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TODAY'S HEADLINES / March 1, 2007

Land at Burbank and Lee sells for \$20 million

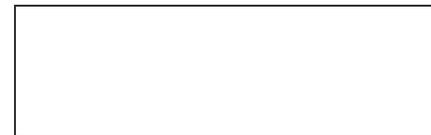
A 550-acre tract of land at the intersection of Burbank and West Lee drives has been sold to a group of New Orleans investors for \$20 million. Walker Baus, an attorney and investor, says plans are to build a traditional neighborhood development on the site, which is bordered by West Lee, Nicholson Drive and Burbank. "It's been very difficult because of the oil and gas interests on the site," says Baus, who is doing the project along with Terry White, Kim Miller and Jack Counce. "But we want to do a nice project in the back." Along with the oil and gas issues, environmental concerns have been a factor: half of the site is wetlands. Baus says the development will be complemented by the shopping center Victory Real Estate Investments plans to build in front. "The retail is the lead item," he says. "That's a little more straightforward. After that, the residential development will follow."

(Timothy Boone)

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ABC joins fight against union bill

Yet another organization has come out in opposition to the HR 800 legislation, better known as the Employer Free Choice Act. Associated Builders and Contractors has written Congress expressing concerns about the bill, which calls for a change in how unions are formed. Labor groups are pushing for the change, which would implement a card check system for unionizing. The National Labor Relations Board currently holds a private ballot vote if qualified



Company	Last	Chg	Chg%
Amedisys	31.68	-0.30	-0.94%
B&K Bank	19.46	0.00	0.00%
Entergy	98.71	-0.04	-0.04%
Lamar	63.77	-0.28	-0.44%
Shaw Group	30.80	+0.02	+0.06%
ExxonMobil	71.18	-0.50	-0.70%



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Should LSU freshmen be required to live on campus?



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workers prove a show of interest in unionizing. The legislation would require only the signatures of a majority of qualified workers. "This legislation would bring back a similar system that failed miserably 60 years ago," says Kirk Pickerel, ABC president and CEO.

Click [here](#) to read more about the bill.

(Seth Fox)

Pinnacle reports quarterly loss

Pinnacle Entertainment, which wants to build a casino on River Road, reported a fourth-quarter loss Thursday because of higher legal costs and expenses for resorts under development or construction. The company says it lost \$5 million, or 10 cents per share, compared with a profit of \$7.5 million, or 17 cents per share, during the fourth quarter of 2005. Pinnacle says it spent \$2 million during the quarter developing the Baton Rouge casino and on its Sugarcane Bay resort, now under construction in Lake Charles. For the year, Pinnacle reported earnings of \$76.9 million, or \$1.56 per share, compared with a profit of \$6.1 million in 2005.

Central TND project up for final approval

A traditional neighborhood development proposed for Central is set to go before the city planning commission tonight for approval of the plans, the final step to approving the project. A rezoning request and implementation plan for the Village at Magnolia Square was approved by the city council earlier this week; tonight the city planning commission is set to vote on plans for the TND. Developers Steele Pollard and Jimmy Nunnally plan to build the 185-acre community, which will have about 510 housing units, near the intersection of Sullivan and Lovett roads. This is the first project to go through the recently enacted parish TND ordinance. If the commission approves the plans, construction of the Village at Magnolia Square should start in early summer.

(Timothy Boone)

Publisher: Union bill not democratic

Business groups and the White House are coming out against a bill that could open union votes to intimidation and threats, says

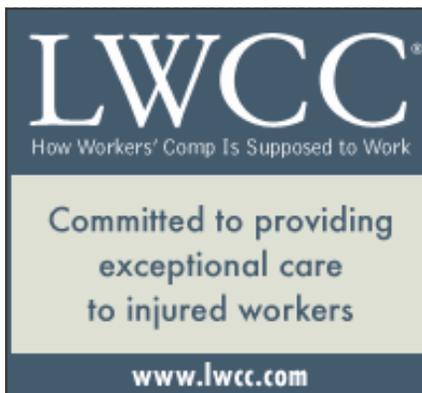
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Business Report Publisher Rolfe McCollister Jr. "The Democrats and the unions want to replace private, secret-ballot elections (the current method) with a 'card check' system that you would sign with everyone watching." McCollister says. " I think most folks prefer voting in private without anyone looking over their shoulder or judging their decision." Also, he believes Senate President Don Hines' move to rotate control of the State Bond Commission should be killed. Read about Baton Rouge's own "Nashville Star" and the new features in the magazine and on-line. To read the column, [click here](#) and send comments to editors@businessreport.com

Shaw consortium solidifies China deal

A consortium of Westinghouse and the Shaw Group has a completed a framework agreement to build four nuclear power plants in China. The announcement comes two months after the Chinese government selected Westinghouse/Shaw to build the plants. Shaw officials say the final contracts for the four plants should be completed by the middle of the year, but the work should be worth billions. Construction on the first plant should begin in 2009

Mass. paper has picture of Perkins Rowe clock

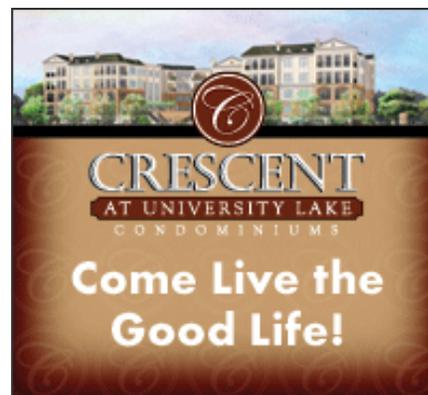
The Medfield (Mass.) Press has a profile today of Electric Time Co., a company that builds street, building and tower clocks. The story has a little local interest; there's a picture of a 7-foot-tall clock that's headed for Perkins Rowe. Click [here](#) to check it out.

Still tickets for BRAC party

A few seats are available for BRAC Impact 2007, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber's annual party. The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Baton Rouge Community College. Tickets are \$85 for chamber members, \$110 for non-members. To buy tickets, click [here](#).

News roundup: Baseball billionaire; Japanese dominate car rankings

He ought to just buy the team: Matt White, a pitcher with the Los Angeles Dodgers, could be baseball's first billionaire player, reports the Associated Press. White bought property in western Massachusetts several years ago from his aunt. It turns out there are 24 million of tons of stone on the land, material that sells for more



than \$100 a ton. **Top 10 cars all come from the Land of the Rising Sun:** *Consumer Reports* has released its latest auto reliability rankings and all of the 10 vehicles are Japanese models. This is the second time in 10 years Japanese automakers have swept the top of the list. The Lexus LS topped the list; other top performers were the Honda Accord Hybrid, the Infiniti M and the Toyota Land Cruiser.

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