

News Clips Report

BUSINESS BRIEFS **Advocate, The**

09/02/2010

Editors note The following is a roundup of area news from Thursday

ACADEMY SPORTS PLANS HAMMOND STORE Academy Sports and Outdoors is planning a freestanding, 70,000-square-foot store off C.M. Fagan Drive in the **Hammond Square Shopping Center** in Hammond, shopping center developer Stirling Properties said Thursday

The stores opening is expected before 2011 back-to-school shopping begins.

This market gives us another opportunity for growth in Louisiana, and we believe that customers in Hammond will embrace our comprehensive sports, outdoors and lifestyle product offering, Academy Sports and Outdoors Vice President of Real Estate John Hay said.

The Texas chain operates 14 other stores in Louisiana.

Originally developed as a 430,000-square-foot enclosed mall, the new Hammond Square is almost double the original size and is designed as a combination power/lifestyle center.

ENTERGY WINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD Entergy Corp. has been named one of the Top Utilities in Economic Development by Site Selection magazine, based on the utility's 2009 performance.

Utilities were judged on capital investment, job creation, capital investment per capita and jobs per 10,000 in population. The top utilities also provided certified sites to customers, looked for ways to save money for industrial customers and fostered regional support for economic development, according to Ron Starner, executive vice president of Site Selection.

Compiled by the business staff

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