

Local Briefs Times-Picayune

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Stein to speak in N.O.

Economist and author Ben Stein will headline a two-day conference in New Orleans next month. The conference will be put on by Accredited Members Inc., a Colorado publisher of research on small and micro-cap companies. The conference, which will be held at the Ritz-Carlton on Sept. 19 and 20, is part of an ongoing series of conferences hosted by Accredited Members and aimed at emerging companies and high net-worth individuals.

Apartments acquired

Stirling Communities I LLC, an entity of investors led by **Stirling Properties**, has acquired three apartment complexes in Lafayette and one in Baton Rouge. Stirling Properties, a regional real estate firm, will manage the complexes.

Gas price down

The average local price of unleaded gasoline stood at \$3.39 a gallon on Monday, nominally down from Sunday's price per gallon, according to AAA. One month ago, the average local price stood at \$3.60 a gallon.

COMING UP

MORTGAGE RELIEF FAIR: The Greater New Orleans Homeownership Preservation Coalition is holding an event Aug. 27 to help homeowners who are behind on their mortgages assess their legal and financial options to avoid foreclosure. The event includes a general information session as well as free individual counseling sessions by groups approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Homeownership Preservation Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Delgado Community College's west bank campus, 2600 Gen. Meyer Ave., in New Orleans. For information, call 504.529.1000, Ext. 280.

SCAM JAM: The Better Business Bureau of New Orleans and the Louisiana chapter of the FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association will host Scam Jam, a free anti-fraud seminar, on Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. Consumer protection experts and law enforcement officials will discuss how to detect and avoid common scams. For more information, call the BBB at 504.581.6222.

NEW ORLEANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: The New Orleans Chamber of Commerce will host a luncheon Aug. 31 at noon at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Henry Coaxum of Coaxum Enterprises and Mike Dawson of Jacobs Technology will speak on the economic impact of eastern New Orleans. Tickets are \$40 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. For information and to register, call 504.799.4260.

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