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**MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY**

**March 2, 2007**

## Costs cause II City Plaza plans to change

Plans have changed for Mike Wampold's II City Plaza office building on North Boulevard. The developer says construction costs have caused the building's parking garage to be built as a separate structure instead of as the lower levels of the 260,000 square-foot building. Construction of the office building is set to start early this summer and finish by December 2008.

(Seth Fox)

## Corporate jet center coming to B.R. airport

Investors Arnold Feldman and Jimmy Kelly plan to build a new home for corporate jets and high-end private aircraft at the Baton Rouge Metro airport. Elite Jet Center will feature upscale passenger facilities, hanger space, fueling, charter services and aircraft sales. Kelly, the company's president, says a new passenger terminal building will be built within 18 months. The plan is to build between two and five hangers and develop 7.5 acres for corporate flight offices. There's a shortage of hanger space at the airport, Kelly says, and the new complex will be unlike anything the Baton Rouge market has now. He wasn't specific about the size of the investment, only to say it would be several million dollars. "As the state rebuilds, I think lot of activity will come through this city," Kelly says. "Our kind of product needs to be in place." Feldman, the principal investor, is a Baton Rouge doctor who operates a jet charter service at the airport.

(Steve Clark)

## La. Politics by John Maginnis: Jindal bill stuns



Company	Last	Chg	Chg%
Amedisys	32.02	+0.24	+0.76%
B&K Bank	19.11	0.00	0.00%
Entergy	96.32	+0.07	+0.07%
Lamar	63.3032	-0.7368	-1.15%
Shaw Group	29.01	-0.67	-2.26%
ExxonMobil	69.81	-0.20	-0.29%



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**POLL**

**Has the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center been a good investment for Ascension Parish?**

**Yes, it's boosted the quality of life and could bring some big events to the area.**

**No, it's a big money loser and a waste of tax dollars.**

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## insurance industry

A bill co-sponsored by Congressman Bobby Jindal targeting insurance companies has surprised industry representatives and puts the Republican congressman at odds with some of his major supporters. "We were very surprised he filed it. It is out of character with Jindal," said an insurance representative who wants to remain anonymous. The Republican gubernatorial candidate has signed on with a bill pushed by Mississippi lawmakers and key senators in both parties to repeal a 62-year-old anti-trust exemption that allows insurance companies to exchange information in setting rates and coverage. Said Jindal, "I remind friends in the insurance industry that we are all for a functioning marketplace, but we don't have that today. If we don't fix it, it will be worse."

-- Despite Agriculture Commissioner Bob Odom's tears of relief and joy following a trial judge's dismissal of the criminal case against him, it might be just a matter of justice delayed, thus posing legal and political dangers to the incumbent seeking re-election. The state Supreme Court overruled a previous dismissal by District Court Judge Don Johnson, who said prosecutors waited too long to try the 4-year-old case frequently delayed by motions and appeals. Should the high court reinstate the case again, Odom could be facing trial in the middle of his re-election campaign.

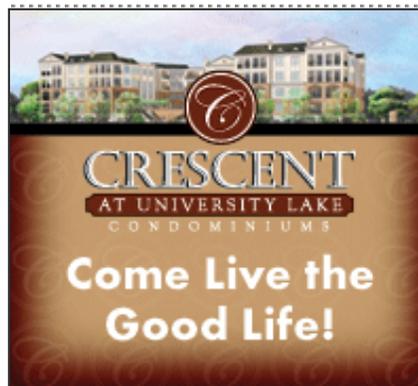
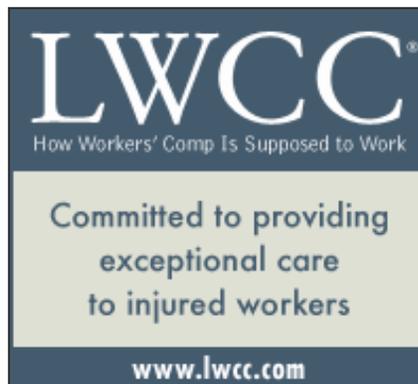
-- In a step toward its own vision of health care reform, LSU went to the New Orleans City Council this week for final approval to locate six primary care clinics on public school grounds around the city. According to LSU spokesman Marvin McGraw, the clinics are a major part of LSU's strategy to develop "medical homes" for the uninsured that will decrease reliance on emergency rooms of public and private hospitals. "It has always been LSU's intention to decentralize the hospital system and bring care to the neighborhoods," McGraw said.

*(John Maginnis publishes the Louisiana Political Fax Weekly and LaPolitics.com. Reach him at [LaPolitics.com](http://LaPolitics.com).)*

## Multimillion-dollar deals for Donnie Jarreau

Donnie Jarreau Real Estate closed on two multimillion-dollar deals Thursday, selling an office building and hotel. Bobby Waters, an investor and developer from Walker, bought the old Amedisys building on South Sherwood Forest Boulevard for \$3 million, says Sage Roberts, a spokeswoman for Jarreau. Waters plans to make

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major renovations to the 36,000-square-foot ANNC Plaza building, and will move some of his offices there. Amedisys still occupies about half of the building, Roberts says. Chad Brossett brokered the deal for Jarreau. Trimarian Hospitality of Biloxi, Miss., paid \$2.6 million for the Best Western-Lobdell. The 50-room hotel will remain a Best Western, but Trimarian, which owns hotels across the Gulf Coast, plans to make some renovations. Roberts says the company wanted to move into the Baton Rouge market because there was more protection from hurricanes. Troy Daigle brokered the deal.

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### **Jindal leads fund-raising race in B.R.**

Congressman Bobby Jindal, a Kenner Republican, received \$429,962 from Red Stick donors last year, more than any other gubernatorial candidate. Gov. Kathleen Blanco received \$117,485 from Baton Rouge donors during the same period, while Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell, a Shreveport native and former member of the state Senate, chalked up \$33,200. All of the other announced candidates are either relying on personal wealth, have little or no local donations or no finances. When it comes to in-kind contributions -- services another party paid for -- Jindal reigns supreme again. Former Gov. Mike Foster, a Republican who helped Jindal cut his teeth in politics, bought \$800 worth of food and beverages for a fund-raiser on Pecan Island. Murphy J. Foster III, the former governor's son, loaned Jindal his private jet at a fair market value of \$1,200. But it's the free rooms that Jindal seems to like the most. He lists more than any other candidate. From the Marriott Courtyard in Monroe to the Super 8 in Lake Charles, Jindal reported at least 19 individual-night stays for a value of roughly \$3,542.

**(Jeremy Alford)**

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### **Central TND gets green light**

The Central Planning Commission approved specific plans for a 185-acre traditional neighborhood development Thursday night, the first project to go through the East Baton Rouge Parish TND ordinance. The next step for the Village at Magnolia Square is to complete the engineering drawings for the utility systems that will run through the community, says developer Jimmy Nunnally. Construction could start on Magnolia Square at the start of the summer. The community will include 510 housing units, including apartments, townhomes, cottages and mansions, and 65,000 square feet of commercial space.

(Timothy Boone)

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### **Editor: Here's what I would do if I were in charge**

It doesn't look like democracy is helping to make Baton Rouge a better city, so Executive Editor JR Ball has the cure -- name him sovereign king. He's got a list of what steps he would take: more money for LSU and Pennington, a new state tax system, a regional gas tax to pay for better transportation and education reform. Read his column [here](#) and send comments to [editors@businessreport.com](mailto:editors@businessreport.com)

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### **BRAC also against union bill**

Add the Baton Rouge Area Chamber to the list of business organizations opposing a Congressional bill that would change how union votes are taken. The measure would eliminate the secret ballot election process that takes place after workers submit a union petition. "The ability to have one's vote be confidential is the cornerstone of our election process. It is essential that employees have the piece of mind that they can make their representation selection without any undue pressure," says Stephen Moret, BRAC's president and CEO. The measure, which is supported by Democrats, passed the House Thursday. President Bush has indicated he would veto the bill if it passes the Senate.

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### **Amedisys buys Texas health company**

Amedisys has purchased OptimaCare Home Health, a home care and hospice business based out of San Antonio, Texas. Details of the purchase were not announced, but Amedisys says the deal will add about \$5.4 million in annual revenue. This will be Amedisys' 16th Texas location, but its first hospice in the state.

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### **St. Francisville company wins national political awards**

ConnectCallUSA.com, a St. Francisville company that makes political phone calls, won two awards from the American Association of Political Consultants for its work during the 2006 campaign season. The company was one of the winners in the U.S. House of Representatives category for a call it did for a Massachusetts congressional candidate and one of the winners for the Best Get Out the Vote Call for work it did on behalf of Jerry Denton, a candidate for the Denham Springs City Council. This is the second year in a row ConnectCallUSA.com picked up national awards.

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## Poll: Majority think freshmen should live on campus

*Daily Report* readers support a proposal that would require most LSU freshmen to live on campus. Fifty-six percent of the people who responded to the online survey think the recommendation from the Faculty Senate is good because it would improve graduation rates. Forty-four percent of the respondents were against the idea because they think students should be able to live where they want. Nearly 1,500 people participated in the survey. LSU Chancellor Sean O'Keefe is weighing the pros and cons of adopting the policy, which would exclude freshmen over age 21, married, have children or live with a legal guardian in the metro Baton Rouge area.

Today's question: **Have you filed your federal income tax return yet?**

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## News roundup: Rep. Baker ranked 20th on conservative list; Stunning Saturn photos released; Berry shooting movie in Louisiana

**Magazine ranks Congressional members:** *National Journal* a non-partisan political magazine is out with its rankings of the most conservative and liberal members of Congress. Rep. Richard Baker was ranked as the 20th most conservative House member based on his votes in 2006. Baker voted more conservative than 89.2% of his fellow House members. Rep. Jim McCreary voted more conservative than 84.5% of House members, and Rep. Rodney Alexander was more conservative than 82%. Sen. David Vitter was more conservative than 84.3% of the members in the upper chamber. Click [here](#) for the complete list. **Great looks at the ringed planet:** NASA has released new photos of Saturn, shot by the Cassini spacecraft. The photos offer never-before-seen views of the planet, its moons and its rings. Check out the pictures [here](#). **Oscar winner to star in movie based on true story:** Oscar winner Halle Berry is set to star in *Tulia* which will begin shooting in Louisiana starting in May. The movie is based on a true story of a drug bust in Tulia, Texas, in which 40 black men were arrested on the word of a shady police officer. No money, illegal drugs or weapons were found on any of the suspects. Berry will play an attorney who works to free the men.

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