



## Toys R Us to close

**NEW YORK (AP)** — For decades, children ran down the sprawling aisles of Toys R Us in awe of the Barbies, the bikes and other toys laid out in front of them. Parents lined up for the latest Christmas fad, even if it meant standing in the rain. And, of course, there was that jingle that bored into your brain: “I don’t wanna grow up, I’m a Toys R Us kid ...”

But all of that looks as if it’s coming to an end.

Toys R Us is going out of business in the U.S., announcing plans Wednesday to close or sell its 735 stores across the country, including its Babies R Us stores, in a move that jeopardizes more than 30,000 jobs.

The superstore chain could no longer bear the weight of its heavy debt load and relentless trends that hurt its business, namely competition from the likes of Amazon, discounters like Walmart, and mobile games.



## State workers fall for phishing

**LANSING, MICH. (AP)** — Michigan auditors who conducted a fake “phishing” attack on 5,000 randomly selected state employees said Friday nearly one-third opened the email, a quarter clicked on the link and almost one-fifth entered their user ID and password.

The covert operation was done as part of an audit that uncovered weaknesses in the state government’s computer network, including that not all workers are required to participate in cybersecurity awareness training. Phishing schemes, in which hackers try to deceive email recipients by posing as legitimate entities, can lead to identity theft and other problems.

Phishing was how Russian-linked players stole the emails of Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign chairman John Podesta.

# New industry raising the roof



I’d like to start today’s column with a warm welcome to Union Corrugating, Warren County’s newest industry. The business, headquartered in Fayetteville, N.C., now has 11 locations around the United States ranging from Oklahoma City to Scranton, Penn.

Union Corrugating has found a home in the old S&S Industries building behind Medley’s Diner in Morrison. It’s a 45,000-square-foot facility that ships and receives metal on a daily basis. Union Corrugating specializes in metal roofing and siding.

General manager Kevin Babcock began working at the local facility in August and it reached full-scale operation in January. The company employs 14 to 15, which includes production workers, delivery drivers and administrative personnel.

“We’ve already processed a million pounds of material through this location since we’ve been open,” said Kevin. “We’re a 72-year-old company that’s been around since 1946. It was started by J.E. Union, who started with one corrugating machine, hence the name.”

Kevin was kind enough to give me a tour of the heavily automated plant on Friday afternoon. The metal arrives in large coils which are already painted to the specified color. An overhead crane is used to lift the metal onto a decoiler for processing. The metal is then ready to run through a roll former, which is programmed to cut the metal to the proper length and



Union Corrugating employee Danielle Moore operates a roll former that’s producing the company’s most popular item, a residential/ agriculture panel. The panel is typically manufactured in 26 or 29 gauge.

create the desired product.

“Very automated machines do most of the work, but our people are still our most important asset,” said Kevin. “Our people are highly skilled and highly trained. When we were working to get this plant open, we didn’t have a rush, rush, rush mentality. We wanted to get the right people in place. Any operation is only as good as the people who are working there.”

Union Corrugating didn’t pick Warren County by happenstance. The company already had a presence in Middle Tennessee and it views our community as a nice logistical fit.

“We’ve served this territory for many years,” said Kevin. “This plant improves our response time for this area and, as a full-service company, it allows us to better serve our customers. We also hope to develop new customers.”

An interesting tidbit Kevin told me is that they can produce any length of metal siding. The only limitation comes from trans-



Union Corrugating general manager Kevin Babcock stands by a roll former at the company’s facility in Morrison.

portation. Since it has to be able to fit on the back of a 48-foot truck, he says 48 feet is the longest panel they produce.

Union Corrugating is not a retail outlet so you can’t walk in and buy a metal roof for your home or barn. The company is mainly a wholesale distributor, but it will sell to large contractors. Its metal products are used

for commercial, residential and agricultural purposes.

Ten different panels are produced at the Morrison plant. Any product the company makes can be purchased through the local office, although there will be a longer lead time if it’s not manufactured here.

Should growth dictate expansion, Kevin said there’s room to add another 40,000 square feet to the front of the building. It would be nice to see the company do that much business.

Union Corrugating is located at 7747 Manchester Highway. The phone number is 668-4393.

### SAYING GOODBYE TO DELORES

I heard about the passing of Delores Glenn last weekend after this column had already been written so I didn’t have a chance to say a few words about her at that time.

I am going to change that now because I want to mention Delores and the impact she had on the Warren County landscape, both as a businesswoman and a person. As many of you know, Delores owned and operated Delores’ Market on Smithville Highway for 35 years, dating back to the

early 1970s.

At that time, the business climate wasn’t exactly geared toward a woman achieving success. You could say women still face an uphill climb in the business world today so you can imagine the barriers Delores faced nearly 50 years ago. She didn’t let any of that stand in her way.

As someone who lived in the Dibrell area for 12 years, I was a frequent customer at Delores’ Market and loved the store. If I stopped by at night, I’d usually see Delores herself hard at work. In the mornings, her daughter Gereta Davis was behind the counter. It was a true family operation with many grandkids working there along the way.

Delores’ Market was a cozy, all-in-one store before one-stop shopping became the way of the world. Delores tried to offer everything her customers would need, even putting in tanning beds and offering movie rentals. Around the holidays, children could have their picture made with Santa. About the only thing Delores’ Market lacked from 1980s pop culture was a one-hour photo booth.

Continued on 4C



Delores Glenn, right, and her daughter Gereta Davis are pictured at Delores’ Market on Smithville Highway when Delores sold the business in January 2006.

## How to improve credit



DEAR BRUCE: I owe \$1,533 on my Visa card. My credit is poor. What can I do to improve it?  
-- J.G.

DEAR J.G.: I would contact the company that issued the card and explain the circumstances. Tell them the amount of money is not a great one to many people, but for you, it’s a large

amount to face. Ask what they can do not in terms of granting any more credit, but in reducing your monthly payments to a number you can live with, and don’t settle for a number that you can’t live with. If you agree to pay a loan and then default, that will surely destroy your credit.

It’s going to take time, but I think you’ll find that the company will grant your request (maybe not on the first try, but on the second or third), simply because it’s in their best interest to do so. I do wish you well.

P.S. Don’t expect a substantial interest

reduction. Take the payment schedule that’s offered.

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