



Trash to treasure

By Meagan Moore
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A new business is making the final touches in order to start preparing their product by the middle of next month, and it is a product that might revolutionize the way America, and possibly the world, deal with waste products.

Steve Schiamara worked in architectural sales for years, and one day his partner and ex-boss, ran into a product in Brazil that he found very interesting. Once both men looked into the product and realized that it had more potential in the United States for marketing, they conducted more research on exporting it.

However, if the product was developed in Brazil and exported to the U.S., the prices would be too expensive to make any profit off of, so they decided to just move the operation to the states. The resources in Brazil are also lacking compared to what they can find and use in the states.

The company is called Miura Board, and their mantra is "green as the Earth, strong as a bull." So the name Miura came from the famous ranch in Spain where the best fighting bulls are bred. The company will be producing the most durable 100% recycled

alternative to wood by using a machine that takes recycled plastic not used for anything else and combining it with fiber like rice hulls.

Other than the plastic and fiber, there is nothing else in the product. The machine does not give off effluents, no chemicals are used, and the only thing being produced other than the product is steam.

"Our carbon footprint is a negative," Schiamara stated. "We're taking products that would normally go to the dump."

The first machine is being brought in from Brazil, where it was built and manufactured, and 20 employees will be hired for the first machine. According to Schiamara, once the first machine is up and running, and they are producing the numbers the customer wants, they will then add six more machines and are hoping to see a total of 100 employees by April of next year.

Further down the line, they are hoping to add five more machines and even build more branches, all the while leaving their home base in Kountze.

Right now, their main customer is Quality Mats. A mutual friend of Schiamara and the owner of Quality Mats met with the owner and talked to them about what Miura

Board was all about. It just so happened that Quality Mats was looking for a replacement for their lumber.

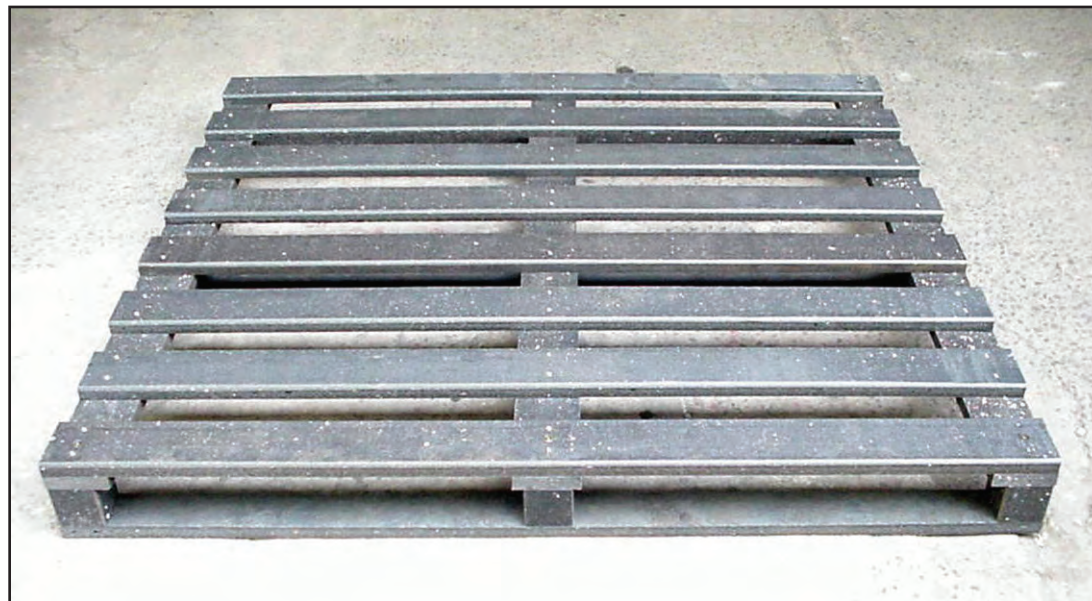
Thus, being close to Quality Mats and buying the old building in Kountze that had been sitting empty for 15 years was a sign they were meant to settle down the company in Hardin County. Schiamara stated that everyone has been so nice and friendly, and it has really made an impact on their decision was the best they made.

From an environmental standpoint, Miura Board will stand several industries on their ear, by being a competitor with alternative wood to the lumber and plywood industries. In fact, there is a company in Florida who is considering using the recycled material to replace miles and miles of bulkheads.

Miura Board is also talking to trailer companies about replacing the boards for their product. The company in Brazil made everything from railroad ties to pallets.

Their company in Brazil also has the ability to make fuel to run the plant, but it is a messy business and might take other precautions in order to start that part, but they are looking at where they can be in three years.

"This is going to be a big deal for Kountze and this



Courtesy Photo

Picture of a pallet made from recycled plastic and fiber. Steve Schiamara stated that the company has a pallet made from their product that has lasted approximately 12 years and still looks brand new.

area," said Schiamara. "We will be a star for Hardin County. Once the business is up and running, we will be something for Texas to talk about."

So many other companies are interested in what they are doing, but they are just waiting to see what they final

product will be like. One of the end goals is to help reduce waste, and provide an alternative solution to timber and landfills.

This technology will not only revolutionize how waste is handled, but it also has other advantages over using regular wood. The product

from recycled plastic and fiber doesn't absorb water. The product is a natural sound barrier and a natural insulator. It also doesn't readily burn. If a house were to be made from this product, it will more than likely last longer than a house made of normal timber.

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Photo by Autumn Rendall/Silsbee Bee

John Andrade Jr. (a.k.a. "The Cutty") poses outside Modica Bros. next to his famous racing car that is featured in Discovery Channel's "Street Outlaws"

Reality racing star meets with fans

by Autumn Rendall
Silsbee Bee

On July 14, reality TV celebrity John Andrade, Jr. (a.k.a. "The Cutty") had a meet and greet at Silsbee Modica Bros. Andrade was part of Discovery Channel's hit show "Street Outlaws" for four seasons, and has since been touring around the country meeting fans and in some cases racing alongside them. On July 15, Andrade competed in a race against members of the 409 racing list at the Evadale Raceway.

Racing has been a part of Andrade's life since he can remember. The majority of Andrade's family was also involved in racing, and Andrade began racing himself at age 16. The group competed among the 405 racing list out

of Oklahoma City, Andrade's home town.

"I was raised on the track," said Andrade. "My friends, family and I grew up together through racing."

"Street Outlaws" is a documentary/reality show about street racing. The show provides an inside look into the action both on the road and behind the scenes. After hearing about the good work of Andrade's crew, Discovery Channel contacted Andrade and asked him to be a part of the show. Andrade and his crew set to work, and in seven days the group started and finished working on the car Andrade was famous for driving on the show.

"I'm star-struck really," said Modica Bros. Silsbee owner Adam Smith. "He's one of my favorite guys on the show."

Since his time on the show, Andrade and his family have been busy not only traveling the country- but also running their new automotive shop in Oklahoma. Andrade always makes sure his wife and two children are by his side.

"We like to make our travels a family affair," said Andrade.

Even though, due to legal restrictions, street racing is less common than it was five years ago, you can still find many racers dedicated to the sport. In the 409 area there are two racing lists: outlaw and renegade. The top racers from both outlaw (Lonnie Brown) and renegade (Skler Procell) showed off their vehicles at Andrade's meet and greet, and competed alongside him during Saturday's race.

See STAR on PG. 8, SEC. 1

Suspect that assaulted officer to go back to prison

By Meagan Moore
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A Lumberton Police Officer received minor injuries following an incident that ended in the arrest of a Lumberton man for three different charges. On Friday, June 14 at about 7:15 p.m., Officers Chris Robicheaux and Jason Blackwell responded to a call at Hwy. 69 and River Birch about a person walking in the middle of the highway in front of traffic.

Once Robicheaux and Blackwell made contact with the suspect, they realized he

was displaying signs of public intoxication. According to reports, the suspect told Robicheaux that he believed he was in New York and was wanting to rob a store.

Robicheaux and Blackwell tried to place the suspect under arrest, but he began resisting. During the scuffle, Robicheaux received minor injuries to one of his knees, but they managed to cuff him and transport him to the Hardin County Jail.

The suspect was identified as Jerry Allen Moton, 46 years of age from Lumberton.

Moton confessed to one of the jailers that he didn't want to hurt the officers, but he wanted to go back to prison. Reports show that Moton is currently on parole.

He has prior convictions including resisting arrest, assault on family member, burglary, evading arrest, escaping, theft, and narcotics. Moton was charged with public intoxication, a class C misdemeanor, resisting arrest, a class A misdemeanor, and assault on a law enforcement officer, a third degree felony.

One arrested and one injured in rollover

By Meagan Moore
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After a one vehicle rollover approximately two miles north of Silsbee, a female of Vidor was placed under arrest for intoxication and one male on Buna was transported to the hospital after being ejected from the vehicle.

The Texas Department of Public Safety responded to a one vehicle rollover crash on US 96 in Hardin County at about 12:15 a.m. on Saturday, July 15. According to reports,

a 2003 Chevrolet passenger vehicle was traveling northbound on US 96 when the vehicle traveled off the roadway to the right.

While trying to maneuver the vehicle back onto the roadway, the driver over-corrected and caused the vehicle to rollover several times before coming to a stop.

The passenger, identified as Joe David Scott, 34 of Buna, was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the vehicle. He was transported to St. Elizabeth hospital in Beau-

mont with serious injuries, and at this time his condition is unknown.

The driver, Bonnie Wallace, 31 of Vidor, was not injured, but while DPS was investigating the crash, the troopers observed several signs of intoxication from Wallace. She was placed under arrest and transported to the Hardin County jail without incident. The crash is an ongoing investigation, and there are no more details to be released at this time.

Silsbee council voted for sewer improvements

By Danny Reneau
Publisher

The Silsbee City Council voted to authorize the city manager and city eEngineer to set a bid opening and advertise for bids for the sewer improvements funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Engineers anticipate that the project will cost about \$36 per linear foot for about 2900 feet. They also estimate that there will be a cost of about \$4000 per manhole in the area, and there are 17 manholes and there will be a \$975 fee per connection.

This is a part of a project to improve and install new sewer lines in an older part of the city. The area in question is between Martin Luther King and Highway 327 and between 7th Street and 9th Street. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$295,350.

The project would employ a practice known as pipe bursting where essentially a new pipe is pulled through existing pipes and then connections are added to the system.

The council voted to change an ordinance on the city council that sets the requirements

for approved wrecker companies in the city. The new ordinance calls for the SPD non consent system to be open to all approved wrecker companies of the city whose companies and storage facilities are located within the city's extra-territorial jurisdiction. It would allow for approved wrecker companies to have storage lots outside the city limits within one mile of the city.

The board approved a resolution by the city council of the city to authorize the city manager to execute a one year

See SILSBEE on PG. 2, SEC. 1

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Criticism

If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject criticism, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.

Proverbs 15:31-32



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