

Business Pulse

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Lumber, commodes and some fixtures were being removed Friday with complete demolition expected in the very near future.

The property is being cleared in hopes of finding a new commercial tenant. A family-style restaurant has been mentioned as one possibility. At this point, I'm hoping for just about anything except another liquor store.

Longtime McMinnville residents will remember the building as the old Cowan Oldham Theater, which opened on Oct. 23, 1973 and featured 256 plush seats.

In a 1973 edition of the *Standard*, an article talked about the optimism surrounding the Cowan Oldham Theater despite the growing popularity of TV.

WALMART WORKERS GET COLD CASH

If you're a Walmart



Extensive renovation work has taken place at this building at 1111 Sparta Street. Martin Macias says the goal is to open Rafael's Italian Restaurant there later this month.

employee, there's great news. More than 890,000 Walmart associates are receiving a share of more than \$560 million in total cash bonuses, including a one-time cash bonus that's tied to recent changes in U.S. tax law.

According to information provided by the company, about \$15 million of those bonuses will go to Walmart associates in Tennessee. The bonuses were included in Thursday, March 8 paychecks.

In case you're wondering, I asked the corporate spokesman how much of the \$15 million was distributed to Walmart employees in McMinnville

and was told the company can't release market-specific numbers.

But I was told Walmart operates 155 retail locations and has 41,344 associates in Tennessee. In addition, Walmart spent \$5.5 billion with Tennessee suppliers in fiscal year 2016, which went to support 49,453 more jobs.

On a worldwide basis, Walmart says it services more than 260 million customers each week in 28 countries. It operates over 11,600 stores around the globe. Go Walmart!

GREAT START TO 2018

On the heels of an unbelievable 2017 in terms of unemployment, Tennessee continues to party like a rock star when it comes to jobs in 2018.

The state reported Thursday the unemployment rate for January remained at 3.3 percent

for the fifth straight month. Tennessee statewide unemployment has been below 4 percent since May 2017.

"To have this long stretch of low unemployment in Tennessee is a true testament to the economic climate in the state," Gov. Bill Haslam said. "Many employers continue to tap into the Tennessee's talented workforce, and Tennessee will lead in job creation by continuing to focus on workforce development."

The national unemployment rate also remained steady in January, mirroring the December 2017 rate of 4.1 percent.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS

If you haven't done so already, don't forget to spring your clocks ahead one hour. Email business tips to editor@southern-standard.com.



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