



THE CHAMBER ADVOCATE

VOLUME II • NOVEMBER 2019
SHRIMP FEST RECAP &
MORE!



The 48th Annual National Shrimp Festival
Photo by: Ryan Moberly

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WHAT A MONTH!

BY: RYAN MOBERLY

We've had quite the exciting last few months over at the Chamber. From Shrimp Fest, ribbon cuttings, multi-chamber gatherings, it has been a busy one!

We've enjoyed it and hope you have too. As December looms its' head around the corner, I say let's keep it all going to wrap-up a great 2019 and move into what should be an even better 2020 here at the Coastal Alabama Business Chamber.

BY THE NUMBERS

BY: PENNY HUGHEY

This past month we've been happy to welcome **11** new members to the Coastal Alabama Business Chamber and held **11** different ribbon cuttings.

To close out the year we are excited to announce our membership drive. Signing up new members to our Chamber will grant you a grab bag prize, membership discounts, and a drawing entry for a chance to win a spot on our 2020 Italy trip!

For more details, visit our Facebook page, or contact me at penny@mygulfcoastchamber.com



CHARTER AIR &
INTENSIVE AIR CARE
RIBBON CUTTING



CEO'S MESSAGE

BY: GREG ALEXANDER

This year I was happy to get down and dirty for the 48th Annual National Shrimp Festival, helping out for the big weekend over in the staff tent.

As the committee proved this year with our brightly colored staff shirts, it ain't easy being green! It's a tough gig, but in the end we all got it done.

I am so thankful for my fellow volunteers who spend countless hours throughout the entire year making sure this thing goes off without a hitch.

I am so excited to see what this team can achieve as we edge closer to the 50th edition of the Fest in 2021!

Greg Alexander

EDUCATION SPECIALIST HIRED TO GATEWAY INITIATIVE TEAM



BY: LORI PRESSLEY,
SOUTH BALDWIN CHAMBER



The Gateway Initiative Team is proud to announce and introduce their newest addition, Terri Onderdonk.

Terri brings a unique dynamic to the group with twenty years of business and marketing experience, as well as six years in the classroom as a “Highly Qualified Teacher.” Her education began with Communications at the University of South Alabama, with corporate training along the way and more recently added Education, BS, also at the University of South Alabama. Originally from Mobile, Terri and her family have routinely visited our beaches, and now call Gulf Shores their home.

Terri’s primary focus will be to help develop classroom connections to on-the-job training and create opportunities to showcase the advantages of the Apprenticeship Program, and its subsequent career pathways to students, families, community, and businesses, both locally and beyond. Her strength in determining the source of an issue, flushing out possible roadblocks, and finding and applying creative solutions will assist in translating business and industry pain points into solutions and practice in and out of the classroom.

“Terri’s unique blend of business and education experience is exactly what our Gateway Team needed to push out programming to the next level,” said Sally Westendorf, Community Betterment & Pro-Business Advocacy.

In the position as Education Specialist, Terri will be the liaison between our elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education providers, working with them to tailor programs and curriculum to benefit our businesses while opening up career pathing opportunities for students.

About the Gateway Initiative, a collaboration of the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce and the Coastal Alabama Business Chamber — The initiative includes three Program of Work Initiatives, each with a specific mission, detailed objectives, and projected outcomes: (1) Business Driven Talent Development and Recruitment; (2) Community Betterment and Pro-Business Advocacy; and (3) Existing Business Growth and Retention. Positive economic growth and community well-being require long-term strategy combined with bold approaches and a leadership team to make it happen. Led by some of the top business minds of the region, the Gateway Initiative will create regional partnerships to collectively address and bring solutions to Baldwin County problems.



JUNIOR LEADERSHIP LEARNS TO GIVE BACK

BY: RYAN MOBERLY

The newly formed CABC Junior Leadership program, consisting of area students, recently got a taste of what it's like to volunteer for their local community. And what better way to do that than to learn about the process it takes to run the volunteer-driven Annual National Shrimp Festival?

The team first got up early to hear from former Festival Chairman Ron Kutter in a question and answer session about what it takes to put together a four day festival attended by nearly 250,000 people. Also on hand was Susan Sizemore of Tacky Jacks to speak from the perspective of a corporation and the importance of staff members volunteering their time for the betterment of the community.

From there it was time for some action as the students moved on to the Coastal Alabama Business Chamber office. After a tour of the chamber office, the students were put to work out in the infamous Chamber Barn to help load up trailers with merchandise to be taken down to the festival site.

The team then traveled down to the Gulf Place to get a glimpse of the setup of festival footprint.

Some students took the day a step further by heading down for the weekend to volunteer at the festival. One student, Braswell McMeans, was even a vendor at the Festival as part of his company Pleasure Island Paradise, which sells handmade scrubs.

Among many things, one goal of the Junior Leadership program is to introduce students to local happenings of our Coastal Alabama community and to encourage activism. This year the students also had opportunities to tour the Gulf Shores Fire and Police Departments, learn about the governments of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, and see the Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism & Sustainability.

Further questions on the program can be directed to penny@mygulfcoastchamber.com

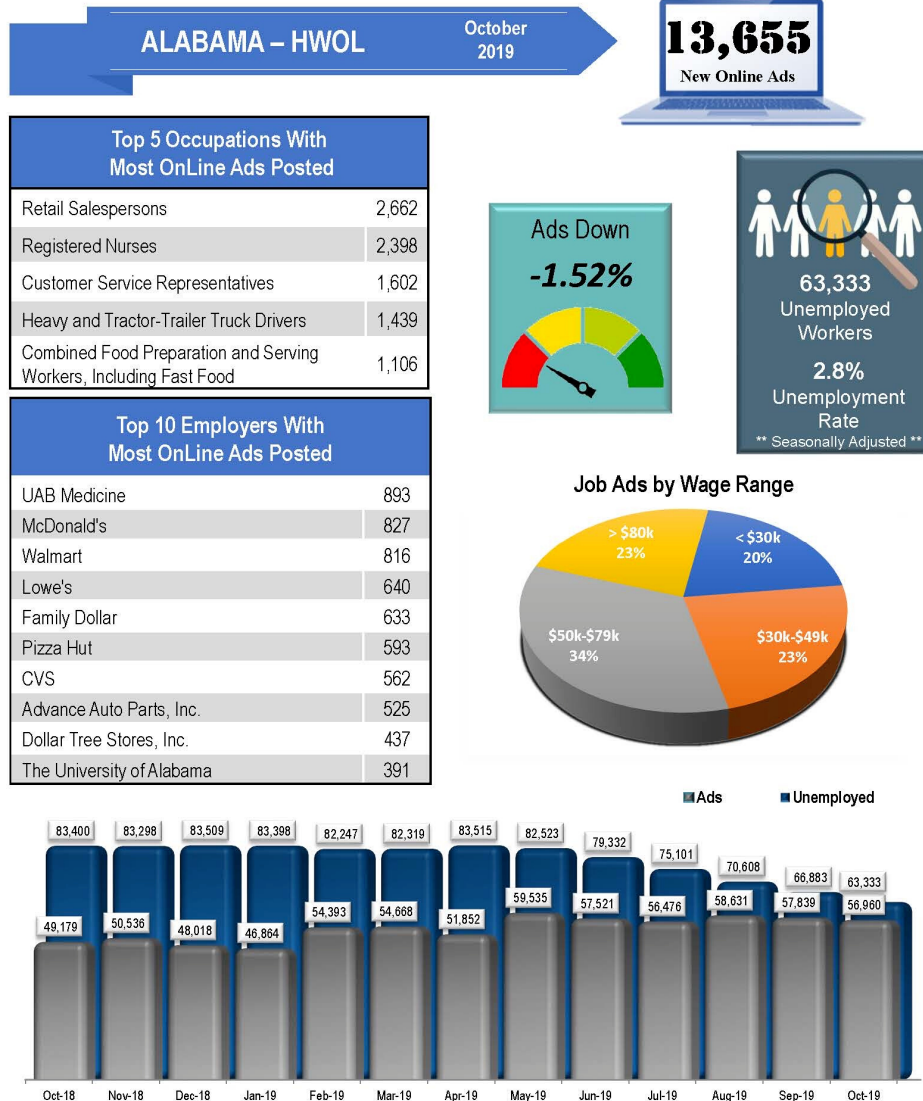


Learning all about the Fest!

GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC POLICY, AND ADVOCACY

Retail Salespersons and Registered Nurses Are the Most Sought-After Employees
According to HWOL
(Help Wanted Online) Data

CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL PRESS RELEASE ON LABOR.ALABAMA.GOV



HELPFUL LINKS

City of Orange Beach Community Newsletters -

<https://www.orangebeachal.gov/community-newsletter>

City of Gulf Shores Civic Alerts -

<https://www.gulfshoresal.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx>

Baldwin County Sales Tax Newsletter -

<https://baldwincountyal.gov/departments/sales-use-tax/newsletters>

Business Council of Alabama Website -

<https://www.bcatoday.org/>

GETTING SOCIAL – SHRIMP FESTIVAL EDITION

Follow us on social media and tag us in your photos!

Facebook - Coastal Alabama Business Chamber and Annual National Shrimp Festival

Twitter - @BizChamberAL and @MyShrimpFest

YouTube - Coastal Alabama Business Chamber

SHRIMP FESTIVAL - FACEBOOK



THE ULTIMATE DEF LEPPARD TRIBUTE IS GETTING STARTED ON THE WEST STAGE ☺

SHRIMP FESTIVAL - FACEBOOK



SOME SUPER COOL SAND SCULPTURES OUT ON THE BEACH FOR OUR CONTEST!

SHRIMP FESTIVAL - FACEBOOK



NOW'S THE TIME TO GRAB YOU SOME LUNCH!

@ALETASTENDER - TWITTER



BILLY GOT SOME JAMBALAYA AND GATOR ON A STICK!

@SOULTHREAD64 - INSTAGRAM



IT'S A GREAT DAY TO SHRIMP FEST! ☐

@GULFSHORESPD - TWITTER



DAY 1 OF THE 48TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SHRIMP FESTIVAL IS UNDERWAY! ☐