

## Local Briefs Times-Picayune

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### Rouses buys complex

Rouses Markets has acquired the 124,074 square-foot Lake Oak Shopping Center on Franklin Avenue in Gentilly. The shopping center is already anchored by a 95,201 square-foot Rouses Market that is currently undergoing renovation. Other local and national tenants also have stores in the shopping center, which is 98 percent leased. Rouses did not disclose how much it paid for the shopping center.

### Firms selected

Three New Orleans firms have been selected for the annual Inner City Capital Connections program. The program, which is run by the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City and Bank of America, identifies inner city businesses in need of growth capital and educates them on the sources of capital. L&R Security Services, Inc.; McMillian's First Steps Community Development Corp.; and MSF Global Solutions, LLC, were among the 125 companies from across the company selected to participate in this year's program.

### Contract awarded

The Shaw Group Inc. has renewed a contract with Exelon Generation Company to provide maintenance and construction services to its fleet of nuclear generating plants. Exelon's nuclear power fleet includes 17 nuclear reactors at 10 sites in Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Shaw, a Baton Rouge construction and engineering firm, began providing fleetwide nuclear maintenance service to Exelon in 2001. Shaw did not disclose how much it will be paid for work under the renewed contract.

### Affiliation announced

Stirling Properties of Covington has affiliated with the Retail Brokers Network, a commercial real estate network that includes more than 600 North American brokers. "Through RBN, we'll have the ability to leverage relationships with owners, developers and tenants by working together on a regional and national level with other independent brokers," Stirling Properties CEO Marty Mayer said.

### Smaller pecan harvest

Louisiana's pecan harvest may be smaller this year because of the drought, but the quality is expected to be good, according to LSU AgCenter pecan specialist Randy Sanderlin. He estimates a yield of 10 million pounds of pecans this year in Louisiana. "We usually average about 14 million to 15 million," he said. In 2010, Louisiana harvested approximately 20 million pounds of pecans.

### Gas price down

The average local price of unleaded gasoline stood at \$3.232 a gallon on Thursday, down from \$3.245 a gallon on Wednesday, according to AAA. One month ago, the average local price stood at \$3.167 a gallon.