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Mall getting new store



Press Enterprise/M.J. Mahon

THE COLUMBIA MALL storefront that once housed the Ames department store now advertises Dunham's Sports, as shown Friday.

By **MICHAEL LESTER**
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Ames spot to hold sporting goods

BUCKHORN — The Columbia Mall appears to finally have found a new tenant for the former Ames department store, which has been vacant since 2002.

Signs inside the mall say Dunham's Sports will soon move into the anchor site.

It would become the mall's second sporting goods store, joining Schuylkill Valley Sports.

"In addition to traditional sporting goods, Dunham's stores now offer a full line of fashions and leisure clothing, including blue jeans, shirts, Please see MALL back page

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sweaters, eyewear and athletic and casual footwear," Dunham's website states.

For years, mall officials have said recruiting a store to fill the former Ames was critical to drawing smaller shops to the building, which had as many as 18 vacancies in 2008.

The long-vacant spot has between 70,000 to 80,000 square feet of space. Dun-

ham's stores usually range in size from 7,000 to 40,000 square feet, according to the company's website.

Dunham's, founded in 1937 as a bait and tackle shop, operates 20 stores in Pennsylvania.

Old rumors

The mall has had previous prospects for the former Ames.

In 2008, mall watchers expected a Steve & Barry's to open there. But those prospects died when the clothing retailer went bankrupt and shut down stores.

Earlier this week, the Columbia Mall's owner, New York-based Cedar Shopping Centers Inc., announced it paid nearly \$50 million for the purchase of Colonial Commons Shopping Center between Harrisburg and Hershey.

Cedar Shopping Centers is a real estate investment trust that owns 133 shopping center properties in nine states.

Columbia Mall Manger Susan Adams said she was not prepared to release details about Dunham's opening at the mall, but more news is on the way.