

Daily Report

THIS AFTERNOON'S HEADLINES / WED, AUG. 12, 2009

News Alert: Holden: Bond issue to include entire parish

Mayor Kip Holden has changed his mind and is asking for all East Baton Rouge Parish cities to be included in the election for his capital improvements plan. Holden told the Metro Council this afternoon he was responding to the reaction of Baker, Central and Zachary residents and is seeking to unite, rather than divide, the parish.

Holden originally planned to exclude the cities from voting on the bond issue, setting up a special taxing district. Central and Zachary residents came out heavy against the original bond issue when it was on the ballot last fall. That proposal fell about 3,000 votes short of passing. A public hearing on the revised bond issue will be heard by the Metro Council on Sept. 2.

The language of the bond issue was originally scheduled for a vote at today's Metro Council meeting. With Holden's decision, the State Bond Commission will approve the bond issue at its August meeting contingent upon the Metro Council's vote. This will allow the package to appear on the Nov. 14 ballot.

The flip-flop is the second involving the bond issue in as many days. The package will not include \$20 million for six new fire stations, lowering the total amount to \$867.5 million. Chief Administrative Officer Mike Futrell says the city-parish has applied for federal stimulus dollars to fund the fire stations included on the bond issue.—**Emma James**

Fourteen Capital Region companies make Inc. 5000

For the second year in a row, 14 Capital Region companies have made *Inc.* magazine's list of the fastest-growing businesses in the U.S. Garcia Roofing and Sheet Metal was the highest-ranking local business at No. 844 after recording 353% revenue growth from 2005-08. Louisiana Roofing Supply, a separate company that serves as a supplier to Garcia Roofing, was No. 845 with 353% revenue growth. Other local businesses that made the list are: Arkel International at No. 1,024, Edgen Murray at No. 1,057, General Informatics at No. 1,179, Medical Management Options at No. 1,710, ShoppersChoice.com at No. 1,796, The Newtron Group at No. 2,418, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers at No. 2,616, SRI Telecom at No. 2,823, Turner Industries Group at No. 2,913, D. Honoré Construction at No. 3,901, Starmount Life Insurance at No. 4,316 and Environmental Waste Solutions, which was tied for No. 5,000. Overall, 36 Louisiana companies made the list, led by iSeatz of New Orleans, which was No. 67 after experiencing 1,984% growth. See the full list [here](#).

in Mississippi at 485,000 bales. That compares with 683,000 a year ago, when farmers planted more cotton acreage. Many producers in recent years have swapped traditional cotton acreage for crops like corn and soybeans, which are less expensive to produce and offer better prices.

In Louisiana, where hurricanes Gustav and Ike took a heavy toll on crops last year, 2008 cotton production totaled 281,000 bales. That was the low point so far this decade; since 2000, production has been as high as 1.2 million bales, in 2006. Nationally, USDA expects cotton production to reach 13.2 million bales, up from 12.8 million a year ago.

Online appeal seeks to raise money for gold pom-poms

A group is trying to raise money online to hand out free gold pom-poms to LSU fans that travel to road football games this season. The goal is to buy at least 5,000 shakers for each of the Tigers' five road games, says WAFB-TV's Andre Moreau, who is leading the effort. Moreau says the goal is to make sure visiting Tigers fans are visible, especially to the TV cameras. It costs about 61 cents for each pom-pom. To make a donation via Facebook, click [here](#).

News roundup: Stirling appointed keeper for Carter Plantation ... Hornets trade Butler for 2nd-round pick

Will run golf course, pavilion: Stirling Properties has been named as the court appointed keeper for the Carter Plantation Golf Course in Springfield. The course developers are being sued by Wells Fargo, which claims they owe \$11.5 million. Stirling will keep the David Toms-designed golf course operating, along with the grill and event pavilion.

Makes opportunity for Thornton, others: The New Orleans Hornets have agreed to trade starting shooting guard Rasual Butler to the Los Angeles Clippers for a future second-round draft choice. A person with direct knowledge of the trade told the *Associated Press* of the deal on condition of anonymity because it had not yet been announced. The move will save the Hornets about \$3.9 million. The move opens opportunities for competition at the spot between 2007 first-round pick Julian Wright, veteran Morris Peterson and rookie Marcus Thornton, a former LSU star who the Hornets acquired through a trade with Miami. Butler averaged 11.2 points per game last season.

