



Honoring Women's History Month

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PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA

Job Fair set for March 20

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More than 100 corporate and governmental vendors will promote their job possibilities during the Geaux Jobs Works Area 20 Job Fair.

The event is set for Thursday, March 30 at the Carl F. Grant Civic Center in Plaquemine.

The job fair is presented by the Iberville Chamber of Commerce, the Iberville Parish Council Office, the West Baton Rouge Parish Council and West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce.

Sponsors include Baton Rouge Coca Cola, Olin Chlor Alkali Products & Vinyls, Shintech, PSC Group, Ardent Mills, Citizens Bank & Trust Co., Plaquemine Bank & Trust Co., Eastman, Westlake, Stein's Top Notch Catering and Dow Chemical Louisiana

Here is a list of vendors for the event:

- AAA Crane and Rigging
- Acadian Ambulance Service
- Action Industries
- Amazon
- APC Construction, LLC
- Associated Grocers
- Baton Rouge General Medical Center
- Baton Rouge

- Community College
- Brown & Root Industrial Services, LLC
- Citizens Bank & Trust
- Coca-Cola Bottling Co. United, Inc.
- Compliance EnviroSystems, LLC
- Cortec Fluid Control
- Diesel Driving Academy
- Dow Westside YMCA
- Dow Chemical/Dow Apprenticeship
- Elayne Hunt Correctional Center
- Essential Credit Union
- Excel
- ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Complex
- Flexforce Employment Professionals, Inc.
- Geaux Jobs
- Geo Heat Exchangers, LLC
- Grand Isle Shipyard
- HPC Industrial
- Iberville Parish Council
- Iberville Parish School System
- Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office
- Ingalls Shipbuilding
- Ingram Barge Co.
- ISC Constructors, LLC
- ITI Technical College
- International Union of Operating Engineers No. 408
- Kelly Services-Education
- Koura Chemicals
- La Capitol Federal Credit Union
- Legacy Nursing Home

JOB FAIR

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Three arrested for recording, posting witness testimony

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The Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office made three arrests and one more is pending for alleged participation in the illegal recording of witness testimony which they allegedly posted on social media.

According to Sheriff Brett Stassi, the group recorded witnesses during the trial of Tyler Jackson, who was convicted on a second-degree murder charge for the 2018 slaying of Thailan Cutno.

The testimony of several witnesses had been recorded and posted on social media, according to Stassi.

The IPSO immediately found the persons responsible for posting the videos and issued warrants for their arrests.

The three who have been arrested thus far each were charged with three counts of intimidating a witness and three counts of obstruction of justice.

The three arrested were: --Lynette Falcon, 30, Carville.

--Stephen Falcon, 27, Baton Rouge

--Marlayana Smith Jackson, 35, of St. Amant.

As of press time, an arrest warrant remained in place for Trenton Carter, 30, of White Castle, for one count of intimidating a witness and one count of obstruction of justice.

The obstruction count stems from allegations that Carter made threats to one of the witnesses on social media.

The investigation is ongoing and additional arrests will be forthcoming.

Smith elected superintendent of WBR Parish schools

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The search began with eight applicants and it ended with the board electing a new superintendent Thursday night.

The West Baton Rouge Parish School Board voted 7-3 to elect Chandler Smith as the West Baton Rouge Parish School District's superintendent at Thursday's special meeting.

After a 59-minute executive session to discuss private matters with board attorney Bob Hammonds, the board voted to make it official.

Smith and Troy Bell were the two finalists for the position.

Smith is the assistant superintendent and chief academic officer for Central Community Schools. Bell is the executive director of federal programs and academics for the Franklin Parish School District.

"I'm excited to get to work with the great people of West Baton Rouge," Smith said after



Chandler Smith

the meeting. "I have a lot of ideas. I want to listen to a lot of ideas and build relationships and I'm just excited to work with such an amazing board."

Bell and Smith were both at Thursday's meeting. Board members Burke Fiscus, Hayley Cloutre,

Alden Chustz, Chareeka Grace, Matthew Daigrepoint, Ronald Leblanc, and Teri Bergeron voted for Smith.

Dr. Atley Walker, Sonceria Evans, and Michael Maranto voted for Bell. "Gentlemen this was the most difficult decision

I've made in quite a long time," Leblanc said to the candidates before the votes were tallied. It's pretty obvious since you both are here, you really want this job badly. It's gut-wrenching because y'all are both quality people. Ya'll are two of the best in the state as far as I'm concerned."

Prior to becoming assistant superintendent in Central, Smith served as the chief academic officer for three years. He served as a secondary supervisor in the Iberville Parish school system and principal at Plaquemine High School. He was a principal for four years.

Wes Watts stepped down as superintendent in July 2022. David Corona has served as the interim superintendent since. Corona was superintendent of WBR schools for 10 years before he retired in 2014.

"I'm thrilled," Smith said. "I'm very committed to this district and I'm looking forward to a long time together and a great relationship."

Kalivoda named secretary of DOTD

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Gov. John Bel Edwards has named Dr. Eric Kalivoda as secretary for the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to replace the recently retired Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D.

Kalivoda has served on the executive staff as the deputy secretary for the past 12 years. Prior to his appointment as deputy secretary, he served as the assistant secretary of planning and multimodal commerce for five years. He has worked in transportation for 40 years, nearly 30 with DOTD.



Dr. Eric Kalivoda

"I want to thank Dr. Kalivoda for his willingness to fill this role," said Gov. Edwards. "Under the leadership of Dr. Shawn Wilson, DOTD has had historic success, and I know that will continue under Dr. Kalivoda. There are currently more

DOTD projects underway than ever before. We are tackling major projects that Louisianans could previously only dream of, taking full advantage of unprecedented opportunities to upgrade our infrastructure, grow our economy, and improve quality of life for our people."

"I am grateful for the opportunity to lead the department for the remainder of this term," Kalivoda said. "I thank Gov. Edwards for his trust and confidence. There will be no change in transportation or public works policy; there are a number

of critical projects at various stages of delivery and we will continue with those as planned. DOTD will be well prepared for a smooth transition to the next administration in January 2024."

Kalivoda holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Louisiana State University, a Master of Science in civil engineering from the University of Arizona, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from North Carolina State University. He is a licensed professional engineer in Louisiana, Arizona, and North Carolina.

Energy And Trade Highlight First Day Of Governor's Economic Development Mission To Asia

TOKYO – A Louisiana delegation led by Gov. John Bel Edwards met Monday with top energy, industry and trade officials from Japan, one of Louisiana's leading international trade partners, kicking off the governor's economic mission to Asia. The governor also visited with executives of Zen-Noh, whose subsidiary

Zen-Noh Grain Corp. is based in Louisiana. Later in the day, Gov. Edwards and Louisiana Economic Development Secretary Don Pierson met with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

Gov. Edwards is making the first Louisiana trade mission to Asia in almost a decade to

strengthen economic ties with both Japan and South Korea and to promote Louisiana's appeal for foreign direct investment. The governor is joined by Pierson, members of the governor's staff and LED's Office of International

Commerce. "Japan has long been a vital trading partner for Louisiana, and we hope to extend that relationship well into the future," Gov. Edwards said. "Many significant Japanese companies are already doing business

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