

208 North Adams Street Quincy, FL 32351
www.gadsdenfla.com 850-627-9231

November 28, 2008



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

TOP STORY

- 1 Donations Needed for Toys for Tots

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- 2 Holiday Glee Scheduled for December 9
- 2 Go Gadsden! Leads Group Continues to Meet
- 3 Identity Theft Awareness Workshop – FREE

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

- 4 From Tiaras to Trophies: Allen Trophy & Awards

MEMBER NEWS

- 5 FDOT Seeks Input on Tentative Five Year Work Program
- 5 Big Bend Hospice Hosts Service of Remembrance
- 6 FREE Internet Safety for Children Seminar
- 6 Havana Annual Holiday Parade and Lawnmower Contest: December 13
- 7 Alternate Christmas Market LIVE Aims to LIVE UNITED
- 8 Drive Around Safe and Sound Program in Havana
- 9 Faith Funeral Home Becomes Certified Veterans Provider

Donations Needed for Toys for Tots

Locally owned and operated Tri-Eagle Sales, in partnership with the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, will collect toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program from now until December 10 at their offices in Midway (545 River Birch Rd, Midway).

Local businesses and caring members of the community are encouraged to join Tri-Eagle employees' support the Toys for Tots mission and drop off new, unwrapped toys to Tri-Eagle Sales weekdays between 9am and 4pm during the donation period.

"We are committed to giving back to our community," said Kristen Black, Director of Community Affairs for Tri-Eagle Sales. "And we know with the support and generosity of the people and businesses in Gadsden County we can make a big difference in the amount of toys collected for needy children this holiday season."

The Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce is partnering to spread the word about the toy drive. "We are proud of our partnership in the community and thankful for business leaders like Tri-Eagle Sales who are willing to give back to families in need," said David Gardner, Director of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce.

In 2007, Tri-Eagle Sales and the Chamber gathered 132 toys that were distributed to Gadsden County children. For more information, please call (850) 576-1294 or (850) 627-9231.



Holiday Glee After Hours scheduled for December 9

Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce members and strategic partners are invited to join us for our Holiday Glee After Hours social networking event. This event will emphasize the businesses located in Midway and the surrounding area.

For the second year in a row, the Tri-Eagles Sales has partnered with the Chamber for the annual Toys for Tots drive. We ask that participants in the Holiday Glee After Hours bring at least one, unwrapped toy to the event. In 2007, we collected 132 toys for Gadsden County children. Please help us surpass this number in these difficult economic times.



We hope that you can attend and mingle with your fellow members. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards for the door prize drawings as well as to exchange with other participants. The Chamber is currently accepting sponsorships and door prize donations from businesses located in Midway.

To sponsor or attend the Holiday Glee After Hours, please contact Michelle Burdick at michelleburdick@tds.net or (850) 627-9231 no later than noon on December 4.

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 at 304 West King Street in Quincy. December 10 will feature a roundtable discussion and plans will be made for next year's meeting. The presentation for December 24 is cancelled because of the holiday however the next meeting will be January 14; the presentation 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.

GO GADSDEN! MEMBERS

AIR CONDITIONING & HEAT

Air Control Heating & A/C, Inc.

(850) 562-1234

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

WORKFORCE *plus*

(850) 875-4040

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Focus Credit Union

(850) 627-3595

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Prudential Financial

(850) 386-1860

HEALTH PLAN ORGANIZATION

Capital Health Plan
(850) 523-7469

HOTEL/HOSPITALITY

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
(850) 875-2500

IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION

Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc.
(850) 528-0454

INSURANCE (COMMERCIAL)

Croley Insurance and Financial Services
(850) 386-1922

INSURANCE (LIFE-HEALTH)

Tucker Life-Health Insurance, Inc.
(850) 926-2200

NON-PROFIT (HEALTH/HUMAN SERVICES)

United Way of the Big Bend
(850) 414-0844

SCREENPRINTING & EMBROIDERY

T-Formation
(850) 574-0122

INSURANCE (SUPPLEMENTAL)

AFLAC
(850) 570-1659

LAND DEVELOPMENT

Tim's Hauling & Tractor Service, Inc.
(850) 539-8100

MAPPING/SURVEYING

GlobalMind
(850) 222-0599

MEDIA

WGWD 93.3
(850) 627-7086

NON-PROFIT (FINANCIAL LITERACY)

GadsdenSAVES
(850) 539-5040

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TDS Telecom
(850) 875-5214

Identity Theft Awareness Workshop for Business Owners - FREE Seminar

Are your dedicated employees putting your customers at risk?

Business owners and managers, as well as individuals in the community, are encouraged to attend this free seminar. Not only will participants receive tips on preventing their own identity from being stolen but business owners will be given refreshers on laws requiring them to protect their customers' private information.

Workshop participants will be informed about how to decrease individual exposure to identity theft and minimize a company's risk of violating federal identity theft legislation. The seminar will also clarify how businesses can avoid becoming recipients of fines up to one million dollars and ten years in jail.

Each workshop has limited space to allow time for a personalized question and answer sessions. Individuals can attend the workshop scheduled for December 17 from 11:00 am to noon. Pre-registration is required by December 11. Companies can schedule an in-house

seminar at their place of business or at the Chamber. Call (850) 627-9231 or email michelleburdick@tds.net.

Member Spotlight



Marcia and Aaron Allen, owners of Allen Trophy & Awards pictured with sample trophies and plaques.

From Tiaras to Trophies

Allen Trophy & Awards, located at 1010 West Jefferson Street in Quincy, provides a vast array of awards and gifts to recognize achievements. The selection includes trophies, plaques, medallions and ribbons. Weddings and family reunions will be remembered long after the event with their bridesmaid and groomsman gifts, memory framing and shadowboxing. A bride or pageant participant would enjoy receiving one of Allen Trophy & Awards' beautiful tiaras for their special day. Retirement gifts, employee of the year and Hall of Fame awards are also available.



"We've recently upgraded to new state of the art equipment that will allow us unlimited capability to etch materials like glass, crystal, marble, wood and leather," said the owner, Aaron Allen.

Allen Trophy & Awards has served Quincy and the surrounding area since February 1990. It is locally owned and operated by long time residents of Havana, Aaron and Marcia Allen. The couple chose to establish their store in Quincy because of its county seat status and so it would be a central and convenient location for their Gadsden County customers.



"We tribute our success to the numerous customers and friends that we have had the pleasure to serve," stated Aaron. "We would like to extend a very special thanks to Quincy and the

surrounding area for making us the success we are today as we have been truly blessed.”

Their excellent reputation in this area is due to satisfying the needs of organizations, clubs, leagues and schools with their high quality products. Allen Trophy & Awards has highly competitive pricing, especially with Tallahassee business, and even offers personal delivery for large, multi-piece orders.

Some of their notable customers include the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, the Mexican American Soccer League, the Gadsden County School Board and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Allen Trophy & Awards has even completed orders of trophies, plaques and medallions that were shipped to Brazil, Peru, Russia and Puerto Rico.

Allen Trophy & Awards is a proud member of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce and has sponsored the Chamber's member of the month plaques. They have also sponsored a Pee Wee football team for the past fourteen years and have assisted the Special Olympics in Gadsden County.

For information, contact Allen Trophy & Awards at (850) 627-9668.

FDOT Seeks Input on Tentative Five Year Work Program

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Three Program Development Office will host a Public Hearing, Thursday, December 4, to discuss and consider the public's input on the Tentative Five Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2014. The meeting will be held Thursday, December 4, 2008, beginning at 11 a.m. and concluding at Noon (EST) in the FDOT Midway Operations Center Conference Room located at 17 Commerce Blvd in Midway. Projects located in Franklin, Gadsden, Liberty, Jefferson, Leon and Wakulla Counties will be discussed.

District Three encompasses the following counties in Northwest Florida: Bay Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton and Washington. Comments and input from local and regional interest groups, governmental entities, business enterprises and the general public are welcome. Written comments will be received by the department at the Public Hearing and within ten (10) days after each Public Hearing. Comments should be addressed to: Larry Kelley, District Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Three, 1074 Highway 90, Chipley, Florida 32428. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status.

For more information, call 888-638-0250.

Big Bend Hospice Hosts Service of Remembrance

The Big Bend Hospice Gadsden County Advisory Council invites the community to the annual Service of Remembrance on Thursday, December 4th at 6:00 PM at the William A. McGill Public Library, 732 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy.

Big Bend Hospice's Service of Remembrance is a non-denominational service that brings together Gadsden County residents to honor the memories of loved ones during this very special time of the year. "Attending the Service of Remembrance has become a tradition," said Wendy Melton, Manager of the Gadsden County Big Bend Hospice team. "The Service is a way to honor the memories of the patients our team has cared for in Gadsden County." Following the Service, The Big Bend Hospice Gadsden Advisory Council will host a reception.

This year's Service of Remembrance will feature music and words of comfort, and will conclude with a special candle lighting ceremony and passing of the candlelight in memory of loved ones.

The Trees of Remembrance are adorned, for a donation, with gold ribbons, porcelain bells and angels, each bearing a personal handwritten message, providing an opportunity to recognize and remember those who are close to our hearts. Donations made go directly to providing care, comfort and hope to Big Bend Hospice patients and their families in Gadsden County, and can be made at the following locations: Devine Grace by Shunta's Café, Quincy, Focus Credit Union, Chattahoochee, Focus Credit Union, Quincy, Gadsden Arts Center, Quincy, Mockingbird Café, Havana, Premier Bank, Quincy, Stone's Home Center, Havana. For more information contact Travia Cohen at (850) 556-1786.

Free Internet Safety for Children Seminar

Alpha UPKUDO is hosting a free seminar to the community on internet safety on Tuesday, December 9 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 1412 Florida Georgia Highway in Havana. The Internet Safety Division of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is planning to speak to children, beginning at age six, teens, and adults to keep our children safe while they are online. Anyone is welcome to attend to learn the precaution that parents and other adults need to take to ensure our children's safety.

For more information, call 850-514-4334 or email masteranne@upkudo.com.

BELL & BATES
Home Center
Established 1902

POINSETTIAS ARE HERE!
\$7.99 (plus tax) 6 inch pot
\$12.99 (plus tax) 8 inch pot

ALL CROCS ON SALE
\$23.99 (plus tax)

SELECTED CASE KNIVES ON SALE
thru December

SHOP LOCAL

Havana Annual Holiday Parade & Lawn Mower Contest: December 13

Getting into the holiday spirit has never been more fun! How creative can you be in decorating your riding lawn mower like a parade float? Let your imagination run wild! You may choose a holiday theme or any crazy, zany, fun idea that you think will win one of 3 cash/gift certificate prizes totaling more than \$350! Putting together your float is a fun family project and stimulates everyone's imagination. Watching the parade is a real treat, so bring your camera!

Prior years contests have seen floats decorated like: the Red Baron airplane, a pirate ship, Noah's Ark, Santa's sleigh and 8 tiny reindeer, a choo-choo train, fishing boat, an outhouse, dog house and more. And as an added feature to the parade golf, cart owners are also invited

to decorate and enter the contest! A separate prize is awarded to the best-decorated cart! Food & craft vendors line the streets to add a festival atmosphere to the day.

Complete the Participant Application posted on the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce website: (<http://www.gadsdenfla.com/pdf/6896103008074341.pdf>) and e-mail to rflove55@hotmail.com, or mail to Little River General Store, 308 N. Main Street, Havana, FL 32333.

Call 850-539-6900 or 850-539-7422 for more information.

Alternative Christmas Market Aims to LIVE UNITED

Holiday shoppers can find gifts, donate gifts to agency clients and support local charities all at the same time by visiting the Alternative Christmas Market (ACM) at Christ Presbyterian Church (2317 Bannerman Road) on December 12 and 13.

The 2008 ACM will open on Friday, December 12, and the evening will include a performance by the Tallahassee Girls' Choir at 6:30 p.m. The ACM will reopen on Saturday, December 13 at 8 a.m., closing at 1 p.m.

The ACM offers a meaningful, 2-for-1 shopping experience that gives folks an opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation on behalf of a friend or family member for a product or service that one of the 32 participating charities need to serve their clients ranging from transportation to a medical appointment to a pair of crutches. Hand-crafted gift items will also be available through Ten Thousand Villages, a free-trade organization that supports third-world artisans.

"One of the first things people tell me after visiting the ACM for the first time is 'I just never knew!' - that there was so much need in our area - never knew there were so many people out there trying to help," said Ellen Hicks, ACM coordinator. "We, as a community, cannot cope with all of the need without everyone doing what they can to LIVE UNITED. We are our brothers' keepers. What affects one family eventually affects us all. We are all in this together, and we will only come through tough times by uniting with each other."

Alternative shopping is the true spirit of giving, Hicks continued. The suggested admission is a donation of one canned-food item. The ACM will also feature a wide variety of hand-crafted gift items that support self-help organizations. It gives our community another way to LIVE UNITED by providing unique gifts options that will benefit these nonprofit charities, United Way of the Big Bend and ultimately the community as a whole.

"What happens when you come to the ACM is you have the opportunity to meet face to face with people who are out on the 'front lines' each and every day dealing with the sometimes overwhelming needs of those around us," Hicks said. "Especially in these difficult financial times, people who may never have had to reach out to a neighbor or community agency for help may find themselves in dire straights. It could be through job loss, illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, or whatever circumstance that has pushed them beyond the ability to cope without help from someone."

Each agency that comes to the ACM is a nonprofit agency that provides important services to the community in some way. Each agency has a price sheet that lists the cost of each product or service that shoppers can buy for an agency's client on behalf of someone. These price

sheets can be accessed at www.cpcusa.org by following the ACM link. There is a place on the price sheet for a general donation.

“By donating to an agency, you have honored someone (the person for whom you made the donation) and helped someone by making the donation,” Hicks explained. “Instead of buying your Aunt Alice something she really doesn’t need, you can give her something she’ll remember ... a gift that helped someone else who really needed it. I still remember the first time a relative gave me a Heifer through the Heifer Project. That Heifer went to Africa to help a whole village produce milk and cheese, provide good nutrition and eventually sell to make money so they could build a school. Isn’t that cool! My husband is a member of Tall Timbers, so I donate trees in his name through Damayian Garden Project. Those trees go to schools and are planted in distressed areas where kids see more concrete than green growing things!”

The price sheets are available so people can view them ahead of time through our website. There will also be a list of all the agencies with a brief description of what that agency does and a link to that agency’s website (www.cpcusa.org) for details. The lists are being updated daily.

“We are also working on the buy-online system, and it should be completed soon,” Hicks said. “We at the ACM strive to cover every area of need from runaway and troubled teens (Teen Challenge, Capital City Youth, Thornwell School for Children), domestic violence or family problems (Refuge House, Mother’s in Crisis, Live the Life Ministries, Brehon), food (America’s Second Harvest Food Bank), health (Neighborhood Health Clinics), disabilities (Disabled Outdoor Americans, Kiwanis Miracle League, Ability 1st), and much more. We even help abandoned pets through the Animal Shelter.”

For more information on the ACM, participating agencies or how you can get involved, call the Christ Presbyterian Church at 893-7472 or visit www.cpcusa.org.

Drive Around Safe and Sound Program in Havana



The Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce showed their support of local businesses and the Florida Highway Patrol by attending the Traffic Safety Demonstration in Havana on Tuesday, November 18. Captain Mike Burroughs and Trooper Chuck Cook brought a car rollover simulator and wowed the audience as they watched passenger dummies fly out of the vehicle from the force of a rollover accident. One interesting point that was made was that although parents may buckle their

children, the unbuckled passenger becomes a bullet and critically injures not only themselves but those in seatbelts.

Master Anne Radke with Alpha UPKUDO and Sensei Lisa Roddenberry with A Better Body sponsored the event at the Havana karate school. The troopers also brought the DUI goggles and showed how drunk or drugged impaired drivers can not see what they need to be paying attention to. Gadsden County attendees were not only educated, but walked away with a bag full of goodies compliments of Kim Jones, the traffic safety public education coordinator with the Division of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.



Faith Funeral Home Becomes Certified Veterans Provider

Scott Whitehead, the owner and director of Faith Funeral Home in Havana announced November 4 Faith Funeral Home was selected to become an exclusive, certified Veterans & Family Memorial Care Provider. VFMC Providers are selected for upholding the highest level of ethical business standards and integrity while providing outstanding, affordable professional service. The staff at Faith Funeral Home has deep roots in their community. They are extremely knowledgeable and well trained to assist families with every aspect of the final arrangement process. Working closely with VFW, American Legion, Hospice and other Veterans and civic organizations has been the cornerstone of their success.

In addition to providing Veterans and their spouses with a 10 percent discount off funeral & cremation arrangements, Veterans & Family Memorial Care Providers encourage Veterans to take full advantage of their FREE BURIAL BENEFIT guaranteed them by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Choosing a Veterans State or National Cemetery for burial results in an average savings of \$5,000-\$7,000 per person.

“This is a huge savings compared to purchasing cemetery property and related merchandise from a private or corporate owned cemetery” said Mark Davis, the president and chief executive officer of Veterans & Family Memorial Care. “That amounts to a total of \$10,000-\$14,000 for a married couple. The VA recently did a survey resulting in a finding that at least one-third of all veterans were unaware that they were entitled to FREE BURIAL at any of the nation’s 125 National Cemeteries.”

The government does an excellent job providing veterans and their spouses with burial benefits if you use a Veterans State or National Cemetery however, there are very limited benefits for the funeral or cremation. Scott Whitehead, the owner of Faith Funeral Home demonstrated a willingness and commitment to reach out to veterans and their families by extending benefits and savings beyond those provided by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs. This includes a complimentary wood & glass Flag Case to the surviving spouse of a deceased Veteran.

The VA prepares the gravesite, carries out the burial, furnishes a headstone or marker, and a flag and provides perpetual care. The department does not provide veterans funeral or

cremation arrangements, transportation or military honors, all of which can be arranged through Faith Funeral Home, an exclusive, certified, Veterans & Family Memorial Care Provider.

Gravesites at VA National Cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance thru the VA, however hundreds of veterans have taken advantage of the Free Burial Registration Program provided by Veterans & Family Memorial Care. This ensures that all final arrangement decisions are honored and respected. To register for your Free Burial Benefit or Veterans Funeral Discount please visit: www.VeteransFuneralHomes.com or call Faith Funeral Home at 850-539-4300.



You're Invited!

Holiday Glee After Hours

December 9, 2008
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Tri-Eagle Sales
545 River Birch Road
Midway

Please bring a new,
unwrapped toy for
Toys for Tots.



The Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce thanks Tri-Eagle Sales for hosting this event along with **WORKFORCE plus**.
Food will be provided by Divine Grace.

RSVP by December 4
Michelle Burdick,
VP of Membership
(850) 627-9231
michelleburdick@tds.net

Members should have already received invitations via mail.