The Day

MARE LIBERUM VOX LIBERA

Sports: Cavs rout Celtics, 114-91, in showdown for top spot in NBA Eastern Conference **Page C1**

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017 VOL. 136, NO. 279 46 PAGES NEW LONDON www.theday.com $1.00

Region gets good news on jobs

Norwich-New London growth leads the state

By BRIAN HALLENBECK
Day Staff Writer

All but buried in the state Department of Labor's latest monthly employment report was a sentence about how the Norwich-New London Labor Market Area was the fastest growing LMA in the state, having added 1,200 jobs since February 2016.

That line, "a sight for sore regional eyes," resonated with the nonprofit Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board's staff, which knew hiring in the area had started to pick up in 2015.

"The month-to-month reports don't always tell the full story," John Beauregard, EWIB's president and chief executive officer, said Wednesday.

So, Beauregard and Don Klepper-Smith, the much-quoted chief economist and director of research for DataCore Partners of Durham, undertook a study of two years' worth of job counts "from all angles," analyzing payroll data from local businesses and census surveys of individual workers.

5,700
Jobs added in 41-town region of eastern Connecticut over the last two years.

3,500
Drop in number of unemployed workers in the same region over the same period.

"They both pointed in the same direction," providing evidence of significant job growth in the region, said Klepper-Smith, who reegularly crunches employment statistics.

The study found that over the last two years, the 41-town region served by EWIB added more than 5,700 jobs, a nearly 3 percent increase, Beauregard said. At the same time, the number of unemployed workers declined by nearly 3,500, or 22 percent.

The trends coincide with ramped-up hiring at Electric Boat and sug-

SEE EB PAGE A5

EB hiring expected to have big economic multiplier effect, report says

FROM A1

gest the region's "economic potential" is burgeoning.

"Today, it is clear that the southeastern Connecticut economy has considerable momentum heading into 2017 that is often overlooked by many," Klepper-Smith writes in the report, titled "EWIB Economic Scorecard: New Perspectives on the Eastern Connecticut Economy."

"EB is creating a significant number of new jobs over the next several years, and the economic multipliers there in manufacturing are impressive," he writes. "The latest Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data show there are almost 22,000 manufacturing jobs in the region, which are generating above-average wages and state and local taxes to support the local economy."

Beauregard said adding 5,700 people to a region's workforce has all kinds of ripple effects. "Other sectors of the economy — retail, tourism — grow right along with the labor market," he said.

The EWIB study notes that the region's jobs growth has translated into an improved housing market. In 2016, single-family home sales in New London County increased by 8.9 percent over the previous year, with median home values rising by 1.9 percent, or $4,000.

"Research shows that for every dollar gained in local home values, consumers spend another 7 cents in the local area economy," Klepper-Smith writes.

EWIB is being aggressive in calling attention to the region's gains because of the importance of the public's perception, Beauregard said.

"Consumer confidence drives so much of what happens in the economy. When people look at the economic situation around them and they're seeing jobs go up and unemployment go down, it starts to become solidified," he said.

b.hallenbeck@theday.com