



On the Economic Scene



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

March 14, 2016

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

DAYTONA 500 IN 360 -- Spectacular views of this year's Daytona 500 are available by visiting the DAYTONA 500 Fancam at www.nascar.com/fancam. The Fancam provides a navigable 360-degree image of the event and the reimagined Daytona International Speedway complex.

TRADE MISSION TO MEXICO -- Mexico offers tremendous opportunities for Florida companies interested in increasing their footprint in Latin America. Enterprise Florida is planning a trade mission May 23 - 26 and will offer a limited number of Gold Key/Matchmaker one-on-one appointments through the United States commercial service. Small and mid-sized Florida manufacturers and professional service providers may qualify for a Gold Key/Matchmaker grant, which will offset the matchmaking registration fee for the first company representative. For more information contact Leigh Shapleigh or Virgil Kimball at 386-248-8048.

CENTER OF ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY -- The Academy at T. Dewitt Taylor High School establishes meaningful connections among classroom content, performing arts, and real world experiences. The goal of the academy is to engage students in authentic experiences that will allow them to implement the knowledge, skills, strategies and experiences learned in the academy to a broad range of career and educational choices. For more information email Academy Director Jessica Dubberly at jldubber@volusia.k12.fl.us.

CREATING A REVENUE-GENERATING WEBSITE -- SCORE will present a free seminar from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at Daytona State College. Reservations are required and can be made by calling [386-255-6889](tel:386-255-6889) or online at www.score87.org.

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY -- The Florida TaxWatch Economic Commentary for February 2016 addresses the impact of a steady decline in the price of gasoline, down from \$3.52 per gallon in July 2014 to the current national average, below \$1.75 per gallon. The report shows consumers in the U.S. saved between \$540 and \$700 in gasoline-related expenses in 2015, but the oil and gas industry has felt significant negative effects, losing 250,000 industry jobs around the world. Visit www.floridatrend.com/public/userfiles/news/pdfs/Feb16ECFINAL.pdf to review the full report.

NOAA SATELLITES HELP SAVE LIVES -- NOAA satellites are part of the International Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking System, known as COSPAS-SARSAT. This system uses a network of spacecraft to detect and locate distress signals quickly from emergency beacons onboard aircraft and boats, and from hand-held personal locator beacons. To learn more visit www.noaa.gov/stories/noaa-satellites-helped-save-250-lives-2015.

BILLIONAIRES -- As reported in USA Today, Beijing has overtaken New York City as home to the most billionaires — 100 to 95 — according to Hurun, a Shanghai firm that publishes a monthly magazine and releases yearly rankings and research about the world's richest people. Wealth calculations were made using stock prices as of Jan. 15, 2016, which takes into account the Chinese market's 40 percent tumble over the second half of 2015. The ranking shows Moscow came in third place, with 66 billionaires, while Hong Kong and Shanghai came in fourth and fifth with 64 and 50, respectively. Different tabulations of wealth, such as the Hurun report and the Forbes list, have produced somewhat different results depending on their methodology.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER -- Corned beef and cabbage is a staple at St. Patrick's Day celebrations across the U.S. According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service summary of Meat Animals Production, Disposition and Income dated April 2015, 40.3 billion pounds of beef and 2.2 billion pounds of cabbage were produced in the United States in 2014. Total 2014 cash receipts from marketing of meat animals increased 18 percent to \$107.7 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 75 percent of this total, and hogs and pigs accounted for 25 percent. Read more at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/MeatAnimPr/MeatAnimPr-04-30-2015.pdf>.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! -- Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley, Volusia County Information Director, at jmagley@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.

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