Buzz on business

Entrepreneurship program offered

Information sessions on a new microentrepreneur program for low- to moderate-income parents who want to start their own businesses will be presented Tuesday, Jan. 28, at three branches of the Shreve Memorial Library. Dates, times and locations are:

Tuesday, 2 p.m. Wallette Branch, 283 Hearne Ave.
Jan. 26, 11 a.m. David Raines Branch, 2805 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Jan. 28, 10 a.m. Mooratown Branch, 4360 Hollywood Ave.

For more information, call (542) 797-5144.

Consumer prices rose in 2005

Consumer prices rose by 3.4 percent in 2005 with 40 percent of the increase blamed on the biggest jump in energy costs since 1990.

For the complete story, ShreveportTimes.com

Evacuees offered free cell phones

Alltel, Cellular South, Centennial Wireless, Cincinnati Bell, T-Mobile, Tracfone and Verizon Wireless are offering free cell phones and 300 free minutes to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

The phones are available to 300,000 households who have been determined eligible for FEMA disaster housing assistance.

Evacuees may get their free cell phones at any participating retailer.

Call (888) 225-0282 for more information.

Manufacturing up in first days of '06

The economy chugged ahead as the new year opened with manufacturing picking up, employment improving and retail sales rising, the Federal Reserve reported Wednesday.

For the complete story, ShreveportTimes.com

What's going on?

See the Business Calendar online at ShreveportTimes.com.

— Staff, Wire Reports

Diesel in drive

Diesel fuel is expected to be key for more vehicles in the essential New Orleans charm.

"We should save and preserve all that we can," he said.

Rebuilding green is not just a choice for the present but will become a legacy for future generations, proponents contend. According to Cox, social accountability to the next generation and the next is important so that they have the same natural resources we enjoy.

Why go green?

According to the Department of Energy, there are more than 76 million residential buildings and nearly 5 million commercial buildings in the United States (2002 data). Collectively, these buildings consume 37 percent of all energy, 38 percent of all electricity, 12 percent of fresh water supplies, 88 percent of potable water supplies and 40 percent of raw materials.

Green or high-performance buildings have a number of advantages:

- Green buildings save 25 percent to 30 percent of building energy by using extra insulation, high-efficiency glazing and solar control measures.
- Such buildings achieve higher levels of indoor air quality through the careful choice of paints, sealants, adhesives, carpets and coatings.
- These buildings incorporate daylighting and views to the outdoors not only for occupant health and productivity gains, but also to reduce energy costs.
- Green buildings that are properly "commissioned" have lower maintenance costs because all problem areas are ironed out by having a comprehensive testing of all energy-using components and systems prior to occupancy.
- "Buildings — they are the gas guzzlers," Cox said.

What are green buildings?

"Green" or "high-performance" buildings are measured against "code" buildings (structures that qualify for a building permit, but don't go beyond minimum requirements). Additionally, green buildings are often measured according to a system such as the Advanced Building guidelines (www.chn.gov), the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system of the U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org), or the Coalition for Higher Performance Buildings (www.chps.net). Buildings typically have to score some minimum number of points above the "code" threshold to qualify for a green rating.


Source: The Builder's Guide to Marketing Green Buildings by Jerry Yudelson

Altered state

Hurricane Katrina and Rita dealt a serious blow to Louisiana businesses. Here's how the state has been affected since the storms:

- Direct impact
- Currently rebuilding
- Attractions open; check for availability
- Open for business

Why go green?

According to the Department of Energy, there are more than 76 million residential buildings and nearly 5 million commercial buildings in the United States (2002 data). Collectively, these buildings consume 37 percent of all energy, 38 percent of all electricity, 12 percent of fresh water supplies, 88 percent of potable water supplies and 40 percent of raw materials.

Green or high-performance buildings have a number of advantages:

- Green buildings save 25 percent to 30 percent of building energy by using extra insulation, high-efficiency glazing and solar control measures.
- Such buildings achieve higher levels of indoor air quality through the careful choice of paints, sealants, adhesives, carpets and coatings.
- Green buildings that are properly "commissioned" have lower maintenance costs because all problem areas are ironed out by having a comprehensive testing of all energy-using components and systems prior to occupancy.
- "Buildings — they are the gas guzzlers," Cox said.

If you go

What: Green Building Conference and Expo WHERE: Louisiana Tech Technology Center, 8026 Shreve Park Drive, Shreveport.
When: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Jan. 26
Keynote Speaker: Frederic Schwarz, Schwartz Architects, New Orleans.
Fees: $75 before Friday; $85 contact: Patti Cox, (318) 221-0761 or (949) 500-1372.

The Lean Toward Green

Conference to showcase environmentally sustainable way to rebuild New Orleans, southwest Louisiana

By Anubhav Tapores atapore@gannett.com

An iconic American city that almost got buried under the crushing weight of a terrible hurricane season is trying to make a comeback.

And organizers of a conference in Shreveport Jan. 28 want the rebuilding of New Orleans done in an environmentally sustainable way.

The Green Building Conference and Expo will focus on rebuilding parts of New Orleans and southwest Louisiana that were badly damaged by last year’s hurricanes. The conference will promote techniques to rebuild safer communities by improving design and construction standards.

"You have to rebuild a lot of the school and hospitals ... some of these buildings, the air quality is worse than it is outside," said Pat Cox, an environmental consultant based in Shreveport.

Cox is promoting the conference. "So what you’re doing is you’re making a building that is more productive to work in. Building ‘green’ can impact business and investors in another green way: money.

"If (those) are not paying a higher utility bill, they’re making more of a profit ... there is a cost advantage," Cox said. "The other advantage is you’re going to get more return on your investment down the road when you’re going to sell it.

For people who think green building is an unnecessary strain on an already crowded region, Frederic Schwartz, a New York architect and keynote speaker at the conference, brushes aside such fears. Building economically is building green, he said.

The traditional homes in New Orleans were built green, Schwartz said. They had raised porches, trees were used for shade, the ventilation was effective. The traditional-style houses — Creole, shotgun, double shotgun, canal house — were economically built.

"In the ‘50s and ‘60s, people started turning on the air conditioner, and people started to forget the right way to build," Schwartz said, who advocates using modern technology with traditional design, which will ensure the city becomes safer while retaining the New Orleans charm.

"We should save and preserve all that we can," he said.

Rebuilding green is not just a choice for the present but will become a legacy for future generations, proponents contend. According to Cox, social accountability to the next generation and the next is important so that they have the same natural resources we enjoy.

"Buildings — they are the gas guzzlers," Cox said.

If you go

What: Green Building Conference and Expo
WHERE: Louisiana Tech Technology Center, 8026 Shreve
Park Drive, Shreveport.
When: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Jan. 26
Fees: $75 before Friday; $85
Contact: Patti Cox, (318) 221-0761 or (949) 500-1372.

8B
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006
The Times
CONTACT ALISA STINGLEY — 459-3530 or astingley@gannett.com

"Given the tightness of supply and demand, it isn’t taking much to push energy prices sharply higher."

Oscar Gonzalez, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services in Boston

What are green buildings?

“Green” or “high-performance” buildings are measured against “code” buildings (structures that qualify for a building permit, but don’t go beyond minimum requirements). Additionally, green buildings are often measured according to a system such as the Advanced Building guidelines (www.chn.gov), the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system of the U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org) or the Coalition for Higher Performance Buildings (www.chps.net). Buildings typically have to score some minimum number of points above the “code” threshold to qualify for a green rating.

LEED provides four levels of certification: “plain vanilla,” “Certified,” “Silver,” Gold and Platinum.

Source: The Builder’s Guide to Marketing Green Buildings by Jerry Yudelson

Altered state

Hurricane Katrina and Rita dealt a serious blow to Louisiana businesses. Here’s how the state has been affected since the storms:

- Direct impact
- Currently rebuilding
- Attractions open; check for availability
- Open for business

Why go green?

According to the Department of Energy, there are more than 76 million residential buildings and nearly 5 million commercial buildings in the United States (2002 data). Collectively, these buildings consume 37 percent of all energy, 38 percent of all electricity, 12 percent of fresh water supplies, 88 percent of potable water supplies and 40 percent of raw materials.

Green or high-performance buildings have a number of advantages:

- Green buildings save 25 percent to 30 percent of building energy by using extra insulation, high-efficiency glazing and solar control measures.
- Such buildings achieve higher levels of indoor air quality through the careful choice of paints, sealants, adhesives, carpets and coatings.
- These buildings incorporate daylighting and views to the outdoors not only for occupant health and productivity gains, but also to reduce energy costs.
- Green buildings that are properly “commissioned” have lower maintenance costs because all problem areas are ironed out by having a comprehensive testing of all energy-using components and systems prior to occupancy.
- "Buildings — they are the gas guzzlers," Cox said.

If you go

What: Green Building Conference and Expo
WHERE: Louisiana Tech Technology Center, 8026 Shreve Park Drive, Shreveport.
When: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Jan. 26
Fees: $75 before Friday; $85
Contact: Patti Cox, (318) 221-0761 or (949) 500-1372.