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SafeSourcing e-Newsletter

Have comments, questions, or suggestions about the SafeSourcing e-Newsletter? Let us know what you think by emailing us at the following address. We look forward to hearing from you!

events@safesourcing.com

Trivia!

What is Blind Ordering?

www.safesourcing.com

Industry News

Grocery Store Innovations!

Kroger Hopes to Change Grocery Shopping

Kroger is rolling out new technology to approximately 200 stores in 2018. It is called Kroger Edge. Currently, paper tags outline Kroger shelves, but with the new Kroger Edge the new tags will be digitally displayed, which will show pricing and nutritional information, along with video ads and coupons for various products. This new technology will allow Kroger to instantly change pricing, as well as activate promotions. Up until now, employees manually tagged the shelves.

Technology in the future will communicate with customers via smartphones to help them with their shopping list. “As you walk down the aisle, it will highlight the next item for you to pick on your shopping list. This means the shelf will light up underneath the product that shoppers are seeking.” Kroger’s Chief Information Officer, Chris Hjelm, told Business Insider that employees recently tested this function while filling customers’ online orders. Employees said it cut down on the time it took to pull a product and pack orders.

Edge will be helpful to consumers trying to locate a particular brand in a sea of identical-looking items. For instance, if you are looking for a particular bottle of wine, it will highlight it on the shelf. Currently, Edge is only available in a handful of Kroger stores. Customers must

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Recent Savings

Peppers

Savings were over 17% of total spend. ■

Nut Variety

Savings were over 21% of total spend. ■

*Please [contact SafeSourcing](#) to schedule your RISK FREE event today.

use a handheld device to communicate with the system. An app is currently being developed to work with smartphones. “Kroger is marketing and selling the technology, which was developed with Microsoft Azure, Microsoft’s cloud computing service, to other retailers globally.” ■

Haley Peterson, Business Insider, 1/17/2018

Kroger Introduces Kitchen 1883 Restaurant

Kitchen 1883 (the year Barry Kroger started his grocery chain), is Kroger’s stand-alone restaurant that recently opened in Union, Kentucky. Kitchen 1883 is adjacent to the Kroger grocery store. It is a test kitchen. If it proves successful, Kroger plans to open more restaurants in the future.

“Kroger is the nation’s largest grocery chain with more than 2,800 locations. The company is testing the waters in the restaurant industry at a time when US shoppers are seeking out prepared foods more than ever before.” The restaurant offerings will change to reflect what is in season. Prices will range from \$10 for a chicken wrap to \$18 for braised short rib dinner. Wine, beer, and cocktails will also be on the menu. Lunch and dinner will be served on weekdays, as well as brunch on Sunday. ■

Haley Peterson, Business Insider, 12/18/2017

Amazon Go Launches in Seattle

After nearly a year of promises, Amazon Go launched. There are no lines, no checkouts, and no registers. This will be a big game-changer in the retail industry. Amazon is testing the technology on a limited basis with no plans to implement this in Whole Foods. Up until now, it has remained a concept for Amazon employees only in Amazon’s Seattle campus. “Amazon calls it ‘Just Walk Out’ technology and it uses computer vision, deep learning algorithms, and sensor fusion — many of the same advances being used to develop autonomous driving.”

For the customer, they simply scan their Amazon Go app as they enter the store, pick up what they want, and walk out. The Amazon technology detects everything taken or returned to the shelf thus keeping track of a virtual shopping cart. As the customer leaves the store, their account is charged and a receipt is sent.

According to the Department of Labor, more than 3.5 million Americans held cashier jobs in 2016. Nearly 900,000 of these jobs were in grocery stores. Amazon Go eliminates the need for a cashier; however, a team of “associates” will work in the stores as food prep personnel, greeters, and stock personnel. Last year when Amazon purchased Whole Foods for \$14 billion, it became the second biggest private employer in the country behind Walmart. ■

Deirdre Bose, CNBC, 1/22/2018

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: How can I subscribe or unsubscribe to these newsletters?

A: You can subscribe or unsubscribe to these free newsletters by simply going to our [website](#), and clicking the option “e-Newsletter” or by contacting us directly at events@safesourcing.com

Q: I have run events in the past, is there any chance I could be saving more?

A: Yes. No matter when your past event ran, the team at SafeSourcing can find ways for your company to save.

Q: I want to know more about what SafeSourcing does. Who can I talk to about this?

A: You can contact a customer services representative by calling us at 1-888-261-9070 or by going to our [website](#) and trying our “Risk Free Trial” offer.

Trivia! From January 2017 Issue

What does % of Space mean?

Percentage of space requirement for short and long term is based upon forecasts, historical usage patterns, and projected changes, which depend on individual areas, such as racks, shelving, automated systems, docks, staging, offices, and support. Therefore, the percentage of space would depend on the amount of the product line and the size of the space.

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