

10/25/2011 PM

Baton Rouge Business Report - Online

11/01/2011

Daily Report This Afternoon's Headlines / Tue, October 25, 2011 Maginnis: Middlemen find themselves on top In contrast to the polarized electoral environment of the 2010 elections, the year of Sen. David Vitter and the tea party, the winning place to be this year was in the middle. In Louisiana, the political center has been a dangerous spot to occupy in the open primary elections of the past, when the strongest Democrat and the strongest Republican squeezed out moderates in the middle. But when one side dominates, as Republicans do now, and an internal struggle ensues, as it did in this election, power flows down the mainstream. That Gov. Bobby Jindal did not draw a known candidate was the result of more than his massive campaign war chest scaring off competitors. Conservative as he is, he made a point of governing from the center, or close enough to it, to marginalize his critics on the left and, yes, the right. If Jindal did well not to have potent enemies, re-elected Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne benefited from not having certain powerful friends. To not be the choice of Vitter or Jindal was all that many Democrats and mainstream Republicans needed to know to pick him over Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser. The two powerful Republicans, particularly Vitter, seemed to make the point for Dardenne that he was his own man. Read the full column here . (John Maginnis publishes LaPolitics Weekly, a newsletter on Louisiana politics, at LaPolitics.com .) North Oaks Orthopedic Clinic moving to Hammond On Monday, North Oaks Orthopedic Clinic will gain a new name, address and phone number. The clinic will be renamed North Oaks Orthopaedic Specialty Center, it says, to reflect the strength of its medical team and care. The clinic is moving from 530 W. Pine St. in Ponchatoula to Suite 100 of the new four-story North Oaks Clinic Building at 15813 Paul Vega, MD, Dr. in Hammond. The location, adjacent to the Diagnostic Center on the North Oaks Medical Center campus, was chosen to maximize patient convenience when outpatient testing or imaging is needed. North Oaks is the first of nearly 10 medical practices scheduled to move into the new building over the course of the next three months. The center's new phone number is 985-230-BONE. North Oaks also operates Livingston Parish Medical Complex on Spring Ranch Road in Livingston. First Bank and Trust taps Stirling to manage La., Miss. branches Stirling Properties has been awarded a contract to provide comprehensive facilities management for all First Bank and Trust branch locations in Louisiana and Mississippi. The contract, effective Nov. 1, also includes the First Bank and Trust headquarters at the First Bank and Trust Tower located in New Orleans. Founded in 1991, First Bank and Trust is a New Orleans-based bank with over \$925 million in assets. In 2009, Stirling Properties was named the listing and management firm for a portfolio of REO properties owned by First Bank and Trust. As the facility manager, Stirling Properties' role will include, but is not limited to, 24/7 on-call response to maintain and repair issues at the bank's facilities, as well accounting for all site-specific and consolidated facility management expenses. Rouzan development's first homes going up The first two homes are under construction in the initial phase of development at the Rouzan TND on Perkins Road, and development manager Tommy Spinosa III says more are on the way. "A third is scheduled to break ground in about two weeks, and two more should be under way by the end of the year," he says. All told, 16 of 26 lots in the Mimosa District are sold. Homes in the development will range from about \$350,000 to \$700,000, with square footage varying between 1,500 and 4,000. Spinosa says Rouzan is conducting open house tours on Sundays from 2-4 p.m. In February, the city-parish Planning and Zoning Commission approved a second phase of Rouzan, which consists of a pair of five-story buildings to be used for residential, retail and office space. There is no groundbreaking date set for the second phase, Spinosa says. "We're just kind of taking it one phase at a time," he says. -Steve Sanoski News roundup: BASF dedicates new Geismar plant ... Anytime Fitness on Florida nears opening ... Abita releases brew made with real Louisiana oysters Chemical expansion: The state of Louisiana and BASF dedicated a new methylamines plant today, representing an approximately \$50 million investment at BASF's chemical complex in Ascension Parish. The new unit is one of 22 plants on the 2,600-acre site. The expansion, begun in 2009 and completed in May, created 11 new permanent jobs. The methylamines plant, the first for BASF in North America, is also the first of its kind in Louisiana and gives BASF an immediate source of key chemical building blocks based on methanol and ammonia feedstocks. In all, BASF's Geismar site employs approximately 1,400 people: 780 BASF employees and about 620 contractors. BASF has three other methylamines plants: in Ludwigshafen, Germany, the company's headquarters; in Nanjing, China; and in Camaçari, Brazil. It's almost time: A new Anytime