

Business Pulse

Continued from page 7C

Don explained to board members that the current city and county property taxes for the site in question are \$6,685. Based on estimates for the type of hotel that will be constructed, local property taxes are projected to rise to \$198,270 once the hotel is complete. The estimated difference is more than \$191,000 in tax.

I don't want to bore you with all the technical issues associated with the TIF program, but the goal is to get the hotel property tax to stay at its current level of \$6,685 for many years down the road. This will provide a tax incentive for a person who will be investing millions of dollars into our community.

Don estimates about 70 percent of the work has already been done to get the property eligible for the TIF program. He says while this is a new endeavor for the local IDB, it's something the state does regularly and he's confident it will be achieved. When that happens, we'll be one step closer to a Hampton Inn.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH NEWELL?

Years ago, it was called Oster and got its start in Warren County way back in 1959. After decades of operation as Oster, the company was sold and became Jarden.

More than a year ago, another acquisition took place and Jarden was purchased by Newell Brands, which now operates two large facilities right here in McMinnville.

I provide that little bit of history because many folks don't realize Newell Brands has a strong pres-



Newell Brands occupies this facility at 904 Red Road in the building that used to be AquaTech.



The longtime Oster location at 150 Cadillac Lane was first bought by Jarden and is now Newell Brands.

ence in town. And that's why Thursday's major announcement was especially attention-grabbing.

For those who may have missed it, Newell said it will be selling about half its manufacturing plants and cutting its customer base in half. This top-to-bottom restructuring comes amid disappointing sales and profits. Three members of the Newell board of directors resigned Thursday.

Trying to determine what might happen to the two local facilities is pure speculation at this point. Newell probably doesn't know itself as the company said it would begin the evaluation process immediately with a goal of finishing by the end of 2019. That's almost two years away.

From what I understand from super-secret sources, the two facilities in McMinnville still fall under what the company calls its Oster Division, which is appliances and cookware. This division is supposedly stable and is not expected to be altered like some of the other Newell segments.

Newell manufactures



Jennifer Lopez dries an SUV after it emerges from the tunnel automatic wash at Village Car Wash.

well-known products such as Rubbermaid and Sharpie. When Newell combined with Jarden, the company had a worldwide workforce of

some 45,000 employees.

The restructuring news spooked investors and sent Newell stock plummeting over 20 percent Thursday. The stock

rebounded with about a 2 percent gain Friday, but it's still less than half its value from this summer.

Newell Brands is based in Hoboken, N.J.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS

Good luck on all your business endeavors. Phone in all your latest business tips to 473-2191.



The Industrial Development Board is working on a Tax Increment Financing program for the vacant property which used to house the old River Park Hospital building. This program will provide property tax relief for a developer who says he wants to construct a Hampton Inn there.

Toys R Us set to close 180 stores

NEW YORK (AP) — Toys R Us, squeezed by Amazon.com and huge chains like Walmart, will close 180 stores, or about 20 percent of its U.S. locations, within months. Hobbled by \$5 billion in debt, the company that

once dominated toy sales in the U.S. filed for bankruptcy protection in September.

Chairman and CEO Dave Brandon said in a letter Wednesday that tough decisions are required to save Toys R Us.

Toys R Us operates about 900 stores in the U.S.

The store closings will begin in February and the majority of the targeted locations will go dark by mid-April. At some other locations, the retailer is combining its Toys R Us and Babies R Us stores.

Toys R Us, based in Wayne, New Jersey, has struggled with debt since private-equity firms Bain Capital, KKR & Co. and Vornado Realty Trust took it private in a \$6.6 billion leveraged buyout in 2005.

The plan had been to take the company public again, but weak sales have prevented that from happening.

While its numbers have been shrinking, Toys R Us still sells about 20 percent of the toys bought in the U.S. according to Stephanie Wissink, an analyst at Jefferies LLC.

Competitive pressures will force the company to take a close look at all of its stores, and more will likely be shuttered over the next year or two, Wissink said.

Toys R Us reigned supreme in the 1980s and early 1990s, when it was one of the first of the "category killers" — a store totally devoted to one thing: toys. Its scale gave it leverage with toy sellers and it disrupted general merchandise stores and mom-and-pop shops.

Now Toys R Us and other category killers like the now-defunct Sports

Authority, Borders and Circuit City, are being upended by a new force: Amazon.com.

GlobalData Retail estimates that about 13.7 percent of toy sales were made online in 2016, up from 6.5 percent five years ago.

Toys R Us has been hurt by a shift to mobile devices as well, which take up more and more play time.

About three dozen retailers sought bankruptcy protection last year due in large part to a radical shift in consumer behavior, both in where they shop, and what they buy.

Toys R Us closed its flagship store in Manhattan's Times Square, a huge tourist destination, about two years ago.

The struggles of Toys R Us have rippled outward and rumors continue to swirl around the possibility of a merger between Mattel and Hasbro, the nation's largest toy makers.

Wissink estimates that Toys R Us accounts for about 11 percent of Mattel's annual sales and about 9 percent of Hasbro's annual volume. Shares of both Mattel Inc. and Hasbro Inc. slipped in early trading.

Brandon said Wednesday that the company made some missteps during the critical holiday shopping season.

"As the leader of this company, I want you to know that we can and will address the gaps in the experience that you may have had when shopping this holiday," Brandon said. "My team is already hard at work to make the improvements necessary to ensure that we have the products you want, when, where and how you want them."



Riverview Terrace

assisted living
by Americare

Best Little Hidden Restaurant In Town



Monda Nichols (Dining Services Coordinator) & Mr. Art Gunning



24591

Restaurant quality food.
Made from scratch meals.
Individually made desserts.
We follow Very High Standards set by Americare for food prep.
We have vegetarian meals available.
Resident requested meals, from Frog Legs to Stir Fry.
One day per week a resident plans the meal for the day for us to prepare, sometimes using their own recipes if requested.
We have catered to our local Law Enforcement department, Fire Department and even Local Doctors and their staff.

Our goal is for our residents to eat & enjoy all of their meals each day.

114 Highland Drive • McMinnville, TN 37110 • 931.473.2033 • www.americausa.net