

By JESSICA CRAWFORD • Daily Leader

In a time when the economy is leaving plenty to be desired, any company that can bring jobs to Liberal is likely to be welcomed with open arms.

Rehrig Penn Logistics is the services and logistics division of Rehrig Pacific Company, which was founded more than 80 years ago. It is the world's largest international plastic container manufacturer, according to a press release from Economic Development Director Colleen Towns. Its products include crates and pallets designed for handling, storing and transporting products in the agriculture, bakery, beverage, dairy, environmental and material handling markets, the press release noted.

"The work that they do is associated with the packing plants all the way from Amarillo to Scott City," Towns said. "They have contracts with the packing plants. What they will be doing is actually manufacturing the containers at a different location and bring those in here. This will be at the point where the containers will be going out to their customers. Then when the customers use them, they bring them back here for clean out and repair."

Although Rehrig Penn will eventually be located next door to the Halliburton building, the location is currently undergoing renovations to make the building more efficient for the business.

"They are going to be located out next to Halliburton in the old Tradewinds Facility," Towns said. "They are redoing the building so they aren't actually going to be working out of that building right now, but they are going to be in before the end of the month to actually start their work."

John Mallon, a developer and landowner from Emporia, owns the property that the Liberal branch of Rehrig Penn will call home.

According to Towns, Mallon has become quite an asset to Liberal.

“He is a developer and landowner that has been in our area for several years and he is out of Emporia,” she said. “He just owns property in our community and is a very willing business partner every time we have a business that is looking for a place.

“A lot of times he builds to suit or whatever we may need,” she continued. “He is one of those people that we can always go to when we have someone that is looking for a place. He is always eager to help out our business community.”

Towns is happy to announce that Rehrig Penn will be bringing to town nine to 12 job openings. She believes they are a dependable company that will be a good fit for the community.

“Rehrig Penn and their addition of nine to 12 jobs to our community is a real plus,” she said. “Start up date for the Liberal project is slated for sometime in February. Rehrig Penn is a solid company that will be a perfect fit for the agriculture based business within our region.”