

BUSINESS NEWS

Job-A-Palooza: The Arc's Speed Job Search



Kathleen working at a restaurant.

You've heard of speed dating? Well, welcome to speed jobbing! Job-A-Palooza is a fast-paced job training event that gives candidates the opportunity to learn about possible careers and meet potential employers. The Arc of Palm Beach County is hosting the event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 9 at the Palm Beach Gardens campus of Palm Beach State College.

The Arc has recruited local businesses and organizations that want to hire people with disabilities. Each company will help participants to complete a task, then judge them on the quality or speed of their performance, depending on the task. For example, a candidate may be asked to bag items for a grocery store, roll silverware for a restaurant, or detail a vehicle for

a car wash. At the end of the event, the top performers will receive awards, and all job seekers will be recognized for participating.

Job-A-Palooza targets students with disabilities from age 14 to 21. Each applicant will choose at least five businesses and have a peer mentor to help them complete their job tasks. Funding for Job-A-Palooza is provided through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). The goal is to supply job training for people with disabilities, so they can earn an income in the future. Students must pre-register for the event by visiting www.arcpbc.org or by contacting Kristie Giles at kgiles@arcpbc.org.

"This event helps us advance our message of acceptance," said Kimberly McCarten, CEO and president of the Arc of Palm Beach

County. "We want businesses to know that we have a job force that is trained, eager and ready to work. We encourage people with disabilities to explore career options and experience the sense of accomplishment that comes with bringing home your first paycheck."

Job-A-Palooza is just one of the ways the Arc of Palm Beach County helps people enter the workforce. The Employment Services Program offers job seekers guidance throughout the year, and ongoing support for those who are hired. Employment specialists partner with businesses to discover and help create career opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. To learn more about Job-A-Palooza, visit www.arcpbc.org or call (561) 842-3213.

Sales Of Mid-Priced Single Family Homes Increase Countywide

The sales of Palm Beach County single family homes ranging from \$400,000 to \$599,999 realized a 14 percent year-over-year increase in May, while home sales over one million decreased by .8 percent, according to recently released real estate market reports.

Overall, closed sales decreased 2.7 percent, with cash transactions at -12.1 percent and the median sales price up by 5.7 percent to \$354,000. The median time to contract increased 2.1 percent to 49 days. Additionally, inventory (active listings) decreased 2 percent, and the months' supply of inventory remained the same

at 4.9 months. "The numbers for May reflect what could be a trend toward a leveling out of the market," said Jeffrey Levine, president-elect of the Realtors of the Palm Beaches and Greater Fort Lauderdale.

The Realtors of the Palm Beaches and Greater Fort Lauderdale is the third-largest local real estate association in the country. As one unified voice, RAPB + GFLR represents 30,000 Realtors, 33,000 MLS subscribers and five regional boards across South Florida and the Treasure Coast. For more information, visit www.rapbgflrmerge.com.

Lion Country Safari Expanding Lion Section

Lion Country Safari has begun expansion of the lion habitat in the four-mile drive-through preserve.

The project will expand the seven-acre section for the existing lions and accommodate a conservation and breeding program for a new pride of lions. There will be multiple lion viewing areas.

The project, scheduled for completion by mid-July, will pave the way for young, genetically valuable lions to form the core of a breeding pride at the park. This new pride consists of three females and two males. Lion Country Safari looks forward to future years of successful breeding and the birth of cubs in 2019.

The park, at the forefront of exceptional lion care, anticipates future cubs to contribute significantly to lion conservation and the AZA's African Lion Species Survival Plan. SSP programs, such as this one, allow zoos to care for healthy, genetically viable populations of threatened and endangered animals whose

reproduction helps to ensure the survival of the species.

Lion Country Safari is the only drive-through safari in South Florida. Guests can see more than 1000 animals on 320 acres. The park is also home to the largest herd of zebras in the country. To learn more, call (561) 793-1084 or visit www.lioncountryzoo.com.

Applebee's Partners With The Summer Savings Pass

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill + Bar recently announced a partnership with the Summer Savings Pass, which provides unlimited admission to four family-friendly attractions in South Florida through Sept. 30: Lion Country Safari, the Miami Seaquarium, the Museum of Discovery & Science and Zoo Miami. Through July 1, guests can visit a participating Applebee's location and enter to win a family four pack of free Summer Savings Passes.

Specifically, each of 18 participating Applebee's restaurants in Broward, Indian River, Miami-Dade, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties will draw a winner at random to receive one family four pack of Summer Savings Passes, which includes passes for two adults and two children. Entries will be accepted through July 1, and winners will be notified following the close of the entry period.

"We are excited to announce this promotion in partnership with the Summer Savings Pass," Marc Prince, director of operations for Applebee's in Florida and Georgia. "At Applebee's, we are committed to being involved in the neighborhoods we serve and supporting local community groups, schools,

athletic associations and charitable organizations, as well as promoting education. We look forward to providing local families with the opportunity to enjoy some summer fun in South Florida."

The Summer Savings Pass provides passholders with unlimited admission to the four attractions for one price. Passes are valid through Sept. 30 and cost \$58 for adults and \$48 for children ages three through 12. For more information, or to purchase passes, visit www.summersavingspass.com.

Applebee's restaurants participating in the family four pack giveaway include the Boynton Beach Applebee's, Greenacres Applebee's, Royal Palm Beach Applebee's, West Delray Applebee's and West Palm Beach Applebee's in Palm Beach County.

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill + Bar brings together a lively bar and grill experience offering hand-crafted drinks and craveable, simple, American food with flair, featuring vibrant flavors and real, fresh ingredients.

All Applebee's restaurants are owned and operated by entrepreneurs dedicated to serving their communities and offering the best in food and drinks with neighborly, genuine service.

Specialty Coffee Roaster Oceana Coffee Launches New 'Cup Of Kindness' Program

Local specialty coffee roaster, wholesaler and retailer Oceana Coffee is launching a program called "A Cup of Kindness," where each quarter Oceana Coffee customers select one of three charities to receive a \$500 donation.

The new program involves customers at the Oceana Coffee Café in Tequesta dropping one bean per purchase into the coffee cup of their choice sporting the logo of the organization that they would like to see receive the \$500. At the end of the quarter, the bean-votes are tallied and Oceana Coffee owners Amy and Scott Angelo cut the check.

"Businesses can tend to overuse the idea of 'giving back to the community,'" Amy said. "But when you find yourself not just in the position to be able to do so, but also feel in your heart that you want to help folks less fortunate than yourself, the way we feel,

it's what you do. It's why we pay small family coffee farmers as well as we do; why we buy from farms that support sustainable practices; why we take part in local charity events and fundraising efforts. It's the way we feel, and if we can put a little money where our mouth is, we do it."

A Cup of Kindness is rolling out now with the first round underway at the Oceana Coffee Café on Hwy. 1 in Tequesta.

Round 1 charities are:

Els for Autism, an organization that provides lifespan services to help adults with autism transition to all aspects of life, including employment, independent living and recreation.

Piper's Angels, which supports and improves the lives of families in the cystic fibrosis community through heightened awareness and providing education, life expanding activities and financial support.



Oceana's first "A Cup of Kindness" campaign will support Els for Autism, Piper's Angels and Friends of Jupiter Beach.

Friends of Jupiter Beach, a community organization with a mission to support and maintain environmentally healthy, clean and dog-friendly beaches in Jupiter.

Oceana Coffee company has been procuring, roasting, retailing and wholesaling some of the finest fair trade whole bean coffees from family-owned farms located in the richest coffee growing regions in the world since 2009. This once-modest operation now competes with the most successful

specialty coffee roasters in the country.

Oceana Coffee is award-winning, offers many varieties that aficionados of top-shelf coffee have come to adore, and is backed by a team that cares where its product comes from and where its stateside operations are going. Try a cup of one of the finest locally roasted coffees in the world at the Oceana Coffee Café, located at 150 N. U.S. Hwy. 1 in Tequesta, or visit www.oceanacoffee.com.