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Media Contact:
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Airport to hold free business workshop

The Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport will host its Fifth Annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Workshop 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday at the Baton Rouge River Center at 275 South River Road, rooms 5 and 6.

The free workshop is designed for disadvantaged business and all other firms interested in pursuing work at the airport in the construction, engineering, planning, architecture, concessions and consulting fields.

Representatives from the airport and the Louisiana Department of Transportation will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on the DBE and Louisiana Unified Certification programs; qualifications; requirements for bids and proposals; and resources.

Reservations can be made online at [http //www.flybtr.com](http://www.flybtr.com) by Monday.

LSU to help study effects of oil leak

LSU has signed a memorandum of understanding with The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium to form a consortium called the Gulf Oil Research Program.

The group will work cooperatively to plan, secure funding for, execute and report on a program of scientific research to describe and quantify the effects of the Gulf oil leak on the environment, communities and species in the affected region, and to develop and implement remediations where feasible.

New eye clinic opens in Clinton

Williamson Allemond Regional Eye Center in Zachary is expanding its services to Primary Care Providers for a Healthy Feliciana in the RKM Medical Complex at 11990 Jackson St. in Clinton.

The clinic will offer routine eye exams, glasses and contact lenses and treatment for glaucoma and other eye diseases.

The Clinton eye clinic hours will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. every Wednesday. The phone number is (225) 683-5292.

Expo to feature green businesses

The Department of Environmental Quality will hold a Green Business Expo from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 25 to showcase innovative, environmentally friendly businesses.

Exhibitors have until July 26 to register for \$275. The fee guarantees a booth in the exhibition room and allows two people to attend. Additional fees apply after July 26.

The cost to attend is \$60. For more information, go to [http //www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/ABOUT/GreenBusinessExpo.aspx](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/ABOUT/GreenBusinessExpo.aspx).

Urgent-care clinic to offer pediatricians

Lake After Hours will open Lake After Hours Kids this fall at 12525 Perkins Road.

The clinic will be staffed with pediatricians and a clinical staff trained and experienced in treating children.

Lake After Hours is affiliated with Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center and has locations in Baton Rouge, Hammond and Denham Springs. Clinics are planned for Brusly and Zachary.

Lake After Hours treats ear or eye infections, fever, minor cuts needing stitches, possible broken bones or simple fractures, severe sore throat, sprains or strains and vomiting/diarrhea.

AgCenter offers online marketing

The LSU AgCenter has launched a new online service called Market Maker to help agriculture businesses market their products on the Internet.

Anybody in Louisiana with a product to sell can establish an account on Market Maker for free.

Market Maker originates out of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and 17 states including Louisiana are members.

Consumers don't have to register to find products on the national Market Maker. They can go to <http://national.marketmaker.uiuc.edu>.

Computer security workshop set

A free Computer Security Workshop for small- and medium-sized businesses is being held by the Small Business Administration in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Louisiana Technology Council and the FBI.

The workshop will be from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Aug. 10 at Southern University at 181 B.A. Little Drive, Room 191.

It also will be from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Aug. 11 at ITT Tech at 140 James Drive East in St. Rose.

Individuals knowledgeable in information technology security will provide an overview of information security threats, vulnerabilities and corresponding protective tools that small businesses can use to protect themselves.

Pre-registration is required and can be faxed to (504) 589-2339 or e-mailed to virginia.brumfield@sba.gov or jo.lawrence3@sba.gov.

Utility firm to take emergency requests

Louisiana One Call will begin accepting emergency requests to locate buried utility lines 24 hours per day, seven days per week on Sept. 1.

The change is one of several specified by new legislation signed into law by Gov. Bobby Jindal on June 17.

The new law also requires pipelines and utility operators to provide Louisiana One Call with emergency contact information, including 24-hour phone numbers.

Technology road show scheduled

The Louisiana Technology Council, in cooperation with the Louisiana economic development department, has selected nine Louisiana companies to participate in its First Annual Technology Road Show in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Lafayette.

The road show is designed to create a greater awareness of technology initiatives in Louisiana and to help Louisiana businesses work more closely together.

The road show will be in Baton Rouge from 5-8 p.m. July 19 in the River Center at 275 S. River Road.

Presentations will be made by New Orleans businesses Jacobs Technology, TCA Cellular Therapy Inc. and Geocent LLC and Lafayette businesses Bizzuka Inc., Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise and National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies.

Three Baton Rouge businesses InfiniEDGE Software Inc., Ultix Technologies and CMA Technology Solutions will make presentations in New Orleans on July 12 at the Cox business center at 2121 Airline Highway and in Lafayette on July 26 at the LITE Center. Both events will take place from 5-8 p.m.

For more information, call Mark Lewis at (504) 304-2911 or e-mail mlewis@lrc-la.org.

ULTA opens in Hammond

An ULTA Beauty store has opened in Hammond at 2026 Hammond Square.

ULTA, which was founded in 1990, operates 348 stores across 38 states and distributes products through its website.

Services range from cuts and dimensional color to brow and design and specialty facials and hair and skin care consultations.

The phone number is (985) 945-2096.

Hiring unemployed workers yields benefits

Two new tax benefits under the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act are available to employers who hire certain previously unemployed workers.

Small businesses can learn about them during a July 8 IRS HIRE webinar.

The first incentive, referred to as the payroll tax exemption, provides an exemption from the employers 6.2 percent share of Social Security tax on wages paid to qualifying employees, effective for wages paid from March 19, 2010, through Dec. 31, 2010.

In addition, for each qualified employee retained for at least 52 consecutive weeks, businesses will be eligible for a general business tax credit, referred to as the new-hire retention credit, of 6.2 percent of wages paid to the qualified employee over the 52-week period, up to a maximum credit of \$1,000.

Visit the IRS webinar registration site at <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/IRS/69705/reg.asp?id=69705>.

State to offer business tax seminar

The Louisiana Department of Revenue is sponsoring a free seminar to help business operators understand sales tax and other business issues.

The next session is at 10 a.m. July 16 at LDRS Baton Rouge office at 617 N. 3rd St.

For details or to register, call (225) 219-5500.