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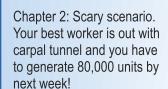
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lesign trends

Single-dose packets are a marvel for Miracle-Gro

Scotts Miracle-Gro Products, Inc., Marysville, OH, has launched a nomess way to feed plants with its new Miracle-Gro® Watering Can Singles™, the same Miracle-Grow all-purpose, water-soluble plant food product in a zippered bag holding 24 premeasured packets. Traditionally packed in bulk in a bag-in-carton equipped with a plastic measuring scoop, the nutrient-rich blue plant food now comes in individual packets that can be torn open and dispensed right into a watering can along with 1 gal of water for outdoor and container plants or 2 gal of water for indoor plants. The film packets are printed

with Scotts' green and yellow graphics and can be seen through the clear-film side gussets of the block-bottom secondary bag. The outer metallized film bag has handy tear-notches at the top, just above

the zipper and below a die-cut hanger hole. Eye-catching graphics on the front panel feature a green watering can and multicolored flowers that are repeated on the clear film side gussets for an attractive and attention-getting effect. Packaging specifics from Scotts are slim, but PD noticed a striking similarity between the outer package and Printpack's (www.printpack.com) Showpack® preformed pouch structure, which has a block-bottom base and a clear-film-laminate

side-gusset design. Printpack confirms that it originally supplied the plant-food company with a Showpack, but is no longer doing so. PD picked up a bag for \$4.35 in Chicagoland.



AriZona Beverage Co. has commercialized Constar Intl.'s (www.constar.net) VCT™ (vertical compensation technology) PET bottle for its ready-to-drink beverages in seven SKUs. The iced teas, lemonade, fruit punch and juices now come in a 20-oz, panel-less, PET bottle

AriZona Beverage moves to PET hot-fillable bottle

designed for hot-fill beverages. A "tallboy" with a "special geometric design," the bottle accommodates the initial heat of hot filling and the proceeding cooling process without paneling or collapsing. The bottle's rigidity is similar to glass and imparts a quality brand image.

Kellogg saves space with slim cereal box

Kellogg Co. has begun a six-month test in Detroit of what is says is "a more consumerfriendly, space-saving box" for its cereal brands that could potentially redefine the cereal aisle. The new boxes appearing at Wal-Mart and Kroger stores are shorter and deeper but hold the same amount, according to the company. Manufacturers of consumer goods have changed the size and shape of packaging in response to retailers who want to free up shelf space to stock more varieties and reduce waste. Kellogg is testing the new boxes to gain consumer and retailer insights that could prompt a potential U.S. rollout. The test will occur over a six-month period. The company says the slimmer box contains "the same amount of the foods people love with less packaging." Optimizing the box configuration, Kellogg can reduce the package size without decreasing the amount of food. The test could signal one of the most significant cereal packaging changes since the 1950s. Says Kim Miller, vp of morning foods marketing at Battle Creek, MI-based Kellogg, the new package is designed to

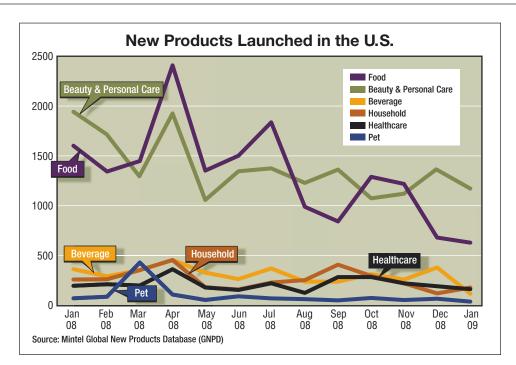
better meet consumers'



aunch pac New Package of the Month

Puppet compact from Italy

The Italians have created a novel way to package makeup. Micys in Milan has gone to market with the Pupa Puppet makeup kit, which includes blush, bronzer, eye shadow, lip gloss and a mirror, all placed on a hinged palette that is hidden within a puppet figure. The palette acts as the legs of the puppet, and when the feet are pulled out, the makeup compact is at your fingertips. The compact is an injection molded plastic, and embossing and foil blocking are used to decorate the puppet. On the back, there is a heart-shaped broach and mobile phone strap for convenience. For more product launch information, visit www.packagingdigest. com/launchpadmarch.





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Plastic wine bags cut waste

Last September, Swedish wine importer and contract-packager Facino AB (www. facino.se) started packaging wine in plastic pouches as an alterative to the bag-in-box (BIB), on behalf of Swedish wine distributor Fondberg & Co AB. The 3-L pouch, which is a three-layer lamination with a tap similar to that of a BIB, is estimated to reduce waste by 90 percent. The two wines available in the new bag-South African Douglas Green Bellingham and Spanish Agramont Crianza—have enjoyed good sales at Systembolaget, the Swedish Alcohol Retail Monopoly, and distributor Fondberg & Co. plans to add more products to the line.



The pouches are made by Saflite Packaging, a subsidiary of the South

African company, Astrapak Ltd., Group (www.astrapak.co.za), at a plant in Cape Town, South Africa. Available in 1.5-, 2- and 3-L sizes, the pouches consist of 12-micron PET/12-micron metalized PET/150micron coextrusion of HDPE/EVOH/LLDPE. The bag is 8-color flexo reverse-printed with a level indicator on the side and features a punch handle and a low-profile tap with tamper-evidence and a foil seal. The 3-L bag sells for the Swedish equivalent of \$24. Says Magnus Lansman, brand manager at Fondberg, "We've sold more than 150,000 bags so far."

Tea bags wrap it up in compostable metallized film

World-renowned tea blender/ producer Twinings of London chooses a sustainable and compostable packaging film from Innovia Films' (www.innoviafilms.com), NatureFlex[™] as a wrap for a tea called Everyday, one of its major tea products. Founded in 1706, Twinings offers quality teas enjoyed in more than 100

countries. The shift to metallized NatureFlex NM film meets one of its goals to use more sustainable packaging materials so that consumers can cut waste. Says David Parkes of Twinings, "Using NatureFlex as the inner

wrap not only protects the tea bags, but makes it easier for our customers to reduce waste through home composting." Made from renewable wood pulp and metallized in-house, the cellulose-based film breaks down in home compost bins in a matter of weeks, according to Innovia. It has inherent deadfold and antistatic properties as well as gloss and transparency and resists grease and oil. Innovia says the small amount of metal—less than 0.02 percent—slows the film's degradation by a matter of days, but doesn't interfere with its biodegradability in any other way. ASP Packaging Ltd. (www.asppackaging.com) in Watford, U.K., converts the film into a wrap and prints it with a gold wash. The 160 tea bags are packed into a 500-g an outer carton made of recycled paperboard produced by Mayr-Melnhof (www.mayr-melnhof.com).

Sleek bottle gives replenishment drink a wakeup call

Code Blue is a zesty, new recovery drink set to make a splash on the market. Available online at www.drinkcodeblue.com and currently in more than 100 locations in New York City, the bottle features a cutting-edge design created by the founders of the New York City-based company by the same name. Formulated with antioxidants to help you feel better by hydrating, replenishing and detoxifying, Code Blue comes in a sleek, custom 12-oz PET bottle produced by MPI Packaging, Inc. (www.mpi-pkg.com), sourced by Zuckerman Honickman (www.zh-inc.

com). Dazzling LiquidMetal metallic-finish technology from Ampacet Corp. (www.ampacet.com) is used on the bottle to replicate a highly reflective, polished-metal look Topped with an Alcoa Closure Systems Intl. (www.csiclosures.com) twist-cap, the bright blue bottle features jazzy 3D holographic

ink and liquid metal labeling screen-printed in four colors with UV flexo inks and holographic foil stamping by J.R. Cole Industries (www.jrcole.com). Code Blue can be consumed before, during or after a night out, to speed the recovery process and bring the body back into balance. Black Bear Bottling Group, LLC (www.blackbearbottling.com) in Oak Creek, WI, copacks Code Blue.



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design trends

Tuna steak in high-barrier containers is catching on in Spain

Spanish seafood company Bernardo Alfageme, S.A. is revolutionizing the shelf-stable seafood market in Spain with a new high-barrier plastic cup for its Miau brand containing one-piece tuna steaks. Miau, which introduced the new package last September, asked **EDV Packaging (www.edvpackaging.com)** to lead the project, and

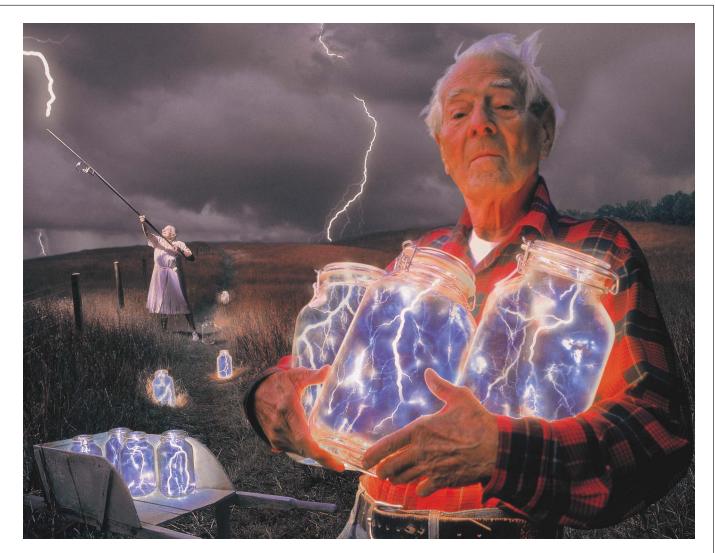
EDV developed an innovative, high-barrier round cup made of white PP/EVOH/PP for the value-added natural-tuna preserves. EDV coextrudes and thermoforms the cups in its production plant in Llinars del Vallès, Spain.

Thanks to the robust EVOH layer, the cup provides a shelf life to prevent decay and preserve taste for up to 12 months, as well

as provide a moisture and oxygen barrier, when it is stored at ambient temperature under optimal storage conditions. Damage from light and ultraviolet rays is avoided thanks to the opacity of the base material. The challenge for EDV Packaging was to design a cup that could contain tuna steaks in one piece. It developed a round

container that resists breakage during the Atún Blanco sterilization process, al natural thus becoming a perfect substitute for cans. The cups are hermetically thermosealed with a high-barrier peelable plastic film from Amcor (ww.amcor.com), which consists of a multilayer structure of PET/ polyamide/cast PP. The cups are marketed in a decorated sleeve from Spain's Acpack (34-986-288-993).

The final presentation is eyecatching from supermarket shelves and offers an alternative to consumers looking for healthy, high-quality products that are environmentally friendly. The plastic material makes the cup 100-percent-recyclable.

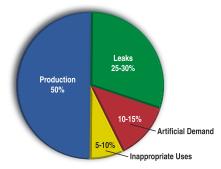


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dress dressing bottles

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PVC sleeves

Roy Yamaguchi opened the first Roy's restaurant in 1988 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Today, there are more than 37 Roy's locations around the world. Yamaguchi is regarded as a pioneer who mastered a distinctive style, which he refers to as his "Hawaiian Fusion®" cuisine. Last October, he launched Roy Yamaguchi's Hawaiian Fusion food product line, which consists of three dressings and marinades: Creamy Honey Herb; Exotic Thousand Island; and Tangy Sweet Onion. The 12-oz bottles of dressing sell for \$8.00.

Providing a spectacular shelf presence for these products are PVC shrink-sleeve labels and colorful neck bands from Ameri-Seal, Inc. (www.ameri-seal.com). The vibrantly colored neckbands are gravure-printed in two colors and are perforated for easy removal.

Packagers need more than a compass in this market

Who really knows where the packaging industry—or the entire economy, for that matter—is headed these days? Usually, an established industry tradeshow gives you a pretty good indication of the industry's direction. However, that wasn't necessarily the case when I visited the recent WestPack show in California.

For a good part of the show, it appeared to be business as usual. The aisles were crowded. People were looking at new machinery running on the floor and asking questions. The guy in the booth next to us had a huge grin because he had just completed a million dollar sale. But when I started talking with packagers on the floor, it was apparent that many of the companies have

> put investments on hold. These packagers say there are many contributing factors, such as reduced orders, tight credit and uncertainty over potential tax credits in the government's bail-out plans. Many of these companies have expansion plans ready to go; they're just waiting

It's a well-known axiom that there is always money to be made—even in down markets. Even severe downturns like the one we now face are largely psychological crises of confidence. A recent article pointed out that there are two types of businesspeople: Those who panic and cut the vitality out of their business through layoffs and physical

downgrades; and those who try to understand where these sweeping changes are taking us and invest for the future. Which type are you?

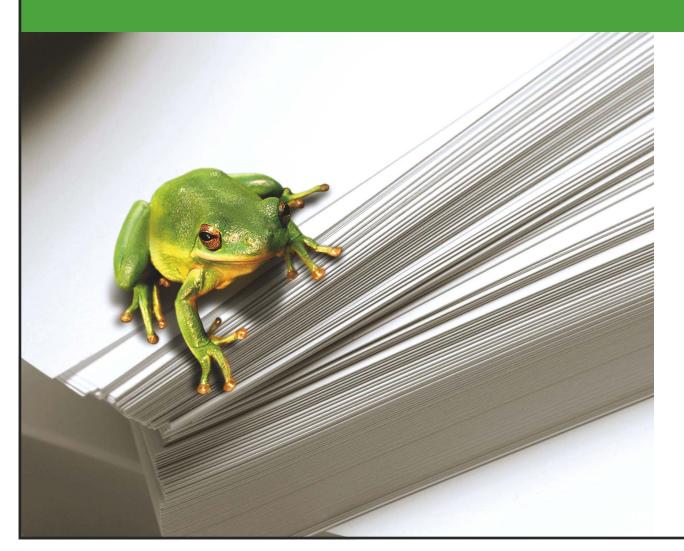
■ This month, Packaging Digest kicks off "Launch Pad," a feature that combines the latest data from Mintel Intl. (www. mintel.com/gnpd) on new product launches with a hot, new package to be chosen monthly by Mintel analysts.

Mintel is a leading global supplier of consumer, product and media intelligence. Launch Pad is on p.6 and will always appear on the first page of our Design Trends section. More details on U.S. and global product introductions are available on our website at www.packagingdigest.com/launchpadmarch.

■ In February, John Bold was named the group publisher of Packaging Digest as part of an internal restructuring. He is a veteran in the packaging and printing industry, with an added range of publishing experience in other business-to-business vertical markets. Bold says that he is committed to providing Packaging Digest's readers and advertisers with a strong link to the packaging community, connecting them through our print and online

John Kalkowski

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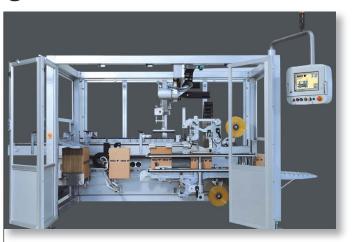
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MG America, 973/808-8185. www.mgamerica.com



Produce packing sealer The redesigned AVSealer for packaging fresh-cut produce features a new, "true temperature" control and meets the highest international safety, standards, the co. reports. The sealer is suitable for small- to mediumsize produce packers. A semi-automatic machine, the AVSealer heat-seals a variety of bag sizes with or without a vacuum and has an optional gasflush cycle to maximize production flexibility and satisfy the demands of a wide range of fresh-cut applications. The temperature control assures a consistent sealing temperature to maximize package quality by eliminating burn-through, and seals that don't hold. The co. reports that the new temperature control also reduces energy use and allows for faster heat sealing. Seals bags up to 18.5-in. wide at rates of 4 to 6 bags/min with vacuum and up to 8 bags/min without vacuum.

Key Technology, Inc., 509/529-2161.

www.key.net

AS/RS system Multishuttle is a flexible, automated storage and retrieval (AS/RS) staging system for applications that require dynamic, fast, product sequencing to support order assembly,



goods to the person picking and pick replenishment. Key attributes include the ability to accommodate load-sequencing requirements and adaptability to existing building layouts. The system consists of multiple levels of an AS/RS rack structure, carrier

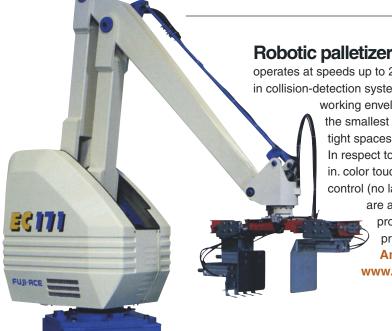
vehicles, buffer conveyors and software. Each level of the rack structure includes input/output conveyor and a carrier vehicle that travels horizontally to access loads stored in the rack structure-typically totes or trays. An extraction device on each carrier vehicle accesses the loads in the rack.

Dematic Corp., 877/725-7500. www.dematic.us



Partition inserter Model 70 dual-head partition inserter opens and inserts up to 50 partitions/min, while cycling at a conservative 25 cycles/min, providing high-speed performance while minimizing machine operating expense and wear. The inserter runs chipboard and corrugated partitions with up to 48 cells, air-cell 6-packs, 'A' cell 6-packs and locking partitions including 'Q' lock, center lock and top and bottom lock. The servo-operated insertion heads ensure precise partition selection from a magazine and placement into the case. Features tool-free. repeatable changeover and a touchscreen station with intelligent control to make speed and motor functions automatic.

A-B-C Packaging Machine Corp., 800/237-5975. www.abcpackaging.com



Robotic palletizer The EC-171 high-speed robotic palletizer operates at speeds up to 20 cycles/min and is equipped with a builtin collision-detection system. The palletizer incorporates the largest

working envelope of all the co.'s models while maintaining the smallest rotation radius. The robot can function in tight spaces while maintaining smooth throughput. In respect to the advanced-control scheme, a 10.5in. color touchscreen is used for human interface control (no laptop required). Within the system there are also onboard diagnostics, an advanced

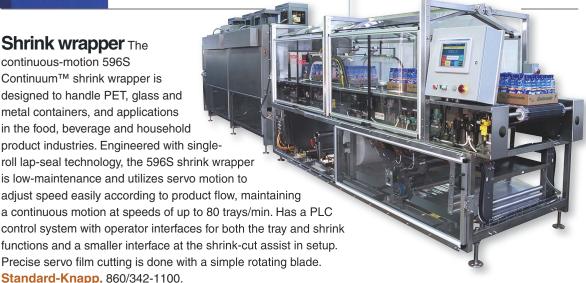
programming platform and up to 400 different preprogrammed recipes.

American-Newlong, Inc., 317/787-9421. www.american-newlong.com

Shrink wrapper The

continuous-motion 596S Continuum™ shrink wrapper is designed to handle PET, glass and metal containers, and applications in the food, beverage and household product industries. Engineered with singleroll lap-seal technology, the 596S shrink wrapper is low-maintenance and utilizes servo motion to adjust speed easily according to product flow, maintaining a continuous motion at speeds of up to 80 trays/min. Has a PLC control system with operator interfaces for both the tray and shrink functions and a smaller interface at the shrink-cut assist in setup.

Standard-Knapp, 860/342-1100. www.standard-knapp.com



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Graphical LCD Panel





Productsequipment

Liquid filler Servo/Fill® liquid fillers are designed to provide fast changeover, easy clean-up, versatility and high quality, the co. states. The fillers also feature the expansion capabilities. DFor example, a single-head, benchtop filler can be upgraded to a 4-head, modular automatic system as product demand grows. Featuring tool-less disassembly and tool-less pump mounting, a minimum fill capacity of 1/3 oz and a maximum fill of up to 5 gal, three sizes of sanitary gear pumps and state-of-the-art electronics and controls, Servo/Fill can be expanded to a modular, automatic configuration and used in that configuration or be removed from a line for use elsewhere as a benchtop

Oden Corp., 716/874-3000. www.odencorp.com





Ball Packaging Innovation



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thermal printer is an on-site labeling system for use in logistics, manufacturing, distribution, pharmaceutical, healthcare, retail, transportation, apparel, automotive and military industries. Employing either a 203- or 305-dpi printhead, the D508/D512 can reach speeds up to 6 in./sec. Prints labels up to 4 in, wide.

Printer The D508/D512 direct-

SATO America, 704/644-1650. www.satoamerica.com



Wireless I/O series The Wi-

ModPak wireless I/O series offers up to eight I/O points per device, associated expansion modules and wireless gateways (no I/Os) used for Modbus/Profibus communications. The same wireless I/O module can be set via software as a transmitting/ receiving device or as a repeater for range extension or obstacle avoidance. The series and its wireless gateways are classified as Class I, Div. II for hazardous locations. Comes in a 900mHz (U.S. license free band) with high penetration and long-distance range with 14-mi LOS; and 2.4-gHz (globally accepted band), with 7-mi LOS. **Eurotherm/Action Instruments,**

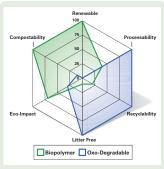
703/443-0000. www.actionio.com



A. Schulman Provides 'Green' Technologies for Real-World Solutions

AKRON, OHIO - While much progress has been made in producing more eco-friendly packaging solutions, none of the current technologies offer a complete solution. Inflated claims and misinformation further complicate the process of choosing the most appropriate

'green' technology. "At A. Schulman, we help guide customers through the process of finding the best solution by reviewing their goals



By assigning a rating from 0 to 100 (where 100 represents a positive effect) to each of these attributes for a hydro-biodegradable material (e.g. a biopolymer) and an oxobiodegradable polyolefin, the end user can determine which approach is most suitable for their application. Both technologies provide steps in the right direction while green technology continues to evolve.

and considering the customary disposal methods related to their applications," said Chuck Hampton, Business Manager North America, Polybatch®

sidenistanie

Additive and Color Masterbatches.

One solution can be found in hydro-biodegradable polymers. In order to biodegrade in the environment, these polymers must be exposed to industrial composting conditions. Over the years. A. Schulman has developed a wide range of Polybatch masterbatches based in the commercially available biopolymers or synthetic biodegradable polymers. The range of masterbatches includes colors and additives, which can improve performance and processability of these polymers, while maintaining their ability to be compostable.

Because the United States lacks curbside collection systems and widespread compost facilities, the eco-benefit of this technology is not fully realized, so an additional technology may be considered.

Oxo-biodegradation is a solution that allows polyolefins to be biodegraded. With oxobiodegradation, once a poly-

olefin has been oxidized into low molecular weight, polar species, it can then be consumed by microorganisms. Through the action of these microbes, the material is transformed into carbon dioxide, water, and biomass. The oxobiodegradation process is initi-

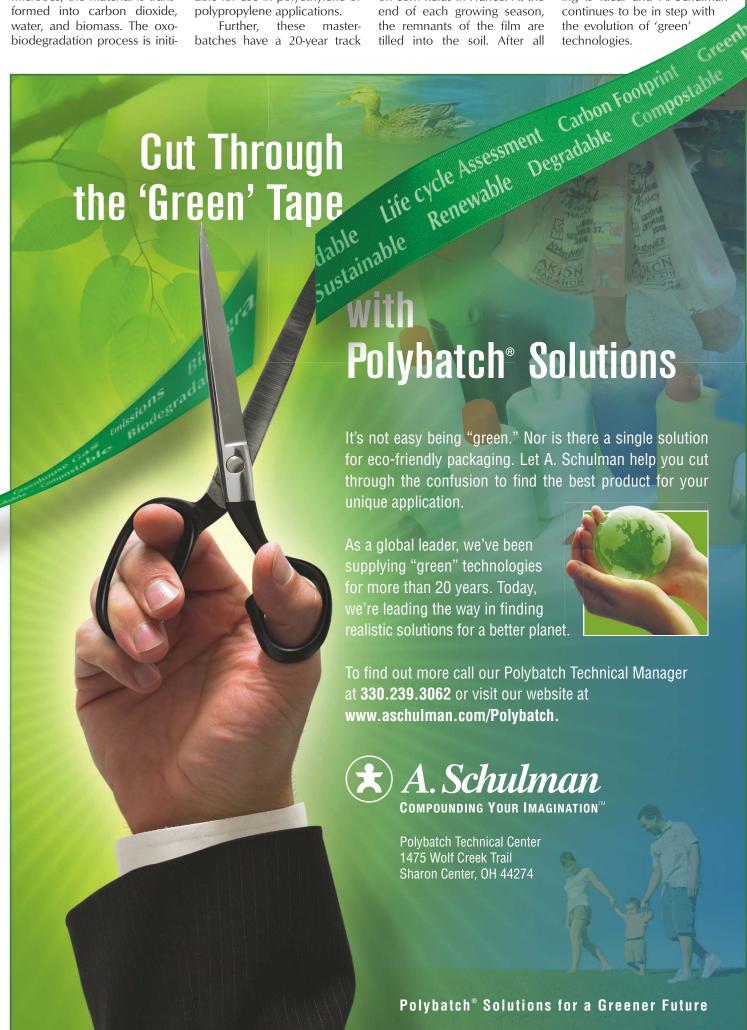
ated and accelerated through the use of pro-degradant additive masterbatches, such as the Polybatch DEG series of products. These products are suitable for use in polyethylene or polypropylene applications.

Further, these masterbatches have a 20-year track

record. According to Kari MacInnis, Polybatch Additives Technical Manager, mulch films made with Polybatch DEG 34 have been used for many years on corn fields in France. At the end of each growing season,

these years of practical use, no build up of film in the soil is evident, nor are there any issues with plant growth.

More eco-friendly packaging is ideal and A. Schulman continues to be in step with



new productsmaterials

Film & foil



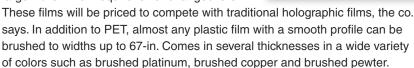
Bonding adhesive Ultra Light Weld 3220-SC plastics bonding adhesive is designed for rapid bonding and laminating of plastics such as PC, PVC, PET, ABS and PU. The adhesive is formulated with See-Cure color-changing technology so that it starts out bright blue in an uncured state, making it visible when dispensed onto substrates. After the adhesive is exposed to UV light, the color changes from blue to clear. Suitable for applications that require a high viscosity adhesive, the formulation is also available as 3220-Gel-SC.

Dymax Corp., 860/482-1010. www.dymax.com

Paperboard packaging The paperboard-based ComplyPak™ package combines blister compliance with the convenience and safety of amber medication bottles. Made with the security and sustainability of PharmaGuard™ packaging, the package consists of fully-brandable paperboard with a thermoformed tray and a child-resistant cap. An alternative to amber prescription bottles and conventional blister packs, ComplyPak delivers a three-step opening process: push; align; and remove, which makes it easy for elderly patients to use, the co. says.

Colbert Packaging Corp., 847/367-5990. www.colbertpkg.com

PET films New 48-ga brushed, metallized PET films are available with a chemically treated print surface for laminating to paper and board. The thinner films can improve economies due to yield and will be available in larger rolls which require fewer changeovers.



Brushfoil LLC, 203/453-7403. www.brushfoil.com



Bake-in-bag The "Bake in Bag®" has been used in Europe for years and was recently introduced in New York. This new paper bag is printable, ovenable, microwaveable and can be used with a panini press. The bag can be made with or without a window and is 100percent biodegradable. A manufacturer can take a product directly out of the oven and package into the bag while hot. The item can be immediately frozen and distributed to be

reheated by the consumer or retailer. The product can be distributed as a premade bag or on rollstock to be used with automated packaging machinery. Pro Pack Group, 201/871-8787. www.policartausa.com

NECOSORT-III High Speed Plastic Bottle Unscrambler

Superior Lightweight Bottle Performance
The design of the NECOSORT-III insures that bottles are positively held, moved and

controlled throughout the unscrambling process and do not rely solely on gravity. This provides a system that reliably handles the lightest bottles being run today



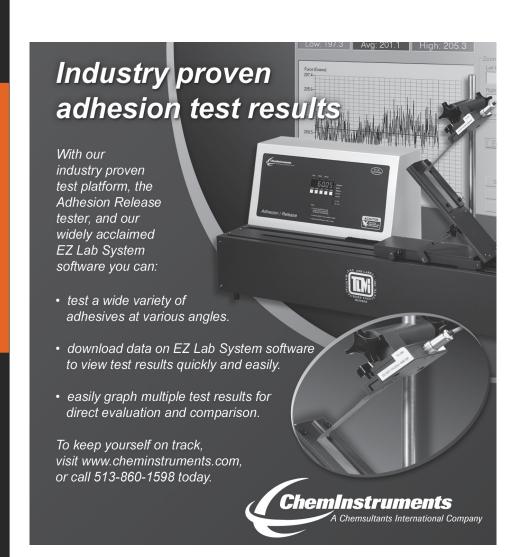


- Smallest footprint in the industry
- Fast & Toolless Change Overs
- 3 Year Warranty
- High Bottle Yield Damaged Bottle Tolerant

The NECOSORT-III high speed plastic bottle unscrambler reduces maintenance & downtime, handles the lightest weight bottles being used today, and has the smallest footprint in the industry. Its unique design consists of a rotating vertical drum and only two moving parts. With no reciprocating motions, complicated mechanisms, hard to adjust container handling parts and tolerant of damaged bottles, the NECOSORT-III provides low maintenance, high reliability and carries a three (3) year warranty!

For more information and specifications call Nalbach at +1-708-579-9100 or go to www.nalbach.com

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Compostable bakeware

With the introduction of Renew-a-Pak™ compostable bakeware, baked goods can be baked, shipped and served in a more environmentally responsible manner without transferring products from a baking system to a display system, the co. reports. The bakeware, part of a growing family of earthfriendly packaging, provides the same performance benefits as alternative bakeware and includes muffin trays, bread and tart pans. With performance to match coated paper, metal and/



or dual-ovenable CPET, the compostable bakeware helps bakers conserve water and energy used to wash dishes and trays and reduce the amount of dishwashing detergent discharged into waterways, the co. states.

Biosphere Industries, LLC, 201/703-4164. www.biosphereindustries.com

Containers EcoServe deli square containers are made from NaturesPLAstic® with Ingeo™ biopolymer, providing a reduced environmental footprint. The containers are suitable for fresh-cut produce, nuts, candies and granolas, deli items and other take-out items. Available in 8-, 12-, 16-, 24-, 32and 40-oz sizes, the container has a lid that fits all size squares for an SKU cost savings. The deli square collection is said to be made using less fossil fuel and reduced greenhouse gases than what's used for more traditional polymers. Wilkinson Industries, Inc., 402/468-5511. www.wilkinsonindustries.com



Anti-counterfeit. tamper evident

Integuard anti-conterfeit and tamper-evident products are engineered to retain tensile strength suitable for automatic processing and fragment if removal is attempted. Integuard

www.rockwellsolutions.com



security film is available in gloss white paper look and transparent no-label versions. It's computer printable and can also be metallized or holographically embossed for uses where more obvious security protection is required. The film is biodegradable and home-compostable, in addition to being tamperevident, the co. says. The film features clear and colored version for lamination and labels that can be customized with unique surface designs, hidden color or fluorescent edges.

Clarifoil, 44 0 1332 681 835. www.clarifoil.com

Moisture-resistant tray The co. has achieved contact certification for its iTray moisture-resistant sugar cane tray. The tray has been approved by PIRA for food contact, chilling, freezing, microwaving and ovening. It is the world's first compostable, renewable and moisture-resistant sugar cane tray for chilled and frozen ready-meal applications. The co. says the tray is sustainable, compostable, suitable for ambient, chilled and frozen applications and complies with EEC and FDA food-contact and cooking regulations. The co. has also achieved compostable certification for its Biopeel PLA lidding and flowrap films. Biopeel PLA is available for sealing to and peeling from all container types, including PLA, RPET, APET, PP and foil. Rockwell Solutions, 440/242-7779.

Rigid film line A rigid film product line has been extended to include GRG and GAG multilayer films. The GRG (PETG/RPET/PETG) and GAG (PETG/APET/PETG) coextruded films provide a cost-effective alternative to 100-percent-virgin PETG. The films are available in clear, and the GRG contains 25-percent post-consumer-recycled content. The co. stocks GRG and GAG in popular sizes at its facility.

Hop Industries Corp., 800/524-0757. www.hopindustries.com



Flex-packs mix form and function

Winners of the 2009 Flexible Packaging Achievement Awards blend high performance and sleek looks with

CONVENIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

along with advances in printing and converting technologies.

Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

High technology and sustainability won big this year in the 2009 Flexible Packaging Achievement Awards competition, sponsored by the Flexible Packaging Association, (www.flexpack.org). From vacuum skin-packs that protect fresh-cut asparagus and improve the way they're sold to pouches that use new ways to employ less material and bags with clever new opening features, flexible structures continue to demonstrate their power in changing the face of packaging.

Announced Feb. 25 during the FPA's annual meeting in Naples, FL, the awards are judged in Packaging Excellence, Printing Achievement, Technical Innovation and Environmental & Sustainability Achievement categories.

The competition included 79 flexible packaging entries submitted out of 113 competition category entries (several packages were entered in multiple categories). Of those, 24 received a total of 26 awards.

Winners earned the Highest Achievement Award, Gold and Silver Awards., while a Special Citation for Social Responsibility was also gold awards, a Highest Achievement winner and a Special Citation for Social Responsibility are presented here. All of the winners, including the Silver Awards, can be found on our website at www. packagingdigest.com.

ESL asparagus vacuum-pack

While the traditional method of packaging freshcut asparagus for supermarket and grocery-store sales has been to bundle the spears for display and secure them with a rubber band, the Cryovac Food Packaging Div. of Sealed Air Corp. (www.sealedair. com) has a more sophisticated way to keep the green spears fresher longer. The results earned the Highest Achievement Award this year (1) as well as a Gold in Packaging Excellence, and is ranked as having contributed most to the advancement of the industry.

Cryovac says the produce marketplace is changing faster than you can say "arugula." Demand for fresh-cut fruits and vegetables is driving much of the category's growth. But these days, value-added produce isn't inexpensive, so there's a great need for high-performance packaging that can sustain the quality of a produce investment.

In development for about one year, the package includes a

rigid, premade black PP base tray thermoformed by **Mullinix Packages** (www.mullinixpackages.com) that can contain 8 oz of clean, fresh-cut asparagus that's vacuumized and skin-packed, which gives it a three-dimensional look.

The base tray can be vacuumized on several types of equipment, including **Multivac's (www.multivac.com)** T200 tabletop machine and the T350 production vacuum-skin rollstock system.

Southern Specialties, a Pompano Beach, FL grower/processor/importer of a wide range of fruits and vegetables, adopted the vacuum skin-pack about a year ago for asparagus.

The package is part of Cryovac's existing Simple Steps® microwaveable, self-venting technology (see PD, April 2006, p. 22), but employs a highly permeable, breathable skin film. Cryovac's Myra Hughes Foster, of new business development, says the film was created to ensure the proper shelf life for fresh-cut vegetables and improve the way asparagus can be prepared. Microwaving takes only two to four min, depending on the desired level of doneness). Thanks to the permeable, 3-mil

polyolefin skin film, the package can be displayed vertically for an attention-getting presentation. The vacuum-skin format conforms to the contours of the product, which boosts merchandising appeal.

Depending on produce quality and temperature control, produce in a Simple Steps package typically has a shelf life from 10 to 14 days—substantially longer than fresh asparagus packed Continued on page 20

4.





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Is the packaging the end, or just the beginning?



conventionally.

Foster says that while there's no modified atmosphere introduced into the package, the product passively modifies the environment via respiration. Oxygen permeates into the package and carbon dioxide (CO₂) is dissipated.

The tray-pack allows steam to cook the asparagus in the microwave yet stays cool to the touch when handling so it can be placed on the dinner table. It also needs no venting. As it heats, the film expands, forming a bubble during heating, and then self-vents and relaxes over the produce. Foster says the package can withstand temperatures up to 212 deg F.

Totable backpack guards vaccines

A Special Citation for Social Responsibility (2) went to Cold Pack System (www.coldpacksystem), San Diego, for a convertible, ecologically friendly package called the AirLiner, an inflatable container developed in part to ship valuable and/or delicate products. Also nabbing a Gold award in Packaging Excellence, the container has an insulating liner that converts the backpack, either with or without a separate, 200#- to 275#-test, corrugated shipping case, into a cooler. The technology allows vaccines to be more easily transported to individual,

Quality. Service. Sustainability. Packaging for the Next Generation.

remote villages.

Shelf life can be greatly impacted by temperature fluctuations. The AirLiner can protect perishables and improve product presentation, shelf life and quality. The nylon backpack holds the AirLiner, which is made from a proprietary laminate that utilizes heat. The heat barrier is both from the thermal conductivity of air or argon gas, which is used to inflate the AirLiner, and the low emissivity metallized films.

The patented technology incorporates layers of a reflective barrier film blend that's 1 mil in thickness (typically, an AirLiner will have one, three or five layers of this film depending on the desired thickness of the finished product, PD is told) sealed into a proprietary geometry with a honeycomb design that blocks heat transfer, keeping products hot or cold for long periods.

The film comprises an outer structure including a 3-mil nylon coextrusion with PE skin layers and inner films of metallized PE. ISO Poly Films, Inc. (www.isopoly.com) supplies the inner and outer film constructions. Rol-Vac LP (www.rolvac.com) vaccum-metallizes the inner-layer, low-emissivity films.

Available in 27 sizes and three thicknesses (¾-, 1-, and 1½-in.), the container is designated as an approved vaccine-transportation system and used by the World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland.

David McKinney, vp of business development at Cold Pack, says WHO estimates that 30 percent of the vaccines bound for developing countries have diminished efficacy, due to poor cold-chain handling.

"The AirLiner works by controlling all three modes of heat transfer: conduction, convection and radiation," McKinney says. "The internal, metallized baffles control radiation using the low-emissivity films."

GOLD AWARDS

A pouch for sandwich bags?

It's true. An eye-catching, laminated header bag that replaces a paperboard carton and offers a tamper-evident perforation and easy-open features won Gold in Environmental/ Sustainability Achievement for S.C. Johnson's Ziploc® brand of storage bags. Introduced in March 2008, the Bemis® Advance Pak Laminated



Rack Header Bag (3), from Bemis Co.'s Polyethylene Packaging Div. (www.bemis.com), took a gold in Environmental & Sustainability Achievement for eco-friendliness and attractive, 8-color reverse-processprinted graphics. Brilliant clarity and high gloss are also characteristics of the bagstock, which replaces a conventional paperboard carton for this kind of product. The bag is made of a stiff, proprietary film that provides durability. The header has a die-cut centered, hanger hole for rackmerchandising display, which allows the package to take up little room on store shelves.

Bemis will only describe the bagstock as being made of the same three-layer, high-clarity PE film lamination as the sandwich bags inside, so it is a monomaterial offering, which Bemis says only adds more green to the greener, lowercost alternative to a mixed-film laminate. Reverse printing

protects the graphics and brand image from scuffing. The bag is sealed on four sides with two fine-weld seals and two fin seals.

Claimed to provide more package rigidity than most conventional PE films, the bag contains 25 sandwich bags. Its bold, reverse-flexo-printed process graphics replicate the Ziploc graphics found on the brand's paperboard cartons. Bemis says a truckload of the flexible packaging can equal up to 15 truckloads of paperboard material to pack the same amount of product.

Pouch made from pulp

The Hot N Handy Bio-Pouch (4), produced by Robbie Mfg., Inc. (www.robbiemfg.com), is a more environmentally friendly take on Robbie's existing Hot N Handy structure. This version, developed to replace the rigid clamshells in the cold case at convenience-stores, is actually made from renewable wood-pulp.

The bag will degrade, says Robbie's product manager Tara Downing. According to its life-cycle analysis, using film-production data supplied by Franklin Associates, Ltd., comparing the new flexible pouch with hinged, rigid PS containers, the pouch uses 92 percent less crude oil, reduces CO₂ emissions by 56 percent and eliminates 75 percent of the packaging material



waste, by weight. The analysis is based on the production of 163 sandwiches annually for sales retail supermarket deli counters.

Equipped with a built-in gusset that allows it to accept various sandwich sizes, the pouch has a clear resealable adhesive strip for easy opening and a foldover reclosure flap to store leftovers. The pouch material is made using NatureFlexTM biodegradable, compostable film from **Innovia Films (www.innoviafilms.**

com). Taking a Gold in Packaging Excellence, the pouch is surface-printed flexographically with a random four-color repeat graphic indicating the biodegradable/compostable features. It can be custom-sized to fit any size sandwich. "Our initial offering consists of two stock sizes to fit six- and twelve-in. sub sandwiches," Downing adds.

Expert printing wins the chips

A zippered 10-oz standup pouch

for Ghirardelli's new 100-percent cacao baking chips **(5)** presents

extremely sharp images and colors and clean text, courtesy of gravure printing. American Packaging Corp. (www.ampkcorp. com) grabbed the Gold in Printing Achievement for the Continued on page 22





luxurious artwork.

The mouth-watering design in a rich, blue, gold and chocolate color scheme and a detailed reproduction were printed in 8 colors with solvent-based inks on a PET/ink/adhesive/metallized PET/LLDPE bagstock, converted at American Packaging's plant in Columbus, WI. The material is printed on a **Cerutti (www.cerutti.it)** press and is laminated inline on a Cerutti laminator.

The results have smoother solids, crisper images and improved aesthetics that are helping to separate Ghirardelli baking chips from the competition.

Truffle pack triumph

Also winning a Gold in Printing Achievement is the block-bottom bag for Kraft Foods' Canada's



Côte d'Or Truffé (individually wrapped milk chocolate truffles) from Amcor Flexibles [www. amcor.com] (6). Available in Austria, Switzerland and France, in this packaging, the premium truffles needed more glamour to jump-start their shelf presence. The side-guesseted film/paper bag features both matte and glossy effects and glitzy foil hot stamping, a tactile feel from embossing under the foil-stamped "Truffé" and

"Spécialités" elements and a circular, 40-micron window glued on the inside that shows off the wrapped truffles inside.

Amcor produces and prints the bag at the Flexibles Schroeder & Wagner facility in Rinteln, Germany using (from the outside,) 20-micron OPP laminated to 80 gsm paper and the window film, a 40-micron OPP. Reverse-printed on a **Windmöeller & Höelscher (www.whcorp.com)** gravure press in 9 colors. The bagstock receives an additional matte lacquer on the outside for extra scratch-resistance. Amcor uses a **Siegwerk (www.siegwerk.com)** VL TOB ink system and an additional curing process for both the matte lacquer and a paper laminate incorporated into the bag structure.

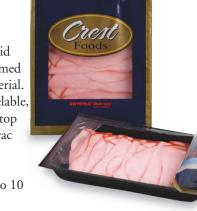
The front panel carries an image of an African elephant, a symbol of fine chocolate in Belgium, where the fine cocoa for the truffles is sourced.

EZO/reclosable deli pack

For Technical Innovation, another Gold winner for Cryovac makes it easy to open and reclose a thermoformed deli meat package repeatedly. The Cryovac® Multi-sealTM (7) works consistently, time after time. Cryovac's research shows that consumers want easy-open/reclosable packaging and believe that it keeps deli meat fresh. Answering their call, Multi-seal can be opened and resealed at least 10 times, Cryovac says, even through contamination smears.

In development approximately two years, the

"rollstock" package comprises a semi-rigid base tray, thermoformed of a proprietary material. It's mated with a peelable, 5.5-mil barrier-film top web, made by Cryovac of a proprietary material that can be flexo-printed in up to 10 process colors.



Says Tim Avery, marketing director of smoked and processed products, "The package can hold different amounts of product, based on the footprint and depth of the package that the customer wants."

A clear film viewing window is located on top and a removable tearstrip exposes a tab printed with "lift to open." The tab can be peeled back like a flap, providing full access to the product. The reclosable flap sticks to a portion of the lidding that remains affixed to the tray.

The base of the top web is sealed to the forming web with a lock-down sealant, Avery explains. "The sealant bonds the top web to the flange of the semi-rigid forming web so that this portion can't be easily pulled apart." The package can run on existing thermoforming equipment that evacuates and back-flushes the package to the desired atmosphere. Introduced in June 2008, this Gold winner in

FRESHNESS IS SEALED IN NEW BIODEGRADABLE PACKAGING

Hot N Handy Bio-Pouch is a flexible package designed for consumers, giving them value-added features like increased freshness and a resealable adhesive.

The **Bio-Pouch**, made from renewable wood-pulp, is environmental friendly and will degrade "Back To Nature."



Bio-Pouch is the

best sustainable solution for fresh-prepared sandwiches in the market. Compared to rigid polystyrene containers, the **Bio-Pouch** uses 92% less crude oil, reduces CO₂ emissions by 56% and reduces packaging material waste





Technical Innovation is currently in limited distribution. Expect to see a commercial launch in April 2009, Avery says.

Glitzy granola pouch

A standup pouch for Branli® Cruji Nola granola **(8)** from Productos Verde Valle, a Mexican processor/ distributor of rice, beans and cereals, is available nationally in Mexican supermarkets. The new standup package makes the cereal easy to find

in stores and easy to store at home.



cereal. Bright, bold type calls attention to the cereal's brand identity.

Printpack produces and 8-color flexo-prints the laminated, three-layer pouchstock with a matte-finished PET outer print layer, a metallized BOPP inner layer (that provides a reflective backdrop for the graphics and adds moisture-resistance) and an LDPE sealant. A **Zip-Pak** (www. zippak.com) zipper is applied in-line during bagmaking. An unusual visual effect results with the combination of the metallics and the matte-finished PET. Printpack won a Gold award in Printing Achievement.

Gothic label for tanning bronzer

CL&D Graphics (www. cldgraphics.com) won Gold in Printing Achievement for a tanning product label that makes glamorous use of proprietary vacuum spot metallization techniques and what it calls micro/nano technology embossing applied to high-shrink film.

Sunrise, FL-based Performance
Brands, Inc. came up with a dramatic bejeweled bottle (9) for Zeda
Tanning's Dark Angel Revealingly
Dark Bronzing Intensifier, a tanning-bed lotion
that carries the premium shrink label designed with exotic, gothic allure. The purple, gold and black graphics depict illustrations of angels and dragons. The
10.1-oz bottle also has the "bling" of a jewel-

topped closure for one

eye-popping presentation.

Metallized enhancements are *de rigeur* for CL&D, so Zeda features translucent water-based inks on a holographic foil/high-shrink PETG base substrate. The sleeve is flexo-printed in rollform in 9 colors plus a UV curing process on a Comco press from **Mark Andy (www. markandy.com).** One challenge CL&D faced was creating a label with enough oil- and fragrance-resistance to be compatible with the product.

More information is available:

Flexible Packaging Association, 410/694-0800. www.flexpack.org.

American Packaging Corp., 515/73-1407. www.ampkcorp.com.

Amcor Flexibles, 847/362-9000. www.amcor.com.

Bemis Co.'s Polyethylene Packaging Div., 812/460-6200. www.bemis.com.

CL&D Graphics, 262/569-4060. www.cldgraphics.com.

Cold Pack System, 858/775-7079. www.coldpacksystem.com.

Cryovac Food Packaging Div., Sealed Air Corp., 846/443-2000. www.sealedair.com.

Printpack, Inc., 404/460-7000. www.printpack.com.

Robbie Mfg., Inc., 913/492-3400. www.robbiemfg.com.

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Eve Yen, CEO and founder of Diamond Wipes Intl., immigrated from her native Taiwan in pursuit of a more well-rounded education for her daughter. Here, she founded a disposable wipes business that added more than 90 full-time jobs to the U.S. economy.

A clean finish

Entrepreneur realizes the American Dream by launching a wet-wipe manufacturing company, and it all began with A SINGLE HF/F/S MACHINE.

Linda Casey, Associate Editor

If you've ever eaten at an Outback Steakhouse, Tony Roma's or Applebee's restaurant, you might have used a hot towelette manufactured by Diamond Wipes Intl. (DWI).

The company was founded by CEO Eve Yen 15 years ago, when she immigrated from her native Taiwan to pursue a more comprehensive education for her eldest daughter, Vivian.

"Regardless of how other people criticize it, the American school system, when the parents and teachers are guiding the students correctly, teaches children how to think through a project," Yen remarks. "A lot of the kids also do charity work and community service, so they learn to be part of the society."

After arriving in the U.S., Yen noticed that the practice of offering hot towels or towelettes to restaurant diners at the end of their meals was absent from her dining experiences. This is a common offering by restaurants throughout Asia. After recognizing the need, Yen bought a single horizontal form/fill/seal machine and began making and selling microwaveable disposal towelettes for the foodservice and restaurant industries.

Originally housed in a 1,700-sq-ft facility

in El Monte, CA, the company's primary manufacturing facility now is located in Ontario, CA. The Ontario plant occupies more than 100,000 sq ft and produces over 1 million towelettes each

day for its own La
Fresh brand, as
well as towelettes
sold to a number
of private-label and
contract-packaging
customers. Today,
DWI is providing a
livelihood for more than
just Yen's family. The

manufacturing facility contributes more than 90 full-time jobs to the American economy, and it also uses a temporary workforce of approximately 30 people who are employed based on manufacturing demands.

The company's offerings also have expanded. In addition to towelettes for the foodservice and restaurant industries, DWI manufactures a wide range of wet and dry wipes, delivering products as diverse as deodorant s for both men and women, nail polish remover for women, sunscreens, shoe shine, insect repellent and electronic screen





Travel as a muse

Many of these products are manufactured for DWI's sister company La Fresh Group, Inc., and were inspired by Yen's travels, which she blogs about on the La Fresh website (www.lafreshgroup. com). "My skin gets very dry when I'm flying, especially if I'm on a long-distance flight," she remarks. "That's why we created the lotion wipes. And the idea for makeup removal came to me when I was staying at a hotel."

In addition to their compact size, the wipes also contain less than 1 oz of liquid each so that they easily meet U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration current guidelines for transporting liquids and gels in carry-on bags through security checkpoints.

A day's grooming packed for the ready

La Fresh's One Day Stay Travel

Yen used her own travel experiences for inspiration when developing the La Fresh travel kits.



Packets kit are designed for frequent travelers. Housed in a reusable PVC zipper bag, the kits are available in gender-specific combinations. The One Day Stay Travel Packets for Him contains shaving gel, antibacterial, shoe shine, lens cleaning and deodorant wipes in addition to a dental cleaning finger mitt. The One Day Stay Travel Packets for Her also includes a dental- cleaning finger

mitt, an antibacterial towelette and a deodorant wipe; it additionally contains wipes for general makeup removal, eye and lip makeup removal and application of a hydrating lotion.

The wipes for general makeup removal are manufactured and packaged using a Model SL-110 purchased from **Volpak USA (www. volpak.com).** Standard configurations of the SL-110 include simplex and

duplex versions, with output speeds reaching up to 180 pouches/min. Pouches are be separated by slit or perforation, allowing operators to make a single, separated pouch or strips of up to 10 pouches. "The most popular request from our contract-packaging customers are single-use pouches that can be distributed as sampler packets, but Continued on page 26





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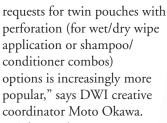
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The machine requires only one operator for all operations. The wipe material arrives at DWI in large rolls, which the company first folds then cuts into towelettes. The towelettes are folded again before being placed into the pouch material.

The SL-110 then folds the pouch material in half and seals the bottom. The hf/f/s machine then seals the sides of the pouch. The SL-110 piston-filling system then dispenses the liquid, cream or gels to the pouch

material. The hf/f/s system then seals the top of the pouch, enclosing the liquid and wipe inside the pouch. To separate the pouches, the hf/f/s system either cuts or perforaes the pouch from the web.

Finished pouches exit the SL-110 onto a simple, automatic belt conveyor that deposits the pouch into an inner shipper. The h/f/f/s machine operator checks batches of the finished packages before they are sent out.

In addition to the Volpak SL-110, DWI also has three other h/f/f/s machines, including a machine supplied by **Prodo-Pak Corp.** (www.prodo-pak.com), which is pictured below.



Set for growth

and contract-packaging customers.

DWI has added another factory in Bucyrus, OH, to accommodate growth in its private-labeling and contract-packaging services. According to Yen, DWI could handle up to 30 percent more work without making further investments.

More information is available:

Prodo-Pak Corp., 973/777-7770. www.prodo-pak.com. Volpak USA, 804/794-6688. www.volpak.com.

This hf/f/s machine is one of four machines DWI uses to form single and twin pouches, then dispense liquids onto towelette carrier material. These machines then seal the pouches and perforate or cut them from the web.



sustamabi

A toothbrush currently in stores comes in a clamshell with an optimistic label that reads, "recyclable packaging materials." Unfortunately, the majority of the material in the package is not currently collected in most communities, reducing this to a misleading claim. Inaccurate claims such as this abound in the marketplace. However, most aren't intentional and many are sincere efforts to try to promote recycling. So why is it so hard to communicate to consumers about recycling?

Communicating the recycling message is harder than it seems

Recycling starts at the local level. The reach of collection infrastructure (how many households have access and the type, curbside, dropoff, single-stream, three-bin), is determined and paid for by municipal and local governments.

Predictably, there is a tremendous amount of variation from locality to locality. The lack of harmonization in the collection system poses a significant challenge to developing a consumer label that is relevant for all localities and materials.

Compounding this is the fact that a recyclability claim, like "Please Recycle," should only be made

if a "substantial majority" of people have access to recycling for that type of package, according to the Federal Trade Commission. Yet determining this is exceptionally difficult, as there is no national or harmonized source for recycling "reach" data in order to substantiate recyclability claims. While some industry associations do collect data, it's limited to selected materials or forms and is not comprehensive. As a consequence, many companies find it difficult to use the most basic and well-

> intentioned claim of, "Please Recycle." So, what can we tell consumers about the recyclability of a package? In the U.K., the Waste and Resources Action

Programme (WRAP), in partnership with retailers like Marks & Spencer and ASDA, provides a model. Its program elements include:

- •A label with instructions broken down into three categories—"widely recycled," "check local recycling" and "currently nonrecyclable."
- •A data-collection effort to validate the three label categories for all materials.
 - •A website with a search of local recycling

facilities by material and postal code to support the "check local recycling" claim.

The label addresses the underlying variability in collection

schemes and can be applicable to all materials. The Sustainable Packaging Coalition's Labeling Project helps provide meaningful consumer guidance on what to do with a package after its useful life. After reviewing labels and collections systems from around the world, we have focused on recycling and are working to design a label that draws on the successful elements of the WRAP model. Our goal is to offer consistent messaging to encourage participation and to incentivize better infrastructure. We'll introduce our concept this spring and invite review and testing. And, GreenBlue and the SPC have initiated some conversations about how to start a national campaign to collect better recycling data that would be made available publicly and be used to substantiate recyclability claims. We're seeking partners willing to help make this aspiration a reality.

Anne Johnson is the director of the Sustainable Packaging Coalition, a project of GreenBlue (www.greenblue.org). For additional information, email info@sustainablepackaging.org.

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Tillamook County Creamery Assn. MORE ACCURATELY VERIFIES packaged cheese with a new, highly accurate checkweigher.

For nearly a century, Tillamook County Creamery Assn. (TCCA), Tillamook, OR, has delivered farm-fresh dairy products with all-natural ingredients—a combination that, along with the company's operations and community service, has resulted in numerous awards from industry publications and organizations. For customers, flavor is key, and it's all about TCCA's handson approach. "We age all our cheese in-house, including our medium cheddar, which is aged more than 60 days to ensure optimum flavor," says Tim Tomlinson, packaging manager for TCCA. "That ensures it's very highquality."

Automated weighing system

TCCA is a farmer-owned cooperative that includes approximately 120 dairy families throughout the country. The coop offers a variety of cheeses in a broad range of sizes—from 5-lb blocks to ¾-oz portions for on-the-go treats. Affirming

that each of these products weighs the correct amount—in order to confirm correct product quantity and pricing—is an important part of the process.

"We have an automated system that weighs packages as they are transferred down a conveyor and directs the packages as needed, but we have to confirm that these weights are correct on a regular basis," Tomlinson says.

After a large block of cheese has been properly aged, a series of wires cuts it into smaller loaves. An in-line checkweigher then verifies that each loaf weighs the correct amount, within a defined tolerance before packaging. If a loaf is above or below this tolerance, a static checkweigher determines how far off the loaf is from the desired weight. "To meet weight standards and regulations, we use this static checkweigher to verify package weights about every 15 seconds," Tomlinson says. "For this, we needed to replace our previous stand-alone checkweigher with



The stand-alone checkweigher's display is highly visible and is customized for simple, efficient visual weight confirmation and/or corrections if needed. If the checkweigher finds that a loaf is underweight or overweight, it displays how much cheese must be added or removed to meet weight requirements.



If an in-line checkweigher rejects a loaf of cheese as being too light or too heavy, Tillamook uses this standalone checkweigher to determine how far off the loaf is from the desired weight.

an upgraded selection."

Customized software

TCCA chose the E1310 programmable-weight indicator for checkweighing from Avery Weigh-Tronix (www.wtxweb.com), which offers a stainless-steel construction and a National Electrical Mfg. Assn. (NEMA) 6/4X rating to withstand harsh washdown environments. "Stainless steel is necessary, since the equipment we use needs to be foodgrade," Tomlinson says. "We've been happy with its accuracy."

The E1310 checkweigher provides National Type Evaluation Program

We can communicate recorded weights to our computers, so we can download all the collected data.

(NTEP) Class III legal-for-trade weighing with sealed, stainless-steel loadcells and 500 percent overload protection. Its display is highly visible and is customized for simple, efficient visual weight confirmation and/or corrections if needed. If the E1310 checkweigher finds that a loaf is underweight or overweight, it displays how much cheese must be added or removed to meet weight requirements.

"The Avery Weigh-Tronix checkweigher sits on the side of our packaging line, so that we can manually check the calibration of our high-speed weighing operations," Tomlinson says. "And we can communicate recorded weights to our computers, so we can download all the collected data, which is really nice."

Customizable serial output

Along with accurate weighing, the E1310 checkweigher offers fully customizable serial output, including three outputs for controlling external devices. It additionally provides three inputs for remote print, pushbutton tare and other functions, offering TCCA the flexibility to upgrade its current processes for future applications.

"Right now, we're basically using it for visual confirmation of our package weights, but if we automate our backup weighing in the future as planned, we'll be using the checkweigher to its full capacity," Tomlinson says.

The rugged construction and reliable operation has made this checkweigher package an effective solution for TCCA, helping them

produce and distribute premiumquality cheeses with local flavor efficiently and accurately. "We were looking for a good replacement, and the E1310 checkweigher is living up to it," Tomlinson says.

More information is available:

Avery Weigh-Tronix, 507/238-4461.

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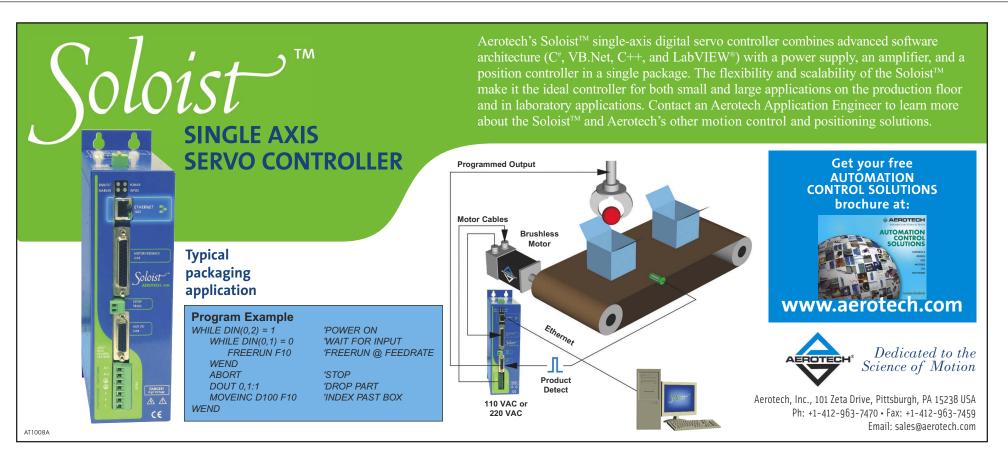
Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

A new ultraviolet light barrier film developed by Sealed Air Corp. (www. sealedair.com) is the key component in what's believed to be the first transparent toothpaste tube available on the market.

The new tube for Colgate-Palmolive Co.'s Max Fresh® fluoride toothpaste, which is infused with mini, dissolvable mouthwash beads, is available at a number of retailers nationally. Launched

as an extension of the Max Fresh brand, the oral care product teams clear toothpaste gel and mouthwash to enhance the toothpaste's ability to freshen breath. The Max Fresh tube comes in a dazzling, metallic paperboard outer carton that's die-cut with a viewing window that displays the product through the clear tube on store

Colgate-Palmolive's first-of-its-kind transparent toothpaste tube shows off its new Max Fresh® gel with its exclusive "mouthwash beads," which may not have been possible without the development of a NEW ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT **BARRIER FILM** that protects the ingredients and the toothpaste color.



Colgate-Palmolive hopes that its latest Max Fresh product, which comes in Minty Wave (green gel) and Mint Burst (blue gel) flavors, will boost sales and make consumers beam with a toothy smile.

A strong performer

The brand has been a strong performer in the fresh-breath market segment overall. Toothpaste sales rose just 2.8 percent last year, but sales in the fresh-breath subsegment jumped 8.5 percent, according to AC Nielsen.

Colgate-Palmolive's CEO Ian Cook said recently that the company is comfortable with profit expectations for its business this

Two key benefits of the film are that consumers can see the tube's contents and they can easily tell how much product remains.

year, despite a souring economy, because consumers still need basic staples such as toothpaste. Available at retailers nationwide since August, the one-piece tube comes in a 6-oz size. The clear tube body meets a translucent shoulder that's embossed on opposing sides with the Colgate name, and is topped with a white flip-top cap (the caps are stamped with the Zeller Plastik [www. zellerplastik.com] logo). While clear tube structures have been available for decades for other types of products, producing this one for toothpaste wasn't as simple as the packaging might suggest.

Sealed Air's development of the proprietary, coextruded, multilayer film coincided with Colgate-Palmolive's national launch of



MaxFresh with Mouthwash Beads, as an extension of the brand. The film not only shows off the product, but helps protect the ingredients that give the toothpaste its color.

If not for the development of the barrier film, the toothpaste's color could fade in the presence of UV light, moisture and oxygen, explains Sealed Air. While it can be produced in a variety of gauges, the film

structure for the finished tube is 275 microns thick (approximately 10.8 mils)

"Patents are pending for our inventions related to this development," says Joe Ramirez, Sealed Air's manager of new business development. "Two key benefits of the film are that consumers can see the tube's contents and they can easily tell how much product remains." The film structure is quite complex, Ramirez adds. "But any time we can take something new to the marketplace while giving consumers a new benefit, it's groundbreaking."

Clearly a long time coming

Colgate-Palmolive says it has been interested in a clear toothpaste tube Continued on page 32



for about a decade. "Colgate had a challenge and asked us to help create something new to North America: A clear toothpaste tube with a UV light barrier," says Ramirez. "There are a couple of reasons why a film like this hasn't been available before. Traditionally, techniques employed to block or absorb UV light can make a flexible film hazy and unstable. The ingredients used to give toothpaste its colors can fade over time because of UV light. This film prevents the UV light from penetrating the tube and causing the product color to fade. If it was easy to come up with, [it would have been done before]. But seriously, there's a delicate balance between blocking enough UV light and producing a film that can withstand the abuse a toothpaste tube encounters."

Time to buy more

Industrial Automation

The obvious benefit of the clear tube, he says, is that consumers can see the contents and can easily tell how much product remains in the tube. This is a real convenience over opaque tubes because the consumer knows immediately when it's time buy more toothpaste. The mouthwash micro beads are also clearly visible.

"Our engineers overcame the hurdles to develop a film formula that also gives great tube performance, including feel and clarity,' Ramirez points out. "We are excited about this

There's a delicate balance between blocking enough UV light and producing a film that can withstand the abuse a toothpaste tube encounters.

groundbreaking film, which we feel could change the face of oral care packaging."

PD is told that Colgate-Palmolive converts the printed film rollstock into tubes at its own manufacturing locations, and fills and ships them for distribution.

Along with toothpaste, the new, clear, multilayer film can be provided in several gauges for a variety of other applications such as creams, lotions and even food products—wherever UV light barrier protection is important for package formats other than a tube, such as a pouch, a sachet or lidding material.

Currently, however, Colgate-Palmolive is the only user of the film, Ramirez says. Sealed Air is hoping that will change soon, though the jury's out as to when.

Still need to brush

Colgate-Palmolive's clearly smiling. Its reported worldwide toothpaste market share hit a record 44.48 percent last year, while its toothbrush share exceeded 20 percent, spurred by new products and gains in the U.S. Mexico and China, according to a report in January by Market Watch.

Selling its products in some 200 countries, the company seems to be side-stepping the economic slowdown. In the January report, Cook said that lower oil prices, product-price increases and more cost cuts should boost Colgate-Palmolive's gross profit margin in 2009.

In the fourth quarter of 2008, the company also disclosed that its net income rose by 20 percent to \$497 million bolstered by the debut of new toothbrushes and toothpastes, the latter including MaxFresh with mouthwash beads.

More information is available:

Sealed Air Corp., 800/845-3456. www.sealedair.com. Zeller Plastik, 847/247-7900. www.zellerplastik.com.



Decorative dispensing

Clorox launches a new disinfecting wipes canister and a chance for CONSUMERS TO DESIGN NEW GRAPHICS.

A quick and easy way to disinfect anytime, anywhere, Clorox® Disinfecting Wipes from the Clorox Co., Oakland, CA, now come in a range of decorator canisters made to complement any home's decor.

The new Clorox Décor canister changes the idea of hiding cleaning products under the sink into a display opportunity. The new line of cleaning wipes, introduced in February, comes in eight designs that combine form, fashion and function to put cleaning within reach.

"When we put the task to the design team, we asked why can't cleaning be easy—and easy on the eyes?" says Lisa Partnoy, marketing manager, Clorox Disinfecting Wipes. "The new Décor line reinvents disinfecting, enabling you to say goodbye to messes with style."

But the new wipes are more than just a pretty face. In addition to redesigned packaging—from the sleek shape and wide mouth of the canister to the modern feel of the graphics on the outside, the Clorox wipes team also created an effortless single-sheet dispensing

system that makes cleaning as simple as flip, pull and wipe. Containing 60 Lemon or Fresh wipes, each glossy, two-piece opaque white PP container has a fliptop, snap-fitting, hinged lid that opens to reveal the wipes and a wraparound label printed in one of several colorful designs.

Stylish enough for display, the new wipes canisters are an easy, inexpensive way to update a room. They're priced at \$4.64 a canister in Chicago-area stores.

Redesign competition

Clorox also announces its sponsorship of a "Redesign Clean" contest, in which design enthusiasts can try their hand at inspiring a future round of canister designs. Through March 15, 2009, they can submit original designs at **www.redesignclean.com.** Says Partnoy, "We want the entrants to have as much fun creating their own canister design as we did making disinfecting stylish with the new Décor packaging."

Finalists will be listed on www.redesignclean.com, where consumers can also vote to determine winners.





Last year, Avomex/Fresherized Foods, the largest producer of guacamole and avocado products in North America, saved \$257,000.00 by switching from pre-print to a Generic Case Printing Program and a Case Printing System from Iconotech. Their projected savings over five years will amount to \$1,892,000.00.

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Film is pulled through the labeler unwind system, left, which ensures that the film-delivery system located inside the machine has a constant supply of film that is not under tension. After the film is cut, the label is pushed down onto the container by the film-application rollers located at the base of the mandrel, right.

Shrink-sleeve labels shine

A **NEW PACKAGING LINE AT ENVIROCON** runs dishwasher-detergent additive in a standout container.

Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

Envirocon Technologies, Inc. was founded in 1994 in Midland, TX to produce Lemi Shine®, a dishwasher-detergent additive that works with conventional detergents to remove tough hard-water spots and film from glassware and even dishwashers. The product had always been

packaged in a straight-sided bottle with a screw cap, but "the package just never stood out on the shelf, even though the product has always been a success," says CEO Curtis Eggemeyer.

In August 2007, Envirocon introduced a new, ergonomic container for Lemi Shine that includes a dispensing closure with a flip-top cap that makes dispensing the product easier, a curved bottle

that makes one-handed use possible and a totalcoverage shrink-sleeve label. "This new container with the spectacular label really gets noticed," says Eggemeyer.

The HDPE bottle is supplied by **CKS** Packaging, Inc. (www.ckspackaging.com) and the dispensing closures are supplied by **Phoenix** Closures (www.phoenixclosures.com). Berlin

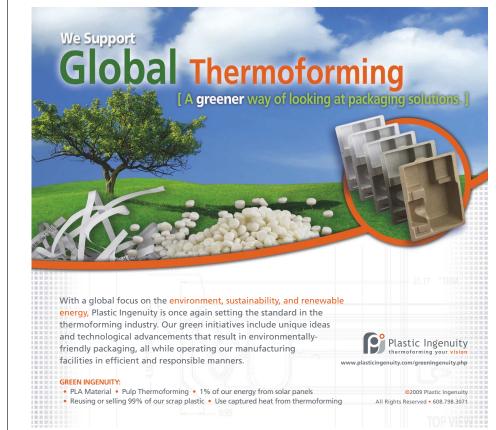


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An auger meters detergent into 12 funnels that deliver the product into containers traveling on the rotary turntable.

Packaging (www.berlinpack.com) is the distributor for the both bottles and closures. The labels, which were designed by Fresh Ink (www. haveamission.com), are supplied by Seal-It, A Div. of Printpack, Inc. (www.printpack.com), and are made from maximum-shrink PVC and are nine-color rotogravure-printed. "Achieving the bright yellow color of the label was a challenge," says Eggemeyer. "Printpack worked with our art department to create a proof that met our requirements."

Shrink-sleeve labeler

Envirocon built a new plant at its headquarters in Midland and installed a new packaging line to run the new container. With shelf presence and bottle appearance being the essential purpose of the new package design, the key equipment component of the line is a Model 300SL EZ-Seal shrink-sleeve labeler from **Axon Corp.** (www.axoncorp.com).

"This was an ideal machine for

us," says Eggemeyer.

"It's a very simple machine to operate and has a small footprint, so it fits into our operation.

The machine works flawlessly, and Axon's service people have

been outstanding. They helped us start it up, and other than that, it runs perfectly." A feedscrew meters the containers into the labeler.

The film is pulled up by idler rollers mounted above the film rolls that provide a consistent film path between the two film reels and the film-unwind system. This allows the film path and tension to be identical for both film-roll locations.

The film then travels through the

unwind system, which ensures that the film-delivery system located inside the machine has a constant supply of film that is not under tension. This helps to minimize slippage during film feeding and ensures accurate film-cut lengths. The film travels down through a film-dancer system, where it is looped through a film weight on a slide. As the machine advances the film, the weight is pulled upward, triggering a sensor that alerts

the unwind to pull more film off of the roll and into the dancer system, causing the weight to drop. When the weight drops below the sensor, the unwind stops feeding film.

Next, the film travels into the sleeve—application chamber, where it passes through a series of guide rollers and is then pulled over the mandrel that opens the tubular film. In this operation, two stepper-driven rollers Continued on page 36

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work in conjunction with the print-registration system to ensure that the correct length of film is advanced. The print-registration, which utilizes a fiberoptic system from Keyence Corp. of America (www.keyence.com), is located at the top of the film mandrel and includes both vertical and horizontal adjustments. When a detection photoeye senses the container, multiple blades located around the mandrel cut the film, which is then advanced down the mandrel by the following label. Finally, the cut sleeve is pushed down onto the container by the film-application rollers located at the base of the mandrel.

Rotary dry-product filler

The bottling operation starts with an Omni-Line 350 bottle unscrambler/orienter from Pace Packaging Corp. (www.pacepkg. com). The bottles are dumped into the hopper, which orients them so they all have the bottom ends leading as they discharge into a standup position on a lower conveyor that transports them to the filler.

The dry detergent is delivered to the filler in a 1,200-lb plastic bin, and a bulk dumper from Meyer Machine Co. (www.meyerindustries.com) lifts the bin and dumps the product into the floor hopper of a flexible inclined screw conveyor from **Flexicon Corp.** (www.flexicon.com). The product flows out of the floor hopper into the screw conveyor, and the loosely fitting, rotating flexible screw within the tube transports the product up to the top, where it discharges through a chute into the filler hopper. A level control in the hopper controls infeed to maintain a consistent level.

Twelve funnels are mounted around the top of the rotating filler turret and the dry powder discharges from the hopper into an auger that discharges the powder into the funnels as they pass beneath it. Bottles from the unscrambler are conveyed to the



When the correct number of bottles have accumulated, the empty case is lifted and a plate retracts to allow the bottles to drop into the case, top. Product is delivered to the filler in a bulk bin, bottom left, and is then lifted into the filler hopper by a flexible screw conveyor, bottom right.





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12-head rotary filler from All- Fill, Inc. (www.all-fill.com). A sensor monitors containers on the conveyor to the filler, and shuts the machine off if no containers are present. As the containers enter the filler, they engage sealing pads on the bottoms of the funnels that create a tight seal for dust control. The funnels travel synchronously above the containers as the turret rotates.

The proper weight of product in a container is achieved by coordinating the respective rotating speeds of the turret and the auger. The conveyor continues past the front of the filler and picks up the filled cans as they discharge.

All-Fill installed a dust shroud connected to a vacuum source at the top of the rotating turret to remove dust. "The All-Fill filler is a phenomenal machine," says Eggemeyer. "It's easy to operate and we've had absolutely no problems. It's very precise. We maintain a variance of less than 0.1 oz."

Capping system

After filling, the bottles travel to the capping operation. The first step is a glue applicator from **Dillin Capping Systems (capper www. dillin.net)** that applies a film of cold adhesive to the top surface of the container finishes so that a sheet liner in the cap will adhere to the finish.

Next the bottles travel through a rebuilt capping system from **Change Parts, Inc.** (www.changeparts.com). This starts with a vertical rotating cap prefeeder that orients the caps with the tops all facing in the same direction. The caps travel down a chute and are picked from the bottom of the chute by a rotating four-station table. The table carries the caps to a four-head rotary capper, where the heads pick up the caps and apply them to the containers traveling on a table beneath them.

Bottles enter and leave the capper through starwheels. E-Pak Machinery (www.epakmachinery. com) sourced all of the packaging components and integrated the packaging operation. It also supplied a floor hopper and elevator to deliver caps to the prefeeder.

Case packing

The capped containers travel through the labeling operation described previously and then convey to a case-packing operation. Cases are erected by a Model XRT450 case erector from **Trinamics, Inc.** (www.trinamics.com). The erectors can be supplied with either a hot-

melt glue system from Nordson Corp. (www.nordsen.com) or a pressure-sensitive tape sealing system from Dekka Indusries, Inc. (www.dekkaindustries.com). The unit at Envirocon uses the tape-sealing system. Other components include pneumatic valves, vacuum generators and cylinders from Festo Corp. (www.festo.com/us) and Allen Bradley MicroLogix® PLC controls from Rockwell Corp

Filled cases are delivered to a toptaping machine that seals the cases.

(www.rockwell.com).

The containers are then packed by a Model 300E case packer from Hamrick Mfg. & Services, Inc. (www.hamrickmfg.com). Containers enter the machine single file and then converge into two or three lanes depending on Continued on page 38







Caps are sorted in a vertical rotary unit and then travel down a chute to a four-station transfer table that transports them to the four-head rotary capper.

the coordinated pack size. A pneumatic agitator assembly on the infeed prevents lane jams and helps attain consistent lane accumulations.

Empty cases enter on a lower-level conveyor. When the correct number of bottles has accumulated, the empty case is lifted and a plate retracts to allow the bottles to drop into the case. The filled cases exit on a powered conveyor. "We surveyed the market and selected the Hamrick case packer, and we've been very pleased," says Eggemeyer. "I've used this term several times, and I'll use it again. The Hamrick machine is very simplistic and easy to use. That was one of the things we were looking for when we put this line together. We're 300 miles from the nearest metro

area, so we wanted equipment that would be easy for our people to operate and maintain without requiring service calls, and that's what we have."

The cases travel to a Bel 252 top taper from Wexxar Packaging, Inc., (www.wexxar.com) that is equipped with Dekka tape heads. The machine also features BEL's Snap Folder safe-flap folding technology, which promotes the protection of personnel by eliminating the traditional flapkicker that can cause serious injury.

The container conveyors throughout the packaging line are supplied by **Accutek Packaging Equipment Co., Inc. (www.accutekpackaging.** com). All of the equipment features controls from Rockwell Automation.

More information is available:

Axon Corp. 919/772-8383. www.axoncorp.com.
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Festo Corp., 631/435-0800. www.festo.com/us.

Flexicon Corp., 610-814-2400. www.flexicon.com.

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A horizontal wrapper individually wraps 40 to 50 writing instruments/min in heat-sealable PP film.

Pen wrapping

Devastated by the Midwestern floods of 2008, Norwood Souvenir restarts production with help from a **REPLACEMENT FILM-WRAPPING SYSTEM** for its imprinted writing instruments.

Jack Mans,

Plant Operations Editor

The floods of June 2008 exacted a severe toll on Norwood Souvenir, a manufacturer of imprinted writing instruments. One of its facilities located near the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids, IA, was completely inundated. To continue meeting customers' needs, Norwood decided to relocate its operations to a similar facility in Red Wing, MN.

One important aspect of this successful move was Norwood's replacement wrapping system from Doboy, Inc., a Bosch Packaging Technology co. (www.doboy.com).

With packaging critical to any manufacturing operation to ensure product protection for shipping, storage and shelf display, Norwood required equipment immediately. Supplying a horizontal wrapping machine quickly, Doboy provided a key component of Norwood's new operation, enabling the company to make the facility transition in a very short timeframe.

Norwood used a Doboy StratusTM horizontal wrapper to individually wrap writing instruments in PP heat-sealable film and wanted to find a comparable wrapping system for Red Wing. It turned to K.C. Boudrie, territory sales manager of Technical Packaging Machinery, Inc. (www.techpack.com), a packaging consultant/distributor. Initially, they considered renting a piece of equipment. But consulting with Boudrie, Norwood decided to purchase another Stratus.

"We were able to offer an expedited delivery of seven business days with the Doboy machine," says Boudrie. Currently, the Stratus wraps up to 40 to 50 products/min. But Norwood is considering adding a hopper to the line that make throughput faster.

More information is available:

Doboy, Inc., a Bosch Packaging Technology, co., 715/243-2296. **www.doboy.com.**

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Ripe for containment

STRETCH TAPE SYSTEM gently secures pallet loads of Backyard Farms' vine-ripened tomatoes.



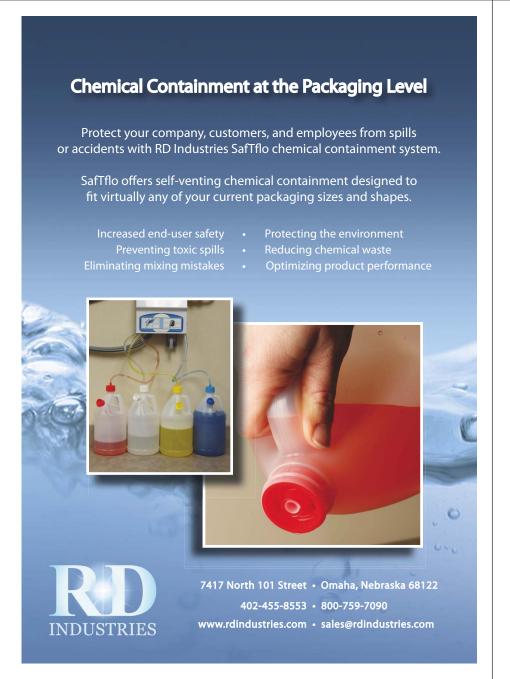
The tape retains its elasticity after stretching, securing the trays without crushing them.

Linda Casey, Associate Editor

Since its first shipment in January 2007, Backyard Farms, LLC, has sold more than 20 million lbs of its vine-ripened tomatoes to the New England market. Covering approximately 1 million sq ft, Backyard Farms' hydroponic growing facility in Madison, ME, uses both technologically advanced and environmentally friendly growing, harvesting and packaging processes that allow the company's Backyard Beauties brand of tomatoes to stay on the vine longer than conventionally grown and harvested tomatoes.

Handled with care

Fully ripened tomatoes might be flavorful, but they don't travel long distances well. This is why tomatoes are often shipped green and allowed to ripen while in transport or in an ethylene chamber. To avoid damage to ripe fruit during transport, Backyard Farms sought a way to contain pallet loads of the tomatoes in such a way that the fruit could still respirate. Also, the load containment solution would need to be environmentally friendly. Backyard Farms approached **xpedx** (**www.xpedx.com**) to help it meet these challenges. "Traditional stretch wrap with corner boards would definitely shorten the product life," says Tim Cummings of xpedx's Portland, ME, division. Instead of stretch wrap, xpedx suggested the **3M** (**www.3m.**







com/packaging) Stretchable-tape Load-containment system.

Backyard Farms chose the 3M Stretchable Tape Wrapper Model ST1000. Designed specifically for the Scotch Stretchable tapes, the tape wrapper has 4,400-lb capacity with a return-to-start turntable and programmable opera interface panel. Backyard Farms is using the Scotch Stretchable Tape 8886 in the tape wrapper. The 4-mil (0.102 mm) low-density polyethylene tape has a pressure-sensitive synthetic rubber resin. The tape is engineered to provide ventilation and stability while preserving parts integrity, minimizing waste and reducing material waste. The ST1000's taping head prestretches this to 650 percent, which 3M global product manager for Scotch Stretchable Tape Chad

Henke says is the optimal stretch ratio for the tape. The tape can be further stretched to 720 percent before breaking.

Deceptively delicate looks

The ST1000 can apply the tape in a variety of customized wrapping patterns: Multi-X patterns are designed to provide the best load stabilization for road freight applications; corner overwrapping patterns help secure the top layer of cases to maximize holding power; and banding patterns are designed with waste reduction in mind, as these patterns minimize the amount of tape used for inhouse load-containment applications.

These tape patterns resemble spider webs in both their delicate appearance

and high level of strength. Stretching the tape to 650 percent increases its tensile strength to 40 lb/in. When the tension is released, the tape's elastic memory contracts the tape slightly to tighten the load without damaging the trays.

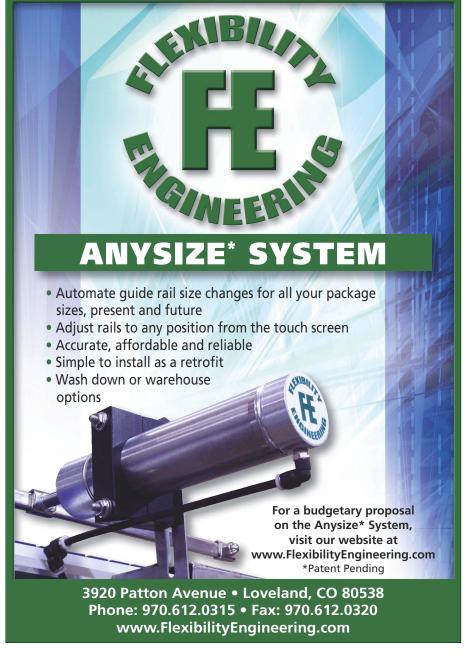
A photoeye detects the pallet height and position for nearly automatic operation, while the machine's touchpad controls allow an operator to access one of up to 10 frequently used patterns stored in the machine's memory or to easily customize the patterns.

These patterns allow a load to be securely contained without completely covering the sides of the pallet load. "We love the fact that the waste that comes out of the 3M machine is about the size of a softball," remarks Backyard Farms sales and marketing executive vp Tim Cunniff. "If you use your traditional stretch wrap, it's the size of a bed pillow." According to 3M, the material reduction afforded by the stretch tape can reach up to 95 percent. Continued on page 42



Tape is prestretched to 650 percent before it is wrapped around a pallet of tomatoes.





When the tape is stretched, it loses its tack, enabling the retailer to remove the tape while keeping the open-top trays retail-ready.

Process-color appeal at spot-color prices

The vivid graphics of Backyard Beauties' trays mimic the look of four-color printing. ChromaPak, the graphic arts technology used to achieve this look, was first developed by Weyerhaeuser R&D scientists in 2002 in response to corrugated customer's desire to move away from simple line art decoration to powerful process graphics.

International Paper [IP (www. internationalpaper.com)] acquired the technology last year, when it bought Weyerhaeuser's container board, packaging and recycling business for \$6 billion.

The printing technology uses sophisticated color separation and custom ink formulations to create vivid graphics and text without the costs of four-color process. "It uses fewer print colors and print stations to achieve the look of four-color process, but it is not four process," says IP

graphics/ChromaPak eastern region account manager Laurence Miller.

The display-ready cases also provide better protection for the ripe tomatoes. "By having a display-ready package, you cut down on the handling of the fruit, which lowers potential damage and soilage," IP industrial packaging marketing director Alan Clark remarks. "You are basically handling the tomatoes once when putting them into the corrugated box, and the next time it gets touched is at retail."

The rotary die-cut trays are shipped flat to Backyard Farms, where they are folded and glued by a One Touch tray former, which can produce approximately 25 cases/min. The formed boxes have interlocking tabs that allow the tray to be used with the grower's automated system of carts that travel through the greenhouse before being packed and palletized.

Each tray is filled with individually labeled tomatoes. Backyard Farms uses the ORB-it Vision Labeler to apply eco-friendly, biodegradable paper labels to its tomatoes. Both the applicator and the biodegradable paper labels are supplied by **Accu-Label, Inc. (www.accu-label.com).**





Backyard Beauties, top, are prominently displayed in their open-top, display-ready boxes at a Walmart in Maine. On July 25, 2007, Backyard Farms's 24-acre greenhouse, left, was noted in the U.S. Congressional Record as the largest building in Maine.

Flexographic presses from Mark Andy, Inc. (www.markandy.com) are used to print the standard S2 size (0.762x.562-in. oval with an end tab) labels with three inks: a black and two Pantone spot colors.

The labeler uses the TARG-it Vision system, developed by Accu-Label's sister company **Ag-Tronic Control Systems, Inc. (www. ag-tronic.com)** to identify each fruit, vine and calyx for precise sticker application. Then, the machine's soft-silicone bellows-type applicator gently places the label onto the ripe fruit. According to Accu-Label co-owner Sam Sleiman, the ORB-it Vision Labeler is capable of 99.999 percent

accuracy on produce without a vine. Backyard Farms is very pleased with the 85- to 90-percent label placement accuracy that the machine delivers when labeling its Backyard Beauties.

Success ignites innovation

Backyard Farms continues to look at packaging as a way to protect and promote its produce, and the grower currently is developing new packaging concepts. "We are coming out with some completely off-the-rack ideas," remarks Cunniff. "At the end of the year, we are coming out with some very innovative, exciting packaging ideas that will be completely outside the scope of the industry."

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system integration

Last month's column looked at the skills and the industry experience of a typical packaging system integrator as reported in the recent study, "Automation in Packaging" by Packaging Digest and Control Engineering magazines. These statistics suggest that although there are hundreds of automation system integrators currently serving the packaging industry, few are strictly packaging system integrators.

of the profitability of packaging projects. Packagers who contributed to this study cited cost as their top criterion for selecting a system integrator, so the margins must be tight for the integrator who gets the job (see Chart 2).

It's not that packagers don't approve of their integrators' work. According to the study, 90 percent indicated that system integrators generally meet their needs and 79 percent said they were

(versus repeat) business. Geographic proximity was also way down the list, but readers searching the online **Packaging** Integrator Guide (www. integratorguide.com) specified location far more than any of their other search criteria.

Then again, these readers probably don't

Business skills

Professional certifications/awards

already have integrators that they've worked with successfully, and every system integrator listed in the Packaging Integrator Guide is presumed to have expertise in packaging.



3%

1%

Fame enshrinee Avanceon notes that an integrator Top criteria for selecting can't afford to start from scratch with a new client system integrators for every project. "We never make money on projects with new clients, because we're always re-Success of previous project with us 51% doing things where we failed to verify and clarify the Expertise in packaging client's expectations," Zeigenfuse says. Technical resources 26% By the third project, however, integrators and Technical skills Referrals/word of mouth 15% their clients understand each other better, so less Geographic proximity 14% of the integrators' margin is spent on rework, he Availability 14% says. But integrators that don't get around to that Affiliations with preferred vendors 8% 7% Financial stability

Chart 2

Consulting Editor Vance J. VanDoren, Ph.D., P.E., contributes articles on process control, advanced control and systems integration and edits Control Engineering's and Packaging Digest's annual Automation Integrator Guide.

Analyzing the automation study, part 2

Apparently, that's a good thing. Less than half of the system integrators who contributed to this study (44 percent) expect packaging to grow over the next five years. That may be why an ever smaller percentage of system integrators has chosen to serve the packaging industry over the last 15 years (see Chart 1).

This downward trend might also be a reflection

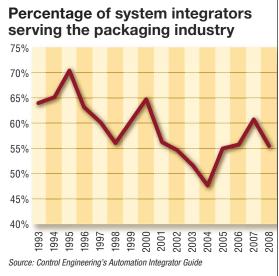


Chart 1

likely to continue working with their current system integrator on future packaging projects.

This is good news for integrators. Bob Zeigenfuse, president of System Integrator Hall of

third project aren't likely to be profitable serving the packaging industry.

Persistence also pays off from the packager's point of view. Packagers are just as averse to starting from scratch with a new integrator for every project.

After cost, the success of previous projects was their most important criteria for selecting a system integrator—tied in the study with expertise in packaging and way ahead of technical resources and general technical skills.

Referrals and word of mouth were way down on the list, though system integrators will tell you that these are their primary sources of new





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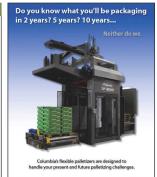
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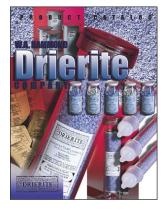
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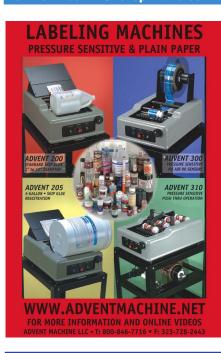
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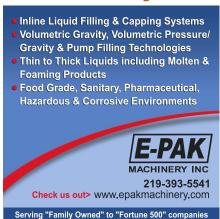


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newsmakers

MOVERS & SHAKERS



Elsner Eng. Works, Inc. promotes Jay W. Roth to regional sales manager. Norwood Marking Systems/ Allen Coding **Systems** appoints Randy Roberts regional

account manager.

Alcan Packaging names Diane Frisch vp of human resources and communications, Food Americas, and



Alcan Packaging



vp of human resources. global pharmaceutical packaging. Menasha **Packaging** announces that Dennis Bonn, vp of marketing, has assumed the responsibility for the company's Retail Integration Institute. YKK Corp. names Michael

Blunt fastening

business leader

for its north- and

Multisorb

Technologies

central-American regions as well as president of subsidiaries, YKK USA and Tape Craft Corp.



orb Technologies



appoints Jeff Brown business development leader, food & beverage market. **Century Foods** hires Joe Leinfelder as a sales manager for its branded and private-label aroup. Multivac, Inc. appoints Jim Brigman western regional service supervisor. **PMMI**

announces that Carol Shuttleworth, president and CEO of Shuttleworth. Inc., will chair its global marketing committee; Rick Schneider, president of



Schneider Packaging Equipment Co., will chair its membership committee;

and Jack Aguero, vp of business development and marketing for Pro Mach, Inc., will chair its business intelligence committee.





Allen Coding Sy:

manager of its Midwest facility. The Technical Association of the

Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) elects Dr. Gary M. Scott (SUNY), Davide R. Friedman (General Mills) and Thomas E. Rodencal (consultant) to its board of directors.

Standard-Knapp promotes Mike Weaver to president and co-CEO and Robert Revnolds as COO and co-CEO and hires Kevin Catherman as national accounts manager.

Solvay Chemicals, Inc. promotes Paul Jones to business manager—sulfite and trona.

BUYING & ALLYING

Adept Technology, Inc. signs Eagle Technologies Group as its newest preferred packaging partner. Campbell Wrapper Corp. buys TEMCO, which will be merged with Parsons-Eagle Packaging Systems. Amcor, Ltd. is in talks for part of Alcan Packaging.

Mason Wells Buyout Fund II, L. P. acquires Tolas Healthcare Packaging. **Rockwell Automation** acquires Rutter

ACHIEVEMENTS

Printing Industries of America names James Hammer of Hammer Packaging the recipient of the 2008 Lewis Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award, which is named for Abraham Lewis, founder of Graphic Arts Monthly, also published by Reed Business Information.

Robbie Mfg. Inc. **RSI Systems LLC**

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packaging design, Eye On Packaging is a wealth of resources and ideas for anyone in the packaging community. "I've always loved the visual element of packaging," says Bellm. "And marketing and branding are a natural fit with that discipline. So I found myself increasingly focusing more and more on those types of subjects. It only made sense to really key in on those elements with my blog, especially since they have so much impact on everyone in packaging. And I'm having more fun than ever doing it." Eye On Packaging is updated three times every week. Visit it today!

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PMMI Operations Conference March 17-18, Tampa, FL

Ipack-IMA 2009 March 24-28, Milan, Italy

SNAXPO 2009 March 29-April 1 Orlando, FL

FBA 2009 Annual Meeting March 30 - April 1 Washington



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California weighs statewide ban on polystyrene containers
Twenty-five cities and seven counties in California have already
banned polystyrene food packaging. The bans are aimed at
reducing plastic trash that makes its way into coastal waters. Now,
momentum is building to extend the ban statewide...

Graphic Packaging plans to close four plants

Graphic Packaging Intl. announced plans to close four manufacturing facilities and transition business to other U.S. operating locations as it continues to aggressively complete integration plans to achieve the previously announced synergy savings of \$90 million by 2010...

Pliant is back in bankruptcy—three years later

Schaumburg, IL packaging producer Pliant Corp. filed a "prepackaged" Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization plan, returning to bankruptcy court less than three years after emerging from its last term in Chapter 11...

Maine lawmakers listen to debate over bottled water bill

Maine state legislators heard hours of testimony on the first of several bills inspired by recent flare-ups between water bottlers and local residents concerned about the long-term sustainability of their water supply. Among them is Measure LD 238, a direct response to a controversy over Poland Spring's attempts last year to purchase up to 250,000 gal of water a day...

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