



Mississippi Business Weekly

October 12–16, 2009

United Furniture to Add Jobs in Okolona

- The company announced that it will add at least 100 new furniture jobs and make improvements to its facility
- The company's CFO, Doug Hanby, stated that they received grants totaling \$1.3 million, with \$1.1 million provided by the Mississippi Development Authority
- United Furniture also has facilities in Amory, Hatley, and North Carolina

http://nems360.com/pages/full_story/push?article-United+Furniture+to+add+100+jobs

Laurel Company Receives Contract

- International Fire & Safety Inc. in Laurel was awarded a \$5.5 million contract by the Department of Defense
- The company will provide fire safety and suppression services and equipment to help protect US armed forces

<http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/article/20091013/NEWS01/910130311/-1/NEWS17/Company>

Companies Bring Tobacco Lawsuit

- Commonwealth Brands Inc. has joined a MS tobacco and grocery wholesale distributor, The Corr-Williams Company, in filing an action in the MS state court challenging a recent amendment to the MS tobacco tax law
- The suit claims that the new tax law threatens MS jobs by penalizing companies that choose to use MS based facilities to distribute cigarettes for retail sales in other states
- CEO and President of Commonwealth Brands, Jonathan Cox, said, "the Mississippi Legislature overstepped its authority when it imposed a MS tax on cigarettes sold to consumers in other states..."

<http://msbusiness.com/blog/2009/10/companies-bring-tobacco-lawsuit/>

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20091013/BIZ/910130352/1005/biz/Firms-fighting-cig-tax>

Heavy Rains Increase Pumpkin Prices

- Heavy rains have led to losses of up to 20% in crop yields primarily in the northern part of the state and in some cases have doubled wholesale prices
- The losses are due to fields that are too muddy for harvesting equipment and stem rot from early herbicide use

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20091016/BIZ/91016023/Miss>





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New Hotel Slated for Tupelo

- The 72-room Best Western Inn & Suites is scheduled to open in fall 2010 on North Gloster Street
- The same company is also constructing a Holiday Inn & Suites in Fulton which is expected to open in July 2010 and will employ at least 20 people

http://nems360.com/pages/full_story/push?article-Four-story-+72

Shrimpers Facing Hard Times

- Shrimpers were moved to Pass Christian after Hurricane Katrina and are having trouble returning to Gulfport
- The move to Pass Christian presents a three hour one-way trip from their fishing grounds and increased costs
- While facing increased costs, shrimpers are also dealing with historically low prices and lagging demand

<http://www.gulflive.com/news/mississippipress/news.ssf?/base/news/125525613037090.xml&coll=5>

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20091013/BIZ/910130343/1005/biz/Shrimpers-say-they-are>

Mueller Industries Reduces Workforce

- The company has reduced its workforce in the Fulton plant by 12%, leaving 37 people unemployed
- In September 19 people were left jobless making this the second workforce reduction so far this year
- Reasons for the reductions include declines in residential and commercial construction activity

http://itawamba360.com/pages/full_story/push?article-UPDATE

OSI Systems to Be Built on Gulf Coast

- Rapiscan Systems, OSI's security division, has received an order from the Transportation Security Administration valued at approximately \$25 million for multiple units of its Secure 1000 Single Pose
- The Secure 1000 Single Pose systems will be manufactured at OSI's facility in Ocean Springs
- They system is an advanced checkpoint security screening solution

<http://msbusiness.com/blog/2009/10/osi-systems-to-be-built-on-mississ>

