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December 24, 2008

Jane Bokun: Unprecedented change in Bossier

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Each year since I've been here, Bossier City has been an almost constant surprise.

In fact, just when I think everything is routine, Louisiana Boardwalk will add a new store with things I need that I didn't even know I needed. Or, Villaggio will build a big mega-community with lots of stores and a bank — or, I'll get money from the Haynesville Shale that I never expected, but am truly grateful that I got it.

This town has become like the gold rush of the 1800s — you might find some hardship, but mostly you find a lot of opportunity.

That's why this year we celebrate Bossier City with all its wrinkles and possibilities. From mega-communities to new businesses and money for natural gas pockets under our homes, Bossier City has come a long way in the past year.

It all starts with Villaggio, Bossier City's newest community, which broke ground last year and is slated to open in February 2009.

Villaggio (Italian for village) will have shopping, dining, swimming and boating — all within a few minutes walk. It is on Highway 80 East, just east of Swan Lake Road and west of Bossier Parish Community College.

Best of all, it will be affordable - with rent of about \$700 to \$1,300 per month.

Close by Villaggio will be the new Cyber Center that already has broken ground.

The new headquarters would have the potential to bring with it new jobs in the private sector.

The new YMCA in Bossier City also is scheduled to break ground off Benton Road near the Bossier Tennis Center.

Bossier City also has another billion dollar company in Georges Enterprises that has acquired Harrison Company, a Bossier City food distributor.

Georges Enterprises already owns one grocery distribution company: Imperial Trading Co. of New Orleans.

One of the last Bossier stories may be the Haynesville Shale. And on that note, I only have one word to say: wahoo!

I sold my mineral rights — did you?

Whew! If that's not enough, a city on the move like Bossier City will have much more to report about in the future.
