

MONROE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEEKLY REPORT

212 Walnut Street, Suite 100, Monroe, LA 71201

www.monroe.org • communications@monroe.org

Louisiana Senate Passes SB1

The Louisiana Legislature enters the second week of the special session with the State Senate passing SB1 today, which establishes the new Louisiana senate districts. The senate will now address paring down the 7 existing congressional districts into 6 hotly debated new districts with Senator Kostelka and Senator Neil Riser supporting a north south District 5 and Senator Lydia Jackson supporting an east west district that would run from Shreveport to the Mississippi River.

The Louisiana House is still hearing amendments to HB1. Last week, the Monroe Chamber, members of the business community, Monroe Mayor Jamie Mayo and concerned citizens all pressed the House and Government Affairs committee to amend HB1 to reestablish a district that kept the core Monroe business community together. That amendment, introduced by Rep. Kay Katz and Rep. Rosalind Jones passed. It was supported by both Rep. Frank Hoffman and Rep. Bubba Chaney.

Final Adjournment for the session is no later than 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. You can follow the session and make public comment by going to the Louisiana Legislative website at <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>. The website has links to each legislator or you can go to the Monroe Chamber website at Monroe.org for contact information for the Northeast Louisiana legislative delegation.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Thursday, March 31**-Delta Regional Authority Chairman Chris Masingill will be in Monroe to tour the Ouachita Parish Port and Delta Community College. He will meet with business leaders at noon.
- **Thursday, March 31 at 2:00 p.m.**- Ribbon Cutting For the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum of LA. The museum is located at 701 Kansas Lane.
- **Friday, April 1 at 10:00 a.m.**-Ribbon Cutting for Fitright Active. The new business is located at 1866 Forsythe Avenue.
- **Tuesday, April 5 at noon**-The Ambassador's Club will meet at The Atrium. Myra Gatling, executive director for the Downtown Economic Development District will be the keynote speaker. Cost to attend is \$11 per person.
- **Tuesday, April 5 at noon**-LABI Legislative Issues Conference will be held at the West Monroe Chamber. Cost to attend is \$25. To register, please call 325-1961.
- **Tuesday, April 5 at 4:00 p.m.**-Ribbon Cutting for Tower Self Storage. The new business is located at 1251 Fulton Drive in Monroe, next to Wal-Mart.
- **Wednesday, April 6 at 12 noon**-The Greater Ouachita Port Commission will meet at the Monroe Chamber office.
- **Friday, April 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**-2011 Business Outlook Summit to be held at CenturyLink, 100 CenturyLink Drive in Monroe. The cost to attend is \$50 per person. To register, please call 318-257-3701.
- **Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m.**-Monroe City Council will meet at the Monroe City Hall council chambers.
- **Wednesday, April 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**-NELA Career Fair. Monroe Civic Center. Call 807-4015 for more information.
- **Thursday, April 14 at 1:00 p.m.** Ground Breaking for Habitat for Humanity. The event will take place at 1304 Sherrouse Avenue.
- **Tuesday, May 3-MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** Northern Exposure



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2011 Monroe Chamber Spring Membership Directory

Each year the Monroe Chamber works collaboratively with the News-Star to produce a Monroe Chamber of Commerce membership directory. The directory is first published as a tabloid, which is inserted in the paper in the fall. That publication is followed up with a magazine style directory that the chamber provides to members and new residents, both commercial and residential.

You are encourage to consider placing an ad in this publication or if you are already advertising to consider placing a larger ad. This directory is the official membership directory for the Monroe Chamber each year. Our members keep the directory and use it as a resource book throughout the year.

Someone from the News-Star will be contacting you soon to follow up on this letter. We appreciate your consideration and will be happy to answer any questions you many have. You can reach us at 318-807-4015.

Delta Regional Authority Chairman Chris Masingill to Visit Monroe

Delta Regional Authority Chairman Chris Masingill will visit Monroe on Thursday, March 31st. DRA was established by Congress in 2000, to enhance economic development and improve the quality of life for the citizens of 8 member states.

Those states are Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee and include 252 counties and parishes is one of the most historic, culturally rich parts of the country

Led by a federal co-chairman appointed by the president and the governors of the eight states, the DRA fosters partnerships throughout the region as it attempts to improve the Delta economy. DRA funds can be used to leverage other federal and state programs.

While in Monroe, Chairman Masingill will tour the Ouachita Parish Port and Louisiana Delta Community College and he will visit with the NOVA Board of Directors and Next Autoworks officials.

2011 Northeast Louisiana Career Fair

Area employers are searching for good employees and they hope to find them at the 2011 Northeast Louisiana Career Fair. The event will be held on April 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 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, 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.

"This career fair is a wonderful opportunity because there are many quality jobs available in northeast Louisiana. I encourage citizens who are serious about becoming gainfully employed to participate in this event. Our economy becomes stronger every time someone gets hired," said Monroe Mayor Jamie Mayo.

"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, said Sue Nicholson, President of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. "It can be a win, win situation for both 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. Registration is recommended but not required. In addition, Workforce staff members will be on hand to assist with on line job searches, job counseling and resume preparation. 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 \$50, which includes a skirted table and lunch for two exhibitors. Information is available by calling Sue Nicholson at 318-807-4015.

**Hosted by:**

Louisiana Tech University
College of Business

University of Louisiana at Monroe
College of Business Administration

Department of Economic Development
Northeast Louisiana Region

Monroe Chamber of Commerce

Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Union Parish Chamber of Commerce

West Monroe/West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce

Conference Sponsor
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Keynote Speaker Sponsor
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Regional Outlook Speaker Sponsor
P&S Surgical Hospital

Corporate Sponsors
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FAX form and payment to 318.342.1101
Or MAIL form and payment to:

Dr. Ron Berry, Dean, College of Business Administration
University of Louisiana at Monroe
700 University Ave., Monroe, LA 71209-0101

If registering by mail, allow 1-2 weeks for processing.
For more information call 318.257.3701 or
e-mail debrav@latech.edu
www.business.latech.edu/bos

*Join us this year for
"Regionalism and Economic Development,"
an outlook on the national and local economy
from expert forecasters. Be prepared for the year ahead by
being informed.*

Sponsored by **Community Trust Bank**

National Outlook: **Dr. James Glassman**
Managing Director and Senior Economist with J. P. Morgan Chase &
Company

Local Outlook: **Dr. John Francis**
Assistant Professor, Economics - Louisiana Tech University

Local Outlook: **Dr. Robert Eisenstadt**
Associate Professor, Economics - University of Louisiana at Monroe

Friday, April 8, 2011

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
breakfast will be provided

CenturyLink Headquarters - 100 CenturyLink Drive - Monroe, LA
Must pre-register for event. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

REGISTRATION FORM**Name and Address**

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

FIRST NAME FOR BADGE

TITLE

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE/PROVINCE

ZIP

TEL ()

FAX ()

E-MAIL (required for email confirmation)
BOS does not sell email addresses

Payment

Please mark attendee category for the Business Outlook Summit:

_____ \$50 regular registration

_____ \$15 student registration

_____ Total Amount Due

Your registration will not be considered complete until all fees are paid in full.
Charge to _____ VISA _____ MasterCard _____ American Express

ACCOUNT NO.

EXP. DATE

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

_____ A CHECK is enclosed payable to ULM Foundation Check No. _____

Northeast Louisiana Career Fair 2011



Exhibitor Package Includes:

Career Fair Promotion reaching potential employees across northeast Louisiana and southern Arkansas

Professional, fully draped 8X10 foot booth with 2 chairs

Hundreds of Active Job Seekers
Prescreening by the Louisiana Department of Labor will be available

Internet Access available

Registration fee is \$50 for employers.
Pre-registration is required.

For information contact: 318-807-4015 or sedmunds@monroe.org

Northeast Louisiana Career Fair 2011

Wednesday, April 13
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Monroe Civic Center Convention Center

Meet Face to Face with Job Candidates and Recruit for:

Customer Service Representatives
Financial Services
Health Care Professionals
Hospitality Industry
Management
Manufacturing
Retail Sales
Secretarial and Administrative Assistants
Technicians
And Other Fields

Sponsored By:

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

Business _____
Contact Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ email _____

Please return completed form to the Monroe Chamber of Commerce at:

212 Walnut Street, Suite 100
Monroe, LA 71201

Nominations Now Accepted for the 2011 Thomas H. Scott Awards of Excellence

The Monroe Chamber of Commerce, the News Star and the University of Louisiana at Monroe College of Business plan to recognize the growth and development of new and expanding businesses in Ouachita Parish with an awards ceremony that will be held June 2 at the ULM Conference Center. The three entities have collaborated on The Thomas H. Scott Awards of Excellence. The awards will be presented to Ouachita Parish businesses that have demonstrated a commitment to Ouachita Parish by creating or retaining jobs, making a capital investment in machinery, equipment or a new facility and that participate in worthwhile community projects.

The award is named after Thomas H. Scott, the founder of Scott Companies, which is headquartered in Monroe. Scott was raised in Mississippi and attended Mississippi State University where he received a degree in agriculture engineering. Following graduation, he moved to Shreveport where he was employed with International Harvester. While in Shreveport, he met Mayme, the woman who was to be his wife and life-long companion. The couple moved to Monroe in 1939 to open Scott Truck and Tractor Company. Over the years, Scott Truck and Tractor evolved into Scott Companies, which includes Scott Equipment, Scott Financial Services, Scott Irrigation, Scott Real Estate and CBS Interests.

Scott summarized his business philosophy in a company brochure that was published in 2000. In it he said, "People are important. Our number 1 goal has always been to serve the customer. Our business has been built on service to our customer and service to the communities in which we are located." Scott continued to work at the business until his death in 2001 at the age of 90. Today Scott Company has expanded into 13 states, employs over 500 people with an annual payroll of \$32 million.

According to Sue Nicholson, president and CEO for the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, "The businesses that will be recognized with this award will demonstrate the principals and values that Mr. Scott embodied in his life and in his work."

Four awards will be presented: small business category (businesses that employee 1-10 people); medium business category (businesses that employee 11-50 people); large business category (businesses that employee 51 to 100 people); and corporate (businesses that employee over 100 people). Nominations are open to any Ouachita Parish business that expanded their business or made a capital investment in 2010/11; created or retained jobs; and that participate in worthwhile causes throughout Ouachita Parish. Nomination forms are available at the Monroe Chamber. Area businesses are encouraged to nominate their own business. The deadline to submit a nomination is 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 6. All completed nominations should be mailed or delivered to the Monroe Chamber of Commerce at 212 Walnut Street, Suite 100; Monroe, LA 71201.

The winners will be announced at a reception to be held on Thursday, June 2nd at the ULM University Conference Center. The Thomas H. Scott Award of Excellence ceremony is sponsored by Progressive Bank, Associated Business Printing, ANGUS, Atmos, Brookshire's, DeltaStyle, Gardner, Denver Thomas, Graphic Packaging, Patty Stewart Photography, IberiaBank, P & S Surgical Hospital and the City of Monroe. Tickets for the event are \$25 per person. For more information or to nominate a business, please call the Monroe Chamber at 323-3461.



2011

Northern Exposure
Legislative Appreciation
Forum and Reception
Tuesday, May 3

Louisiana State Museum
660 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge

SIGN UP NOW:
\$60 per person

Includes lunch, forum & Reception
 Registration Deadline: April 29
All Registrations after deadline \$75

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 Saint Francis Medical Center
 St. Patrick's Psychiatric Hospital
 The Radio People
 University of Louisiana at Monroe

Sponsorships Still Available

Contact Daphne McClish (318)807-4018 or dmcclish@monroe.org

Please complete and return to: Daphne McClish, Monroe Chamber of Commerce
 212 Walnut Street, Suite 100, Monroe, LA 71201
 Call 807-4018, Fax: 812-7594 Email: dmcclish@monroe.org

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

____ I will be riding the bus. Please reserve _____ seats.

____ I will NOT be riding the bus.

____ I have attached a check made payable to the Monroe Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$ _____

____ Please charge my credit card # _____ Expiration _____

Signature _____

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

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

LABI

2011 Legislative Issues Conference

Sponsored by
The Monroe and West Monroe/West Ouachita
Chambers of Commerce
and the
LA Association of Business and Industry

Tuesday, April 5, Noon | West Monroe Convention Center (901 Ridge Ave., West Monroe) | \$25, to make reservations, contact Cindy Thompson via the Internet at cthompson@westmonroechamber.org OR call the Chamber office 318-325-1961, West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce, 112 Professional Dr., West Monroe 71291