

money

LOW-KEY SEARCH

Walt Disney Co. continues looking for new CEO

Story, D-3



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Helping vets focus on a great career

We celebrate veterans in November, and at CareerSource Northeast Florida, that means focusing on great careers.

Every year, we help thousands of veterans connect with the civilian workforce or move up to better jobs. Veterans and military families make up a significant part of our regional workforce, and they're the reason Northeast Florida is so often on the short list for companies looking to relocate or expand operations.

Almost every company and nonprofit finds veterans to be desirable job candidates, and many companies have specific programs to recruit and retain veterans.

Victory Media publishes an annual list of its Top 100 military-friendly employers, which can be a useful research tool. You can find the list at militaryfriendly.com/top-100.

According to the site, the number of post-9/11 veterans hired by the Top 100 now exceeds 155,000. Local companies that make the Top 100 list include CSX, United Rentals, The Home Depot, Bank of America and Cintas.

Former military members are some of the most-versatile, -adaptable and well-trained workers in the world, so it's no wonder they are valued by hiring managers.

"Companies that hire veterans gain employees who are committed to excellence and have a passion to perform," said Mike Fleming, a retired brigadier general who now serves as senior vice president for relations and development for Jacksonville University.

"The qualities of leadership, honesty, respect for others, and a powerful sense of belonging help them acclimate quickly into a company's culture," he said.

Their personal attributes are valuable assets, but veterans still have to work hard to translate specific military skills to civilian use.

Veterans often struggle with resume writing because they're not sure how much military jargon to include. They know that recruiters with no military background may not understand what they did on the job. That's why the U.S. Department of Labor created a tool to help companies and veterans translate Military Occupational Codes (MOCs) to civilian jobs.

You can find the tool at www.careerinfonet.org/moc. Once you find the civilian job that best matches your military job, you can access research on job descriptions, salaries, and job-growth projections. You can also find links to search for jobs in your desired location.

As part of Jacksonville's Month of Valor, CareerSource is hosting the fourth-annual Paychecks for Patriots event. The local event is one of many held statewide through the month of November, and is free and open to military members and veterans and their families.

It will be held on Thursday, Nov. 10, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at FSCJ's Advanced Technology

MOODY continues on D-2

Horizon Terminals starts up

Company's president expects to move 80,000 autos in 2017

By Roger Bull
roger.bull@jacksonville.com

Horizon Terminals has begun its operation of a 27-acre site on Blount Island. Jacksonville is already one of the busiest vehicle

ports in the country, and that will be much of Horizon's focus: new and used autos, along with large equipment and machinery. Per Folkesson, president of Horizon, said he expects to move 80,000 autos in

and out under existing contracts in 2017.

In the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 467,898 autos came into the country through Jaxport. A total of 656,599 vehicles came either in or out.

Folkesson said he has a contract with BMW for new cars coming in and multiple contracts to ship used cars out. Most of

those go to the Middle East or West Africa, he said.

Horizon is a subsidiary of Hoegh Autoliners, which has been shipping in and out of Jacksonville for a number of years, he said. But this is the first time the company has operated its own terminal.

It also has terminals in Port Everglades and Freeport, Texas, as well as sev-

eral overseas, but has had its headquarters in Jacksonville for the past year.

He said it employs six people.

Horizon is not connected with Horizon Lines, which shipped in and out of Jacksonville, but shut down in 2014.

Roger Bull: (904) 359-4296



Groundbreaking will be held Thursday for the new IKEA at Gate Parkway and Interstate 295. (Source: IKEA.)

Can't wait? IKEA groundbreaking Thursday

Popular store eyes opening next fall

By Roger Bull
roger.bull@jacksonville.com

IKEA will break ground Thursday for its first Jacksonville area store, on Gate Parkway at Interstate 295.

Expected to open next fall, it will be the fifth IKEA in Florida, with stores currently in Orlando and Tampa and two more in South Florida. The only Georgia store is in Atlanta.

The store was first announced in October 2015, and it was received with typical enthusiasm for the Swedish home furnishings giant. Consider that the Island Packet, a newspaper on Hilton Head, S.C., had a story reporting that the Jacksonville IKEA would only be a 2-1/2-hour drive from the island rather than the current almost four hours to Charlotte.

The store will be 290,000 square feet with 1,200 parking spaces. That's midsized by IKEA's standards, as the company has some U.S. stores are as big as 400,000 square feet.

The chain's largest U.S. store is under construction in Burbank, Calif., at 456,000 square feet. But that's dwarfed by the 624,000-square-foot store IKEA opened in South Korea two years ago.

There are currently more than 380 IKEA stores in 48 countries, including 42 in the U.S.

The company, which was founded in 1943 and first came to the U.S. in 1985, has built its business on inexpensive home furnishings displayed in room settings in huge stores that have become destinations.

Writing last year in The Rob-in Report, retail analyst Warren Shoulberg called the company the

most important retailer of the past 25 years, topping even Wal-Mart.

"There is perhaps no other retailer on the planet that has moved its basic model into so many places with so much success," Shoulberg wrote.

"Ikea came into a business — furniture and furnishings — where the model had always been that a customer was making a purchase that would last 20 years or longer and it could even be passed down from generation to generation.

"They created products that were nicely designed, if not particularly durable, that were intended to be used immediately ... and disposed of when they wore out or, more likely, when the user had moved on to a different taste level or purchasing strata."

The Jacksonville store will include 10,000 exclusively designed items, three model home interiors, 50 room-settings, a children's play area and a 350-seat restaurant serving Swedish (think meatballs

with lingonberries) and American dishes.

The store will employ about 250 people, and those interested in applying for the jobs should begin looking at IKEA-USA.com in the spring.

The company paid \$13 million for the 25-acre Jacksonville site, and other new development is already planned nearby.

Last week, Hines paid \$20 million for about 70 acres a few hundred yards north of the IKEA site. It's planning to purchase more land for a 105-acre mixed-use development that could include office and retail space, single family homes, apartments, condominiums and a hotel.

The groundbreaking ceremony for IKEA is set to begin at 10 a.m. Thursday with Mayor Lenny Curry and other officials scheduled to attend.

Roger Bull: (904) 359-4296

Gas shortages loom again after Ala. pipeline blast

Fuel shortages in the Southeast could be severe

Associated Press

HELENA, ALA. | A fatal explosion has shut down a pipeline supplying gasoline to millions of people across the Southeast — the second accident and shutdown in two months — raising the specter of another round of gas shortages and price increases.

It happened when a dirt-moving track hoe struck the pipeline, ignited gasoline and sparked a blast Monday, killing one worker and injuring five others, Colonial Pipeline said. Flames and thick black



An Alabaster firefighter walks near the scene of an explosion of a Colonial Pipeline in Helena, Ala. Colonial Pipeline said in a statement that it has shut down its main pipeline in Alabama.

smoke continued to soar on Tuesday, and firefighters built an earthen berm to contain the burning fuel.

PIPELINE continues on D-2

Auto sales in October slow; still good market

Incentives used to boost purchases

Bloomberg

Automakers reported lower U.S. sales for October, reinforcing the idea the market may have plateaued at a healthy level that still supports the U.S. economy.

The companies faced a difficult comparison to the year-earlier month, which was the best of 2015 and had two more sales days. General Motors exceeded estimates with a decline

of 1.7 percent instead of the 6.9 percent predicted in a Bloomberg survey of analysts. Toyota missed big with an 8.7 percent drop, while Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Nissan also fell. Ford's report is delayed until later this week.

October's results help explain why investors have lost enthusiasm for automakers' shares, even with the possibility still in play that 2016 could mark a record seventh straight year of sales gains. While pickup and sport utility vehicle demand remains strong

SALES continues on D-2