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GULFSHORE BUSINESS DAILY

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LEE SINGLE-FAMILY PERMITTING UP IN DEC. VS. NOV.

During December, contractors pulled 85 permits to build single-family houses collectively valued at about \$18.5 million in unincorporated Lee County. That compares with 66 permits issued in November and 132 issued in December 2015, according to the Lee County Department of Community Development (www.leegov.com/dcd/). Data for 2015 includes permits for the Village of Estero. For the year 2016, Lee County issued 1,171 single-family permits, compared with 1,202 in 2015. Permits were issued for 333 multi-family units in 2016, compared with 2,094 the previous year. The permitted value of all new single- and multifamily dwellings built in 2016 is estimated at \$306.6 million.



REPORT: NAPLES-IMMOKALEE-MARCO MSA HAS MOST DIVERSE WORKFORCE IN FLORIDA

The Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island metropolitan statistical area (MSA) had the most diverse workforce in Florida, according to a quarterly report issued by Florida Gulf Coast University's Industry Diversification Project. The report, which was released in December, shows the MSA improved from the sixth most diverse MSA in the state to the first, from the second quarter of 2015 to the second quarter of 2016. There are 22 MSAs in the state. The other two MSAs in Southwest Florida—Cape Coral-Fort Myers and Punta Gorda—ranked eighth and 18th respectively during the same quarter.

HAMBLÉN IS SUNSHINE ACE'S NEW CHIEF MERCHANDISING OFFICER

Sunshine Ace Hardware (www.SunshineAce.com) announced that Scott Hamblén has joined the team as the chief merchandising officer for the company. Hamblén is responsible for planning and



implementation of merchandising and marketing strategies at Sunshine Ace Hardware and its seven retail locations. A Virginia native, Hamblen moved to Florida in 2008 where he continued to accrue his more than 20 years of experience in the retail industry. Prior to joining Sunshine Ace Hardware, Hamblen worked for well-known retail companies throughout his career, including Office Depot and Circuit City.



GULFSHORE BUSINESS SOURCEBOOK— NEW EDITION

In April, *Gulfshore Business* will publish a new annual called *The Sourcebook*. This edition will be an important resource, especially for newcomers, about how to succeed at business in Southwest Florida. It will include comprehensive data and demographics, as well as extremely useful industry specific lists. Bonus distribution will include area business hotels, airports, and chambers of commerce. To advertise, contact Rob Wardlaw, rwardlaw@gulfshorebuisness.com (Collier); Debbie Coolman, dcoolman@gulfshorebuisness.com (Lee/Charlotte); Janet Choisnet, jchoisnet@gulfshorebusiness.com (Lee/Charlotte).

DYER NAMED A VP AT CHARLOTTE STATE BANK

Trust Officer Martha Dyer has been named a vice president of Charlotte State Bank & Trust. Dyer has been a member of the bank's Trust & Investment Management Services division since 2012, starting out as an administrative assistant and working her way up to trust officer and now vice president. Dyer has more than 22 years of business and accounting experience and has served clients as a trust administrator for more than 10 years. She completed the American Bankers Association trust course in 2006.

COLLIER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

The Community Foundation of Collier County (cfcollier.org) recently received accreditation with the nation's highest standard for philanthropic excellence. National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations establish legal, ethical and effective practices for community foundations everywhere. The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grant-making and administration.



ENTECH'S BRENES RECEIVES CERTIFICATION

Entech (www.entechUS.com) announced that Chris Brenes, its director of IT and Security, recently completed the requirements to earn a Certified Ethical Hacking (CEH) certification. This certification allows information security professionals to help a business defend itself against attacks by malicious hackers. The CEH certification is administered by the International Council of E-Commerce Consultants (www.eccouncil.org).

STRAYHORN NAMED CHAIRMAN OF HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers (www.hacfm.org) has appointed E. Bruce Strayhorn as chairman of its board of commissioners. Strayhorn practices law with the firm of Strayhorn & Persons, P.L. in Fort Myers. He has served as assistant state attorney, director of the Fort Myers Downtown Property Owners' Association, board member of the Lee County Housing Development Corporation and member of the Lee County Affordable Housing Task Force. He has served on the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers board since 1989.



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FACE AWARDS 2017 SPONSORSHIPS

The 2017 Face Awards, presented by *D'Latinos* and *Gulfshore Business* magazines will be held from 6-9 p.m. on March 24 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa. Be part of this special evening and support the Face Awards' mission of celebrating diversity in Southwest Florida by being a sponsor of the event.

There is a generous benefits package including free tickets, tables, recognition, advertising, and social media. For more information, contact Rob Wardlaw, associate publisher, rwardlaw@gulfshorebusiness.com (Collier); Debbie Coolman, dcoolman@gulfshorebuisness.com (Lee/Charlotte); Janet Choisnet, jchoisnet@gulfshorebuisness.com (Lee/Charlotte).

JA ANNOUNCES HALL OF FAME BOARD

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida (www.JASWFL.org) announced the members of its 2017 Business Hall of Fame, Lee County, advisory board. The committee will be led by chair Travis Merrick, branch manager at GFA International Inc. Other members selected to this year's board include: Jeff Beal, commercial accounts analyst for Brown and Brown Insurance; Scott Beatty, attorney at Henderson Franklin; Lindsey Calvert, account executive at Office Furniture & Design Concepts; and Jason Duke, first vice president, financial advisor with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.



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BRADLEY TO RETIRE FROM LARC

LARC Inc. (www.larccleecounty.org) has announced the upcoming retirement of Executive Director Roger Bradley, effective Jan. 31. Bradley's retirement will end a tenure spanning 31 years and one characterized by exceptional leadership and devoted service to the disabled community. A retirement reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 17 at Harborside Event Center. Reservations can be made by calling (239) 334-6285.



FPA OF SWFL 2017 ANNUAL ECONOMIC FORECAST

The Financial Planning Association of Southwest Florida is hosting the 2017 Annual Economic Forecast at Hodges University at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 19. The event features two nationally recognized economists. Douglas Duncan, senior vice president and chief economist of Fannie Mae was named among *Bloomberg/Businessweek's* top 50 most powerful people in real estate. He will discuss the national economy. Christopher Westley, Florida Gulf Coast University professor of economics and director of the FGCU Regional Economic Research Institute has been published more than 100 times. He will discuss the regional Southwest Florida economy. Tickets are \$35 includes hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Register at fpa-swfl.org or call FPA of SWFL chapter President Mark Matos at (239) 297-3886 for more information. Two CE credits available for Certified Financial Planners.

MILLSAP TO SPEAK AT AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN EVENT

Deb Millsap, executive director, Blue Zones Project–Southwest Florida, will speak at the Feb. 2 meeting of the Greater Naples Branch of the American Association of University Women (www.aauwgnb.org). The event will be held from 2-4 p.m. at Hodges University, Gaynor (Administration) Building, 2655 Northbrook Drive, Naples, Second floor, Rooms 210 and 211.

CHARITABLE NOTES

- The 2017 WINK News Feeds Families Hunger walk is fast approaching, and the Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida is urging prospective walkers to finish registering their teams and turn in their pledges. The ninth annual walk, which kicks off at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 21, is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the food bank. The two-mile, non-competitive, family and pet-friendly walk will be held at the Miromar Outlets in Estero.

Organizers are aiming to top last year's total of \$305,000. For

Organizers are aiming to top last year's total of \$600,000. For more information, visit www.harrychapinfoodbank.org or contact Marta Hodson at (239) 334-7007, ext. 132, or martahodson@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

- The Golisano Children's Museum of Naples (C'mon) received a \$15,000 grant from the Edward T. Bedford Foundation to aid in the renovation of Mother Nature's House. Mother Nature's House is one of the most popular exhibits within the museum, which has had more than 650,000 visitors since opening in 2012. This special house has four rooms, each representing a different season from a different section of the United States with an array of hands-on activities to experience the season to its fullest.
- The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools (www.leeschoolfoundation.org) has awarded approximately \$70,000 to educators, schools, and administrators throughout the School District of Lee County through its Classroom, School and Department Grants program.

For banner advertising rates and information on Gulfshore Business Daily and GulfshoreBusiness.com. For information, please contact Rob Wardlaw, (239) 449-4145, rwardlaw@gulfshorebusiness.com (Collier County), or Debbie Coolman, (239) 449-4106, dcoolman@gulfshorebusiness.com (Lee and Charlotte counties).

Send news and information for Gulfshore Business Daily to info@gulfshorebusiness.com.

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