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ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTES AND SHELTER INFORMATION – Do you know the location of the nearest shelter or the closest designated emergency evacuation route from your home or business? Volusia County's Emergency Management website, www.volusia.org/emergency is a comprehensive source for emergency preparedness with links to information on weather, flooding, shelters and more. Businesses, residents and visitors can follow Emergency Management on Facebook and Twitter @VCEmergencyInfo. To view the interactive, online map of Volusia County hurricane evacuation routes and shelter locations, go to <http://tinyurl.com/mzss3pz>.

GROWFL ANNOUNCES FLORIDA 2019 COMPANIES TO WATCH FINALISTS – GrowFL, Florida's leading organization in support of second-stage growth companies, has announced the first round of the 2019 Florida Companies to Watch finalists. Chosen from 224 growing second-stage participants from throughout Florida, this year's applicants had a total revenue of \$596 million and over 3,000 employees. The awards event will honor 50 select second-stage companies for developing valuable products and services, creating quality jobs, enriching communities, and broadening new industries. Finalists now advance to the second round for further evaluations based on market performance, innovative products, services or processes, philanthropy and empowered employees. In addition to evaluating past growth and projected success, applicant companies are judged according to their special strengths and impact in their markets, communities and within the state – thus deeming them "worth watching." The honorees for this year's award will be announced in July. For general information about the Florida GrowFL program, visit www.growfl.com.

SBA MAKERSPACE TRAINING, COLLABORATION & HIRING (MaTCH) COMPETITION UNDERWAY – In today's booming economy, employers are searching for qualified workers to fill the increasing number of positions currently available. In response to the increased demand, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced the Makerspace Training, Collaboration and Hiring (MaTCH) Pilot Competition, which seeks to address the job skills and placement gaps faced by U.S. businesses. MaTCH will provide funding to create or expand programs with job-specific and soft skills training within existing makerspaces. The SBA will award up to \$1 million in total prizes to fund selected winning proposals. The submission period began May 21 and ends July 8. Winners will be announced Aug. 6. To learn more about the competition's eligibility criteria and prize awards, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y4cyefsv>.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES ACADEMY – This academy at University High School offers a challenging set of courses in which students learn about various diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and sickle cell anemia. The academy offers a course in human body systems and medical interventions where students learn how healing and modern medicine affects the body. For details, contact Academy Director Jessica Clayton at jclayto@volusia.k12.fl.us. The numerous Volusia County Schools career academy programs provide industry sector focused preparation and student engagement. As the emerging workforce of the future, academy students gain early career knowledge, skill development and workplace exposure. Business owners are encouraged to consider the advantages of participating with career academies.

MANUFACTURING GROWTH CONTINUES IN 2019 – U.S. economic growth is expected to continue this year, say the nation's purchasing and supply executives in their Spring 2019 Semiannual Economic Forecast. Expectations for the remainder of 2019 continue to be positive in both the manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors. These projections are part of the forecast issued by the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Business Survey Committees. In the manufacturing sector, 55% of respondents from the panel of manufacturing supply management executives predict their revenues, on average, will be 4% greater in 2019 compared to 2018, 11% expect decline, and 34% foresee no revenue change. This yields an overall average forecast of 4% revenue growth among manufacturers for 2019. With an operating rate of 84.2%, along with an expected capital expenditure increase of 5.9%, a 1.5% price increase for raw materials, and an anticipated 2% employment increase, manufacturing is positioned to grow revenues while managing costs through the remainder of the year.

2019 BEST & WORST STATES FOR MILITARY RETIREES – People typically view their retirement as the end of the line — a time for rest, relaxation and the pursuit of interests long ago put on the back burner. But the story is far different for military retirees who must deal with the trials of re-assimilation into civilian life. For starters, the average officer is only 45 years old — 42 for non-disability enlisted personnel — upon retirement from service. Many of those who re-enter the job market face tough challenges during the transition while others struggle with more difficult problems, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, disability and homelessness. For more on this, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y8fxh2hg> for WalletHub's 50 state comparison based on each state's ability to provide a comfortable military retirement. Their analysis applied 29 key metrics to the data ranging from veterans per capita, to number of VA health facilities to job opportunities for veterans.

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.