EXPERIENCE THE SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – Up to 10,000 attendees are expected at the 143rd Imperial Session July 9 - 13 in Daytona Beach. Imperial Session is an annual business meeting and gathering of the international fraternity composed of nearly 200 temples (chapters) in several countries. Many events are open to the public and include the Walk, Ride or Drive for Love at the Daytona International Speedway, the Shriner's parade on A1A, concerts at the Bandshell and more. The events will raise funds and awareness for Shriner's Hospitals for Children, founded by Shriner's International in 1922 as its official philanthropy. To volunteer during the week’s events, contact Amber Tischler, convention services coordinator at ATischler@DaytonaBeach.com or 386-255-0415 x 117. For a complete schedule of events, visit volusia.org/shriners.

#HURRICANESTRONG -- The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) announces #HURRICANESTRONG, a national hurricane resilience initiative to save lives and homes through collaboration with leading organizations in the disaster safety movement. The collaboration offers hurricane safety and mitigation information for families and practitioners alike through business summits, digital channels, home improvement store workshops, kids programming, media outreach, school lesson plans, special events, and a social media campaign featuring a #HurricaneStrong “Pose.” For more information, go to www.flash.org/hurricanestrong/.

ENGINEERING ACADEMY -- The Engineering Academy at University High School provides training in engineering and technology-related fields through the national Project Lead The Way Pathways to Engineering program. Students learn how to use industry standard 3D design software used by companies like Intel, Lockheed Martin and Pixar. For more information, contact Academy Director Steve Perri at siperri@volusia.k12.fl.us.

FINANCIAL BASICS FOR YOUR BUSINESS – From budgeting to financial reports, this new workshop will provide you with the information you need to become a better steward of your small-business finances. The workshop will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at the Daytona State College campus, UCF building 150, room 100. Reservations are required and can be made online at http://tinyurl.com/vcty5s8 or by calling 386-255-6889.

CUSTOMIZED EXPORT MARKETING PLANS AVAILABLE -- Enterprise Florida and the Florida SBDC Network offer qualified Florida manufacturers and services providers customized export marketing plans to analyze a company’s products and services for export-readiness, target key markets, understand the competitive landscape and develop successful market entry strategies. Export marketing plans cost $4,000, but qualifying companies are eligible for a $3,500 grant from the state, making the final company cost only $500. For more information, call Virgil Kimball at 386-248-8048, option 2.

SBDC OFFERS QUICKBOOKS 2015 COURSE -- Participants will work on examples in a computer lab with a QuickBooks 2015 instructor. The course provides a workbook, a 160-day trial of QuickBooks, and a certificate of completion. Participants will learn information to set up a company: work with forms, lists and inventory, and how to process payments, reconcile bank accounts, create reports, track and pay sales tax, payroll, and job costing. The course will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday from June 28 to July 26, at Daytona State College, building 150, room 312. For more information, call Tracey Martin at 386-506-4723.

FED TO BEGIN QUANTITATIVE TIGHTENING -- The Federal Reserve recently raised interest rates by 0.25 percent to 1 percent. The Fed also decided to start unwinding its $4.5 trillion balance sheet sometime this year, beginning at $10 billion per month. This action is known as Quantitative Tightening or QT - the opposite of Quantitative Easing or QE. With QE, the Fed purchased treasuries and mortgage-backed securities, injecting money into the economy. Now with QT, the Fed is taking money out of the system, hence the tightening of monetary policy. To learn more, visit https://dailereckoning.com/quantitative-tightening/.

GROWFL WEBINAR -- GrowFL will present a one-hour webinar, Managing Your Private Business Wealth, at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, June 29. This presentation will provide case studies on recent private company internal ownership transfers such as family, second generation, management and key employees. The discussion will review how these transactions were structured and funded. The webinar will also cover private company valuation methodology and the drivers for value growth to help business owners prepare for their future. To RSVP, visit www.growfl.com/all_events/case-study-managing-private-business-wealth.

SMALL FOOD AND BEVERAGE MAKERS FIND GROWTH -- A recent Nielsen Insight report finds small food and beverage manufacturers are gaining ground against their larger manufacturing competitors. Today, the smallest manufacturers, nearly 16,000 companies, account for 19 percent of dollar sales and are driving 53 percent of the growth. For more details, visit http://tinyurl.com/yacht8lx.

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