

Top 10 stories from the Houston Business Journal website in 2010, ranked by page views.

ExxonMobil

1 Exxon Mobil campus 15,626 views Jan. 17, 2010

Ranked as the No. 1 real estate story of 2010 in HBJ's Real Estate Wrap-Up, rumors of a new campus for Exxon Mobil Corp. were given significantly more weight when one local expert publicly stated that he and others inside real estate believe Exxon Mobil intends to consolidate employees in a North Houston location.

The Irving-based oil giant later confirmed it had commissioned a study regarding options for the property, which lies off Interstate 45 North near The Woodlands. The study is expected to be complete in 2011.

In the Houston area alone, Exxon has staff working in more than two-dozen locations who are expected to share a single address in the future. Real estate professionals predict that such a relocation would be a big blow to the Greenspoint area, where the company leases 2 million square feet of office space for 6,000 employees.



2 Not your father's taco trucks 13,148 views May 16, 2010

Gourmet restaurants on wheels? Reporter Allison Wollam's story about the next generation of mobile eateries included Fusion Taco, an Asian fusion taco truck that cost its owner a mere \$85,000 to get rolling, far less than a brick and mortar establishment.

"People aren't going to stop eating out,"

said 15-year restaurateur Julia Sharaby, "but they are going to start spending less for their food."

Sharaby uses social media to let customers know the latest whereabouts of her truck, and unlike ice cream trucks with carnival music, Fusion Taco plays electronic "chill out" music to attract its hip clientele.

Fusion Taco, is one of a number of similar ventures, such as Oh My! Pocket Pies and Frosted Betty Mobile Bake Shop, that have recently hit the roads in Houston, catering to customers who crave gourmet food quickly, and at reasonable prices.

3 Continental, United combined logo 11,920 views Aug. 11, 2010

Curiosity about the marriage of Houston-based Continental Airlines Inc. and Chicago-based United Airlines centered around a number of questions, including the eventual name and logo of the one, merged airline.



After some refinements, the new logo features the brand name, UNITED, in capital letters, joined with the global mark that has been Continental's brand image since 1991.

On the aircraft, livery will continue to have the global mark as well as the blue-gold-white globe image on the tail, along with the new capitalized UNITED on the fuselage. The companies announced the merger in May, and the agreement became final in October. The company is now trading under UAL on the New York Stock



Exchange.

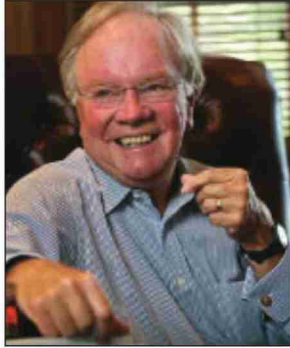
4 Matt Simmons' death
11,592 views
Aug. 9, 2011

Investment banker, energy industry insider and author Matt Simmons died on Aug. 8 at his vacation home in Maine at age 67.

He was the founder and former head of Houston-based Simmons & Co. International.

At times controversial, Simmons, earned the respect of his peers with his successful energy investment bank — as well as a name for himself with fearless and brazen predictions on the future of energy. His 2006 book, "Twilight In The Desert," brought the term "peak oil" into the mainstream and ruffled more than a few feathers at home and abroad.

A little over a month before his death, Simmons announced his retirement from his role as chairman emeritus to devote his full attention to the Rockland, Maine-based Ocean Energy Institute, a renewable energy think-tank and venture capital fund he started in 2007.



5 40 Under 40 honorees
9,517 views
April 16, 2010

The Houston Business Journal announced its second set of 40 Under 40 recipients to be honored during its annual Celebrate!Enterprise program of business events.

Forty young leaders who excel in their industries and show dynamic leadership in their community were selected by a judging panel and honored during the annual event.



6 Cameron, Halliburton
defendants in BP lawsuit
8,521 views

May 10, 2010

Cameron International Corp. and a unit of Halliburton Co. were named in a shareholder lawsuit filed against BP plc in relation to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

The two Houston companies, along with Switzerland-based Transocean Ltd., were named in the lawsuit as being liable to BP as a result of the April 20 explosion and subsequent sinking of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig.

7 BP now a takeover target?
8,387 views
June 29, 2010

In continuous coverage of the Gulf oil spill, some analysts speculated that London-based BP, suffering from stock price drops since the April 20 Deepwater Horizon explosion, made it a prime candidate for a buyout.

"The market has lost sight of the intrinsic value that is resident in an asset-rich company like BP. We very much doubt that keen-eyed industry players have lost sight of BP's value," JP Morgan Cazenove's Fred Lucas wrote in a report, according to Reuters.

However, Dan Pickering, a research analyst with Houston-based Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co., predicted a takeover by another major was unlikely, citing various reasons including unknown liability.

"I think it's unlikely that a 'healthy' major would want to run the risk of getting entangled in the legal quagmire which could wind up being very, very expensive," Pickering said.



8 HBJ honors best places to work
in Houston
7,626 views

June 11, 2010

The 10th anniversary of Houston Busi-

ness Journal's Best Places to Work special section drew many challengers, but only 56 made the list.



Companies compete in separate categories based on number of employees, with a separate category for companies with a significant presence but not based in Houston. No. 1 ranked companies in each category were St. Joseph Medical Center LLC (501- plus employees), Costello Inc. (101 to 500 employees), English + Associates Architects Inc. (10 to 100 employees) and Microsoft Corp. (companies with a significant presence in Houston).

9 Dan Duncan dies at 77
7,556 views
March 29, 2010

Houston businessman Dan Duncan died at his home of what was later discovered to be a massive cerebral hemorrhage.

Duncan, a longtime oilman and cofounder of Enterprise Products Partners LP, was Houston's wealthiest citizen with a net worth of \$9 billion, according to Forbes Magazine. He cofounded Houston-based Enterprise in 1968 and took the company public in



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We took about a 40 percent haircut on the sale. It is what it is.”

Mark Shapley, who sold at auction 10 Palisade Palms condos that he acquired as an investment.

1998. He also headed midstream energy firms Duncan Energy Partners LP and Enterprise GP Holdings LP.

Born in Shelby County, Texas, Duncan was known for his large philanthropic contributions to local organizations such as The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, where he made a \$100 million donation in 2006.

10 Exxon, Dynegy offer best 401(k) plans in Houston
6,425 views

May 26, 2010

Energy firms topped a list of Houston employers with the best 401(k) plans in a ranking compiled by data analytics company BrightScope Inc.



Exxon Mobil Corp. and Dynegy Inc. took first- and second-place honors. Law firm Baker Botts LLP came in at third place, and Citgo Petroleum Corp. and Reliant Energy Inc. ranked fourth and fifth, respectively. (While Exxon Mobil's corporate headquarters are in Irving, it was included because it has a significant Houston presence.) ■

