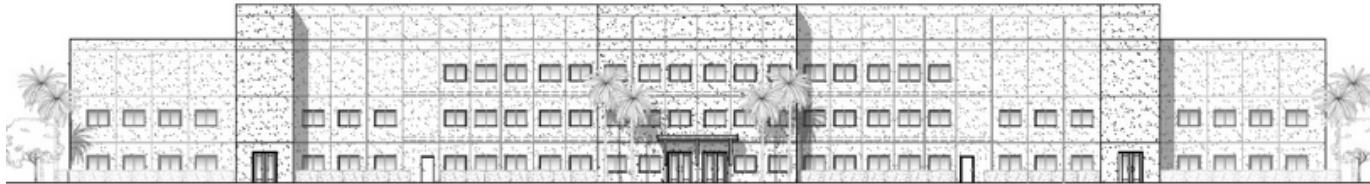


TWO LARGE PROJECTS BREAK GROUND IN PUNTA GORDA AIRPARK

Balentine Builder Services' custom countertops and cabinetry business broke ground on their project in August. The main building is 50,000 square feet and will include 11,250 square feet of showroom and office space. The second 15,000-square-foot building will be used primarily for warehousing.



RENDERING OF THE KING OF VAPE DISTRIBUTION CENTER AND SPEC BUILDING

The King of Vape three-story building will total 139,088 square feet, of which 116,340 square feet will consist of an air-conditioned warehouse for their distribution plus an additional 22,748 square feet of office space. Due to the owner's belief in the market, they are also building another 120,000 sq ft building on a spec basis. [Full article.](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT'S AMANDA BENTON MAKES HISTORY

Amanda Benton is the first person in Charlotte County Economic Development Office to pass the first of three exams needed to become a Certified Economic Developer (CECd) with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch told Economic Development Director, Dave Gammon that she will be replacing Dave soon. Dave says he, "knew Amanda was smarter than he was when he hired her." Great job, Amanda!

CHARLOTTE COUNTY RANKED FIFTH-FASTEST GROWING REGION IN THE NATION FOR POPULATION GROWTH

1. The Villages, FL
2. Myrtle Beach, SC
3. Lakeland, FL
4. Cape Coral, FL
5. Punta Gorda, FL
6. North Port, FL
7. St. George, UT
8. Port St. Lucie, FL
9. Panama City, FL
10. Spartanburg, SC



[Read more here.](#)

MANUFACTURING JOBS

426,000
(Increasing)

[View Statewide Heat Map](#)

10th
(Improving)

Top 5
2030 Goal

FLORIDA NOW IN THE TOP TEN FOR MANUFACTURING JOBS

Florida's manufacturing industry plays a vital role in making Florida a top 10 global economy by 2030, and this month's figures are a move in the right direction towards achieving our [Florida 2030 Blueprint](#) goal of being a top 5 state for manufacturing jobs. As Florida looks to surpass #9 North Carolina and ultimately have more manufacturing jobs than #5 Pennsylvania, we want to thank our Florida 2030 Blueprint Goal Leader FloridaMakes and FloridaCommerce for their work in helping to grow this vital sector. [Full article here.](#)