



Nebraska Autobody Association

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Facing a massive decline in demand, BASF is taking measures to avoid overcapacities by temporarily shutting down around 80 plants worldwide. In addition, BASF is reducing production at approximately 100 plants. "We already drew attention to the difficult economic situation at the end of October. Since then, customer demand in key markets has declined significantly," said Dr. Jürgen Hambrecht, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE. "In particular, customers in the automotive industry have canceled orders at short notice." In addition, sales volumes are being negatively impacted by increased reduction of inventory by customers and a lack of credit. Worldwide, approximately 20,000 employees will be affected by the cuts.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) has formally supported H.R. 5840, the Insurance Information Act of 2008 after a number of changes were put in place. H.R. 5840 would establish an Office of Insurance Information within the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The Treasury's efforts to reform the federal regulatory structure for financial services has focused unusual attention on the insurance sector, which is part of the financial services industry but regulated solely at the state level. Among other things, the Treasury recommended that insurers have the option, like banks, to obtain a federal charter and be regulated solely at the federal level. According to proponents, the reason for the proposed regulatory changes is driven by the fact that insurance companies now compete with banks and securities firms in a global financial marketplace where an absence of a national regulatory scheme may impair the competitive position of U.S. companies

Citizens Against Government Waste President Tom Schatz appeared this morning on ABC's Good Morning America in a segment about how auto executives flew to Washington, D.C. in private corporate jets to ask for a taxpayer-funded bailout. In addition, the United Autoworkers Union (UAW) has stated it will not modify contracts or relinquish benefits in order to give automakers the flexibility to restructure and retool. "Both sides are to blame for the failure of the domestic automakers. Neither executives nor the union will give up their perks and benefits to help dig out," Schatz said. General Motors CEO Rick Wagoner received a 64 percent salary increase to \$15.7 million in 2007, when the company was shutting down plants and posting a \$39 billion loss and Chrysler is still planning to distribute \$30 million in retention bonuses to 50 of its executives, six of whom will receive between \$1.5 and \$1.9 million.

The price of consumer goods fell by the largest amount in 61 years, according to the U.S. Labor Department. Motor fuel prices continued to decline in October, with the gasoline index falling 14.2 percent while the electricity index rose slightly as did the food index.

Auto Body Supply, Inc., located at 2034 O Street, is now operating under the new ownership of Wade & Christine Neth. The business was purchased from Michele Ceraolo, who retired November 1st. Auto Body Supply is an automotive paint and refinishing products distributor and has served Lincoln and surrounding areas for over 50 years. Wade is a 1982 graduate of SCC Milford with a degree in Auto Collision Repair Technology and has worked for Auto Body Supply for over 23 years. Christine worked in the student loan industry for 13 years and was President of Speidell Monuments for the last four years.

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The information in this news capsule is obtained and condensed from sources believed to be accurate and reliable but readers should consult with an appropriate business professional before acting on information contained herein. Information contained herein does not necessarily reflect the opinions of NABA, its leadership or management. Summary prepared by Norbert Zaenglein.