

This Week's Top Stories in Retail

April 24, 2009

Report: H&M to open 225 stores this year

Stockholm, Sweden (April 23, 2009) H&M reported that it is on track to open 225 stores this year, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Report: Bigg's fuel program awards more than \$1M in perks

Milford, Ohio (April 23, 2009) In its effort to ease pain at the pump, grocer bigg's continues to award shoppers with fuel discounts through its Pump Perks program -- a service that has helped the chain give away more than \$1 million in gasoline over the last four months, according to a report on Cincinnati.com.

McDonald's earns coveted LEED Platinum status

Oak Brook, Ill. (April 23, 2009) McDonald's celebrated Earth Day on Wednesday by announcing that its corporate headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill., had attained Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Carrefour launches low-cost private-label brand

Paris (April 23, 2009) In hopes of retaining the loyalty, and discretionary dollars, of cost-conscious shoppers, Carrefour announced Wednesday that it will offer a low-cost private-label line of grocery merchandise.

Home Depot opens DC in Ga.

Atlanta (April 23, 2009) The Home Depot opened a 657,000-sq.-ft. rapid deployment center in Lowndes County, Ga.

Report: J.C. Penney to open fewer stores next year

Dallas (April 23, 2009) J.C. Penney Co. said it expects to open fewer than five stores in 2010, according to the Dallas Business Journal.

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Boston Proper launches new e-commerce site

Boca Raton, Fla. (April 23, 2009) Multichannel specialty retailer Boston Proper upgraded its online store, which now includes next-generation user interfaces and marketing tools.

Crate & Barrel renews contract with third-party delivery service

Northbrook, Ill. (April 23, 2009) Crate & Barrel said Wednesday that it renewed its contract with Westerville, Ohio-based supply chain management company Excel Direct, and plans to use the company's delivery and assembly services for another two years.

Gander Mountain increases Q4 revenues, hits record sales

St. Paul, Minn. (April 23, 2009) Gander Mountain reported late Wednesday that its consolidated sales were \$334 million for the fiscal fourth quarter, ended Jan. 31, a 5.2% increase from \$317.6 million for the same quarter last year.

Claire's sales decline for Q4

Pembroke Pines, Fla. (April 23, 2009) Claire's Stores blamed a decline in same-store sales and the

negative impact of foreign currency exchange rates for a drop in both fourth quarter and fiscal 2008 earnings.

Supervalu reports Q4 loss

Minneapolis (April 23, 2009) Supervalu reported Thursday a net loss of \$201 million for fiscal fourth quarter 2009, ended Feb. 28, including a one-time charge for acquisition-related costs of \$9 million.

Sears helps consumers reduce household carbon footprint

Hoffman Estates, Ill. (April 23, 2009) Sears Holdings said Thursday it is launching new online services to help its shoppers reduce the carbon footprint in their own homes.

Wal-Mart increases spend in minority-owned companies

Bentonville, Ark. (April 23, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores said Thursday that it expanded its business with minority- and women-owned companies by more than 25% in 2008, totaling \$8.1 billion.

Pantry CEO to retire

Sanford, N.C. (April 23, 2009) Independent convenience store chain The Pantry announced Thursday that its chairman and CEO Peter Sodini will retire from the company when his contract expires on Sept. 30.

Peapod expands service into Madison, Wis.

Chicago (April 23, 2009) Less than two weeks after Albertsons discontinued its home delivery service, Peapod announced it expanded its delivery program to Madison, Wis.

RILA lobbies for reform of U.S. trade programs

Arlington, Va. (April 23, 2009) The Retail Industry Leaders Association led a coalition of non-governmental organizations and U.S. businesses urging Congress to review and reform preference programs that support trade liberalization for developing countries.

RadioShack profit up 11% in Q1

Fort Worth, Texas (April 23, 2009) RadioShack reported strong first-quarter earnings on Thursday, as net income rose 11% to \$ 43.1 million, vs. \$38.8 million for the year-ago period.

Tractor Supply Co. same-store sales up 4.2% in Q1

Brentwood, Tenn. (April 22, 2009) Tractor Supply Co.'s net sales in the first quarter increased 12.8% to \$650.2 million, from \$576.2 million last year.

Safeway previews new green store

Pleasanton, Calif. (April 22, 2009) Safeway gave a sneak preview of its "green" store design in Santa Cruz, Calif., on Wednesday, Earth Day.

Giant Food names VP construction, maintenance

Carlisle, Pa. (April 22, 2009) Giant Food Stores has named Wayne MacLeod to serve as VP construction and maintenance.

Study: Online shopping is better for environment

Pittsburgh (April 22, 2009) A new study by Carnegie Mellon University's Green Design Institute found that shopping online via Buy.com's e-commerce model reduces environmental impact with 35% less energy consumption and carbon-dioxide emissions than what is produced in the traditional retail-shopping model.

Wal-Mart to add 3,000 jobs in N.C.

Bentonville, Ark. (April 22, 2009) Wal-Mart plans to add 3,000 jobs in North Carolina this year, according to the Charlotte Business Journal.

Harris Teeter plans LEED store

Matthews, N.C. (April 22, 2009) Harris Teeter will open its first store that will seek Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification on May 6, in Charlottesville, Va.

Pharmacies to make Rx info available in different languages

New York City (April 22, 2009) Customers at about 700 pharmacies in New York State will soon be able to obtain information about their prescription drugs in five languages including English, according to published reports.

Wal-Mart to expand solar-power program in Calif.

Bentonville, Ark. (April 22, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores, as part of its commitment to accelerate and broaden its sustainability efforts, announced Wednesday it is expanding its solar-power program in California.

Cato announces management changes

Charlotte, N.C. (April 22, 2009) The Cato Corp. announced Wednesday that Allen Weinstein, executive VP, chief merchandise officer has retired effective April 17.

Kohl's launches new exclusive brand

Menomonee Falls, Wis. (April 22, 2009) Kohl's Corp. has teamed up with Lauren Conrad, star of the popular MTV reality show "The Hills," in the exclusive launch of LC Lauren Conrad, a contemporary lifestyle brand that will be introduced in the women's department in approximately 300 Kohl's stores and on Kohls.com this October.

Destination Maternity reports Q2 loss

Philadelphia (April 22, 2009) Destination Maternity Corp. reported a net loss for the second quarter of fiscal 2009, ended March 31, of \$1.9 million, which included a \$3.4 million non-cash goodwill impairment charge, compared with a net loss of \$0.4 million last year.

McDonald's Q1 profit rises nearly 4%

Oakbrook, Ill. (April 22, 2009) McDonald's Corp. said Wednesday that its first-quarter profit climbed nearly 4% as more customers worldwide sought out its restaurants for an affordable meal.

Whole Foods extends commitment to renewable power, energy efficiency

Austin, Texas (April 22, 2009) Whole Foods Market Tuesday announced a comprehensive energy commitment that more than triples the number of stores with solar panels, extending its commitment to offset 100% of its use of non-renewable electricity with wind energy, and investing in energy-reduction opportunities while retrofitting existing stores with energy-efficient lighting, equipment and mechanical components.

Filene's Basement sold to liquidator

Columbus, Ohio (April 22, 2009) Retail Ventures has sold its Filene's Basement division to liquidation and turnaround firm Buxbaum Group, saying the Boston-area discount department store has "significant liquidity problems" and its future is uncertain.

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Report: Week-over-week retail sales fall 19.9%

Chicago (April 21, 2009) ShopperTrak announced Tuesday that its National Retail Sales Estimate recorded year-over-year retail sales for the week ending April 18 declined 11.5%, while weekly sales fell 19.9% compared with the previous week ending April 11.

NCR acquires DVD kiosk company

Dayton, Ohio (April 21, 2009) NCR Corp. on Tuesday said it has completed the purchase of TNR Holdings Corp., the second largest DVD kiosk operator in North America, according to the Dayton Business Journal.

Cost Plus to upgrade online presence

King of Prussia, Pa. (April 21, 2009) Cost Plus World Market announced a new agreement on Tuesday that will provide the retailer with an enhanced e-commerce presence.

Coach Q3 profit falls, but beats estimates

New York City (April 21, 2009) Coach Tuesday reported a 29.3% decline in third-quarter profit to \$114.9 million, hurt by the pullback in consumer discretionary spending and costs related to job cuts and store closures.

High-end, hipster store to star in reality show

Los Angeles (April 21, 2009) The uber-trendy Fred Segal store in Santa Monica, Calif., will star in a new reality show being developed for cable network Bravo.

Target rebuffs Pershing Square proposal

Minneapolis (April 21, 2009) Target Corp. said Tuesday that it would not accept Pershing Square Capital Management's call for a single ballot to elect board members, and would proceed with its own plan to give shareholders two ballots, one that lists the company's slate of nominees, and another listing Pershing Square's slate of candidates.

Report: Wal-Mart sets waste-reduction goals

New York City (April 21, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores wants to eliminate all waste by reducing, recycling or reusing everything that comes into its 4,100 American stores by 2025, and for its British operation, Asda, by 2010, according to UK Times Online.

Timberland to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by 50% by 2010

Stratham, N.H. (April 21, 2009) The Timberland Co. has issued a white paper in which it details its plans to combat global warming.

Nike adds new POS

Beaverton, Ore. (April 21, 2009) Nike announced it will launch a two-year rollout of a new point-of-sale system to all 150 stores across the United States and Canada, followed by a conversion of systems in the company's stores in the Asia-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Dunkin Donuts' supplier adds enterprise distribution portal

Bellingham, Mass. (April 21, 2009) National DCP, which services over 6,000 Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin Robbins outlets worldwide, is now using an enterprise portal to streamline inventory management and order fulfillment operations within its regional distribution centers.

American Greetings sells retail business

Cleveland (April 21, 2009) American Greetings Corp. has agreed to sell its retail business to Schurman Fine Papers, which operates card and gift retail stores under the name Papyrus.

Ann Taylor launches energy-conservation program

New York City (April 21, 2009) Ann Taylor Stores Corp. said Tuesday it is reaffirming the company's commitment to the environment through the launch of a new energy-conservation program in conjunction with Earth Day.

Tesco annual profit up 1.7%, but U.S. venture down

London (April 21, 2009) Tesco Plc on Tuesday reported that its net profit rose 1.7% to 2.17 billion pounds (\$3.15 billion) for the year ending Feb. 28, from 2.12 billion pounds (\$3.08 billion) in the previous year.

Wal-Mart China management restructuring hits stumbling block

Beijing (April 21, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores' plans to restructure its Chinese work force ran into a snag, the company said Tuesday.

NACDS elects board of directors

Palm Beach, Fla. (April 21, 2009) The National Association of Chain Drug Stores elected its 2009-2010 board of directors' officers this past weekend at its annual meeting.

Glass stepping down from Wal-Mart board

Bentonville, Ark. (April 21, 2009) Wal-Mart announced Monday that David Glass, the former president and CEO of Wal-Mart Stores, is stepping down from the company's board of directors.

Diedrich Coffee swings to profit in Q3

Irvine, Calif. (April 21, 2009) Diedrich Coffee announced on Tuesday its operating results for its third quarter ended March 4.

Wal-Mart's Scott received \$7.93 million in '08

New York City (April 21, 2009) Lee Scott, who retired as the president and CEO of Wal-Mart Stores in January, received compensation valued at \$7.93 million in 2008, according to an Associated Press calculation of figures disclosed in a regulatory filing late Monday.

Destination Maternity to expand into India

Philadelphia (April 21, 2009) Destination Maternity Corp. announced on Tuesday its planned expansion into India through an international franchise agreement with Mahindra Retail, part of the Mahindra Group.

Best Buy closing in on U.K. sites for expansion

London (April 21, 2009) Property industry sources in the United Kingdom told Reuters on Monday that Best Buy is closing in on a range of possible sites in southern England and Wales, with the intent to launch stores in the United Kingdom next spring.

Raley's joins EPA environmental partnership

West Sacramento, Calif. (April 20, 2009) Raley's Family of Fine Stores has joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's GreenChill Advanced Refrigeration Partnership and voluntarily committed to reducing refrigerant emissions to help fight climate change and protect the Earth's ozone layer.

Wegmans tests larger grocery carts

Pittsford, N.Y. (April 20, 2009) Wegmans Food Markets is testing wider shopping carts at a store in Pittsford, N.Y.

RILA names VP global supply chain policy

Arlington, Va. (April 20, 2009) The Retail Industry Leaders Association announced that Kelly Kolb has joined the association as VP global supply chain policy.

Mother's Day spending to drop 4%

New York City (April 20, 2009) Nine out of 10 consumers (90%) are still planning to celebrate Mother's Day this year, according to a Brand Key's survey.

Wal-Mart loses top spot on Fortune 500 list

New York City (April 20, 2009) Exxon Mobile Corp. has unseated Wal-Mart Stores on the 2009 Fortune 500 list.

Publix expands data warehouse

Lakeland, Fla. (April 20, 2009) Publix Supermarkets is expanding its enterprise data warehouse to accommodate the company's growth and more complex analytical needs.

Circle K streamlines, secures card payments

Tempe, Ariz. (April 20, 2009) In effort to speed up the checkout experience, Circle K is now accepting MasterCard PayPass at select stores across the nation.

Whole Foods Market offers eco-friendly paper bags

Austin (April 20, 2009) Whole Foods Market Monday announced that it is the first national retailer to offer Forest Stewardship Council-certified paper bags at its checkout counters beginning in May.

Gap makes newest brand available online

San Francisco (April 20, 2009) Gap Friday announced that its newest brand, Athleta, is now available through the company's online platform.

PriceSmart announces newest location

San Diego (April 20, 2009) PriceSmart Monday announced that on April 17, it opened its fifth warehouse club in Costa Rica.

Office Depot offers free services

Boca Raton, Fla. (April 20, 2009) Office Depot is offering customers free copies of resumes and free faxing from April 19 to May 30.

Nordstrom opens in Peabody, Mass.

Seattle (April 20, 2009) Nordstrom Friday opened the doors to its new store at Northshore Mall in Peabody, Mass.

Report: McDonald's CEO sees some "thawing" in economy

Chicago (April 20, 2009) The chief executive of McDonald's said he did not see a quick end to the recession, but that he did see some "thawing," according to Reuters.

S&P downgrades department stores

New York City (April 20, 2009) Standard & Poor's Ratings Service has reduced the debt ratings of many of the nation's major department stores amid deepening worries about the U.S. recession's impact on the category.

Oracle to acquire Sun Microsystems

Redwood Shores, Calif. (April 20, 2009) Oracle Corp. said Monday that it will acquire Santa Clara, Calif.-based computing-systems provider Sun Microsystems in a cash transaction that is valued at approximately \$7.4 billion.

Investor group buys six Balducci's locations

Bethesda, Md. (April 17, 2009) An investor group led by Jim Demme has acquired certain retail locations and related operations from gourmet specialty-food retailer Balducci's LLC.

Report: Filene's Basement up for sale

Boston (April 17, 2009) Filene's Basement is being put up for sale.

Kmart to lay off 71 in Raleigh

Raleigh, N.C. (April 17, 2009) Kmart Corp. is laying off 71 employees at one of its Wake County stores in North Carolina, according to a notification the company filed with the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Duckwall-ALCO profit down in Q4

Abilene, Kan. (April 17, 2009) Duckwall-ALCO Stores on Friday reported a fourth-quarter net loss of \$715,000.