

thousands of employees, will land another lifeline from Lampert, its former CEO, or face liquidation.

At a U.S. Bankruptcy Court hearing Tuesday, Hoffman Estates-based Sears Holdings Corp. agreed to consider Lampert's revised bid to keep the retailer alive alongside other offers for its assets.

The new bid, submitted with a required \$120 million deposit, would see ESL take on \$43 million in employee severance costs and cover payments for merchandise Sears ordered shortly before filing for Chapter 11 in October and goods ordered before the deal closes, according to a Thursday regulatory filing. The hedge fund also would acquire some additional assets, including 57 more real estate properties.

BRIEF CASE

Studio Six Branding (studio sixbranding.com) in Longmont has completed a transit map rebranding for the Town of Snowmass Village. The updated design reflects the town's world class reputation, according to the company.

Philip Tobias, a Boulder technical and marketing communicator (philiptobias.com), again is volunteering in 2019 as the membership chairperson for the **Boulder Writers Alliance** (bwa.org). BWA serves Boulder, Denver and Longmont communicators and employers.

Northern Colorado Rehabilitation Hospital (ncrh.ernesthealth.com) in Johnstown has hired **Brenda Simon** as chief executive officer. She has more than 20 years of experience and leadership in the health care field, specifically occupational therapy and administration.

Staff and wire reports

the medications than do those in other economically advanced countries.

The Trump administration has put forward its own plan for reducing drug prices, but industry analysts have seen little impact so far. The pharmaceutical industry said the Democratic bills would "wreak havoc on the U.S. health care system."

The new legislation was offered by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., and others. Cummings leads the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which is expected to take a

Hill press conference.

"No more tak. No more tweets," said Cummings. "The American people want action."

Holly Campbell, a spokeswoman for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said Sanders' plan would harm U.S. patients. The industry argues that government price regulation could limit access to some medicines, undermine financial incentives for research, and compromise safety standards. Sanders says drugmakers are primarily interested in protecting profits.

As a presidential candidate,

proposals would have an impact, but not limit the ability of drug companies to set high prices.

Time and again, Trump has complained that other countries where governments set drug prices are taking advantage of Americans. Indeed, one of his ideas would shift Medicare payments for drugs administered in doctors' offices to a level based on international prices.

"We are taking aim at the global freeloading that forces American consumers to subsidize lower prices in foreign countries through higher prices in our

Drugs found to be "excessively priced" by the government could face generic competition. A medication's cost would be deemed "excessive" if its price in the U.S. was higher than the median, or midpoint, price in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Japan.

If the manufacturer was unwilling to cut its U.S. price, then the government could allow generic companies to make a more affordable version of the medication. Generic drugmakers would have to pay "reasonable" royalties to the company holding the patent.

Weak holiday sales catch many off guard

By Anne D'Innocenzio and Michelle Chapman
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Unemployment hasn't been so low in years, wages are rising, consumer confidence is high and gasoline is cheap, all creating high expectations for department stores this holiday season.

So when Macy's and Kohl's

reported lackluster holiday sales on Thursday, investors were taken aback, sending retail stocks into a tailspin and calling into question whether such mall-based chains can compete in a changing landscape where shoppers are shifting more of their spending online.

Macy's saw only a slight increase of 1.1 percent in sales

during November-December at stores opened at least year. And while sales were strong during Black Friday and Cyber Monday, the company said sales fell off noticeably until the week of Christmas.

Meanwhile, Kohl's reported a small sales growth that showed a dramatic slowdown from a year

ago. Comparable sales rose 1.2 percent, versus 6.9 percent in the previous year.

Shares of Macy's plummeted more than 19 percent, on track for the worst day ever. Kohl's stock was down nearly 7 percent. Even Target's stock took a hit, falling nearly 4 percent despite robust sales over the holidays.

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BY THE WAY

From the desk of Jill Stravolemos, Daily Camera Vice President of Marketing and Advertising

Click your way to standup comedy: Colorado Box Office

Have you checked out Colorado Box Office yet? It's the easy-to-use **online source** for tickets to all kinds of great local events.

Buying your tickets online at **ColoradoBoxOffice.com** is like clicking yourself to the front of the line.

I want to welcome our newest venue to join CBO: **Tilt Pinball and Events** in Louisville. If you are a fan of classic and contem-

porary pinball and arcade games paired with great food, Tilt is for you.

And if you love great standup comedy, Tilt is really for

you. They are featuring comedy nights on Fridays or Saturdays (you have to check the schedule) and now you can buy your tick-

ets to laughter at Colorado Box Office. The first show debuts

Friday, Jan. 25

from 8-10 p.m. Get your tickets now!

If you are in the business of special events, take a look at this service. We'll help you get your conference, class or festival

sales up and running quickly, plus provide local promotion of your event in our web, mobile and social digital products.

Your organization will sell **more tickets** and keep a **larger share of the proceeds**.

To find out more about ColoradoBoxOffice.com, contact Matt Flood at **720.310.0641** or **mflood@coloradoboxoffice.com**.



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