

Kraft Power opens Gaylord location

GAYLORD — Kraft Power Corporation, headquartered in Woburn, Mass., recently expanded its territory and has opened a facility in Gaylord to conduct sales and service and supply parts for Waukesha engines used in gas compression, power generation and cogeneration, as well as related products, engines and power transmission equipment.

Tom Rodgers is serving as branch supervisor and also is in charge of sales. Erwin Ecker is managing the parts department at the Gaylord store, located at 519 W. Second St., which opened in November.

Rodgers said he expects the staff in Gaylord to eventually include six to seven employees.

"Basically what we are doing is support for the compression business for natural gas compressors," Rodgers said. "In the natural gas business they have engines that run compressors to pump the gas to get it to market. We're going to support those engines that are here in our gas fields."



TOM RODGERS (l) is branch supervisor and Erwin Ecker is parts department manager at Kraft Power in Gaylord.

Rodgers added that Kraft Power also is looking to expand its power generation business in the area through natural gas-powered generators.

Kraft Power recently acquired Waukesha Engine territory in the northern Midwest that formerly belonged to the Charles Equipment Co. of Illinois, and this expansion will allow Kraft Power a stronger hold on the power generation market, encompassing 17 states from Maine to Wisconsin, according to a press release from the company.

Formed in 1965, Kraft Power has distribution and

service agreements with manufacturers including Waukesha Engine.

Waukesha Engine is an international manufacturer of stationary natural gas, propane and methane powered engines and the innovator behind Enginator System generators. Waukesha Engine serves two primary markets: electric power generation and gas compression. Waukesha also supplies engines for mechanical drive applications.

The Gaylord store hours are 8-5, Monday through Friday. For more information call 748-4040 or visit www.kraftpower.com.

Appointments Muzyl, Becker rejoin MOGA board

William J. Muzyl of Muzyl Oil Corp., Gaylord, and David M. Becker of JDB Energy, Gaylord, recently were re-elected to two-year terms on the board of directors of the Michigan Oil and Gas Association. Their terms run through Dec. 31, 2009.

The Michigan Oil and Gas Association (MOGA), represents the exploration, drilling, production, transportation, processing and storage of crude oil and natural gas in Michigan. MOGA has more than 800 members including independent oil companies, major oil companies and the exploration arms of various utility companies and royalty owners.

For more information call Frank L. Mordt, president, Michigan Oil and Gas Association at 517-487-1092.

Mercy Hospital names 3 new board members

Three new board members are joining the Mercy Hospital Grayling Board of Trustees effective Jan. 1.

The three Barry Owens, president of Garland Resort; Thomas J. Quinn, Ed.D., president of Kirtland Community College; and John H. Sloan, D.O., bring years of leadership experience to the hospital.

Owens became president of Garland Resort in 2006 after 20 years helping grow the Lewiston golf and resort community to a major recreation and golfing destination in the state. He brings extensive experience in operations, sales, marketing,

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development, finance and has been involved in many community activities.

Quinn joined Kirtland Community College earlier this year after serving as vice president of Academic Affairs and Student Services at South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado, Arkansas from 2003 to 2007. He has extensive academic administration and teaching experience, as well as major accomplishments in the development of new programs at the Arkansas college.

Sloan is a retired heart surgeon from the Chicago area and former professor at Michigan State University and Midwestern University. He has extensive medical credentials and experience, including development of a cardiac pacemaker, as well as business experience. He is the former owner of a successful blueberry farm and a local weekly newspaper in Bangor.

"We are grateful for each of these new members and the wealth of experience and insights they bring to our hospital," said Stephanie Blenner-Matzak, Mercy Hospital Grayling CEO. "We welcome them to our board and look forward to working with them."

New tool

Estimator added to business tax site

The Michigan Department of Treasury has posted a Michigan Business Tax (MBT) Estimator. The MBT Web site, located at michigan.gov/mbt. The Estimator allows businesses and tax professionals to estimate a business's MBT liability. The new business structure takes effect Jan. 1, 2008.

It is important to note that Estimator provides only unofficial estimates, with results having no legal bearing on a firm's MBT liability. The Estimator is housed on a secure encrypted site which does not store the user's identity or retain data.

Several more Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) have been posted to the MBT site, the fifth FAQ, dated since the site was activated August. The department continues to receive new questions from business community and will continue to issue responses and guidance.

The MBT site also provides overview of the tax as well as details on different elements of the MBT such as Nexus, Unitary Filing, Apportionment. Recent MBT presentations, including two Webinars, can be downloaded from the site along with a schedule of upcoming presentations.

— To submit an item ShopTalk, contact Cathy Landry 748-4515, cathy.landry@ghrtimes.com, or PO Box 508, Gaylord MI 49735