

October-December 2009

## Volunteers Needed For Annual Chamber Banquet

Please mark your calendars for the Pointe Coupee Chamber Annual Membership & Awards banquet set for Monday, Feb. 1, 2010, at 6 p.m. at the Scott Civic Center in New Roads.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the planning committee. If you would like to help, please call **Addie Armato** at 225-638-3751 or email at [aarmato@pcemc.org](mailto:aarmato@pcemc.org).

## Morganza to Roll with Annual Christmas Parade

The holiday season is right around the corner.



The Village of Morganza will be hosting its annual Christmas parade on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009.

Anyone interested in having a booth, please contact **Lisa Dalton** at the Morganza Town Hall at 225-694-3655.



Send us your business news or any feedback to help better serve you.  
2002 False River Dr.  
New Roads, LA 70760  
Phone: 225-638-6051  
Editor: Courtney Maciasz  
Macy Financial Services

## “Anna Marie” Christened



**Lettsworth, LA – (August 12, 2009)** Chamber of Commerce Director of Economic Development **Scot Byrd** was on hand for the christening of Terral River Service’s new riverboat, *Anna Marie*. The new boat is named after the granddaughter of the founder of Terral Marine.

Terral River Service is an important river transportation company in Louisiana, operating out of Lake Providence Port, Madison Parish Port, Vidalia Port, Alexandria Port, and Pointe Coupee Parish Port. We are glad to have them in our parish and very happy to see them growing here in Pointe Coupee.

## Pointe Coupee Leaders Join Forces to Reduce Dropout Rate

**NEW ROADS, LA-** Key educational, civic and business leaders met Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, at Pointe Coupee Central High School for the first Pointe Coupee Parish Dropout Prevention Summit. Representatives from the parishes private, parochial and public schools, Pointe Coupee Sheriff’s Office, 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney’s Office, Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce, Pointe Coupee Parish Constables, City of New Roads’ Mayor’s Office and many others were in attendance.

The summit, hosted by the Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce, was designed to bring key leaders of Pointe Coupee Parish to the table, which have a vested interest in improving educational options for our students, and create a task force that will actively implement solutions to drastically reduce the dropout rate in our parish.

Dropout continued on Page 2

Dropout continued from Page 1

On the agenda were presentations by Reverend **James Smith**, a truancy officer from Rayville, Louisiana; **John Warner Smith** with Education's Next Horizon, Assistant District Attorney, **Marty Maley**, and Dr. **Michael Eskridge** with ADVANCE Baton Rouge who shared with the group their programs for dropout and truancy prevention.

The Pointe Coupee Parish Dropout Prevention Summit is the next-step in a state-wide initiative, led by Education's Next Horizon, to reduce truancy and the number of student dropouts. Pointe Coupee Parish's current public school dropout rate is approximately seven percent and is attributed to a number of factors such as truancy, behavior, school engagement, academic performance and family background.

The next step for the dropout prevention task force is to send surveys to all principals in Pointe Coupee Parish to poll them on the factors that contribute to their school's dropout rate and realistic solutions that they can bring to the table to help solve the problem. Additionally, the task force will work to establish commitments from the Parish's educational, civic and governmental leaders to enforce laws and policies regarding truancy and student dropouts.

The taskforce will reconvene on Thursday, October 22, at 8:00am at Pointe Coupee Central High School. If you are interested in joining the task force, or have an idea you would like to share, please contact **Scot Byrd** with the Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce at [pointecoupeechamber@yahoo.com](mailto:pointecoupeechamber@yahoo.com).

### MAXEY CARE



### RV PARK

641 So. Hwy. 1  
Morganza, LA 70759  
225-718-2232  
[www.maxeycareervpark.com](http://www.maxeycareervpark.com)

- Brand New Park
- All 30/50 AMP hookUps
- Spacious 90' long drive thru sites
- Plenty of green walking areas
- Commercial laundry
- Convenience store, Café available
- RV friendly fuel - gas and diesel available
- Jumbo R.V. Truck. Boat Wash Bay on site
- Free WI-FI Internet Service

### Jumbo RV/Boat Storage On Site

12' x 14' roll up doors on 40' deep unit  
Electrical outlet, interior lighting  
Easy access to Hwy 1  
Well-lighted, Security Cameras  
Surveillance  
Pre-authorized Admission Available

Monthly and Yearly Rates



## Centre for the Arts Opens New Location



The Centre for the Arts has moved into their new location at 1104 W. Main Street in New Roads. The Centre is offering instruction in tumbling, gymnastics, art classes for differing ages, modern dance, tap dancing, ballet, theater classes for differing ages, piano, guitar, voice, and violin.

Director **Michael Phelps** says the Centre is continuing to make enhancements to the facility, and their instructors are second to none. The Centre's goal is to bring the best instructors to Pointe Coupee from all over the world. In fact, their website says, "from New Orleans to New York City...from Baton Rouge to Bulgaria...from Pointe Coupee to Peru...our instructors are world class!"

To find out more, contact Centre for the Arts at 225-718-1303. You can visit their website at [www.centreforthearts.org](http://www.centreforthearts.org).

## Welcome New Chamber Members!

- New World Broadcasting, Radio Station KCLF 1500AM.
- Emerald Health Care, LLC - better known as Pinnacle Home Health
- El Patio II, located at 1320 Hospital Road in New Roads
- Centre for the Arts, 1104 W. Main Street in New Roads

## A Feast for the Eyes!



Visit our new location: 329 New Roads Street for more festive & tasteful items!

Our polished pewter and pearl necklaces, earrings and bracelets feature the ingredients of Louisiana culinary favorites. Choose from Seafood Gumbo, Red Beans & Rice or Boiled Crabs starting at \$100.



Because life is a special occasion.

329 New Roads Street | New Roads | 225.618.8003  
Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

## Chamber provides Excel training



In August, the Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce provided two Microsoft Excel computer training classes as well as a course in Microsoft Word.

Forty-seven participants benefitted from the training.

The Chamber would like to thank Southern University Ag Center instructor **Latonia Morrison-Frank**, **Melissa Hymel** of the Pointe Coupee Library and **Amy Davis** of Jumonville Technical College for use of their classrooms, and **Deborah Cross** of the LSU Ag Center for providing computers.

## False River Regional Airport Participates in Aviation Student Intern Program



For the third consecutive year, False River Airport has participated in a Louisiana DOTD program to educate student interns to learn more about aviation management through job shadowing of actual airport operations.

This year's students were **Travis Bramble** and **Ryan Odom**. The students learned practical application of the skills of project management, airport lighting and navigational aids, rules related to general and commercial aviation airports, and airport inspection. They were assisted in their internship by local airport manager **Yvonne Chenevert** and DOTD aviation section program managers, directors, and inspection personnel.

Congratulations to Ryan and Travis on competing the program. It is fine young people like these coming into the aviation management system that make America's skies, which are the busiest in the world, also the safest.

## Chamber of Commerce Sponsors Broadband

**NEW ROADS, LA** – The Greater Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce has provided funding to Rural Community Broadcasting Service to help pay a consultant to write a grant to bring rural residents of Pointe Coupee Parish, West Feliciana Parish, and East Feliciana Parish with high speed internet service. Many local community business leaders and congressional leaders have also written letters of support to endorse this initiative.

We expect that this will improve a number of important services that will improve the lives of our residents; including rapid deployment of medical information to health care providers, home based businesses, furthering education online, communicating important civic information to residents, multi-media instructional materials for students, improved emergency operations communications, and infrastructure necessary to bring additional business opportunities and jobs to Pointe Coupee.

The grant being applied for is part of the Obama Administration's stimulus package, funded through the USDA Rural Utilities Service. Over \$7 billion has been set aside to provide broadband capacity to rural areas.

### Chamber News Briefings



The P.C. Chamber's website has finally launched and enhancements continue to add value to the website. If you have an idea on how to make our website better, click on the "contact us" link in the upper right corner of the home page and send us an email on the "email us" link located on that page. To view the new website, go to [www.pcchamber.org](http://www.pcchamber.org).

Do you have a child under 18? Is your income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level? The microenterprise development program helps you gain the necessary skills and resources to turn your idea into a successful business venture. We offer a training and development program that enhances personal and business development skills and creates owner-operated microenterprise businesses with the goal of increasing income and wealth through self-employment. We will be one of just a few locations offering this free program in Louisiana right here in Pointe Coupee! For more information, contact Director of Economic Development Scot Byrd at [pointecoupechamber@yahoo.com](mailto:pointecoupechamber@yahoo.com) or phone 225-240-2280.

## Louisiana's Community and Technical Colleges Named Fastest Growing in Nation



A record seventeen Louisiana Community & Technical College System (LCTCS) schools made the ranks in the "Fastest growing two-year public institution" polls conducted by Community College Week, a publication that calls itself "the independent voice covering community, technical and junior colleges."

The results were reported in the article "Squeezed; As Enrollment Surges, Funding Shrinks" in the December 1, 2008 issue. The article named the top 50 fastest growing schools in four categories ranging from "fewer than 2,500 students" to "10,000 or more students." The results were based on data collected between fall 2006 and fall 2007.

"I am so proud of our colleges and the hard work they are doing to serve our citizens by providing a quality higher education," said LCTCS President Dr. **Joe D. May**. "The growth of our system is critical to providing access to a competitive workforce for our state and to strengthening our overall economy."

Louisiana Technical Colleges held the top four spots in the "less than 2,500 students" category, with Louisiana Technical College, Jumonville Memorial campus ranking third as one of the fastest growing two-year public colleges in the nation. Enrollment at the campus grew by an amazing 45% from 140 students enrolled in the fall 2006 to 203 students in fall 2007. Overall, fifteen LCTCS schools made the list in the "under 2500" category. "Although this is quite an honor for the college, this is not the first time that the college has landed a ranking with the Community College Week publication. In 2006 the Jumonville campus ranked ninth in the nation. We are certainly moving in the right direction" states **Amy Davis** who has served as Campus Dean since 2003.

She credits the hard work of her faculty and staff in achieving this national recognition. "We produce students who are job ready once they complete their studies. They become productive members of the community workforce and often encourage others to enroll" states Mrs. Davis. LTC Jumonville will continue to do its' part to produce a viable workforce. Interested persons may call the school for information at (225) 638-8613.

## 2009 Legislative Issues Conferences

**LAKE CHARLES**- Wednesday, March 11, Noon; Treasures of Marilyn (3510 5th Avenue); \$25, Lynette Clark (337-433-3632 ext. 212), The Chamber/Southwest Louisiana, 120 West Pujos Street, Lake Charles 70601

**BATON ROUGE** – Thursday, March 12, Registration 7:00, Program 7:30 a.m. • Boudreaux's (2647 Government St.) • \$20, Nicole David (225-381-7140), Baton Rouge Area Chamber, 564 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge 70801

**LAFAYETTE** – Thursday, March 12, 11:00 a.m. • Petroleum Club of Lafayette (111 Heymann Blvd.) • \$25, Erin Kelley (337-233-2705), Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 804 East Saint Mary Blvd., Lafayette 70503

**ALEXANDRIA** – Monday, March 16, 11:30 a.m. • Best Western Conference Center (2720 N. MacArthur Drive) • \$15, Chris Workman (318-442-6671), Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce, 1118 Third Street, Alexandria 71301

**JEFFERSON / NEW ORLEANS** – Tuesday, March 17, 11:30 a.m. • Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport (2829 Williams, Kenner) • \$35, Selva Riemann (504-835-3880), Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, 3421 N. Causeway Blvd., Ste. 203, Metairie 70002

**HOUMA / THIBODAUX** – Thursday, March 19, 11:30 a.m. • Quality Hotel (210 South Hollywood Rd., Houma) • \$20, Kay Thibodeaux (985-876-5600), Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, 6133 Hwy. 311, Houma 70360

**COVINGTON** – Wednesday, March 25, 11:30 a.m. • Benedict's Plantation (1144 N. Causeway Blvd., Mandeville) • \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members Kellye Donnelly (985-892-3216 ext. 28), St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce, 610 Hollycrest Blvd., Covington 70433

**NORTHWEST LOUISIANA** – Tuesday, March 31, 7:30 a.m. • University Club (401 Market St., Suite 1500, Shreveport) • \$20, Kim Farquhar, (318-677-2500), Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, 400 Edwards Street, Shreveport 71101

**NORTHEAST LOUISIANA** – Wednesday, April 1, 11:30 a.m. • West Monroe Convention Center (901 Ridge Ave., West Monroe) • \$20, Brandy Leggett (318-325-1961), West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce, 112 Professional Drive, West Monroe 71291

**NATCHITOCHEs** – Thursday, April 2, Noon • Ramada Inn (7624 Highway 1 Bypass) • \$20, Nick Pollacia, Jr. (318-352-6894), Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce, 562 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Natchitoches 71458