

## **Congratulations and Thank You to American Packaging Corporation for Expanding in Columbus!**

**American Packaging Corp has received a \$350,000 grant via the Wisconsin Department of Commerce to implement an almost \$17 million plant expansion in Columbus, creating up to 47 new jobs.**

By MICHAEL THOMPSON Capital Newspapers

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PORTAGE - The Columbia County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday approved an application for \$350,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant money for an expansion in Columbus' American Packaging Corp. plant.

The money is administered by the state's Department of Commerce and would be part of an expansion costing more than \$16.5 million that company Controller Rolf Lang said could create up to 47 jobs over the next two to three years.

APC has three factories - the others are in Story City, Iowa, and Rochester, N.Y. - and is headquartered in Rochester. The company was established in 1902 and is privately held. The Columbus factory, on James Street, handles rotogravure printing and lamination to print packaging labels. It employs about 240 people.

Its products wrappers for Pringles cans, Hershey mini-bars and Wrigley gum, for example. Lang said business has increased in recent years. When APC purchased the factory in 1972, it had one press and one slitting machine, Lang said; now it has six presses and 10 slitting machines, most of which are operated 24 hours a day, five days a week.

"The decision was made to add capacity there so we can continue to grow and pursue new business opportunities," Lang told the supervisors.

Though the grant is federal money, it passes through the county and is subject to the County Board's approval.

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