Cone Drive officials Jack Cramer, environmental health and safety manager; Plant Manager John Cummins; Plant Supervisor Eric Ahlfeld; Scott Carroll, safety consultant; and Mike Adamczyk, EHS coordinator are celebrating the fact that there have been no lost-time injuries at the Ludington-area plant in more than 10 years.

# Proud of staying safe Cone Drive employees go 10 years without a lost-time accident

BY KEVIN BRACISZESKI DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

PERE MARQUETTE TWP. - Cone Drive employees have now worked for more than 10 years without having an injury at work that caused them to lose time on

Company officials say it the result of creating an environment that promotes safety and the decisions made by the employees.

"I think it's the decisions and choices they make on a daily basis when they do what they do," Scott Carroll, a safety consultant who has held health and safety training sessions for Cone Drive employees once a month for the whole 10-year period of no accidents, said about how that training has helped the workers avoid accidents.

"It's pretty remarkable in this day and age," Carroll said about a factory going through 10 years with-

istee celebrates 25 years of

staller wrapping boats, chinery, air planes, build-

ings, etc. for about seven

years, where he perfected

the trade and acquired skills

that made shrink wrapping easier and more efficient.

As shrink wrapping became

more prevalent and wide-

spread, Mike saw a more pressing need for distri-

bution of premium shrink wrap and installation sup-

plies; thus his focus shifted

from being a shrink wrap

installer to a distributor. In 1992, Sternberg retreated

from the actual shrink wrap installation work to focus more on the selling and distributorship of shrink wrap

materials-and this is when

Dr. Shrink was born.

business in 2017.

out a serious accident. He provides safety training sessions at more than 100 plants and said he knows of none besides Cone Drive that have gone 10 years without a lost-time accident.

#### **ABOUT CONE DRIVE**

The local factory is located in the Pere Marquette Township Industrial Park off Sixth Street — where it's been since 1995, according to Plant Manager John Cum-

company launched in Detroit in the 1940s, Cummins said, and expanded to Traverse City in 1950. It then spread to Ludington in 1985 and was formerly located on Dowland Street before moving to the industrial park.

There are 34 employees who work at the factory, which Cummins said manufactures right angle gear reducers.

Those gear reducers, he

Dr. Shrink celebrates 25 years

a distribution company in

his home garage in Manist-

worked as a shrink wrap in- for the company was to of- in Manistee, Michigan the

advice (which he himself

had gained over the years),

innovative products, premi-

um high-quality products,

and excellent service-a "one stop shop" for all things

shrink wrap. Since 1992,

Dr. Shrink, Inc. has supplied

said, are used in a variety of ways, including conveyor systems, medical equipment, the food packaging industry and for beverage can painting.

### **SAFETY FIRST**

"We've had 10 years with no lost-time accidents in the plant," said Jack Cramer, environmental health and safety manager for Cone Drive. "I attribute that to the mindset of the employees."

That mindset, Cramer said, includes receiving the right training, working as a team, watching out for each other and understanding the work place.

The company also provides its employees with free safety equipment including gloves, ear protection, respirators for painting and even free steel-toed

"Every year a truck comes in and they get new boots whether they need them or

tomers in all markets, from

marine to industrial to wind

Dr. Shrink, Inc. is a full-

service, full-circle supplier

of premium shrink wrap

and all installation supplies

and accessories.

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not," Cummins said.

Kramer noted that many of the company's Ludington employees have also benefited from their longevity with Cone Drive, with many who have worked there for more than 30 years.

"We're a manufacturing facility and there's a lot of dangers with that," Cummins said.

He noted that employees are required to be able to lift 40 pounds, but said

the company has machinery they can use to do the heavy lifting and reduce the chances of injuries.

No serious accidents have occurred at the local plant in more than 10 years, but Cummins said the employees are trained to know what to do if something bad occurred.

"We even have medical drills at the plant," he said. "It's hands-on for the staff so if something did happen they would know where to bring the ambulance in and what to do.'

Cummins also said the whole staff is trained in CPR, first aid and in how to

operate a defibrillator. On May 12, the employees will have a chance to celebrate their good fortune and good health with a lun-

cheon planned for the plant. "Everybody is looking for ways to improve, every month," Cramer said.



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# California's solar energy set power supply

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) California met its goal to produce about half the state's electricity from renewable sources for three hours on March 11, a new estimate from the U.S. gov-

record

ernment shows. The U.S. Department of Energy's statistics division used data from the California Independent System Operator, which manages the electricity grid across 80 percent of California and part of Nevada, The San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The record was set when almost 40 percent of the electricity flowing across the grid came from largescale solar power plants.

Factor in electricity produced by area homes and businesses, and solar met about half the overall electricity demand in the middle of the day.

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