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Flood Insurance Firm Is Opening Lakeland Office

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THE LEDGER

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LAKELAND | An insurance services firm is expanding to Lakeland and could create up to 50 new jobs here.

National Flood Services, a Montana-based flood insurance processor, is moving into offices at the Heritage Business Center on Commerce Point Drive.

Company officials say they plan to hire 30 to 50 employees for the expansion and will hold an open house today and Wednesday for interested job hunters.

"We are pleased Lakeland is host to our expanding operations. It's an ideal location with a highly qualified employee base," said P. Michael Jones, NFS' president, in a prepared statement.

"Opening another support facility is yet another way we act on our commitment to our clients,"

The Lakeland site will be the third support center for NFS, which also has offices in St. Petersburg and Deerfield Beach.

NFS offers insurance processing, policy and claims administration, and customer support services for property and casualty insurers.

The 26-year-old company is a subsidiary of StoneRiver Inc., an Oakland, Calif.-based insurance services firm.

NFS will have events from 1 to 7 p.m. today and Wednesday at the company's Lakeland office, 2345 Commerce Point Drive, Suite 140.

A listing of current job postings is available at stoneriver.com/content/careers.

Positions needed for the Lakeland office include claims examiners and processing representatives, according to the site.

The starting pay is not disclosed.

Job candidates should bring a resume. They will have a chance to fill out applications if they haven't already done so online, said Gregg Hultquist, NFS senior vice president of operations.

Hultquist said NFS will initially occupy about half of its roughly 11,000-square-foot space at Heritage Business Center, leaving room to expand. He said the company will begin operating soon in Lakeland but hasn't set a firm timeline to complete the hiring process.

"Because of the way we run, we can add slowly. We don't have to have 30 people on day one," Hultquist told The Ledger.

"It really depends on how the business goes and where we get the talent. Our hope is we bring in at least 30-plus, and we can go to 50 if it makes sense."

Today's open house will also feature an official announcement about the expansion at 2 p.m. Lakeland government and Chamber of Commerce officials are scheduled to attend.

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