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road

2004 AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE DIRECTORY

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The Moultrie Observer



Moultrie Observer photo
NAPA: Briggs Auto Parts, 324 N. Main St., has been serving Colquitt County since 1954.

Briggs marks 50 years of service

MOULTRIE — Briggs Auto Parts was opened in 1954 by Garwood Briggs. He was later joined by his sons, John and Jeff Briggs. Garwood and John passed away in 2001. Briggs Auto has seven employees: Tommy Brown, 48 years; Stephanie Johnson, 24 years; Terry Sutton, 10 years; Tony Howard, 10 years; Paul

Crawford, 1 year; Sherry Briggs, four years; and Jeff Briggs, 35 years. "We all work hard to serve our customers and provide them with the quality parts they expect at a competitive price," Briggs said. The business offers NAPA auto parts for car, truck and truck wholesale, and it carries hard-to-find parts.

Things you should know about auto insurance

From News USA

Do you know how well your auto insurance policy would cover you, your vehicle or a third party if you were involved in an accident? Are you carrying enough or even too much coverage? According to a survey done by the Progressive group of insurance companies, most consumers don't take time to regularly review their auto insurance policy to be certain that it still reflects their needs. Having a better understanding of some basic auto insurance principles and terms could help you to be certain you're protected - and could even save you money. Auto insurance is complicated. Here are five things you should know.

1. Types of coverage. There are two general "types" of coverage available to you. One, generally referred to as first-party coverages, protects you and your vehicle. First-party coverages include comprehensive, collision and primary medical, including medical payments and, in some states, Personal Injury Protection (PIP). The second type, called third-party coverages, protects those to whom you might cause injury. Third-party coverages provide protection for bodily injury and property damage you cause to others.

2. Use your deductible to save money. If you purchase comprehensive and collision coverage, you'll be asked to select a "deductible" amount, that is, the amount you'll pay on a claim before the insurance company begins paying. When selecting your deductible level, consider how much you could afford in the event of a crash. Most people select \$500 deductibles because a higher deductible helps to keep the overall cost of auto insurance down. According to the Insurance Information Institute, increasing your deductible from \$250 to \$500 can save you up to 20 percent on comprehensive and collision coverage.

3. Make sure your policy reflects your needs. Have you recently married, divorced, moved, or have a teenage son or daughter who is now driving? Speak with your independent agent or insurance company to be sure that the coverage you purchased still reflects your needs.

4. Prices vary. Auto insurance rates are based on each company's expected cost of doing business, which includes the cost of paying claims. The claims data used by each company generally includes the number of accidents and the cost of those accidents. And, the claims data used varies from company to company, which leads to a large spread in rates available to the same consumer for comparable coverages. In fact, in a study of rates provided to more than 100,000 consumers, Progressive found that the average difference in premium based on a six-month policy for the same driver with

Questions

If you have questions about insurance, contact Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine's office at 716 West Tower, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30334. Or call toll free, 1-800-656-2298.

comparable coverages was nearly \$600 from company to company.

5. Go online. A wealth of information is available on the Internet at sites like www.progressive.com.

COX TRUCK AND VAN



Moultrie Observer photo
Cox Truck and Van has been in Moultrie 25 years. Located at 550 Industrial Road, the business is owned by Randy Cox, and Joey and Jason Cox are managers. They specialize in 4x4-truck and SUV parts, including parts for trucks of one ton and medium duty, and they sell low-mileage trucks and SUVs. Cox Truck and Van has recently expanded its showroom to increase inventory of after-market truck and SUV accessories. They offer brush guards, toolboxes, nerf bars, Euro lights and wheels. The business has 14 employees.

How to select the right tires for your vehicle

From News USA

Wearing sandals in the snow is not appropriate. Running shoes for a formal occasion would be very out of place. Just as proper footwear is important to your comfort and correct body alignment, appropriate tires are vital to the overall performance and handling of your vehicle.

An inappropriate tire provides little benefit to the vehicle it supports. A sporty sedan offers little excitement if not supported by properly designed and fitted tires. It makes no sense if you are seeking optimum performance to purchase inexpensive tires, just as it makes little sense to wear the wrong size shoes.

When choosing tires, just like shoes, look for the proper fit. Understanding tire markings can help you select the right tire for the right job. With the current popularity of light trucks and sport-utility vehicles, tire manufacturers have

worked diligently to offer many tire options.

A tire marked A/T is designed for all-terrain use and also performs well on the highway. An all-terrain tread has many independent blocks separated by large grooves for limited off-road traction. Varied sizes and shapes of tread blocks minimize highway noise. The A/T could be compared to a tennis shoe: comfortable and dependable but only able to handle mildly rugged conditions.

An A/T tire might offer options that an off-road enthusiast would enjoy, but it is not as aggressive as the max-traction tire, designated with an M/T. These dutiful M/T soldiers easily handle muddy and rocky surfaces frequented by the serious adventurer: The M/T tire is the "hiking boot" of tires. Rugged tread elements with large tread voids offer excellent traction to handle the most severe driving conditions.



News USA photo

SHOES FOR YOUR CAR: Finding the right tire is like finding the right shoe, according to experts at Bridgestone-Firestone.

An A/S denotes all-season tires, which are dependable for many road conditions. For severe snow conditions, tires with a mountain snowflake pictograph and an M+S represent the industry's standard for tires. Much like snow boots, they are designed for wintry conditions.

When selecting tires, don't be intimidated by the choices. Think of it as a chance to shop for shoes - but for your automobile. Search for comfort, style and performance to suit your personal driving habits.

Size up options by visiting your local tire dealer or retailer.

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BLANTON AUTO PAINT AND BODY SHOP



Moultrie Observer photo

Established in 1948, Blanton Auto Paint and Body Shop Inc., 1518 First Ave. S.E., is celebrating 56 years of service to the community. J.L. (Fussy) Blanton is president, and Billy E. Bivins is vice president and manager, and this year they welcome to their office staff Billy Boyd, assistant. The company is an auto paint and body shop with wrecker service, including both light- and heavy-duty wreckers. Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's an independent business with a hometown reputation.

MCKEE'S MASTER MUFFLER CENTER



Amzie Cooper/The Moultrie Observer

Located at 10 Fifth St. S.E., McKee's Master Muffler Center was established in 1982. It is a family-owned and -operated automotive service repair center. Owned by brothers Darrel and Glen McKee and operated by Tim McKee, McKee's Master Muffler Center has two ASE-certified technicians on staff to assist with all your repair needs. McKee's offers transmission service, custom pipe bending, stock mufflers, catalytic converters, shocks, front-end parts and more. They offer a two-year, 24,000-mile warranty on all parts. In addition to automotive repairs, they also offer complete auto detailing.

EDWARDS MOTORS



Amzie Cooper/The Moultrie Observer

Located at 1825 Veterans Parkway in Moultrie, Edwards Motors offers a wide selection of new Pontiac, Buick and GMC trucks. They also offer a huge selection of pre-owned trucks and sport utility vehicles. Locally owned and operated by Bill and Wayne Edwards, the dealership lives by the motto "We want to be your dealership for life." Along with the sales department, they offer a GM Goodwrench Plus full automotive service department. Managed by Mason Miller, ASE certified technician, the service department offers all major brands of tires, major and minor transmission repairs, fuel system and injection services and much more. They service most vehicles, including GM, Ford and many imports.

Learn the truth behind common car-care beliefs

From News USA

True or false: You should always warm up your car before driving on a cold day. **False.** Although most drivers may consider this to be true, it can actually cause damage to vehicles if done continuously.

To shed some light on the truth behind common automotive beliefs, the service specialists at Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge provide their car-care expertise on a few important topics:

Air conditioning

Belief: Do not blast your vehicle's air conditioner when sitting in traffic or while driving at more than 60 mph.

Reality: False. Vehicle heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems are engineered and tested to operate in even the most severe types of driving environments.

Tire tread

Belief: You can check your tire tread with a penny.

Reality: True. Simply pinch a penny between your thumb and forefinger so Lincoln's head is showing. Insert the penny into a tire-tread groove. If the tire covers any part of Lincoln's head, then your tires should have a safe amount of tread. Check several locations on each tire to test for uneven wear.

Gasoline

Belief: If you still have fuel in your gas tank when you refill it, use the same grade that is currently in the tank.

Reality: False. It will not harm your vehicle if you mix different grades of unleaded fuel.

Constant speed

Belief: Avoid keeping your vehicle at a constant speed dur-

ing the first 500 miles of its life.

Reality: Maybe. Most new vehicles no longer require drivers to vary their speeds during the first 500 miles, known as the "break-in period." If your vehicle does require a break-in period, varying your speed by several miles per hour should do the trick.

Premium fuel

Belief: Premium gasoline is best for your vehicle.

Reality: Maybe. Most cars are built to run on regular-grade fuel, so using premium fuel will not improve the car's performance. In fact, using premium fuel in a vehicle that was not designed for it can harm the vehicle's performance and fuel efficiency. Check your owner's manual for recommended fuel grade.

Alignment

Belief: City dwellers dealing with narrow streets should not park with two wheels on the curb; it will destroy the vehicle's alignment.

Reality: True if done continuously. This practice can cause excessive wear or stress to the rods and suspension bushings.

Steering wheel

Belief: If the steering wheel shakes when you drive, something is wrong with your brakes.

Reality: Maybe. If the wheel shakes as you depress the brake pedal, it may mean your brake rotors are unbalanced. If the wheel shakes as you drive, it may be a wheel balance or steering-related issue.

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27 AND GOING STRONG: Cox Auto Parts, 3391 Sylvester Drive, was started by Moultrians J.C. & Randy Cox 27 years ago.

Cox Auto traces history to 1977

MOULTRIE — Moultrie brothers J.C. Cox and Randy Cox launched their auto parts business in 1977 by working at first part-time, farming during the day and pulling parts at night. Twenty-seven years later, Cox Auto Parts covers the southwest Georgia region. Located at 3391 Sylvester Drive, where it has

been the last 17 years, the business now employs 21 people. The business specializes in used auto parts and sells to other salvage yards, garages and individuals throughout the area. The brothers are natives of Colquitt County and graduated from the county school system.



News USA photo

SAFETY CONCERNS: Women are driving alone more and more according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. In spite of that, many worry about their safety on the road.

Stay safe when driving alone

From News USA

Whether it's the daily commute to the office, picking the kids up from school or just a quick trip to the grocery store, women are on the road alone - or with their children - a lot more these days. In fact, female drivers increased by nearly 40 percent from 1980 to 2000, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. And while they may be logging more miles than ever, a recent survey by OnStar, a provider of in-vehicle safety and security services, reveals that nearly a third of women admit to feeling unsafe while driving alone. The majority of women drivers surveyed also said they worry more about getting into an accident or getting lost while traveling alone with their children than they do about running out of gas or experiencing engine troubles. OnStar uses wireless technology and Global Positioning System technology to link the car and driver to a call center where advisers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide real-time assistance. OnStar services include automatic air bag notification, stolen vehicle location, emergency services, roadside

assistance, remote vehicle diagnostics, remote door unlock, routing assistance, point-of-interest location and online concierge. While its in-vehicle service is an effective means for ensuring peace of mind for women traveling alone by car, OnStar offers the following easy-to-implement tips:

- Keep an eye on the weather. Unexpected storms can wreak havoc on local roads as well as highways. Always get a weather update before leaving the house, even if you're just going out to run a few errands.
- Make sure your spare tire is in good condition and filled to the proper pressure.
- Outfit your car with a first aid kit; be sure to replenish supplies on a regular basis.
- Put together an emergency kit that includes a flashlight, flares, road atlas, bottled water, energy bars and blanket.
- It may not always be safe to reach for a cell phone while behind the wheel. A hands-free, voice-activated phone is a better and safer alternative.
- Make a plan. Talk to your children about what to do and who to call in an emergency. For more information, visit www.onstar.com.



Moultrie Observer photo

PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM: Lewis Woodward displays a set of chrome wheels at Sunset Tire Automotive, 2431 S. Main St.

Sunset celebrates 10 years

MOULTRIE — When it's vacation time, the best insurance you can have on your car is good tires and brakes. Sunset Tire and Automotive in the Sunset Plaza invites you in for an inspection of your tires and brakes before you hit the road for a long trip.

They have the largest selection of tires and wheels to choose from. Also, graduation time is around the corner. Sunset Tire can style your son's or daughter's truck or car with some of the newest styles of custom wheels — or maybe perk

up the sound with dual exhaust. Whatever your needs, they're ready to give you a quote. "Thanks again for making our 10 year anniversary possible," says owner Lewis Woodward.

Get your car ready for a summer trip

From News USA

With continued uncertainty overseas, the old-fashioned auto vacation is bound to be popular once again this summer. Nowadays, sport utility vehicles and big pickups have replaced the wood-paneled station wagon, but some things remain the same. Good advance planning can make your trip smoother and more enjoyable. These preparations should include vehicle maintenance. The experts at the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence offer the following tips on getting your vehicle ready for summer:

- Have a marginally operating air-conditioning system serviced by a qualified technician.
- Change the oil and oil filter as specified in the owner's manual. Properly dispose of used oil.
- Replace other filters, like the air and fuel filters, as recommended.
- Check the condition of all tires, including the spare. Let tires "cool down" before checking air pressure.
- Inspect all lights and bulbs; replace burned out bulbs.
- Replace worn wiper blades, and keep plenty of washer solvent on hand to fight summer's dust and insects.

For a free brochure with summertime automotive tips, send a self-addressed, stamped, long envelope to: ASE Summer Brochure, Department NU-104, 101 Blue Seal Drive, S.E., Suite 101, Leesburg, VA 20175, or visit www.ase.com for more information. ASE was founded in 1972 as a nonprofit, independent organization dedicated to improving the quality of automotive service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians. ASE-certified technicians wear blue and white ASE shoulder insignia and carry credentials listing their exact areas of certification.

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For more car-care tips, see 'Be Car Care Aware' sponsored every Friday by local businesses in The Moultrie Observer

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