



WARM COLORS

TAKE FLIGHT INTO SUMMER GARDENING AT HOME 1D

POWER HITTER

DELAND CATCHER NAMED PLAYER OF THE YEAR SPORTS 1B

MAYA ANGELOU

'CAGED BIRD' AUTHOR DIES AT 86 NATION 3A



THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL

NEWS-JOURNALONLINE.COM

HOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS BEACH

THURSDAY

MAY 29, 2014

COASTAL EDITION 75 CENTS

WEST POINT GRADUATION

Obama calls for military restraint

By JULIE PACE and JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — In a broad defense of his foreign policy, President Barack Obama declared Wednesday that the U.S. remains the world's most indispensable nation, even after a "long season of war," but argued for restraint before embarking on more military adventures.



BARACK OBAMA

Standing before the newest class of officers graduating from the U.S. Military Academy, Obama said, "I would betray my duty to you, and to the country we love, if I sent you into harm's way simply because I saw a problem somewhere in the world that needed fixing, or because I was worried about critics who think military intervention is the

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VOLUSIA, FLAGLER ECONOMY

SKILL SHORTAGE

Workforce Summit highlights growing need for skilled workers



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Nicholas Gray is one of about a half-dozen employees in Hudson Technologies' tool and die apprenticeship program that the Ormond Beach manufacturer set up last year after it was unable to fill open positions.

By BOB KOSLOW
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DAYTONA BEACH — Hudson Technologies in Ormond Beach has had manufacturing jobs open for skilled and experienced workers for at least six months with wages from \$12 to \$28 an hour, depending on experience.

"It's becoming more and more difficult to find external candidates," said Bret Schmitz, company president. "If I could find an experienced tool and die maker, I would hire them in a heartbeat."

Schmitz was one of about 100 business, education and community leaders to attend a Workforce Summit on Wednesday. They met to discuss skilled worker shortages and ways to encourage, train and funnel workers to job vacancies at a time when the unemployment

"If I could find an experienced tool and die maker, I would hire them in a heartbeat."

BRET SCHMITZ
Hudson Technologies president

rate in Volusia County stands at 5.7 percent and 8.3 percent in Flagler County, the second highest in the state.

The lack of skilled workers is not only a manufacturing problem. It's affecting construction, health care, leisure and hospitality, and professional and business services, along with transportation and logistics industries as well.

"We have shortages in many of the skill trades," Bob Fitzsimmons, president of the Volusia Building Industry Association, said at the summit.

Fitzsimmons, a builder who runs Gallery Homes of DeLand, said, "It's taking longer to get a (construction) job done. Jobs that took three days are now five or seven. We used to average 100 to 110 days to build a house. Now it's 120 to 130 days."

Daytona State College organized the summit at its Advanced Technology College in Daytona Beach.

The skilled worker shortage is evidenced in many surveys and reports and affects many industries, said the summit's moderator, Mary Bruno, associate vice president of

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SunRail crossings to be patrolled

By MARK HARPER
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The Florida Highway Patrol will hire off-duty troopers to patrol SunRail crossings at state highways beginning Monday after the commuter train hit two vehicles in the first month of service.

The Florida Department of Transportation, which is overseeing SunRail operations, signed a contract on May 21 to pay the Highway Patrol \$25,000 for extra scrutiny around train crossings until June 30 as part of its

SEE SUNRAIL, PAGE 11A

Florida Hospital expansion to provide long-term intensive care

By SKYLER SWISHER
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DAYTONA BEACH — Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center is expanding into its vacant 11th floor and opening a specialty unit to provide extended intensive care, a project that is expected to generate more than 100 jobs.

The 34-bed unit — called a long-term acute care hospital — will be the first of its kind in the area and geared toward patients with serious medical problems who need extended care on a ventilator, wound care or other forms of intensive care.

Although it will be in Florida Hospital Memorial, Mechanics-

"It's a sense of hope for a lot of families that this specialized service exists."

EDWIN BODENSIEK
spokesman for Select Medical

burg, Pennsylvania-based Select Medical Corp. will run the unit, a concept known as a hospital within a hospital.

Florida Hospital is already partnering with the company in Orlando and has seen good patient outcomes, said Darlinda Copeland, chief operating officer for Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center.

Patients presently need to travel to Orlando or Green Cove Springs near Jacksonville to access a long-term acute care hospital.

"We felt like this was a huge community gap," Copeland said. "The patients end up having to be transferred far away. They are not able to be seen by their community physician. It's difficult for their families to have to travel."

The state approved the new unit in March. Construction will begin in late summer, and the unit is expected to be operational by the summer of 2015. The total project

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News-Journal/LOLA GOMEZ

Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center's Chief Operating Officer Darlinda Copeland shows off the empty 11th floor that will be converted into an intensive care unit.



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WEATHER
A thunderstorm in the evening.
High 86; low 70.
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VA 'SYSTEMIC' PROBLEMS
Investigation found waiting lists "manipulation"; new calls for Shinseki to resign.
NATION 3A

MISSING MONEY
Treasurer accused of stealing \$20K from Hinson Middle School Parent Teacher Association.
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