

# County hires firm to recruit businesses

Leaders want development

Associated Press

POPLARVILLE — Pearl River County supervisors have hired a branch of the Butler Snow law firm to set up an economic development board. The county will pay the Ridgeland-based firm \$450,000 over three years, under a contract signed Sept. 19 by J. Patrick Lee, president of the board of supervisors, The Pica-yune Item reports.

The head of the county's Republican Party

questions the move, saying that supervisors voted on the contract in open session but didn't adequately explain what they were doing.

Lee says the county has lost competitions for a furniture warehouse and a food distribution center to nearby St. Tammany Parish, La., and needs to increase efforts to lure industry.

Butler Snow will direct the Pearl River County Economic Development Association and suggest ways to pay for economic development.

