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September 8, 2008

Go Gadsden! Leads Group Continues to Meet

The Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to invite you to participate in our member benefit: the *Go Gadsden!* Leads Group. This leads group was created to give Chamber members access to additional opportunities for building more relationships to obtain new business referrals.

Go Gadsden! meets each month on the second and fourth Wednesday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Gadsden Historical Society in Quincy. September 10 will feature a presentation by Croley Insurance and Financial Services. The presentation for September 24 is to be announced.

The Chamber requests RSVPs to michelleburdick@tds.net or by calling (850) 627-9231. Additional information can be found on our events calendar at www.gadsdenfla.com.

CHP Presents: The Savvy Senior

The Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce Capital Health Plan proudly presents The Savvy Senior, a monthly outreach program for seniors who want to learn more about creating and maintaining healthy, happy, and active lifestyles. We invite you to join CHP for their Savvy Senior meetings at various locations throughout Gadsden County.

The next Savvy Senior meeting details are:

Topic: Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)
When: Tuesday, September 9, 2008
10:30 a.m.
Lunch will be provided.
Where: Carver Heights Senior Citizens, Inc.
407 SW 4th Street
Havana
Cost: Free
RSVP: (850) 523-7333

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Cathy Heimbecker, RN, BSN, CCRN will be presenting this month's topic. She is the administrator of health and vascular services of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

Health screenings and exhibitors will be available before and after the program and lunch. For more information about The Savvy Senior meetings and locations, please call (850) 523-7333.

As a current Chamber Economic Development Council member, CHP continues to show their overwhelming support of the Gadsden County communities through programs like Savvy Senior.

Quincy Music Theatre Presents 25 Year Musical Review

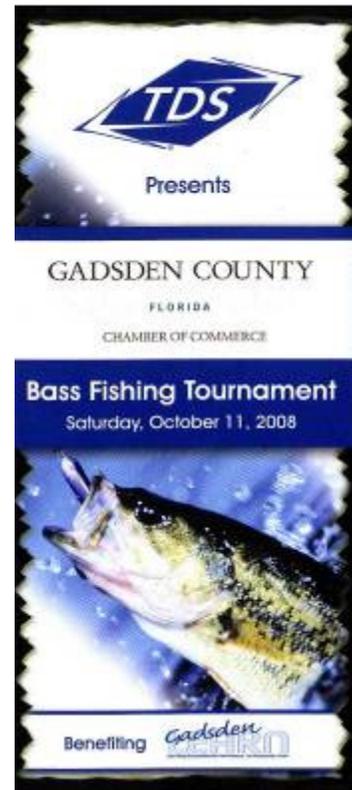
The Quincy Music Theatre will host a benefit on Saturday, September 13, 2008. The proceeds will be used to upgrade the lighting system and to help fund the operation of the Theatre. The program will be 90 fun filled minutes celebrating the first twenty five years of shows. The benefit will begin at 6:00 p.m. with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. Ticket prices are \$40 for individual tickets or \$75 dollars per couple. Tickets can be purchased by calling (850)875-9444 or by going to www.qmtonline.com.

TDS Telecom Presents Bass Fishing Tournament

TDS Telecom presents the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Bass Fishing Tournament on Saturday, October 11. The tournament will be held at Ingram's Marina and Whippoorwill Landing at Lake Talquin. The entry fee is \$125 per boat with a two person maximum. There are ten guaranteed cash prizes; first place is \$2500. Additional prizes will be available through ticket drawings.

The fishing tournament benefits the GadsdenLEARN scholarship program available via Tallahassee Community College. GadsdenLEARN assists the county school system in the education of students and makes post high school education available to all Gadsden residents. This program has made its mark by providing funds for college scholarships, vocational scholarships, testing fees, remedial work, tutorial assistance, adult education and recognition and motivational programs for students and teachers. To find out how you can establish a scholarship or become a Gadsden LEARN Partner, contact Ranie Thompson at thompsor@tcc.fl.edu or (850) 201-6064.

Register today to obtain your boat number by contacting Michelle Burdick at michelleburdick@tds.net or (850) 627-9231. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for businesses and individuals. Registration and sponsor forms can be obtained by going to the Chamber's calendar of events at www.gadsdenfla.com.



Member Spotlight



Kenan Fishburne, the owner of Main Street Design and head professional designer pictured with Beverly White, the office manager, and Mary Radcliffe, a professional designer.

Main Street Design, Inc., located at 9 West King Street in Quincy, is a full service licensed interior design firm that has been serving Quincy, Tallahassee, and the surrounding area for nineteen years. They have enjoyed assisting area businesses, schools, libraries, government facilities, and residents in making their design decisions, whether it be remodeling, additions, space planning or decorating new or existing structures.

In addition to their many residential projects, some of their notable commercial projects include the Water Street Hotel and Marina in Apalachicola, the Governor's Mansion Legacy Library, the Gadsden County Library, and the Legislative Chamber for the House of Representatives.

Past pro-bono work includes Big Bend Hospice, Refuge House, Ronald McDonald House, the Dezell House, and the Quincy Music Theatre.

Kenan Fishburne, the owner and head interior designer, has thirty years experience and a Master's degree in Interior Design from Florida State University. Kim Newell, with a Master's degree in Architecture, Mary Radcliffe, a full-time interior designer, and Beverly White, the office manager, complete their design team. For information, contact them at (850) 627-2662.



Before: Living room of the Treacy/Fishburne home, formerly the Sara May Love House, located in Quincy.



After: The same living room in the Treacy/Fishburne home, as designed by Kenan Fishburne of Main Street Design.



Before: Initial photo of the Stewart and Susan Hinson kitchen, located in Quincy. This is the Hinson family home that Stewart and Susan recently renovated.



After: The same kitchen space as redesigned by the Hinson's and Main Street Design.



Left & Right: Interior office pictures of Main Street Design where they display antiques and other unique items for sale.



WORKFORCE *plus* and Men's Wearhouse Join Together to Give Underserved Men a Second-Chance

WORKFORCE *plus* and Men's Wearhouse (NYSE:MW), the leading specialty retailer of men's dress apparel in North America, today announce their partnership in the first ever National Suit Drive campaign - dedicated to empowering unemployed men by providing them with professional work attire that will build their self-esteem and make a good first impression during job interviews. Throughout the September 1 - October 31, 2008 time period, men nationwide are encouraged to donate their gently used suits, sport coats, slacks, dress shirts, ties and belts to help other men striving for self-sufficiency. We are encouraging people to bring men's professional clothing donations to the Men's Wearhouse store located in the Governor's Square Mall, 1594-1 Governor's Square Boulevard, Tallahassee. The clothing donated will be delivered to WORKFORCE *plus* for distribution to the men we serve as they transition back into the workforce.

“We are excited to embark on a partnership with the Men’s Wearhouse on the National Suit Drive campaign,” said Kimberly A. Moore, CEO of WORKFORCE plus. “While we receive a number of donations throughout the year for women, this campaign will afford us an opportunity to obtain dress attire for men so that they too can make a good first impression during their job search efforts. We believe that this initiative will empower men and offer the community an opportunity to get involved.”

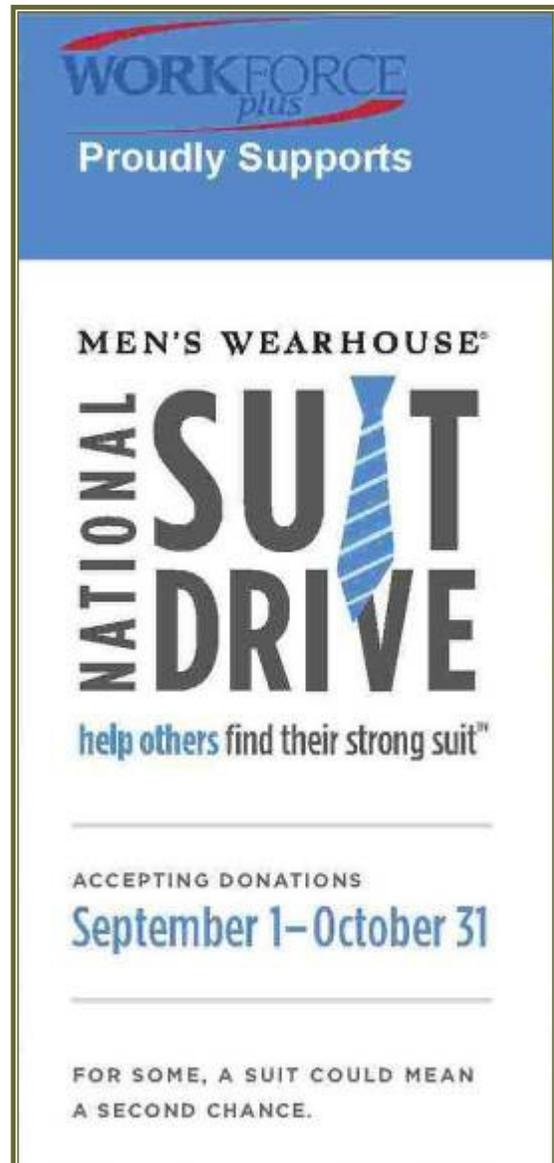
“Men’s Wearhouse has actively been working with a number of organizations across the country over the past decade to help unemployed men restore the confidence they need to re-enter the workforce, and we certainly know the difference a suit can make.” said George Zimmer, chairman of Men’s Wearhouse. “This year, we are excited to be extending these efforts nationwide and are partnering with WORKFORCE plus so we can help even more men in this particular market as they take steps toward self-sufficiency. The National Suit Drive is based on the idea that we all deserve a second chance. Being compassionate and respectful of one another are two key values embedded within the Men’s Wearhouse corporate culture. The National Suit Drive supports our company’s goals and the missions of our other corporate and non-profit partner organizations to improve the lives of disadvantaged men. We are grateful for the opportunity to launch such a campaign and look forward to its success through the support of all involved.”

Men’s Wearhouse has focused on gathering donated men’s clothing for reasons beyond the obvious fact that their business is geared towards men. A number of national and local organizations have been gathering professional women’s clothing donations for many years, but it is very difficult to get quality men’s professional clothing donated. That is why this national drive is so important.

For more information, please contact Desiree Gorman at (850) 414-6085 ext. 202 or Cassie Biscanin at (713) 655-3598.

New Management Team at Magnolia House

The Magnolia House Assisted Living Facility located on Strong Road in Quincy is pleased to announce Martha Scott as the new executive director. Martha has been with Magnolia House for over five years as both the life enrichment coordinator and associate director. She brings many years of experience in the geriatric field with her to her new position. Rache’l Layerd



has joined the management team at Magnolia House as the director of marketing and life enrichment. Rache'l has several years experience of marketing for hospice, and numerous years of fundraising experience for several local non-profits. Lola Pearsons, LPN completes the management team as the new resident care coordinator. Lola has 20 years of nursing experience, fifteen of those in geriatric nursing. Drop by the Magnolia House soon and visit with the new management team.

The Magnolia House Assisted Living Facility has been helping older adults in the area for more than ten years do more for themselves by setting the standard for maximizing the quality of life and dignity of its residents in an affordable senior living model. That quality of life is defined as promoting and supporting aging in a home like setting, personal empowerment of the residents, and offering innovative options for the residents.

Community goes back to school at UWBB Campaign Kickoff

As soon as the school bell rang, hundreds of Big Bend citizens went back to school to learn the ABCs of how to LIVE UNITED at United Way of the Big Bend's (UWBB) 66th Annual Community Campaign Kickoff today at the Antique Car Museum.

Rapidly getting into character, more than 400 "freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors" began their quest for knowledge by going to student orientation, meeting with faculty (Campaign Leadership Team), attending study hall, taking a pop quiz, and receiving their homework assignments.

The tongue-in-cheek school orientation closed as the Florida State University and Florida A&M University cheerleaders, and Leon High School Band unveiled the \$7.25-million campaign goal.

UWBB used the pep-rally-style kickoff to announce its LIVE UNITED concept. The underlying LIVE UNITED responsibility to give, advocate, and volunteer resonated with every "student." No matter where you looked, LIVE UNITED was splashed onto everything in the venue, including the new campaign video and public service announcements.

"We went back to school today to have fun, rediscovering how we all can LIVE UNITED," said Bill Montford, 2008 UWBB campaign chair. "It's amazing how many ways you can give back to your community. Anyone can volunteer time, make an impact and do what you love at the same time ... all you need is desire. Most people in our community know how important our local United Way is in caring for those in need and strengthening our future. Let's stay informed on our United Way's progress, share that knowledge with people in our lives and open up minds to what we can do to help. Take the opportunity to make some noise and advocate for our United Way."

Montford also underlined the importance of everyone contributing what they could through their workplace campaign.

"Of course, giving through the campaign is critical to this equation, and every gift makes a huge difference when combined with others," he said. "These dollars enable our certified agencies to deliver services that help people with long-term and basic needs, as well as emergencies. The campaign also supports prevention efforts, which are designed to pinpoint why certain problems exist and find ways to minimize or eliminate them. When you add this all up, you see a community that does what it takes to ensure no one is left behind."

Three “honor students” were recognized with outstanding achievement awards: Publix Super Markets received the GIVE Award, Kimberly Moore received the ADVOCATE Award, and Cheryl Thompson received the VOLUNTEER Award.

“These days, we need each other more than ever,” said Ken Armstrong, UWBB president. “If we stand united through tough times and continue to face the challenges, we will prevail. LIVE UNITED is much more than a slogan ... it’s a lifestyle choice ... it’s a unifying concept ... it’s all-American.

Last year, people in the Big Bend united to raise \$7,241,100 for the community campaign. For more information on UWBB, the 2008 campaign or how you can help neighbors in the Big Bend, call (850) 414-0844.

Gadsden Arts Center Receives Knight Foundation Grant

The Gadsden Arts Center is proud to announce a recent grant award from the Knight Foundation Donor Advised Fund (KFDAF). This award supports the Center’s efforts to serve the community by improving accessibility to art exhibitions and cultural education for people of all ages.

The KFDAF grant enables Gadsden Arts to invest in some of the latest education and accessibility technologies. A camcorder will be used to record Artist Gallery Talks and other presentations that will then made available “on demand” at the Arts Center on large flat panel monitors and via the Gadsden Arts Center website. A digital microphone will be used to record audio interviews with regional artists, authors, and other cultural leaders. A website visitor will be able to simply click on an artist or author’s photograph to hear the recorded interview. Art exhibitions and the Center’s Permanent Collection will be photographed and entered, along with information about the art, into specially designed database software that presents this information online as a virtual art exhibition, accessible to anyone with a computer and internet connection.

“The technology that Gadsden Arts is putting in place will allow almost anyone anywhere in the world to enjoy our art exhibitions, the region’s artists, authors, and the cultural education opportunities that we offer,” said Gadsden Arts Center Director Grace Maloy. “With today’s gas prices, fewer people can visit, and those that visit may come less often. Schools have less money for field trips, and some older people cannot drive at night to hear the Artist Gallery Talks. These technology upgrades will help solve all of those issues. We are very grateful to the Knight Foundation, and in particular, to Alberto Ibargüen, President, Mike Pate, program administrator, and Joy Watkins, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of North Florida, for their support of this project.”

Gadsden Arts plans to have all of the technology enhancements up and running by January, with some tools available by next month. The recorded Gallery Talk given by Dean Mitchell and Tim Myrick will be available “on demand” at the Arts Center in early September.

The Gadsden Arts Center is located just 25 minutes from the State Capitol at 13 N. Madison on Quincy’s historic courthouse square. Regular gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 am-5 pm and Sunday 1-5 pm. Public admission \$1; members and children admission is free. For more information, call 875-4866 or check the web at www.gadsdenarts.org.

Member Benefit



Lost Time = Lost \$\$\$

You are undoubtedly compassionate towards your employees whose identities have been stolen. You know it affects their credit rating, their reputations, and their morale. It also affects your business.

Not only are your employees distracted by the emotional turmoil - victims say the emotional impact of identity theft is like that of a violent assault or repeated battering - but they must spend hours dealing with creditors, collection agencies and the legal system.

Personal problems can seriously affect a company's overall performance and profitability. Studies show employees with legal problems usually:

- are absent five times more than average;
- use medical benefits four times more than average;
- use sick leave twice as often; and
- experience a substantial reduction in productivity.

Offering a smart benefit can improve employee satisfaction, retention, and your bottom line. For more than 30 years, Pre-Paid Legal Services has been a leader in the legal plan industry in North America. They have approximately 30,000 groups, privately and publicly held companies, school districts, and other organizations that offer these benefits to their employees.

In 2007, the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce partnered with Pre-Paid Legal Services to offer members the opportunity to sign up for help with identity theft protection, estate planning, will preparation, traffic tickets, lawsuits, and more. Businesses are often surprised at the amount of interest their employees show when the Pre-Paid Legal Services benefits are presented and explained.

To find out more about this employee benefit program available through the Chamber, please contact Michelle Burdick, the vice president of membership at (850) 627-9231 or michelleburdick@tds.net. David Hauser, the identity theft risk management consultant, can also answer your questions at (850) 528-0454.