

Opinion

Gulf Breeze NEWS



P.O. Box 1414
 913 Gulf Breeze Parkway
 Harbourtown Unit #35
 Gulf Breeze, FL 32562
 Office: (850) 932-8986
 Fax: (850) 932-8794
 www.gulfbreezenews.com

2005
 Florida Press Association
 Place Winner
 ■ Editorial Page
 ■ Sports Section



CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS:
 Lisa Newell
 Victoria Papajohn

SPORTS EDITOR:
 Jason Thompson

STAFF WRITER:
 Franklin Hayes

ADVERTISING SALES:
 Robyn Phillips
 Pam Randall

OFFICE MANAGER:
 Karen Murphy

GRAPHICS / PRODUCTION:
 Nikola Stamenkovich, Art Director
 Katie Killen

CONTRIBUTORS:
 Betty Archer Allen

T. "Bubba" Bechtol
 Bette Boyle
 Chuck Randle
 Pam Brannon

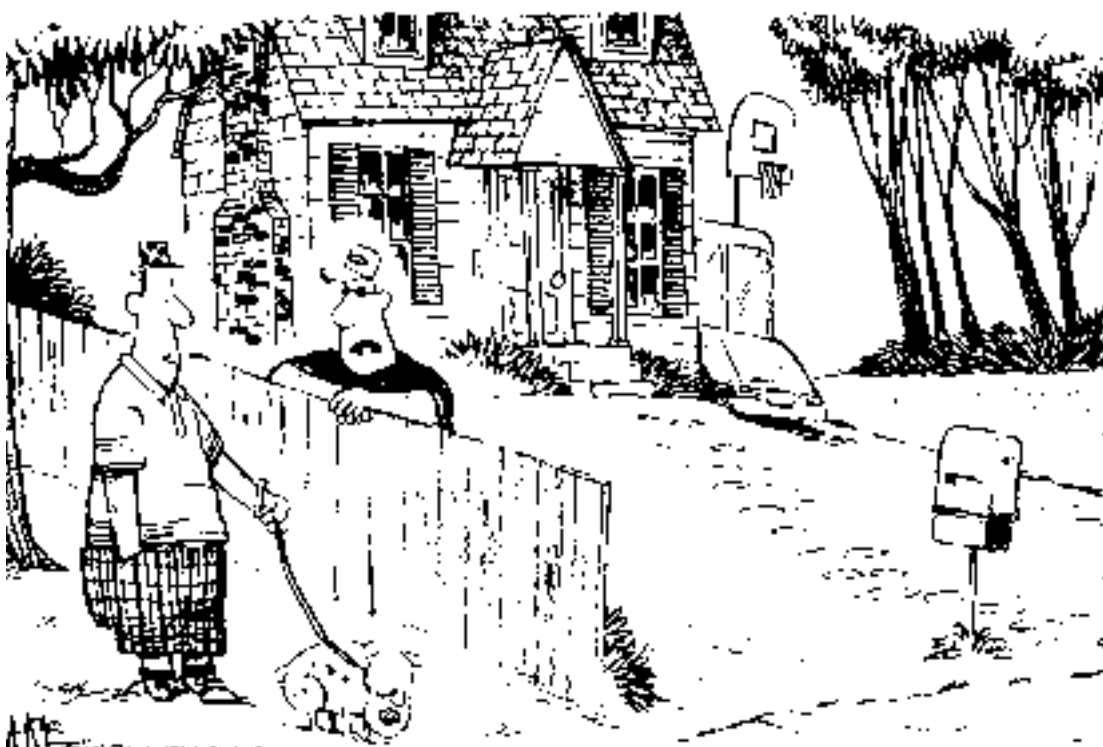
Member:

- Florida Press Association
- National Newspaper Assn.
- Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce ("2003 Small Business of the Year")
- Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Pensacola Chamber of Commerce
- Navarre Tourist Development Council
- Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce

LETTER POLICY: Gulf Breeze News welcomes your opinion. We reserve the right to edit a letter to fit space available. We do not accept letters containing a personal attack on any individual. Letters must be limited to one per month from an individual writer. If we receive form letters, we will print only the first one we receive. Include your name, address and daytime phone number.

CORRECTIONS: Gulf Breeze News is committed to accuracy and wants to hear from you if we need to make a correction or clarification. Please email us at news@gulfbreezenews.com with the subject line CORRECTION or CLARIFICATION. Or, call (850) 932-8986 during office hours and ask for news or sports departments.

Gulf Breeze News is published weekly on Thursdays for \$30 per year by Gulf Breeze News Publishing, Inc. Periodical postage paid at Gulf Breeze, Florida. USPS # 021819. Sorry, no refunds on subscriptions. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Gulf Breeze News, P.O. Box 1414, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562. All content is copyrighted 2007. Advertising rates are available upon request.



Stretch your precious fuel dollars by taking care of your car

Rising fuel costs are on the minds of most Americans these days as gas prices are expected to top \$3 per gallon in coming weeks. Sure, you can simply stop driving as much, but for many consumers, that's not an option. But there are two ways all of us can stretch our precious gasoline dollars.

One strategy is to change how we drive, and the other is to perform simple and inexpensive vehicle maintenance. Taking these steps will not only save gas money, but will improve a vehicle's safety and dependability.

National Car Care Month in April is an ideal time for motorists to review the factors that can impact fuel economy. According to the Car Care Council, the most common are under-inflated tires, dirty air filters, old spark plugs and something as simple as the gas cap.

a. Check your vehicle gas cap. About 17 percent of the vehicles on the roads have gas caps that are either damaged, loose or are missing altogether, causing 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize every year.

b. When tires aren't inflated properly, it's like driving with the parking brake on, and can



cost a mile or two per gallon.

c.. A vehicle can have either four, six or eight spark plugs, which fire as many as three million times each 1,000 miles, resulting in a lot of heat, electrical and chemical erosion. A dirty spark plug causes misfiring, which wastes fuel. Spark plugs need to be replaced regularly.

d. An air filter that is clogged with dirt, dust and bugs chokes off the air and creates a "rich" mixture - too much gas being burned for the amount of air, which wastes gas and causes the engine to lose power. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent, saving about 15 cents on a gallon.

e. Aggressive driving can lower gas mileage by as much as 22 percent on the highway and five percent on city streets, which results in seven to 49 cents per gallon.

f. Sitting idle gets zero miles per gallon. Letting the vehicle warm up for one to two minutes is sufficient.

g. Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each mph driven over 60 results in an additional 10 cents per gallon. To maintain a constant speed on the highway, cruise control is recommended.

Last year, vehicle check-up events conducted throughout the country revealed that nearly nine out of 10 cars required some type of maintenance. This reinforces the need for the motoring public to become more aware of the maintenance needs of their vehicle to save money, conserve energy, improve highway safety and help protect the environment.

Every motorist can receive a free 56-page Car Care Guide that takes the guesswork out of vehicle maintenance by visiting the Car Care Council's Web site at www.carcare.org.

City's loans, matched by grants, benefit Gulf Breeze

In response to the letter to the Editor from Robert E. Menzer "City should exercise financial responsibility" which appeared in the Gulf Breeze News on March 22, 2007.

Dr. Menzer must believe that borrowing money to build various projects indicates that the City can not afford to build these projects and therefore, the City should consider postponing some or all of our current capital improvement effort. It is important that your readers get a better understanding of what we are trying to accomplish.

The City is rebuilding the softball fields at Shoreline Park. The facilities were 30 plus years old before being used as an essential debris disposal site after Hurricane Ivan. The new fields will last for 30 plus years into the future. It makes good fiscal sense to pay for these facilities with a plan that matches the useful life of the ballfields.

We are refinancing a series of outstanding loans with this new loan. By taking this action, we will save in terms of overall costs. There will not be any year during the life of the loan in which we will pay close to \$600,000 in interest costs.

A major portion of the proceeds of this new loan are going to be used for cash

required to match significant grants the City has received for construction of stormwater improvements and septic tank abatement. Again, the infrastructure built with our money and grant money will last for 30 plus years. It makes no sense to avoid the opportunity presented by a grant because you have to borrow the cash to match the grant. In this way, our community benefits from the infrastructure immediately.

We believe this is the kind of financial good sense our citizens want us to display. We are rebuilding most of our parks that were already in need of rebuilding before Ivan, we are saving money through debt consolidation and we are obtaining cash to use as matching funds for important grant opportunities.

Lane Gilchrist
 Mayor, The City of Gulf Breeze

Increase domestic oil and gas supply by drilling here

Senator Bill Nelson opposes more drilling closer to Florida shores and says the threat of a spill is too risky. I wonder if he knows where we get our oil from and how we get it here.

Over 5 million barrels of imported crude oil from countries like Saudi Arabia,

Venezuela, Nigeria and Iran crosses the Gulf of Mexico daily on tankers heading to Gulf Coast refineries. Not drilling for more oil and gas domestically will not lessen the chances of a spill. It may actually increase the chances of a catastrophic spill from one of these tankers.

Senator Nelson likes to say he is protecting the military training mission in the Gulf. Why do we train our service men and women in this area and then send them to foreign lands to defend foreign oil fields and the shipping lanes our imported oil must travel through? The oil industry has a long history of cooperation with the Department of Defense in the western and central Gulf of Mexico. I would expect that any issues in the eastern Gulf could similarly be worked through. We need to increase our domestic oil and gas supply by drilling here and drilling now.

Terry Mead
 Gulf Breeze

On the Spot:

WHERE WE PUT PEOPLE "ON THE SPOT" TO ANSWER A QUESTION "ON THE SPOT."

By Franklin Hayes

Would you use a proposed toll bridge from Pensacola to Garcon Point?



"I bet a lot of folks from Pensacola would. I think it might be kind of a handy bridge to have."

-Bob Remmeroid
 Pensacola

"No. Too many tax dollars are being used for something already not being used. You can see how many people use the Garcon Point Bridge."

-Annais Brendel
 Pensacola Beach



"I live in proper and I work in proper. No."

-Mark Melancon
 Gulf Breeze



"I'm from West Pensacola and to be honest with you, no. It wouldn't be convenient for me at all."

-Jonny Bowen
 Pensacola



is the largest in the country with close to 12 hundred active members.

We know that there are many more and we are searching for them everyday.

District 1 in the Pan Handle; will be having the first annual meeting/luncheon on April 7 in Pensacola.

The meeting/luncheon will take place at the Mesquite Charlie's restaurant from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m.

We will have a very good steak dinner with vegetables, bake potato and dessert.

The cost of this meal will be only \$5 to all blinded veterans and \$15 for anyone else.

This will be a good time to find out about benefits that are available to you through the Veterans Administration.

It will also be a good time to join the membership of the Blinded Veterans Association and make the Florida group stay the largest.

We would like all persons that are planning on coming to let us know ahead of time so that we can have the right amount of dinners prepared.

For more information please call 850-554-7819 or e-mail dandv5@cox.net.

Darryl Goldsmith
 Pensacola

Blinded veterans have options

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!!

This is an important message to anyone that has served in the United States armed forces.

It does not matter if you were in the armed services in WW2 and are now losing your vision due to some disease, or if you just served in Iraq and lost your sight due to an explosive device.

You are both blinded veterans because you both served your country. There are many benefits that you are entitled to, that you may not be aware of.

From blind rehabilitation training in everyday life skills to even more advanced training in talking computers.

This training is waiting for you and it is also free to the veteran.

The Blinded Veterans Association is the only congressionally chartered group in the United States representing the blind.

The Florida regional group