

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Advocate, The

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Nominations sought for farmer award

Nominations for the 2012 Louisiana Farmer of the Year are being accepted through Dec. 19.

The award acknowledges exceptional contributions of farmers and is sponsored by the Louisiana Radio Network, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, LSU AgCenter and Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Application forms can be obtained at any parish LSU AgCenter extension office or online at <http://www.lsuagcenter.com/farmeroftheyear>.

Three finalists will be recognized Feb. 23 at White Oak Plantation in Baton Rouge.

Stirling Properties joins broker network

Stirling Properties announced that it is affiliated with the Retail Brokers Network, made up of more than 60 affiliate offices throughout the United States and Canada.

The offices account for more than 600 brokers within North America. Stirling is part of the network's 11-state Southeast region.

"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," said Marty Mayer, president and CEO of Stirling Properties.

He said Stirling also will benefit from RBN's specialty councils on financial institutions, restaurants, anchor tenants, investment sales and project leasing.

Guard, Reserve seek business nominees

Nominations are being sought for employers that have provided exceptional support of employees' military service.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program is taking nominations for the Department of Defense's Employer Support Freedom Award.

Nominations can be submitted through Jan. 16 by Guard and Reserve members or family members acting on their behalf at <http://www.FreedomAward.mil>.

The 2012 recipients will be announced by early summer and honored in Washington, D.C., during a special ceremony early next fall.

Site Selection ranks Louisiana No. 7

Site Selection magazine ranked Louisiana the No. 7 business climate in the country.

The ranking improves Louisiana's standing from No. 9 in 2010 and No. 25 in 2009.