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Politics for Oct. 19, 2008

Supriya Jindal to attend rallies

- By CAPITOL NEWS BUREAU
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First lady Supriya Jindal plans to campaign with Republican presidential candidate John McCain's wife Monday and Tuesday.

Jindal and Cindy McCain are scheduled to attend campaign rallies in Pennsylvania, including stops in Bucks County and Philadelphia.

Jindal's husband, Gov. Bobby Jindal, was once said to be a possible running mate for John McCain.

Governor's portrait debuts at Capitol

A new painting of Gov. Bobby Jindal greeted visitors last week as they stepped out of the elevator on the Governor's Office floor at the State Capitol.

The large full-length portrait is by New Orleans artist Tommy Yow.

Jindal is wearing a dark suit standing on the porch of the Governor's Mansion. His slight frame is dwarfed by two of the mansion's big white columns.

Jindal communications director Melissa Sellers said the portrait was commissioned by private donor Henry Shane, an avid Louisiana art collector. He loaned it to the Governor's Mansion, she said.

Sellers said it is being displayed temporarily at the State Capitol.

Landrieu, Kennedy forum to air live

The last televised debate of Louisiana's U.S. Senate campaign will air statewide on Wednesday.

The hour-long forum, which begins at 7 p.m., features incumbent Democratic U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu and Republican challenger John Kennedy, who is state treasurer.

The program, broadcast from WWL-TV studios in New Orleans, will be shown on <http://wwltv.com> and on CBS affiliates throughout the state, including WAFB-TV in Baton Rouge and KLFY-TV in

Lafayette.

C-SPAN is also scheduled to carry the live program.

Jones take job change in stride

A Jindal administration official told lawmakers last week that a recent change in his job classification boils down to one thing.

“I can be fired,” joked Jerry Jones, director of facility planning and control for the state.

Jones is shifting from a protected job with the state Civil Service system to a political appointment. He will work at the will of the governor.

He said Commissioner of Administration Angèle Davis talked him into the switch so he can take a broader role.

It is unclear exactly how Jones’ duties will change.

He said he will continue to work with lawmakers on construction projects funded through the state.

Kostelka, Pastorek differ on education

State Sen. Robert Kostelka, R-Monroe, conceded that he and state Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek do not see eye to eye on whether the state should offer a new curriculum for high school students who do not plan to attend college.

Kostelka is part of a group from northeast Louisiana that told the state’s top school board last week that a change is needed. Pastorek is not so sure.

Kostelka told educators that he and the superintendent discussed the plan.

“I wouldn’t call it a heated conversation, but it was warm,” the senator said with a laugh.

Lowrey’s already disclosed finances

Louisiana Board of Ethics member Cedric Lowrey, of Alexandria, is ahead of the curve when it comes to disclosure laws.

Lowrey, a retired physician, already has filed a personal disclosure statement outlining his financial dealings for the 2007 calendar year.

Lowrey is the only board member who did not resign in June over changes in Ethics Board laws Gov. Bobby Jindal pushed.

All 11 board members are required to file the reports next year disclosing their 2008 financial activity.

Lowrey said he did not have anything to hide. He said it was the right thing to do when he came on the board.

His report reflects no business interests, Social Security income, ownership of a four-bedroom home, and regular investment income and no liabilities.

Press Club to hear about amendments

Seven proposed amendments to the Louisiana Constitution that will be on the Nov. 4 ballot will be the subject of Monday's meeting of the Press Club of Baton Rouge.

Speakers will be Barry Erwin, president of the Council for A Better Louisiana, and Jennifer Pike, research director at the Public Affairs Research Council.

Press Club meetings are at noon at De La Ronde Hall, 320 Third St. downtown. Lunch is \$12 for members and \$15 for nonmembers.

6th District forum set for Tuesday

The Baton Rouge Black Chamber of Commerce will host a forum for 6th Congressional District candidates at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the McKinley Alumni Center, located at 1520 Thomas H. Delpit Drive.

All three candidates —incumbent U.S. Rep. Don Cazayoux, D-New Roads; state Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-Baton Rouge; and state Rep. Michael Jackson, No Party-Baton Rouge — have been invited to attend. Cassidy and Jackson have confirmed their attendance. Cazayoux's campaign said the representative would not be able to attend.

The forum will consist of a series of questions from the public that have been submitted via the chamber's public policy Web site, <http://www.metro12.org>. Chamber President Eric B. Lewis and Executive Director Kathy Victorian will serve as co-moderators.

Candidates offer personal views

Candidates for Louisiana's 6th Congressional District seat did not just share their political views during a Baton Rouge Press Club forum Monday.

When asked about cutting costs in the federal budget, state Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-Baton Rouge, drew an analogy between his stance on ending earmarks — federal money allocated for special local projects — to his parents changing from chocolate milk to white milk when money was tight as a child.

Though only pennies were being saved, "it gave us all in the family a mindset to save money wherever we could," Cassidy said.

When asked about the state changing its federal elections from an open primary system to the new closed primary system, incumbent U.S. Rep. Don Cazayoux, D-New Roads, joked, "Well, I'm actually for setting up a new system that would set up a 10-year term for congressmen."

State Rep. Michael Jackson, No Party-Baton Rouge, is also running for the 6th District seat.

Compiled by the Capitol news bureau.

Find this article at:

<http://www.theadvocate.com/news/31240184.html?showAll=y&c=y>

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