

# HOMES

Continued from Page A1

They sought to use this land to help address Hermiston's housing supply problems, Pickerill said. "In early 2021, I was introduced to the landowners," he said. MonteVista and the landowners worked together to create a master plan for the community, which they would call The Hayfields. Getting into the details of the plan, Pickerill said the housing units would consist of single-family detached housing, single-fam-

ily workforce housing, apartment sites, a senior manufactured facility and commercial sites, he said. School and fire sites also are part of the plan, as shown on a layout Pickerill presented. "Our community will unlock the value of this land," Pickerill said. "It will also elevate Hermiston to a new position in the region." After his presentation and discussion, the city council voted unanimously to approve the resolution authorizing staff to begin an urban renewal planning effort and get the ball rolling on The Hayfields.



The Hermiston City Council, in its role as the Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency, during its meeting March 14, 2022, approved a resolution directing staff to prepare a plan for a new urban renewal district along Feedville Road to develop The Hayfields, a development that would add more than 1,300 homes to Hermiston. MonteVista Homes/Contributed Image

# JOBS

Continued from Page A1

with the company, and she felt confident other people can do likewise. "There are opportunities for people out there," she said. "You can see it all over in here. There are places people can go for jobs, and they need to have hope." Erik Estrada, protection technician with Corteva Agri-Science, also had advice for job seekers. He said he recommends people to accept help from other people. "We want to help them in the best way that we can," he said.

He said he spoke with former Shearer's workers, and he felt good he could be of assistance to them in finding work. There were a few job postings on the Corteva table at the job fair. They were for a maintenance coordinator, a field research intern and a production technician. The production technician job comes with a \$1,500 sign-on bonus, starting wages of \$20 per hour and benefits. Estrada said this job or others at Corteva would be good for recently displaced Shearer's employees.

Another company representative, Tom Clouse, also was looking for workers. Supervisor of operations for Williams, an energy company, Clouse said he was happy to speak with the for-



Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald

Job lists for companies at the Port of Morrow line a table March 16, 2022, during a job fair at the Hermiston Community Center.

mer Shearer's workers. These employees, he said, have a lot of good experience, including work with programmable logic controllers. "We can use that," he said. "That's why we're here," a coworker said. Perry Lamprey, who also was representing Williams at the job fair, said he was pleased with the people he had met from Shearer's, and he was hopeful of being part of a solution to put people in jobs. A similar sentiment was expressed by Elsa Enriquez, a human resources employee for Walmart Distribution Center, Hermiston. She said she met one former Shearer's employee whose story stuck with her. Enriquez said the woman

she met was older and did not speak English. She was successful at Shearer's, and she was worried she would not be able to find another job, Enriquez said. Though Walmart did not hire the woman on the spot, Enriquez said she did give her information about applying for a job. It is possible, she said, that Walmart will hire her and other people like her. "It was devastating what happened to them, and I think there are things we can do for them," Enriquez said. "I feel good about that." Representing the Port of Morrow, Kimberly Rill, workforce training specialist, was at the job fair to tell people about jobs at several local companies. She passed out job

posts from companies including Boardman Foods, Amazon, Tillamook and Threemile Canyon Farms. "It's a sad situation," she said, "but I think there are a lot of opportunities for people." She added she had spoken to many people, including Shearer's employees. The Port of Morrow, she said, was happy to be part of the many groups helping out. Becky Self, Inter-Con Security recruiter, agreed. She said the Shearer's workers have gone through something that was "really devastating." Her husband, she said, was a volunteer at the site of the fire, and she could attest to the awful situation they were facing. Now meeting with the for-

mer employees, she said she was glad to be assisting. As Shearer's, she said, is offering people six weeks of severance, it is good for them to be out looking for jobs and thinking long term. Inter-Con, she said, has 20 positions it is trying to fill, and she could see Shearer's workers doing well as security officers. Sammantha Hoisington, of Oregon Department of Corrections, was trying to attract people to be corrections officers. She told people that they could start as officers for Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton, then shift over to maintenance if they were interested. This might be a good direction for Shearer's employees, she said. Requirements for a corrections officer include being 21 years old, passing a background check, having a high school diploma and possessing a driver's license. She said that if, after being with EOCI for a while, officers could shift over to a position within the prison that might be more suitable to their skill sets. Meanwhile, Becky Cherry, human resources recruiter for Community Counseling Solutions, was at the fair looking for people who could work as peer support. She said her company is growing and could fill 40 openings, and she was happy to tell former Shearer's employees of opportunities. Even Blue Mountain Community College, which was

promoting its educational programs at the job fair, had jobs to fill. Tammy Krawczyk, dean, workforce development, regional education and strategic partnership, was looking for candidates for a number of jobs. Those jobs included financial aid advisor, athletic trainer and a program assistant at Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Umatilla. She said she met several people at the job fair and was happy to be part of it. Chamber employees call the job fair a success Hoxie, the chamber director behind the fair, said she remembers the day of the fire. She could see it from her office. She looked out and reported having felt ill. Her feelings changed, however, when she started hearing from employers. As the smoke still rose from Shearer's, her phone started ringing, she said. People wanted to help. That is when her office teamed up with the city of Hermiston to set the job fair into motion. "We knew we had to do something," she said. At the end of the event, while many people were packing up, another chamber employee stated her feelings about the job fair. "This event makes me proud to be part of this community," Ami Little, chamber personal relations director, said. "When someone here is hurting, we help."

MARCH 26-27

Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
Sunday 9:00 am-3:00 pm

DESCHUTES COUNTY FAIR & EXPO CENTER  
REDMOND • OREGON

PRESENTED BY HARVEST CAPITAL COMPANY, LLC

**Exhibitors**  
Many industry suppliers, retailers and service providers featuring new products, technology, and solutions.

**Demonstrations**

**5 Buck Breakfast**  
SAT. MORNING 8-10 While supplies last  
Sponsored by McDonalds  
All proceeds to benefit Perfect Balance

**KIDS' ZONE**  
PROJECTS AND FUN ACTIVITIES  
ALL THINGS AGRICULTURE

**Clint Johnson Working Dog Demonstrations**  
SAT. 11-NOON • SUN. 10-11

**Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Display with Demonstrations**

**Seminars**

- Drought protection
- Water issues
- Animal care and nutrition
- What's new in the Ag Industry ...and much more

**Good Food**

For booth or sponsorship information contact Kasey Every at kasey@every-idea.com or 541-383-2669.

MAJOR SPONSORS

coagshow.com

In conjunction with the High Desert Stampede PRCA Rodeo | highdesertstampede.com

READY SET GO!

CHOOSE FROM 9 OF YOUR FAVORITE NEW 2022 TOYOTA MODELS

CAMRY, CAMRY HYBRID, COROLLA, COROLLA HYBRID, HIGHLANDER, HIGHLANDER HYBRID, RAV4, RAV4 HYBRID & TUNDRA

2.99% | 72 | WITH \$15.19 PER \$1,000 BORROWED

APR FINANCING MO.

COROLLA

CAMRY

HIGHLANDER

RAV4

TUNDRA

TOYOTA.COM

See Your Local Toyota Dealer

Prototypes shown with options. Extra-cost colors shown. Offers end 4/4/2022. APR on approved credit from Toyota Financial Services. 2.99% APR financing for 72 months with \$15.19 per \$1,000 borrowed. Annual Percentage Rate available to buyers with approved Tier 1+ through Tier 1(excellent) credit. All offers subject to approved credit, see dealer for more information. Cannot be combined with other offers. Offer available in AK, ID, MT, OR, WA regardless of buyer's residency; void where prohibited. Does not include College Grad or Military Rebate. Does not include taxes, license, title/registration fees, dealer fees and Oregon tax (1.05%). \*ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled maintenance for two years or 25,000 miles, whichever comes first. Certain models require a different maintenance schedule as described in their Maintenance Guide. 24-hour Roadside Assistance is also included for two years, unlimited mileage. Roadside Assistance does not include parts and fluids, except emergency fuel delivery. See Toyota dealer for details and exclusions. Valid only in the continental U.S.