



Repairs begin on damaged Lake Charles skyscraper

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Tower shuttered since 2020 when it was hit by Hurricane Laura

BY ALIEN MASCHKE
Staff writer

LAKE CHARLES — For around two years, the Capital One Tower in downtown Lake Charles, damaged severely by Hurricane Laura in August 2020, sat largely untouched, serving as an imposing reminder of the city's slow recovery. Now, work is finally underway in the multimillion-dollar effort to repair the city's largest office tower, though its final form prospects remain unclear.

The tower's owner, California-based Hertz Investment Group, received a construction permit for \$7.6 million worth of repairs in July, work that has already commenced and includes replacing windows on the building's southeast side, an addition to the tower's southside.

More recently, the company amended its plans to add \$3.6 million in repairs, mortgage records show, although permits for those additional repairs have not been issued.

The rebuilding plans mark a significant step toward fixing what the city says has become not just a

deplorable, but dangerous situation, as the temporary fence to the property have started to fall apart. In an effort to protect its financial interests should Hertz choose to abandon the tower and to drive the rebuilding process forward, the city joined an ongoing lawsuit between Hertz and its insurer earlier this year. Hertz applied for

and was issued, a permit for the first round of repairs shortly after, but, however, remains uncertain, as litigation between Hertz and its insurance provider, Zurich American, drags on.

So far, Hertz has received \$57 million from its insurance company, reflecting the building's



Construction work on the roof and facade of the Capital One Tower in downtown Lake Charles on Wednesday. STAFF PHOTO BY ALIEN MASCHKE

pre-stern value, according to an assessment prepared on behalf of Zurich American.

But Hertz, which also has significant holdings in downtown New Orleans, says it would take more to repair the severely damaged building and that some of the proceeds it received so far are needed to cover remediation costs

and business losses. According to estimates filed in the ongoing lawsuit with Zurich American, Hertz says it would need \$165 million to repair the property, an amount that has increased since it first filed due to market conditions.

A trial in the case, which was first filed in December 2020, was postponed again on Monday. The request to postpone came from the insurance company's legal team, which said it needed more time to review over 60,000 pages of documents it recently received from Hertz, including email communications between the company and its investors regarding the tower.

"It's important to the community, it's important to my client, it's important to Hertz — it shouldn't be rushed," Virginia Dodd, one of Zurich's attorneys on the case, told the court during the Monday morning hearing.

Meanwhile, Hertz's attorney, Martha Curtis, pleaded with the court to maintain the earlier trial date. "We need to be finished with this case," Curtis told Calcasieu Parish District Court Judge Robert L. Wyatt. "We need to go to trial."

After hearing arguments from both sides, Wyatt granted the request to postpone. The jury trial, most recently set for Oct. 11, has now been rescheduled for January.

We are excited to joint venture with Zinsel Glass on the **Capital One Tower** project in Lake Charles, Louisiana!

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Letter from the President



Fall is finally here! Thank goodness! The fall season is my favorite time of year with cooler weather, college football (State is 6-1), hunting season has begun, leaves are changing colors, trips to the camp are more frequent, and did I mention that State is 6-1? I hope everyone is enjoying it as much as I am!

Even though the weather has cooled off, our sales team has been on fire! As of today, we have 56 projects under contract and several more under a LOI. We also still have numerous large projects waiting on insurance claims to settle that will really move the needle on our backlog when they come to fruition! Also, our city service sales have increased at all locations! So far this year, sales have been up over last year company-wide, and Gulfport is on track to more than double their best year to date! Congratulations to them, and thanks to everyone for their hard work!

The Four Seasons project that we did with Zinsel Glass ended this month and by all accounts was very successful. The contractor and owner were extremely pleased with our work and have asked us to look at their next Four Seasons in Dallas. We have also teamed up with Zinsel Glass, once again, to tackle the Capitol One renovation in Lake Charles and have recently gotten off to a great start on phases 1 and 2. We have also started the shop drawings on phases 3-6 and hopefully will roll into a record-breaking change order to finish the 400-foot all-glass tower! Thanks to all our Cajun friends! AhEEEEEEE!

The Foley branch recently moved into its new building, and a big thank-you goes out to all the employees who worked countless hours to make the move happen. We finally did get the CO! Didn't we, Joe?

As always, please work safe and keep an eye out for your coworkers! There is no job more important than you going home to your families at night!

Robert

Under Construction

- 1 **Capital One**
Lake Charles, La.
- 2 **Ole Miss Center for Science and Technology Innovation**
Oxford, Ms.
- 3 **Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Arena**
Perkinston, Ms.
- 4 **Mandal's Automotive**
D'Iberville, Ms.





2022 Employees of the Quarter

Employee Birthdays

MERIDIAN

JULY

- 08 Ray Taylor
- 12 Carla Manley
- 14 Mitchell Moffett
- 18 Ron Markham
- 24 Estues Wade
- 28 Terry Pope

AUGUST

- 15 Shannon Smith
- 20 Jack Rush

SEPTEMBER

- 06 Beverly Smith
- 12 Tammy Mollett
- 18 Mason Tabb
- 30 Jack Combest

OCTOBER

- 04 Ken Caldwell
- 18 Rico McCollum
- 30 Albert Combs

NOVEMBER

- 08 Brandy Williams
- 08 Jay Thomas
- 10 Buddy Pickard
- 11 Kevin Robinson
- 14 Dylan Hudler
- 14 Keith Smith
- 17 Tony James
- 26 Robert Smith

DECEMBER

- 01 Kristin Kirkpatrick
- 10 Cheryl Hillman
- 16 John Elmore
- 22 Lana Chandler
- 24 Billy Jones
- 31 Brian Baltzell

GULFPORT

SEPTEMBER

- 07 Rob Smith
- 24 Abraham Gomez

NOVEMBER

- 02 Dakota Walker

DECEMBER

- 13 Sandra Rocha
- 16 John Brasher
- 23 Sean Guillotte

FOLEY

JULY

- 02 Bryan Morrison
- 03 Daniel Fogel

AUGUST

- 26 Mike Crane

SEPTEMBER

- 26 Justin McMullan

OCTOBER

- 30 David Hupman

NOVEMBER

- 23 Jason Bledsoe
- 25 Jennifer Roberts

DECEMBER

- 28 Joe Heiden

Employee Milestones

1 YEAR

- Lana Chandler
- Abraham Gomez
- Bryan Morrison

2 YEARS

- Caleb Reeves
- Brenton Smith

3 YEARS

- Dylan Hudler
- Shannon Smith

4 YEARS

- Brian Baltzell

5 YEARS

- Mandon Toncrey

6 YEARS

- Justin McMullan

7 YEARS

- Mason Tabb

8 YEARS

- Pat Jenkins

10 YEARS

- Paul McKeown

12 YEARS

- Terry Pope

16 YEARS

- Janet Crabtree

17 YEARS

- Rico McCollum

23 YEARS

- Joe Heiden
- Dale Minchew
- Mitchell Moffett
- Beverly Smith
- Robert Smith



MERIDIAN
Carla Manley



FOLEY
Adam Brumbelow



GULFPORT
Sandra Rocha

Congrats, Carla!

Your coworkers selected you because of your positive attitude and your willingness to always help others!

Congrats, Adam!

Your coworkers chose you because you have really stepped up to the plate in the move into the new Foley office, as you helped everyone set up their offices first and set yours up last. Your customers just love you. They say you are very helpful in their decision making and have wonderful ideas.

Congrats, Sandra!

Your coworkers selected you because you are such an asset to the Gulfport office, and you always have a smile on your face. You go above and beyond what is required and are a pleasure to work with. But most importantly, the office dogs love you!



Featured
Dylan Kent

Dylan was born in 1992 and raised in Gulfport, Mississippi, where he graduated high school from Harrison Central. Dylan spent a year at MGCCC and then went to work for Glass Inc. in 2011, working on the contract side of things. He left to get more experience at other glass companies where he spent time in the field learning the trade. In 2021, he returned to work at Glass Inc. and became City Service Manager.

“This past year has had its challenges with me stepping into a management role after being in the field for all those years, but I believe that having the field experience has helped to make running the city service side of things a lot easier than if I had not had that experience,” says Dylan. Dylan says, “My favorite part about working at Glass Inc. is the responsibility of it all. I enjoy the responsibility of being held accountable for all aspects. I hold the guys accountable just as I do myself. I enjoy challenging the guys and being able to lead and motivate them to do better than they did the day before.”

Dylan is married to Alex Ken; together, they have two girls and another on the way. In his spare time, Dylan enjoys spending time with his family, going to Disney World, and doing home renovations.



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– Dylan Kent

In the Spotlight



Congrats to Josh Smith for being promoted to Contract Manager of Gulfport!

We enjoyed sponsoring the ABC Mississippi meet-and-greet at Weidmann's in September!



We are so excited to have opened up our new Foley office!



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Thoughts and suggestions are welcome. Please submit comments to ksmith@glassincorporated.net.

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