



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan /East Oregonian

Rogers Toyota of Hermiston officially broke ground on its new dealership and service center

# Rogers Toyota breaks ground on new dealership

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

North Highway 395 in Hermiston is about to get a shiny new addition.

Rogers Toyota held a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday morning for its new dealership on the corner of Highway 395 and Punkin Center, which will cover 7 acres of ground and include a 30,000-square-foot main building and a detailing shop. It is expected to be complete in November.

Owner Ryan Rogers said when Larry Campbell, who owned Hermiston's former Toyota dealership, asked if he would be interested in buying the dealership in 2014, accepting that offer was "one of the best business decisions ever." The Hermiston community has embraced Rogers Toyota with open arms, he said, making it an easy decision to expand.

"Normally, I would be nervous as heck to put this big of an investment in, but it's a no-brainer," he said.

Rogers' father started the company in 1971. At the time, he was the youngest Pontiac dealer in the country at age 19, Rogers said. His father taught him the importance of putting customers first.

At Thursday's groundbreaking, Hermiston Cham-



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Rogers Toyota of Hermiston president and owner Ryan Rogers delivers remarks Thursday during a groundbreaking for the company's new dealership.

ber of Commerce director Kimberly Nevil noted that Rogers Toyota is a major sponsor of many of Hermiston's events, and said she was excited to see their growth.

"Of all the community events the chamber does, Rogers is always a partner," she said. "We're very thankful for Rogers."

She and Umatilla County Commissioner Bill Elfering both praised the project for helping to develop Hermiston's main thoroughfare through town.

The car dealerships up and down Highway 395 have helped make the community a "car dealership capital" in the area, Elfering said.

"We're excited to see this development here on this corner, and excited to see

development all the way up and down Highway 395," he said.

The dealership's general manager, Glenn Silaski, told the *East Oregonian* that the new dealership will address crowding problems at the current location farther south on the highway, from parking to bathrooms. There will be space for more inventory on the lot and twice as many service bays, including three enclosed drive-through lanes that will shelter people from the weather as they get out of their vehicle.

The business currently employs 50 people, and Silaski said the extra service bays will result in hiring additional staff after the project is complete.

On Thursday, as heavy construction equipment moved dirt around in the background, Silaski told the community members gathered on a corner of the lot that he understands people are always skeptical that construction projects will stay on timeline, but he had a good feeling about meeting the projected timeline to move into the new building in November.

"Just since yesterday, you can hardly recognize (the site)," he said.

The project is being built by McAlvain Companies, Inc. of Boise.

# Drotzmann among candidates running unopposed in May

By ANTONIO SIERRA  
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston Mayor David Drotzmann is running unopposed this May. He is in his third term after first being elected in 2012.

The filing deadline for the May 19 primary has passed without opponents for Drotzmann, Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan and Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus, meaning they're all but assured new, four-year terms in 2021. Hermiston Municipal Judge Thomas Creasing is also running unopposed.

The open Position 3 seat on the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners, on the other hand, had no trouble attracting candidates. The race to replace retiring Commissioner Bill Elfering is set at five — Milton-Freewater canvasser HollyJo Beers, Hermiston sales executive Dan Dorran, Hermiston school board member Mark Gomolski, Hermiston business owner Jonathan Lopez and Hermiston business owner Patricia Maier.

The two candidates who receive the most votes in the primary will advance to a run off on Nov. 3.

## Legislature

Despite the difficult political terrain, Democrats filed for every legislative seat in Northeast Oregon.

State Rep. Greg Barreto is retiring, and the open House District 58 seat attracted two candidates for each primary.

Echo farmer Bobby Levy and Elgin timber worker Mike Nelson are competing for the GOP nomination. Pendleton college student Nolan Bylenga and Pendleton merchandiser Barbara Wright are the candidates in the Democratic primary.

In District 57, Republican Rep. Greg Smith of

## 2020 PRIMARY CANDIDATES

<b>Umatilla County Commissioner, Position 3</b>	Mark Pratt
HollyJo Beers	<b>Treasurer</b>
Dan Dorran	Sabrina Bailey Cave
Mark Gomolski	Cody High
Jonathan Lopez	Jaylene Papineau
Patricia Maier	Erik Patton
<b>Sheriff</b>	<b>Clerk**</b>
Terry Rowan*	Bobbi Childers*
<b>District Attorney</b>	<b>Justice of the Peace</b>
Dan Primus*	Theresa Crawford
<b>Hermiston Mayor</b>	Glen Diehl*
Dave Drotzmann*	Kelly Doherty
<b>Pendleton City Council Mayor</b>	<b>Oregon Senate Dist. 19 Republican</b>
John Turner*	Garrison Lee Alger
<b>Ward 1</b>	Bill Hansell*
Kevin Martin	<b>Democrat</b>
<b>Ward 2</b>	Mildred O'Callaghan
Sally Brandsen	<b>Oregon House District 57 Republican</b>
Melissa Shumake	Greg Smith*
<b>Ward 3</b>	<b>Democrat</b>
Larry Anderson	Roland Ruhe
Dale Primmer*	<b>Oregon House District 58 Republican</b>
<b>Morrow County Commissioner, Position 1</b>	Bobby Levy
Joseph Armato	Mike Nelson
Jim Doherty*	<b>Democrat</b>
Joel Peterson	Nolan Bylenga
Michael Sweek	Barbara Wright
<b>Sheriff**</b>	* Incumbent; ** Won't appear on ballot until November
Ken Matlack*	

Heppner and Irrigon Democrat Roland Ruhe have their primaries to themselves.

Pendleton carpenter Garrison Lee Alger is challenging Sen. Bill Hansell of Athena for the Senate District 29 primary. Whoever advances as the Republican party's candidate will face Joseph Democrat Mildred O'Callaghan, a retired secretary, in the general election.

## Morrow County

With the exception of county clerk, every Morrow County office is contested.

One of the races — Boardman Police Sgt. Mark Pratt's challenge to incumbent Sheriff Ken Matlack — will wait until November because there are only two candidates. Incumbent Position 1 Commissioner

Jim Doherty faces challenges from sheriff's office dispatcher Joseph Armato, farmer Joel Peterson and chemical loader Michael Sweek.

Morrow County employees Sabrina Bailey Cave and Jaylene Papineau are competing with former Heppner Mayor Cody High and sheriff's civil records deputy Erik Patton for the open treasurer position.

Justice of the Peace Glen Diehl, the incumbent, is facing challenges from county chief deputy clerk Theresa Crawford and rancher Kelly Doherty.

If no one takes a majority of the vote in the commissioner, treasurer or justice races, they will be decided in a run-off in November.

# School district announces administrative changes

HERMISTON HERALD

Highland Hills Elementary School will still be run by "Principal Bacon" next year, but it will be a new face at the helm.

Hermiston School District announced this week that Principal Jake Bacon will be stepping into the role of human resources director for the 2020-2021 school year. His wife, Becky Bacon,

will step in as principal.

Becky is currently serving as dean of students for Sunset Elementary School.

Jake is replacing current Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources David Marshall, who has been hired as superintendent of the Brookings-Harbor School District in Brookings for the upcoming school year.

"The district has made

it a priority to invest in our staff and leaders, and at this time we are fortunate to be able to promote from within," Superintendent Tricia Mooney said in a statement.

"Our administrators will have the opportunity to apply the leadership skills they have gained over the years and I am confident that they will contribute to the success of the district."

## PET OF THE WEEK

Little Meno is just a little over a year old. He was born blind. He is super loving, funny, playful and needy. His forever home will need to be with someone who is always home or can take to work with them. No children under 12, as he is only 4.8 pounds and can get hurt easily. Can not be left unattended outside. We will require that he has at least 3 visits with someone before he goes home with them.



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