com for an application.



## LEARNING LEADERSHIP

# STUDENT PROGRAMS

# BUILDING TOMORROW

# T.A.LL PROGRAM

As many of our partners know, the Chamber has a Student Scholarship Program for high school seniors called the Tillman's Corner Area Learning Leadership (T.A.L.L.) Program. Throughout the eight month program, students have the opportunity to tour local businesses, visit the State Capitol,

learn from financial experts, speak with State Representatives, serve in the community and more! The Chamber Staff and Board welcomed twelve new students to participate in the program.

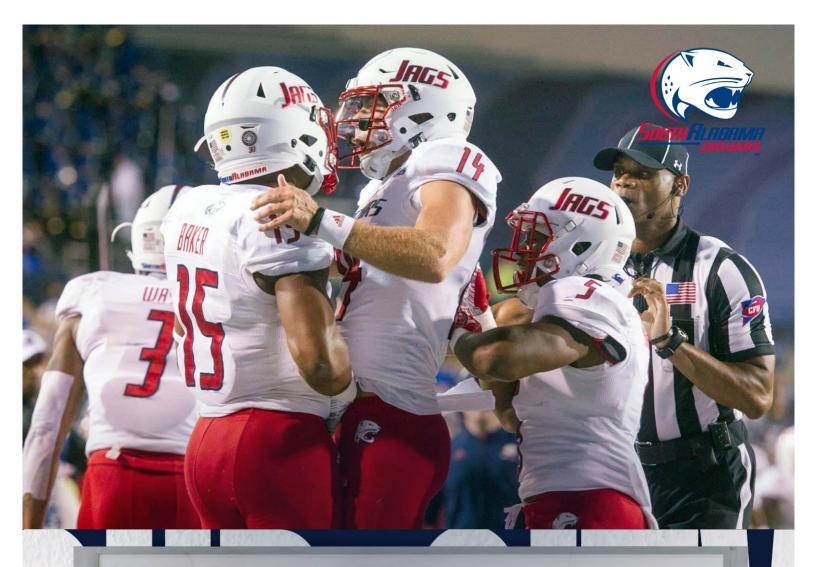
In order to provide scholarships for these students in April, we need your support. This month there are two fundraisers that will support the SWMCC Foundation, which provides scholarships for our students. The first of these fundraisers is our 2nd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot on September 13th. For more information on this event, please see page seven of "The Corner" newsletter or visit the chamber website. The second fundraiser is our Annual Guns & Gear Giveaway. Raffle tickets for the giveaway are available online at <u>www.swmcchamber.com</u> through October 31st. Winners will be drawn November 1st through November 10th.

If your organization would prefer to sponsor a 2024-2025 student's scholarship in full, please reach out to our staff. For those who attend our monthly business luncheons, you can support our T.A.L.L. students by participating in the Split the Pot raffle. Tickets are sold at the entrance to the luncheon each month, participants can pay with cash or card. The winner of this drawing is announced at the close of the luncheon.



# To all student athletes who take the field, **PLAY THE GAME WITH HONOR.**

Join our team at mobileso.com



# 2024 SOUTH ALABAMA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	VS NORTH TEXAS	OCT. 15	VS TROY
SEPT. 7	@ OHIO	OCT. 26	VS ULM
SEPT. 14	VS NORTHWESTERN S	STATE NOV. 2	VS GEORGIA SOUTHERN
SEPT. 19	@ APP STATE	NOV. 16	@ LOUISIANA
SEPT. 28	@ LSU	NOV. 23	@ SOUTHERN MISS
0CT. 5	@ ARKANSAS STATE	NOV. 29	VS TEXAS STATE
N & JADEN RE HERE	J'S UP! IT WAS ALWAYS THE JAGS	MAJOR APPLEWHITE IS DA GOAT	JAGS BY 90 OUR CITY



#### Do you know your Chamber?

The earliest chamber of commerce in the United States was established on April 22, 1912. They named it the US Chamber of Commerce, and it still exists today. They focus on protecting the interests of American businesses The first chamber of commerce ever created came about in 1599 in Marseille, France. Its purpose was to gather merchants, industrialists, traders, and craftsmen to discuss and tackle community challenges. The chamber of commerce was a place of unity, even among competitors. Their voice soon became a persuasive power in the community. Yet numerous smaller chambers have cropped up throughout the nation as a voice for local area businesses. Their purpose is the same, just on a smaller scale. Local chambers tackle both issues and trends taking place in their community as well as offer resources and services to help local businesses succeed. The American Business Magazine posted statistics recently about chambers: 44% of consumers are more likely to think favorably of businesses who are members of their local chamber, 63% of consumers are more likely to buy products or services from businesses who are members of their local chamber, Consumers view chamber of commerce members as trustworthy and are 12% more likely to believe their products or services are better than competitors.

The Chamber of Commerce organizations are not cookiecutter organizations. Every chamber is unique, with different benefits, resources, and opportunities. However, the end goal is the same to serve as an influential voice and power that stands for the well-being of the local business environment. This includes helping to promote our local businesses and improve their growth. From regular networking and volunteer events to promotion and marketing packages, your membership/partnership will gain you access to opportunities to make connections, meet potential new clients, and gain exposure to your brand. A local chamber of commerce organization has a reputation for standing up for the local community and its economy. When your business is associated with their name, it gives the perception that you stand for these things, too. As a result, consumers trust you more and want to support your mission.

Gaining exposure is hard, especially if you're a new business. With a Chamber of Commerce membership/partnership, you gain resources that make this much easier. This may include exposure through physical newsletters, e-newsletters, social media posts, and other forms of publication. From committees to mixers to ribbon cuttings and more, you'll find various opportunities to connect with other businesses every single month. Most of our events are free or discounted to members, making them an affordable way to network.

A Chamber of Commerce does more than serve as a marketing vehicle for local businesses. It has an important role in local government affairs as well. We serve as a voice for the local business owners and industries. This includes addressing issues that may arise with new regulations, fees, taxes, costs, or assessments applicable to the businesses we serve. Your role is relevant and your opinion becomes part of the many contributed voices that form the chamber's views. A chamber of commerce is a community within itself. It brings its members together to not only benefit the community, but also to benefit each other. Through various events, you will meet, network, and connect with a wide array of influential professionals. It's up to you to make the connection, of course, but the opportunities are plentiful. Many businesses grow their customer base and their network through chamber sponsored or hosted events. Through regular newsletters, we update our members on various news and issues that are happening within the community, as well as spotlight featured businesses or new businesses. Our chamber offers reduced rental fees for conference room space, discounted event tickets, or affordable promotional tools.

Explore the levels of partnerships that are available through this chamber, as well as what unique benefits we offer. Your level of commitment should be based on the results you want to see. From directory listings to spotlight features, exposure, and sponsored events, you can gain access to valuable promotional opportunities at a fraction of the cost it would take to do them yourself. Plus, with an established local chamber having numerous connections within the community, you will find that your ability to make a local impact grows exponentially.

Tina Poiroux Executive Director

# NEW PARTNERS

blûerents

#### **Blue Rents**

(251) 610-4396booking@bluerents.comwww.bluerents.com6170 HWY 90, Theodore, AL 36582



#### NEST of Mobile

(251) 604-3131 info@nestofmobile.org www.nestofmobile.org 55 Midtown Park E, Mobile, AL 36606



Walmart 🔀

#### **Projob/Medmasa Staffing**

(850) 861-9368 lallen@projob.com www.medmasa.com

#### Walmart Distribution Center

(251) 957-4693 help@walmart.com www.walmart.com 8725 County Farm Rd Irvington, AL 36544

#### BY : RON SIVAK — THE REAL ESTATE CORNER The isopia 16 floor, guindricelly shaped Heliday Ian Downtown



The iconic, 16-floor, cylindrically shaped Holiday Inn Downtown, located at 301 Government Street in downtown Mobile, was put up for auction recently with an asking price of \$4,700,000. "The site is in ideal proximity to the Mobile Civic Center, Mobile Carnival Museum and Mobile Convention Center. Twin Hotels LLC sold the hotel to Manhantraj Hospitality LLC for \$12,000,000 in 2022." local publication Downtown Mobile Today said in a media release.

Wellness Realty, LLC (The Wellness Collective) paid \$375,000 last month for a 14,000-square-foot office building located at 960 Downtowner Boulevard in West Mobile. Leigh Rendfrey and Jay Roberds of CRE Mobile represented the seller in the transaction. The Wellness Collective is a mental health center for children, adolescents, adults, couples and families.

Last month Louise Doggett Antiques leased an approximately 2,200 square foot standalone building with attached parking found at 2561 Dauphin Street in Mobile. Bradford Ladd of Roberts Brothers Commercial & Property Management Inc. represented Louise Doggett Antiques in the transaction.

A local investor paid \$799,000 for some 12,030 square feet of property, holding multiple buildings and found at 10160 Airport Boulevard in West Mobile. Angie McArthur of Stirling Properties worked for the buyer in the deal. The property will continue to be leased to existing tenants.

Local investors paid \$920,000 in August for a two-story, 7,536-square-foot building located at 803 Government St. in downtown Mobile. Josh W. Hall and Pete Riehm of CRE Mobile worked for the seller of the fully leased building in the deal. Jay Roberds of CRE Mobile represented the buyers

Local medical cannabis retailer, Route 420 Dispensary, recently leased a 2,078 square foot space located at 7850 Airport Boulevard in West Mobile. Chris Harle and Leigh Dale Younce of White-Spunner Realty represented the landlord in the transaction.

A regional bank paid \$1.56 million for a 21,700-square-foot office building located at 1495 South University Boulevard in West Mobile, according to Herrington Realty, who handled the transaction. Investors plan to remodel the property and use it as executive offices.



Accordia Health is committed to keeping your children healthy and ready for the new school year.

Going back to school reunites children with classmates and friends, which means sharing laughter, learning, and, unfortunately, germs.

It is important to keep your children's vaccinations up to date to protect them and others. Let Accordia Health help get them ready to go back to school.



**Pediatric Appointments Available** 

Accordia Health has three convenient pediatric locations in Mobile County

Bayou La Batre • West Mobile • Gordon Smith Drive









ss of a patient's ability to pay Discounts are offered on services based or a Federally Qualified Health Center. This health center receives HHS fu health or health related claims, including medical malpractice claims, for



## **Chamber and Community Center Staff**

<u>Executive Director</u> Tina Poiroux, AACE tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com <u>Administrative Assistant</u> Hope Driskell hdriskell@swmcchamber.com Event Coordinator Jillian Baxter jbaxter@swmcchamber.com

<u>Event Specialist</u> Calvin Dickerson

For Rental Information call the Tillman's Corner Community Center at (251) 666-2488 For Chamber Information call the SWMCC at (251) 666-2846





# JOIN THE SWMCC TODAY!

