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ONLINE VERSION AT [FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG](http://FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG)

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**VOLUSIA COUNTY QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING** – The next quarterly economic development briefing from the Volusia County Economic Development Division will be at 7:45 a.m. Friday, Aug. 4, in the Dennis R. McGee Room at Daytona Beach International Airport. Sean Snaith, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Economic Competitiveness, College of Business Administration at UCF, will be the featured speaker. For more information, call [386-248-8048](tel:386-248-8048), option 1.

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS** – Local businesses should be finalizing preparedness planning hurricane season. Forecasters at Colorado State University recently revised their forecast for the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, predicting there will be 15 named storms this year, up from the 13 predicted in June and 11 predicted in April. They also predicted eight hurricanes and three major hurricanes, up from the two predicted in the previous two reports, and said the probability for at least one major hurricane — a category 3, 4 or 5 — making landfall along the U.S. coastline is 62 percent.

**GAMING/SIMULATION AND ROBOTICS ACADEMIES** -- The academies at University High School have two pathways: Gaming/Simulation and Robotics. Both pathways offer a sequence of project-based courses aligned with challenging academic standards that prepare students for further education and careers in information technology. For more information, email Robotics Academy Director Fred Urquhart at [fcurquha@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:fcurquha@volusia.k12.fl.us) or Gaming and Simulation Academy Director David Manning at [dmmannin@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:dmmannin@volusia.k12.fl.us).

**MEDICAL FAIR THAILAND** -- Medical Fair Thailand, set for Sept. 6 to 8 in Bangkok, is Southeast Asia's most definitive event for the medical and health care industry. The trade show is focused on equipment and supplies for the hospital, diagnostic, pharmaceutical, medical and rehabilitation sectors. Enterprise Florida has secured space for a Florida section, and target sector trade show grants are available to help offset exhibition costs. To learn more, contact Virgil Kimball at [386-248-8048](tel:386-248-8048), option 2, or [Vkimball@volusia.org](mailto:Vkimball@volusia.org).

**SAVE-THE-DATE FOR ELEVATE** – The next Elevate Daytona event will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. July 20 at the News-Journal Center in Daytona Beach. Elevate Daytona is an idea forum supporting innovation and leadership that uses a fast-paced TED-talk style presentation format. For more information about speaking, sponsoring and attending the event, visit [www.ElevateDaytonaBeach.com](http://www.ElevateDaytonaBeach.com).

**HOW TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL NONPROFIT** – SCORE will present a free seminar from 6 – 8 p.m. July 20 at Daytona State College, geared toward anyone who is starting a nonprofit business. It will cover topics including business set-up, mission statements, business plans, organization, budgets and grants, and hunting money. Reservations are required and include free parking. To register, visit <https://volusiaflagler.score.org> or call [386-255-6889](tel:386-255-6889).

**NEW HOUSING REPORT** -- According to the 2017 State of the Nation's Housing report by the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard, 1.4 million recent homebuyers were under age 35 in 2015. The number of homeowners over 55 jumped by 13 percentage points to 54 percent between 2001 and 2015, while the share of homeowners under 35 shrunk by 5 percentage points over the same period, to about 33 percent. To review the full report, visit <http://tinyurl.com/y7smtswd>.

**FLORIDA'S ECONOMY FORECASTED TO EXPAND** -- Florida's Real Gross State Product is expected to expand at an average annual rate of 3.1 percent over the next three years, according to a recent UCF Institute for Economic Competitiveness forecast. Florida payroll jobs are growing and continue to outpace national job growth. Year-over-year growth should average 3.3 percent in 2017, 3.3 percent in 2018, 2.3 percent in 2019, and 1.7 percent in 2020. Average job growth over the 2017-2020 period will be 0.8 percentage points faster than the national economy.

**PINE BEETLE ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION GRANTS** -- The Florida Forest Service is accepting applications for the Southern Pine Beetle Assistance and Prevention Program from non-industrial, private forest landowners through July 31. The southern pine beetle is one of the most economically devastating forest pests of the Southeast, leading to the deaths of millions of pine trees. The program offers partial cost reimbursement or incentive payments of up to \$10,000 for first pulpwood thinning, prescribed burning, planting longleaf and/or slash pine, and mechanical underbrush treatments. For an application or to learn more about this program, visit <http://tinyurl.com/yczpu2qe>.

**TOP TOURISM VISITORS** -- Canada led all countries with 3.24 million visits to Florida, according to 2016 international visitation data from Visit Florida. The United Kingdom ranked second at 1.69 million, followed by Brazil at 1.05 million visits. Rounding out the top five are Argentina at 750,000 visits and Columbia at 520,000 visits. For more information, visit <http://www.visitfloridamediablog.com/home/florida-facts/research/>.

**NEWS ITEMS WANTED!** – Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley, Volusia County Community Information Director, at [jmagley@volusia.org](mailto:jmagley@volusia.org). If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.