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FREE Bonding Seminar Offered in Midway on February 15

Florida A&M University and the Florida Department of Transportation Construction Management Development Program-Bond Guarantee Program is pleased to present a free bonding seminar in Midway on Monday, February 15.

Having trouble getting the bonding you need? Contractors who face the time-consuming process of assembling information for bonding agents and underwriters will find benefit in attending this seminar. During this seminar, bonding agents and underwriters will discuss the **pre-qualification and submission requirements, evaluation process of the bond package, reasons for default, and surety bonding criteria**. Please be sure to attend this event to get an in-depth understanding of bonding in construction.

Featured speakers are Paul Locascio and Nick Costa.

DATE: Monday, February 15, 2010
TIME: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Comfort Inn and Suites (conference room)
 215 Commerce Blvd.
 Midway, FL 32343
REGISTER: 850-561-2393
marcus.barley@famuedu

SEATING IS LIMITED

Nixon to Speak at Chamber Membership Meeting February 24

GO GADSDEN MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PRESENTED BY: [Gadsden County Tobacco Free Partnership](#)
BEVERAGES SPONSOR: [Community Coffee Company](#)

GUEST SPEAKER: Robert Nixon, Executive Director
 Small Business Development Center at Florida A&M University

TOPIC: Aspects of the FAMU Small Business Development Center
 Contributions and assistance to Gadsden County businesses

LOCATION: Gadsden Historical Society (aka Quincy Women's Club)
 304 W. King St., Quincy

RSVP REQUIRED: RSVP by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18
michelleburdick@tds.net
 850-627-9231

Additional sponsors are requested in order to provide future refreshments for this free monthly membership event. Initially created as a leads group, Go Gadsden is a networking opportunity for Chamber members to educate fellow members and community and business leaders about their organization's products and services. The free meetings will be open to all Chamber members and special guests. **RSVPs are required.**



UPCOMING EVENTS
www.gadsdenfla.com

Select Events from the top menu categories for current event listings. Please note the Chamber's 2010 schedule will be available in mid-to-late January.

Chamber members can sign up at each meeting for a future opportunity to present their business/organization to other meeting participants. The Chamber will select the presenting business based on the proposed topic as well as a first come, first served policy. Special guest speakers will also be scheduled from time to time to present topics of interest.

Go Gadsden will meet on the last Wednesday every month excluding on and/or near a holiday.

ADAGE Submits Air Permit Application for Proposed Gadsden County Biopower Facility

ADAGE Biopower announced on February 1 that it submitted its application for an air permit to construct its planned biopower facility in Gadsden County, Florida. This application is the first of several permit applications to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for its proposed Gadsden County project. ADAGE is a joint venture between AREVA and Duke Energy Corporation, national and global leaders in energy development.

"We look forward to working with the DEP and demonstrating that our advanced biopower facility will be safe for the people and environment within the City of Gretna, Gadsden County, and surrounding counties," noted Reed Wills, President of ADAGE, LLC.

The air permit application demonstrates that the facility will be in full compliance with all environmental and human health standards set by Federal and State regulatory agencies. The Ambient Air Quality analysis included in the application shows that the concentration of emissions from the ADAGE facility will be less than 10 percent of the standards set by federal and state regulatory agencies to protect the environment and human health. Additionally, the facility uses advanced technology that reduces water consumption by over 90 percent compared to conventional power plant designs.

"The Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce values ADAGE's investment in our community, and we thank the Gretna City Commission and Gadsden County Commission for ensuring that the project will be environmentally-sensitive and safe," noted Frank Holcomb, President of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. "The Chamber Board is grateful for the leaders within the City and County who worked to ensure that the facility will be fueled only by clean, forest-based waste wood, and that it will be delivered by a maximum of 150 trucks per day. This is a small fraction of the available road capacity leading to the facility."

"Using area-grown wood sources allows Florida to generate its own renewable power, while encouraging forest landowners to continue to manage the health of their forests," noted Jeff Doran, Executive Director of the Florida Forestry Association. "ADAGE's resource analysis illustrates that the facility's forestry-based fuel supply is comfortably sustainable based on the area's resources."

In addition to using state of the art environmental technology, ADAGE estimates that over 400 direct jobs will be created during construction of the Gadsden project and another 124 permanent jobs will be created in plant operations and fuel collection. Dr. Julie Harrington, Director of Florida State University's Center for Economic Analysis and Forecasting, provided an analysis of an identical 50 Megawatt facility in Hamilton County, FL establishing that, during the first two and a half years of construction and initial operation, ADAGE will create 700 direct and indirect jobs across the county and over \$100 million in direct economic benefits.

"We are investing \$250 million in the project, and just like any local family or business, we will pay taxes," Wills said. "As a significant new taxpayer in Gadsden County, we estimate that we'll pay \$1.4 million to the Gadsden County school district in the first year alone. We see this as more than an investment in a project-it is an investment in a community, its children, and its future workforce."

For additional information regarding this media release, please contact Tom DePonty at 301-841-2468 or Erin VanSickle at 850-339-3184.

Chamber Accepts Outstanding Business Partner Award

On January 26, the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce accepted a 2009 Outstanding Business Partner award from Capital Area Community Action Agency for support of Gadsden County clients. In October 2009, Chamber staff and members set in motion its first Share the Warmth Blanket Drive to collect donations of new or gently used blankets and throws for needy individuals and families in Gadsden County. The Chamber continued its community efforts by partnering with the Gadsden County Men of Action and Tri-Eagle Sales on the Gadsden County Toy Drive.



By February 1, approximately thirty-two blankets and throws were delivered to the CACAA office in Quincy. Additionally, enough toys were passed on in December to bring enjoyment to over twenty CACAA families with little to no income.

The Chamber also distributed about thirty-five blankets and throws to the Gadsden County Senior Services for their homebound seniors. Several disadvantaged single mothers and guardian grandparents in Flint Garden Apartments, located in Chattahoochee, received twelve donations.

Welcome New Members

Community Coffee Company

Midway
(850) 576-2865

www.CommunityCoffee.com

Coffee Service

Best Western Panhandle

Capital Inn & Suites

Midway
(850) 514-2222

www.bestwestern.com

Accommodations/Hospitality

Chamber Continues Food for Thought: Customer Service Courses

The Chamber is looking forward to continuing its Food for Thought 2009-2010 series sponsored by **WORKFORCE plus**. By partnering with area educational professionals, the Chamber will offer training courses during lunch time. For the second series, the Chamber has joined with the Florida A&M University - Small Business Development Center to provide instruction in customer service development to local small businesses. The intent of these course offerings is to establish and retain customer loyalty to local businesses thus creating a positive impact on the Gadsden County economy. Owners, managers and employees of hotels, restaurants, pharmacies, retail, grocery and discount stores, financial institutions, co-operatives, medical and government offices are strongly encouraged to participate. In-house classes may be available.

Wednesday, February 24, 2009 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Gadsden Historical Society
304 W. King St., Quincy



Customer Service

This course will help employees identify customers and meet customer needs. Participants in this class will be introduced to the customer/supplier chain and examine how employees' actions can directly impact customers' impressions of the organization. Participants will learn and practice techniques to identify customers' needs and solve problems.

To print a registration form, go to <http://www.gadsdenfla.com/pdf/48052410093300.pdf> or contact Michelle Burdick at michelleburdick@tds.net or (850) 627-9231. **Advance registration is required.**

Shopper Express Printing Gives Businesses One Source for Infinite Resources

In the rebuilding of the economy, effective marketing and branding are at the height of their importance. Local residents Gay Steffen and Tony Tolson recognize this and are answering the call from businesses that may be lacking an internal department for help.



The owners of Shopper Express Printing, Steffen and Tolson recently launched Proforma MultiMedia Solutions to offer graphic communications solutions through promotional products, commercial printing services, business documents and eCommerce solutions to local companies. As part of the Proforma network of more than 700 independent offices throughout North America, Proforma MultiMedia Solutions has a plethora of resources and is backed by a proven system.

“We found ourselves in a marketplace where customers wanted a one stop shop for business resources, including printing, promotional products and business documents. Now we can meet the call immediately. Shopper Express Printing is now Proforma MultiMedia Solutions for this very reason... we are now the one stop shop for everything a business needs to secure its brand,” said Tolson.

With over eleven years in direct mail and commercial printing experience, the team at Proforma MultiMedia Solutions knows the importance of providing top notch marketing and advertising products for all areas of the marketplace. With the expansion into eCommerce and promotional products, Proforma MultiMedia Solutions is Gadsden County’s one source for infinite resources.

Proforma MultiMedia Solutions offers graphic communications solutions through commercial printing services, promotional products, business documents and eCommerce solutions to local companies. As part of the Proforma network of more than 700 independent offices throughout North America, Proforma MultiMedia Solutions has a plethora of resources and is backed by a proven system. Visit Proforma MultiMedia Solutions at www.pmms.us or call (850) 391-2269 for more information.

About Proforma

With more than 30 years of experience, Proforma remains clearly focused on providing solutions to North American businesses for their graphic communications needs. A leading provider of promotional products, printing services, business documents, and eCommerce solutions, Proforma has received numerous awards and is recognized as one of the top five largest companies in our industry. Proforma serves approximately 50,000 clients through more than 700 member offices in North America. The Proforma Worldwide Support Center is located in Cleveland, Ohio.

Working to be Tobacco Free

CALL TO ACTION: URGING BUSINESSES TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FLORIDA STATE HOSPITAL BY BECOMING SMOKE-FREE CAMPUSES.

The American Lung Association and Gadsden County Tobacco Free Partnership would like to congratulate Florida State Hospital on continuing to be a smoke-free campus. We sincerely hope that many of Gadsden County’s fine businesses will follow suit and adopt similar policies.



**Gadsden County
Tobacco Free
Partnership**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that cigarette smoking costs businesses \$92 billion in productivity losses annually. Smokers are not the only ones who are affected; second-hand smoke poses a great danger to non-smokers, as well. An employee who sits next to someone who smokes during their breaks becomes a passive smoker by simply inhaling dangerous tobacco fumes. However, businesses can take action by creating tobacco-free policies at their worksites. What does it mean to be a tobacco-free campus? Simple: Employees are not allowed to smoke or use any form of tobacco product on work grounds or in company vehicles.

The Gadsden County Tobacco Free Partnership can assist your company with crafting these tobacco-free policies and refer your business to additional smoking cessation programs. Remember: You are not alone. We are here to help and guide you through every step of becoming a tobacco-free workplace. Let's work together to keep Gadsden County healthy and tobacco-free one business at a time!

For more information about becoming tobacco-free worksite, please contact Jowita Cichy at (850) 386-2065 x 1144 or by e-mail jcichy@lungfla.org.

An Evening with The Boys' Choir of Tallahassee

On Saturday, February 27, the Boys' Choir of Tallahassee will be performing at the National Guard Armory, 2049 Pat Thomas Parkway in Quincy with all proceeds going directly to Gadsden Senior Services' Meals on Wheels Program. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. to allow for socializing prior to the concert at 7:00 p.m.

If you have been very fortunate you've attended one of The Boys' Choir concerts and been inspired by these young men, their music and their enthusiasm. Mr. Earle Lee, Jr., directs this choir of 90 young men, ranging in age from 8 – 18. The Florida State University School of Social Work has sponsored this group since its inception in 1995. They have performed at the halftime of a Dallas Cowboys game, at the inaugurations of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and of President Barack Obama, for Pope John Paul II's millennium celebration in Italy, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and in other locations all over the world. Mr. Lee is proud of the success of this choir but he is also exceedingly proud that no choir member has been involved with the juvenile justice system or school disciplinary referrals since the program began.

Mr. Lee has visited the Gadsden Senior Services Center, and learned about the waiting list for Meals on Wheels. There are senior citizens in Gadsden County who qualify for these services but there's not adequate funding. When he heard this story he decided that all proceeds from this event would go to Gadsden Senior Services. That's right – not a dime to this program and these young men – all to senior citizens in Gadsden County.

The motto of The Boys' Choir of Tallahassee is "No Excuses". Please support these young men and their dedication to helping Gadsden County's seniors. You may purchase your tickets by going by the Senior Center in Quincy located at 79 Lasalle Lefall Drive, Quincy, FL 32351 or by contacting Jill Williams at 850-663-2280 or via e-mail at B419@aol.com. Sponsor tables for eight at \$400, Donor tables for eight will be \$200.

Individual tickets purchased prior to the event will be \$20 each. Light refreshments and a cash bar with beer and wine will be available. Tickets will go on sale on Monday, January 25, 2010. Advance tickets sales will end on Monday, February 22. If purchased at the door individual tickets will be \$25 each.

Diversity and Virtuosity: FAMU Faculty Exhibit at the Gadsden Arts

Come and see ten of our region's most talented and innovative artists, many with compelling messages, expressed on a large scale through striking works of art. Diversity & Virtuosity: FAMU Faculty exhibition opened January 15 in the Sara May Love Gallery at the Gadsden Arts Center, and runs thru March 14.

The exhibition represents current and retired faculty of the Florida A&M University School of Architecture and the Visual Arts Department exhibit work in all mediums including printmaking, photography, quilting, sculpture, and oil painting. Exhibiting artists include Kenneth Falana, Valerie S. Goodwin, Deborah LaGrasse, Liu Nan, Joe Roache, Omar Thompson, Edward (Tim) White, Chester Williams, Harris R. Wiltsher, and Ron Yraderbra.



Opening at the same time in the Zoe Gollowat Gallery is Figure Drawing: Classical Beauty. Artists Bill Thompson, Ron Yrabedra, John H. Woodworth, B. Harper Frost, and Barbara Harrison focus this exhibition on the artistic tradition of the visual exploration of the human form. Mostly drawings and watercolor on paper, these images reveal the age-old practice of honoring the human body by expressing emotions like confidence, insecurity, and love.

The Gadsden Arts Center is located on Quincy's historic Courthouse Square at 13 N. Madison St., just 10 miles from Tallahassee City Limits. Admission is \$1 (members and children admitted free). Gallery and gift shop hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-5pm. Catering and Guided Luncheon Tours are available by calling (850) 875-4866.

Chamber Member, MPC Print & Copy Now Offers Promo Items

MPC Print and Copy now offers promotional products to market your business. We can now handle those koozies, bags, pens, shirts, etc. Please take a look at our website, mpcprintandcopy.com, and look in the top left corner for the link to promotional products. There you will find the tools to help you on your way.

Contact Eric or Sara Nordlof at 850-421-2893 or eric@mpcprintandcopy.com.

State Updates Economic Development Strategic Plan

The *Roadmap to Florida's Future: 2010-2015 Strategic Plan for Economic Development* – a revised blueprint for Florida's efforts to achieve future economic growth and prosperity – is available.

A five-year plan, the *Roadmap* is produced by Enterprise Florida's board of directors in accordance with Florida statute and refreshed every three years. The board provides Florida's governor and legislative leaders with annual updates.

Key to the *Roadmap's* development is input from a broad base of citizen and community stakeholders statewide including economic development, arts, business, education and government leaders.

One venue for their feedback was 10 half-day forums held last summer in eight regions of the state, which drew more than 1,500 participants. Additionally, perspectives from the general public came via an interactive Web site. "This approach allowed us to weigh new ideas as well as current strategies evolving from the 'grassroots,'" said Allan Bense, Enterprise Florida board vice chairman. "This resulting plan outlines Florida's needs and priorities for continued economic expansion and diversification."

Following are the priorities, with a sampling of recommended focus areas relevant to them:

- **Diversifying Florida's economy through cluster strategies** – expanding and transforming foundation industries and high-impact targeted industry clusters, and developing new clusters
- **Talent** – STEM (science, technology, engineering and math education) focus, K-12 enhancement, demand-driven workforce system, higher education excellence
- **Innovation** – research and development, commercialization and venture capital
- **Growth leadership / Infrastructure** – multi-modal transportation, land use, broadband, energy and water
- **Business Climate** – revamping state incentives, small business and entrepreneurship, regulatory environment, and business costs
- **Global Hub** – international commerce (trade, foreign direct investment, tourism), international infrastructure (transportation, language skills and regulatory issues)
- **Quality of Life** – arts & culture, vibrant communities

To access *Roadmap to Florida's Future: 2010-2015 Strategic Plan for Economic Development*, visit

<http://www.eflorida.com/roadmap>.

“As Florida transitions from the global recession, it’s imperative that we adhere to a strategic plan that can lead to sustainable growth and higher wage jobs in an economy that’s increasingly becoming innovation and knowledge based,” Bense added.

Enterprise Florida Inc. is a partnership between Florida's business and government leaders and is the principal economic development organization for the state of Florida. Headquartered in Orlando, Enterprise Florida's mission is to diversify Florida's economy and create better-paying jobs for its citizens by supporting, attracting and helping to create businesses in innovative, high-growth industries. In pursuit of its mission, Enterprise Florida works closely with a statewide network of economic development partners and is funded both by the State of Florida and by private-sector businesses.

BBB[®] 2009 in Review

TOUGH ECONOMY DRIVES MUCH OF BBB'S EFFORTS IN 2009

Your Better Business Bureau[®] Serving Northwest Florida reports a busy year in 2009, with much of its activity focused on educating consumers to make wise buying and giving decisions in the marketplace and businesses to make wise management decisions to survive the tough economic times.

Last year, BBB|Northwest Florida provided nearly 185,000 “instances of service,” which includes everything from dispute resolution to providing BBB Reliability Reports on specific businesses and charities to offering rosters of all BBB Accredited Businesses within an industry to referring inquirers to government agencies or other organizations that might be able to assist.

Additionally, through the BBB Foundation Serving Northwest Florida, which supports BBB's mission of an ethical marketplace through community education and recognition programs, reached nearly 4,900 additional individuals through one-on-one contact at expos, tradeshows, presentations and community service events such as the Secure Your ID Day shredding programs.

BBB|Northwest Florida also devoted a lot of time to helping businesses in northwest Florida, providing information about preparing their office for the H1N1 flu, charity giving in a down economy, boosting office morale and more.

BBB|Northwest Florida was honored to be nationally recognized for its efforts in the community by receiving two Outstanding BBB Awards: one for Outstanding Overall Communications and one for Outstanding Charity Review Program.

The year wasn't all positive however.

Locally, BBB|Northwest Florida revoked the Accreditation of eleven businesses who unfortunately failed to meet BBB's Standards for Trust during their Accreditation term.

Like BBBs throughout the U.S., BBB|Northwest Florida spent a great deal of time educating the public about a number of scams last year. “While many of the scams we saw last year are perennial problems,” said Norman Wright, president and CEO of your BBB|Northwest Florida, “some of the scams we saw last year were distinct both because of the economic climate and because scammers regularly took advantage of the top headlines in their schemes.”

In no particular order, here is a list of BBBs top scams and rip-offs that took advantage of consumers and small business owners across the U.S. in 2009:

- **Acai supplements and other “free” trial offers** – Falsely claiming an endorsement by Oprah, Rachel Ray and Dr. Oz and advertised on trusted Web sites of national news organizations, these marketing campaigns resulted in thousands of consumers complaining to BBB that the “free” trial actually cost them as much as hundreds of dollars, month after month.
- **Stimulus/government grant scams** – Even before President Obama announced the stimulus plan in February, scammers bombarded consumers and businesses with misleading offers of

- “free government money.”
- **Robocalls** – More than just a dinnertime interruption, robocalls claiming an auto warranty was about to expire or offering help reducing credit card interest rates prompted the FTC to increase restrictions on telemarketing calls.
 - **Lottery/sweepstakes scams** – Who *hasn't* “won” the Nigerian lottery? Letters claiming to be from foreign officials, Readers Digest or Publishers Clearing House include a check that supposedly has to be deposited into the “winner’s” account with a portion wired back to cover taxes or other bogus fees. Victims may wire the money, but of course, the prize never arrives.
 - **Job hunter scams** – There could be a “Top 10” list dedicated just to scams targeting job hunters. Some attempt to get access to personal information such as bank account and social security numbers; some require payment in order to be “considered” for a position; one claimed the employer had to check the victim’s credit report before hiring them, but was really a marketing ploy for an online credit monitoring service that charged the victim monthly.
 - **Google work from home scam** – Using the well-known logos, countless Web sites claimed victims could make money working from home using Google or Twitter. Google and Twitter had nothing to do with the “job offer;” victims were just lured into another misleading free-trial offer.
 - **Mortgage foreclosure rescue/debt assistance** – Scammers took advantage of some of the most desperate consumers by offering to save their house from foreclosure or help them get out of credit card debt. Unfortunately, the victims paid hundreds of dollars up front for the assistance they desperately needed but ultimately never received.
 - **Mystery shopping** – A seemingly real check is mailed to “employees” to secret shop retail stores and wire transfer services such as Western Union or MoneyGram. Of course, the check is fake and the money wired – often thousands of dollars – goes directly to the scammers.
 - **Overpayment scams** – Targeting those selling items in the classified ads or on sites such as Craigslist, scammers typically pretend to be a potential customer/renter/buyer who send a check for more than the asking price of the item. The scammer then asks the victim to wire the money back to the scammer or to a third party, such as a shipping company. The check is fake and the money wired simply goes to the scammers.
 - **Phishing e-mails/H1N1 spam** – Phishing e-mails are nothing new. Phishing e-mails claiming to be from government agencies are nothing new. Phishing e-mails that appear to be from friends are nothing new. But they certainly remained rampant in 2009, seeking to obtain sensitive financial information, infect the victim’s computer or both. Spam is nothing new either. But spam e-mails selling wares claiming to prevent H1N1 were out in full force in 2009.

For additional information and advice you can trust in the New Year, start with www.bbb.org.

Fitness Available in Gadsden

ALPHA UPKUDO - HAVANA

An after school martial arts and fitness program is offered at Alpha UPKUDO Karate in Havana. Karate, Kickboxing and Zumba fitness dance are offered. Classes are held at 4 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday for youth karate. Zumba dance fitness classes are held at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, and a fitness training class is held on Tuesdays and Fridays 4-5pm. The center offers pick-up from Havana Elementary and Tallavana Christian schools.

Call 850-514-4334 or go online at www.upkudo.com for more information.

YOGA DOG - QUINCY

Pilates will be held on Tuesdays only at 10:00 a.m. until further notice. Come out, support the Pilates class, and tone up your core!!

Zumba will be held on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Please feel free to bring any children interested in dance to the class to participate with you. It’s a really fun way to get some cardio – and since you can bring your younger family members, childcare shouldn’t be an issue! It’s more fun with a group, so bring a friend.

Kids classes available on Wednesdays 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 850-284-3718 for more information.

QUINCY MAIN STREET
WELCOME EVERYONE
TO A
MARDI
GRAS
BLOCK
PARTY
FEATURING
THE
FUSION BAND
FREE
ADMISSION

Where: Downtown Quincy
When: February 19, 2010
Time: 7:00-10:00pm
Contact info:
850*618*0030*6692