



# Northwest TIRE TALK

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR TIRE, WHEEL & AUTOMOTIVE SPECIALTY PROFESSIONALS  
PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY NORTHWEST TIRE DEALERS ASSOCIATION FOR IT'S MEMBERS

**DICK NORDNESS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - NORTHWEST TIRE DEALERS ASSOCIATION**

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**November | December 2019**

## **BRIAN RIGNEY TAKES THE HELM OF TIA DURING GLOBAL TIRE EXPO**

On November 4, Brian Rigney will be installed as the new president of the Tire Industry Association, taking over for John Evankovich.

Brian is currently the President of Dill Air Controls and has 18 years of experience with the tire industry. Brian began his career as a mechanical engineer, maintaining design control over OEM products, including participating in SAE meetings to develop a test plan for TPMS sensors and valve stems. At Dill, Brian oversees 125 employees and they have performed countless training seminars since 2005 to educate tire dealers how to properly service vehicles with TPMS, as well as explaining the system to the motoring public. For the past three years, Brian has been involved in the training and government affairs committees of TIA and hopes to continue his efforts in helping to update the TIA training modules with best practices.

Brian will be with us in Portland on March 19 for our "Breakfast with the President," to kick off our two day NWTDA 2020 Tire Expo at the Holiday Inn at the Airport. Additional details of the event will in our next issue.

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## **ZIPPER RUPTER \$7.2 MILLION VERDICT AGAINST GOODYEAR**

A Louisiana district court has awarded a \$7.2 million verdict for the tire explosion death of a Louisiana man. The jury found that Goodyear Tire & Rubber failed to provide adequate warnings about the existence and cause of sidewall zipper failures with its G182 tire.

Lawyers presented evidence showing that the tire company's warnings about zipper failure were misleading about the circumstances in which a tire could rupture. In addition, the warnings were never relayed to employees of the Solid Waste North Department of the Plaquemines Parish Government. They were unaware of explosion risks for tires on the fleet of garbage trucks, according to court testimony.

**Continued on page 6**

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# OREGON EMPLOYERS TO RECEIVE \$160 MILLION FROM SAIF

The Northwest Tire Dealers Association has had a special program with SAIF for over 20 years to help Oregon members save on their workers comp premiums.

Last month, the SAIF Board of Directors declared a \$120 million primary dividend to be paid to policyholders based on their premium, and \$40 million safety performance dividend to be paid based on each policyholder's safety results.

This is the tenth year in a row SAIF has been able to offer dividends, and the 22nd dividend in the past 30 years.

"As a not-for-profit with a public mission to make workers' comp available and affordable, paying dividends is an important part of the value we offer Oregon employers" said Kerry Barnett, president and CEO of SAIF. "SAIF is the only insurance carrier in Oregon that regularly returns dividends to policyholders at this level."

"In addition to dividends, we are proud to offer our customers some of the lowest rates, best-in-class service, and the largest network of workplace safety professionals of any insurance carrier in Oregon," said Barnett. "Our goal is to deliver workers' comp that really works."

Oregon NWTDA members can learn more about rates and dividends by calling the NWTDA office at 509-948-2433.

## STUDDED TIRE CAMPAIGN TO INCLUDE WHATCOM COUNTY

Last year the Washington State Legislature authorized the state's Department of Transportation to establish a media-based public information campaign regarding the

alleged damage of studded tire use on state and local roadways in Spokane County. This year, the state has added Whatcom County to the list.

The reason for the selection of Spokane County for the pilot program was based on the high utilization of studded tires in that jurisdiction. This year they want to bring attention to the west side of the state by adding Whatcom County.

The public information campaign will be primarily focused on making the consumer aware of the road deterioration, financial impact for taxpayers, and secondarily, the alternatives to studded tires.

Last year's pilot program began September 1, however, this year's program is off to a slower start. The Department of transportation is getting revenues generated by the five dollar per studded tire fee to pay for the media campaign.

## POINT S TIRE MOVES SOUTH

Point S Tire & Automotive Service has acquired the assets of Nussbaum Distributing Inc. in Memphis, TN.

"This is exciting news for all our members," Point S USA CEO, Walter Lybeck said. "Our growing footprint puts a demand on having the right tires in stock and delivered when our dealers need them. This investment shows our commitment to our existing members and future prospects in the market and to our vendor partners who have supported us so well over the years."

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## NTW - Portland Open House

In January of 2018, Michelin North America Inc. and Sumitomo Corp. of Americas agreed to combine Michelin's wholesale distribution activities with TBC Corp.'s wholesale and retail assets into a 50-50 joint venture known as National Tire Wholesale (NTW).



In October the NTW branch in Portland had a open house and invited their tire dealer customers from the Portland area to a mini trade show. Their customers were able to talk with rubber company factory reps and kick a tire or two. Fabulous BBQ was provided by Famous Dave's.



The Portland Distribution Center, with 56,000 sqft, carries the Michelin, BFGoodrich and Uniroyal brands along with Hancock, Perelli, Cooper, Yokohama, and private label TBC. They also have Continental/General, Toyo, Nitto, and of course, the Carlisle specialty tires and tubes.

In addition to their tire lines, NTW also stocks repair materials, wheel weights, tire chains, and shop equipment.



NTW's Portland crew is growing with local delivery drivers, warehouse personnel, and sales and office staff. All of the original TCI folks are holding down those same positions in the front office. Rob Hurley is the Distribution Center Manager with the Assistant DC manager Jason Mitchell. Ron Engelgau and Renee Schmidling are up front too, and Bill Stultz is on the road meeting and greeting tire dealers.



Delivery is done with 5 truck routes twice-a-day south to Albany, OR, and north to Longview, WA. Twice-a-week deliveries go as far north to Longview, as far south as Eugene, OR, and other shipments are taken care of by common carrier.

	<b>JASON MITCHELL</b> Assistant Distribution Center Manager
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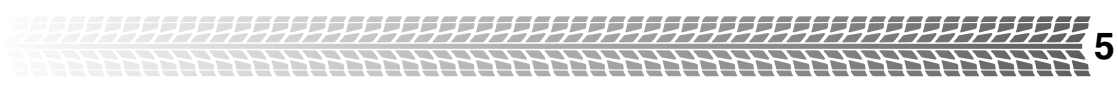
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## TIA ELECTS 5 TO BOARD

The Tire Industry Association has elected five members to its board of directors—four to serve three-year terms and the fifth for a one-year term to fill a vacancy.

The new directors will take office Nov. 4, during TIA's annual membership meeting at Caesars Palace Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. They will join 13 other directors to make up the association's 18-member board, TIA said.

Four of the five are new to the board, with only Jim Pangle, a consultant for Fountain Tire of South Lethbridge, Alberta, serving currently on the board.

The directors elected to three-year terms are: T.J. Trum, general counsel for Pomp's Tire Service Inc. in Kansas City, KS; Russell Devens, director of safety and risk management for McCarthy Tire Service, Wiles-Barre, PA; Debra Hamlin, environmental, health, safety, and sustainability director, commercial division, Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, Nashville, TN; and Jim Pangle.

Dean Schwartz, owner of Lloyd's Tire & Auto Care in Santa Cruz, CA is filling the vacancy created when Mason Hess, of Purcell Tire & Rubber Co., was elected secretary of the board earlier this year.

## ZIPPER RUPTURE VERDICT

(Continued from front page)

On Feb. 5, 2014, Elwood Breaux Jr. and a co-worker were inflating a G182 tire after noticing that the tire pressure was low. Mr. Breaux was holding the tire upright when the sidewall ruptured. The force of the air escaping from the tire threw him backward, and he sustained serious internal injuries to his chest and abdomen. Mr. Breaux never left the hospital and died from his injuries 28 days later.

Zipper ruptures have been around for over 20 years and our industry, through the Tire Industry

Associations CTS training programs, have done a great job educating tire employees. Now it appears we need to do a better job to get the word out to all end users.

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

NWTDA had a call from Tom Fatland, who sold his store (Fatland's Tire Factory) in Condon, OR 2 years ago to Ryan Bennett. Tom told us that his grandfather, Ernie had opened the store 100 years ago in September. Tom's father, Jack, continued the family business along with Tom and his brother, Chris. We also congratulate Ryan and his wife, Heather, for continuing to serve their community as Bennett's Point S Tire in the great tradition of the Fatland family.

Purcell Tire, who has added locations in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska in recent years is celebrating 80 years of tire service.

Mack Brown of Brown's Tire in Prosser and Grandview, WA is celebrating his store's 70 years in business and his purchase of the business from his father 40 years ago.

Jim Bacon's Tire Pros is celebrating 50 years in business in beautiful downtown Beaverton, OR. The store has gone through a number of name changes ( OK Tire, Associated Tire, Big O Tire, Tire Factory ) but the Bacon family has been in control all the way and now the company is a third generation company.

## TIA TRAINING COMING TO PORTLAND

The TIA, ATS, and CTS training classes will be available at the NWTDA Tire Expo in Portland on March 19 & 20, 2020. See more details on these and other training classes in the next edition of Tire Talk.



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# NWTDA GOLF CLASSIC



Nexen Tire Sponsor booth kept people out of the rain prior to the events starting.



Northwest's team of Isaac Brock, Bryan Paulsen, Jeff Webber, & Kent Comer.



Klyde Thompson's team, Brian Abraham, Paul Adrian of Auto Zone.



Superior Tire Team with Doug Ray, Gary Gump, Pat Deium, and Russ Simmans.



Industrial Tire's Team of Kyle Monsrud, Larry Coleman, and Conor O'Neil & Rob, took home trophies and money.



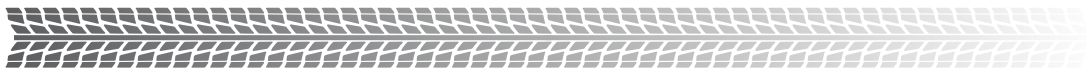
Greg Zander of Nexen takes Walt Kaufman's "Closest to the pin" award.



Kelly Brown's team with Greg Zander of Nexen Tire and Willis Gill of Northwest Wholesale.



Conor O'Neil of Industrial Tire and Jennifer Cigler, Rick Mustion's daughter, show their highest and lowest score trophies.





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# WASHINGTON PAID FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE

Get Ready, Washington Employers. Paid Family and Medical Leave is just a few months away, and you will be faced with new challenges when employees are out on leave. Tammie Hetrick serves on the Advisory Committee for the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program, and was recently informed that the new computer system for tracking and enrolling for benefits will not be up and running until January 1, when the benefits begin. This will cause confusion and challenges for workers, and may result in delays. If you have an employee that is planning on taking this benefit for pregnancy or other leave covered under the new law, there will be a webinar and online information to help them be prepared.

As an employer, if you are under 50 employees, you do not have an obligation under the law to hold the job. If you have a voluntary plan approved by the State of Washington, or have opted-in to the State plan for employer benefits, there are additional requirements for job placement based on your agreement. You can download a toolkit here: <https://paidleave.wa.gov/toolkits>.

If you have any questions, we will be sharing information regarding an upcoming webinar to members at no cost on the new Paid Family and Medical Leave Program.

## SECURE SCHEDULELING

Tammie Hetrick has been speaking with lobbyists and lawmakers regarding the upcoming session and the possibility of Secure/Restrictive Scheduling legislation. We have expressed the concerns and safety risks this legislation would pose to the tire industry if not done thoughtfully and with an understanding of the industry and demands during certain times of the year. Tammie will be working with lawmakers

to develop protections for the tire stores, and evaluate the current law in Oregon to determine what challenges have occurred since that went into effect.

If you are a tire store operator in Oregon, please reach out to Tammie to let her know what challenges you have faced with the new scheduling law. She can be reached at 360-529-7020.

## WEGMANN AUTOMOTIVE & ALLIGATOR TIRE VALVE

Wheel balance weight producer, Wegmann Automotive, has acquired parts of the business operations of Alligator Ventilfabrik G.m.b.H. and subsidiaries, a provider of the tire valves and tire pressure monitoring systems (TPMS).

As per terms of the agreement, Wegmann will take ownership of Alligator sales and distributions operations in Europe and North America for passenger car and heavy-duty truck tire valves and components in addition to car TPMS sensors and tools.

The Alligator North American distribution facility in Buchanan, MI, will retain all staff and continue its distribution operations, the company said. However, North American sales and ordering responsibilities will immediately be done from Wegmann Automotive USA Inc. facility in Murfreesboro. Jeff Waechter, president and CDO of the U.S. company, called the transaction “a great opportunity.”

“The high-quality products that Alligator delivers to the market are complementary to our existing offer, and through joint efforts of our combined teams, we will be able to increase the overall value we deliver to our customers,” Mr. Waechter said.



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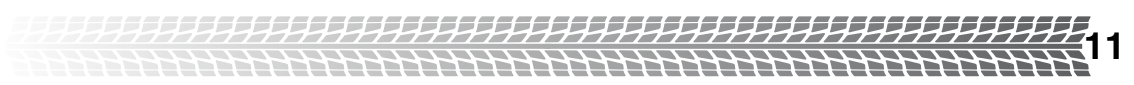
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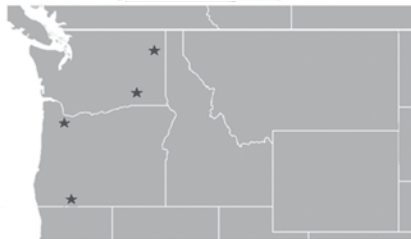


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