

Import Ban Doesn't Stop Chiquita

Despite sanctions, banana company will sell fruit in Russia via Ecuador

Russian Runaround.

Chiquita Brands may be a U.S. company, but it won't be impacted by Putin's sanctions against U.S. foods. Chiquita's bananas are sourced mostly through traders from primarily Ecuador, and of course Ecuador is not in the list of sanction countries. In fact, Chiquita is likely to benefit from these sanctions because they anticipate Russia will consume more bananas over the next month if the sanctions go to play, because it replaces many fruits that are going to become scarce in the country.

Online Burials. Coming soon: the ability to book cemetery plots. Matthews International is at the initial stages of an electronic ordering side, with about 80 customers who are online. Some of its larger funeral services customers are anxious to get on and between their challenges of



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The Business Roundup

integration and availability of capacity, it's more challenging than initially thought. Still, Matthews International expects to offer the ability to order burials online in 12-24 months.

Easy Access. Choice Hotels announces a partnership with Ford Motor Company to become the first hotel company to offer drivers of select Ford vehicles the ability to search for and make hotel reservations hands-free

without taking their hands off the steering wheel.

Texas Welcome. Jones Soda is coming to Texas. The soda brand secured its first statewide distributor, Republic National Distributing Company, and the beverage brand has already arrived in Dallas and the Houston, and will soon come to Austin, and then San Antonio.

Quick Stop. Chevron's Game Day Chef Challenge seeks yummy go-to game day recipes, with a hook — it must include a food or beverage item purchased from a Chevron or Texaco station. Contestants must also include a photo of the receipt from these purchased items. There are 2,600 Chevron and Texaco branded locations participating in the Game Day Chef Challenge in Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington.

Quick Take. Photo platform Shutterstock reports its customers downloaded 31.5 million images in the quarter, or four images per second. Three years ago, it had zero customers paying more than \$100,000 per year. Today, it has over 20. Three years ago, it had less than 150 customers paying more than \$10,000 per year. Today, it has more than 500.

Locked Up. States are locking up more inmates. Tennessee has seen an increased of over 1,400 inmates over the last 3 years; Oklahoma has seen an increased of 1,000 inmates over the last 2 years, and Arizona has seen an increase in their system by 1,100 inmates over a last 12 months, reports Corrections of America's. There are 200,000 public sector prison beds in operation today that are in facilities that are 75 to 100 years old.

Cover Up. Apparently the new way to lose weight is to throw on a blanket. Medifast is introducing an infrared blanket that is designed to maintain a consistent and comfortable body temperature throughout the night. "Restful sleep is vitally important to your health and overall weight management and is essential to waking up refreshed and motivated each day," says Medifast's Michael MacDonald.

Horton Who? Tim Hortons is launching its single-serve branded coffee at major grocery sellers in Canada. The restaurant chain also plans to open up 25 locations in New York and New Jersey.

Larissa Faw covers business trends for Forbes, The Motley Fool and other outlets. Contact her at larissafaw@gmail.com.

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