

MONROE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEEKLY REPORT

212 Walnut Street, Suite 100, Monroe, LA 71201

www.monroe.org • communications@monroe.org

Dr. Joe May to address Business Community

Dr. Joe May, president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), will speak to the Northeast Louisiana business community on January 19th regarding the LCTCS vision and initiatives for 2012 and beyond. The meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room at the main building of Louisiana Delta Community College. Registration and coffee available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Dr May's formal presentation will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting will be hosted by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the other chambers in the region. Business leaders are encouraged to attend. There is no cost to attend, but please RSVP to 323-3461 if you plan to attend.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Dr. Joe May to Address Business Community
2. 2012 Annual Banquet
5. 2012 Oil & Gas State of the Industry Report
6. 2011 NELA Career Fair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Tuesday, January 10 at 11:00 a.m.**-Ribbon Cutting for H & R Block. The business is located at 1619 Louisville Avenue in Monroe.
- **Wednesday, January 11 at 12 Noon**-The Greater Ouachita Parish Port Commission will meet at the Monroe Chamber office.
- **Tuesday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m.**-Monroe City Council will meet at Monroe City Hall.
- **Thursday, January 12 at 11:00 a.m.**-Ribbon Cutting for El Azteca. The new restaurant is located at 4075 Sterlington Road.
- **Thursday, January 12 at 4:00 p.m.**-NELA Manufacturer's Council will meet at the Monroe Chamber office. For information, call 807-4015.
- **Thursday, January 19 at 8:00 a.m.**-Louisiana Community and Technical College president Dr. Joe May will speak to business leaders about what is ahead for the LCTC System in Louisiana. Coffee and registration at 8:00 a.m. with the program beginning at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at LA Delta Community College on Millhaven Road.
- **Thursday, January 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**-The Louisiana Oil and Gas Industry will present a state of the industry report. The event will be held at Bayou DeSiard Country Club. Cost to attend is \$25 per person and reservations can be made by going to <http://soimonroe.eventbrite.com>.
- **Thursday, January 19 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 p.m.**-Open House for PPM Consultants, Inc. The new office is located at 1600 Lamy Lane. Todd Perry and his staff invite the business community to stop by and see their new facilities.
- **Thursday, January 23 at 11:00 a.m.**-Ribbon Cutting for the ULM/YMCA Natatorium. The event is taking place at 100 Warhawk Way at ULM.
- **Tuesday, January 31 at 6:00 p.m.**-SAVE THE DATE! Monroe Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Banquet. Keynote speaker is Gary Hockstra, VP of Manufacturing and Engineering and EH & S for Dow Advanced Materials Division. Tickets are \$37.50 per person and \$300 for a reserved table of 8. For tickets or more information, call Ruthie Wheatley at 807-4004.
- **Tuesday, February 7-Friday, February 10**-Monroe Chamber and City of Monroe annual visit to Washington D.C.

#1 again.

Ranked #1 in Louisiana for

- ✓ Medical Excellence in Overall Surgical Care
- ✓ Medical Excellence in Joint Replacement
- ✓ Overall Surgical Care Patient Satisfaction

Ranked #1 in our market for

- ✓ Cardiac Care Patient Safety
- ✓ Interventional Coronary Care Patient Safety

The truth is in the numbers!

Choose P&S Surgical Hospital for your next procedure.



The premier hospital. Doing it right.

312 Grammont Street • www.pssurgery.com • 318-388-4040



Ranked by CARECHEX, a rating service of The Delta Group, the nation's largest privately-held healthcare information service company (www.carechex.com).

Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence is a registered trademark of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). Used by permission of ASMBS. All rights reserved.



91st Annual Meeting & Banquet

Featuring
Gary Hockstra



Vice President,
Manufacturing, Engineering and EH&S
Dow Advanced Materials Division

Tuesday, January 31
Reception - 5:30 Dinner - 6:30
Monroe Civic Center
Conference Hall



Sponsors:

- ANGUS Chemical**
- Associated Business Printing**
- Atmos Energy**
- CenturyLink**
- Chase**
- City of Monroe**
- Delta Style Magazine**
- Entergy**
- FunRadio 92.7fm**
- Luffey, Huffman, Ragsdale, & Soignier**
- The News Star**
- OPUS Broadcasting**
- Patty Stewart Photography**
- Pecanland Mall**
- Progressive Bank**
- P & S Surgical Hospital**
- St Francis Medical Center**
- The Radio People**
- Vantage Health Plan**

Registration Deadline: January 15

For more information, Contact Monroe Chamber at 318-323-3461 or rwheatley@monroe.org

Advance payment required. No-shows are responsible for the cost of reservation(s).

Please return this form to: Monroe Chamber of Commerce
212 Walnut Street, Suite 100, Monroe, LA 71201
Call 323-3461 or Fax to 812-7594 or
Email: rwheatley@monroe.org

MEMBERS
\$37.50 per person or \$300 per table
NON-MEMBERS
\$45 per person or \$360 per table

Yes, I'll be attending the 2012 Annual Meeting and Banquet .

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ person (s), or \$ _____ for _____ tables.

Company Name _____ Contact Person _____
Persons attending _____

Phone _____ Address _____
Credit Card # _____ Expiration _____ Signature _____



LEADERSHIP OUACHITA 2012 Nomination Deadline Extended

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. 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 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.

Chamber Releases 2012 High Growth/High Demand Publication

On December 27, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce will release the 2012 Workforce Solutions Publication featuring the top high growth - high demand careers in Northeast Louisiana. The magazine includes information on area colleges and universities and the programs they provide to train for the featured careers. In addition, the publication outlines the steps required to apply for financial aid and reviews various programs available at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Louisiana Tech University, Louisiana Delta Community College and the Northeast Louisiana Technical College. The publication is a great planning tool for high school juniors and seniors, as well as adult job seekers who want to find a living wage job with benefits.

The publication will be provided to high school juniors in Ouachita Parish and additional copies will be available at the Monroe Chamber office and at the Louisiana Works office on Louisville Ave.

The publication is sponsored by CHASE, ANGUS Chemical, and the Scott Foundation. Additional support is provided by Entergy, Strauss Interests, and the City of Monroe. In addition, the following people served on the Monroe Chamber of Commerce Workforce Solution Task Force and provided the editorial content for the publication: Stephanie Smith Rivers, VP Workforce Development Division for the Monroe Chamber; Lisa Miller, Dr. Eric Pani, Dr. Ron Berry and Dr. Paula Thornhill with the University of Louisiana at Monroe; Dave Merchant with Louisiana Tech University, Margie Mixon with the Northeast Louisiana Technical College; Dr. Luke Robins, Darian Atkins and Bob Hammack with Louisiana Delta Community College; Doretha Bennett with Ouachita Parish Workforce Investment Board; Beadie Lewis and Ruth Jones with Louisiana Works; Paul West and Juanita Woods with NOVA; Angie White with the Northeast Louisiana Economic Partnership, Jeff Lynn with Louisiana Economic Development and Paul Hutcheson and Sue Nicholson with the Monroe Chamber of Commerce.

*****Thursday, January 12, 2012 11:30AM - 1:00PM*****

Join SHRM for their monthly meeting at the West Monroe Convention Center, 901 Ridge Ave, West Monroe, LA.

The speaker is Fred Baragona, Director of HR, LA Methodist Children's Home and our 2012 Chapter President Elect.

The title of the training session "Understanding EEO, Basic Rules of Compliance for Managers & Supervisors". This training is designed to inform managers and supervisors of their responsibility regarding the various employment laws administered and enforced by the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

We will review the relative employment laws enforced by the EEOC, discuss the risk associated with in all aspects of the employment cycle including suggestions for legal compliance. Fred will discuss various discrimination and harassment scenarios, and review relevant legal cases to emphasize the impact on employees and employers.

This presentation designed to meet the "Affirmative Defense" standards established by the 1998 Supreme Court Case on this topic. The presentation is based on some required training I conducted for a Louisiana employer that had been charged with discrimination by the EEOC, and their Consent Decree required that all of their employees receive appropriate and adequate training in this regard. This training has been approved by the EEOC for this purpose, as well as myself credentialed as a qualified trainer.

The cost for NELA-SHRM members will be \$13 which covers the cost of the meal. The cost for non-members is \$20 per person. Please RSVP as soon as possible either directly back to me, or on our web site at www.nelashrm.org so we can provide the center with an accurate headcount.



PPM Consultants, Inc.
invites you to join us for an
Open House
to celebrate our new location
and 18th Anniversary

Thursday, January 19, 2012
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
1600 Lamy Lane
Monroe, Louisiana
RSVP: 318-323-7270

The Spring Semester is approaching quickly! ULM Graduating seniors, juniors, non-traditional students and alumni are polishing up their resumes, dusting off their business suits, and putting their best foot forward in preparation of landing a job with your company!

The University of Louisiana at Monroe's Office of Career Connections & Experiential Education invites you to mark your calendars and reserve a space for our **Spring Career Fairs 2012**.

CAREER FAIR

All Majors Spring Career Fair – 200.00

February 15, 2012 9:00 am – 2 pm

Register: https://webservices.ulm.edu/wsforms/viewform.php?fid=career_connections_career_day

ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

Private interview rooms will be provided the day following the Fall All Majors Career Fair. Please call our office to reserve a room for that day or to schedule any other day(s) for on-campus interviews. The Office of Career Connections will publicize your career opportunities on campus, schedule student interviews, and reserve private interview rooms for you. This is a great way to maximize your exposure to ULM student/alum applicants and an efficient way to interview as many applicants as possible. Please call us at 318-342-5338 today to schedule your on-campus interview days!

Great things are going on at ULM and we encourage you to come see for yourself! Thank you for your past support of the university and our students. We look forward to working with you this upcoming year.

Roslynn B. Pogue
Interim Director
Office of Career Connections and Experiential Education
University of Louisiana Monroe
700 University Avenue
Monroe, LA 71209
Office (318) 342-5327
Fax (318) 342-3445

Register Now for 2012 NELA Career Fair

Area employers are searching for good employees and they hope to find them at the 2012 Northeast Louisiana Career Fair. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Monroe Civic Center. Admission to the event is free and open to area jobseekers.

The Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Atmos Energy, CHASE, Gardner Denver Thomas, Brookshire's Distribution, *The News-Star*, the City of Monroe, Opus and the Louisiana Workforce Commission are hosting the Career Fair to help connect local businesses with people looking for jobs.

In the past, this type of Career Fair has proven to be an excellent opportunity for applicants to connect with several employers at a single location. It can be a win, win situation for both job applicants and employers.

Staff members with the local Workforce Boards and the Louisiana Workforce Commission will be available to help job applicants register with the Workforce Commission's job bank for work search assistance. Several area training providers will also be on hand to provide information for people who want to upgrade their skills and training.

The event is free for anyone looking for a job. The fee for employers who would like to have a booth is \$75, which includes a skirted table and lunch for two exhibitors. For more information or to register, please call Sue Nicholson at 318-807-4015.



LOUISIANA OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION

DON G. BRIGGS, *President*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ben Broussard
337.278.6240
ben@loga.la

LOGA plans State of the Oil & Gas Industry meeting in Monroe, LA; Registration open to all

The Louisiana Oil & Gas Association (LOGA) will hold its State of the Industry meeting on Thursday January 19th at Bayou Desiard Country Club in Monroe, LA with the meeting beginning at 11:00am. The meeting is hosted locally by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. This is the first in a series of regional luncheon meetings with the purpose of educating local professionals on the current state of Louisiana's oil & gas industry. All are invited to register online and attend.

The meeting will include a lunchtime presentation by LOGA President Don G. Briggs. Topics for open discussion at each meeting will include the status of Louisiana's legal environment with a particular focus on Legacy lawsuits, shale gas exploration & development, including the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale and "Brown Dense" formation, the EPA and its efforts to regulate hydraulic fracturing, the status of U.S. offshore drilling, and most importantly, a preview of the upcoming legislative session

A question and answer session will follow. There will be plenty of time before and after for networking with other oil & gas business professionals so be sure to make plans to join us

Space is limited, early registration is encouraged. Online registration is available at <http://soimonroe.eventbrite.com>. Please contact Ben Broussard with questions at (337) 278-6240 or ben@loga.la.

For media credentials, please contact Ben Broussard at 337-278-6240.

###

Ouachita Correctional Center Tax Proposal

At their January 9th meeting, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury is expected to vote to place a 9.2 mill OCC tax on the April ballot. The tax is a continuation of the 8.6 mil for operations and the .6 mil for construction and maintenance that is currently collected. The change for the April ballot is that the proposal will combine the two taxes into a 9.2 mil tax. Both the Monroe and the West Monroe Chambers support the recommendation, but have asked the Ouachita Parish Police Jury to develop a long term plan for maintenance and repairs at OCC and to set aside a portion of the 9.2 mil tax for that purpose. The remaining portion of the tax will be used for ongoing operations of the parish prison.

Northeast Louisiana Career Fair 2012



Wednesday, February 22, 2012 • 10am-2pm
 Monroe Civic Center Convention Center

Booth only \$75
 includes skirted table and lunch for two exhibitors

<p>GOLD</p> <p>includes Booth 30 Day careerbuilder.com posting 2x4 Sunday ad in <i>The News-Star</i></p> <p>\$225 <small>*\$59⁰⁰ Value</small></p>	<p>SILVER</p> <p>includes Booth 30 Day careerbuilder.com posting</p> <p>\$175 <small>*\$30⁰⁰ Value</small></p>	<p>BRONZE</p> <p>includes Booth 2x4 Sunday ad in <i>The News-Star</i></p> <p>\$125 <small>*\$34⁰⁰ Value</small></p>
--	---	---

Exhibitor Package Includes:
Career Fair Promotion
 reaching potential employees across northeast Louisiana and southern Arkansas
Hundreds of Active Job Seekers Prescreening by the Louisiana Department of Labor will be available
 Internet Access available
For information contact:
 318-807-4015 or snicholson@monroe.org or jgreene@gannett.com

Sponsored By: The Monroe Chamber of Commerce, CHASE, The News-Star, Atmos, Gardner Denver Thomas, Brookshire's Distribution, Opus, The City of Monroe and the Louisiana Workforce Commission

Meet Face to Face with Job Candidates and Recruit for:
 Customer Service Representatives • Financial Services
 Health Care Professionals • Hospitality Industry
 Management Manufacturing • Technicians • Retail Sales
 Secretarial and Administrative Assistants and Other Fields

Business _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Gold Pkg \$225 Bronze Pkg \$125

Silver Pkg \$175 Booth Only \$75

Please return completed form and check to the
 Monroe Chamber of Commerce at:
 212 Walnut Street, Suite 100,
 Monroe, LA 71201



2012 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event
Alexandria, Louisiana
January 26, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for a hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty members, Guard and Reserve members and eligible spouses at the England Airpark Army Processing Facility, 1804 Oliver Drive in Alexandria. This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

Employers and job seekers must pre-register at hoh.greatjob.net.
Please register prior to January 20. Registration is FREE to employers and job seekers.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's "Hiring Our Heroes" Hiring Fair is co-sponsored locally by the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Labor Veteran Services (DOL VETS), Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), JRTC/Fort Polk, the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance, Louisiana Workforce Commission, Business Acceleration System, Alexandria Veterans Administration, Rapides Parish Vet Center, the Louisiana National Guard, England Industrial Airpark and Community and Operation Homefront Louisiana.

For more information, please contact Deborah Randolph, president of the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce at drandolph@cenlachamber.org.

For registration questions, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com.



WWW.USCHAMBER.COM/VETERANS/EVENTS

NELA Manufacturer's Council to Meet Thursday, January 12

The NELA Manufacturing Council will meet on Thursday, January 12 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. at the Monroe Chamber office.

Todd Perry, President of PPM Consulting has agreed to speak. He will talk about the hot topics with EPA/DEQ for 2012 and how they may impact area manufacturers and industry. Most especially, he will focus on the new air particulate reporting and how that may impact utility companies and ultimately, the cost of utilities.

In addition, the group will review the proposed OCC tax continuation that is expected to be on the April, 2012 ballot.

The Living Well Foundation invites you to the

Annual Update to the Community Luncheon

Thursday, January 12, 2012

11:30 a.m.

West Monroe Convention Center

Cost of Lunch: \$12.00

Please RSVP to the West Monroe/West Ouachita
Chamber of Commerce

(318-325-1961 or

cthompson@westmonroechamber.org)

by Wednesday, January 4, 2012.

Presentation of Living Well Foundation
activities in the community
during the past year and plans for the near
future

Monroe-West Monroe Business and Professional Women

January 10, 2012 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Guest Speaker
Hollis Conway**

Topic: Raising the Bar -The Importance of Mentoring

Did you know that January is National Mentoring Month? Do you have a mentor? Are you a mentor? Mentors can help you navigate the corporate terrain or advise you in one or more particular career development areas. Come hear Hollis Conway of Overcoming Obstacles, Inc., speak on the importance of mentoring and how it can benefit your career!

Hollis Conway of Overcoming Obstacles, Inc. is rapidly becoming one of America's leading motivational and inspirational speakers. With over 10 years experience as one of the world's most dominant athletes, Hollis has fashioned his expertise into world-class programs that are able to help you get the results you desire!

The public is invited to attend. The luncheon is held at the Atrium, 2001 Louisville Avenue, Monroe, LA is \$12.00. RSVP by noon on January 9 by calling Peggy Wells @ [318-665-5516](tel:318-665-5516) or email peggywells1508@comcast.net or Janis Guyton, President at [318-342-9800](tel:318-342-9800) (after 7pm) or email janisguyton@att.net.

**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

Website
www.monroe.org

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



You are Invited to Attend the Monroe Chamber of Commerce
Ambassador's Club Meeting
on
Wednesday, February 8
At The Clarion Inn & Suites on U.S. Highway 165

City of Monroe Mayoral Candidates Forum

Dr. Ray Armstrong
James E. Mayo
Johnny Riley
"Clint" Thomas

Cost for the event is \$12.00 per person, which includes lunch.
For more information, please call Sarita Daniel at 323-3461.