

New tattoo shop to open in Hermiston

BY ANTONIO ARREDONDO

Hermiston Herald

Hermiston is getting a new tattoo shop downtown — one with social media recognition and a dedicated clientele.

Israel Badder, the owner of the new Badder Ink shop coming to 182 E. Main St. in Hermiston at the former site of Tech Tech Goose Gaming LLC, said he was inspired to bring his shop to the town after talking to his clients in Kennewick.

“About 50% of my clientele was coming from Oregon to the Tri-Cities,” Badder said. “And then I discovered there was no tattoo shop in Hermiston.”

It will be the second permanent location for Badder in the Pacific Northwest. The 41-year-old tattoo artist grew up in New York and traveled the country when he was



Yasser Marte/Hermiston Herald

Hermiston's new tattoo shop, Badder Ink, is in the final stages of construction Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022, at 182 E. Main St. This will be Badder Ink's second tattoo shop, with the first being in Kennewick. Badder Ink's grand opening will be Sept. 1, and the first 100 customers will receive a free tattoo or piercing.

older. After spending four years in Miami, Badder found his way up to Kennewick, where he has owned a tattoo business for five years.

And now he said it's time for Hermiston to get a premier tattoo shop — one that provides individual artists with a chance to shine.



Yasser Marte/Hermiston Herald

Israel Badder, 41, from Brooklyn, New York, gives a tour Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022, at his new tattoo shop Badder Ink, 182 E. Main St., Hermiston. Badder's first tattoo shop is in Kennewick.

“Oregon needed this shop,” Badder said.

Badder has developed quite a following on Instagram. The account @badderink has accumulated nearly 65,000 followers, with many drawn to his

linework, as well as small giveaways available for followers. Badder's personal account also is successful with more than 26,000 followers. He said one of the main reasons he's gained a following is because of his connection to art.

“People are excited — they're more excited about the art connection,” Badder said.

That art connection is one thing the owner said sets Badder Ink apart. At the Kennewick location, all six tattoo artists hail from South America — two from Chile, two from Colombia and two from Argentina. All those who work for Badder are traveling artists, much like he was in his earlier years.

Along with his tattoo artists, Badder said he plans to open an art gallery. It's something that he's done at his Kennewick location with positive results.

He said the Hermiston Main Street location's space is prime for showcases.

“It's a good spot to display local artists,” Badder said. “The space is perfect for it.”

About 50% of the clients he receives are Latino, Badder said. Coming from Mexico to New York by himself at 7, he said he tries to hire bilingual artists. With a large part of Hermiston's population being Hispanic, Badder said his shop fills an important gap.

The shop won't just be for tattoos, either. Badder said he has plans for a boba selection available near the front desk. While construction is underway, Badder plans on opening Sept. 1 due to licensing complications. At the grand opening ceremonies, Badder said he plans to give away 100 small tattoos and 100 piercings to those that come.

Hermiston Plaza expanding, adding two new retail stores

BY ANTONIO ARREDONDO

Hermiston Herald

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 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.”

Farm Credit West, NW Farm Credit Services pursue potential merger

BY SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN

Capital Press

Farm Credit West and Northwest Farm Credit Services, agricultural lending associations within the Farm Credit System, are pursuing a potential merger.

Experts say a merger — part of a broader consolidation trend within agricultural lending — comes with pros and cons for borrowers.

Combined, the associations would have a mammoth footprint.

Farm Credit West, with 14 offices, works with farmers in Arizona and California's Central Coast, Imperial Valley, Southern San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley.

Northwest Farm Credit Services, with 44 offices, provides financing and related services in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

“By joining our associations, we can be better positioned to strategically address marketplace changes and provide even

greater value for our customer-members,” Sureena Bains Thiara, chair of Farm Credit West's board of directors, said in a statement earlier this year.

Nate Riggers, chair of Northwest Farm Credit Services' board, said the merger is a “strategic move for both cooperatives.”

Since February, the organizations have been assessing merger benefits for stockholders and finalizing agreement terms.

Linda Hendricksen, chief marketing and learning officer at Northwest Farm Credit Services, said the proposal is pending regulatory review. Approval is expected in October, at which time the association will share more details.

The merged association plans to begin operations Jan. 1 under the leadership of Farm Credit West's president and CEO, Mark Littlefield. The management team will include leaders from both associations.

Headquarters will be in Spo-

kane, with regional operating centers in each state. The agricultural lenders do not anticipate office closures or branch staffing changes.

The possible merger is part of a decades-long trend toward consolidation within the Farm Credit System, or FCS.

The FCS traces its origins to 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson established the Federal Land Bank System.

The system's purpose is to provide a permanent, reliable source of credit to U.S. agricultural.

FCS lenders are regulated by the Farm Credit Administration, an independent federal agency. The FCS is organized as a borrower-cooperative, meaning borrowers own the associations and vote on board members.

The FCS has four regional banks that provide funds and support to smaller lending associations, which in turn give loans to eligible borrowers.

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