

# THE CORNER

SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce

*Serving All of South Mobile County*

April 2020

**Business Luncheon  
April 1st Cancelled**



**SECURE ALABAMA'S FUNDING!**

FILL OUT CENSUS 2020

[census.alabama.gov](https://census.alabama.gov)

## "In Step With Progress"

### Message from the President



Folks, we suddenly find ourselves, our families, and our businesses in uncharted territory facing an invisible pernicious threat that we know is very contagious and potentially very dangerous, but we frankly do not know how many people will ultimately be infected and how bad it will be. Like facing any hurricane, we have no choice but to prepare and take as many precautions as possible.

Governments across the nation are taking unprecedented measures to reduce public contact and thereby hopefully slow the spread of this vicious Chinese virus. Schools are closed, restaurants are closed, events or meetings of more than 25 are prohibited, and many are working from home. These aggressive efforts are bound to have an effect and hopefully show sooner rather than later that we are starting to contain this contagion. We must take these drastic steps to ensure our health care systems are not overwhelmed and to save lives, but we must also be prudent to mitigate the economic damage to our families, employees, and businesses.

While we are working diligently to protect public health, our elected officials at every level are also fortunately very concerned about the economic impact on workers and businesses. Congress will hopefully soon pass a comprehensive relief package for businesses and their employees. We understand this package will include programs that will help particularly small businesses keep paying their employees and providing benefits even if they are closed. Your chamber will bring you the details as soon as they are available.

The Small Business Administration is already offering disaster loans; go to <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela> to learn more. The Congressional relief package may have provisions where some loans can become grants. The federal government has already postponed tax filing until 15 July. The City of Mobile has temporarily waived penalties for businesses who may be late paying their sales and lodging taxes. Rest assured our elected officials are in tune with the challenges you are facing, so please let us know of any issues not being addressed. We are your voice and will relay your concerns.

These are no doubt difficult and historic times; and we will probably see more adversity before it gets better. However, our nation has taken a war time stance to fight this pandemic; we will prevail – this will not last forever. It may last longer than we like, but we will find ways to mitigate the risks and reopen our businesses. It is not prudent to bring our economy to a standstill; that could potentially cause more damage than the pandemic. We are Americans; we will find ways to cope and carry on.

In accordance with social distancing prescriptions, our April Luncheon is cancelled and the First Responders Breakfast for 14 April will also be postponed. We will work to inform you of all resources as they become available. Together we will beat this. Please practice the social distancing precautions and be sure to pray for our families, businesses, communities, and our country. The Lord will deliver us. God bless you all!

Pete Riehm, SWMCC President

## Chamber Mission

**Our Chamber's mission is to foster, promote, advance, and improve the civic, commercial and general business interests of the surrounding areas and to cooperate with other communities promoting objectives for the improvement of our business and the welfare of our community.**

## 2020 Officers

**President**  
Pete Riehm  
NAI Mobile

**1st Vice President**  
Tiffany Ginn  
Uniti Fiber

**2nd Vice President**  
Chris Black  
Integrity IT Services

**Secretary**  
Curtis Polk  
BLP Mobile Paints

**Treasurer**  
Bryan Dewberry  
Marine Corp League

## Board of Directors

Jeff Brinson - Southwestern Consulting  
Stephanie Chestnut - Dick Russell's BBQ  
Laura Hittson - W. C. Griggs Elementary  
Russanne Howell - Farmers Insurance  
Tammy Lyons - Family Security Credit Union  
Sharon Murrill - Alabama Power Company  
Wes Pipes - Individual  
Paul Radczenko - Evonik  
Torii Stratas - Claremont Property Company  
Joe Summersgill - Mobile Co. Water, Sewer & FPA  
John Wimsatt - Walmart  
Josh Woods - The Grounds  
Della Wade - Individual (Honorary Board)  
Jonathon Lee - Mobile Police Dept. (Ex Officio)

## Advisory Board

Theresa Orrell (Past President)  
Polysurveying of Mobile

Kay Peace (Past President)  
Individual

Ruth Robinson (Past President)  
Mobile Memorial Gardens Cemetery

## Community Center Staff

### **Executive Director**

Tina Poiroux  
[tpoiroux@swmccchamber.com](mailto:tpoiroux@swmccchamber.com)

### **Administrative Assistant / Membership**

Gloria Poché  
[gpoche@swmccchamber.com](mailto:gpoche@swmccchamber.com)

### **Rental Specialist**

Susan Williams  
[swilliams@swmccchamber.com](mailto:swilliams@swmccchamber.com)

### **Event Specialist**

Glennan Palframan

Office Number: 251.666.2488

# APRIL CALENDAR

## SWMCC Business Luncheon

**When:** April 1st Networking begins at 11:30am  
**Guest Speaker:** Sheriff Sam Colman  
**Where:** Tillman's Corner Community Center  
**Contact:** Chamber Office 251-666-2488  
**Cost:** \$12 for Members and \$15 for Potential Members  
**Sponsor:** Express Employment Professionals

**CANCELLED**

## Chamber Office Closed

April 10th  
Observance of Good Friday & Easter



## Coffee with the Chamber

**April 21st** 7:30am  
**Where:** Tillman's Corner Community Center  
**Contact:** Chamber Office 251-666-2488  
**Cost:** Free to attend  
**Sponsor:**



## COMING SOON



**Monday, May 11th** 2:00 - 5:00

**FREE**  
**JOB POSTING**

**PROMOTE YOUR JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON OUR WEBSITE & CONNECT WITH THE BEST CANDIDATES. THIS WILL ALLOW EMPLOYERS TO POST JOBS FOR FREE AND STILL REACH A LARGE AUDIENCE EFFECTIVELY.**

**SEND THE AVAILABLE JOB INFORMATION TO [INFO@SWMCCCHAMBER.COM](mailto:INFO@SWMCCCHAMBER.COM)**

## NEW 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTOR

### Captain Jonathan Lee

Captain Jonathan Lee is a native of Citronelle, Alabama. He is a 14 year veteran of the Mobile Police Department and has been the Commander of the 2nd Precinct for the past two years. He served three years in the First Precinct, Felony Apprehension Street Team, and six years in several aspects of Narcotics Investigation. He has supervised at various positions in Narcotics and on a Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Mobile, a Master of Arts Degree in Bible Exposition from Pensacola Theological Seminary. He is a licensed Minister and works with the Mobile County Health Department in The Fatherhood Initiative Program. He is married with children. He is devoted to his faith, his family, and service to this community. Captain Jonathan Lee is an Ex officio member of the SWMCC Board of Directors for 2020. To God be the Glory.



# SouthWest Mobile County Chamber of Commerce MONTHLY BUSINESS LUNCHEON

April 1, 2020

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

## Sam Cochran- Mobile County Sheriff

Sam Cochran is a native Mobilian, who graduated from the McGill Institute and went on to attend the University of South Alabama, where he holds both a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Criminal Justice and Public Administration. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He began his law enforcement career with the Mobile Police Department as a police cadet, where he spent 31 years working his way through the ranks – serving the last 10 years as Chief of Police. Sam Cochran was elected Sheriff of Mobile County in 2006 and re-elected to 4-year terms in 2010, 2014, and most recently in 2018. Sheriff Cochran serves or has served the community on numerous agency boards, including the Penelope House, Drug Education Council, Boy Scouts of America, the Child Advocacy Center and Alabama Safety Institute, Inc. In 2015, Sheriff Cochran was appointed by the Governor to serve as a Commissioner on the Alabama Police Officers Standards and Training Commission. Sheriff Cochran and his wife Sabrina have four children and three grandchildren.



### Sponsor:



3662 Dauphin Street Suite 100  
Mobile, AL 36680  
(251) 243-9000

### Caterer:



1 Theodore Dawes  
Rd, Theodore, AL 36582  
(251) 654-0228

### Menu:

Chicken Alfredo  
Mixed Vegetables  
Salad  
Rolls

### Dessert

Apple Upside Down Cake  
and  
Butter Pecan Cake

Sweet or Unsweet Tea

Please RSVP to 251.666.2488 or [info@swmcchamber.com](mailto:info@swmcchamber.com)

**\$12 for Members & \$15 for Potential Members**



3263 Demetropolis Rd #10, Mobile, AL 36693  
Office: (251) 445-4204

[www.touchingheartsseniorcare.com](http://www.touchingheartsseniorcare.com)

## Food for a **HERO**

SouthWest Mobile County Chamber is collecting snacks, fruit, crackers, drinks and etc. for local First Responders in our area.

We will be delivering snack baskets over the next month, to local hospitals, emergency rooms, local police precincts, doctors' offices and fire stations to show our support for their service to the community. We are also accepting financial donations. The Chamber office will serve as the drop site for donations, and we need your support by helping say **Thank You** to these individuals who are sacrificing their own personal health and resources. For additional information, you can contact our

office at  
251-666-2488 or email  
[tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com](mailto:tpoiroux@swmcchamber.com)



## BUSINESS INSIGHT

I was just on Facebook a bit ago and I posted some Pro Tips that I thought were obvious things that everyone knew, but from the response to that post, I realized that they were not so obvious. Mobile is a Facebook town. And your peers in the business community use it regularly to see what you are up to. So I wanted to share some tips with you:

Pro-tip #1 - Make it easy on people to friend you on Facebook. I can't count the number of times that someone has asked to connect as friends but they use a group photo as their profile image. I like to know who it is that I am connecting with. So my first tip is for you to please use an image for your profile that is you and only you. Special exceptions are made for your kids. But if you are a female and post a picture of you with your 3 best friends... How are people supposed to figure out which of you is requesting the connect?

Pro-tip #2 - Allow for some basic information about you to show publicly. If you are in a sales or marketing role, make sure your current workplace is displayed and any other information that might help people remember who you are and where they met you.

Pro-tip #3 - Remember when I said: "If you are in sales and marketing"? Well... we are all in a sales and marketing role. You cannot think of Facebook as just a place to hang out. People are looking at your profile and what you are posting. If you are interviewing for a job? They look. If you meet someone at an event? They look. If you comment on a post for a mutual friend? They look. You never know what opportunities might arise out of having this kind of mindset toward social media

Pro-tip #4 - Be careful what you post to social media! There are just some things that you don't need the whole wide world to know. Not that you can't share your life. But if you know your business audience or future employers are conservative, you probably don't want to post pictures of you and your homies getting hammered on Bourbon Street.

Pro-tip #5 - Be yourself. Don't try and change who you are to fit what you think people want to see on social media. If you put yourself out there in a genuine way, people will respect that. They may not like it, but at least then you know where you stand.

If you have any questions or comments email me at [marcus@bluefishds.com](mailto:marcus@bluefishds.com) or call me at (251) 654-3698



# 2019-2020 Businesses of the Month

It has been the pleasure of the Chamber to recognize the heartbeat of our membership. We are a voice for businesses and are here to help promote and offer opportunities to watch small businesses grow, along with providing training classes to improve current business practices. On May 6th we will be revealing the winner of the Business of the Year Award and recognizing the company that has excelled in leadership and commitment to entrepreneurship.

We are asking our members to go to our website beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> to cast your vote for your favorite Business of the Year. Our monthly finalists are all deserving of this award and need your help. Votes can be cast daily until April 15<sup>th</sup> and the business that receives the most votes will be announced at our Small Business of the Year Luncheon, May 6th.

[www.swmcchamber.com](http://www.swmcchamber.com)



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Cooper & Co. Inc., REALTORS is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year in business in 2020. Founded by Jack and Patricia Cooper, the company has grown to more than six offices serving both Mobile & Baldwin Counties, including Mobile, Semmes, Fairhope, and Gulf Shores. They offer a full menu of real estate services including residential, commercial, property management, resort beach properties and timberland sales in both Alabama and Mississippi. They are the largest, locally-owned real estate brokerage in the area.



Godfather's Pizza first opened in Mobile in 1978. We are a local franchise, selling fully topped pizzas made with dough made fresh daily. Current owner, Sandra Fuqua, bought the franchise in 2004. She began in 1978 as a counter girl, making \$2.25 per hour. She worked her way up through the ranks of the company, ultimately achieving the top position of Director of Operations. In 2004, she was given the opportunity to purchase the franchise.

We are a local company and we pride ourselves on providing a good work environment for local high school and college students. We have 3 locations in the Mobile area and are grateful for our success in the community.



It is our desire that Upspyre becomes a living legacy to benefit individuals, families, churches, entrepreneurs and small businesses. People who are looking for a way to make a better life are the backbone of America. As we are allowed to continue to serve our community, our region, our nation and our world, we want to do more than INspire, we want to take it to the next level and UpSpyre! Shortly after we introduced UpSpyre to the world, I completed my training with John C. Maxwell, the world's leading authority on Leadership and became a part of his team.



The Women's Resource Center has been serving Mobile County and surrounding areas for the past 36 years. They provide free and confidential pregnancy and health services such as: Pregnancy test, Limited OB Ultrasound, STI Testing, and Extended counseling to their clients! WRC provides medical service and educational parenting services as well! Their Earn While You Learn program provides weekly teaching to aid mothers and fathers during this time. WRC parents earn points and are able to obtain much needed items for their baby through the baby boutique. The WRC team of staff and volunteers, through their Empower To Thrive program, teaches students how to form healthy relationships. Their outreach mission is to equip students with truth and empower them to make healthy decisions to reach their optimal health, with a specific emphasis on their value, purpose, and potential.



Alabama Credit Union is a full service credit union established over 60 years ago. We proudly serve many counties throughout the Great State of Alabama and Florida panhandle.

We are part of the communities we serve; we work and live where our members work and live and take pride in being "real people who offer real help". We are here to give our members a hand, make life easier, and share money know-how tips to achieve their goals. We offer everyday banking and "loans for real life" with rates and service that make our members smile. At Alabama Credit Union it is not just about the bottom line—we know that taking care of business means taking care of people.



Keep Mobile Beautiful is a non-profit affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. The mission of KMB is to empower individuals to take greater responsibility for the improvement of their community environment. Since 1986 KMB has worked to reduce litter, educate about and encourage recycling, and to make our city and county more beautiful. We have planted thousands of trees, including a recent azalea planting in the Tillman's Corner and Theodore area. We have cleaned litter off miles of neighborhood and city streets. KMB partners every year with SWMCC for a cleanup and recycling event in Tillman's Corner. Our Outreach Coordinator teaches thousands of students every year throughout Mobile County about litter, recycling and their responsibility to take care of our world. KMB is committed to making Mobile a cleaner and greener environment for generations to come.



Singing River Health System is both a mission-driven provider of health services and one of the largest employers on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Every day our dedicated team of caregivers makes an impact on the lives of almost everyone in our community, often in more ways than one. We provide critical health services, numerous community outreach programs, and charitable services and educational programs. We strengthen the local economy by recruiting over 300 of the very best physicians and other professionals to our community while providing good jobs, wages, and benefits to more than 2,500 employees and their families. Through this dedication, we help improve the health of the community while making it a better place to live and work. We are honored to be the caregiver of choice.



At Spire, we believe energy exists to make people's lives better. Spire is a strong and growing energy company with five gas utilities across three states, serving 1.7 million homes and businesses – making us the fifth largest publicly traded natural gas company in the country. In southwest Alabama, Spire serves more than 80,000 residential, commercial and large industrial customers and is steadily growing. Spire is committed to transforming its business through growing organically, investing in infrastructure and advancing through innovation. At Spire, we live and work in the communities we serve. We know the streets, neighborhoods, and the people. These are the places we call home, and we're invested in seeing our communities thrive. Whether that means providing assistance to those in need, or empowering employees to volunteer and give -we're committed to advancing every community served.



The Grounds is a year-round entertainment, convention and commercial venue home to several of the Gulf Coast's largest events. With more than one million annual attendees to our campus, we are a leader in the area of community development. The activity at The Grounds is not limited to the 10 days of the annual Greater Gulf State Fair. We host events of all sizes, year-round. The indoor and outdoor facilities are available for almost every type of event imaginable, no matter how large or small. In addition to executing our organization's mission and vision, The Grounds and Greater Gulf State Fair, have been able to impact our community by partnering with other nonprofits through the means of direct monetary giving, complimentary or discounted facility usage, and fundraising assistance. We have 160 acres of property located at Cody Road and Zeigler Boulevard.



Infinite Insurance & Housing Solutions, LLC – Mechelle Davis Agency is an Independent Agency built on trust, integrity, and character. We are expanding our brand to not only sell Auto and Home policies but to be a place that can satisfy all your insurance needs. We also offer Commercial/Business, Life, Employee Benefits, Bonds, Travel, Event Insurance, Business Legal and Housing Services. If you're looking for a family oriented agency that will treat you like family—look no further. This is Infinite Insurance & Housing Solutions, LLC – Mechelle Davis Agency.



Through excellent academics, spiritual development, and outstanding extracurricular activities, Cottage Hill Christian Academy partners with our parents to help our students reach their God-given potential and to become servant leaders who will impact the world for Christ. Cottage Hill Christian Academy will be the choice for a Christ-centered, academically challenging education. The Cottage Hill experience will build lasting relationships, develop leaders, encourage a love of learning, and engage students in the intellectual and social challenges of our times, guided by a biblical worldview.



This year Alabama residents have the opportunity to affect our state's future for the next 10 years. Data collected during the Census is used in a variety of ways that affect decisions regarding community services provided to residents and distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds to local and state budgets each year. The census determines the number of representatives each state will have in Congress, as well as, supports funding for local programs for schools, health care, community assistance and infrastructure.

To learn more about the census or to download materials to help your employees understand why they need to be counted, go to [www.alabama2020census.com](http://www.alabama2020census.com)

## THE CENSUS IS COMING!

SECURE \$13 BILLION DOLLARS FOR OUR STATE IN JUST 6 MINUTES.



### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every 10 years, the U.S. census is sent to every household in the country. It contains 10 simple questions and only takes 6 minutes of your time. Completing the census helps improve the future of Alabama.

### \$13 BILLION

Alabama can obtain \$13 billion in federal funding used to improve our state's future. This money means better health care, education opportunities, infrastructure development, economic growth, and more.

### JOB SECURITY

Alabama could lose the opportunity for economic growth. This would result in fewer new jobs, businesses, investments, and more.

TAKE THE CENSUS BY PHONE, MAIL, OR ONLINE ON MARCH 12, 2020.



## IRS on Social Media

The IRS uses [social media](#) tools to share the latest information on tax changes, scam alerts, initiatives, products and services.

Connect with IRS:

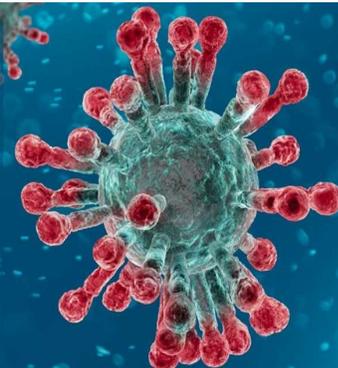
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

| [Twitter - @IRSsmallbiz](#)

| [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) and [more!](#)

- ◇ Following #COVID19 outbreak, Treasury and #IRS issue guidance on delaying tax payments until July 15 2020. You still need to file a return or request a filing extension by April 15. No additional filing is necessary for the payment extension. See [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus)
- ◇ To ensure the safety and health of #IRS employees and taxpayers, all Taxpayer Assistance Centers are temporarily closed in response to the #COVID19 outbreak. Nearly every tax issue can now be resolved online. Please find tools and resources at [www.irs.gov/help](http://www.irs.gov/help)
- ◇ Stay alert to scammers posing as the #IRS to steal your personal information. <https://go.usa.gov/xdMYV> #TaxSecurity

IRS has a special page dedicated to tax updates related to the coronavirus



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

## REAL ESTATE CORNER BY RON SIVAK

**5,300 square feet** of space has been leased at 846 Butler Dr. in West Mobile by **Century Fasteners Corp.** The Elmhurst, New York-based company is a distributor of fastener and non-fastener products and services the Aerospace and Industrial manufacturing industries.

The local branch relocated from a smaller site inside the **Continental Motors** building at the **Brookley Aeroplex** due to growth. **Brandon Broadus** with **NAI Mobile** represented the tenant. **Pratt Thomas** with **Merrill P. Thomas Co. Inc.** worked for the landlord.

Local owner **Kallie Trippe Etheridge** reported that **Rubik's '80s Arcade** recently held a soft opening inside their newly leased 3,500-square-foot space located at **7201 Airport Blvd.**, Suite C, in a West Mobile strip center next door to Transmission King. Dedicated spaces include a **500-square-foot** snack room called **Rubik's Diner** and a **1,000-square-foot** birthday party area. The company will offer classic video games such as Pac-Man, Pole Position, Frogger as well as foosball, air hockey and pool tables.

**Somerby Mobile**, a local senior living community situated at **901 Somerby Dr.** in West Mobile announced that upgrades to its Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care communities, which started in 2019, are nearly completed. Exterior work included new roofing while interior improvements involved new artwork, flooring, furniture and updated common areas. The senior center plans to hold a reopening in April to show the new amenities.

**Marl Cummings IV** with **Cummings & Associates Inc.** recently closed on the lease of a **1,450-square-foot** medical space inside the **98 Oaks Shopping Village**, located at 7930 Moffatt Road by **The Orthopedic Group**. It will be used as a physical therapy clinic and will employ three on staff.

**Gulf Coast Men's Clinic** recently leased **1,600 square feet** of medical space at 5920 Grelot Road, Suite E3, in West Mobile. The new local business was founded by partners Brad Thornton, Christopher McMeans and Eyston Hunte, M.D. **Angie McArthur** with **Stirling Properties** handled the transaction.

Local owner **Doug Allen** has announced the opening of a new **1,250 square foot** barbershop called **Opulent Gentleman's Lounge** located at 3540 Pleasant Valley Road, Suite A, in West Mobile.

Maryland-based medical center, **Center for Vein Restoration**, recently leased a **2,700 square foot** location at 32 Tacon Street in West Mobile. **Brandon Broadus** of **NAI Mobile** represented the tenant and **Jeremy Milling** with **Milling Commercial Realty** worked for the landlord.

A local developer has purchased some 4 acres of land on Moffett Road between Western Drive and the East I-65 Service Road in West Mobile for \$405,000. Plans are in place to build a Bunny Bread bakery store. Nathan Handmacher with Stirling Properties handled the transaction.

## OUTSTANDING OFFICER OF THE MONTH



### Captain Jonathan Lee and Officer Justin Howard

Precinct 2 Officer of the Month, **Justin Howard**, was introduced by Captain Jonathan Lee, who told everyone about Howard's outstanding qualities as a police officer. Officer Howard was presented with the award at the SouthWest Mobile County Chamber's monthly business luncheon on March 4, 2020. Your hard dedication and exemplary contribution does not



## COASTAL 150 UPDATE

The 2020 Alabama Legislative Session recessed for spring break on March 12<sup>th</sup> for two weeks and will return briefly on March 26<sup>th</sup>—if not longer due to COVID-19 outbreak.

### Environment--GOMESA

Senator Chris Elliott **SB3** which if passed would require all Federal GOMESA Funds made available to the State of Alabama be expended only within the coastal political subdivisions of the state. Currently, the Governor of the State administers where these funds are spent. To this date and since the state has received GOMESA funds all funds have been spent only in coastal counties. This is not to say that in the future that GOMESA funds could be spent elsewhere in the state. This bill was given a favorable report in late February out of Senate Government Affairs Committee

In the first week of March, Senator Elliott's bill did not make the Budget Isolation Resolution 2/3 vote threshold to be brought up in the Senate—some Northern Alabama Members had issues with the bill, Senator Elliot promised to address these concerns after the budget debate goes forward.

### Attempt to Amend the Film Tax Incentives

HB 408 Representative John Rodgers would allow a qualified production company to claim a tax rebate for production expenditures for projects which equal or exceed at least \$500,000 within 12 months from the date that the production is approved as a qualified production and would allow state certified productions to aggregate their budgets to surpass the threshold limit.

The concern is an attempt to water down current Motion picture incentives. The proposed bill would allow a qualified production company to claim tax rebates for production expenditures. This Bill would allow for Soundtrack and Music Videos to be allowed to claim rebates. The threshold for meeting the requirements would be \$50K or more per production. We believe these types of productions have little or no economic impact to local or State economies. The Alabama Film Office was not consulted about this proposed bill.

### Gambling Study Group Meets for First Time

Gov. Kay Ivey's study group charged with assessing her options on gambling met for the first time on Thursday, but no serious policy was discussed. The group's chairman, former Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange, said he wants to meet with experts from neighboring states to learn best practices on different types of gambling, including lotteries, slot machines and table games. The biggest question related to gambling is whether this group would make any kind of recommendations before the end of the legislative session. That now appears to be unlikely, as Strange said the next step is to schedule an April hearing for those supporting and opposing gambling. The legislative session will end in mid-May.

### Gambling Bills Introduced in Both Chambers

A new version of a lottery bill has been filed in the Alabama House with enough co-sponsors to easily get it through that chamber, if it makes it to a vote. A different lottery bill filed recently in the Senate also sets up a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek

Indians to allow table games at its casinos, including two new sites in Jefferson County and north Alabama. Both bills are constitutional amendments requiring voter approval. There are about two months remaining in this legislative session and many more steps would be needed before either proposal could be placed on the ballot.

### Medical Marijuana

Sen. Tim Melson's SB165, the medical cannabis bill passed the Senate before the Legislature left for spring break. . SB165 would allow persons with a demonstrated medical need to go to a doctor who can give them a medical marijuana card to purchase cannabis in a pill or cream form from a dispensary. The marijuana would be grown and processed in the state of Alabama; and the number of approved cultivators, processors, transporters and dispensaries would be tightly controlled. The new medical cannabis industry would be regulated by the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission. The Commission would be funded by a nine percent tax on all the legal marijuana product sold in the state.

The bill was amended in committee with two business-friendly provisions: one saying employers are not required to permit or accommodate the use of medical cannabis and don't have to hire someone who uses it, and another addressing workers' compensation by saying a person who has a medical cannabis card and is proven to be at fault cannot file a claim. The bill now goes to the House for consideration

## STAR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



**Regan Brady** from W. C. Griggs Elementary  
Sponsored by: Mobile Memorial Gardens Cemetery

**Tucker Rose** from Meadowlake Elementary  
Sponsored by: Elaine Sessions

**Lane Garling** from Pearl Haskew Elementary  
Sponsored by: Payroll Vault

**Kasidee Crumly** from Lighthouse Baptist Academy  
Sponsored by: AIM Mail Center #153

**Tucker Desselle** from St. Vincent De Paul Catholic School  
Sponsored by: PolySurveying of Mobile

**Kate Morris** from Cottage Hill Christian Academy  
Sponsored by: Dick Russell's Inc.

**Haylee Louviere** from Nan Gray Davis Elementary  
Sponsored by: BLP Mobile Paint



## New Members:

**TILLMANS CORNER NUTRITION**  
5441 Highway 90W Suite 24  
Mobile, AL 36619  
251-442-5248

**SOUTHERN VIEW MEDIA**  
1102-A Dauphin Street  
Mobile, AL 36604  
251-404-2695

## Membership

Blue Bell Creameries, L.P.	Mobile County License
Johnstone Adams, LLC	Commission
Kalifeh Bedsole & Adams, PC	Neighbors Restaurant
Kathy Tolbert	Regions Bank
	WALA-TV Fox 10

## Business of the Month:

**Cottage Hill Christian Academy**



- Weekly Chapel & Daily Bible Classes
- Degreed and Certified Christian Faculty
- Service Leadership Opportunities
- \$ 5.9 Million in Scholarship Offers (2019)
- Warrior Club and PTF
- Member of AHSAA
- Advanced Placement Courses
- Fine Arts Program • Music Conservatory
- Athletics Offered for K5-12th Grade
- Accelerated Reader Program
- Clubs and Academic Teams • Robotics
- Small Classes

Cottage Hill Christian Academy offers a Christ-centered, academically challenging education for families in Mobile and the surrounding areas.



Church Campus | 4255 Cottage Hill Road  
Mobile, AL | 251-660-2427  
West Campus | 7355 Creekwood Drive  
Mobile, AL | 251-634-2513



**SOUTHWEST MOBILE COUNTY**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## **CORPORATE SPONSORS**

### DIAMOND

### PLATINUM

PAYROLL VAULT

INTEGRITY IT SERVICES

WALMART #866

### GOLD

THE GROUNDS

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

EVONIK CORPORATION

CFO CONSULTING SERVICES, INC.

CORE MASTERY

### SILVER

GULF COAST GRAPHIX

LOPER LAW, LLC

Corsentino Chiropractic

Boys and Girls Club of So. Ala

Mobile Memorial Gardens

Cemetery

Family Security Credit Union

Huntington Learning Center

Mobile Memorial Gardens

Funeral Home

Polysurveying of Mobile

Touching Hearts Senior Care

Uniti Fiber

NAI Mobile

## FRIENDS OF THE CHAMBER

JW ENTERPRISES HR

Moe's Southwest Grill

The Gwyn Howard Family

Proshield Pest Control

Dick Russell's BBQ

Zippy Mart

Johnstone Adams, LLC