

# MONROE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEEKLY REPORT

212 Walnut Street, Suite 100, Monroe, LA 71201

[www.monroe.org](http://www.monroe.org) • [communications@monroe.org](mailto:communications@monroe.org)

## La. leaps 14 spots on 'Forbes' list of Best States for Business

"Until recently, Louisiana had steadily been ranked 49th or 50th every year on the Forbes magazine list of the Best States for Business. This year, however, the Pelican State vaulted 14 positions to its highest-ever ranking for business climate—No. 30, up from 44th the past two years. When Gov. Bobby Jindal took office in 2008, La. was 49th on the list. In creating the ranking, Forbes evaluates the 50 states in six different categories, including business costs, labor supply, regulatory environment, economic climate, growth prospects and quality of life. In just the past year, Louisiana moved up nine spots for business costs (from 25th to 16th), and the state gained 15 spots in regulatory environment (from 27th to 12th). Louisiana's economic climate also improved 15 spots (from 41st to 26th), and the state's growth prospects climbed four spots (from 18th to 14th).

*From the Baton Rouge Business Report, November 23, 2011*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. LA Leaps to Number 30-Best States for Business
1. Calendar of Events
2. 2011 CTB Holiday Gala & Auction
4. Nominations for Awards
6. Employer Seminar
7. Save the Date-2012 Chamber Banquet

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, November 30 at 9:30 a.m.**-Ribbon Cutting for the Better Business Bureau. The new office is located at 1900 North 18<sup>th</sup>, Suite 411 in Monroe.

**Saturday, November 26-Jan. 1**-Enjoy Christmas on the River. Go to [Monroe-westmonroe.org](http://Monroe-westmonroe.org) for more information.

**Thursday, December 1**-Monroe Chamber and CTB Present the Ooh La La Holiday Gala and Auction! Tickets are \$60 per person. The event will be held at Bayou DeSiard Country Club. Call 323-3461.

**Tuesday, December 6 at 11:00 a.m.**-Louisiana Annual Ethics Training will be offered in the Monroe Chamber of Commerce office. **-Event Cancelled!**

**Tuesday, December 6 at 12 noon**-Ambassador's Club will meet at Pieworks. Lunch is \$12 per person.

**Wednesday, December 7 at 11:30 a.m.**- Monroe Chamber Board will host the Organization's Past Chairmen for a lunch at Bayou DeSiard.

**Wednesday, December 7 at 12 noon**-The Greater Ouachita Parish Port Commission will meet at the Monroe Chamber office.

**Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m.**-Monroe City Council will meet at the Monroe City Hall Council Chambers.

**Friday, December 23**-Monroe Chamber Office closed for the Christmas Holidays.

**Tuesday, January 31 at 6:00 p.m.**-SAVE THE DATE!  
Monroe Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Banquet.

## Unlimit Your Style at Pecanland Mall

Stein Mart Aéropostale Old Navy  
Victoria's Secret Cinema 10  
Express Buckle Bath & Body Works



**PECANLAND  
MALL**

[www.pecanlandmall.com](http://www.pecanlandmall.com)



318.322.4635

Open Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm, Sun 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm GGP



Jewelry



Trips



And...More Trips



Home Furnishings

## 2011 Monroe Chamber and CTB Holiday Gala and Auction...OOH, LA, LA!

The Monroe Chamber 2011 Holiday Gala and Auction sponsored by Community Trust Bank will be held on Thursday, December 1 at Bayou DeSiard.

The “must attend” social event of the holiday season will begin with cocktails and will be followed by a live auction and dancing to Easy Eddie and the Party Rockers.

Approximately 400 guests are expected to attend the event and will enjoy a fabulous evening of hors d' oeuvres, spirits, music and extraordinary live auction packages. Unique items, including weekend getaways, jewelry, a hunting trip, a Washington D.C. Mardi Gras package, dinner parties and much more.

Tickets are only \$60 per person. Do you have your ticket yet? If not, please call the chamber at 318-323-3461 and make your reservations now.

This year's event sponsors include: Community Trust Bank, Mike Ackel, Auctioneer, ANGUS Chemical, Bancorp South, CenturyLink, DeltaStyle, Entergy, Fun Radio 92.7, Glenwood Regional Medical Center, Holyfield Construction, IberiaBank, Manpower, Patty Stewart Photography, Pecanland Mall, OPUS Broadcasting, St. Francis Medical Center, The Fletcher Group, The Radio People and The News Star.

Thank You to All the Sponsors for the  
2011 Monroe Chamber Holiday Gala and  
Auction!

*Thank you to our sponsors:*



**Community Trust  
Bank**

Mike Ackel, Auctioneer  
ANGUS Chemical  
BancorpSouth  
CenturyLink  
DeltaStyle Magazine  
Entergy  
Fun Radio 92.7  
Glenwood Regional Medical Center  
Holyfield Construction  
IberiaBank  
Manpower  
Patty Stewart Photography  
Pecanland Mall  
Opus Broadcasting  
St. Francis Medical Center  
The Fletcher Group  
The Radio People  
The News Star



A Program of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce

## APPLY NOW FOR 2012 LEADERSHIP OUACHITA

The Monroe Chamber is currently taking applications for the 2012 Leadership Ouachita class. Nominations are encouraged from all segments of the community. Individuals may apply or nominate those they feel best exemplify the philosophy of Leadership Ouachita. The application deadline for the 2012 class is Friday, December 30, 2011. Applications may be picked up at the Monroe Chamber of Commerce or interested parties may call Chamber Events Director, Daphne McClish at 807-4018 or [dmcclish@monroe.org](mailto:dmcclish@monroe.org) for more information.

The purpose of Leadership Ouachita is to develop and empower the emerging leaders of northeast Louisiana and help them gain the skills they need to transform the region into the best place to live and do business. Class members engage in a series of sessions focused on education, health care, workforce development, infrastructure and government.

The program also provides insight on public decision making, practical and in-depth discussions on public issues pertinent to Ouachita Parish, an expanded knowledge and understanding of the community in which we live, and the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with growing and established leaders in a neutral environment.

### **MONROE CHAMBER ACCEPTS NOMINATIONS FOR 2011 RAMBIN-SILVERSTEIN AWARD**

The Monroe Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the 2011 Rabin-Silverstein Award, which is presented annually to a resident of Ouachita Parish who has displayed outstanding leadership and service to the community. The nominee does not have to be a member of the chamber.

Any resident of Ouachita Parish who has demonstrated achievement, leadership and service for the benefit of the greater community is eligible for nomination.

The final selection is based on the person's contributions to the community over many years of service, evidence of their leadership ability, and evidence of their personal, professional and business integrity. The candidate must have a record of exceptional volunteerism and have demonstrated unselfish dedication to the betterment of Ouachita Parish.

Past recipients of this prestigious award include: George Moses, J. C. Loftin, W.L. Howard, Governor James A. Noe, Garland Shell, T. Arthur Grant, H.M. James, George Phillips, Jim Williams, R. Lee Vanderpool, Jr., Clifford Strauss, John T. Luffey, T.H. Scott, Grayson Guthrie, Paul Fink, Ed Whetstone, George T. Walker, Pat Regan, Baily Grant, George Rorex, George Riser, Saul A. Mintz, June Sherrouse Holmes, Dr. August Danti, Nelson Abell, Jr., Kitty Degree, Clarke M. Williams, James A. Altick, William D. Sanders, Harvey Hales, Hugh McDonald, Lawson Swearingen, Jr., James W. Moore, Jr., Tom Nicholson, Melvin Rabin, B.D. Robinson, George Cummings, III, George Mouk, Guy Barr, Melinda Mintz, Van Pardue, Roy Johns, Joe and Linda Holyfield, Sharon Taylor, Malcolm Maddox and Morris Mintz.

Nomination forms are available at the chamber office at 212 Walnut Street, Suite 100 or by calling 323-3461. All nominations must be received no later than Friday, December 30, 2011.

### **NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2011 KITTY DEGREE FOUNDATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN BUSINESS**

In 2003, through her involvement in and dedication to the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Kitty DeGree of The Kitty DeGree Foundation, envisioned an opportunity for the Monroe Chamber to recognize people in the community who exemplify excellence in business. As a result, she established the Kitty DeGree Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award in Business. It is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievements as a business leader throughout their career.

The Monroe Chamber is now accepting nominations for the 2011 Kitty DeGree Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award in Business. The award will be presented at the 92nd Monroe Chamber Banquet scheduled for January, 2012.

To qualify, nominees must meet the following criteria: 1) Owned and/or was in a major administrative level position at a business(s) in Ouachita Parish over a span of at least 20 years (currently active or recently retired). 2) Assisted in expansions, acquisitions, and/or growth of the business(s) resulting in new products or services, increased profitability and/or additional employment. 3) Showed exceptional vision and ingenuity in responding to and overcoming adversities, while exhibiting outstanding professionalism in business.

Past recipients of this prestigious award include: Glen Post, Sam Ruben, Sister Anne Marie Twohig, Sol Rosenberg, Clyde Webb, Don Beach, Jim Bershen and Dr. Terry King.

Nomination forms are available at the chamber office at 212 Walnut Street, Suite 100 or by calling 323-3461. All nominations must be received no later than December 30, 2011. The nominee does not have to be a member of the chamber.

# PARENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Has a youth that you care about been arrested, in trouble for truancy or involved with the FINS system?

Parents and guardians of youth, this workshop is for you.

---

**Upon completion you will:**

- Understand the Juvenile Justice System in the 4th Judicial District
- Understand how to cope with and help a challenging youth
- Build better communication and connection skills with youth
- Learn about mental health issues and services that are available
- Learn about education services that are available
- Learn how to advocate for the youth in the juvenile justice system.




---

**Where:** Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana  
1363 Louisville Avenue  
Monroe, LA 71201

**Dates & Times:** This four session series of interactive workshops will be held on:  
Monday: November 28th & December 6th ~ 6:30-8:30 PM  
Thursday: December 16th ~ 6:30-8:30 PM  
Saturday: December 17th ~ 9AM - 1PM

**To register, or for more information:** Contact Tammie Slawson at 318.237.0772 or [tammie@seekersprings.com](mailto:tammie@seekersprings.com)

**Stipend:** During this **pilot session only, a stipend of \$10 per hour** will be offered to any parents and guardians attending the entire workshop. Transportation and childcare issues will be addressed for participants when necessary. Meals and snacks will be provided.

---

This workshop presented by the following partnership: The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana, the 4th Judicial District Attorney, and Seeker Springs and funded by the Louisiana Models for Changes in Juvenile Justice.

**ModelsforChange**  
Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice



# Employer Seminar

## *Unemployment Insurance Basics for Employers*

### Guest Speakers:

**Sondra Dampier, LWC Regional UI Tax Agent Manager  
and Stephen Harris, LWC Executive Management Officer**

**Thursday, December 1, 2011  
10 a.m. – Noon**

**Bastrop Municipal Center  
1901 Moeller Drive in Bastrop, Louisiana**

Sponsored by: Louisiana Workforce Commission and  
Workforce Investment Board 82/Northeast Louisiana  
Workforce Centers, Inc. and the City of Bastrop.



Visit us online at  
[www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net)

**There is no charge to attend,  
but you must pre-register with  
Ruth Jones by:**

**e-mail: [rjones3@lwc.la.gov](mailto:rjones3@lwc.la.gov)**

**phone: (318) 362-3281**

| Equal Opportunity Employer/Program | Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities • TDD# 800-259-5154 |

This public document was published at a cost of five cents per copy. 500 copies of this public document were published in this format at a cost of \$25.12. This document was published by the Louisiana Workforce Commission to inform the public about an employer seminar. This material was printed using standards for printing by state agencies pursuant to E.S. 4931.






Monroe Chamber of  
Commerce  
212 Walnut Street, Suite 100,  
Monroe, LA 71201

Phone: (318) 323-3461  
Fax: (318) 812-7594

E-Mail:  
[communications@monroe.org](mailto:communications@monroe.org)

Website  
[www.monroe.org](http://www.monroe.org)

The Monroe Chamber's mission  
is to lead in the creation  
of an environment in which  
our businesses thrive.

  	
<h2>90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting &amp; Banquet</h2>	
	<p>Featuring</p> <p><b>Gary Hockstra</b> Vice President, Manufac- turing, Engineering and EH&amp;S Dow Advanced Materials Division</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, January 31</b> Reception - 5:30 pm * Dinner - 6:30 pm Monroe Civic Center Conference Hall</p>	
<p><b>MEMBERS</b> \$37.50 per person or \$300 per table</p> <p><b>NON-MEMBERS</b> \$45 per person or \$360 per table</p>	
	
<p>Contact Ruthie Wheatley at (318) 807-4004 or <a href="mailto:rwheatley@monroe.org">rwheatley@monroe.org</a></p>	