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My Local Chamber
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
MAY 25 | 5PM-7PM
BRYANT BANK

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
 RECEIVE FUNDING FROM INVESTORS**

Young Entrepreneurs from South Baldwin Chamber Foundation are Awarded Funding to Launch Startups

On Wednesday, April 5 at 6:00 pm student entrepreneurs took to the stage to present their business plans before a panel of local business leaders and a public audience. The students were dressed as young professionals and really wowed the crowd!

During the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation's annual YEA! Investor Panel Event, three students in grades 6 through 12, representing three businesses, had six minutes to pitch their business plans. Based on the appeal and merit of the students' plans and presentations, prominent local members of the business community determined the amount of funds to allocate to each business. The students and businesses awarded were: Dyana Lee-Daniel, Soturi Fight Wear; Hannah Sherrill, Retris [graphic design]; Nicole Santos, O.N.S. [cosmetics].

The participating investors also selected one business group: Dyana Lee-Daniel, Soturi Fight Wear, for an additional prize. Lee-Daniel will advance to the Young Entrepreneurs Academy Saunders Scholars National College Scholarship competition, where she will compete for thousands of dollars in college scholarships and an all-expense paid trip to attend America's Small Business Summit in Washington, DC.

Special thanks to presenting sponsors: Ascend Performance Materials, Riviera Utilities and members of the Investor Panel, which included: Craig Saget, Ascend Performance Materials; Kati Duncan, Meyer Vacation Rentals; Daniel Thompson, Vulcan, Inc.; Pat Troup, Columbia Southern University; Carl Jones, Baldwin Mutual Insurance, Co.; and Frances Holk-Jones, Frances Holk Insurance. Co./State Farm.



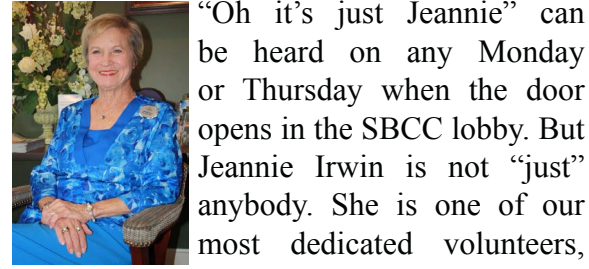
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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



“Oh it’s just Jeannie” can be heard on any Monday or Thursday when the door opens in the SBCC lobby. But Jeannie Irwin is not “just” anybody. She is one of our most dedicated volunteers, giving her time twice every week at the office and being a part of almost every after hours event hosted by SBCC. Jeannie is also not just a local, she is a true native of Foley and was born at Holmes Hospital when Foley could boast only a single traffic light within the city limits. Her only time away from Foley was the four years her husband was studying in Tuscaloosa for his college degree in the early 1960’s. Jeannie worked in the accounting department at Vulcan for 10 years then retired and opened her own Hallmark store in Foley. She decided to close up shop in 1997 and immediately began volunteering at SBCC, giving her 20 years of service. Jeannie says that her role as a chamber volunteer makes it possible to meet amazing and interesting people. It is her life line to knowing what is happening in the community and county. She enjoys the special relationship shared with the Chamber staff. Jeannie says anyone thinking about volunteering should not hesitate. “It is a great thing to do.”

JUNIOR AMBASSADORS Class of 2017

On Monday, April 10th, 2017, the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation held the 19th annual closing ceremony for the Foley High School Junior Ambassadors' Program at the Foley Civic Center. The ceremony was sponsored by Ascend Performance Materials and Riviera Utilities. A strong tradition in the Foley community, the Junior Ambassadors' Program is a youth leadership development program designed to inspire outstanding youth to reach full leadership potential. The program focuses on: business, government, environment, community service, communications, and interpersonal skills. The group consisted of thirty-two young men and women in the Junior class of Foley High School. Congratulations for completing the requirement of the South Baldwin Chamber Foundation's Junior Ambassador Program!



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



5 Star Air Conditioning was named Business of the Month for **May**. Give them a call and experience the

difference. Call or text 251.223.2010, visit 5starair.net or find them on Facebook.

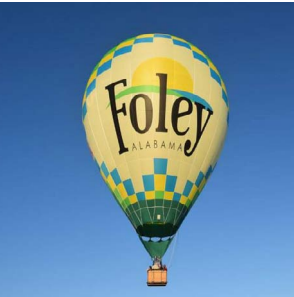
Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount during the month of May!

BUZZ WORD

Memorize this buzzword to bluff or bore your way through anything....**Graphene**: It’s 200 times stronger than steel and nearly transparent. For now it’s in the realm of bioengineers, but it’s only a matter of time before it’s in your smartphone.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival would not be possible without the commitment and countless hours given by our Balloonmeister, Tommy Rachel. For 13 years, Tommy has been the driving force of this wonderful event, leading us through the excitement and beauty of hot air ballooning. Tommy owns Taking Off Hot Air Balloon Company located right here on the Gulf Coast. With his FAA commercial ballooning license, which allows him to “fly for hire”, Tommy has been crewing and flying hot air balloons for 26 years. He is passionate about the sport of hot air ballooning and enjoys sharing the experience with others. It is very common to see Tommy’s Foley balloon soaring through the skies above the hustle and bustle of the busy community. When Tommy is spotted in peaceful ascension, locals and tourists alike can be seen chasing him to hold a glimpse of his peace-invoking flights. If flying in a hot air balloon is something you wish to mark



of your bucket list, don’t hesitate to give Tommy a call today at 251.970.3598 or visit gulfviewballooning.com.

Fun Fact! Hot air balloons were invented in France in the 1700s .

The South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Tommy Rachel and his team for being such a major part of our organization and our community!



ACADEMIC BANQUET

We will be celebrating 60 years of academic excellence on Thursday, May 11th. We invite you to celebrate Foley High School’s top students with us at the Academic Banquet, presented by Ascend Performance Materials. To purchase tickets, contact Gale Croft at 251.943.5520.



**6:00 PM
MAY 11, 2017
FOLEY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**




Quality Inn is very proud to be a part of the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce and a Proud Sponsor of the Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

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