

Robotics center has potential to transform

Warren County is gaining some real velocity when it comes to economic development.

Ground has been broken for a \$5.5 million robotics center that's scheduled to be open in the spring. This is a game-changer.

Plans for a new 74-room hotel, complete with nice restaurant, are also a portrait of joy. I think it's OK to start showing a slight smile.

The robotics center is an extension of Motlow College and it's been well documented how educational offerings can grow a community. Think of what MTSU has done to Murfreesboro, now officially my least favorite place to drive. Think of what UT means to Knoxville.

This new robotics center could have a similar impact in McMinnville, minus the overpaid football coach.

The robotics facility will have five classrooms, six robotics labs, five offices, one conference room, and a grand foyer for trade shows, demonstrations, and industrial recruitment. It will bring people to McMinnville from out of state to further their training. And for local students looking to earn a two-year degree, it will be the greatest resource for automation knowledge in this hemisphere.

The robotics center and the hotel go together in perfect harmony. Workers from Kentucky who must



spend two weeks here to get advanced training can make the short trip across Sparta Street and sleep in the hotel.

An announcement that should bring an extra layer of excitement surrounds the restaurant which will accompany the hotel and retail shops. Word on the street is similar projects like this that involve Hunt Properties have some pretty nice restaurants next to the Hampton Inn hotel.

Maybe we can land something like a Cheddars. Is that too much to ask? I'd like to see an O'Charley's. I could definitely get in the habit of free pie every Wednesday night.

I understand an agreement has not been reached with a restaurant chain so we will have to wait and see what that will bring. Will it be Olive Garden? I suspect we'll have to wait at least another three months before the hotel clears all the government hurdles needed to proceed.

KORNER MARKET IS OFF THE MARKET

It didn't take long for Terry and Patty Boyd to find a buyer for Korner Market. After listing the



Motlow's soon-to-be-built Automation and Robotics Training Center will be located on this 4.3-acre tract behind Saint Thomas River Park and next to Tennessee College of Applied Technology.

convenience store for sale in late December, they found a buyer in June. Tuesday was their last day as Korner Market is now owned by Vimal Patel and his family.

"We're now officially unemployed," joked Terry when contacted Wednesday. "I don't think we could have found a better match for our location. They want to keep things as we've done and keep all the employees. No one is going to be out of a job. The only thing that's really going to change is we won't be there."

Terry said Vimal and his brothers are very pleasant folks who know the business. They own several other stores around Middle

Tennessee.

Terry says he and Patty will still stop by occasionally to eat because the food is so tasty and because Korner Market has been such a large part of their lives for the past 22 years. Terry says once the deal started moving, it was finalized surprisingly fast, which suits him just fine.

"I'm not one for long goodbyes," he said.

Terry and Patty are anxious to give retirement a try and to spend more time with their family members. Business Pulse wishes them the best of luck.

NEW BUSINESS COMING TO MT. LEO

There's been activity around the former Gary and Gail's Pit Stop in Mt. Leo, leading to speculation a new tenant is on the way.

William Wanamaker owns the property and a call to his house on Friday revealed a new business will be locating there, but exactly what business is not being released.

I love a good mystery. Trying to guess what will locate there is almost as much fun as being told.

My first guess would be a Mexican restaurant. My second guess would be a check cashing store. My



During Thursday's groundbreaking ceremony, business leader Todd Herzog noted there are 7,000 robots in operation at industries within 70 miles of Warren County.

third guess would be a combination Mexican restaurant and check cashing store.

I understand some modifications are going to be made to the building so I will have to stop by in the coming weeks to see if anyone is out and about with more information. If you get a hot tip on what's locating there, give me a call at 473-2191.

MAHAR CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AT BRIDGESTONE

Tim Mahar was a young man when he began to work at Bridgestone. Now he is a man who is 50 years older after he was honored by the company

on Tuesday for a remarkable 50 years of service.

A reception was held in Tim's honor and it was a delightful occasion, complete with fruit, humus, and cake. Tim was also the target of several jokes and he proved to be a good sport through the humor.

Tim noted the reception was only to celebrate a milestone, not put an end to his Bridgestone career.

"I'll be back to work tomorrow," said Tim. "This is a place where there's always something to do and what I really like is you're not always encouraged to stay within boundaries."

Continued on 5C



A new business is in the process of moving into the old Gary and Gail's Pit Stop in Mt. Leo. The new business is being kept a secret for now.



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Stocks take dip

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks closed out a whirlwind week with a modest loss Friday as markets gauged how much to fret about the Trump administration's decision to step up the trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies.

The White House announced tariffs on \$50 billion of imports from China, and China's almost-immediate response was a promise

to retaliate with its own of the same scale.

Stocks sank from the start of trading, and the S&P 500 was down 0.7 percent at one point before paring its loss as the day progressed.

At the close, the S&P 500 was down 2.83 points, or 0.1 percent, at 2,779.66. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 84.83, or 0.3 percent, to 25,090.48, and the Nasdaq composite dropped 14.66, or 0.2 percent, to 7,746.38.

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Speaker: Jason Gann

Monday: "God Sends A Flood"
Speaker: Derrick Stiles

Tuesday: "God Saves Noah"
Speaker: Justin Reeder

Wednesday: "Noah Thanks God"
Speaker: Samuel Bain

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