

Copper theft sparks legislation efforts

By KATE FAZZINI

As the price of copper has risen dramatically, so has crime associated with the increasingly more precious metal. Home channel retailers have been directly affected, to the tune of millions of dollars in shoplifting thefts. But so have home channel customers.

Builders, contractors and homeowners are being targeted by copper thieves as well. Now some retailers are fighting back, and a federal response may be on the horizon.

Bryan Jacobs, director of government relations for Home Depot, now also serves as executive director of the Coalition Against Copper Theft (www.coppercoalition.com), a lobbying group formed in January and based in Washington, D.C.

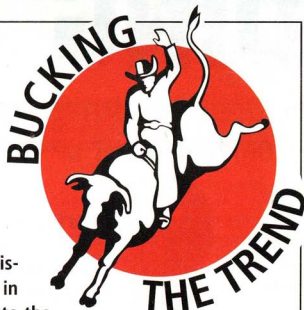
"Copper theft is fairly new, and so it's fairly difficult to put the pieces together and get a lot of statistics," Jacobs said. He cited a Department of Energy estimate that theft of copper wire alone, particularly at utility companies, costs Americans \$1 billion per year. Factor in other large copper items sold by home improvement retailers and pro dealers — pipes, appliances, decorative building materials and so on — and it's clear the issue is far reaching.

The Copper Coalition has grown to 20 members as of this writing, with a heavy retail presence. Members include the International Council of Shopping Centers, National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Retail Industry Leaders Association and the

(See *Copper*, page 38)

Orgill rides again

The Memphis-based distributor is riding high in the saddle, heading into the second half of a challenging 2008. Orgill's business momentum is fueled by sales growth in its most recent quarter, groundbreaking of a soon-to-be state of the art distribution center and a constant focus on training. But most importantly, Orgill's success is measured by the success of its customers, several of which are profiled in this special section, beginning on page 15.



Reversal brings victory to paint companies

By LISA GIRARD

The paint industry scored a major victory last month when the Rhode Island state Supreme Court reversed the first-ever jury verdict finding former lead paint companies liable for creating a public nuisance in homes across that state.

In a unanimous decision, the court ruled that Sherwin-Williams, NL Industries and Millennium Holdings — all found liable during the highly publicized 2006 trial — should not have to pay billions of dollars in cleanup costs. The 81-

(See *Paint*, page 41)

BIG STATE, SMALLER FOOTPRINT

California becomes first state to pass green building codes

By BRAE CANLEN

After more than a year of meetings, negotiations and revisions, California became the first state in the nation to incorporate green building standards into its building codes. Adopted on July 17, the new codes govern residential, commercial and public buildings. They will become mandatory in 2010, after a voluntary phase-in period.

The new green codes represent a victory for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has steadfastly opposed attempts to legislate green building or allow private entities to take over state authority in health and safety issues. Instead, Schwarzenegger issued an executive order that resulted in the development of the new statewide standards, which focus on water and energy



SOCAL FRAMING A mandate to use certified wood in residential projects was scrapped over a dispute involving certification standards.

savings, indoor air quality and the use of recycled and renewable building materials to reduce the carbon footprint. (See *Codes*, page 40)

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