

Canal Barge Executive Makes Presentation

By: Mike Brossette, *Tri-ParishTimes*



Employing 568 people, the privately-held CBC was founded in New Orleans by attorney Joe Jones in 1933 and is still managed by family members.

The "canal" in CBC refers to the Intracoastal Waterway, but "the Mississippi River is our I-10," Dowie said.

The company has 806 barges, moving cargo like coal, limestone, chemicals and military equipment along all navigable inland water routes in the country, and rents out barges to contractors. Deck barge transport makes up 20 percent of the company's operations.

CBC participated heavily in a move by the U.S. military in the late 1980s to use waterways to transport military equipment. Since that time, the company has moved more than 18,000 pieces of military equipment by barge, including tanks and aircraft.

CBC has a connection to the Tri-parishes, Dowie said. The company's barges are repaired at Eagle Dry-Dock at the Port of Terrebonne, Quality Shipyards in Houma, and Superior Shipyard and Fabrication in Golden Meadow.

The company reaches out to the oil and gas industry, Dowie said. Fifty percent of the liquid cargo carried by CBC barges is lube oil.

In addition, the company transports oversized power generators, including spent nuclear power plant equipment.

CBC also has a new, 40-acre chemical storage facility in Illinois that can hold 100,000 barrels of chemicals.

At last week's meeting, Dowie surveyed some of the issues facing the tug and barge industry.

Complying with the federal Transportation Worker Identification Credential Program, which issues identification cards to personnel requiring access to secure areas at ports and on vessels, headed his list.

The Inland Waterways Trust Fund, used to build and maintain locks and dams, is running low. Shippers, towboat operators and other commercial users of inland waterways pay into the fund from a tax assessed on diesel fuel.

The federal government funds half of the amount.

The industry is also dealing with prohibitions by the Environmental Protection Agency on graywater-wastewater that is normally recycled-discharges into waterways.

The Employee Free Choice Act, which allows employees to form unions without going through an election process, is another issue facing the industry.

The industry is workforce dependent, Dowie said earlier in his talk.

He added, "You need to measure your risk." 

Historic Landmark in Trinidad and Tobago Offshore Construction

By: Dawn Lopez, Chet Morrison Contractors

On October 28, 2008, the largest offshore structural topside ever built in Trinidad was delivered by local fabrication company Trinidad Offshore Fabricators Unlimited (TOFCO).

The BG Poinsettia Deck is comprised of two modules – the production and drill decks. These modules had a combined weight of 3,800T with a total top of deck square footage of 47,000 square feet.


The BG Poinsettia facility was connected via sub-pipeline to the existing BG Hibiscus facility, situated on the North coast of Trinidad. This complement is expected to increase BG's gas production by 350 million standard cubic feet per day.

The hook-up of the BG Poinsettia facility was also completed by TOFCO where first gas on the facility was achieved on December 2008 as scheduled. The fabrication and hook-up of the BG Poinsettia facility were executed within acceptable safety and quality levels, in line with international onshore and offshore construction standards.

The fabrication and hook-up of the BG Poinsettia deck

exemplifies the development of local skill and technology in the construction of offshore structures, as well as the ability to complete intricate facility hook-ups within stringent time constraints.

The BG Poinsettia deck is one of the seven (7) facilities to be constructed and delivered by TOFCO since its inception in 2003 to February 2009, with the off-shore hook-up of the BG Poinsettia facility being the company's first 'major' off-shore endeavor.

"TOFCO wishes to express tremendous gratitude towards British Gas for the opportunity to show ourselves as a dependable, reliable and competent company in field fabrication and offshore hook-up. We also wish to sincerely thank our hard working employees; our sub contractors and our many suppliers for their contribution in making this project a success. We are confident that our experience and high quality and safety standards will position us to continue to grow in the national and international offshore arena" stated Shuresh Gangabissoon, General Manager of TOFCO. 

TOFCO: Trinidad Offshore Fabricators Unlimited is a joint venture company formed in 2003 with Chet Morrison Contractors out of the US, and Weldfab Limited from Trinidad. TOFCO's facility is located in the Labidco Industrial Estate, La Brea Trinidad, W.I. (Tel # 868-651-0006 / 868-651-0088; Fax # 868-651-1001)



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Chiasson Named as Port Fourchon Director

Excerpts from **Kathrine Schmidt**, *The Courier and other reports*

Chett Chiasson was officially named as successor to Executive Director Ted Falgout at the February board meeting of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission. Chiasson is the current Director of Economic Development and will be the second director in port history upon Mr. Falgout's retirement December 31st. The port's fifty year anniversary will begin when Chett assumes the directorship in January of 2010.



"I am excited to have this opportunity," said Chiasson. "The success of the port under Ted Falgout speaks for itself. I look forward to continuing this success through the next thirty years with the assistance of the excellent staff that is currently in place and a board that is forward-thinking and aggressive."

Mr. Falgout recommended Chett as his replacement at a committee meeting in Fourchon on January 28th. Falgout said, "When we hired Chett in 2005, we knew he had qualities that would afford him the opportunities for advancement, and he has worked very hard to develop the skills necessary to lead this organization into the future. I am confident the future of the port is in good hands with Chett."

On February 9th, the Executive Committee of the Port Commission reviewed the idea of selecting Mr. Chiasson as successor to the position of Executive Director, which has been held by Mr. Falgout since 1978. Commissioner Jimmy Guidry said, "Chett is young, highly motivated, well-educated, and he has been with us for a few years so he knows how we work. He has displayed the leadership qualities necessary in the Director position. That's why we chose him."

The board chose to select Mr. Falgout's replacement months before his retirement so that Chiasson will have the remainder of the year to work side by side with Mr. Falgout, gaining first-hand knowledge of the director's decision-making processes. Chiasson holds a BA in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration, both from LSU. He has been working toward Professional Port Manager certification through the American Association of Port Authorities.

The board that oversees Port Fourchon named its economic development director as the man to succeed current port director Ted Falgout at the end of this year. The nine-member panel appointed Chett Chiasson, a 32-year-old LSU-educated Larose native, to the executive director spot today, without a search for other applicants, a move their attorney said is consistent with the law.

"He's prepared for the job," Larry Griffin, president of the commission, said when asked about Chiasson's ability

and qualifications. Board Vice President Donald Vizier said he'd privately expressed support for an external search, not because he didn't like Chiasson but just to see what options were out there. After Chiasson asked for his support, Vizier said, he agreed. "He's the right man," Vizier said. "We're not going to miss a beat with Chett and with Falgout behind him."

"We're like a family here, we work very close," said commissioner Johnny Melancon. "I think you're a fine family member to the commission."

"This is exciting," said Chiasson, 32. He spoke briefly after the nine-member elected port commission voted unanimously for him to become the next director at their monthly board meeting this morning. "I look forward to taking this port into the next 30 years. Let's go to work."

As the supply point for more than half the oil-and-gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico, Port Fourchon touches 15 to 18 percent of the nation's domestic supply of oil and gas. Self-sustaining from its property leases and other business revenue, the port has an \$80 million budget this year, \$20 million more than the government of the parish it sits in.

Since arriving at the port in 2005, Chiasson has helped with a wide range of economic-development work. He has worked with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development on various projects and dealt with the port's FEMA reimbursements through hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. He has also been taking management-training classes through the port in preparation before the top job. Before taking the port job, Chiasson was a personnel manager for an offshore boat company for more than three years.

"The port is such an integral part of this region," Chiasson said. "It goes back to growing up here. I always wanted to work in the public sector. If this is not that, I don't know what is."

Falgout had expressed interest in retiring in 2006. The board intended to conduct a search then, Griffin said, but before it could start, Falgout said he would stay three more years. Chiasson will work alongside Falgout, who was port director for almost 30 years, and take over in 2010. 🇺🇸

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Engineering Firm Renews Certification

From Several Reports

HOUMA — A local engineering and survey company has qualified for one of the federal government's top safety recognitions. Morris P. Hebert Inc., of Houma has, for the second time, successfully participated in the U.S. Department of Labor's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program. The program is managed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a division of the labor department. "I'm just very delighted and proud," said Morris Hebert, president of the company. The certification lasts for two years.


To qualify a company must first meet special thresholds of safety standards. Then they're subject to an intensive evaluation from federal consultants. Problems found they must be corrected, and the company's accident and injury rates must be below the national average.

Only 20 companies in Louisiana, including Thibodaux's John Deere plant, have been recognized through the program. "It's an elite group because it takes quite a bit to go through this," said Sandra Stokes, program manager for OSHA's consultation group. "It takes participation from every level of employee, from the person who takes out the trash to the person who signs the checks."

J. Terrell Brooks, safety manager at the company, helped oversee the process. "It's a core value," he said of the company's focus on safety. "Our employees understand that."

The company's 125 or so employees have attended daily safety meetings, viewed a comprehensive in-house safety video, and participated in a program that reports "near misses" or lessons learned, Brooks explained. "They did fantastic," said Stokes. "We started working with them in 2004 and in 2005."

Stokes said participation in the program says a lot about a company. "It shows that safety is important, and they want their employees to go home the exactly the same way they showed up," she said. MPH has more than twenty years in the business of providing professional services in numerous engineering and construction projects.

MPH is one of the more talented and multifaceted engineering service companies in the Gulf Coast with offices in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Houston, Texas and Houma, Louisiana. MPH is strategically positioned to assist clients with professional service needs, focused on solutions and real world answers to complex surveying and engineering problems. 



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The Markets

By: **CJ Domangue**, *DL Wealth Management*

We've moved from "drill, baby, drill" to "spend, baby, spend."

As consumers have reduced their spending, the government is stepping in to fill the breach. The idea is that when the economy experiences one of its periodic contractions, it's the government's job to step up to the plate and become the spender of last resort. By replacing consumer spending with government spending, the recession should be shorter and shallower, or so the theory goes.

This theory is based on Keynesian Economics. Keynesian Economics was named after John Maynard Keynes, who was one of the most influential economists of the 20th century. His popularity grew enormously starting around World War II, which was shortly after the publication of his masterpiece, *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*, in 1936. Keynes argued that it was appropriate for governments to spend money and run big deficits during recessions (and depressions) in order to avert a potentially bigger problem in the absence of big government spending.

Today, many of our elected government officials are invoking Keynesian Economics as justification for the current Congressional stimulus bill. Reasonable people can disagree on whether or not the current stimulus bill is the right medicine in the right dosage, and experts still debate whether Keynesian Economics makes sense. What's sorely missing in this entire debate, though, is how do we dig ourselves out of the big deficit hole that we're creating? Are we simply passing the buck to our children and grandchildren?

The second part of Keynesian Economics is that the government should run surpluses during boom times to refill the hole dug during recessionary periods. That sounds good in theory, but, in reality, our government has run a surplus only six times in the past 50 years, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. With a potential trillion dollar annual deficit coming this year, does anyone really think that our country will be running a profit anytime soon? Perhaps the people on Wall Street do as investors sent the S&P 500 index up more than 5% last week in anticipation of passing the stimulus bill.

It's nice to see that even in these trying economic times, investors can still find a ray of hope. 🇺🇸

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The Nations Best Job Market

PRINCETON, NJ – According to combined Gallup Poll Daily tracking for all of 2008, residents of Rhode Island had the lowest level of confidence in the U.S. economy of any state in the union last year, followed by Michigan, Maine, and Massachusetts. Residents of North Dakota, Utah, and Texas were the least economically discouraged, although regardless of relative differences, Americans living in every state have been significantly more negative than positive about the nation's economy over the past year. 🇺🇸

Top 10 Best Job Markets

State	Index
Wyoming	40
Louisiana	35
South Dakota	33
Oklahoma	32
Texas	31
North Dakota	30
West Virginia	28
Utah	28
Nebraska	26
Mississippi	26

Gallup Poll Daily tracking

Gallup Poll Economic Perceptions, 10 Least Negative States

State	Index
North Dakota	-69
Utah	-70
Texas	-73
Mississippi	-75
Louisiana	-75
Nebraska	-77
Kansas	-82
Oklahoma	-82
Montana	-82
South Dakota	-83

Gallup Poll Daily tracking

The top 10 states in economic confidence – led by North Dakota, Utah, and Texas are all oil producing states.

Shell Pipeline-Houma Receives OSHA Honor

By: Jane Arnette, SCIA Director

Several members of Shell's national management team were present at a recognition ceremony where OSHA presented Shell with a top honor safety award. Terrebonne Parish President Michel Claudet presented the company with a special recognition certificate. In receiving the honor, Mark Hurley, Shell Pipeline president thanked OSHA and said, "Shell Pipeline-Houma should step back and realize what you have accomplished. You are now among an elite group of recipients. It is not an end – it is a beginning."

Created in 1982, OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) recognizes and collaborates with businesses and worksites that show excellence in occupational safety and health. Shell Pipeline's nationwide goal is to achieve "zero incidences," thus forging forward on a culture change to accomplish this safety goal.

VPP sites are committed to effective employee protection beyond the requirements of OSHA standards. VPP participants develop and implement systems to effectively identify, evaluate, prevent, and control occupational hazards to prevent employee injuries and illnesses. As a result, the average VPP worksite has a lost workday incidence rate at least 50 percent below the average of its industry. In return, OSHA removes

participants from programmed inspection lists and does not issue citations for standards violations that are promptly corrected.



OSHA presents Star Award to Shell Pipeline



Shell Pipeline President Mark Hurley and Shell Public Awareness Director, Donald Smith



Terrebonne Parish President Michel Claudet presents certificate to Shell Pipeline

New Project Manager for T. Baker Smith, Inc.

By: Paula Schouest, T. Baker Smith

Houma, LA – Gretchen S. Brown has recently joined T. Baker Smith, Inc., (TBS) as a Project Manager in the environmental group and will be working out of the Baton Rouge, Louisiana office. Ms. Brown will be responsible for providing technical guidance and management of environmental projects, providing technical assistance to the senior professionals, and for producing and implementing project proposals and contract terms.



Ms. Brown holds a masters' degree in marine biology and has almost 5 years of experience working for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Coastal Management Division. At the DNR, she was responsible for processing coastal use permits for large projects such as Cameron Liquid Natural Gas (LNG), Sabine LNG, and Shell Pipeline. She was also responsible for training new permit analysts and rewriting the mitigation guidelines.

"We are excited to add Gretchen to our team. Her education and environmental experience will be another key addition to our environmental group," said Kenny Smith, President of T. Baker Smith.

T. Baker Smith, Inc. (TBS) has provided professional engineering, surveying and environmental services to private, public and industrial clients in south Louisiana, the Gulf Coast and beyond for nearly a century. Today, its tradition of professional service with a personal touch is stronger than ever. 🇺🇸

Philip Knoblock is New President Of Dolphin Steel Sales

By: Jane Arnette, SCIA Director

Philip Knoblock, was recently appointed President and CEO of Dolphin Steel Sales, L.L.C., a subsidiary of Gulf Island Fabrication, Inc. Before joining Dolphin, he was manager of Gulf Island Fabrication, Inc.'s Purchasing Department.



He brings over 20 years of extensive experience in procurement. His long-standing relationship with steel vendors and mills coupled with his proven leadership abilities made him a perfect candidate for the position. Knoblock envisions growing the company, bringing it into a new arena by offering value-added service to customers such as blasting, priming and cutting.


"Bill Fromenthal, President of Dolphin Services, L.L.C., did a good job getting the division this far. We are looking forward to Philip growing the company even further," said Kirk Meche, Gulf Island Fabrication, Inc.'s President and C.O.O. "Philip Knoblock, David Weber, Roger Guidry and their entire staff make up one of the finest teams in the industry and are a sure bet for the continued growth of Dolphin Steel Sales, L.L.C."

According to Meche, the new company will expand sales to different industries and larger territories. With capital improvements such as material storage racks and moving equipment, the company will offer a full range of services to existing customers as well as increasing their customer base.

Dolphin Steel Sales, L.L.C. was established in the mid-80's to provide the local fishing industry with the steel plates and shapes required for vessel repair as well as support to Dolphin Services, L.L.C. Today, Dolphin Steel Sales, L.L.C. continues to supply locals as well as major oil and gas customers with the vital services necessary to meet their needs. 🇺🇸

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WORK IT! LOUISIANA

By: Jane Arnette, SCIA Director



St. Mary Parish Champions meet at Young Memorial.



Weatherford staff makes presentation at Terrebonne High School on work ethics and interview techniques.



John Deere welder visits Terrebonne High School



Cameron presents program on "How geometry is used to drill for oil" at Montegut Middle School.



Mid South Bank made a presentation at Terrebonne High School on banking positions.



T. Baker Smith spoke to the Environmental Science Classes at Terrebonne High School.

TOFCO Completes Fourth of a Kind Jacket and Deck for BpTT

By: Dawn Lopez, *Chet Morrison Contractors*

Trinidad Offshore Fabricators Unlimited (TOFCO) has completed its fourth consecutive BpTT platform. The BpTT Savonette deck module was delivered on February 3, 2009. The accompanying jacket also built by TOFCO was delivered on August 31, 2008. Previous BpTT clone projects include the Cannonball, Mango and Cashima.

The BpTT Savonette Deck was fabricated as one module with a total weight of 1,060 tons and approximately 11,000 square feet of top of deck surface. This deck was comprised of four different levels – Sump, Main, Mezzanine and Upper. It was complemented with a helideck.

The general dimensions of the Savonette jacket are 316 feet in length and almost 100 feet at its highest point from the ground elevation lay down. The Savonette jacket tipped the scale at 2,043 tons. This jacket was a conventional steel fixed template type structure with three battered (angled) and one vertical face to allow for drill rig jack-up access.

The Savonette field development is BpTT's latest endeavor for the retrieval of natural gas. This field will complement the existing Mahogany B platform on the east coast of Trinidad.

TOFCO is currently executing the hook-up of the BpTT Savonette facility to achieve scheduled first gas.

The fabrication and current hook-up of the BpTT Savonette

facility have been executed with the highest quality and safety outputs by TOFCO, within international onshore



and offshore construction benchmarks. This demonstrates Trinidad's ability in the construction of offshore structures, as well as the capacity to complete facility hook-ups.

"TOFCO would like to express tremendous gratitude towards BpTT for allowing us another great opportunity to complete not only the fabrication, but the off-shore hook-up of the BpTT Savonette deck. BpTT has been a major ingredient in the success story of TOFCO, and we will continue to aspire to make them proud. The BpTT Savonette deck is one of the seven (7) facilities to be constructed and delivered by our company since its inception in 2003" stated Ryan Sahadeo, Engineering Manager of TOFCO.

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Levee District Cleared In Environmental Litigation

Judge Martin C. Feldman approved a Consent Decree Wednesday between the Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District and SAVE OUR WETLANDS (SOW), ending all litigation regarding the J-1 Reach of the Morganza to the Gulf Levee System.

The Consent Decree vindicates the TLCD's position that it followed the proper laws and rules in building Levee Reach J-1.

"All we did was follow the rules that the Corps gave us," said Windell Curole, Interim Regional Director.

In the settlement, SOW accepted that the TLCD did nothing improper in regards to J-1, and they agreed to end their demands for monetary damages.


In the lawsuit, SAVE OUR WETLANDS had claimed that the TLCD did not have the proper permits to build the J-1 Levee. The TLCD countered that the Corps forced it to follow the Environmental Assessment procedures, a process similar to permitting but required for federally authorized projects. Both processes dictate that the TLCD must mitigate for wetlands impacts, which it has already done.

"We did the mitigation called for in the Environmental Assessment," said Windell Curole. "We built over 23 acres of marsh to mitigate impacts to the project. This marsh is built and functioning."

The Consent Decree does not require the payment of any monetary damages and does not require the Levee District to do anything other than what was already committed.

The Levee District will continue to monitor both the levee and the mitigation, activities it has done and will continue to do.

"Now that the lawsuit is over, we can go to the next project. We are currently building the H-3 Levee below Chauvin and will soon begin J-2 below Montegut. We will keep making progress to protect our community from flooding," said Windell Curole.

For further information, please contact Angela Rains or Windell Curole at 985-868-8523. 



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