



Career academies, TEAM budget, storm season

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Santa Rosa County students will have access to 23 career academies when the school year starts in August, TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council is likely to see its government funding cut next year, and the Santa Rosa emergency management department wants you to get ready for hurricane season.

Career Academies help economy

1 When school starts in August, Santa Rosa County high schoolers will have more than 23 opportunities to focus their studies on fields they might like to pursue after graduation.

For the first time, the district will have 23 official career academies, programs within the schools that marry academic studies and practical experience in focused fields of study, Cheryl Smith, director of workforce education for the Santa Rosa School District told the TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council's board of directors on Monday.

"We have a long history of outstanding career and technical programs. That part hasn't changed," Smith said. "Through legislation, through our School Board, through our superintendent, we are trying to bring those programs up to the next level."

The career academies include the new aerospace program at Milton High School, digital design programs, culinary arts and information technology programs at several schools.

Ildi Hosman, TEAM's public affairs director, said career academies are important to job growth in Santa Rosa.

"When we go out, (companies) need to know that we have mechanisms in place that will train workforce that they can employ when they need to expand or if they're relocating their companies from around the country."

Budget crunch pinches TEAM

2 Cindy Anderson, executive director of the TEAM Santa Rosa, had hoped that the Santa Rosa County Commission would be able to keep its funding for the council for next year at this year's level, which is \$435,240.

But the ongoing county budget crunch won't allow that, she was told.

"It's about as ugly as it has been," Anderson told TEAM's board of directors on Monday. "We're looking at about a 10 percent cut."

That cut for fiscal 2011, which begins Oct. 1, would bring TEAM's local funding down 37 percent from where it was in 2007, she said. That year, TEAM received \$624,250.

TEAM — which is charged with creating jobs in Santa Rosa by luring new companies and growing existing ones — is working to find other funding sources.

"We're working on several grants," Anderson said. "If we get those, they'll be able to subsidize our funding."

TEAM is also planning a new membership drive in 2011 that will increase private funds coming into the agency.

Get ready for hurricane season

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3 With the June 1 opening of hurricane season quickly approaching, the Santa Rosa County emergency management department is working to help get residents prepared.

n The county's 2010 disaster guide is now available. It provides preparation information for hurricanes, floods, tornados, pandemics, wildfires, hazardous chemical accidents, seasonal emergencies, terrorism and important phone numbers.

Free copies of the guide are available at county offices, libraries, local chambers of commerce, and local retailers including Wal-Mart, Winn-Dixie and Publix. Each seventh grader in the Santa Rosa County School District will receive a copy to take home. An electronic version is available from the county's website at www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/disasterprep.html.

n Hurricane evacuation maps have been revised. To find out how the evacuation zones will affect you, enter your home or business address on the interactive map found at www.santarosa.fl.gov/gis.

n Citizens can automatically receive breaking news alerts from Santa Rosa County emergency management by e-mail or text message by signing up at www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/publicwarning.html.

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