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Everything New Orleans

Former president of Metairie marine company gets 14 months for defrauding government

Published: Friday, January 07, 2011, 2:16 PM Updated: Friday, January 07, 2011, 3:10 PM



By **Richard Rainey, The Times-Picayune**

The former president of a bankrupt Metairie marine insulation company was sentenced today in Kansas City, Mo., to 14 months in prison and ordered to repay \$225,213 to the federal government.



U.S. District Court for western Missouri

Jeff Blake, who moved M and A Supply Inc. from Wallingford, Conn. to L and A Road in 2003, **pleaded guilty** in September to conspiring to defraud the General Services Administration. His company had supplied insulation to large-scale shipbuilding clients, including Northrop Grumman in Avondale and the U.S. Navy.

According to court documents, Blake and a salesman, Michael Morand, admitted inflating the cost of shipping materials to clients around the country when they applied for reimbursement from the federal government. Morand pleaded guilty in May and was placed on five years' probation Nov. 5.

Both were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie Smith, whom President Clinton appointed to the bench.

M and A Supply filed for bankruptcy in 2009, after struggling for years to recover from damage done to it during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Newton Reynolds, the company's majority owner, has said. The company had received \$450,000 in loans from the **Jefferson Economic Development Commission**, becoming one of the rare instances when an investment by the quasi-public agency to lure a new company to Jefferson went sour.

The company's headquarters on L and A Road was raided by federal agents in 2007. At the time, they arrested 14 immigrants who had congregated in the parking lot.

The General Services Administration is headquartered in Kansas City, leading Blake's case to be handled there.

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Lindsey Jones

From: South Coast Angel Fund [cjwhite=southcoastangelfund.com@mcsv116.net] on behalf of South Coast Angel Fund [cjwhite@southcoastangelfund.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2011 9:01 AM
To: Lindsey Jones
Subject: South Coast Angel News

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SouthCoast ANGEL FUND

Entrepreneurs - A Winning Pitch

So you've submitted your plan and been invited to make a make your pitch. Now you need to put together a pitch deck that conveys why your idea is the next big thing. Here are some tips for a successful pitch. First, remember that whether it's the South Coast Angels or another group, they see lots of pitches. Make sure your presentation is engaging and memorable [Read more](#)

Business Innovation Center at Churchill Set to Open

The entrepreneurial culture continues to grow in Louisiana and Jefferson Parish is no exception. The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#) will open the [Business Innovation Center at Churchill](#) this March as a new regional business incubator focusing on early stage technology-based companies.

The Business Innovation Center will provide opportunities for entrepreneurs to commercialize their ideas and produce successful, financially viable businesses. [Click here to read more...](#)

La Tech Council 2011 Calendar

Start your year off right. The Louisiana Technology Council has 2011 calendars sure to make you smile. This is the first ever [Louisiana Technology Council](#) 2011 "Tech Capital of the South" calendar (December 2010 – January 2012) with numerous technology themes by

month. Support the LTC by purchasing yours today by contacting Jaclyn Craddock at jcraddock@LTC-LA.org.

Why an Angel Group

Most of us are angel investors because we enjoy assisting entrepreneurs in building businesses. Angels experienced the exhilaration of the successful exit and the agony of business failure. But for the majority of angels the time, effort, and risk involved as an individual angel is a barrier that most can't overcome. Angel organizations promote deal flow and encourage entrepreneurs to apply for funding. An angel fund lets the individual angel spread the risks across multiple investments – many more than they would have if they were on their own. [Read more](#)

South Coast Activity

Jan 19 - The South Coast Angel fund will be presenting a workshop for entrepreneurs on business plans and pitches at [Idea Village](#) in New Orleans. [Click here for more info](#),

Jan 25 - South Coast will meet with potential angels in Lafayette. For more information, please reply to this email.

Feb 3 - South Coast participates in a panel discussion at the [Gulf Coast Patent Association](#) meeting at UNO. [Click here for more info](#).

Additional company presentations are on tap for the next Angel meeting on January 18. Investors interested in learning more about being an Angel can contact us at info@southcoastangelfund.com or by replying to this email. Entrepreneurs are invited to submit their business plan through our website at www.southcoastangelfund.com.

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The Jefferson Edge, and Jefferson Parish offer businesses the most outstanding growth opportunities available anywhere in the state. Whether you want to expand, relocate or start a new business – we offer thousands of acres of land for development, along with invaluable business programs to give you an extra edge.

Created by the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO), The Jefferson EDGE is a collaboration like no other. JEDCO has helped bring together government leaders, business owners and civic associations – all working toward one common goal of making our parish a better place to live and work. The result is that Jefferson Parish can no longer be considered a bedroom community of New Orleans. No, we are a major economic force in the region – and an absolutely great place to do business!

One of the main reasons for our increased economic power is the hugely successful Elmwood Business Park, which has grown from a warehousing district to include a wide range of thriving businesses of all types. Add to that the brand new Churchill Technology & Business Park, which

will soon be providing businesses with an abundance of technology resources and a pre-planned business community that will be second to none in the south.

Another edge is that Jefferson Parish has over 8,000 acres of prime land on both the east bank and west bank – ready and waiting for development and perfect for businesses of all types and sizes. In addition, the current project to widen the Huey P. Long Bridge will transform Jefferson Parish into one seamless community – providing easy, toll-free access to all locations and opening up the parish as a whole. With all these advantages it's easy to see that Jefferson Parish is the ideal environment for your business to grow and succeed.



Jefferson Parish offers you all this and more, including JEDCO – which is here to help you access business opportunities. We are a resource that provides any kind of help your business needs, from tax incentives to business loans, workforce solutions and so much more. We've helped thousands of businesses prosper here – and we would love to help you, too. Call JEDCO today at 504-833-1881 – or visit www.jedco.org – and give your business **The Jefferson Edge.**

Updates The Times-Picayune

West Bank is the future of the parish, John Young says

Sunday, December 19, 2010

By: Melinda Morris, The Times-Picayune

The future of Jefferson Parish is on the West Bank, says the new parish president. Especially, John Young said, “from the Harvey Canal to the St. Charles Parish line.”

In a speech to all West Bank Rotary groups Tuesday, Young focused on the widening of the Huey P. Long Bridge when he began discussing economic development. That project will do for the West Bank what the Superdome did for Poydras Street, Young predicted.

Elmwood Industrial Park on the east bank is highly successful, but maxed out. Once the bridge project is complete, the time will be ripe for Elmwood Industrial Park West, he said.

Churchill Technology and Business Park is about to open in Avondale, Young said. And another project under construction in Avondale is a \$30 million, 5-mile, private motor racing track by developer Laney Chouest. That project will bring in enthusiasts from across the country, who will certainly spend money at hotels and other businesses, he said. “That is being constructed as we speak,” Young said.

Parc des Familles in Crown Point eventually will be to the West Bank what Lafreniere Park is to Metairie, although Young admitted “it won’t be built overnight.”

Young told the lunch crowd more than once that “the best days are ahead” for Jefferson Parish. He cited the parish’s much-improved hurricane protection system, its bond rating — the highest in the state — its beefed-up code enforcement division and its economic climate, which has attracted two Macy’s stores after Hurricane Katrina and talks with Kohl’s about building department stores in Jefferson Parish.

When asked by one audience member whether the public schools in Jefferson can be improved, Young answered, "That's a good question." While reminding the group that schools are not under his authority, he vowed to work with the School Board and superintendent.

"I will do everything I can."

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*Melinda Morris can be reached at **mmorris@timespicayune.com** or 504.826.3782.*

Updates *The Times-Picayune*

JEDCO reshuffles board, welcomes new members

Friday, December 17, 2010

By: Richard Rainey, The Times-Picayune

Welcoming two new members, the **Jefferson Economic Development Commission** readjusted its roster Thursday. It also signed another one-year contract with its executive director, Lucien Gunter, who has served as the top staffer since January 2006.

Manny Blanco, president of the Atlantis Group and a representative of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana, takes over the board chairmanship from West Jefferson businessman **Joe Ewell**. Likewise, lawyer Jim Garvey succeeds Mark Jacobs as vice chairman. Garvey is a member of the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Jacobs was **recently elected** to the Jefferson Parish School Board.

Stan Salathe of the Harvey Canal Industrial Association will be JEDCO's new treasurer and Jonathan Lin of the Asian Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana the secretary.

Two new members joined the board: Joe Liss, a Metairie accountant representing the East Jefferson Business Association, and Paul Rivera, chief financial officer for the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, representing the Jefferson Parish Fisheries and Advisory Board. Both were nominated by Parish Council Chairman Tom Capella.

Liss replaces Scott Schellhaas of Metairie Bank, and Rivera replaces Jean Lafitte Mayor Tim Kerner.