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Russell stover candy montrose co

DENVER (AP) - Russell Stover Chocolates announced that its candy factory in Montrose will close seven months ahead of schedule because of the coronavirus pandemic, a decision that will leave 217 employees out of work. The Kansas City, Missouri-based chocolatier said in January that the plant and retail store in Montrose would close in March 2021, with operations transferred to facilities in Texas and Kansas, the Denver Post reported. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was impossible to anticipate or predict in January 2020, we were forced to speed up the closure of montrose and retail stores ahead of schedule initially. The closure of these facilities will be permanent, said Vice President of Human Resources Jim Kissinger to the state Department of Labor in a letter required under the Colorado Workers Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act. The plant was montrose's largest manufacturer, with about 19,000 inhabitants, and produced sweets for 45 of the company's 97-year business. Its operations employed about 400 people when the company made the January announcement, but many employees have already left for other jobs, company officials said. The remaining 217 workers will be laid off by the end of August, with some losing their jobs in July. In other employment news in Colorado, state officials released two letters on Tuesday from resort hotels in Aspen and Beaver Creek that said operations would not return to normal as quickly as anticipated. The St. Regis Aspen Resort has extended licenses, layoffs or reductions in working hours for 263 employees, officials said. These expanded and extended government guidelines have caused a sudden, severe and worsening of the crisis in the hotel industry, which now makes it reasonably predictable that these temporary actions could extend beyond six months, the company's director of human resources, Darren Zemnick, said in a letter. The Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Hotel in Eagle County also told the state it would remain closed, extending permits to 102 employees likely through December and firing seven employees. While there are encouraging signs that our economy may begin to reopen in some areas, it has now become clear that demand for travel, events and hospitality services will take substantially longer to resume than previously anticipated, said Herb Rackliff, the hotel's general manager. He added: With the likely continued social distancing, until a vaccine or reliable COVID-19 treatment becomes available, we cannot predict when our way of doing business will return to normal. Russell Stover Chocolates will close its Montrose candy factory seven months ahead of schedule due to the new coronavirus outbreak, a move that will leave 217 unemployed at the end of July and August. The chocolatier, based in Kansas City, Mo., announced on January 16 that it would close the plant and related a related store by March 2021 and transfer operations to facilities in Texas and Kansas. The factory was montrose's largest manufacturer and produced sweets for 45 years of the company's 97-year business. The departure from Colorado has an additional weight, given that the company started in Denver in 1923 as Mrs. Stover's Bungalow Candies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was impossible to anticipate or predict in January 2020, we were forced to speed up the closure of montrose and retail stores ahead of schedule initially. The closure of these facilities will be permanent, Jim Kissinger, vice president of human resources, wrote to the Colorado Department of Labor in a letter from the Workers Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act. Montrose's operations employed about 400 people at the time of the January announcement, but many workers had already left for other jobs. The remaining 217 workers will be laid off in two waves, one around July 24 and the remainder in the final phase around August 28. The state released two other WARN letters on Tuesday from resort hotels, which, like the Brown Palace in Denver, said they will not open for normal operations as quickly as expected. The St. Regis Aspen Resort informed the state that the short-term job cuts made on March 21 are likely to last much longer than initially expected. WHC Payroll Company, which acts as St. Regis Aspen, informed the state that 263 of the 264 employees faced extended leave, layoffs or reductions in working hours that are expected to last more than six months. These expanded and extended government guidelines have caused a sudden, severe and worsening of the crisis in the hotel industry, which now makes it reasonably predictable that these temporary actions could extend for more than six months, said Darren Zemnick, the hotel's director of human resources, in a letter to the state. The Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Hotel in Eagle County also told the state that what was expected to be a temporary closure that began on March 22 will be longer. While there are encouraging signs that our economy may begin to reopen in some areas, it has now become clear that demand for travel, event and hospitality services will take substantially longer to resume than previously anticipated, said Herb Rackliff, the hotel's general manager, in his warn letter. With the likely continued social distancing, until a reliable COVID-19 vaccine or treatment becomes available, we cannot predict when our way of doing business will return to normal. The hotel will extend permits to 102 employees and lay off seven workers, mostly in management, sales and front office. Most leave is expected to last until December 12, although several workers are expected to be back early as the hotel partially reopens. We use cookies to provide a better experience. Por Por to browse the website you are agreeing to our use of cookies in accordance with our Cookie Policy. Montrose's largest long-standing community manufacturer and staple, Russell Stover Chocolates, will close its downtown plant in the spring of 2021 after more than 45 years of operation. The Kansas City-based candy company announced its closure on Tuesday, along with several other changes to its production, retail and distribution operations nationwide. The retail store in Montrose is also scheduled to close next year, according to Russell Stover spokesman Robbie Vorhaus. The closures are likely to take place in March next year. The company announced that it would also close some low-traffic stores this year and expand its plants in Texas and Kansas, adding about 300 jobs to three locations in those states. All of the approximately 400 employees at the Montrose plant will have the opportunity to move to one of these locations, Vorhaus said. Montrose city and municipal authorities, along with the Montrose Economic Development Corporation, learned of the upcoming announcement on Monday night and spent part of the day on Tuesday at meetings to discuss the next steps and possible ripple effects. It's a sad day for this community, said Montrose city spokesman William Woody. Everyone here knows someone who worked there at some point. The plant is the county's third-largest employer after the Montrose County School District and Montrose Memorial Hospital and its loss will be felt throughout the community, according to MEDC Executive Director Sandy Head, including local farmers and fruit growers who sell their products to the company. A closure of this magnitude, 300 to 400 jobs, is never good for any community, she said. However, she is happy that Russell Stover has decided to give the community about 15 months' notice to allow preparation time for employees and the community. The city owns the land where the production factory and retail store are located in the centre of Montrose, near Townsend Avenue, but the buildings belong to Russell Stover. The period of time before closing, Head said, will allow local authorities and the candy company an opportunity to discuss future plans and options for the facility if Russell Stover seeks to sell its 305,000-square-foot production plant and a nearby store. It will also allow those wishing to stay in Montrose time to find a new job in the city. With a low unemployment rate and strong interest from companies looking to move to the area, Head feels there will be job opportunities for those who remain in the community. I think we're just trying to make sure we don't panic, community, head said. We have time to work on it and we have a very strong team with the MEDC, the city and the municipality. Montrose County District 1 Commissioner Keith Caddy praised Russell Stover Stover over the years, calling it an economic stabilizer in the community, even in times of economic crisis. I wonder how many home payments they saved because someone could get a job there when they were fired elsewhere, Caddy said. They have been a great employer in the community. I hate to see them go. Opened in 1973, the Montrose Russell Stover location is the oldest plant still in use. The closing and consolidation of production stems from Lindt & Sprungli's acquisition of the company in a \$1.6 billion deal in 2014. Since then, the new parent company has sought to consolidate production and decided to grow its plants in Texas and Kansas. In the closure of the Montrose plant, the company will offer its employees the chance to move to another facility or stay throughout the shutdown and receive an indemnity package. We have always committed to all employees and are working with the Montrose government, community and staff. And it will still be producing for at least another year, Vorhaus said. He added that the decision to leave Montrose was difficult, but in the end a business decision. He hopes the move will open up new opportunities for businesses in the area. We always feel that the community of Montrose is part of the Russell Stover family, Vorhaus said. Leaving is bittersweet, but we will continue to talk to the leadership and all our employees and ensure that the transition is smooth and that it works for everyone.