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Forbes gives Bossier City top marks

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Bossier City and nearby neighbor Shreveport have been making the A-lists in top publications such as Forbes and BusinessWeek magazines.

Recently, according to Forbes Magazine.com, the Shreveport-Bossier City area has been named one of the nation's best places for business and careers for 2009.

Forbes.com ranks the area as No. 8 among 333 midsized cities for jobs in 2009, moving way up from last year's placement at No. 59.

"When you consider the country's current economic climate, the Forbes ranking is certainly good news for our area and is indicative of Bossier City's business-friendly environment," said Bossier City Mayor Lo Walker. "This recognition, combined with BusinessWeek Magazine naming Bossier City last year as the best place in Louisiana to raise children, is reflective of the outstanding quality of life in our community."

Joel Kotkin, a Forbes analyst, explained the magazine's criteria as job stability of the natural gas industry and its accessible port in helping it survive the recession.

John Good, developer of the Bossier City communities of Stonenridge and Villaggio, as well as Louisiana Boardwalk, waxed philosophical about the journey Bossier City has taken.

"It makes me think back a few years and what Bossier had to offer," Good said. "The boats came here and gave us a can-do attitude. The Boardwalk also came to Bossier, which is quality-of-life issues along with Cyber Command, Barksdale Air Force Base and the Haynesville Shale. Villaggio and other subdivisions also have stepped up."

Good said along with our active housing market, Bossier City has quality schools, shopping and entertainment.

"It's a great place for families to raise their children and the common denominator is what we have to offer," he said.

James L. Pannell, president of the Port of Shreveport-Bossier's commission, said his group is seeing the reward of getting the area's name out years ago.

"We spend less time now going out looking for business and more time evaluating the opportunities that are coming to us," he said. He noted the addition of Pratt Industries' recycling plant that could have been bound for the Dallas area.

Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover also weighed in on the area's top honors.

"To break the Top 100 is quite significant," Glover said. "What Forbes is seeing is the commitment and unyielding hard work of city leaders, business leaders and our citizens to make Shreveport-Bossier a more attractive and valuable place to live and prosper."
