

Business closures product of weak economy in 2009

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Flurry of economic activity, too.

If good and bad news equals mixed news, then varied is what can be used to describe the year 2009 in Gothenburg.

Although some businesses closed because of a struggling economy, others grew or started anew.

The announcement that long-time shock-absorber manufacturer Tenneco would close at the end of 2010 will affect 500 employees—50 of them from Gothenburg.

Several local businesses also shut their doors while others are using federal grant money to revitalize their downtown stores.

Two plants—Baldwin Filters and Parker Tech Seal Division—have had to adjust employee work hours to deal with economic conditions.

On the bright side, Monsanto's Water Utilization Learning Center opened south of town and ground was broken for a 74-unit Comfort Suites Motel with plans for more development on the 63-acre site.

Orscheln Farm & Home relocated to a new, bigger store while a new subdivision that includes houses, duplexes and triplexes is taking shape on Jefferson Street.

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Gothenburg Memorial Hospital completed a \$780,000 heating and air conditioning overhaul and classrooms and the media center were remodeled at Dudley Elementary.

Pony Express Chevrolet survived General Motors' termination of numerous dealerships across the country and will continue its franchise agreement with the company.