

This Week's Top Stories in Retail

January 30, 2009

Report: Best Buy CEO Eyes Bankrupt Retailer Locations

(January 29, 2009) Best Buy Co. said on Thursday that it could take advantage of bankruptcies in the sector by snapping up vacant store locations, but it remains cautious as consumer spending continues to slide, according to a Reuters report.

Economy to Slow Valentine's Day Spending

Washington, D.C. (January 29, 2009) Consumers plan to spend an average \$102.50 on Valentine's gifts and merchandise, down from \$122.98 per person last year, according to The National Retail Federation's 2009 Valentine's Day Consumer Intentions and Actions survey, conducted by BIGresearch.

Sephora to Open Second Albany Area Store

Albany, N.Y. (January 29, 2009) Sephora will boost its presence in the Albany, N.Y., region with a boutique store located inside J.C. Penney at Crossgates Mall.

Rite Aid Same-Store Sales Up 1% in Jan.

Camp Hill, Pa. (January 29, 2009) Rite Aid Corp. said Thursday its same-store sales grew 1% in January due to better results from its name brand pharmacies.

1-800-Flowers to Lay Off 10% of Work Force

Carle Place, N.Y. (January 29, 2009) 1-800-Flowers.com said on Thursday that it is eliminating 10% of its work force due to the decline in consumer demand.

Wet Seal Cuts Management, Corporate Jobs

Foothill Ranch, Calif. (January 29, 2009) Wet Seal Inc. said Wednesday it has eliminated 41 management and corporate jobs beginning in fiscal 2009.

Report: Week-Over-Week Sales Rise 10.5%

Chicago (January 29, 2009) ShopperTrak's National Retail Sales Estimate reported that retail sales for the week ending Jan. 24 declined 4.1%, as compared to the same period 2008.

Starbucks to Slash 6,700 Jobs, Close 300 Stores

New York City (January 29, 2009) Starbucks Corp. plans to slash nearly 7,000 more jobs during a new round of store closures and other cuts, the company said as it reported Wednesday a profit drop of more than two-thirds in its fiscal first quarter.

Weis Markets CEO Appointed to Board

Sunbury, Pa. (January 29, 2009) Weis Markets announced that its president and CEO David J. Hepfingher has been appointed to the company's board of directors. Hepfingher replaces recently retired company CEO Norman S. Rich

Bon-Ton to Cut 1,150 Jobs, Bonuses

York, Pa. (January 29, 2009) Bon-Ton Stores Inc. said Thursday that it will eliminate about 1,150 jobs, get rid of 2008 senior executive bonuses and cut 2009 merit-based raises as it tries to slash costs to contend with the ongoing recession.

Chico's President Leaves Company

New York City (January 29, 2009) Chico's FAS Inc. said in a filing that its Chico's brand president Michele M. Cloutier has left the company.

Michaels Stores to Lay Off 100 Employees

Dallas (January 28, 2009) Michaels Stores plans to lay off about 100 employees at its corporate headquarters in Irving, Texas according to the Dallas Business Journal.

Former TJX CFO Reappointed to Role

Framingham, Mass. (January 28, 2009) The TJX Cos. said Wednesday that Jeffrey Naylor will resume the role of CFO following the current CFO's resignation.

Advance Auto Parts Names President, COO

Roanoke, Va. (January 28, 2009) Advance Auto Parts has appointed Jim Wade to serve as president and Kevin Freeland to serve as COO.

Merchandising Chief Named for Old Navy

San Francisco (January 28, 2009) Gap Inc. has named Mark Breitbard to the newly created role of chief merchandising and creative officer of Old Navy.

Pacific Sunwear Announces Cuts

Anaheim, Calif. (January 28, 2009) Pacific Sunwear of California Inc. said Wednesday it will cut 57 jobs or about 11% of its headquarters and field management staff, as part of a cost-cutting effort amid the weakening retail environment.

Tractor Supply Co. 4Q Sales Up 10.5%

Brentwood, Tenn. (January 28, 2009) Tractor Supply Co. reported that net sales in its fourth quarter increased 10.5% to \$799.5 million, from \$723.3 million in the prior year's fourth quarter.

Cabelas Board Member Resigns

Sidney, Neb. (January 28, 2009) Cabelas Inc. announced that Stephen P. Murray resigned from its board of directors, effective Jan. 20. He joined the board in December 2005.

Report: Best Buy to Layoff at Headquarters

New York City (January 28, 2009) A spokeswoman for Best Buy Co. Inc. said the chain will lay off workers in its corporate headquarters because not enough employees opted to take a voluntary buyout, according to the Associated Press.

Target to Reduce Headquarters Work Force by 9%

Minneapolis (January 28, 2009) Target said late Tuesday it will reduce the work force at its headquarters locations by approximately 9%, including about 600 employees and 400 open positions.

Asda to Create 7,000 Jobs

London (January 28, 2009) Asda, Britain's second-biggest grocer, plans to create about 7,000 jobs this year and committed to recruiting up to 3,000 long-term unemployed people for existing vacancies.

Tuesday Morning Struggles in Q2

Dallas (January 27, 2009) Tuesday Morning reported Tuesday that net sales for the second quarter of fiscal 2009, ended Dec. 31, 2008, dropped 11.7% to \$272.7 million, compared to

\$308.7 million a year ago. Net income for the quarter was \$12.7 million, compared to \$20.5 million for the same quarter in 2008.

Discount Grocer Opens in Provo

Carson, Calif. (January 27, 2009) No-frills grocer Buy Low Market opened its first Utah store on Tuesday.

Linens 'n Things Name Lives On

Northbrook, Ill. (January 27, 2009) Linens 'n Things, which closed its doors at the end of 2008, is getting a second chance after two investment firms agreed to purchase the retailer's name and logo for \$1 million.

Michaels to Outsource Select Functions

Irving, Texas (January 27, 2009) Michaels Stores has reached an agreement with Tata Consultancy Services to co-source various functions, initially including portions of the retailer's IT, information services and accounts payable functions.

Wal-Mart's Tender Offer De-Lists D&S

Bentonville, Ark. (January 27, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores confirmed Tuesday in a company statement that the New York Stock Exchange has suspended trading of the American Depository Shares of Distribucion y Servicio D&S S.A.

Target to Cut Jobs

Minneapolis (January 27, 2009) Target Corp. said that it will cut an undisclosed number of jobs in response to the weak economic environment.

Consumer Confidence Continues to Slip

New York City (January 27, 2009) The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index, which had decreased in December, inched lower in January and continues to be at a historic low. The Index now stands at 37.7 (1985=100), down from 38.6 in December.

True Religion Opens New Fla. Store

Vernon, Calif. (January 27, 2009) True Religion Apparel said Tuesday that it opened a store at the Mall at Millenia, in Orlando, Fla.

NRF Sees Sales Decline for 2009, With Second Half Growth

Washington D.C. (January 27, 2009) As consumers continue to shift their spending habits, the National Retail Federation predicted Tuesday that retail industry sales will decrease 0.5% from last year.

Advance Auto Names New Execs

Roanoke, Va. (January 27, 2009) Advance Auto Parts named Jim Wade as president. Wade, who previously served as the company's executive VP, will be responsible for the chain's customer-focused and sales functions, and will execute the company's commercial expansion and DIY strategies.

Cub Foods to Seek LEED Gold

New York City (January 27, 2009) Cub Foods is seeking LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification for its new store in St. Paul, Minn.

Destination Maternity Reports Q1 Loss

Philadelphia (January 27, 2009) Destination Maternity said Tuesday that net sales for the first fiscal quarter, ended Dec. 31, 2008, decreased 5.6% to \$134.8 million, from \$142.9 million for the same time frame a year ago.

Kroger Recommends Rejection of Mini-Tender Offer

Cincinnati (January 27, 2009) Kroger Co., the latest company targeted with an unsolicited tender offer, is recommending that its shareholders reject a recent "mini-tender" bid.

Waldenbooks Closes Store in Cincinnati

Cincinnati (January 26, 2009) The Waldenbooks store at Kenwood Towne Centre in Cincinnati has closed, following the shuttering of sister locations downtown and in Springdale, Ohio.

CVS Opens in Downtown Honolulu

Honolulu (January 26, 2009) CVS CarePlus Pharmacy has opened its first store in downtown Honolulu, at Restaurant Row.

Hhgregg Continues to Accept Circuit City Card

Indianapolis (January 26, 2009) Consumer electronics retailer hhgregg Inc. said on Monday that it will continue to honor Circuit City gift cards until April and will create a service to deal with warrantied products purchased at its fallen competitor.

Jewelry Chain to Change Name

Portland, Ore. (January 26, 2009) Littman Jewelers stores throughout Tennessee will change their name to Fred Meyer Jewelers, effective Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Jones Apparel Mulls Lay Offs

Bristol, Pa. (January 26, 2009) Jones Apparel Group said last week that it may resort to layoffs as part of a plan to cut \$33 million in annual expenses, and will take an \$840 million fourth-quarter charge related to the decline of the company's stock price.

OfficeMax Debuts C-Store-Styled Concept

Naperville, Ill. (January 26, 2009) OfficeMax Inc. is testing a new store concept, called "Ink Paper Scissors by OfficeMax," in three locations in the greater Seattle region.

McDonalds to Expand in Europe

Oak Brook, Ill. (January 26, 2009) McDonalds Corp. has plans to expand throughout Europe this year, according to the International Business Times.

Court Denies Whole Foods Motion Against FTC

Austin, Texas (January 26, 2009) A Washington, D.C., appeals court on Friday denied a motion by Whole Foods Market against the Federal Trade Commission.

Walgreens Names CEO

Deerfield, Ill. (January 26, 2009) Walgreen Co. has selected an insider, president and COO Gregory D. Wasson, as its new CEO.

Home Depot to Shutter Expo, Cut Jobs

Atlanta (January 26, 2009) The Home Depot Inc. said Monday it will cut 7,000 jobs, or about

2% of its work force, as it shuts its Expo home design centers business and cuts down on corporate support staff.

Global Facility Names New Exec

Great Neck, N.Y. (January 29, 2009) Global Facility Management & Construction announced that Susan Dykman (formerly Susan Macedo, VP of Whelan's International) has joined the firm as an executive VP.

FTC Grants Whole Foods' Request to Suspend Action

Washington, D.C. (January 29, 2009) The Federal Trade Commission on Thursday agreed to suspend part of its challenge against Whole Foods Markets Inc. to discuss possible settlements over its acquisition of Wild Oats.

Best Buy Expands Recycling Initiative

Minneapolis (January 23, 2009) Best Buy Co. will bring its electronics recycling program Feb. 15 to all of its 1,006 stores nationwide. The program will expand sometime in fiscal 2010 to Puerto Rico stores.

Sephora to Open Times Square Flagship

New York City (January 23, 2009) Sephora will open a 12,000-sq.-ft., three-level flagship in New York City's Times Square. It reportedly will be modeled after the beauty retailer's hugely popular flagship on the Champs Elysees in Paris.

Harris Teeter to Open DC in Virginia

Matthews, N.C. (January 23, 2009) Harris Teeter will open its first food distribution center in Virginia's King George County.

Report: Barneys for Sale

New York City (January 23, 2009) Barneys New York may be on the selling block, yet again. Not even two years after purchasing the luxury retailer, Dubai-based investment fund Istithmar World is rumored to be looking to rid itself of the company, according to reports on Bloomberg News.

No Bonuses for Starbucks Executives

New York City (January 23, 2009) Howard Schultz, chairman and chief executive of Starbucks Corp., and other top executives at the specialty coffee chain did not receive a bonus in 2008, a year in which the company shuttered more than 600 stores and reported sliding sales amid a deepening recession.

Wal-Mart Confirms Successful Tender Offer for Chilean Retailer

Bentonville, Ark. (January 23, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores said Friday that its tender offer to acquire Distribucion y Servicio D&S S.A., Chile's largest food retailer, was successful.