

## Phelan continues to grow

Restaurants and retail continue to pop up

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PHELAN — Despite the current economic downturn, more and more restaurants and retail stores are being built in Phelan.

Kentucky Fried Chicken and Taco Bell have both applied for land use permits and will be built on Sheep Creek Road near Phelan Road, said Bob Dawson, deputy director of current planning for San Bernardino County.

There is also a 22,000-square-foot retail building and a 15,000-square-foot underground parking area under construction on Phelan Road and Sierra Vista Road.

Dawson said he did not know what business was planning on occupying the building.

Another proposal on Phelan Road will include one 12,000-square-foot retail building and two 5,000-square-foot buildings on two acres, Dawson said.

“I think it’s kind of exciting,” Dawson said, “Particularly during this time that we’re hearing a lot of bad news on the news, and here’s this little area that’s kind of cooking.”

A land use permit has also been requested for a 7,000-square-foot retail building, a 3,600-square-foot retail building and a 3,000-square-foot restaurant on Sheep Creek Road near Phelan Road.

A 17,000-square-foot Rite Aid on Sheep Creek Road is also awaiting approval. A new AutoZone was recently completed and a 8,400-square-foot public library has already broken ground.

“Phelan is a vibrant community with a very high quality of life and it’s not surprising to see businesses recognizing the opportunity there,” said David Zook, spokesman for San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt.

Erica Irigoyen, a junior from Serrano High School, says kids are happy with the new development because it could provide more places to hang out.

“I like it, because you’re in the middle of nowhere and you have to go out of your way to go anywhere,” Irigoyen said.

Phelan resident Debbie Young said she moved there for the small town atmosphere and doesn't believe the infrastructure can handle the rapid growth.

"The streets are already so crowded in the afternoon, the schools are too crowded," Young said. "I don't like it."

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