



-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison

Crews are working on a new retail center on the northeast corner of SE 15th Street and Sooner Road in Midwest City. The area will feature a Hobby Lobby and Academy Sports and Outdoors as well as two unannounced restaurants. BancFirst also plans to build a branch at the site.

Retail sprouts from former school site

By Jeff Harrison
Managing Editor

A busy intersection is rapidly transforming. For years, Sooner Rose Elementary School hugged the northeast corner of SE 15th Street and Sooner Road. The school district sold the property and the single-story brick building was razed, making way for future commercial development.

That next chapter is quickly taking shape. Academy Sports and Outdoors and Hobby Lobby will anchor a new shopping center under construction. Two restaurants and a BancFirst branch will later be added.

The Sooner Rose Shopping Center is a public-private partnership between Sooner Investment Group and the City of Midwest City. The city, acting through the Midwest City Memorial Hospital

Authority, will contribute more than \$4 million to the project. City leaders expect the project will generate about \$160,000 in sales and use taxes during the construct phase. When completed, it is expected to generate \$1 million annually in sales and use taxes.

Developer Bob Stearns said construction is running smoothly and plans to have the two anchor stores completed by November. Crews have installed a large underground storm water detention system and working on the exterior walls of the buildings.

"We were lucky that we didn't get any rain in March so we were able to get the underground detention system in place," Stearns said. "Now when it rains all that drains into the site."

Stearns said he's still working to find the perfect fit for the two restaurant spaces. One of the restaurants will be brand new to the market and the other will

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- Bob Stearns, Sooner Investment Group

be a traditional quick serve restaurant. bring some excitement.

"We want something with a wow factor to it," Stearns said. "The commitment to the city was that we'll bring some excitement to the area."

Midwest City and Stearns worked together on Town Center Plaza. Sooner Investment is also developing retail areas in Del City, Choctaw, Norman and others.