

WEEKEND WAVE

08-05-16



Friday Economic Roundup

Kia dealership opens Saturday

Provided by **LINDSEY SMITH** PINCKNEYHUGOGROUP

Fuccillo Automotive Group, the No. 1 Kia dealer in the world, will open Fuccillo Kia of Port Charlotte, its fourth and largest dealership in Florida. The new 70-acre dealership will open for business Saturday.

"We're excited to bring dependable and affordable cars to the Port Charlotte area," said Fuccillo. "Fuccillo Kia is known for providing great service and a 'HUGE' selection of cars while offering customers the lowest prices around. At Fuccillo Kia of Port Charlotte, we look forward to helping even more customers in Florida receive the 'HUGE' deals that our customers expect and deserve."

Fuccillo Kia of Port Charlotte is located at 202 Tamiami Trail, and was built on a previously purchased commercial lot.

The two-story dealership includes a 50,000-squarefoot building housing the administration, service and main sales areas. In addition, Fuccillo constructed Huge Boulevard to provide direct access to the dealership off U.S. 41.

Fuccillo Kia of Port Charlotte will be Fuccillo's fourth Kia dealership in Florida.

Fuccillo Automotive Group expects to create up to 250 jobs with the opening of Fuccillo Kia of Port Charlotte. Interested job candidates can send their resumes to applications@fuccillo.com.

Pickup program comes to Wal-Mart

By **LAUREN COFFEY** STAFF WRITER CHARLOTTE SUN

NORTH PORT - Grocery shopping is becoming more digital for North Port residents.

The North Port Wal-Mart, 17000 Tamiami Trail, will unveil its new Online Grocery Pickup program on Aug. 8.

"How would you like me to give you back an hour and a half of your time?" said Wal-Mart general manager Dale Barghausen. "We're here to save you time and money. We're really excited we got chosen as a pilot store and to roll this out."

Customers will be able to order their groceries online and then choose a time to pick them up from Wal-Mart. There is a specified pickup space on the side of the building, where employees will bring the groceries to the customers' cars.

Wal-Mart stores in Venice and Osprey will also be unveiling the program Tuesday, following Fort Myers stores which have had the service. About 400 other Wal-Mart stores across the nation also have the pickup option.

Wal-Mart officials met in the Subway within the store Wednesday morning to unveil the program to community members and many North Port Area Chamber of Commerce representatives present.

Barghausen believes this service will extend beyond helping busy families and also help those running businesses.

"If you're running a day care and need supplies, you can have an associate run out and be in and out (of Wal-Mart) in 5 minutes," he said. "Assisted living facilities can get the basic things they need every week. We've got your back in your business."

Bill Gunnin, director for the North Port Area Chamber of Commerce, believes this innovation will help the community.

"It will help the population that struggles, whether it be physically, mentally, or they have kids," Gunnin said. "It's a great opportunity to give."

And John Choken, who is an assistant manager and overseeing the program, believes this helps the superstore compete with other retail giants.

"I think the program is great because it really integrates the internet, which if you don't do you'll see us fade away," Choken said. "Amazon doesn't have any stores and they're the biggest retailer in the world and we realize this is something we want to take advantage of."

As for concerns this will cut down on impulse shopping that can happen in a store, Barghausen believes it is worth the small cost in sales for providing convenience to customers.

"For retailers, we love impulse shopping but if you're a mom with four toddlers, you might want to use this," he said.

Others believe impulse shopping will happen no matter how customers go about getting their groceries.

"I impulse shop online because you don't see the physical money come out," Choken said. "And there's some people who will still shop here because they're set in their ways and they'll still impulse buy."

The pickup option will be available every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. beginning Tuesday.

22nd Annual Blue Chip Community Business Award

The 22nd annual Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award, coordinated and sponsored by BB&T-Oswald Trippe and Company and BB&T Bank will take place Thursday, Nov. 3 at Harborside Event Center, located at 1375 Monroe Street in Fort Myers. The annual Blue Chip Award program recognizes successful, small business owners who have overcome adversity to achieve success.

Larry Brudnicki, legendary U.S. Coast Guard Captain, has been selected as the keynote speaker for the 22nd Annual Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Award luncheon.

Captain Brudnicki was the Commanding Officer of the USCGC TAMAROA in New Castle, NH where he performed two dramatic rescues during the worst weather in more than 100 years. This event became known as "The Perfect Storm" and inspired The New York Times best-selling book and the blockbuster movie starring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg.

Captain Brudnicki retired from the Coast Guard in March 2002 after 30 years of active duty. During his career he supervised more than 15,000 search and rescue cases, which saved property valued at \$135 million and more than 1,600 lives. He also supervised the search for survivors of the Alaska Air Flight #261 tragedy.

Brudnicki holds a Merchant Marine Master's license and has won numerous awards for his accomplishments including, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two time winner), the Coast Guard Commendation Medal (four time winner), the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal (two time winner).

Now that he has retired, Brudnicki uses the experience he gained from leading successful high-risk missions with international visibility to deliver his message of leadership, teamwork and risk management. Brudnicki speaks to corporations, associations and organizations so that they can implement the steps necessary for success while avoiding pitfalls.

Charlotte, Collier and Lee County for-profit businesses that have been in operation for at least three years under the same ownership and employ five to 400 people are eligible for the Blue Chip Award. Applications must be submitted no later than Sept. 6, 2016 and independent judges will select the winning entry.

For information on attending the Blue Chip Award program or for submitting an application, please contact Stacey Mercado at 239- 433-7189 or SMercado@BBandT.com.

FLORIDA ECONOMIC NEWS

- Osceola high tech center becomes concrete reality ([Orlando Sentinel](#))

- Wisconsin firm to add 300 jobs in Fort Myers ([Business Observer](#))
- All Southwest Florida community banks report profit ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- Walmart launches online grocery pick-up service in region ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- Florida company gets approval to land on moon ([FAA](#))
- PGT reports record sales for second quarter ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- Higher-paying jobs being added in Orlando, analysis says ([Orlando Sentinel](#))
- Water and coffee add \$1 billion in sales to Tampa's Cott Corporation ([Tampa Bay Business Journal](#))

US ECONOMIC NEWS

- US consumer spending grew a solid 0.4 percent in June ([AP](#))
- US investment orders edge up 0.4 percent in June ([AP](#))
- Bumper US jobs data shore up stock markets ([AP](#))
- US adds a robust 255K jobs ([AP](#))

ENTREPRENEUR NEWS

- Customers are not always right! ([Jerry Osteryoung](#))
- Free plumbing classes launching to fill worker needs ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- FAU offers entrepreneurship courses to public ([FAU News](#))

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