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Chiefland Ford as seen from the Save-A-Lot parking lot.

Customers unhappy *Chiefland Ford: No Comment*

Story and Photo By Jeff M. Hardison © Oct. 5, 2018 at 1:38 p.m.

CHIEFLAND -- A Cedar Key couple who traded two vehicles as they purchased two vehicles from Chiefland Ford are not pleased with some things what shook loose in those deals.

A man who said his name was Ken Wesenberg at Chiefland Ford on Friday (Oct. 5) said the company has no comment in regard to complaints that customers shared.

Chiefland Ford, part of the Plattner Automotive Group of Sarasota, used to be named White Ford. Now it is owned by the group with a home office in Sarasota.

Marcus Anthony Crook, 31, of Fort McCoy was going by the name of "Marcus Carpenter" while he was working for Chiefland Ford. He is in jail on counts of embezzlement and grand theft. Some number of Chiefland Ford customers gave Crook cash, which he reportedly kept from paying to the Plattner Automotive Group of Sarasota.

Chad and Donna Risker of Cedar Key brought in a 2012 Ford Edge and a 2014 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup truck. When they completed their transaction on Aug. 8 at Chiefland Ford, they left with a 2018 (used) Chevrolet Malibu and 2018 (new) Ford F-150 pickup truck, according to records the Riskers shared.

The total sale price for the Malibu was \$29,182.32 with an annual finance rate of 12.95 percent.

The total sale price for the F-150 was \$49,387.24 with an annual finance rate of 2.9 percent.

The gross trade-in allowance on the 2012 Ford Edge was \$13,551 and the gross trade-in allowance on the 2014 Ram 1500 was \$17,300.

Chad Risk said he thought this was a fair deal when it was done in August.

Chiefland Ford sold the Ford Edge, he said, before it was paid off by Chiefland Ford. Therefore, he received dunning letters from Ford Credit because it was not paid off.

Almost 60 days after the deal was done, it appeared to remain incomplete, Risker said.

As a result of him not paying for a car that he no longer owned, and had believed was accepted as part of a trade-in deal, his credit score has suffered, Risker said.

While this in and of itself may cause some buyers to beware, even though every buyer always should beware,

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there was some degree of insult added to this perceived injury.

Add in the verbiage of social media.

While the man who said his name is Ken Wesenberg said Chiefland Ford had “No comment” there are some comments floating in cyberspace.

A person posting comments on Facebook under the name of “Scott Chapman” and presenting himself as an employee of Chiefland Ford who is familiar with this and other transactions was, according to most understood standards of decorum, rude.

On Sept. 25, Risker noted on Facebook “If anyone has been caught up in the scam / scandal of Chiefland Ford/ Plattner's Ford please reach out to me or my wife and let's get together and stop this from happening again to anyone else. We (my wife and I) bought 2 vehicles and traded ours in and they have yet to pay them off (2 days from being 60 days late) so our credit has taken a beating. BAD BEATING..”

That initial statement led to a long series of statements by several people, offering their advice and opinions about methods to resolve the issues.

Among those is “Scott Chapman.” Facebook is social media, though, and anyone can “become” anyone else. Nevertheless, some people take what they read on Facebook being something that is real.

After a number of people noted they had traded their cars in at this dealership but were seeing them not being paid off, Chapman commented.

“Ok I'm getting tired of this shit. You've been driving 1 of those cars for 2 months with no payments what so ever. Yes he was an idiot and got what he deserved. He is where he belongs. The rest of us are here trying to take care of our families so stop trying to make all of us part of it.”

There is a long series of words between Chapman and a person listed on Facebook as Tracy Anderson. Clint Anderson and Jimmy Anderson also noted comments for Chapman.

If Chapman really works at the Chiefland Ford dealership, he writes a lot of things that will make some number of people buy vehicles elsewhere.

“Danny Moore I could care less about Facebook and people's opinion of me. I'm here every day trying to make all this as right as I can. Unfortunately I'm only 1 person and don't own the company but I'm doing everything I can for everyone so if people hate me for it so be it. I go home to my kids. That's the only opinion that matters to me.”

Chapman also tells the world of Facebook readers that no person has the money required to fight against the owner of Plattner Ford.

Chapman shows his choices in statements concerning how Chiefland Ford is alleged to have not paid for air-conditioning repairs in a proper or timely manner.

Rance Damron noted on Facebook “They tried to screw me and my dad (R&R Refrigeration Services) out of 549 dollars for doing air conditioning work on their sales trailer. They gave us a 120-day runaround over it and finally when we cornered the felon of a manager they had working up there then he got very aggressive with my dad and told us to leave before he called the cops and that he wasn't scared of us and that he wasn't some chump like we were used to dealing with. Very unprofessional and he continued to be the manager after I complained to the owner over the phone.”

Chapman replied, “Rance Damron bring me the invoice and I'll get it handled. You should of punched him in the mouth that day.”

Rance Damron noted for Scott Chapman “If my dad's girlfriend didn't work at DOC and it mess up things between all of us being able to be a family I sure would have. We finally got our money but it was just a catastrophe.”

The many rude comments from Chapman, according to what people noted on Facebook, are enough for them to not shop at Chiefland Ford, despite Crook being jailed, and Chapman allegedly trying to help customers.