

er, from the largest combine to lawn mowers for homeowners, and skid steers and backhoes for the construction market, including professional landscapers.

"We have a mix of large agriculture and the small tractor market, which tends to be weekend farmers down to individual consumers," Briscoe said. In addition to John Deere branded equipment, the group carries some complementary lines, mostly in specialty tools, he said.

Briscoe declined to disclose revenue or employee counts for the pre-merger companies but said that Sydenstricker was the larger in terms of both sales and employees. The new Sydenstricker-Nobbe has a combined 650 employees, and officials will begin working on a full integration of the companies, as they were organized somewhat differently, Briscoe said.

The integration will allow the dealer group to stay as close to the customers in local communities as possible, Briscoe said, with four newly named operating divisions to meet the needs of their territories:

Scott Brees, general manager of the Missouri North Division.

Kevin Cobb, general manager of the Missouri

manager of the Illinois East Division.

Technical changes in the industry are calling for more training, both of dealer staff and of customers, Briscoe said, and one of the benefits of a larger organization is that it allows that type of investment.

Among the developments are more machine control - "think of a path toward autonomous vehicles," he said, although John Deere hasn't yet announced such products.

tor.

The field competition will get underway at 11:30 a.m. Prelim awards will be announced for all

transportation to or from the parade route.

The shuttles will run from 9 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Author to speak at library

Author Christopher Gordon will be at the Scenic Regional Library, Warrenton, Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 6:30 p.m.

The book "Fire, Pestilence & Death" uncovers the stories of the cholera epidemic and Great Fire of 1849 in St.

Louis. The presentation is for teens and adults.

Those interested in attending the library program can RSVP by calling 636-456-3321, visiting the library at 912 S. Highway 47, or going online to ScenicRegional.org.

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