



June 4, 2018

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR BUSINESS – With the start of the tropical storm season, the timing is right for business owners to review their disaster preparedness plans and update contingency components. One helpful resource is the free American Red Cross Ready Rating program. It is one of many free online resources, and it offers easy-to-use guidelines, forms and checklists. Go to www.readyrating.org to learn about the complete program or directly review resources at <https://tinyurl.com/yajmnl4>.

2018 FLORIDA COMPANIES TO WATCH AWARDS – GrowFL, a Florida economic development organization in support of second-stage growth companies, is accepting applications for its annual Florida Companies to Watch® awards program. The event – now in its eighth year – honors 50 select second-stage companies from throughout the state for developing valuable products and services, creating quality jobs and new industries throughout Florida. Eligible applicants must be privately held, second-stage commercial enterprises. Qualifying companies must also be headquartered in Florida, employ between 6 and 150 employees, and earn between \$750,000 and \$100 million in annual revenue. Applications are open through July 9, 2018. For more information or to apply, visit <http://www.growfl.com/flctw18/>.

ACADEMY OF ALLIED HEALTH – The academy at Seabreeze High School provides students with an opportunity to learn about and gain hands-on experience for careers in the health care industry, such as athletic trainer, dental hygienist, diagnostic medical sonographer, dietitian, medical technologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, radiographer, respiratory therapist and speech language pathologist. Students take a progression of courses, including Medical Skills and Services, which offers CPR/AED and First Aid Certification; Health Science Anatomy and Physiology; and Allied Health 3. Senior level courses provide students with real-world experiences through health care partnerships and an opportunity to earn industry certifications. For details, contact Academy Director Brian Eschen at bpeschen@volusia.k12.fl.us.

CONSTRUCTION JOBS REPORT – As reported, 38 states and the District of Columbia added construction jobs between April 2017 and April 2018, according to an analysis of Labor Department data by the Associated General Contractors of America. Association officials said the employment growth likely would have been higher if firms had found more qualified workers to hire. California added 59,500 construction jobs (7.4 percent) since April 2017 while Florida added 34,900 jobs (7.0 percent). Eleven states lost construction jobs over the past year, while construction employment was unchanged in Montana. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y84jwd3k> to learn more.

VIDEOS ON HOW TO EXPORT – Each year, U.S. companies export well over \$2 trillion of goods and services. If you want your business to get in on the action, it's important to figure out the best way to expand to new markets. The U.S. Commercial Service has developed a comprehensive video collection to help your small business become better equipped to enter the exciting exporting world. The collection includes such key topics as Get Ready to Export, Plan Your Market Entry Strategy, Find Foreign Buyers, Get Paid and Finance Your Export Transactions, Make the Export Sale, and Navigate Your Market Successfully. To access these videos, go to <https://www.export.gov/How-to-Export>.

THE OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK – Recent media reports remind us that graduation season is here and there's no better time to review the latest career and occupation outlooks. One comprehensive resource is the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/home.htm>. The OOH provides information on what workers do. This includes work environment, education, pay rates and job forecasts. One easy-to-use tool is the OOH Occupation Finder, where you can filter occupations by level of job, required education, on-the-job training, projected number of new jobs, job growth rate and 2017 median pay. Try it at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/occupation-finder.htm>.

REPORT ON PUBLIC SCHOOL CAREER AND TECH EDUCATION – This U.S. Department of Education report is based on the 2016-17 survey of Career and Technical Education Programs in Public School Districts and provides nationally representative data on career and technical education (CTE) programs. The survey was released in April, and its findings cover many aspects of CTE, including the extent of program offerings, the incidence of career pathways content, and the types of work-based learning activities. To access the complete report, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y6uk5m88>.

WEATHERMELON APP – The Weathermelon application for produce professionals consolidates weather information for the top 30-plus fresh produce items sold in the U.S. for all major growing regions. For each commodity, the app is able to send daily alerts on potential weather issues specific to that commodity. The app also provides a 10-day forecast for each region as well as average high/low monthly temperatures and estimated harvest start/end dates. To learn more, visit <https://www.weathermelon.com/>.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! – Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley, Volusia County Community Information director, at jmagley@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.