

# WAVELAND BUSINESS OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

## **Gurley & Associates - We Make Insurance Easy**

Gurley & Associates has built its reputation on helping seniors navigate one of life's most complicated decisions with confidence, compassion, and personal attention. While the Bay St. Louis agency specializes in Medicare and insurance solutions, its mission extends far beyond policies and paperwork. Through educational seminars, community events, and programs that support senior citizens and veterans, Gurley & Associates is committed to helping older adults live healthier, more secure, and more connected lives.

As an independent agency, the team takes time to understand each client's unique needs, offering trusted guidance and ongoing support long after enrollment. Their dedication to education, service, and genuine relationships has made Gurley & Associates a trusted resource for families across Hancock County who value honest advice and personalized care.

By combining professional expertise with a heartfelt commitment to the people they serve, Gurley & Associates continues to make Medicare easier—and life a little better—for the community's seniors and veterans.

## **Rickey's on Coleman**

Some restaurants become local favorites. Others become part of a community's story. Rickey's on Coleman has done both.

Chef Rickey Peters first opened Rickey's on Coleman Avenue in 1999, quickly earning a loyal following with Gulf Coast cuisine influenced by the French, Italian, and Creole traditions he learned while training under legendary New Orleans Chef Paul Prudhomme. After Hurricane Katrina destroyed the original restaurant, Rickey continued sharing his talents at other local restaurants while longtime customers never forgot the flavors that made Rickey's a favorite.

Today, Rickey has come full circle, bringing Rickey's back to Coleman Avenue and reviving many of the signature dishes that customers have missed for years, such as the Chicken Florentine and Trout Treasures. In the process, he has given new life to a long-beloved building on one of Waveland's main corridors, creating a welcoming gathering place that reflects the city's continued growth and renewal. Rickey's return celebrates a beloved local tradition while helping shape Waveland's next chapter.

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## **Sugar Pop Baking Co.**

Owner Renee L'Oranger transformed her passion for baking into one of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's sweetest success stories. A self-taught pastry chef, Renee first captured national attention by finishing among the top competitors on Food Network's *Halloween Baking Championship*, then returned the following season to win the championship and the \$25,000 grand prize. She invested those winnings in her dream, opening Sugar Pop Baking Co. in the heart of Waveland.

Today, Renee combines creativity, precision, and artistry to craft custom cakes, cookies, pastries, and desserts that delight customers and keep them coming back for every celebration. Her award-winning creations showcase exceptional craftsmanship while reflecting the care and attention she pours into every order. In addition to the incredible baked goods, Sugar Pop also offers lunch specials. Their wedding cakes are absolutely gorgeous, and their king cakes have earned the People's Choice Award at the Junior Auxiliary of Hancock County's annual King Cake Competition 2 years in a row.

Renee's success reaches far beyond the bakery case. By building a thriving business at the historic Waveland Civic Center, she demonstrates the entrepreneurial spirit fueling the city's resurgence and gives residents and visitors another reason to discover everything Waveland has to offer.

## **Warran Automotive**

Lewis and Alisha Warran built Warran Automotive through grit, determination, and a commitment to serving others. For more than 28 years, their family-owned business has earned the trust of Hancock County by delivering quality automotive repair with honesty, professionalism, and exceptional customer service.

As a NAPA Gold-Certified AutoCare and Truck Service Center, Warran Automotive combines skilled technicians with dependable service that keeps families and businesses safely on the road. Just as important, Lewis and Alisha lead with servant hearts. They actively support organizations such as CASA of South Mississippi, American Legion Post 77, Coastal Conservation Association, Make-A-Wish, and other charitable causes, giving both their time and resources to strengthen the community they call home.

Warran Automotive reflects the values that define Hancock County: hard work, integrity, and a genuine commitment to helping others. Through decades of dependable service, community involvement, and investment in their employees and neighbors, Lewis and Alisha have built far more than a successful business—they have earned the respect and trust of the community they serve.