

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

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construction of a **prison or work camp** with room for 2,300 inmates. The Boca Raton prison management company recently opened a 1,500-bed prison, currently being expanded by 385 beds, in the industrial park.

**JEFFERSON/WAKULLA COUNTIES** — The **Nature Conservancy** and the **Sam M.**

**Shine Foundation** of North Venice Beach combined have bought 9,704 acres in Jefferson County and 10,288 acres in Wakulla County for \$34 million to prevent development. The land, formerly owned by Flint Rock Investments and managed by the state for hunting, could be added to the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

**PENSACOLA** — **First Gulf Bank**, along with its parent company, Alabama National


BanCorp., is being acquired by RBC Centura, a subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada, Canada's largest bank, in a \$1.6-billion deal. First Gulf, one of 11 ANB subsidiaries, has \$700 million in deposits, with branches in Pensacola and Panama City and Baldwin County, Ala. >> **Semcan Inc.**, a Toronto-based investment company, has struck a \$3.5-million agreement to buy **Enviro Pro Tech**, calling the purchase a first step in its U.S. acquisition strategy. Grady Swann will remain president of the Pensacola environmental engineering firm he founded in 1989. Semcan says it plans to expand Enviro's operations.

**TALLAHASSEE** — **Florida State University College of Business**

will establish the Gene Taylor/Bank of America Center for Banking and Financial Studies, boosted by the Bank of America's \$2-million donation. The gift honors Taylor, an FSU alumnus, who retired in December as bank vice chairman and president of global corporate and investment banking.

>> **Florida A&M University** was ordered to pay back wages to 352 employees totaling \$272,988, following an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division. FAMU violated overtime provisions and record-keeping requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the agency says.

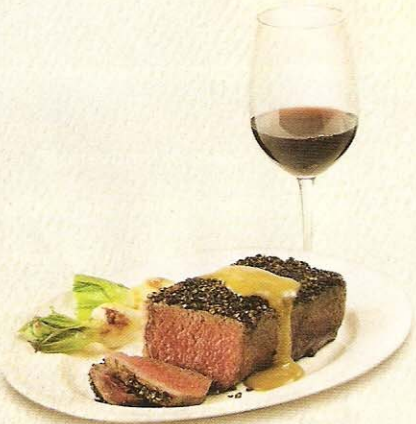
**WALTON COUNTY** — Conservationist **M.C. Davis** is launching construction of the **E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center**, expected to open in late 2009, to provide ecosystem education for Panhandle schools. The multimillion-dollar, 25,000-sq.-ft. center will consist of an exhibit hall, theater and laboratories in addition to nature trails. It is located within Davis' 48,000-acre Nokuse Plantation nature preserve. The center name honors Harvard scientist and Pulitzer Prize winner Edward Wilson, who did his early research along the Gulf Coast.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY** — Pensacola Anheuser-Busch distributor **Lewis Bear Co.** is building a 110,000-sq.-ft. distribution center at Ebro, consolidating facilities currently at Panama City and DeFuniak Springs. The \$15-million center, employing 130, will open Nov. 1 and serve seven counties. 

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