

OPEESA'S

OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT AND ENGINE SERVICE ASSOCIATION

OPE-IN-THE-KNOW

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1) BRIGGS SETS TIMING FOR JEFFERSON PLANT CLOSING

www.milwaukee.bizjournals.com

September 1 -- Briggs & Stratton Corp. plans to shutter its Jefferson factory by the end of the year, according to a filing with the state.

The Wauwatosa-based small engine and outdoor power equipment also plans to close its warehouse in Jefferson by the end of May 2010, the company noted in a mass layoff notice filed with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

Layoffs of employees at the Jefferson factory will begin on Oct. 31.

Briggs & Stratton announced in July a plan to close its Jefferson and Watertown factories and Jefferson warehouse in fiscal 2010, leading to the loss of at least 430 jobs.

The notice filed with the state indicates that 185 employees will lose their jobs in the initial round of layoffs. The plants, which are run by Wauwatosa-based Briggs & Stratton's power products division, currently manufacture all portable generator, home standby generator and pressure washer products marketed and sold by the company.

About 390 hourly production workers and 40 salaried employees will be permanently laid off as a result of the closing of the factories, Briggs said at the time.

An additional 90 to 100 salaried employees are expected to be given an opportunity to transfer to other Briggs & Stratton facilities.

The company has not yet filed an official notice with the state indicating the timing of the layoffs and planned shutdown of the Watertown plant.

Production at the Jefferson and Watertown plants will be consolidated into existing U.S. engine and lawn and garden product plants.

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2) HUSQVARNA APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT FOR NORTH AND LATIN AMERICA

Sept 9 -- Michael Jones has been appointed head of Sales and Service in North and Latin America. He will report to President and CEO Magnus Yngen, and will be a member of Group Management.

Michael Jones is currently General Manager, Cooking Products, within the Appliances division of General Electric in the US. He has a B.A. in Business Administration and has held various leadership positions within General Electric in Sales, Service, Product Management and international business since 1994.

Jones will assume his new position as of 1 October 2009 and will be based at the Group's US headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Roger Leon, who is acting head of Sales and Service in North and Latin America, has been appointed head of Global purchasing.

In June 2009, Husqvarna announced a new organization which will be fully implemented as of 1 January 2010. Instead of six business sectors, the new organization comprises five operative units, i.e. Supply Chain, Products & Marketing, Sales and Service in Europe and Asia/Pacific, Sales and Service in North and Latin America, and Construction Products.

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3) SENATORS INTRODUCE BILL PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM EFFECTS OF MID-LEVEL ETHANOL

September 15 - Yesterday, Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Mary Landrieu (D-La.) introduced strong legislation designed to protect consumers, the environment, public health and manufacturers from the introduction of intermediate, or mid-level, ethanol blends in gasoline fuel, such as E15. S.1666, the "Mid-Level Ethanol Blends Act of 2009" would ensure new fuels introduced into the marketplace are compatible with the inventory of on-road and non-road gasoline engines, including boat engines, currently in use. Since the Clean Air Act (CAA) prohibits the sale of mid-level ethanol blends, the ethanol industry is currently seeking a waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to sell E15 as a general purpose fuel.

Taking a "science-first" approach, S. 1666 is designed to protect consumers with marine engines, outdoor power equipment, other non-road engines as well as automobiles. The bill requires that EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) study the compatibility of such fuels with current engines before a waiver can be granted. The study would also include a comprehensive analysis of available independent scientific evidence on the compatibility of mid-level ethanol fuels with the emission requirements of the CAA and the operability of engines, among other things.

"During these difficult economic times, equipment damage due to ethanol-gasoline fuel blends only adds to the many challenges facing our nation's farmers, fishermen, independent woodsmen, and recreational industry," said Senator Collins. "As we pursue strategies to lessen our dependence on foreign oil, we must also take action to ensure that ethanol fuel blends are safe and efficient for small engines."

"Ethanol simply burns differently than gasoline. I fully support the development of biofuels to help cure the U.S. of its dependence on foreign oil, but we need to make such a transition in a way that helps, not hurts, commercial and recreational equipment, as well as the environment," said Senator Cardin, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. "We need to let good science guide us in making sure that we are getting the clean air benefits and engine performance that boaters, lawn care companies and others who rely on smaller engines deserve."

"NMMA applauds and thanks Senators Collins, Cardin, Whitehouse and Landrieu for introducing this important, common-sense bill," said NMMA President Thom Dammrich. "This legislation validates a science-first approach to ethanol policy and shines the spotlight on the myriad of issues associated with hasty attempts by ethanol advocates to introduce mid-level ethanol blends into the marketplace."

NMMA has raised serious concerns about the potential impacts of mid-level ethanol blends on recreational marine engines and boats, including increased air emissions, performance and durability issues, as well as warranty concerns. No recreational marine engines, fuel systems or boats are currently designed, calibrated, certified or warranted to run on any fuel with more than 10 percent ethanol. S. 1666 is supported by a wide and diverse coalition of organizations, including environmental groups, engine manufacturers, food groups, consumer groups, and refiners.

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4) READ THE OPE-IN-THE-KNOW BLOG – CURRENT OPE NEWS ON-LINE 24 HOURS A DAY

Each OPE-In-The-Know article is now available for you to read on-line, often weeks before the newsletter is actually issued and emailed.

Simply bookmark this Blog URL and read current OPE news when you want to at: www.opeintheknow.blogspot.com Or have your news reader bring the articles directly to your computer.

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5) EXMARK RECALLS 200 WORKERS IN BEATRICE, NE

BEATRICE, NE — September 17 — A lawn mower plant in Beatrice has called back about 200 laid-off workers.

Company officials say the Exmark recall brings the plant payroll back to more than 300 — still far short of the nearly 440 reported to be working there last year.

Branden Happel is a spokesman for The Toro Co., which owns Exmark. He says the plant production is lower than last year to match the reduced demand.

Toro is based in Bloomington, Minn.

The cutbacks of about 175 mostly hourly employees in August followed a layoff of 80 in April.

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6) COALITION PUBLISHES AD OPPOSING INCREASE IN ETHANOL BLEND LEVELS

AMI, in partnership with a number of other trade organizations, voiced its opposition today to the use of mid-level ethanol blends in commerce in a full page print advertisement titled “E15? Bad for Consumers. Bad for the Environment. Bad for Rural Communities” in Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill.

The ad urges opposition to any action that would allow the use of so-called “mid-level ethanol blends” (blends above 10 percent ethanol, such as E15 or E20) in commerce before proper independent testing shows that it does not pose a risk to the environment, consumers, or rural communities.

“Some corn ethanol companies want to increase by 50 percent the amount of corn ethanol that can be blended into gasoline. Congress and the Obama Administration should follow the science before adding more corn ethanol

to gasoline," the ad reads.

The ad makes the following points about increased dependence on corn ethanol:

More corn ethanol is bad for consumers. Diluting gasoline with more corn ethanol could damage the engines and injure the users of millions of boats, cars, trucks, motorcycles, ATVs, snowmobiles, chainsaws, lawnmowers and other outdoor power equipment. That is why only a handful of car engines are warranted to run on fuels containing more than 10 percent ethanol.

More corn ethanol will drive up food and feed prices. Diluting gasoline with more corn ethanol could divert more than half of America's corn crop from food and feed to fuel, increasing the cost of feeding livestock and food made from corn and forcing consumers to pay even more to put food on the table.

More corn ethanol is bad for the environment. Producing more corn ethanol could threaten air and water quality in many communities, destroy millions of acres of forests, and increase emissions of greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

More corn ethanol is bad for rural communities. Thousands of jobs and farms were lost when feed prices more than doubled in 2008. Adding more corn ethanol to our gasoline will increase feed prices again, harming livestock farmers and meat processors and risking more American jobs.

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7) THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the people to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.

-Antoine De Saint-Exupery

GOOD JUDGMENT

"Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment."

-- Barry LePatner

RIGHT

When everyone is against you,
it means that
you are absolutely wrong -
or absolutely right.

- Albert Guinon

FEAR

We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face ... we must do that which we think we cannot.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

LIFE

Don't expect to find life worth living; make it that way.

- Unknown

VALUE

It is when the well is dry that we know the price of water.

- Ben Franklin

HEART

The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of the wise man is in his heart.

- Benjamin Franklin

CIRCUMSTANCES

People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are.

I don't believe in circumstances.

The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them,

- George Bernard Shaw

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8) CARMAKERS FIGHT HIKE IN ETHANOL AT GAS PUMPS

David Shepardson www.detnews.com

They Want Research On Engine Effects Before Boosting Ratio In Fuel

Washington – September 28 -- A push by corn-producing states and alternative fuel proponents to increase federal rules boosting the amount of ethanol mixed into gasoline is being fought by automakers because it would be costly and could damage engines.

By Dec. 1, the Environmental Protection Agency must decide whether to approve a request to increase the amount of ethanol that can be mixed with most gasoline sold at pumps to as much as 15 percent.

Most pumps already sell E10, which is 10 percent ethanol.

Automakers want the agency to further study the effects of the proposed increase before allowing it to happen.

Increased ethanol blends could corrode engines that aren't specifically built for E15, according to automakers.

Four farm state senators led by Ben Nelson, D-Neb., introduced a measure that would require the EPA to grant the request.

More than 13,000 people and groups have written the EPA since the request was filed in March.

Congress has required that the nation use 11 billion gallons of ethanol next year and 36 billion gallons by 2022.

Mike Stanton, CEO of the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers, the trade group representing major foreign automakers, noted the United States would not be able to consume even half of the ethanol required by Congress by 2022 by simply requiring all pumps to be E10.

"We're on a collision course here," he said.

And there are a number of problems with an immediate boost in the ethanol blend.

Automakers warn the higher ethanol blend could boost greenhouse gas emissions, damage engines or disable vehicles.

In Baltimore, nearly a third of the city's patrol cars stopped running earlier this month because a station had boosted the amount of ethanol in the fuel. It isn't clear how much ethanol was in the mix.

Stanton, and Dave McCurdy of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, which includes Detroit's Big Three, Toyota and seven other automakers, wrote a letter Friday to Congress urging more research before approving ethanol blends like E12 or E15.

That idea "is premature, and since EPA has never allowed conventional vehicles to use higher ethanol blends, the research on their potential impacts on vehicles not designed, tested or warranted for their use is incomplete," the letter said.

The adoption of E15 could also affect users of other gasoline engines.

The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association, based in Haslett, warned in comments to the EPA that the increase could do "irreparable harm" to the nation's more than 1.8 million registered snowmobiles and damage the economy of Michigan and other northern U.S. states that rely on snowmobiling for tourism.

Associations representing the nation's 80 million boaters have also opposed the request, saying it could damage marine engines.

In 2007, Congress required the nation to drastically boost the amount of ethanol it uses to 11.1 billion gallons this year, nearly 60 percent more than what the United States used in 2007, and more than 2 billion gallons over 2008. Nearly all of the U.S. ethanol is now corn-based, but research and investment into the commercialization of cellulosic ethanol could lead to production from renewable sources like grass or wood chips. No significant quantities of cellulosic ethanol have been produced.

Ethanol producers point to some studies that suggest higher blends wouldn't harm most engines. The EPA first approved the use of ethanol blends of up to 10 percent in 1978.

Congress asked to fund tests

Automakers have joined with the oil, ethanol, small engine, marine, outdoor power equipment and motorcycle industries to create a task force, along with the Energy Department and EPA, to assess different blends.

Dubbed the "midlevel ethanol blends research coordination council," the group says Congress needs to allocate money to fund testing.

The automakers wrote Congress on Friday asking it to set aside \$17 million "to complete the necessary vehicle testing."

Congress is also considering whether to force automakers to build more cars that run on nearly all ethanol.

The auto industry has produced 7 million vehicles that can run on E85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol, or on regular gasoline. A bill in Congress sponsored by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., would require automakers to produce 50 percent of their fleet as E85-compatible by 2012 and 80 percent by 2015. A House version is sponsored by Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y.

In March 2006, Detroit's Big Three agreed to build 50 percent of their vehicles as flex-fuel vehicles by 2012 under certain conditions. Automakers get credits toward meeting fuel efficiency regulations for building the vehicles.

Under EPA's recently proposed tailpipe emissions limits, it would continue the flex-fuel vehicle credit through the 2015 model year. After that, automakers would get the credit only if they could show that the fuel was being used.

The Union of Concerned Scientists urged EPA to "reject the E15 petition as a premature, unnecessarily piecemeal approach."

Low gas prices hurt ethanol

Many ethanol producers are struggling because motorists consider gasoline prices around \$2.50 a gallon affordable, and are not clamoring for a cheaper fuel. E85 is averaging about \$2.01 a gallon, but it's about 25 percent less energy intensive, so its price per mile cost is currently virtually identical to gasoline.

In May, the Obama administration created a task force to help the ethanol industry.

The \$787 billion federal stimulus package sets aside \$786.5 million to accelerate biofuels research and boost commercialization by providing additional funding for commercial biorefineries.

The new funds include \$480 million for pilot- and demonstration-scale biorefineries, \$176.5 million for commercial-scale biorefinery projects and \$130 million for research.

Proponents of ethanol say the industry provides American jobs -- especially in rural areas -- lessens the nation's dependence on foreign oil and provides a steady income for farmers. Michigan has five ethanol refineries.

Iowa and South Dakota's agriculture secretaries wrote the EPA urging the increase.

"In 2007 alone, the ethanol industry created more than 200,000 American jobs that cannot be exported or outsourced, while contributing \$47.6 billion to our (gross domestic product) and generating \$4.6 billion in tax revenues," wrote South Dakota's Bill Even and Iowa's Bill Northey.

But using large amounts of the nation's corn boosts food and feed prices, critics say.

Last year, Texas Gov. Rick Perry unsuccessfully sought to water down the mandate, citing high feed prices.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association said in opposing the 15 percent blend that it "would require an immediate 4.5 billion gallons of ethanol, and would require approximately 1.6 billion bushels of corn -- which is nearly equivalent to the amount of corn used by the cattle industry in an entire year."

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9) BLOUNT INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES CEO SUCCESSION

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. 28 -- Blount International, Inc. announced today a succession plan for its Chief Executive Officer position. Under the plan, Joshua L. Collins will join the Company effective October 15, 2009 as its President, Chief Operating Officer and CEO Designate.

James S. Osterman, the Company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, will retire as an employee on January 4, 2010.

Upon Mr. Osterman's retirement, Mr. Collins will assume the position of Chief Executive Officer and retain the President position. Mr. Osterman will remain Chairman of the Board of Blount until the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders in May.

Commenting on today's announcement, Robert D. Kennedy, Director and head of the Search Committee of the Board, stated: "The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the senior management transition plan for the Company in anticipation of Jim Osterman's retirement at the end of this year. Through an extensive search process, which was assisted by Heidrick & Struggles, the Board interviewed numerous CEO candidates before selecting Josh Collins as Jim's successor. Josh has worked extensively with the Company over the past decade, having served as a Director on the Company's Board for the past five years and as an executive of the Company's former majority shareholder for nine years.

Josh's proven leadership and management experience, background in complex business transactions and extensive knowledge of the Company make him the most qualified of the candidates to lead Blount into the future. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Jim Osterman for his leadership and contributions to Blount in a career that has spanned over five decades. We are pleased that he will stay on as a consultant to the Company following his retirement."

Mr. Osterman noted, "It has been a very interesting and rewarding 50 years, with many challenges and many opportunities. I think that we have positioned the Company well for the future, with new products and new technologies coming on line. I look forward to continuing to follow and to contribute to the Company in my new role."

Mr. Collins, 44, has been a Board member of Blount since 2005 and has been involved with the Company since 1999. He currently is a Partner of Collins Willmott & Co. LLC, a private equity firm focused on providing growth capital to middle market companies in the industrial, consumer, and energy sectors.

Prior to co-founding Collins Willmott & Co. in January 2008, Mr. Collins was employed by Lehman Brothers Inc. as a Managing Director and Principal of Lehman Brothers Merchant Banking, a private equity firm that was the former majority owner of Blount's common stock from 1999 until 2004.

Prior to joining Lehman Brothers, he was an infantry officer and Captain in the United States Marine Corps and is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War.

Mr. Collins holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BA from the University of Pennsylvania. Josh will be relocating to the Portland, Oregon area with his wife Kristine and their three children in the near future.

Blount International, Inc. is a diversified international company whose principal business is its Outdoor Products segment, the world's largest manufacturer of saw chain and accessories with plants in the United States, Canada, Brazil and China.

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10) CPSC, HOMELITE ANNOUNCES GENERATOR RECALL AUGUST 13, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. – August 13 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Homelite, Husky and Black Max Brand Generators

Units: About 51,750

Distributor: Homelite Consumer Products Inc., of Anderson, S.C.

Hazard: The fuel gauge can leak excessive amounts of gasoline, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: This recall involves Homelite and Husky brand generators sold exclusively at Home Depot stores and Black Max brand generators sold exclusively at Sam's Club stores. Affected generators include Homelite models HG3500, HG3510, HG5700 and HG5700R, Husky models HU3650, HUCA5700 and HUCA7000 and Black Max models BM10700, BM10700A, BM10700B, BM10711A, BM10700DG, BM10700R, BM10700BR & BM10722G. Generators included in this recall have manufacturing date codes between BML306-BMM151, CHL122-CHM151 and CRL153-CRM059. The model number and manufacturing date code are included on the data label located on the top or side of the generator engine. Products with a green "dot" on the outside of the package or a "silver dot" on the fuel gauge face are not included in the recall.

Sold exclusively at: Home Depot and Sam's Club stores nationwide from July 2008 through May 2009 for between \$480 and \$1,600.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using their generator and contact Homelite Consumer Products Inc. (Homelite and Husky brands only) or Black Max (Black Max brands only) for a free repair kit.

Consumer Contact: For additional information regarding Homelite or Husky brand generators, contact Homelite Consumer Products, Inc. at (800) 242-4672 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit www.homelite.com. For additional information regarding Black Max brand generators, contact Black Max at (800) 726-5760 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visiting www.blackmaxtools.com

CPSC is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product. Please tell us about it by visiting <https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/incident.aspx>

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11) CARLISLE FINALIZES PLANS FOR JACKSON, TN PLANT

www.memphis.bizjournals.com

October 1 -- Aiken, S.C.-based Carlisle Tire & Wheel, a subsidiary of Charlotte, N.C.-based Carlisle Companies Inc., finalized its intent to operate in the former Jackson, Tenn., Whirlpool Corp. facility. In July, Carlisle announced it would locate in the 568,606-square-foot manufacturing and distribution facility creating over 400 new jobs. Carlisle also plans to expand the facility, which will manufacture tires and inner tubes, by 156,000 square feet. Madison County, through its Madison County Industrial Development Board, bought the facility from Whirlpool for \$71 million and will lease it to Carlisle Corp., which will pay principal and interest on it.

Carlisle will also be eligible for state incentives like FastTrack Job Training Assistance, Industrial Machinery Tax Credits and Jobs Tax Credits for the project. The company hasn't announced its planned investment in the expansion.

Michigan-based Whirlpool closed the facility in December 2008 after deciding to consolidate its dishwasher production operations in its Findlay, Ohio, plant.

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12) SHAKEUP AT (Original) TECUMSEH PRODUCTS – Herrick Family Takes Control Again

The Daily Telegram www.lenconnect.com

October 9 -- The change in leadership at Tecumseh Products Co. is not expected to have any impact on the ongoing negotiations to sell the company's former headquarters and manufacturing plant to and Ohio-based baked-goods maker.

Snack food manufacturer Consolidated Biscuit Co. of McComb, Ohio, has been negotiating with Tecumseh Products to buy the former compressor manufacturing facility in Tecumseh for its seventh plant.

Consolidated Biscuit anticipates adding 500 jobs and about \$12 million in personal property investment, with production to start in 2011 once everything has been finalized.

City officials said the project will go as planned. A spokesman for Consolidated Biscuit declined to comment, while Tecumseh Products did not respond to requests for comment.

"We have been in touch with Kent Herrick on this and other projects, and we believe he has the best interests of the company and the community at heart," said Tecumseh City Manager Kevin Welch. "We don't see any major hurdles. It's a long process and something new comes up about every day, but we are all going to take our time and make sure it gets done right."

The Products announced new board and executive-level appointments on Wednesday, a little more than a month

after a shareholder vote resulted in the Herrick family regaining control of the company founded by Ray Herrick. His great-grandson Kent Herrick was elected chairman of the board of directors.

As a result of the vote, Ed Buker was fired as chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer, effective Oct. 2. He also resigned from the board. James Wainright, currently vice president of global operations, will serve as acting president of the company while the board conducts a search for a new president and CEO.

Kent Herrick, a former executive with the Products, and his father, former Products CEO, president and chairman Todd Herrick, were ousted from the company in the spring of 2007. Todd Herrick then launched a proxy battle to elect Kent Herrick and another nominee to the company's board. Kent Herrick was named a director in April 2007 as part of a lawsuit settlement between the Herricks and the company.

At the annual meeting in August, shareholders voted to elect the Herrick slate of board candidates and did not approve a recapitalization proposal that would have consolidated the company's Class A and B shares and reduced the Herrick Foundation's voting power.

The Tecumseh City Council has a public hearing on a brownfield development plan for Consolidated Biscuit at 7:35 p.m. Oct. 19. The project site covers current Products-owned properties at 402 S. Evans St., 404 S. Evans St., 600 S. Ottawa St., 100 E. Patterson St. and 805 S. Evans St. and will cover lead paint removal and asbestos abatement and removal, said Paula Holtz, Tecumseh economic development director. After the public hearing and council action, the plan will go to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for approval.

The brownfield redevelopment plan would have a 30-year run involving \$600,000 that will be reimbursed through tax increment financing (TIF), which allocates a portion of property taxes collected on a parcel for repayment of debts. Consolidated Biscuit will use the funds incrementally and will be repaid with the TIF funds.

Recent Tecumseh Products history

2006

— Nov. 20: Todd Herrick announces he will step down as the Tecumseh Products Co.'s CEO after 20 years at the head of the company his grandfather, Ray Herrick, founded. A \$100 million credit agreement calls for Herrick to remain as the company's board chairman after a successor is hired.

2007

— Jan. 19: The products' board removes Herrick as CEO, replacing him with Jim Bonsall on an interim basis. Bonsall, a managing partner in a corporate-turnaround firm, had been running the company's small-engine division during restructuring. Kent Herrick is fired from his management position with the company.

— Feb. 28: The company's board removes Todd Herrick as chairman, replacing him with director David Risley, a former executive at La-Z-Boy in Monroe.

-- April 2: Todd Herrick and Tecumseh Products settle lawsuits over the management of the company resulting in Todd Herrick's resignation as chairman on April 9. He remains as a non-voting board member as chairman emeritus. Kent Herrick is appointed to the board.

— Aug. 13: Ed Buker becomes CEO and president of the Products. He had been president and CEO of Citation Corp. in Alabama, a maker of cast and machined metal parts. He had previously held management positions in the automotive industry. A condition of his hiring is that he will eventually succeed Risley as chairman.

— Nov. 2: The company announces it will end production activities at its Tecumseh plant by the end of April 2008.

2008

— March 10: The Herrick Foundation recommends putting the company up for sale and says it plans to sell its share of the company's stock.

— March 12: The company announces it will move its headquarters from Tecumseh to Pittsfield Township outside Ann Arbor.

— June: The company and the Herrick Foundation trade barbs in court over control of the company. The company had instituted a bylaw requiring 75 percent of voting stock to call a special meeting. The old threshold had been 50 percent. The foundation and Herrick family at the time owned more than 40 percent of the company's voting stock.

— July 18: The company and Herrick Foundation reach an agreement to call a special shareholder meeting to consider removing directors Riskey and Peter Banks.

— Dec. 19: Lenawee County Circuit Judge Timothy P. Pickard orders a halt to a planned stock split that would have diluted the Herrick family's and foundation's voting power. The company has two types of stock: non-voting Class A and voting Class B. The company claimed the proposed stock split was a move to recapitalize the company.

2009

— February: The company becomes part of an international investigation into alleged price-fixing in the compressor business. The Products, Whirlpool and other companies were cooperating in the investigation, though Tecumseh Products claimed Kent Herrick was not cooperating. The company also announces a new recapitalization plan that would replace the two classes of stock with a single share and compensate Class B shareholders with 1.1 shares of the new stock for every one share of the old stock.

— Aug. 14: Shareholders elect the Herrick Foundation's slate of four candidates to the company's board and reject the recapitalization plan. Two of management's candidates who were elected immediately resign.

— Oct. 7: The board fires Buker as CEO and president and he resigns from the board. Kent Herrick is named chairman. James Wainwright, the company's vice president of global operations, will serve as acting president until the board finds a new president and CEO.

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13) 2009-2010 OPE INDUSTRY EVENTS AND MEETING CALENDAR

2009 - 2010 OPE INDUSTRY MEETING AND EVENTS CALENDAR	
January 19-21, 2010	BTME-BIGGA , British Turf Management and the British International Golf & Greenkeepers Association Show, Harrogate International Center, England
February 2-5, 2010	World of Concrete , Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV
February 8-11, 2010	The Rental Show , American Rental Association Conference and Trade Show, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia
February 10-11, 2010	GIS , Golf Industry Show, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA
February 13-16, 2010	OPEAA , Outdoor Power Equipment Aftermarket Association Annual Meeting, Fairmont Southampton Hotel, Bermuda
February 28 - March 3, 2010	OPEESA , Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association, Arizona Biltmore Spa & Resort, Phoenix, AZ
March 14, 2010	Daylight Savings Time Begins
April 7-11, 2010	EETC , Equipment and Engine Training Council 14 th Annual Conference, Sponsored by Dixie Sales Company, Greensboro, NC
May 4-6, 2010	National Hardware Show , Las Vegas Convention Center and Sands Convention Center
June 20-25, 2010	Skills USA , National Leadership and Skills Conference, Kansas City, Missouri
TBD	OPEI , Outdoor Power Equipment Institute Annual Meeting,
August 29-31, 2010	GAFA (with SPOGA) , International Garden Trade Fair with the International Trade Fair for Sport, Camping and Garden Lifestyle, Cologne, Germany
	IOG SALTEX , Grounds Care, Sports Facilities, Amenities, Landscaping And Estate Management Outdoor Trade Show, Windsor Race Track, Windsor, Berkshire, England
	GLEE , International Garden and Leisure Show, NEC Birmingham, England
October 21-24, 2009	FFA , Future Farmers of America Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN
October 29-31, 2009	GIE+EXPO , Green Industry and Equipment Expo, Louisville, KY (combining EXPO and the GIE Show)
November 1, 2009	Daylight Savings Time Ends

14)

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