

News Clips Report

Dispatches

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Courtesy Howard Risk Advisors

Jamie Howard, Charon Harris, Mark Landry and Frank Harris of Howard Risk Advisors.

ACADIANA

Landry Harris & Co., a multiline insurance brokerage and risk management agency based in Lafayette, has launched an affiliate firm, Howard Risk Advisors. Howard Risk Advisors is a large commercial property and casualty insurance brokerage firm involved in the placement of insurance coverage for clients in a variety of business industries. While based in Lafayette, the company will be serving Louisiana and the entire Gulf Coast region.

The Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise Commission has elected new leadership. Robert C. “ Bobby” Veazey is the new chairman; Dr. Mark E. Zappi, vice chairman; and Dr. Paula Carson, secretary-treasurer. The four other LITE commissioners are Don Briggs, Dr. Bradd Clark, Robert Fudickar and Keith Thibodeaux. Each of the seven is continuing to serve a three-year term.

NORTHSHORE

It Straps On Inc., a manufacturer of stainless steel banding and strapping systems in Covington, received the 2010 Small Manufacturing Award from the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana, or MEPOL. The firm was chosen for building a culture of continuous improvement throughout their organization.

The City of Hammond plans a downtown intermodal transportation center known as the Hammond Hub. The community is seeking a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the project, which would create interchanges between intercity rail and buses, local buses, the university shuttle, an airport shuttle, cars and bicycles. Plans call for the center to be LEED-certified, with solar panels to provide energy. The three-story hub would include 178 parking spaces, 40 bicycle spaces, restrooms with showers, and 4,000 square feet of new commercial space, along with offices for the Downtown Development District and a large, open-air space for the Hammond Market and other downtown events.

Stirling Properties announced that Academy Sports + Outdoors is coming to Hammond Square Shopping Center. The Texas-based sports, outdoor and lifestyle retailer will occupy a freestanding store that is approximately 70,000 square feet located off C.M. Fagan Drive. With an anticipated opening in time for 2011 back-to-school shopping, the Hammond Square location will join 14 other Academy Sports + Outdoors stores in operation throughout Louisiana.

BATON ROUGE

LaPorte Sehrt Romig Hand is acquiring a Houston firm, expanding its reach outside the 10/12 corridor. The company is merging with Hidalgo Banfill Zlotnik & Kermali PC. The combined firm will have a total staff of 160 people and revenue of more than \$23 million. The new entity will be known by the LaPorte name, and will maintain LaPorte’s current offices in New Orleans, Covington and Baton Rouge as well as the HBZK office in Houston.

Sparkhound Inc., a full-service IT consulting firm, has signed several large contracts totaling more than \$1.3 million in new business for the 12-year-old company, which recently opened a second location in Houston. The company signed

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agreements with the Rowan Companies, Shaw Group, KBR, Gulf Mark, Amedisys, Cleco, Petroleum Helicopters, Provident Resource Group, Performance Contractors, the law firm of Jones Walker and American Radiation Services, among others. In addition, Sparkhound was recently awarded the designation No. 1 Preferred Partner in the South Central Region and also the Relationship Partner for the South East Region by Dell.

NEW ORLEANS

Textron Marine & Land Systems has won a \$50 million Army contract to keep employees working through early 2012. Parent company Textron Systems has announced an option to build 52 more armored security and combat vehicles along with 12 special tool sets. Textron has manufactured ASVs for 58 consecutive months for the military and delivered more than 2,700 of the vehicles on time to the Army to date. The ASV is a four-wheel-drive armored vehicle with multiple layers of armor to protect the crew inside.

The Esplanade in Kenner will boast a new Target store in 2011. Simon Property Group Inc. of Indianapolis has closed the sale of a 5-acre parcel to Minneapolis-based Target. The one-story, 138,000-square-foot store will be built on the site of the former Mervyn's location, which closed in 2006. The Esplanade is currently anchored by Dillard's and Macy's.