



On the Economic Scene



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

February 1, 2016

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING FEBRUARY 5 -- Volusia County Economic Development's next quarterly briefing on the local economy begins at 7:45 a.m. February 5 in the Dennis R. McGee Room at Daytona Beach International Airport. Robin King, President and CEO, Career Source Flagler/Volusia, will be the featured speaker. For information call 386-248-8048.

FLORIDA'S GDP IMPROVES -- Florida's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 5.1 percent in the second quarter of 2015, faster than all other large states, according to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Florida's GDP also was higher than the national average of 3.8 percent. For a report, go online to: flgov.com/2015/12/22/gov-scott-floridas-gdp-grows-faster-than-all-large-states/.

SUN BELT GAINS 1.4 MILLION RESIDENTS -- Stateline has reported that census population estimates show the South gained almost 1.4 million people between 2014 and 2015, while the West gained an estimated 866,000 people. Population growth in the Northeast and the Midwest remained sluggish. Those regions gained about 258,000 residents combined. Go online to: pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2016/01/08/americans-are-moving-south-west-again.

ACADEMY PREPS STUDENTS FOR COMMUNICATIONS CAREERS -- The Academy of Communications and Multi-media Technology at Mainland High School prepares students for careers in print, web, broadcast communication, and technology. The curriculum includes digital video, digital multi-media design, networking and web design. The academy is affiliated with the Cisco Networking Academy. For information go online to: mainlandhighschool.org.

STUDY RANKS TOP CITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT -- WalletHub ranked the best and worst cities in the United States for jobs in 2016. The top five cities for jobs are Plano, Texas; Overland Park, Kan.; Austin, Texas; Irving, Texas, and Salt Lake City, Utah. The ranking compares the 150 most populated cities across two key dimensions -- job market and socioeconomic environment. Both categories were broken into sub-categories with each city graded on a 100-point scale. For the ranking go online to: wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-for-jobs/2173/#methodology.

PAYMENTS WITH MOBILE PHONES A GROWING TREND -- According to Statista Inc., in 2015 about 12.7 percent of smartphone owners in the U.S. used their phones to process payments. In 2011, the average spending per user was \$61. This number is expected to grow to \$1,294 in 2016. Research estimates that by 2017 the number of payments made by phone users will be 50.2 million. For information go online to: statista.com/topics/982/mobile-payments/.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY COURSE TO BE OFFERED -- Proposed fines by OSHA for workplace safety violations exceeded \$150,000 in Volusia County for the last quarter of 2015. Employee safety training costs less than the potential fines for violations. The Sunshine Safety Council Inc. will offer a 10-hour construction industry safety course February 17 - 18. For information call 386-253-6400 or email stacey@sunshinesafety.org.

NUMBER OF MINORITY-OWNED FIRMS UP SHARPLY -- According to the 2012 Survey of Business Owners, the number of minority-owned firms in the U.S. rose from 5.8 million in 2007 to 8 million in 2012. By comparison, total U.S. firms increased 2 percent during the same period -- from 27.1 million in 2007 to 27.6 million in 2012. The Survey of Business Owners is the only comprehensive, regularly collected source of information on selected economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and business owners by gender, ethnicity, race and veteran status. For the survey go online to: census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-209.html.

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.