

ROUNDUP

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Meyer Jabara has owned the Courtyard since 1995, although at that time it operated as a Sheraton. It switched to Four Points by Sheraton in 1998 and became a Courtyard by Marriott in 2006. Meyer Jabara has partnered with Westport Capital on the latest expansion.

Birchler said business has been strong so far this year, staying in line with 2014 occupancy rates. "Marriott is such a strong brand," she said. "We're excited about the renovations."

EFFORT RECOGNIZED

Seven years ago local government groups, chambers, universities and development agencies joined to create the Business Resource Network.

Efforts of the partnership have been recognized with a "promising practice" rating from the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.

The network, which has 44 member agencies in Stark and Tuscarawas counties, provides a range of services for businesses, including the OhioMeansJobs Centers for both counties.

Organizers created the network with the goal of providing one-stop access to a full range of business services. The list includes financial

incentives, employee training, business consulting, export help and technical assistance, often at no cost to the company.

The U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation Fund presented a \$6 million grant to the network in 2012, helping it to expand services to 13 other counties.

Since then, local network account executives in Stark and Tuscarawas counties have conducted 161 company interviews and delivered 119 service proposals. During that period leveraged resources totaled \$230,589.

ALL SIGNED UP

LSI Industries, which has graphics operations based in Lake Township, announced this week that the company will provide graphics and lighting for two of the Phillips 66's fuel brands.

Later this year the LSI will begin supplying "national image programs" that include the new Phillips 66 shield and the 76 Wave. As a preferred provider, LSI said it expects to be involved in the Phillips project beyond the initial rollout.

Dave McCauley, president of LSI Graphics Segment, said the company is seeing increased interest from gasoline convenience chains such as Phillips.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

If you caught yourself sigh-

ing with relief on Friday it might have been because of the passing of Ohio's "Tax Freedom Day."

The Tax Foundation, which claims to be nonpartisan, said Ohio was the 23rd state to clear the Tax Freedom Day hurdle. That means last Friday marked the day that Ohio residents theoretically had earned enough income to pay all of their taxes.

Meanwhile national Tax Freedom Day won't arrive until this coming Friday. That is one day later than 2014, according to the foundation.

Why?

The foundation's press release states: "due mainly to the country's continued steady economic growth, which is expected to boost tax revenue especially from the corporate, payroll, and individual income tax."

The press release also said that Americans will collectively spend more on taxes this year than they will on food, clothing and housing combined.

For what it's worth, Tax Freedom Day arrived earliest — on April 2 — in Louisiana. Folks in Connecticut and New Jersey will wait the longest, until May 13.

Reach Edd at 330-580-8484 or edd.pritchard@cantonrep.com
On Twitter: @epritchardREP