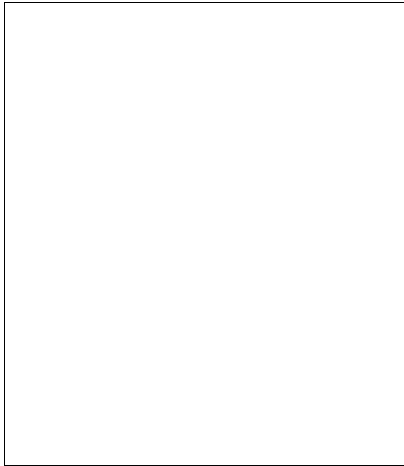


Santa Rosa may get 750 well-paying jobs

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SANTA ROSA COUNTY -- Up to 750 well-paying jobs could be coming to Santa Rosa County, according to TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council Executive Director Cindy Anderson.

"We only target and market to industries that have an average wage grade that is higher than what the county's average wage grade is," Anderson told the TEAM board of directors Tuesday at its meeting in Gulf Breeze. "We do not target low-paying jobs."

The average hourly wage in Santa Rosa in 2009 is a little more than \$15, she said.

While Anderson wouldn't identify any prospective employers, seven companies are considering making Santa Rosa their home, she said. Those industries represent the aviation, information technology, renewable energy and manufacturing sectors.

The prospects are looking at areas in Navarre, Gulf Breeze, the Whiting Aviation Park, the Northwest Florida Industrial Park at Interstate 10 and an existing structure in the county industrial park in East Milton.

"When a company is looking at an existing building, that's most exciting," she said. "It's so much more difficult to find fits for existing buildings."

TEAM's board meeting in Gulf Breeze was the first in a series of meetings around the county. Usually, the board meets at TEAM's offices in Milton. Future meetings are scheduled for Navarre, Jay and Locklin Tech in Milton.

"I want the citizens of the county to get familiar with who is on the TEAM Santa Rosa board," said Ferd Salomon, chairman of the TEAM board. ... "I think it's important that they know who we are and what we do and how we go about our business. We have a tremendously success organization."

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