

IN THE WORKS

TruCare Pregnancy Clinic in new building

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

Hermiston residents who frequently travel Southeast 11th Street have asked what the previously empty storage building on the corner of 11th and Hartley Avenue will hold once it is done with renovations.



Jade McDowell
NEWS EDITOR



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

TruCare Pregnancy Clinic just moved into this newly remodeled building on Southwest 11th Street in Hermiston.

Granary Square. It will allow the center to offer new services, including free ultrasounds for expectant mothers as soon as TruCare is able to hire a nurse to perform them. The center provides “life-affirming” support to expectant mothers, including pregnancy tests, counseling, parenting classes and supplies, such as diapers. Emergency services, such as pregnancy tests, have been available by appointment through the pandemic. But as restrictions lift, Atkins said they have opened their new

building to walk-ins and will restart their classes soon.

In other news, the Maxwell Market has confirmed that the farmers market will open from 4-8 p.m. on May 28 at the Maxwell Pavilion. Details on how the market will implement social distancing during the 2020 season will be announced later this week.

If you have been wondering about the construction at the corner of North Highway 395 and Punkin Center, that site will be the home of a new Roger’s Toyota location later this year.

The dealership plans to leave its current lot down the road and move into a much larger, more modern building with additional service bays and more parking for inventory when construction is complete this fall. The plans include a 30,000-square-foot building with three enclosed drive-thru lanes.

Bealls’ owner files for bankruptcy protection

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
EO MEDIA GROUP

liquidate inventory. The company anticipates reopening 624 stores this month and the “balance of the chain” on June 4. Stage Stores also will end the wind-down at certain locations if it receives a viable going-concern bid.

The parent company of Bealls and other department stores filed May 10 for bankruptcy protection, unable to climb out of a financial hole the COVID-19 pandemic made even deeper.

Houston-based Stage Stores Inc. in a press release also announced it will simultaneously seek buyers for all or parts of its business and “initiate an orderly wind-down of operations.”

The company did not return requests for comment on how the move affects the Hermiston Bealls, which before the COVID-19 shutdown of nonessential retailers in Oregon was transforming into a Gordmans store, also owned by Stage.

The company operates Bealls, Goody’s and Palais Royal, primarily in rural communities, and off-price stores under the Gordmans brand, and employs approximately 14,700 people at roughly 700 stores across 42 states, according to the court documents it filed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Houston, its base of operations.

Bealls has a few stores in Oregon, including in La Grande, Hermiston, Klamath Falls and Hood River. The La Grande store opened in 2009. Stage Stores closed its properties due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Signs on the inside of the windows at the La Grande Bealls explain the store remains closed until the state lifts the restrictions to curb the spread of the virus.

Stage Stores in its press release stated it is taking a phased approach to reopening its stores in the coming weeks to

the company’s Chapter 11 filing listed total assets as of Nov. 2, 2019 at more than \$1.7 billion and total liabilities at a little more than \$1 billion. The company owes more than \$3.6 million to Nike Inc., its top creditor, and almost \$487,000 to its 50th-ranked creditor, the footwear company Caleres Inc. of Missouri.

Michael Glazer, Stage Stores president and CEO, in the press release stated the company has no more avenues to pursue save for seeking Chapter 11 protection.

“Over the last several months, we had been taking significant steps to attempt to strengthen our financial position and find an independent path forward,” according to the statement. “However, the increasingly challenging market environment was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which required us to temporarily close all of our stores and furlough the vast majority of our associates. Given these conditions, we have been unable to obtain necessary financing and have no choice but to take these actions.”

The company also filed a slew of motions seeking court orders to continue to operate, including the ability to pay employee wages, salaries and health benefits. Stage Stores in its press release also reported it “expects to honor existing customer programs, including gift cards and returns, for the first 30 days after a store reopens.”

Cottage Flowers announces closure

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

Cottage Flowers announced last week that they are closing their doors after 32 years in business.

The Hermiston floral shop, owned and operated by the Ego and Spoo extended families, announced the closure in a long Facebook post, noting the decision “has been in the works for some time and is not, in any way, the result of the current pandemic.”

“As a family, we are ready for retirement and the next chapter ahead,” they wrote.

The store ended its floral services with Mother’s Day weekend, but they plan to open their doors one last time sometime in the future to hold a final sale of their retail



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

A “for lease” sign sits out front of Cottage Flowers, which is closing its doors in Hermiston after 32 years.

inventory. The other businesses in the Cottage Plaza, where the shop is located at 1725 N. First St., will remain open. The business started out

on Main Street, according to the post, before moving to the Hermiston Plaza and finally to its current location, which once served as Hermiston’s armory.

“Over time, we have seen so many trends and styles come and go, but this community’s support of our small business always remained steadfast,” the family wrote. “Owning this business for so long means we have had the privilege of having a role in helping people in our community commemorate and celebrate so many life moments and milestones. From new babies, sweet sixteens, get well soon and high school proms to graduations, holidays, job promotions, weddings and funerals, we have been a part of it all.”

PET OF THE WEEK!

Fuzzball Rescue animals have all been adopted!

We are still taking applications for future adoptions and foster homes!

Donations are also needed and can be made to Oregon Trail Veterinary Clinic or through Fuzzball Animal Rescue via PayPal by going to fuzzballrescue.com or mail donations to Fuzz Ball Animal Rescue: PO Box 580, Hermiston, OR 97838. All donations go to the care of the animals.



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2020 BUTTE CHALLENGE

5K RUN, 5K WALK AND 10K RUN

Saturday, June 20th • 8:30am

All races begin & end at Butte Park

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