

Around the region

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DIVERSITY

A top 10 list for emerging firms

The Houston Minority Business Council named its top 10 emerging minority businesses Wednesday.

They are Applied Field Data Systems; BGI Contractors; Citoc; DiverseStaff; Filter Resources; Martinez Design Co.; **Smith & Co. Architects**; ThotBox Solutions Group; Rede; and Topp Knotch Personnel.

CHEMICALS

Huntsman moves against banks

Huntsman Corp. said Wednesday it has begun forming its case against Deutsche Bank and Credit Suisse after the banks declined to fund its sale to Hexion Specialty Chemicals.

The trial is expected to start Feb. 9 in Montgomery County.

ENERGY

Frontier appoints new leader

Mike Jennings will become president and chief executive of Houston-based oil refiner and marketer Frontier Oil Corp. on Jan. 1, the company said Wednesday.

Jennings, now executive vice president and chief financial officer, will succeed Jim Gibbs in the top executive positions, while Gibbs retains his title of board chairman for at least another year.

Frontier operates a 130,000 barrel-per-day refinery in El Dorado, Kan., and a 52,000 barrel-per-day refinery in Cheyenne, Wyo.

RETAIL

Dallas-based chain will close

The chief executive officer of Dallas-based Harold's Stores said Tuesday the upscale clothing retailer will be closing all of its stores.

The Dallas company is not related to Houston men's clothing store Harold's in the Heights.

The Dallas-based chain has three stores in Houston under the Harold Powell name. The company, which has 43 stores in 19 states, had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last week.

“Increased competition and a weak economy have left us no choice but to cease operations,” CEO Ronald Staffieri said in a statement.