

Myrtle Beach rent highest

Continued from page 2B

apartment with a roommate.

The average rent means a worker would have to make \$13.15 an hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

"How many people make that? Not that many," said Judy Swanson, executive director of the Grand Strand Housing and Development Corporation. "People working in the hospitality industry and in our stores - they may

make \$9 or \$10 an hour. Not that many of them make that kind of wage."

Swanson said there aren't many places left to house the people that keep the Grand Strand's tourism economy going.

"I probably get five calls a day from people who cannot find a place that they can afford to live ... there's not enough apartments or houses that are priced that an aver-

age person can afford," Swanson said.

Just a decade ago, the Grand Strand had an apartment boom and affordable rentals were available. But developers are now building condominiums and rapidly increasing land prices have led owners to turn existing apartment complexes into condos.

Swanson and others are working to build more hous-

ing at affordable prices, but they struggle to find available land.

"West of the (Intracoastal) Waterway, there's very little land available that's not owned by large companies," said Cliff Rudd, board member for the Affordable Housing Coalition of South Carolina. "I don't know how to manufacture more land. I'm not sure what the solution of the problem is really."

Citrus cleaners work wonders at home

Continued from page 1B

cleaning agent. Pure lemon juice is great for removing stains on many of the new solid surface countertops. Best of all it is nontoxic - and you can even drink it.

Lemon rind (peel): Not lemon oil and not lemon juice. The peel is what were talking about here.

Grab a lemon and rub the whole piece of fruit firmly between your hands. The warmth of your hands and the pressure you apply to the skin will extract lemon oil from its skin and your hands will smell wonderful. That's why a lemon rind is so absolutely perfect as a deodorizer for your garbage disposal. In this case it would not be a cleaner, but a deodorizer instead!

Drop the rind down the disposer and in no time the fragrance of lemon will permeate the air around your sink. Before using the lemon rind we mix a cup of water and a

cup of vinegar (any kind) into an ice tray and make cubes. We mix the water in with the vinegar because the vinegar wont freeze on its own.

By the way, be sure to mark the ice tray so that the next batch of cold drinks doesn't end up with a surprise flavor. Drop the cubes down the disposer and the ice will coagulate grease and oil and at the same time will act as an abrasive, instantly cleaning the grease and grime in your disposal. We always follow this procedure with at least on half of a lemon rind. (You can use an orange rind if you like.)

Orange: Orange oil, orange juice and orange rinds can be used for the same purpose as lemons. However, be careful when shopping for citrus-based cleaners at the store. Often companies will adver-

tise their cleaner as "Lemon Cleaner" or "Orange Cleaner" when in fact the active cleaning ingredient is not citric acid at all, but some other chemical instead. This is important because citric acid is nontoxic and often its pleasant fragrance is used in combination with very dangerous chemicals.

So, when you purchase a product that says it is an orange or lemon cleaner, double-check to make sure what that the active cleaning ingredient really is. It's better to be safe than sorry.

Tip: Bake orange or lemon rinds in your oven on low. Your home will smell sweet and fresh all day long. Sprinkle on a little cinnamon if you like to step things up a notch.

Grapefruit: Grapefruit also is a great cleaner. Cut one in half, dip the exposed fruit in a dish of salt and you have the

best marble cleaner money can buy

Caution here: don't leave the citric acid on the surface any longer than it takes to remove a stain. Flood with fresh water and towel dry immediately. And don't use citric acid to clean marble when it isn't stain. If fresh, clear water will do the trick then that's all that should be used.

And, that's all there is to it.



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College students' return to New Orleans

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS—For the first day of school, Alissa Bigger was in an upbeat mood.

Hurricane Katrina closed several major New Orleans colleges last semester, but the start of classes Tuesday at Tulane, Xavier and Southern Universities marked a welcome return to routine.

"I don't think I've ever been so excited about the first day of school. I'm so happy just to be back," said Bigger, a Tulane sophomore. "It's proving there's hope for the city. If the school can run, we can go back to doing normal things."

None of the colleges are fully up to speed, and it could be years—if ever—before all are back to their former size. But with their energy, optimism and free-spending ways, college students could be just what this struggling city needs right now.

"Most of you have returned at a time when many would have stayed away," jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis said Monday night at an event on Tulane's campus welcoming back the city's students, before playing a set with a band that included his pianist father, Ellis.

"And now that you are here, you have the opportunity to set a new tone, not only a new tone for New Orleans, but ... a new tone for our nation."

Gov. Kathleen Blanco told the students their return was a boost for the city, and asked them to commit their summers to helping rebuild the state.

"Your state needs you," she said. "We need your minds, your good ideas, your contagious energy, your spirit, to rebuild."

The half-dozen or so major colleges in the city have plenty of problems of their own. Many classes will be held in trailers and hotel conference rooms while they continue to repair of hundreds of millions of dollars of campus damage, and overall enrollment is considerably lower than before the storm. They have laid off hundreds of faculty and staff to try to meet budgets.

Tulane senior Clay Kirby, a mechanical engineering major, will be able to graduate but was set to protest cuts in his university's engineering program. "I love Tulane, and this decision is going to hurt Tulane," said Kirby, whose family has sent four generations of students to

the school.

Still, more students have returned than initially feared—including 88 percent at Tulane—offering New Orleans the prospect of both an immediate economic boost and, down the road, an educated work force to rebuild the city.

An estimated 65,000 students attended New Orleans colleges before the storm, and about 40,000 lived in the city, according to the 2000 census.

Not only is Tulane the city's largest employer, but the reopening of the school will boost New Orleans' population 20 percent, President Scott Cowen said. Before Katrina, Tulane had 13,214 students—7,976 undergraduate and 5,238 in graduate schools.

In the short run, businesses from bars to bookstores should see a much-needed revenue boost. In the long run, the city hopes they will stay after graduation as a skilled work force.

"It's hard to imagine a major city growing and thriving without having universities," said Tim Ryan, an economist and chancellor of the University of New Orleans. "They will really give a breath of new life to the city."

Some neighborhoods around Tulane and Loyola are relatively vibrant, but Xavier, the country's only historically black and Roman Catholic college, is in an area of mostly abandoned homes and stores. Dillard, near the London Avenue Canal breach, was so badly damaged that it will not reopen there until at least next fall. Even then, it will almost certainly be an island of life in a sea of empty neighborhoods.

Marsalis, co-chairman of the mayoral arts commission that was announcing recommendations Tuesday for preserving the city's cultural heritage after Katrina, urged students to commit themselves to rebuilding the city.

But he also had sharp words for the region's politicians, urging to "realize the importance of holding your elders and your peers accountable when it comes to rebuilding the city of New Orleans."

"Our challenges is to rebuild a great city in these times of unbelievable political callowness and corruption," he said.

On the Net:

Tulane: <http://www.tulane.edu/>

Xavier: <http://www.xula.edu/>

Southern: <http://www.suno.edu/>



9th PASTORAL Anniversary

February 4, 2006 - 6:00pm A.L. Jimwright Mass Choir Reunion Concert
February 5, 2006 - 5:00pm Pastor John A. McCullough, Jr.
February 11, 2006 - 6:00pm First Daughter's Night
February 12, 2006 - 5:00pm Apostle Otis Lockett

Anniversary Celebration
February 13-16, 2006 - 7:00pm Nightly

Gala Banquet
Charlotte Westin Hotel
February 18, 2006
6:00pm

February 19, 2006
7:30am Bishop Kevin Lang
10:45am Bishop Oscar Brown
5:00pm Apostle Norbert Simmons

Culmination Sunday
February 26, 2006
7:30am Pastor Herbert Crump
5:00pm Bishop Hilywood Parker

Bishop Paul Morton
Greater St. Stephen Ministries
Decatur, GA

Pastor Jackie McCullough
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