

## Infotech Systems looks to grow in the region as manufacturing trends up

By Ken Datzman

Longtime area firm Infotech Systems Inc., founded by engineer and computer scientist Vasu Vasudevan, is poised to grow as the manufacturing sector in America starts to trend upward and regain the footing that slowly slipped away years ago.

Manufacturing makes up a significant piece of America's gross domestic product, and provides good wages and benefits to employees.

Vasudevan's business is a successful developer of manufacturing and inventory-control software, and has a national base of customers across a wide range of industries.

The roster of clients includes aerospace and defense contractors, construction firms, consumer care product companies, and pure warehousing operations, for instance. Infotech Systems' customer base crisscrosses the United States, from Washington state to California, New York, Ohio, and throughout Florida, including Brevard County.

"We provide a total inventory solution for corporations and businesses of all sizes, and full customer support," said entrepreneur Vasudevan, the president of the Melbourne company, whose software is widely used by inventory managers in various industries.

"It's not only the software that we provide, but also the support, the training, the custom programs, and the interfaces with other applications. We offer the complete package for manufacturers."

One of its customers, a defense company, manages several million dollars worth of inventory using Infotech Systems' software, he said.

Manufacturing is coming back in the United States and Infotech Systems is positioned to benefit from the resurgence serving all types of businesses.

Manufacturers contributed \$2.1 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2016, according to the National Association of Manufacturers. This figure has risen since the second quarter of 2009, when manufacturers contributed \$1.7 billion to the economy. Over that same timeframe, value-added output from durable goods manufacturing grew from \$0.87 trillion to \$1.2 trillion, with nondurable good output up from \$0.85 trillion to \$1 trillion.

The majority of manufacturing firms in the United States are small. In fact, three-quarters of these businesses have fewer than 20 employees, which is representative of the local market, though there are large firms, too.

"I think the improved manufacturing sector will bode well for our company, especially in Brevard County. There are a lot of manufacturing businesses on the Space Coast, and our goal is to serve more of them with our inventory software product and the support that goes with it," said Vasudevan.



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Vasu Vasudevan, a mechanical engineer, is the founder of Infotech Systems Inc. in Melbourne. His 21-year-old firm is a developer of manufacturing and inventory control software that is used by clients nationwide. He also has a master's degree in computer science from Florida Tech and experience in manufacturing. Infotech Systems holds 8(a) certification by the U.S. Small Business Administration. One of Infotech Systems' customers is Kinship Precision LLC, a manufacturer in Melbourne. From left: Raju Kumar, co-owner, Kinship; Vasudevan; and Bryan Powell, co-owner, Kinship.

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## Rep. Posey recognizes Trafford Realty Co.'s 100th anniversary, addresses members of House; a small-business success story

COCOA — Florida Congressman Bill Posey (R) made only his second proclamation on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives when he recognized Trafford Realty Co. for celebrating its 100th anniversary. His comments were entered into the Congressional Record and will be a permanent reflection on a company started in 1917 by A.R. "Roy" Trafford and Russell Field.

"Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues a true success story in the world of American small business. Trafford Realty Co., based in Brevard County, Florida, is celebrating its 100th Anniversary, a true milestone for any small business," Posey began.

He went on to state, "Trafford Realty Co.'s leadership has witnessed the growth of Brevard County, from an area originally known for commercial fishing, citrus, and tourism to the center for space exploration. The company has survived and prospered through every national and local event of the 20th and 21st centuries. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Trafford Realty and its employees for their continuing contributions to our community and for achieving 100 successful years in business."

As a former Realtor himself and a principal in Posey and Co. Realtors in Rockledge, Posey said he understands the challenges of operating a successful residential and commercial real-estate enterprise. He was friends with A.H. "Al" Trafford, the company's president from 1953 through 2009, and has maintained his relationship with current president Terry Lolmaugh.

The congressman personally delivered a copy of the address, which he had mounted and framed, to Lolmaugh and several of his associates during a recent visit to the company's office in Cocoa Village. "This is only the second time in my House career that I've addressed the House to recognize a local business for their accomplishments. May you enjoy another hundred!"

"It was an honor to have Rep. Posey make this address to his fellow legislators and have it entered into the Congressional Record," Lolmaugh said. "And for him to personally visit our office and present us with a framed copy, well, that was a special moment for all of us."

For more information on the firm, visit [www.SunnyFloridaHomes.com](http://www.SunnyFloridaHomes.com).

## American Planning Association conference in Daytona Beach addresses space economy, coastal adaptation and mobility

TALLAHASSEE — The country's third most populous state has a lot of challenges as it moves through the 21st century. These include the threat of sea-level rise and pollution of our waterways, road congestion and economic blight, according to the American Planning Association.

The state chapter recently hosted its "Rising to the Challenge" of planning for Florida's future at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. Some 700 planners attended the event. Conference speakers addressed Florida as one of the country's top tourist destinations and the epicenter of space innovation, "which encourages planners to be more inventive with design and concepts." The speakers included Jim Kuzma, Space Florida senior vice president and chief operations officer, and Tom Engler, of center planning and development at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Also, planners had to opportunity to attend a collaborative corridor planning and design session for East International Speedway Boulevard (ISB), with national economic development expert Joe Minicozzi. The City of Daytona Beach and the ISB Coalition have pursued planning studies to transform the ISB corridor.

Urban revitalization consultant and real estate developer Majora Carter gave the keynote speech at the event. She talked about new innovations city planners and leaders can use in social enterprise and economic development.

The conference also included mobile tours across the Atlantic Coast region highlighting the future of commercial space travel, coastal adaptation, historic preservation, and small-town revitalization. The conference's 60-plus breakout sessions covered everything from transportation, to small-town planning to redevelopment and the environment.

The Florida chapter of APA is a nonprofit organization of professionals, students, and allied professionals providing vision and leadership for the future development and redevelopment of Florida communities. The chapter has 2,550 members, making it the second largest APA chapter in the country. The chapter website is [floridaplanning.org](http://floridaplanning.org).

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# The magic of America: a roller coaster of opportunities that's unmatched

By Manoj Chopra  
UCF Forum columnist

As an immigrant born in Delhi, India, I must stress that the United States has provided me with the opportunity to achieve most of my dreams.

It has never questioned what I look like, where I was from or what I wanted to achieve. In turn, I made a pact with it — to work hard and make my contribution to it. To play by the rules and treat everyone with respect.

That is the magic of the United States.

One's life is, after all, made up of a series of opportunities along the time continuum. These opportunities lead to choices that then culminate in a sequence of experiences.

I may be influenced a bit by an excellent book that I read recently called "Dark Matter" (Crouch, 2017), dealing with the human aspect of quantum coexisting states within the universe and the choices one makes. Was there a better life, a different path, different choice?

Who knows? But I grew up in a middle-class family in

Calcutta (now known as Kolkata), and this life has been a roller coaster of wonderful opportunities and experiences. It has brought me to a myriad of surroundings and a wonderful collection of friends.

I want to lay out a small bouquet for you. I had:

Opportunity to spend my early childhood with my father, an electronic engineer who tinkered at home with radios and early versions of black and white television. This exposed me to the experience of listening to the "Voice of America" and "BBC" and, among the accented English commentary of cricket and Wimbledon tennis, hearing about the wonderful lives of people across the globe.

Listening to the World Cup of soccer was somehow always in the middle of the night in India and I had to drag myself to school in a groggy haze.

Opportunity to study at a pre-eminent undergraduate university in India, which provided a holistic and comprehensive curriculum as opposed to just a strong technological engineering background. This was a great blessing as it prepared me well when I moved into a more international setting.

Opportunity to come to the United States to pursue graduate education with great financial assistance and outstanding faculty mentors. It was quite a shock at first — both culture and temperature. After all, I had moved from tropical India to frigid Buffalo, New York. I did not realize I had so many bones that can be chilled no matter how many layers I wore.

Opportunity to meet my wife in Buffalo during my first year in graduate school. We married five years later after I finished my doctorate. She has been a blessing and is truly my best friend. We now have two sons who are in college and are making excellent choices of their own.

Opportunity to come to UCF and pursue my desire to influence young minds through teaching and mentoring. Of the many choices I have made, notwithstanding the

choice of a life partner, this would rank among the top. UCF has offered a dynamic, exciting and rewarding life. I have many wonderful students who have influenced me, changed me, improved me. One advantage of social media is that I am now able to stay in touch with a large number of them and can proudly watch as they grow. UCF has also provided me the opportunity to make some wonderful friends and learn from some excellent mentors.

Opportunity to serve as a faculty leader first on UCF's Board of Trustees as the chair of the faculty senate and then on the state Board of Governors as a chair of the council of senates for all 12 state universities in Florida.

Opportunity to study one of the most interesting and frightening research areas that influences us in Central Florida: sinkholes! While I have also researched behavior of soils and the response of structures we build on soils, nothing has been as rewarding and noteworthy as my work on sinkholes. We continue to work on our ability to understand their mechanisms and progression underground with the ultimate goal, of course, of being able to predict their catastrophic collapse. Is there something we can see or measure that may provide us with a warning?

So, that is a brief snapshot of my journey — as an immigrant and someone who proudly became a U.S. citizen while living in Buffalo.

I have had the opportunity to follow my dreams of teaching and helping shape the world, if even in just a small way.

As I said: That is the magic of the United States.

Manoj Chopra is a professor of civil engineering in UCF's Department of Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering. He can be reached at [Manoj.Chopra@UCF.edu](mailto:Manoj.Chopra@UCF.edu).

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## Zonta Club of Melbourne 5K Run/Walk fundraiser set Oct. 7 at Field of Dreams

Zonta Club of Melbourne, a member of Zonta International, has partnered with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office to host its fourth annual 5K Run/Walk to support education and awareness of domestic violence.

The "Will Run for Chocolate, Won't Stand for Violence" 5K Run/Walk will be held on Oct. 7 at Field of Dreams, 3053 Fell Road in West Melbourne. Registration opens at 6:45 a.m., with the event to begin at 8 o'clock. The Run-Walk fee is \$25. Registration is available at [www.Secure.RunningZone.com](http://www.Secure.RunningZone.com) or [www.ZontaSpaceCoast.org](http://www.ZontaSpaceCoast.org).

Zonta Club of Melbourne's mission is to empower the status of women through service and advocacy. One of its goals is to "end all violence against women."

This year the organization has partnered with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office to assist victims of strangulation and provide education and awareness of this type of violence. Sadly, one in four women will be a victim of domestic violence during their lifetime. In Florida, roughly 20 percent of homicides are the direct result of domestic violence.

All proceeds from this event will support education and awareness of domestic violence.

How can you help? Come out and run or walk in the event. Sponsorship opportunities are available and welcome. To inquire about being a sponsor for the 5K Run/Walk, send an email message to [ZontaInfo@ZontaSpaceCoast.org](mailto:ZontaInfo@ZontaSpaceCoast.org).

Zonta International holds a seat on the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women.

## March of Dimes reschedules its annual 'Signature Chefs Auction'

Because of Hurricane Irma and the post-recovery that is now taking place around Brevard County, the March of Dimes' annual Signature Chefs Auction has been reset for Tuesday, Nov. 7, at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place. It was originally scheduled for Sept. 26. The announcement was made by Gregory Stephens, senior development manager for March of Dimes, and Mark and Aileen Malek, the event chairpersons. The event website has been updated. "We will continually update the website as we reconfirm our chefs and our sponsors for the new event date," said Stephens. The web address is [www.SignatureChefs.org/Melbourne](http://www.SignatureChefs.org/Melbourne).

**'Hi. I need to report suspected abuse.'**

Dana Delaney Loyd  
aka Theresa Smith  
to Florida Abuse Hotline  
at 11:12 a.m., April 29, 2015



**'Loyalty is everything to me!!!'**

Brevard County Sheriff Robert Wayne Ivey  
(321) 271-6029  
to Dana Delaney Loyd  
at 5:19 p.m., April 29, 2015

To Be Continued ...

4/26/2016

Jihosoft Android Manager

From: +13212716029  
Date: 2014-11-17 10:36:56  
Content: Okay so what's her complaint

To: +13212716029  
Date: 2014-11-17 10:44:16  
Content: Well, bottom line is her husband is in jail and he has a multitude of mental issues and a seizure disorder. He has not been getting his meds. Going through all the documents I think he has no business being in jail, palm bay pd has this so f [redacted] ed up, its a joke. She never asked for an order of protection. But no one will remove it. She has been spoken to like shot by Cummings

To: +13212716029  
Date: 2014-11-17 10:45:55  
Content: Like shit. This is a huge mess, and I'm trying to work through it quickly but there is so much

To: +13212716029  
Date: 2014-11-17 10:47:07  
Content: Our local police departments have to stop using the jail as a dumping ground for circles of care people

From: +13212716029  
Date: 2014-11-17 10:47:35  
Content: If Cummings is aware of it then I'm sure our MHU is on it

To: +13212716029  
Date: 2014-11-17 10:48:51  
Content: No, like they have him in general pop. Cummings is a bitch

To: +13212716029  
Date: 2014-11-17 10:49:09  
Content: We just need to talk

To: 3212716029  
Date: 2014-11-19 13:33:46  
Content: Are u still out of town

From: +13212716029  
Date: 2014-11-19 13:34:09  
Content: Yes

To: 3212716029  
Date: 2014-11-19 13:36:15  
Content: Are you trying to get back to meet with PBA people before tomorrow's meeting or is that another fable

From: +13212716029  
Date: 2014-11-19 13:40:48  
Content: I'm back at work tomorrow was in Tally today. I offered to meet and answer any questions but some of the reps weren't interested

To: 3212716029  
Date: 2014-11-19 13:43:56  
Content: I m pissed, was on phone till 230 AM...pikus and boeltcher are .playing both sides and its

file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/B55/My%20Documents/androidMGR/LG-P870-04-26-2016-14-24-31/SMS/SMS.html

7/41

## Politicians of opposing parties must learn to work together in order to keep America strong, prosperous

By Lee H. Hamilton

Back in March, two young members of Congress from Texas, Beto O'Rourke and Will Hurd, became brief Internet celebrities.

Unable to fly back to Washington because of a snow-storm, the two hit the road together, tweeting and live streaming their trip north. They fielded questions along the way on everything from the war on drugs to immigration — and so ended up holding what O'Rourke called “the longest cross-country live-stream town hall in the history of the world.”

What sparked people's interest was a fact that, a generation ago, would have been unremarkable: O'Rourke is a Democrat, and Hurd a Republican. They disagree politically on many things. Yet somehow they managed to share Whataburgers, sing along to Johnny Cash's “Ring of Fire,” joke with colleagues of both parties — and wind up signing on to each other's legislation once they got to D.C.

That this struck a chord with the national press and hundreds of thousands of Facebook viewers shouldn't come as a surprise. When I talk to people about Congress and Washington in general, I'm impressed by their hunger for bipartisanship. Americans of all stripes believe that the institutions of representative democracy are not working as they should. And they want members of the two parties to work together more.

The litany of forces tilting our politics toward polarization is long and dispiriting. The political extremes, left and

right, make up perhaps a third of the American public, but they're disproportionately active within their parties and help drive polarization. This is amplified by Americans' increasing preference for associating with people who share their views, and by the army of consultants and politicians who use negative politics to bring out their “base” and sway those in the middle.

The institutions that once sought the middle ground no longer do so. The media has become more impulsive, more aggressive, and far less objective. Strong, sophisticated, well-financed interest groups have learned to play the political game hard and to brook no compromise. Political parties that made it their job to build consensus have set it aside. Political and congressional leaders, far from seeking to build the center, find reward in pursuing conflict and confrontation, demonizing opponents and even members of their own party who show a willingness to compromise.

O'Rourke and Hurd's joint adventure seemed so unusual in part because all of these trends come together in Congress. It is the sole American institution explicitly designed to air the diverse needs and voices of Americans when policy gets made. Yet these days, it is the place where no one expects this to happen.

As a nation, we are far worse off because of this. At home, we get deadlock, dysfunction, and loss of faith in our political institutions. Abroad, we're seen as indecisive and incapable. So how do we fix this?

The answer lies in four arenas. First, we need to bolster the middle by expanding the electorate: the more people who vote, the less influence held by ideologically driven

activists who are unwilling to compromise.

Second, politicians need to step up — and most especially, the President and the leaders of Congress. They have to remind people that the job of the policy maker is to put the country before politics, and that it is necessary for us to work together to meet our challenges.

Third, Congress needs to fix its practices with an eye toward reversing polarization. It should return to the deliberative order of doing business, and to real conference committees, which would require members to meet, discuss, and compromise with one another. It needs to reduce partisan control of elections, the influence of special interest money, and gerrymandering for partisan advantage, and to strengthen the integrity of the electoral system. I am heartened by several private-sector groups that are determined to push Congress and the President to work together to get things done.

Finally, we as citizens have to convey to politicians that there's a right and a wrong way to conduct the dialogue of democracy. If we want to keep this country strong, prosperous and free, we need to place a premium on politicians who know how to work together — and with people who don't agree with them.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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## Orbital ATK completes qualification of solid rocket booster avionics for NASA's Space Launch System

DULLES, Va. — Orbital ATK, a global leader in aerospace and defense technologies, recently completed an "important qualification test" of the avionics system for the solid rocket boosters the company has developed and is now manufacturing for NASA's Space Launch System (SLS).

Completion of this milestone is a key step toward preparing the SLS and Orion spacecraft for their first flight in 2019. Two Orbital ATK-developed five-segment rocket boosters will be used on each SLS launch to help provide initial thrust for the first two minutes of flight.

The avionics system is considered the "brains of the booster" as it starts booster ignition, communicates with the SLS launch vehicle computers during flight, and initiates booster separation upon completion of the first stage burn.

The system is now qualified as meeting NASA's demanding human-rating requirements, which provide a level of redundancy to ensure a safe flight environment

through various phases of lift-off, ascent and staging.

"Completion of booster avionics system qualification is a significant step forward in supporting overall vehicle qualification and launch of the first flight of SLS — Exploration Mission-1," said Jeff Foote, the vice president of NASA programs for Orbital ATK's Propulsion Systems Division. "We are proud of this accomplishment and look forward to completing full certification of the booster later this year."

Qualification of the booster avionics system included a rigorous and comprehensive test series that "thoroughly verified" the fidelity of the system in a variety of expected and abnormal conditions. Key interactions confirmed during qualification testing included the ability to initiate


booster ignition, control the booster during flight, and terminate flight.

The SLS is NASA's new heavy-lift launch vehicle that is being built to take crew and cargo to destinations beyond earth orbit, including to cislunar space and eventually Mars. SLS, along with the Orion spacecraft, will enable human exploration on a variety of missions to deep space. It has the greatest capacity of any launch system ever built, "ensuring continued American leadership in space exploration."

Orbital ATK manufactures the twin, five-segment solid rocket boosters in Promontory, Utah. Contributing to SLS booster production are suppliers across 17 states, including in Florida.

### Palm Bay Library offers computer classes

The Palm Bay Public Library is now offering computer classes. The fee is \$5 per class. The library is located at 1520 Port Malabar Blvd., NE. To register for the computer classes, call Julie at 952-4520.



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## UF researchers to use \$2.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to help stop influenza

By Brad Buck  
UF/IFAS Communications

GAINESVILLE — University of Florida researchers will use a \$2.7 million National Institutes of Health grant to study whether they can harness an unusual type of immune cell in pigs to treat and prevent influenza viruses in animals and humans.

Although “natural killer T” — or NKT cells — is very rare, they can be very powerful and can stimulate immune responses to fight a range of different diseases, including cancer and infections, said John Driver the UF/IFAS assistant professor in animal sciences who received the grant. Scientists hope the research will help better manage a deadly enemy.

“This is important for a number of reasons,” Driver said. “Firstly, influenza causes large economic losses for the pork industry and secondly, swine can mix influenza viruses and can start new strains that sometimes cause human pandemics, which is a global health risk.”

Pigs can contract swine, human and avian influenza viruses, Driver said. Pigs and humans also can transmit viruses to each other, increasing the likelihood of new viruses arising, he said. Transmission between species can cause major pandemics, including the 1918 flu pandemic that killed millions of people worldwide, Driver said.

When a pig gets infected with multiple viruses at the same time, genetic material from different viruses may

combine in ways unknown to the human immune system, he said. This can be dangerous because the human system is naïve to the new virus.

Driver and his team have generated good evidence that NKT cells can prevent influenza if they are activated with medicine — or “therapeutically activated” — when pigs are vaccinated against the disease.

As part of the study, researchers hope to see if they can target NKT cells to make influenza vaccines protect against a wider variety of influenza viruses, Driver said. Secondly, scientists will investigate whether activating NKT cells can reduce symptoms and virus transmission in pigs with influenza, he said. In addition, they will assess if NKT cells are important for pigs’ natural resistance to influenza.

In the future, Driver hopes his research leads to developing treatments for many diseases beyond influenza.

“Establishing that NKT cells can be safely harnessed to counteract influenza virus infections in pigs will strongly support the feasibility of using the same strategy to treat and prevent a wide variety of important human and swine pathogens,” Driver said.

The grant is part of a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the NIH. The program calls for studies into “Dual Purpose with Dual Benefit: Research in Biomedicine and Agriculture Using Agriculturally Important Domestic Animal Species,” Driver said.

Driver’s UF collaborators are Dr. William Castleman, professor of comparative diagnostic and population medicine at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, and John Lednicky, research professor of environmental and global health in the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions.

## Brevard County Supervisor of Elections announces ‘Launch the Vote Art Contest’

Brevard County Supervisor of Elections Lori Scott has announced the fourth annual “Launch the Vote Student Art Contest.” Scott will again partner with Chick-fil-A to ask students to let their patriotic spirit shine, use their creativity, and express their enthusiasm for voting. Students are invited to submit one patriotic themed entry to any of the four administrative offices by 5 p.m. on Oct. 6. The winning entries will be announced on Oct 24.

Prize packages for first, second and third place, and the Chick-fil-A Award will be provided by Chick-fil-A. Winning designs will be displayed in the Supervisor of Elections’ Viera Office for a year, and in Brevard County Chick-fil-A locations during November.

Complete details, contest entry forms and instructions are available at [VoteBrevard.com](http://VoteBrevard.com).

For more information on the contest, contact Jessica Santamaria, outreach coordinator, at 690-6850 or by email at [JSantamaria@VoteBrevard.com](mailto:JSantamaria@VoteBrevard.com).



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Parrish Healthcare Center at Port Canaveral now open; provides a range of services

TITUSVILLE — Parrish Healthcare has opened a new facility at Port Canaveral that features a primary care walk-in clinic as well as occupational medicine services, workers' compensation care, diagnostics, physical therapy, industrial rehabilitation and sleep disorder services. The center is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

"We are proud to welcome aboard Parrish Healthcare to the Port community and congratulate them on the opening of their new facility," said Port CEO John Murray.

"The availability of health-care services from this on-port location is important for the seafaring community here. Cruise guests, crew members and shore-side support staff in close proximity to the cruise and cargo operations will have easy access to health care that was not before available in our immediate area."

Parrish Healthcare Center at Port Canaveral, located at 390 Challenger Road, opposite Cruise Terminal 1, was completed on July 17. The project's general contractor was RUSH Construction Inc.

The single-story facility is roughly 10,000 square feet and includes examination rooms, imaging and laboratory services, a rehabilitation center, conference space, and doctors' offices, among other services. Dr. Nitin Haté, board-certified in occupational medicine and environmental medicine, will serve as the center's medical director.

"In response to repeated requests from area businesses and communities, the Parrish Healthcare Center at Port Canaveral is one more way we are growing to provide more Brevard residents and visitors convenient access to superior health services," said George Mikitarian, Parrish Healthcare president and CEO.

American rock band Chicago to perform Oct. 26 at the King Center in Melbourne

Chicago, the first American rock band to chart Top 40 albums in six consecutive decades, will be performing at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26, at the King Center in Melbourne.

Hailed as one of the "most important bands in music since the dawn of the rock and roll era" by former President Bill Clinton, this year marks Chicago's 50th consecutive year of touring.

The original four band members are Robert Lamm on keyboards and vocals, Lee Loughnane on trumpet and vocals, James Pankow on trombone, and Walt Parazaider on woodwinds. The band's lineup also includes Tris Imboden on drums, Keith Howland on guitar and vocals, Lou Pardini on keyboards and vocals, Ray Herrmann on sax and flute, Walfredo Reyes Jr. on percussion, and Jeff Coffey on bass and vocals.

From the signature sound of the Chicago horns, their iconic vocalists, and a few dozen of ever-classic songs, including "Make Me Smile" and "Saturday in the Park," this band's concerts are "celebrations."

Visit [www.ChicagoTheBand.com](http://www.ChicagoTheBand.com) for more details on the group. Tickets for the concert may be purchased by visiting [KingCenter.com](http://KingCenter.com) or by calling 242-2219.



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## Crowley begins direct, weekly service from Florida ports to Costa Rica, Panama; speeds cargo at peak times

JACKSONVILLE — To better connect customers' U.S. and Central American supply chains, Crowley Liner Services now offers fixed-day, weekly sailings directly between Florida and Costa Rica and Panama. The new service features "fast transits" to speed cargo to market at peak times.

Crowley's vessels will sail southbound from Florida on Wednesdays from the Port of Jacksonville, and Fridays from Port Everglades, and will arrive on Tuesdays in Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, and on Wednesdays in Manzanillo, Panama.

Northbound, the ships will depart on Wednesdays from Panama and Fridays from Costa Rica, then arrive on Tuesdays in Port Everglades and on Wednesdays in Jacksonville.

"Crowley's ocean cargo service blends seamlessly with our logistics offerings to provide customers a single point of accountability, increased visibility and reduced costs while building on the confidence they already have in the company's regular, fast ocean transport service," said Steve Collar, Crowley senior vice president and general manager, international liner services.

"The new, dedicated service continues our strategy of providing importers and exporters the fastest, most dependable suite of supply chain solutions possible between the U.S. and Central American regions," said Crowley's Frank Larkin, senior vice president and general manager, logistics and commercial services. "Crowley has a unique ability to benefit U.S. and international customers by combining its longtime ocean shipping expertise

with full, fast and robust supply chain solutions."

The new service will complement Crowley's logistics offerings for customers to deliver cargo for import and export, include Customs clearance, pool-point distribution, inland transportation, and dry and refrigerated warehousing for both full container loads and less-than-container

loads in Central American countries and U.S. locations.

Jacksonville-based Crowley Holdings Inc., a holding company of the 125-year-old Crowley Maritime Corp., is a privately held family and employee-owned company. Additional information about Crowley, its subsidiaries and business units may be found at [www.crowley.com](http://www.crowley.com).

## Marine Bank & Trust Co. set to open its first full-service office in Brevard

VERO BEACH — Marine Bank & Trust Co. has signed a lease on what will soon become its fourth full-service banking center, and its first in Brevard County. The 3,800-square-foot space is located at 3303 Suntree Blvd. The office is on the southwest corner of Suntree Boulevard and Wickham Road in Melbourne.

It is expected to open in the fourth quarter of 2017 and will be run by vice president and banking center manager Malak Hammad. Marine Bank & Trust currently operates a loan production office in Brevard County at 6525 3rd St., Suite 209, in Rockledge.

"2017 is not only the year that Marine Bank & Trust celebrated its 20th anniversary of serving Indian River County, but it is also the year we brought our exceptional, personalized service to the businessowners and residents of Brevard County," said Marine Bank President and CEO Bill Penney. "It's a very exciting time. I speak for everyone on 'Team Marine' when I say that we look forward to expanding our Marine Bank family of satisfied customers."

Marine Bank & Trust Co. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Marine Bancorp of Florida. The bank was chartered in 1997 and has \$219 million in assets, with three full-service branches in Indian River County and a loan production office in Brevard County. It is the only community bank headquartered in Vero Beach.

Marine Bank & Trust was named one of Indian River County's "Best Places to Work" in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2016. It is an active community supporter, providing more than \$200,000 to over 125 local nonprofit organizations over the last five years. For more information on the bank, visit the website at [www.MarineBankAndTrust.com](http://www.MarineBankAndTrust.com).

## Port St. John Friends of the Library to meet

The Port St. John Public Library will host a membership meeting of the Friends of the Library at 6 p.m. on Sept. 27. The library's address is 6500 Carole Ave. in Cocoa. For more information about the meeting, call 633-1867.



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**Johnson Controls to host grand opening of its HVAC Supply Center in Melbourne**

Johnson Controls, a global multi-industrial company, will celebrate the grand opening of one of its newest Source 1 HVAC Supply Centers on Wednesday, Sept 27, in Melbourne.

The Melbourne site, at 605 Distribution Drive, Unit 2, joins 10 other Florida locations. They are: Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando, Pompano Beach, Fort Myers, Largo, Sarasota, Tallahassee, West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce.

Source 1 is the exclusive supplier of factory authorized service parts and residential accessories for all Johnson Controls Unitary Products and light commercial HVAC equipment.

The Melbourne supply center will offer a wide array of HVAC test instruments, tools, supplies and provide contractors with training programs in their local area.

Michael Ullian, president of The Ullian Realty Corp., represented the landlord in the leasing of the 12,100-square-foot office and warehouse space located at 605 Distribution Drive. Tad McDonough of CBRE in Jacksonville represented the tenant.

The Ullian Realty Corp., located in Melbourne, is a full-service real-estate firm specializing in office, commercial, industrial, retail and investment brokerage in South Brevard. For more information about the firm, visit [www.UllianRealty.com](http://www.UllianRealty.com), email [Mike@UllianRealty.com](mailto:Mike@UllianRealty.com) or call 729-9900, extension 17.

**Reneé Decator's exhibit set to open Oct. 3 at the Fifth Avenue Art Gallery in Eau Gallie**

A solo exhibit by Reneé Decator will open Oct. 3 at the Fifth Avenue Art Gallery in the Eau Gallie Arts District of Melbourne. The exhibit is titled "Dreams & Wishes, Birds & Fishes." The First Friday Opening Reception will be from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Oct. 6. At 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, Decator will give an "artist's talk." She will be discussing her techniques and material choices in her work. This free event is open to the public.

Decator, a mixed-media artist, is a longtime member of Fifth Avenue Art Gallery. She resides in Indialantic. She combines different materials to allow for creative problem-solving. "The art process, for me, involves exploration of my personal history and what the future may bring. I like creating art that is unpredictable and inviting — art that allows the viewer to use their imagination."

She said "Dreams and Wishes, Birds and Fishes" will showcase the artwork "that has been inspired by all the blessings in my life and the big dreams that make each day exciting and full of possibilities. I wanted this collection to be dreamy and full of surprises, with love and hope and lots of fun 2D and 3D art that expresses the wonders that I encounter each day."

Decator attended Artquest School of Art & Design in Volusia County, before moving to Brevard County in 1995. She has been a member of Fifth Avenue Art Gallery for 10 years and has chaired many charitable exhibitions since joining the gallery. She works at her studio in downtown Melbourne. The Fifth Avenue Art Gallery's address is 1470 Highland Ave.

Its web address is [www.FifthAvenueArtGallery.com](http://www.FifthAvenueArtGallery.com).

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## Pi Kappa Alpha at Florida Tech to build new two-story fraternity house — gears up to celebrate its 50th anniversary locally; successful fundraising

By Ken Datzman

PALM BAY — There are probably not many fraternity houses across America that can rival the spectacular waterfront setting of Pi Kappa Alpha — which is the granddaddy of such organizations at the Florida Institute of Technology.

Greek life adds a dimension to one's college experience that is not often found in other campus-affiliated entities.

And once you visit the Pi Kappa Alpha House, about 2 miles from the Melbourne campus of Florida Tech, you won't want to leave the surroundings.

Now, things are going to get even better for Pi Kappa Alpha members. A new construction project — a replacement house — is set for the wooded site. Construction is expected to begin in a month or two.

Located at 2401 Riverview Drive, the existing two-story southern colonial-style mansion, more than six decades old, sits on roughly 2 acres fronting the Indian River Lagoon, and even has a private beach. This is college life.

"It's an amazing place to spend your college years. It's always a little sad when you graduate from Florida Tech and have lived at Pi Kappa Alpha because your first home out of college is probably not going to be in such a pristine location," said area businessman Brock Tucker, who as a freshman in 2005 was initiated into the Zeta Sigma Chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

He is a 2009 Florida Tech graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Tucker is president of the Pi Kappa Alpha Foundation of Melbourne, which is an alumni organization that owns the property and takes care of the maintenance, renovations, and replacement projects like the one that's underway on Riverview Drive.

"We have about 700 alumni and some 60 current active fraternity members," he said.

In addition to his involvement with the Pi Kappa Alpha Foundation, Tucker is the owner of Brock's Homebrew Supply Inc. on Industrial Drive in West Melbourne. The six-year-old retail business has been growing through its bricks-and-mortar facility and also through its online sales at Brockshomebrew.com.

"We're doing great. About 50 percent of our business is from online sales. That's our fastest-growing segment," he said.

Pi Kappa Alpha members are called "Pikes." There are more than 220 such chapters nationwide. The fraternity was founded in 1868 at the University of Virginia. At the time, the University of Virginia was the fifth largest school in the United States.

The essence of the founders' vision, of which there were six, is now referred to as the "Preamble."

It says, "For the establishment of friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis; for the promotion of brotherly love and kind feeling; for the mutual benefit



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Businessman Brock Tucker, a 2009 graduate of Florida Tech, is president of the Phi Kappa Alpha Foundation of Melbourne. He was a member of that fraternity during his years at Florida Tech. The Foundation started a fundraising campaign five years ago to replace the current Pi Kappa Alpha house on Riverview Drive in Palm Bay. The \$1.7 million new construction project is expected to begin in October or November, as fraternity brothers have rallied around the campaign.

and advancement of the interests of those with whom we sympathize and deem worthy of our regard, we have resolved to form a fraternity, believing that, thus we can most successfully accomplish our objective."

Pi Kappa Alpha has a long history at Florida Tech. "We were the first fraternal organization to come to Florida Tech. We're very proud of our history. We've been here for almost 50 years. And after that long period of time, the Pi Kappa Alpha house needed some serious upgrades," said Tucker.

The mansion was originally built in 1954 and was intended to be a minister's retirement home, but that didn't materialize. In 1966, a professional business fraternity called Alpha Psi formed a colony on campus with the intention of becoming a Pi Kappa

Alpha chapter, said Tucker.

"Alumni support from other Pi chapters raised money to purchase the mansion and convert it into a fraternity house, and we have been here ever since. We will celebrate our 50th anniversary in August of 2018. That's when we will have a grand opening of the new Pi Kappa Alpha House."

Pi Kappa Alpha was the first fraternity house in the region, according to the organization's history, and is still the largest such house at Florida Tech.

But the well-known fraternity house in the Florida Tech community has taken a lot of wear and tear through the years, with students graduating and new

Please see Pi Kappa Alpha, page 19

## Founder Mary Allen guides Genesis House into 40th year; Anniversary Gala set for Melbourne Auditorium — 1940s theme; opens an upscale thrift shop

By Ken Datzman

When someone in the community mentions Genesis House, the person immediately associated with that nonprofit organization is most likely Mary Allen, its founder.

She has shaped and guided Genesis House for the past 40 years.

“When you think about that longevity leading one organization, it’s really something,” said Carol Ashwell, a Genesis House Inc. board member who has been involved as a volunteer herself with the organization for more than 20 years.

“Genesis House has uplifted the lives of thousands of people in the area through the years. Mary was a visionary in nonprofit work in Brevard County, helping women at the most vulnerable times in their lives.”

The organization has helped more than 16,000 women and children in the county since 1977.

Genesis House provides emergency shelter for homeless women and their children, long-term housing for student mothers with children, and shelter for homeless pregnant women. Genesis House operates three different residential homes serving the needs of the various clients.

“We have made big strides through the years and have adjusted to meet the changing needs of the population we serve,” said Allen, the hands-on president of the organization. “We have come a long way in 40 years.”

Genesis House provides counseling, case management, support, and encouragement helping the women under its guidance transition to independent living. The program is structured, and the women set their goals upon entering Genesis House.

The organization works with the women to become employed and helps them find permanent housing. And most of the women do this within 45 days of entering Genesis House.

“We have seen so many success stories at Genesis House,” said Ashwell. “It makes you feel so good. The people who stay at the houses never forget Mary, and Mary never forgets them. She can recall their names and their situations when they were here.”

Allen, president of the board, said she recently received a call from a woman who lived at Genesis House for a short time 20 years ago. “She was a teenager then and went on to earn a college degree. She is working and has three grown children today. It was a real pleasure to talk to her. Just about every week we hear from somebody who stayed at one of our houses. Three weeks ago, for instance, I talked to a woman who was here 28 years ago. At the time, she put her child up for adoption. Now they both want to reunite, so I helped arrange that reunion.”

Genesis House exists on grants, donations from individuals and organizations including churches, and fundraisers. “We are trying to position ourselves so that



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

Genesis House, a nonprofit, has helped more than 16,000 women and children since its founding in 1977. Today, it operates three residential homes to help homeless women transition to their new lives. From left: Mary Allen, founder; Carol Ashwell, board member; and Kristen Snyder, administrator.

we do not have to rely in the future on small grants and HUD funding, which is decreasing,” said Allen, whose organization has served clients from age 14 to 82.

Businesses and individuals have the opportunity to support Genesis House through sponsorship and ticket purchases for its 40th Anniversary Gala. The fundraiser is from 7–10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Melbourne Auditorium. The event is open to the public.

Sponsorships are available at two levels — \$500 and \$1,000. Both levels provide table seating for eight people and include two bottles of champagne and promotional opportunities for your business. The \$1,000 sponsorship includes a pitcher of martinis at tableside. There will be an “hors d’oeuvres buffet,” and a drawing for a flat-

screen television.

“It’s going to be a lot of fun,” said Kristen Snyder, the Genesis House administrator. “The Gala will feature a ‘1940s bottle-club theme.’ It’s going to be BYOB (mixers will be provided). Some guests are going to come dressed in 1940s-style attire.”

To inquire about being a sponsor for the Gala, call Snyder at 288-4754 or visit [GenesisHouse.org](http://GenesisHouse.org). Individual tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door the evening of the program. Tickets are sold at the Genesis House website. Entertainment will be provided by the Melbourne Swingtime Band. The master of ceremony

Please see Genesis House, page 21

## FSU leaps another five spots in the national rankings of 'Best Colleges' — No. 33 among public universities

By Browning Brooks  
FSU University Communications

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State University has jumped to No. 33 among national public universities in the "U.S. News & World Report" rankings after moving up five places for the second consecutive year.

The rankings appear in U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges 2018" guidebook. In two years, FSU has vaulted 10 spots among public universities since placing No. 43 in 2016. Last year, FSU ranked No. 38 among public universities.

"We are thrilled that U.S. News & World Report continues to recognize Florida State University as one of the best universities in the nation," said President John Thrasher. "It means our reputation of academic excellence is rising throughout the state and the nation, and that's a reflection of our world-class faculty, staff and students."

Florida State's excellent graduation and student retention rates are the driving forces behind FSU's ranking among the nation's best public universities. FSU's four-year graduation rate is among the top 25 nationally, the six-year graduation rate is 80 percent and the university's freshman retention rate is nearly 93 percent, which ranks 18th nationally.

"This is an exciting time at Florida State University," said Sally McRorie, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. "We are clearly recruiting even better students, and the success of our programs is being noticed, and emulated, by our peer institutions."

The Florida Legislature's designation of FSU as one of the state's two preeminent universities and the additional funding that comes with it has enabled the university to raise faculty salaries and hire more faculty. As a result, FSU has improved in metrics such as faculty compensation and student-faculty ratio.

"We are extremely grateful to the Florida Legislature and Florida Board of Governors in helping our continuing efforts to raise Florida State to a higher level of national prominence," Thrasher said. "The funding that the

Legislature has invested in FSU has allowed us to vigorously pursue our strategic goals."

McRorie reiterated that the university's emphasis on student success is at the heart of its rapid ascent in the national rankings.

"I'm so pleased that everybody's hard work is really paying off for the university," McRorie said. "Before a student even arrives on campus, our focus is on their success, and we're seeing great results."

FSU is committed to preparing students through comprehensive orientation, stressing the importance of taking 15 credit hours each semester and encouraging students to take advantage of co-curricular opportunities available like internships and job shadowing, McRorie said. The strategy is working. With FSU's 80 percent six-year graduation rate, the university well exceeded a prediction by U.S. News that FSU's graduation rate would be 71 percent.

FSU also saw improvements in reputational ratings by university peers, student selectivity and alumni giving.

Also included in this year's U.S. News report were undergraduate business program rankings. Florida State's undergraduate business program made a significant jump, moving up 14 spots to No. 27 among public universities and 18 spots to No. 45 among all national universities. The undergraduate business rankings are based solely on peer assessment.

"Our significant move up in the rankings reflects the hard work and commitment of our faculty and staff, and the unwavering support of our alumni," said Michael Hartline, dean of the College of Business. "We are determined to continue strategic investments in our people and programs in order to continue further down the path of preeminence. It's gratifying to be recognized for our efforts."

U.S. News & World Report determines its national university rankings based on seven factors: graduation and retention rates (22.5 percent); assessment of excellence, i.e. peer and high school counselor assessment (22.5 percent); faculty resources (20 percent); student selectivity (12.5 percent); financial resources (10 percent); graduation rate performance, i.e. the difference between actual and predicted graduation rate (7.5 percent); and alumni giving (5 percent).

Florida State University shares the No. 33 spot with four other public universities: Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, University of California-Santa Cruz and the University of Delaware.

Among all national universities, including private universities, FSU ranked 81st, up from 92nd last year. The national universities category comprises 311 institutions (190 public, 114 private and seven for-profit) that offer a wide range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees.

## Annual Space Congress to address 'Next Great Steps' for 2018 program

The 45th Space Congress will be conducted Feb. 27 through March 1 of 2018. "Once again, we find ourselves taking on new challenges and new risks in the midst of a very dynamic industry," said Martin McLellan, the 45th Space Congress chairman. "We have taken historic first steps in our storied past and are embarking on the 'Next Great Steps.' We are bringing together leaders from past and present 'First Steps' and 'Next Steps' in our industry to share their stories, challenges, triumphs and lessons-learned."

Space Congress is a forum for a breadth of topics "about exciting, relevant space initiatives through thought-provoking panel discussions from prominent, diverse speakers." The event allows for technical interchange between government and industry aerospace professionals, academia, students, and the public during the panel sessions.

The Canaveral Council of Technical Societies, which presents Space Congress, is comprised of 20 chapters of national engineering and technical professional societies. Go to [www.SpaceCongress.org](http://www.SpaceCongress.org), Facebook [SpaceCongress2018](https://www.facebook.com/SpaceCongress2018), or Twitter [@Space\\_Congress](https://twitter.com/Space_Congress), to learn more about the 45th Space Congress.

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## UCF-led team lands National Science Foundation grant to create 'photon funnels'

By Zenaida Gonzalez Kotala  
UCF News & Information

ORLANDO — The National Science Foundation has awarded a UCF-led team \$400,049 to develop new devices for concentrating and controlling light called "photon funnels."

Concentrating light is used in a variety of electronics and machines people have come to depend on, from computers and cell phones to fiber optics and sensors that detect toxic spills. These devices all use conventional lenses to concentrate light, but there is a catch.

The lenses collect and concentrate light on a specific spot, but that spot moves as light rays strike from different angles or positions.

"As a result, sensors and detectors can lose energy as the source of light moves, and the efficiency of an optical device is often limited," said Stephen Kuebler, associate professor of chemistry and optics, who leads the research project. "Our team will explore a fundamentally new approach for concentrating light called 'photon funnels,' that circumvent the limitations that refraction puts on ordinary optical systems. Photon funnels will be designed to leverage an optical phenomenon called 'self-collimation' to control how light propagates within an engineered lattice."

Photon funnels are nanoscale three-dimensional (3D) lattices that are designed to direct the flow of light within them by adjusting the orientation of a self-collimating lattice as a function of position. The lattices will be created using a laser-based 3D printing technique called "multiphoton lithography."

The interdisciplinary team assembled for the project includes experts in chemistry, optics, physics, material science, engineering, and design and simulation in Orlando and at the University of Texas at El Paso. The research will provide cutting-edge training in Orlando and El Paso for undergraduate and graduate students who work on the three-year project.

Team members also include Sasan Fathpour, UCF associate professor of optics and photonics, and Raymond Rumpf, associate professor of electrical engineering and director of the EM Lab at the University of Texas at El Paso. Rumpf is a pioneer in 3D printing of high-frequency circuits and electromagnetic devices.

The work will be evenly split between the professors' laboratories in Orlando and El Paso.

## Hobby Lobby to host painting classes for beginners

Hobby Lobby in Viera is now conducting "Drawing and Painting Classes for Beginners" from 3:30-5 p.m. on Wednesday. The fee is \$20 per class. Attendees will learn how to draw and paint "just about anything. The instructor will teach you how to create artful compositions using highlighting and shading, and much more." Hobby Lobby's address is 7201 Shoppes Drive, Suite 101. This is an ongoing class and you can join anytime. To register for the classes, contact Debi Pettigrew at [DPettigrew@cfl.rr.com](mailto:DPettigrew@cfl.rr.com) or call 749-1153.

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## Iridium exploring advanced NewSpace satellite opportunities, signs memorandum of understanding

MCLEAN, Va. — Iridium Communications Inc. recently announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Magnitude Space, an emerging small satellite company. The signing of this MoU signals Iridium's interest in exploring collaborative partnerships with complementary NewSpace players, particularly those in the SmallSat low-power arena.

As part of this MoU, the companies will begin discussions on how to collaboratively expand opportunities for space-based Internet of Things (IoT) services with the development of reliable, Low Power Global Area Network (LPGAN) technologies.

"We envision a future where numerous diverse satellite architectures interwork to support the dramatically expanding IoT universe," said Iridium CEO Matt Desch. "From high bandwidth access points to highly mobile and low-latency devices like Iridium supports today, to low-power, higher-latency networks like Magnitude Space envisions, Iridium has the experience and global platform to enable all of these capabilities to interwork."

Magnitude Space, headquartered in Amsterdam, is planning to build a network of 18-24 small satellites that will deliver LPGAN connectivity to remote areas of the world. From monitoring plantation soil moisture levels to tracking livestock, Magnitude Space's technology "will be a cost-effective, reliable option for companies in need of very low-power, low-cost, monitoring and tracking options" that require longer life battery and infrequent non-real-time messaging solutions.

"We are excited to begin exploring how we can work with and benefit from a cooperation with Iridium. They are arguably the first successful NewSpace player, and have made LEO their successful home when others said it couldn't be done," said Ernst Peter Hovinga, the CEO of Magnitude Space.

"As we evolve as a company, we feel that Iridium is an ideal partner for us. They set the standard for low-earth satellite network operations, and support a vast distribution and technology partner ecosystem for satellite IoT customers. Since Iridium primarily serves the requirements of customers with fully global, low latency needs,

and we plan to meet the needs of companies requiring low-power monitoring services, we are truly complementary in our respective approaches."

He added, "We intend to commercially launch in the second quarter of 2018 and believe we will be the first to market with such a service offering. Our partnership has the potential to bring two networks together, addressing the total IoT connectivity proposition present in the market today. We look forward to continuing the conversation and learning from a leader in the mobile satellite space."

This partnership is one of several relationships Iridium has been cultivating within the IoT industry, specifically for low power opportunities. Developing additional lower power, high latency alternatives can diversify Iridium's IoT portfolio, and creates more cost-effective, complementary options for its IoT partners.

"Lower power initiatives are a key aspect of Iridium's IoT business strategy," said Tim Last, vice president and

general manager for Iridium IoT line of business. "Magnitude Space has a solid business proposition with a collaborative approach, which is ideal for this exploratory phase of our relationship. The industry needs both medium-to-high power satellite-based IoT solutions, as well as LPGAN offerings, and we can now discuss ways to best leverage both our network, and their offerings to expand our portfolio of premium IoT solutions."

Iridium's IoT business is currently the company's fastest-growing line of business which saw commercial IoT data subscribers increase 20 percent year-over-year in the second quarter of 2017. Iridium is in the process of launching its next-generation constellation, Iridium NEXT, which will enable Iridium CertusSM, the company's state-of-the-art communications platform supporting a portfolio of critical communications solutions.

For more information about Iridium's products and services, visit [www.iridium.com/solutions/iot](http://www.iridium.com/solutions/iot). Magnitude Space's web address is <https://magnitudespace.com>.

## 'Cotton Sustainability Challenge' seeks proposals from researchers, innovators

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER — The Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) has opened a "Cotton Sustainability Challenge," sponsored by Target Corp., where researchers and innovators will have the ability to propose solutions to improve crop production on Earth by sending their concepts to the International Space Station (ISS) U.S. National Laboratory.

The Challenge will leverage a broad range of disciplines to find breakthrough solutions that can be implemented affordably and benefit the cotton production community.

The Challenge runs through Nov. 1. Selected proposals will receive grant funding through Target Corp. and will ultimately be manifested for flight to the ISS National Lab.

Cotton is a natural plant fiber produced in many countries and one of the most important raw materials required for the production of textiles and clothing. Cotton cultivation requires sustainable access to natural resources like water that are increasingly threatened. This challenge seeks to engage the creative power of the research community to leverage the ISS National Lab to innovate and generate ideas that will improve the utilization of natural resources for sustainable cotton production.

Researchers are encouraged to submit concepts focused on, but not limited to: fluid dynamics, fluid flow, cotton or plant germination, different cultivars of cotton genetics, water uptake and gene expression. Data generated from the research experiments selected will be provided to the public, with the hope that the discoveries made can be leveraged by other researchers and product developers.

To learn more about this challenge, including background on scientific research areas of interest and how to submit a proposal, visit [www.ISS-CASIS.org/cottonsustainabilitychallenge](http://www.ISS-CASIS.org/cottonsustainabilitychallenge).



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## The Space Coast Feline Network's 'Autumn Gala' set for Oct. 21; sponsor opportunities

The Space Coast Feline Network will be hosting its annual dinner and silent auction fundraiser, "Autumn Gala," at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Space Coast Holiday Inn Convention Center, 301 Tucker Lane in Cocoa. The event proceeds will help fund SCFN's services, including its low-cost spay/neuter program for feral/community cats.

The program will include appetizers, a cash bar and a gourmet buffet dinner, with complimentary table wine. There will be raffles and door prizes, too.

If you bring a six-pound or larger bag of cat food, you'll receive a free raffle ticket to win a "great prize." The prize will be announced at the Gala. Also, the Feral/Community Cat Supporter of the Year and Feral Cat Bingo will be announced at the event.

The fee is \$60 per person for reservations made by Oct. 14. Tables for eight people are available. The last date to make reservations for tables is Wednesday, Oct. 18. For reservation information, go to [www.SCFNtnr.org](http://www.SCFNtnr.org).

Sponsorships for the event range from \$100 to \$1,500, with various incentives at each level, including Facebook recognition and website links.

To inquire about being a sponsor, contact Carmen at 960-8812 or Sandy at 759-5242.

The silent auction and door-prize donations are being accepted until Sept. 25. Contact Mona Motz for coordinating pick-up of the items. Motz's phone number is 544-1002.

SCFN is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization "dedicated to the humane care and control of the homeless cat population of Brevard County." For further information on the organization, visit [www.SCFNtnr.org](http://www.SCFNtnr.org).

## Free caregiver education classes to be conducted in Central Brevard

Hospice of St. Francis will be offering Caregiving Education and Resource classes for current and future caregivers, their family and friend helpers. The classes were developed nationally in response to the issues caregivers themselves identified. Each class focuses on different issues a caregiver will face.

Hospice of St. Francis' programs and training classes are offered free of charge to Brevard County residents.

The Sunflower House, located in Merritt Square Mall, will be hosting this series of classes. The program consists of six 90-minute classes that will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-2:30 p.m. The dates are Sept. 26 and 28, and Oct. 3, 5, 10 and 12.

To register for these classes, contact Barbara Borman at 269-4240, extension 3452, or toll-free at (866) 269-4240. Her email address is [caregiving@HospiceOfStFrancis.com](mailto:caregiving@HospiceOfStFrancis.com).

Hospice of St. Francis was founded in 1977 and serves all of Brevard County with offices in Titusville and Melbourne. It is an independent, nonprofit hospice serving the pain relief and symptom management needs of patients.

For more information about patient services and support programs, visit [www.HospiceOfStFrancis.com](http://www.HospiceOfStFrancis.com).



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## Suntree Silent Cinema reschedules screening of 'The Cameraman' for Oct. 14; a free program

Suntree United Methodist Church will present a Buster Keaton screening at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14. The event was originally scheduled for Sept. 16. The church's address is 7400 N. Wickham Road. Buster Keaton's "The Cameraman" is the latest in the church's series of "Suntree Silent Cinema" classics. The Cameraman is widely regarded as Keaton's greatest film.

Church organist Tom Taylor will screen the action-adventure-comedy from 1928, while providing "historically accurate organ accompaniment." The program will include an ice-cream social in the church dining room. While the entire event is free of charge, donations will be accepted for the church's Pipe Organ Project Suntree, an effort to restore and install a 1920s era Hook & Hastings pipe organ in the church sanctuary. Tickets are required for this event and can be obtained by calling Suntree United Methodist Church at 242-2585.

Since the 1960s, Taylor has been involved in concerts and accompanied silent films. He has performed on the

Mighty Wurlitzer at the Century II Civic Center in Wichita, Kan., as well as locations in Missouri, California, and now Florida.

In recent years, he has gained recognition for his development of the Suntree Silent Cinema series, which screens film classics to his historically accurate organ accompaniment. A member of the American Guild of Organists and the Wichita Theatre Organ Inc., Taylor has a resume that includes pipe organ construction. He has

been the church organist for 10 years.

"The community has fallen in love with the movies and organ accompaniment for our Suntree Silent Cinema," said Taylor. "Playing on a genuine pipe organ from the period will enhance future screenings even more. We're hopeful that folks who come to our free ice cream and movie event and will donate funds to help us with this great project, plus, where else can you have so much fun on a Saturday night for free?"

## Guitarist Jesse Cook to perform at King Center's Studio Theatre

Global-guitar virtuoso Jesse Cook will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 4, in the King Center Studio Theatre in Melbourne. On his ninth studio album, "One World," Cook united different styles of music — flamenco, classical, rumba, world beat, pop, blues and jazz. For his album "Nomad," he went to Cairo to record with musicians from that part of the globe. On "The Rumba Foundation," Cook journeyed to Columbia and worked with musicians there, along with some from Cuba. As an artist, composer and producer, he has embraced technology and the digital realm as a means for creating "sonically diverse music." Tickets for this concert are sold at [KingCenter.com](http://KingCenter.com) or call 242-2219. They are also available at [www.BrevardMusicGroup.com](http://www.BrevardMusicGroup.com).



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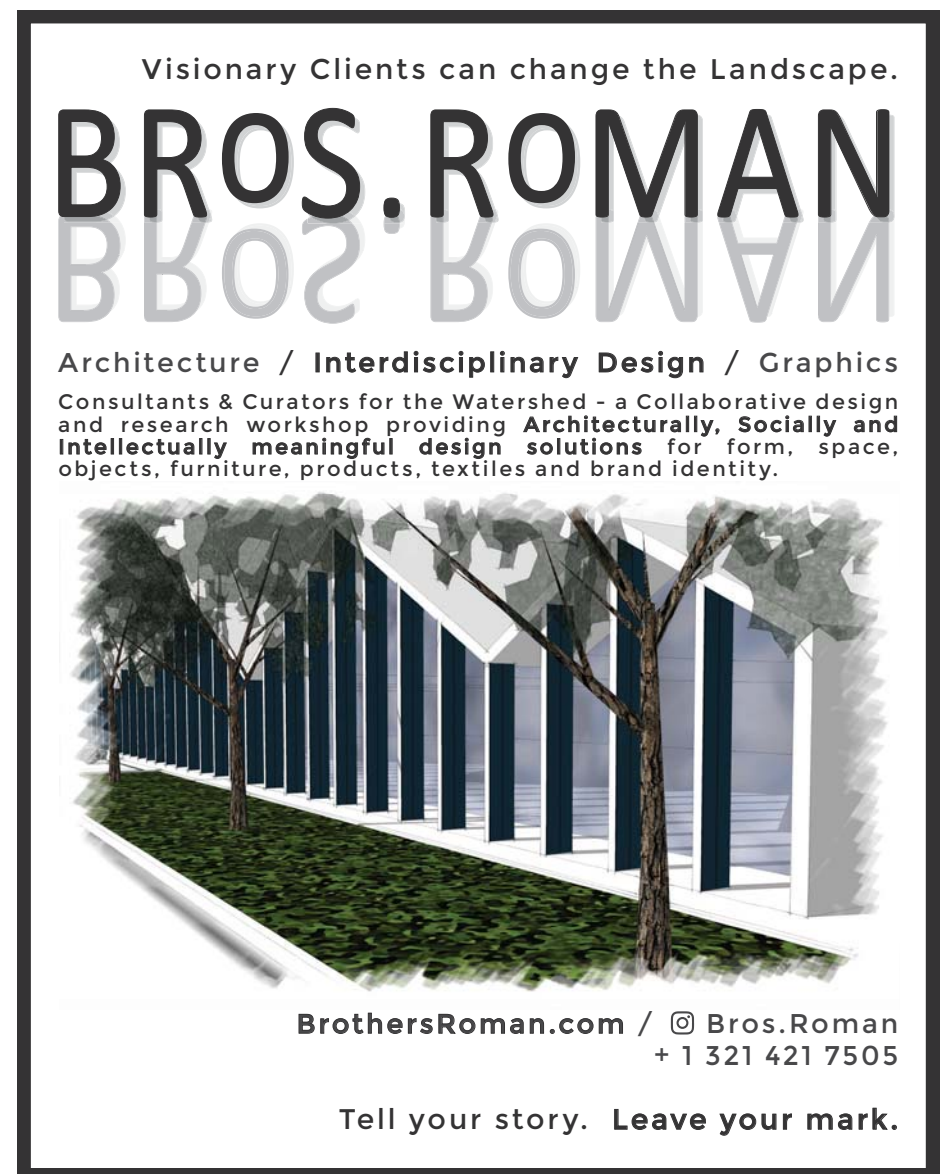
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## Pi Kappa Alpha

Continued from page 12

members coming in to carry on the Pi Kappa Alpha tradition.

“We reviewed our options and we figured it was best to build a new facility for our undergraduates,” he said. “This house has served us well for many years. But when you look at the cost of renovating and bringing it up to modern standards of what’s expected of on-campus housing versus building new, the latter is more cost-effective. Although we are actually off the Florida Tech campus, we are still considered campus housing for students,” he said.

The decision was made to demolish the existing facility and replace it with a new one. “So we started a fundraising campaign.” Joseph Caruso, a Florida Tech board member and a graduate of school, is the campaign chairman for the project.

The campaign began five years ago. “We started with a five-year pledge period,” said Tucker, “so our fraternity brothers could support the campaign over a long period of time. Now, everything is coming together. We have raised nearly \$1 million so far toward a \$1.7 million construction project for the Pi Kappa Alpha House.”

He continued, “We’re having a successful campaign. I think it shows how much of an impact fraternity life — and particularly Pi Kappa Alpha — has had on students through the years, in that they are willing to contribute significant money for this fundraising project. Their fraternity experience is still a very important part of

their lives and that is reflected in their support of the new house.”

The lender on the portion of the project that had to be financed is Florida Business Bank in Melbourne, said Tucker.

“Cara Philpot is our lending officer there. Florida Business Bank was able to turn around our loan request quickly. Before we hooked up with Florida Business Bank, we were working with another institution, but the financing fell through. In a short period of time, Florida Business Bank was able to turn our loan application into a commitment letter for us, which was great. That put us on the path where we needed to be for this project.”

The new 8,000-square-foot Pi Kappa Alpha House will be home to 30 students when it opens. The project’s general contractor is M.H. Williams Construction Group in Melbourne. The architect is area firm DNA Architects Inc., led by principal Dave Nagrodsky.

“We are finalizing our permits with the city and anticipate construction starting in October or November. That’s when the bulldozers will start rolling on the property,” said Tucker.

The new house will include kitchen facilities, recreational areas, and private study areas.

“Since it’s a fraternity house, social events will be going on at various times. But there are parts of the house that will be dedicated to studying and will be quiet areas. Academics are the reason the students are

here. So we have to keep that as our primary focus,” said Tucker.

Pi Kappa Alpha will feature 15 rooms with double occupancy. The students will decorate their individual rooms. “One of the cool things about fraternity housing is we give the students a lot of creative freedom decorating their bedrooms. They get to paint the walls, put down carpeting, and be involved in other ways that will showcase their creative talents.”

He said the new house will feature a southern colonial look. “It will have large columns in the front of the house. But they will be very simplified columns, not the Greek-revival-style columns you might see on some fraternity houses.”

The original construction of the house had a full front porch, “which was enclosed at one point. We are going to bring that back as part of the design with the new house. It’s going to be an improvement and a reflection of the old facility.”

The new Pi Kappa Alpha House will position the organization to serve generations of students into the future.

“We couldn’t be more excited about having a new facility. Everyone who is involved with this project is enthusiastic about it. Being part of a fraternity like Pi Kappa Alpha is something the students never forget. I know Pi Kappa Alpha has been an important part of my life, and I continue to be involved and serve the organization today,” said Tucker.

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## Detective Ben Erskine receives Attorney's Office Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award

COCOA — Detective Ben Erskine of the Cocoa Police Department was recently recognized by the U.S. Attorney's Office Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division, for his work in a sex-trafficking case that yielded a 30-year prison sentence for the accused.

Eskine received the U.S. Attorney's Office Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award. The award was presented to him by acting U.S. Attorney W. Stephen Muldrow in a special ceremony in Orlando. Also receiving awards for their role in the case was Alexander Sorokin of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and FBI Agents Bridgette Trela and Kevin Shea.

The award was presented to Erskine for his work in building a federal case against Kennedy Harris Jr., 24, for sex trafficking of a child and production of child pornography. The case began in February 2016, with an anonymous tip about a known drug dealer later identified as Harris. The information received led detectives and agents with the Special Investigations Unit to unravel the exploitation

and sexual trafficking of a 16-year-old girl who was listed as a runaway, and was held against her will and forced to engage in sexual activity.

Because the victimization occurred in multiple jurisdictions, then Det. Eskine contacted the FBI. The case was subsequently investigated by the FBI, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and the Cocoa Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany Cummins and was brought forth as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

"The honor is well deserved," said Cummins. "You all put together a great case resulting in a successful prosecution. Thank you very much for all of your hard work."

Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims.

In addition to the federal charges, Harris is still facing felony drug charges through the Brevard State Attorney's Office. His trial date is pending.

## Ascension Council of Catholic Women to host annual Craft Fair

The Ascension Council of Catholic Women will host its annual Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 14 at Ascension Catholic Church, 2950 N. Harbor City Blvd. in Melbourne. If you are a vendor and would like to sell your unique crafts or specialties at the Craft Fair, contact Muriel Dufresne at (352) 586-7160 or Janet Diaz at (425) 346-3339 to receive an application to reserve your table.

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## Genesis House

Continued from page 13

will be Greg Pallone of Channel 13.

The event will support the programs and services of Genesis House. The people who use the services of Genesis House cover a wide range of educational levels, from those working on their GED diplomas to doctorate degree candidates.

"We currently have one resident who is close to completing her Ph.D. (in biology and chemistry)," said Snyder. "She is a very bright individual and a good role model. She has a daughter and needed our help in the way of housing. Rents are rising in Brevard County. That's one of the biggest challenges a lot of low-income people face today. They get squeezed in a cycle of events that makes them vulnerable."

For those who are low-income but employed, wages have been stagnant and have not kept pace with rising housing costs. The typical American worker has seen little to no growth in his or her weekly wages in years, according to the National Homeless Coalition. Too little income combined with the dwindling availability of low-cost housing leaves many people at risk for becoming homeless.

"If they lose their job, or if they lose their apartment, or if they lose their car, these are the types of events that can set off a chain reaction for them and lead to homelessness," said Allen.

Finding a home is a critical first step for them. Job training and placement programs also provide the tools some people need to succeed. Allen said every day

Genesis House staff members respond to an average of 14 phone calls from frantic women, many with children, who are suddenly homeless for some of these reasons.

"We started Genesis House because there was a big need in the community to help homeless women," said Allen, who was a mother of young children at the time she founded the organization.

In the late 1960s, Allen started Birthright in Melbourne to help pregnant women. And she soon learned many of the women were without jobs, education or housing, which led to her founding of Genesis House in 1977.

"We had three homeless women at Birthright and they didn't know where to go for help. So we rented an apartment for the three ladies and started to search for our first house," said Allen.

That house, Genesis House I, can accommodate up to six mothers with children, who are homeless or in transition. It's an emergency shelter.

In 1985, her organization expanded with Genesis House II, a student house designed to provide shelter and emotional support to mothers attending school. These mothers are working on finishing high school, vocational school, or college.

Then four years later, Genesis House III was purchased. The residence provides shelter for six homeless, pregnant women.

Genesis House took mortgages on all three properties and all have been paid in full, said Allen. The mortgage

for the third house was paid off in just three years. "We are a debt-free organization. We're proud of that," she said.

Snyder said homelessness is a serious issue for many school children in Brevard County.

"Last year in Brevard County there were 2,230 children categorized as homeless," she said, citing a report from the Brevard Homeless Coalition that worked with LEAD Brevard on the project.

"A lot of school children in the area are homeless," added Allen. "It's a very sad situation. We all need to work together to prevent this."

Genesis House has just launched a new venture that it hopes will be embraced by the community. The newly opened Genesis Boutique is at 529 E. New Haven Ave. in Melbourne. It had a "soft opening" on Sept. 8.

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Donations are accepted from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

"The upscale Boutique — a thrift store — sells women's fashions, gently used, accessories including jewelry, and housewares, for example. We do consignment, too, for some of the items, such as furniture. We have been surprised by the amount and quality of the merchandise we're receiving from the community. All of the donations help support Genesis House. It's a great way for people to help our organization as we work to better the lives of women and children in the county," said Snyder.



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**Infotech Systems Inc.**

Continued from page 1

He added, "The system we've created tracks inventory for manufacturing companies and for warehouses. It tracks all kinds of inventory, including 'batch control.' We think this is something that a lot of manufacturers in Brevard County will benefit from, as it is an efficient and cost-effective solution for companies."

Infotech's "Advanced Manufacturing and Inventory Control Software" system can be used to simply increase or decrease any inventory in a warehouse. It can also move inventory from one location to another.

Vasudevan says the program is "simple to use and saves a company time and money." You can add bar-code readers for picking, receiving, and transferring transactions, he said.

In addition to standalone inventory, manufacturers can "segregate inventory by projects with no co-mingling of parts in multiple warehouses."

The software "manages inventory from raw materials through work-in-progress to finished goods. You can track material costs and labor costs as well."

Vasudevan, who is a mechanical engineer and also has a master's degree in computer science from the Florida Institute of Technology, started Infotech Systems 21 years ago, in 1996.

Like most entrepreneurs, he has always been on the lookout for new business opportunities.

Vasudevan had worked for DRS Technologies, locally, in a number of departments, including quality, production, engineering, and information systems.

He also worked for other businesses, including manufacturers, in production. "I did a lot of work on the shop floor. I have lot of hands-on experience in manufacturing. I rolled all of my past work experiences into creating this company."

Infotech Systems was the first graduate of NASA's Incubation Center. Infotech Systems worked closely with a number of area organizations to earn that NASA honor.

The company also holds the 8(a) certification by the U.S. Small Business Administration, which is a rigorous process to complete.

The government established the 8(a) business development program to certify minority small-business owners and provide them with the opportunity to compete for federal contracts.

"We are certainly looking to grow in the federal contracting segment. We put a lot of effort into securing that certification, and we're proud of it," he said.

The government has strict requirements for those it does business with and is mandated, under certain circumstances, to help eligible certified small businesses such as Infotech Systems compete in the federal marketplace.

Infotech Systems teamed up with the Florida Small Business Development Center at the University of Central Florida and its government contracting service, known officially as the Procurement Technical Assistance Center.

Working with a Florida Small Business Development Center government contracting specialist and consultant, Vasudevan and his team successfully completed the 8(a) application and submitted it for approval.

"The 8(a) certification was a big step forward for our

company," he said.

Participants can receive sole-source contracts, up to a ceiling of \$4 million for goods and services and \$6.5 million for manufacturing, according to the Small Business Administration.

Also, 8(a) firms are able to form joint ventures and teams to bid on contracts. This enhances the ability of 8(a) businesses to perform larger prime contracts and overcome the effects of contract bundling, the combining of two or more contracts together into one large contract.

In addition, 8(a) participants may take advantage of specialized business training, counseling, marketing assistance, and high-level executive development provided by the Small Business Administration and its resource partners.

Within the first year of earning 8(a) certification, Infotech Systems, working with the Florida Small Business Development Center, won its first government contract, valued at more than \$750,000.

"Initially, we started out doing computer infrastructure, mainly computer networking," he said. "We shifted our focus in 2000. That's when we started developing software for inventory control for manufacturing companies. We saw a need in the market. Our first release was in 2000."

His company followed up with a new software version in 2006, and then another upgrade about four years later. "So we've had three major releases over those years."

Many of the businesses that Infotech Systems caters to are manufacturers that assemble various products.

"We also support job-shop manufacturing. In job-shop manufacturing, a company may take a piece of metal, cut it, and make something with it. With our inventory software, we support assembly operations and job-shop manufacturing."

Job-shop manufacturing in Brevard County is growing and Vasudevan's company hopes to expand in that arena, too.

He said Infotech Systems' business has changed considerably over the past years, with the rise of cloud computing. The company has made adjustments to keep itself on the leading edge of its industry.

"We now have two different set-ups of our software product — one can be installed on an individual network, and the other is a cloud version. They have the option."

He continued, "The advantages of the cloud version are many. You don't have to worry about your data because it's in the cloud. You don't have to back up data and you don't have to bother with maintenance. The data is backed up several times, and we guarantee it. If you are moving from Brevard to Atlanta, you can still work on your data and continue to do business. The cloud version is especially important during the time of a hurricane or other types of natural disasters."

Vasudevan said the pricing model for his company has come down "drastically over the years "because you don't have to invest in hardware. No hardware is required and no additional software is required. It's just like FP&L, for instance. You pay every month and you continue on. The software is more of a tool. You can use it on your desktop, your iPad, and other devices."

He said the pricing has dropped from thousands of

dollars in the industry "to the few hundreds of dollars range today. It's affordable for all businesses."

Infotech Systems takes care of all the support, which is the key to successful software, he said.

The company's experienced support team is "ready to assist customers in every possible way," through pre-training, pre-implementation testing, onsite and offsite training, telephone support, customizations, and software updates.

"We provide best-in-class support. We take care of everything to ensure a smooth operation for the customer. We do all of the updates. We do all of the maintenance, and we provide all of the help that's needed."

He added. "The help is also available online and during normal business hours. We don't charge by the hour on anything. We have a lot of support professionals. As a company, we take pride in the support we provide customers. I think support is our main differentiator. It's the thing that sets us apart from other types of companies in our sector," said Vasudevan.

Many of Infotech Systems' customers became ISO-certified "using our software. In order to gain that certification, companies have to have processes and procedures in place. Our software is used by the companies to do just that," he said.

Infotech Systems does custom programming to meet the needs of clients that do not fit the typical software package. "Not every manufacturer is the same. One of our customers is an aerospace company and it has specific needs. Our programmers are very knowledgeable in the Advanced Manufacturing and Inventory Control Software system and that allows customers to beta-test the changes. We test all of our software using live customer data."

One of Infotech Systems' local customers is Kinship Precision LLC, a manufacturer in Melbourne. The company specializes in the manufacturing of small turned parts made on CNC Swiss lathes.

Kinship Precision offers CNC machining services for both small-volume and high-volume production.

"As a manufacturer, being able to go from a sales order, to an in-process work order with multiple operations in our shop, to a product that is inventoried, invoiced, and shipped out, and with the same program be able to seamlessly transition between all these steps is such an invaluable tool," said Raju Kumar, who owns Kinship Precision with business partner Bryan Powell.

"The efficiency, traceability, and ease of using a singular software like Infotech's Advanced Manufacturing and Inventory Control Software, really makes a manufacturer like us that much more competitive when we bid a job. When you add in the fact it is cloud-based and we have access from anywhere to our system, it really is an MRP Swiss Army knife."

While Infotech Systems currently serves manufacturers around the United States, he said his company has been receiving interest from businesses in the United Kingdom, Australia, and other global markets.

"Eventually, I believe, we will pursue the international market and become a global company operating in Melbourne. I think Infotech Systems' future is bright."



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