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ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

HIGH-WAGE CAREER OPPORTUNITY – Power delivery is a robust and growing industry, and the career paths and earning potential are nearly limitless for ambitious individuals with the appropriate education. It is estimated that within five years 50 percent of current lineworkers will be retiring, thereby creating a significant need for pre-apprentices to enter the trade. Locally, the Northwest Lineman Center in Edgewater offers a 15-week Electrical Lineworker Program. To learn more, the campus will host a rodeo and graduation at 9 a.m. Aug. 31 at 501 Pullman Road in the Parktowne Industrial Park, Edgewater.

HUMAN RESOURCE CERTIFICATION EXAM PREP – The Volusia/Flagler Society of Human Resource Management has partnered with the University of Central Florida's Division of Continuing Education to help human resource professionals achieve the highest level of learning and to assist with training, professional advancement and preparation for the SHRM-CP or SHRM-SCP certification examinations. Program participants will receive excellent customer service, in-depth information, individualized assistance and prompt follow-up throughout the course and examination process. For more information, visit www.ce.ucf.edu/Courses.

ACADEMY OF DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDING TECHNOLOGY – This academy at Atlantic High School enhances students' skills as musicians, either instrumentally or vocally, through the exploration of studio recording techniques used throughout the world. Partnerships with Bethune-Cookman University and Daytona State College students provide hands-on experiences in the recording arts. Contact Academy Director Jeff Brown at jsbrown@volusia.k12.fl. The numerous Volusia County Schools career academy programs provide industry sector focused preparation and student engagement. As the workforce of tomorrow, academy students gain early career knowledge, skill development and workplace exposure. Business owners are encouraged to consider the advantages of participating with career academies.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH – National Preparedness Month, recognized each September, provides an opportunity to remind us that we all must prepare ourselves and our families now and throughout the year. That's the theme of this year's National Preparedness Month. During the month, emergency officials encourage residents to take steps to be prepared for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work and play. For local information on preparing for emergencies, visit www.volusia.org/emergency and follow Emergency Management on Facebook and Twitter @VCEmergencyInfo.

GLOBAL SPACE INDUSTRY ESTIMATES – As recently reported, there are now 10 licensed commercial spaceports in the U.S., from Alaska to Florida, double the number in 2004. At least two other proposed spaceports are under federal review: Spaceport Camden and Spaceport Colorado. The spaceports are pursuing a piece of the global space industry that, including government and commercial activities, reached \$384 billion in 2017. This compares with \$207 billion in 2007, according to Space Foundation, a nonprofit advocacy group. The global space industry is projected to top \$1.1 trillion by 2040, according to an estimate last year by Morgan Stanley Research.

SEEKING TRAILS SYSTEM PUBLIC INPUT – The latest draft of the Florida Greenways and Trails System Five-Year Plan is open for public comment until Aug. 31. The plan establishes the vision for implementing a connected statewide system of greenways and trails for recreation, conservation, transportation choices, healthy lifestyles, a vibrant economy and a high quality of life. To review the 24-page draft of the 2018-2022 five-year plan, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y9xyo8p8>. To make comments, contact Samantha Browne at Samantha.Browne@FloridaDEP.gov. To learn about the many features of Volusia County's trails and their system connections, visit www.volusia.org/trails.

FLORIDA'S FINANCIAL HEALTH – According to a new report from the state Division of Bond Finance, the State of Florida's debt amount dropped from \$28.2 billion in July 2010 to \$21 billion through June 30, 2018, representing a 25 percent reduction. Since the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the state has carried out 104 bond refinancings resulting in a gross savings of nearly \$3 billion. The report highlighted other financial improvements, including paying back \$3.4 billion borrowed from the federal government to cover unemployment benefits after the last recession.

ECONOMIC IMPACT – As reported, MacDill Air Force Base has increased its total economic impact on the Tampa Bay region by 8 percent over the last three years to \$3.18 billion in 2017. MacDill is home to U.S. Special Operations Command and U.S. Central Command, two of 10 unified combatant commands in the U.S. Department of Defense. In 2017, the number of jobs MacDill said it created rose to 30,000 from 24,400, while the average annual salary decreased 1.5 percent to \$46,080. Overall, defense spending brings about \$7.5 billion in total direct spending to the seven-county Tampa Bay area, according to a study released in December by Enterprise Florida. To learn more about U.S. combatant commands, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y75fpup4>.

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