

Okaloosa County

News Release

Saturday's Eco-Nomic Living Expo Kicks Off Okaloosa Saves Week ***Residents Learning Better Spending and Savings Habits with Okaloosa Saves***

Okaloosa Saves, the America Saves coalition, will be celebrating Okaloosa Saves Week, February 22 – March 1, offering special incentives, events and education to help families save money during tough economic times. The event is part of the national America Saves Week, in which hundreds of groups across the country are encouraging employees, members, students and the public to reassess and improve spending and savings habits in order to build wealth, not debt.

This year, University of Florida/Okaloosa County Extension Office decided to combine conservation education with saving information in presenting the Eco-Nomic Living Expo, being held at NWF State College in Niceville this weekend. Exhibitors and speakers will be accessible at the event, which begins at 9:00 a.m. and goes until 2:00 p.m. There will be scheduled seminars from energy conservation to how to manage finances in tough times.

Two nationally know speakers at the Eco-Nomic Living Expo are Home Improvement Expert Danny Lipford and Financial Expert Deborah Owens. Speakers will be available for questions and conversation, as well. Kids activities will center around the Piggy Bank Contest Winners, how to make a piggy bank and more hands-on fun activities. The location at the main campus of NWF State College offers easy entry, access, visibility and comfort.

“The financial crisis has been a wake-up call for many families, who want to pursue financial stability through better budgeting, spending and saving behavior,” said Okaloosa Saves Chairman Nicholas Barlotta, Wachovia Securities, Inc. “It’s easier to weather hard times when you have a financial cushion.”

Area residents are also encouraged to sign up as Savers with the Okaloosa Saves campaign, a free program that gives enrolled members savings advice, news about events and opportunities throughout the year. To learn more about Okaloosa Saves and the Eco-Nomic Living Expo, visit www.okaloosasaves.org or call 850-689-5850, or 797-4902. For more information about America Saves, visit www.americasavesweek.org.

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