

# FYI BUSINESS

» NEWS, TRENDS + EVENTS IN TULSA BUSINESS

## DMI wind tower sections begin trip

Six wind tower sections left DMI Industries, located at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, on Tuesday en route to a wind farm site in northern Texas.

It was a milestone for the 175 employees, as it was the first time since the facility began production that they saw the enormous, 50-ton sections hitting the roadways.

"It is an extraordinary sight to see a caravan hauling these 80-foot tower sections," said Stefan Nilsson, president of DMI Industries.

The new sections marked a significant accomplishment for the DMI team that led the company's expansion efforts in the state. It successfully concluded a stringent certification process for the project site customer and opened the door for a continued relationship.

"This is also an important achievement for our wind energy partners who rely on our delivery commitment, as well as the communities of Tulsa and Catoosa who are experiencing the benefits of their generous efforts to support DMI in the region," Nilsson said.

The DMI expansion into Oklahoma proved challenging at times.

"It has been an extensive facility transformation and a demanding project," said Kevin Ishmael, general manager of the facility. "We have as-



**Fifty-ton, 80-foot sections of a wind mill tower leave the DMI Industries plant at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa on Tuesday.** COURTESY

sembled a tremendous work force, bringing in folks from a number of different manufacturing capacities and training them to meet the tight demands of ours. We couldn't be more proud of them and their accomplishments to date."

Less than a year ago, DMI Industries, an Otter Tail company, bought a plant built for Griffin Wheel — a rail-

car manufacturer that never moved in — to extend its geographic reach and meet the growing demand for wind towers in the southwestern states.

DMI, a West Fargo, N.D.-based company, closed on its purchase of the plant and the surrounding 300 acres last August. The company is spending an estimated \$35 million in renovations and start-up costs.

## Cox adds six new HD channels

Cox Communications has added six new high definition channels to its Oklahoma viewing lineup, bringing the total HD offerings from Cox to 100.

HD programming from USA, Sci-Fi, Bravo, Lifetime, CNBC and The Weather Channel joined the Cox Oklahoma lineup on Tuesday. Cox now has 38 HD channels in Tulsa and 39 in Oklahoma City, including HD On Demand and HD Pay-per-view. Cox customers now have 100 HD choices with the multiple viewing options through HD On Demand and Starz HD.

"We continue to add more HD channels and viewing choices almost every month," said Christine Martin, Cox Oklahoma spokeswoman, in a written statement. "We're committed not only to bring more choices but to deliver the quality choices our customers want."

## Sublett given 'Lion of the Bar'

Anne B. Sublett, a partner in the Tulsa office of Conner & Winters LLP, was presented the Lion of the Bar Award by the Council Oak/Johnson-Sontag American Inn of Court recently at the annual combined Tulsa Inns of Court Banquet.



**Sublett**  
Conner

The award honors an attorney for "a lifetime of contributions to the legal profession, the community and the law, and a commitment to the highest principles of excellence and integrity."

Sublett earned her law degree at Georgetown University Law Center. At Conner & Winters she chairs the firm's Diversity Committee, and practices in the area of employee ben-

efits law. She is the co-founder and president of Tulsa Lawyers for Children, a nonprofit organization that recruits, trains and provides ongoing assistance to lawyers who agree to provide pro bono legal representation to abused and neglected children.



**Guests explore the ropes course at the Canebrake. It features a 300-foot-long zip line and an adventure center.** Courtesy

## Canebrake offers corporate retreats

The Canebrake, a restaurant and resort for corporate retreats, conferences and weekend getaways, will hold an open house from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday at the facility, located four miles east of Wagoner off of Highway 51 on Lake Fort Gibson.

Visitors can tour rooms and suites, sample items from the dining menu and visit the yoga barns. They can also tour facilities for meetings, including a conference center with rooms for groups of 75 and 25 people; and participate in activities on the challenge course, which features a 50-foot adventure center and 300-foot-long zip wire.

Reservations are required. For more information, call (918) 485-1810, or visit the company's Web site at [www.tulsaworld.com/canebrake](http://www.tulsaworld.com/canebrake).

## Main Street over \$17 million

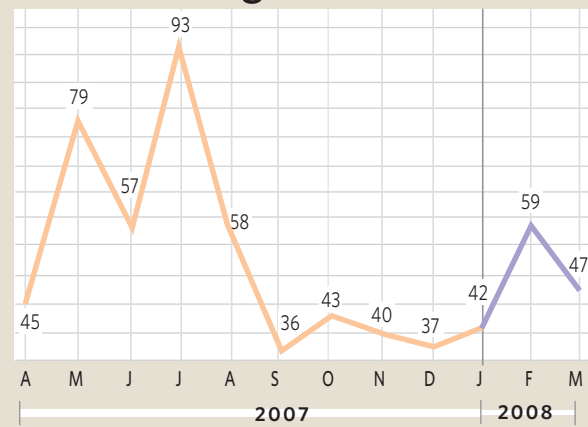
The latest figures from the Oklahoma Main Street Center show more than \$17 million reinvested into downtowns across the state so far in 2008.

"The composition of Main Street reinvestment in 2008 comes from both smaller rural programs like Poteau, Prague and Watonga and includes the urban neighborhoods in Oklahoma City and Tulsa," said Jim Watters, deputy state director and small business consultant for the Oklahoma Main Street Center. "Ten Main Street communities make up nearly 80 percent of the total \$17.2 million reinvestment so far in 2008."

The communities are: Poteau (\$3.1 million); RedFork District in Tulsa (\$2.8 million); Ada (\$2.06 million); Capitol Hill in Oklahoma City (\$1.1 million); Prague (\$948,305); Tahlequah (\$882,000); Watonga (\$808,000); Stockyards City in Oklahoma City (\$745,000); Eastside Capitol Gateway in Oklahoma City (\$673,520) and Woodward (\$472,200).

More than \$623,669,000 has been reinvested overall in the history of the Oklahoma Main Street Program. These figures include reinvestment from more than 65 communities that have participated in the project since the center's establishment in 1986.

## The Tulsa Gauge Residential building permits



Source: Research Wizard, Tulsa City-County Library

Tulsa World

## QuickBooks training session June 3-4

A two-part QuickBooks training session will be held June 3-4 in Sapulpa, sponsored by the Women's Business Center of Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma Inc..

Wanda Estus, who has taught the class for the past two years, will present parts 1 and 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Central Tech, 1720 S. Main St. in Sapulpa.

The class is being given to help small businesses with their accounting systems.

Registration is \$100, and covers a manual and lunches. Class size is limited, and the deadline to register is Tuesday.

For more information, contact Barbara Rackley or Lori Smith at (580) 924-5094, or (800) 658 2823, or register online at [www.tulsaworld.com/rei](http://www.tulsaworld.com/rei).

## Business growth focus of conference

Community leaders and economic developers can learn more about innovative approaches to help existing businesses remain healthy and strong at a two day conference on June 16-17.

The "Taking Care of Business" conference, presented by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, will provide a close-up look at the solutions and resources communities are using for successful business retention and expansion programs.

The conference will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 16, and from 8-11:30 a.m. June 17 at the Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Blvd. in Oklahoma City.

Registration is \$50 and includes two meals, a networking reception, and all conference materials. The deadline to register is June 6.

For more information or to register, visit the group's Web site at [www.tulsaworld.com/tcbregistration](http://www.tulsaworld.com/tcbregistration), call Christy Davis at (405) 815-5345, or e-mail Davis at [Christy\\_Davis@odoc.state.ok.us](mailto:Christy_Davis@odoc.state.ok.us).

## Chart signs up for overseas venture

Chart Industries Inc., a global manufacturer of equipment used in the production, storage and end-use of hydrocarbon and industrial gases, has announced that a subsidiary with a plant in Tulsa has entered into a joint venture to manufacture air-cooled heat exchangers in the Middle East.

The Tulsa plant, part of Chart Cooler Service Co., is joining with the Middle East firm S&A Abahsain Co., and Specialized Industrial Equipment of Houston to create the joint venture Abahsain Specialized Industrial Co.

Chart Cooler Service Co. is part of Chart Industries' Energy and Chemicals group.

A state-of-the-art 85,000 square foot manufacturing facility, office space and a warehouse will be built in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. The joint venture also has the potential to increase production at Chart's Tulsa plant.

"Saudi Arabia is an ideal location for this joint venture because the region is one of the more significant users of air cooled heat exchangers," stated Wayne Pyle, president of Chart Cooler Service. "Abahsain has 60 years of in-region service to the petrochemical and energy industries. Their customer contacts, coupled with Chart Cooler Service's experience providing high-quality, low-cost air cooler solutions, along with SIE's marketing expertise in the Middle East, should prove to be a powerful combination."

## TenkillerProperty.com in top 100 list

TenkillerProperty.com has been named one of the nation's Hot 100 fast-growth businesses by Entrepreneur magazine.

The real estate brokerage firm ranks 91st on the list for its rapid sales growth and positive job growth, among other select criteria.

The ranking appears in the May issue of Entrepreneur.

## No Action Line

The Action Line consumer assistance column will return May 29.

# Tips to survive the loss of a job

There are several steps you can take to help you survive losing your job without economic ruin. But time is of the essence.

"You don't need to panic, but you do need to address it right away," said David Jones, president of the Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies, which represents nonprofit counseling services.

Here's what you do:

### Ask questions

Before departing, ask what kind of compensation package you'll take away. Is there severance pay?

What about unused vacation time? You are legally entitled to be paid a lump sum for the vacation days — not sick days — you have accrued, said Laura Moscovitz, staff attorney with the National Employment Law Project in Oakland, Calif.

Some companies will let you take your remaining vacation days — delaying your official termination date — instead of being paid for them, extending health care coverage.

### Understand COBRA

A federal law — the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, or COBRA — in most cases allows you to continue getting health insurance under your former employer's plan. But the company probably will stop subsidizing the premiums, so your monthly payments could double or triple. You have to sign up within 60 days, or the option evaporates.

If your spouse has health coverage, the rules usually allow a spouse who has lost a job to be added to the plan at any time.

You may also want to check out individual policies. But they generally require medical examinations to join — and can be pricey if you have health issues.

### Apply for benefits

File for jobless benefits immediately.

The payments typically cover no more than 35 percent of lost wages — but each state caps how much you can get per week. In Oklahoma, it's based on your earnings per quarter, and you currently can qualify for 1/26th of it up to \$392 per month, according to Jerry Pectol, director of the Unemployment Insurance Division of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

The benefits normally can last for six months if you remain unemployed that long. Congress sometimes lengthens the period during economic downturns.

### Learn your rights

Depending on the cir-



**Kathy Kristof**

Tribune  
Media Service

cumstances of your job loss, you might be entitled to greater severance payments or extended unemployment benefits, said Maurice Emmel, policy director at the National Employment Law Project.

If you lost a job because of foreign competition (your employer moved production overseas) you could be entitled up to 52 weeks of unemployment benefits, plus 104 weeks of educational training assistance.

If you were part of a massive layoff or plant closing, you might be covered by the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, which requires your employer to give you 60 days' notice or pay you 60 days of back wages. Some industries and small employers are exempt.

### Assess your finances

Pull out your financial records, sit down, with your spouse if you have one, and figure out a budget.

If your spouse is working, your goal should be to live on the one income, plus unemployment benefits, Jones said. If no other family members have jobs (or you're single), you will need to consider cutting expenses to the bone.

The biggest mistake that the unemployed make is adjusting their budgets too late, Jones said.

### Tap savings

The best place to tap savings first would be a checking or savings account at a bank. If that's not enough, you can start liquidating investments that are in taxable accounts.

If you have money in a variable annuity, you may be able to borrow against the equity. Your last resort should be tapping a tax-deferred retirement account.

### Plan ahead

Now is the time to start building up your savings, Jones said. If you're living from paycheck to paycheck, seek help from a credit counselor, he suggested. To find one, go to [www.tulsaworld.com/aiccca](http://www.tulsaworld.com/aiccca) and click on "find a counseling agency."

Los Angeles Times staff writer Kathy M. Kristof, author of "Taming the Tuition Tiger" and "Investing 101," welcomes your comments and suggestions but regrets that she cannot respond individually to letters or phone calls. Write to Personal Finance, Business Section, Los Angeles Times, 202 W. 1st St. 90012, or e-mail [kathy.kristof@latimes.com](mailto:kathy.kristof@latimes.com).

# Pet food settlement reached

BY ANDREW HARRIS  
Bloomberg News

Menu Foods Ltd., Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and five other companies sued by consumers last year for selling melamine-tainted pet food have asked a U.S. judge to approve a \$24 million settlement.

The companies will create a fund allowing consumers to recover up to 100 percent of their money damages, if they can document their claims, lawyers for both sides said in papers filed Friday with U.S. District Judge Noel Hillman in Camden, New Jersey.

Consumers' attorney Kenneth Wexler of Chicago said the plaintiffs were pleased with the settlement "but

there's no result that can replace the loss of a pet."

Consumer reports received by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration suggested that about 1,950 cats and 2,200 dogs died after eating contaminated pet food, the Justice Department said in a Feb. 6 statement. More than 100 lawsuits were filed in the U.S. and Canada last year after Menu's initial product recall in March 2007, according to court papers. More than 180 brands of pet food and treats made by 12 different companies were ultimately recalled.

The dog and cat foods contained melamine-tainted wheat gluten that can cause kidney failure and death. The products were imported from China.

# BUSINESS CALENDAR

## Tuesday

Metro Tulsa Business and Professional Women luncheon and program, noon-1 p.m., Ti Amo Italian Ristorante, 6024 S Sheridan Road, #A. Speaker: Dress for Success representative. Topic: "Dress for Success Outreach Program;" also officer installation. Cost: \$15 (includes lunch). Members asked to donate new or used clothing suitable for job interviews. Reservations: Bobbi at 747-3807 (by Monday), or e-mail [thewarshawgroup@cox.net](mailto:thewarshawgroup@cox.net).

Information for this listing should be submitted to: Business Calendar, Tulsa World, P.O. Box 1770, Tulsa, Okla. 74102, or fax: 581-8353, or e-mail: [business@tulsaworld.com](mailto:business@tulsaworld.com). Items must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday for inclusion in the following Sunday's calendar.