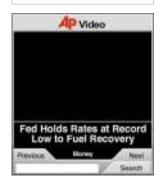
Business briefs for July 12, 2008



	Chg	%Chg	Value
S&P 500	4	0.3	1,100
DJIA	-5	0.0	10,304
Morningstar	9	0.3	2,720
Nasdaq	23	1.1	2,203
NYSE	3	0.0	7,066
Russell	2	0.4	607
		-	

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State makes record in lease payments

Fueled by lease sales from a major natural gas play in northwest Louisiana, the Louisiana Mineral Board collected a record \$48.7 million in lease payments at its July sale this week.

"It appears that with the Haynesville shale discovery under way, several major companies are validating their intentions to develop and produce natural gas in a big way," said Scott Angelle, head of the Mineral Board and the Department of Natural Resources.

The Haynesville shale lies in parts of Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Researchers say it could produce 29 to 39 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, making it one of the largest U.S. gas finds ever.

Eight Haynesville leases the board was leasing for local governments accounted for \$46.5 million of the \$48 million sale total, the Mineral Board said. That exceeded June's record \$35.8 million, boosted by Haynesville leases.

Seven northern Louisiana leases were in Caddo Parish and averaged \$30,000 per acre in bonus and 30 percent royalty. Bonus money received for the Caddo Parish leases amounted to \$17.7 million and covered 585 acres.

The other northern Louisiana lease covered 1,045 acres in DeSoto Parish and brought in \$28.8 million in bonus, or \$27,512 per acre, and 27.5 percent royalty. The winning bid was submitted by Baton Rouge-based Theophilus Oil, Gas & Land Services LLC.

CC's to open store at downtown site

CC's Community Coffee House said Friday it will open its 13th Baton Rouge store on North Boulevard next week.

A half-block east of Third Street, the coffee house will be in the former Dean Plaza, now known as the Plaza Building. It's the company's 34th store overall.

	M	ost Popular	Most Emailed	Hot Topics			
1. NFL: Saints-Cowboys cable only in BR							
	News conference held on serial killer suspect Ridley taking advantage of opportunity						
	4. Sain	ts asks NFL to	o let game air on BF	R station			
	5. NFL	nixes special	broadcast for BR				

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