



On the Economic Scene



A weekly economic development briefing from the Volusia County Department of Economic Development

October 5, 2015

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

HISPANIC CHAMBER TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO CUBA – The Volusia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is leading a trade mission to Cuba November 1 - 8. Opening trade with Cuba provides U.S. businesses a new market where telecommunication, construction, agriculture and tourism products or services could flourish and improve U.S. trade opportunities with the rest of Latin America. Companies interested in participating should go online to: trade.volusia.me.

WORKSHOP ON 60 WAYS TO GROW A BUSINESS CONTACT LIST TO INCREASE SALES – Daytona State College is hosting a workshop that will cover strategies to capture new business contacts to increase sales. The workshop will provide 60 easy ways to grow a contact list. This workshop is being presented by Donna Loader, a media marketing expert. The session is October 15 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the main campus of Daytona Beach State College. To register call 386-255-6889 or email info@score87.org.

ACADEMY FOCUSES ON GRAPHIC ARTS, DESIGN – The Academy of Graphic Arts and Design at Deltona High School provides students the opportunity to explore careers in graphic arts technology to include offset printing, technology writing, business systems and communications technology. In addition, students gain skills in digital design, graphic design and printing. For information email cjfolson@volusia.k12.fl.us.

OVERALL ECONOMY UP 3.9 PERCENT – The overall economy expanded at an annual rate of 3.9 percent in the April - June quarter, up from a previous estimate of 3.7 percent, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. The second quarter expansion in the gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and services, was a marked improvement from a .6 percent increase in the first quarter when the economy was battered by a harsh winter. For more go online to: usatoday.com.

DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS SEEKING TO BE ENERGY INDEPENDENT – From Florida to California, the U.S. Department of Defense is signing contracts with local utilities for solar and wind power inside military bases or on land nearby. The Pentagon is seeking to generate its own power in part to enhance energy security at a time when electric grids are under the threat of cyberattack.

MANY AMERICANS TAKE EARLY SOCIAL SECURITY IN SPITE OF BIGGER PAYCHECK BY WAITING – Researchers can't figure out why more Americans aren't putting off Social Security benefits which can boost a monthly paycheck by more than three-fourths if Social Security is delayed to the maximum age of 70. More than 40 percent of people elect to receive Social Security soon as possible -- age 62 -- and less than one in 20 wait to collect the maximum benefit. New evidence suggests a big portion of would-be retirees have enough savings to put off receiving Social Security checks for at least a few years. But they aren't doing so, raising the troubling prospect that they're leaving money on the table. For more go online to: time.com.

SCORE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS – The local SCORE chapter is looking for volunteers to provide confidential business mentoring by leading seminars and workshops that help small business owners become more successful. SCORE provides subject matter expertise by industries and professional skills. For information go online to: score87.org.

SURVEY MEASURES LAWSUIT CLIMATE – The 2015 Lawsuit Climate Survey quantifies how corporate attorneys view their state's legal systems by measuring each state's liability system into a 1 - 50 ranking. The survey is a national sample of 1,203 in-house senior attorneys or litigation savvy executives. For the report, go online to: tinyurl.com/nzz62mo.

JETBLUE SELLING SEATS FOR NONSTOP FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK – Preparations are underway at Daytona Beach International Airport for the start of direct service January 7 to New York's JFK by Jet Blue Airways. The nonstop flights will be roughly two-and-a-half hours each way. Tickets are for sale online by going to: jetblue.com.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED – Please send your business news items to Dave Byron, Volusia County Community Services Department Director, at dbyron@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.