ASA postmortem: industrial recruiting is a constant cycle of death and life

Falling $1.3 trillion for an industry project can be a daunting task. If not a deal killer. For economic development in Mississippi, American Specialty Apts. protested and rescinded efforts that year, which became an issue that ultimately sent the project back to Pineville. La. American Specialty ended up with a small slice of the pie, but that seemed well for Mississippi.

It established an office in Columbia, and hired one of the top four firms in the state, Walker, Shostakes, and Hines, to help the project. Construction one of the top builders in Mississippi. Whatever appeared to be a deal done before the start date, Mississippi Business Journal's interview with the founder of the company, Roger Rogers, and the executive director of the Golden Triangle Development, L.L.C. in the days leading up to the Louisiana announcement, threatened the dissolution of the relationship.

New Orleans congestion keeps Chiquita Gulfport port

GULFPORT - Chiquita containers filled with paper arrive by train, and sail at the Port of Gulfport where they are loaded for ships headed to New Orleans for southbound shipment. Along with its own cargo, Crowley Line Services is shipping more Gulfport commerce, including Chiquita containers loaded with produce.

Chiquita moved its New Orleans office last year, and its containers are supposed to be temporarily out of Gulfport by Dec. 31. Congestion at the Port of New Orleans is keeping the Mississippi port busy.

Matt Grether, director of external affairs at the New Orleans port, tells The Sun Herald the congestion area “totally expected.”

Team of Teams’ draws down Afghan bases, equipment

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - At its peak, in early 2011, there were nearly 100,000 U.S. service members in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Working alongside those service members were as many as 60,000 contractors working for the U.S. Department of Defence.

In June of that year, President Barack Obama announced the drawdown plan for Afghanistan – it would be done by 2016. And it would ultimately result in a cessation of combat operations by the end of 2014.

As a result of that drawdown, only about 9,000 U.S. service members remain in country as part of Operation Resolute Support. The following mission to CEF is almost at training, advising and assisting Afghan forces, but leaving responsibility to the Afghan.

Manufacturing grows sluggish as oil prices slide, economists say

Steel demands in oil and petroleum prices have finally shown a corresponding drop in commercial construction costs tracked by the U.S. Department of Labor's Producer Price Index.

Construction costs almost to the drop in oil prices, according to those who don’t build for the oil exploration and mining sectors. Not so for manufacturers. They’re getting anxious about sluggishness setting in with a sustained oil slump.

A pullback in shale drilling, an emerging economic driver in Southeast Mississippi until crude prices started sliding, is in special concern to manufacturers who send the petroleum sector. Michael Levy, a senior fellow of energy at the Council on Foreign Relations, in an interview with National Public Radio.

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