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ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY AND CULINARY ARTS – The academy at Mainland High School prepares students for life after high school in the hospitality and tourism career cluster. The curriculum is sponsored by the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation and provides opportunities to earn professional industry certifications. The tracks include culinary arts, lodging and tourism. For more information, contact Executive Director Suzanne Gibson at sgibson@volusia.k12.fl.us or 386-258-4665, ext. 54276.

DAB, TORTUGAS AND JETBLUE TEAM UP – Daytona Beach International Airport (DAB) is teaming up with the Daytona Tortugas for New York Night at Jackie Robinson Ballpark on May 27, when the Tortugas take on the Tampa Yankees. Fans will have a chance to win a round-trip certificate for two on JetBlue to New York City from Daytona Beach. Fans attending the game should stop by the airport tent near Autograph Alley to register. The winner will be chosen randomly and announced during the seventh inning. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/nyfnxyw> or contact Jay Cassens at jcassens@volusia.org or 386-248-8037.

CONTINUITY PLANNING FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY BUSINESSES – Planning for a disaster can save a business thousands of dollars due to structural damage, content damage, interruption of operations, and employee displacement. To minimize a disaster's impact, business owners should have a business emergency disaster and recovery plan. The Volusia Prepares Business program promotes cooperation between local government and private industry. Assistance is available for business continuity planning and disaster preparedness at <http://tinyurl.com/htos4do>.

FLORIDA SEAPORT PLAN HIGHLIGHTS ECONOMIC IMPACTS – The State of Florida's recently released 2017 Seaport Mission Plan highlights the significant impact of seaport-related economic activity. The state's 15 seaports support 900,000 direct and indirect jobs from Pensacola to Key West and represent nearly \$118 billion in total economic activity. Capital investment in Florida ports produces more than \$4.2 billion in tax revenue each year and helps to support Florida's position as a top destination for family vacations and the cruise industry. Cruisers embarking from Florida ports represent 62 percent of U.S. cruise passengers. This traffic helped Florida welcome nearly 113 million visitors last year.

ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON FORECAST – The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends Nov. 30. According to an early forecast released last month, hurricane researchers at Colorado State University (CSU) are predicting a slightly below-average Atlantic hurricane season, citing the potential development of El Niño and recent cooling in the tropical Atlantic as primary factors. The CSU Tropical Meteorology Project team is predicting 11 named storms during the season. Of those, researchers expect four to become hurricanes and two to reach major hurricane strength. To learn more, visit www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness.

VISUALIZING ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORKS VIA TWITTER – To identify entrepreneurial hot spots and business connections across cities, university researchers from Arizona State and Michigan State gathered over 6.5 million tweets and retweets from people identifying as entrepreneurs using the hashtags #smallbiz and #entrepreneur. The researchers pulled together profile information and geocoding for nearly 300,000 unique users and created a Twitter activity map about entrepreneurship across U.S. locations. To view the national map visit <http://tinyurl.com/mb9z6m7>.

DANGERS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that distracted driving claimed more than 3,400 lives and led to an estimated 400,000 injuries in 2015. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety Culture Index also cites distraction as a serious problem. AAA's latest research has discovered that distraction "latency" lasts an average of 27 seconds, meaning that even after drivers put down the phone or stop fiddling with the navigation system, they aren't fully engaged with the driving task. Visit www.aaafoundation.org/distracted-driving to learn more.

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.