

Hermiston Plaza expanding, adding new retail chains

Two new stores expected by November

By ANTONIO ARREDONDO
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Plaza is getting another facelift — and adding two new retail chains to the city.

Corvallis-based real estate broker Darren Dickerhoof's company Dickerhoof Properties has owned the plaza since November 2014. After making some initial upgrades when it purchased the site, Dickerhoof said the company is preparing to make its biggest change yet.

Marshalls and Famous Footwear are slated to open in Hermiston by mid-November, Dickerhoof said. The two companies will replace



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The Hermiston Plaza location of Bealls in 2019 closed when the store's parent company filed for bankruptcy protection due to the pandemic. Dickerhoof Properties, owner of Hermiston Plaza, plans to open a Marshalls and Famous Footwear in the former Bealls location.

Bealls; the retail chain shut its doors due to the lasting effects of the pandemic.

"We had looked at expanding the Big Lots, but then got approached by

Marshalls," Dickerhoof said. "It's really the best combo for the shopping center."

Marshalls and Famous Footwear often travel hand-in-hand as the two companies complement each other well, Dickerhoof said. So when Marshalls voiced their interest in the location, Famous Footwear was not far behind.

As part of the expansion process, Dickerhoof Properties will be expanding the plaza to accommodate the two chains. Originally only 13,500 square feet, the former Bealls spot will be increased to 23,000 square feet. Dickerhoof said the construction started two months ago and is targeting a mid-November opening.

"In a perfect world, they're trying to get open for the Holidays," he said.

Whether or not the two will open up by Thanksgiving remains to be seen. If shipping delays, something that has been haunting properties since the pandemic,

continue to affect timing, the opening may be much later.

Dickerhoof said most companies like to open a few weeks before the busy holiday season hits to give new staff time to get used to their roles. If the start time is in the middle of the shopping spree season, he said the companies may wait until January or February to open the doors.

Even with the companies' uncertain starting times, the Hermiston Plaza expansion is a project Dickerhoof is excited to see come to fruition. With the additions, the plaza once again will be back to 100% capacity after sitting below that number for nearly a year.

"I think it's a great ad for Hermiston," Dickerhoof said. "There's really no big clothing stores in the area that I'm aware of, but I think it would be a great addition for people."

Umatilla transitional housing project receives proposal bid at deadline

By ANTONIO ARREDONDO
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — After months of waiting, the Umatilla County transitional housing project has a contractor — and a start date.

Umatilla City Manager Dave Stockdale said the Practical Assistance through Transitional Housing Project, or PATH, received one bid after a period of waiting. The deadline for the initial bid was on July 12.

That one bid was from Stepping Stones of Hermiston Inc., a nonprofit that has been working on creating a homeless shelter in the area since 2020.

The plan is for the transitional housing project to be built on the corner of Lind and Benschel roads, Hermiston.

Stockdale said construction can begin once Hermiston annexes the southern part of Lind Road. He said 80% of the road is in the city.

With the Supreme Court's ruling on the Martin v. Boise case in 2018 and the recent Oregon House Bill 4123 regarding homelessness, all areas that do not allow homeless camping must provide shelter by July 2023. With a projected completion date for the facility in mid-November, Project PATH will help keep Umatilla County complying with the law.

Beyond meeting the requirements of the law, Stockdale said the new housing project will allow for support



Erick Peterson/East Oregonian, File

The Hermiston City Council, the Umatilla City Council and the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners hold a special meeting May 23, 2022, in Hermiston to discuss Practical Assistance through Transitional Housing Project, or PATH, a solution to the local homeless problem. Stepping Stones of Hermiston Inc. on July 12 submitted the only bid to operate the future facility.

for homeless individuals in the area. Project PATH will include manufactured offices, which Stockdale said is done, as well as individual quarters, common areas and meal facilities. There also will be a one-night sleep center for those needing somewhere to stay.

"Project PATH is going to give us a better way to manage housing," he said.

While the plan for the facility has not changed over the past few weeks, Stockdale said the bid has allowed the city to know more about security, lighting and transportation around the facility.

All that's left to finalize the bid is a few more meetings and the chance for appeal processes. Stockdale does not foresee any hang-ups in the process, which will go to the Umatilla Planning Commis-

sion by Aug. 23. Then, the construction of a second chance for many western Umatilla County residents can begin.

"We don't know what brought you to PATH," Stockdale said. "We just know that you're here."

Stockdale said the facility should be open by Dec. 1 at the latest.

Dollar General opens in Pilot Rock

By DAKOTA CASTETS-DIDIER
East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Dollar General, a nation-spanning low cost variety store, has opened its new location in Pilot Rock.

The opening Monday, Aug. 15, at 181 N.W. Birch St. is one of the latest for Dollar General, the company reported in a press release, which has more than 18,000 stores in 47 states across the country, with 77 spread out across Oregon already in operation.

Teri Bacus, Pilot Rock city recorder, illustrated the new Dollar General will provide the Pilot Rock community with more choice. Bacus also estimated the store will add 12 to 13 jobs to the community.

In a press release, Dollar General's senior vice president of real-estate and store development Matthew Simonsen expressed his belief that each of their new



Mackenzie Whaley/East Oregonian

Dollar General is open for business Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, at their new store in Pilot Rock. The store opened Aug. 15.

stores "... provides positive economic growth for the communities we proudly serve, and the addition of our new Pilot Rock store highlights our commitment to deliver a pleasant shopping experience that includes great prices on quality products in a convenient location."

Dollar General also

announced it would be donating 100 books to a nearby elementary school for a Kindergarten to fifth grade reading level, as part of its Dollar General Literacy Foundation, which will allow schools within a 15-mile radius of the Dollar General to apply for grants in support of education and literacy programs.

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The Members-only preview sale is 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 25. Purchase or renew your membership at the door or online at [Pendletonfriendsofthelibrary.wordpress.com](https://pendletonfriendsofthelibrary.wordpress.com)

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