



On the Economic Scene



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

March 9, 2015

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

TIME TO PREPARE FOR SPRING WEATHER EVENTS -- April - June is the peak time for tornadoes, according to NOAA. Now is a good time to develop or review business preparedness/recovery plans. The U.S. Small Business Administration and Agility Recovery will present a free webinar on the best practices and preparedness tips based on real-life recovery experiences. To register for the webinar go to: agil.me/springprepsba. To access previous webinars and for additional preparedness tips go to: preparemybusiness.org. The webinar will be March 10 at 2 p.m.

FLORIDA'S ECONOMY RANKS 7TH -- Florida's economy is ranked seventh among the states, according to Business Insider. The economies were ranked on recent change in housing prices, nonfarm payroll job growth, unemployment rate, gross domestic product per capita, average weekly wage, and state government surplus and deficit. Great weather that attracts millions of tourists, growth in nonfarm payrolls, a recovering housing market, and a \$15 billion state government surplus are factors in Florida's ranking.

DISCOVER GLOBAL MARKETS: THE AMERICAS -- Discover Global Markets: The Americas is the premier international business conference that offers country-specific and industry-specific information/opportunities, scheduled meetings with representatives of 14 countries, keynote speakers, and networking. For information call Leigh Shapleigh at Volusia County Economic Development at 386-248-8048 or email Lshapleigh@volusia.org.

SEMINAR ON CREATING A BUSINESS WEBSITE -- The local SCORE chapter and the University of Central Florida's (UCF) business incubation program will present a free workshop on creating a successful business website. The workshop will be March 19 at 6 p.m. at the UCF incubator at Daytona Beach International Airport. To register go to: info@score87.org or call 386-255-6889.

FLORIDA EXPORTS REACH \$59 BILLION -- According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Florida exports reached \$58.6 billion last year, helping the U.S. set an export record of \$2.35. Florida's exports supported about 275,000 jobs.

WEBINAR COVERS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICA -- The Trade Winds 2015 - Africa webinar provides valuable insights into the export opportunities in eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The webinar covers best prospects, financial and legal considerations and marketing strategies. The webinar is being provided by the U.S. Commercial Services in preparation for the upcoming Trade Winds - Africa trade mission. The webinar is March 19 at 11 a.m. For information and registration go to: tinyurl.com/oe5syc2.

CONTRACTORS REPORT TRADES SHORTAGE -- According to a survey of contractors by Associated General Contractors of America, 83 percent report trouble filling craft positions, notably carpenters, roofers and equipment operators. The AP reports this sector has regained just 900,000 of the 2.3 million jobs lost from 2007 - 2011. The annual unemployment rate for construction workers was 9.8 percent last year, down steeply from the 20.6 percent annual unemployment rate in 2010, but significantly higher than last year's national unemployment rate of 6.2 percent.

VOLUSIA SCHOOLS OFFER CAREER ACADEMIES -- A career academy is a school within a school that offers programs focused on broad career themes. There are more than 30 career academies in Volusia County high schools. These academies integrate classroom instruction with work-based learning, field studies, job shadowing, and internships to equip students with the skills for work and secondary education. For information go to: career-connection.org.

UNINSURED RATE DECLINES -- The nationwide uninsured rate for health insurance coverage dropped 3.5 percent last year, from 17.3 percent to 13.8 percent, the lowest in the seven years of the Well-Being Index. Massachusetts has the lowest uninsured rate at 4.6 percent. Florida's 2014 uninsured rate was 18.3 percent, down from 22.1 percent in 2013. Texas has the highest uninsured rate at 24.4 percent.

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.