

WEEKEND WAVE

09-02-16



Friday Economic Roundup

Allegiant adds Dayton route

By ANNE EASKER Staff Writer Charlotte Sun

Beginning Nov. 17, Allegiant Air will offer travelers a new, nonstop route to Punta Gorda from Dayton, Ohio. To celebrate, the company will offer fares starting at \$51.

"Allegiant is pleased to announce this new service, giving the people of Dayton their only nonstop option to Southwest Florida," said Allegiant Chief Operating Officer Jude Bricker. "We look forward to the new visitors and continued economic growth this service will bring to the Fort Myers area."

The announcement comes about a month after Frontier Airlines became the airport's second commercial airline, beginning services Oct. 30 to three U.S. cities: Chicago, Philadelphia and Trenton, New Jersey. With the addition of Dayton, travelers will be flying using the Punta Gorda Airport from 34 different cities.

"We are thrilled to welcome new Allegiant Air service from Dayton, Ohio, to Punta Gorda Airport," said James Parish, assistant executive director, Charlotte County Airport Authority.

The route will operate twice weekly, bringing an additional 18,000 visitors to southwest Florida annually, according to the company's press release. The airport's rolling 12-month passenger total is currently at 992,990. For July, the passenger count was 106,142, a 24.2 percent increase in traffic from July last year.

Lorah Steiner, Charlotte County tourism director said, "We know Dayton, Ohio, is ready to put some footprints in the sands of our beautiful southwest Gulf Coast beaches. We look forward to welcoming our first visitors from Dayton on Nov. 17."

Flights days, times, and fares can be found online at Allegiant.com.

Last Day for the Charlotte County e-Survey, "20 Questions"

Recently, you received a "heads up" about an important e-Survey called "20 Questions." This is a branding survey for the Charlotte County Economic Development Office. Ultimately, your answers will help us create a new brand identity and marketing aimed at companies planning to relocate or expand. **You can access that survey now on the link below.**



This "20 Questions" survey is anonymous. It's designed to produce meaningful data with minimal time required. Please take a few moments and complete it now. On behalf of the Charlotte County Economic Development Office, thank you!

Survey will be available until September 2, 2016.

<http://floridasinnovationcoast.com/survey>

Lucienne Pears
Director
Charlotte County Economic Development Office

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

- PGT hires new vice president of sales ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
 - Lake Mary-based 3D tech firm acquires N.H. company ([Orlando Sentinel](#))
 - Manufacturer to hire 185, build \$30 million plant in Lutz ([Business Observer](#))
 - Florida's NextEra says it has advisors ready for deal to buy giant Texas utility Oncor ([Dallas Morning News](#))
 - Florida among top states in business startup growth ([CBS Miami](#))
 - Global auto parts firm revs up in Fort Myers ([Business Observer](#))
 - TopGolf begins interviewing next week for up to 500 positions in Jacksonville ([Florida Times-Union](#))
 - South Florida has 2nd highest rate of minority businesses ([AP](#))
 - Boca Raton cosmetic tech company breaks into foreign billion-dollar market ([South Florida Business Journal](#))
 - Wellington aerospace company wins \$450 million contract ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
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US ECONOMIC NEWS

- U.S. Proposes Immigration Rule Aimed at Entrepreneurs ([NY Times](#))
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ENTREPRENEUR NEWS

- With interest rates low, it's a good time to buy a building for your business ([Jerry Osteryoung](#))
 - South Florida tech entrepreneurs can compete for \$20,000 in financing, services ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
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WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?



Classes Starting in Port Charlotte on Monday, September 19, 2016

Monday & Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Class runs six weeks for \$80

Develop a solid plan to guide your start up with the assistance of an experienced business owner who serves as your coach. Hear from subject matter experts in areas of accounting, legal, marketing, insurance and funding. After completion of the class, participants can apply for a microloan collateral guarantee from Goodwill.

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More information and to register go to: www.goodwillswfl.org/microenterprise or call (239) 995-2106, Ext. 2219

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United Way of Lee, Charlotte, and Collier Counties
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Class location:

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