

KROGER CO
Form 8-K
December 23, 2013

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report: **December 23, 2013**

(Date of earliest event reported)

THE KROGER CO.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

An Ohio Corporation
(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

No. 1-303
(Commission File Number)

31-0345740
(IRS Employer Number)

1014 Vine Street

Cincinnati, OH 45202

(Address of principal executive offices)

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Registrant's telephone number: **(513) 762-4000**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Section 8 Other Events

Item 8.01 Other Events.

On December 13, 2013, The Kroger Co. filed Registration Statement No. 333-192842 on Form S-3 with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 415 registering an indeterminate amount of securities (the Registration Statement). Pursuant to a Prospectus Supplement dated December 16, 2013, The Kroger Co. is issuing \$500,000,000 of debt securities denominated Senior Floating Rate Notes due 2016; \$300,000,000 of debt securities denominated 1.200% Senior Notes due 2016; \$500,000,000 of debt securities denominated 2.300% Senior Notes due 2019; and \$700,000,000 of debt securities denominated 3.300% Senior Notes due 2021 (collectively, the Notes).

Filed as Exhibit 1.1 to the Registration Statement was a form of Underwriting Agreement for the issuance of debt securities. In connection with the issuance of the Notes, the Registrant has executed an Underwriting Agreement and a Pricing Agreement both dated as of December 16, 2013, among The Kroger Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc. Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., RBS Securities Inc., Fifth Third Securities, Inc., BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC, Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc., RBC Capital Markets, LLC, PNC Capital Markets LLC, CastleOak Securities, L.P., and The Williams Capital Group, L.P.

The Underwriting Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.1 and the Pricing Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.1.1.

The form of Indenture for the Notes was filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registration Statement.

The Twenty-Ninth Supplemental Indenture, relating to the Senior Floating Rate Notes due 2016, dated as of December 23, 2013, between The Kroger Co. and U.S. Bank National Association (formerly known as Firststar Bank, National Association), as Trustee, supplements the Indenture dated as of June 25, 1999, between The Kroger Co. and Firststar Bank, National Association, as Trustee. The Twenty-Ninth Supplemental Indenture is attached hereto as Exhibit 4.3.1.

The Thirtieth Supplemental Indenture, relating to the 1.200% Senior Notes due 2016, dated as of December 23, 2013, between The Kroger Co. and U.S. Bank National Association (formerly known as Firststar Bank, National Association), as Trustee, supplements the Indenture dated as of June 25, 1999, between The Kroger Co. and Firststar Bank, National Association, as Trustee. The Thirtieth Supplemental Indenture is attached hereto as Exhibit 4.3.2.

The Thirty-First Supplemental Indenture, relating to the 2.300% Senior Notes due 2019, dated as of December 23, 2013, between The Kroger Co. and U.S. Bank National Association (formerly known as Firststar Bank, National Association), as Trustee, supplements the Indenture dated as of June 25, 1999, between The Kroger Co. and Firststar Bank, National Association, as Trustee. The Thirty-First Supplemental Indenture is attached hereto as Exhibit 4.3.3.

The Thirty-Second Supplemental Indenture, relating to the 3.300% Senior Notes due 2021, dated as of December 23, 2013, between The Kroger Co. and U.S. Bank National Association (formerly known as Firststar Bank, National Association), as Trustee, supplements the Indenture dated as of June 25, 1999, between The Kroger Co. and Firststar Bank, National Association, as Trustee. The Thirty-First Supplemental Indenture is attached hereto as Exhibit 4.3.4.

An opinion of Paul Heldman, Esq., including his consent, is attached as Exhibit 5.1. An opinion of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, including its consent, is attached as Exhibit 5.2.

The Company expects to use the proceeds of this offering, together with cash on hand and commercial paper borrowings, to fund the merger among the Company, Hornet Acquisition, Inc. and Harris Teeter Supermarkets, Inc. pursuant to the agreement dated July 8, 2013 and for general corporate purposes.

Section 9 Financial Statements and Exhibits

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

1.1 Underwriting Agreement dated as of December 16, 2013, among The Kroger Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc. Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., RBS Securities Inc., Fifth Third Securities, Inc., BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC, Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc., RBC Capital Markets, LLC, PNC Capital Markets LLC, CastleOak Securities, L.P., and The Williams Capital Group, L.P.

1.1.1 Pricing Agreement dated as of December 23, 2013, among The Kroger Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc. Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., RBS Securities Inc., Fifth Third Securities, Inc., BNY Mellon Capital Markets, LLC, Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc., RBC Capital Markets, LLC, PNC Capital Markets LLC, CastleOak Securities, L.P., and The Williams Capital Group, L.P.

4.3.1 Twenty-Ninth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 23, 2013, relating to the Senior Floating Rate Notes due 2016, between The Kroger Co. and U.S. Bank National Association (formerly known as Firststar Bank, National Association), as Trustee

4.3.2 Thirtieth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 23, 2013, relating to the 1.200% Senior Notes due 2016, between The Kroger Co. and U.S. Bank National Association (formerly known as Firststar Bank, National Association), as Trustee

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4.3.3 Thirty-First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 23, 2013, relating to the 2.300% Senior Notes due 2019, between The Kroger Co. and U.S. Bank National Association (formerly known as Firststar Bank, National Association), as Trustee

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5.1 Opinion of Paul Heldman, Esq.

5.2. Opinion of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP

23.1 Consent of Paul Heldman, Esq., which is contained in his opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1.

23.2 Consent of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, which is contained in the opinion filed as Exhibit 5.2

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

THE KROGER CO.

December 23, 2013

By:

/s/ Paul Heldman
Paul Heldman
Executive Vice President, Secretary
and General Counsel

EXHIBIT INDEX

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