

## **Plans for Henredon property still a go**

By Sharon McBrayer | The News Herald

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Morganton - The developer interested in the old Henredon Furniture property says plans are still on schedule.

Scott Smith, president of WRS Realty Investments in Aiken, S.C., which has an option to buy the property, said his company is still working with tenants to see who is interested in coming to Morganton and when.

The realty company plans to develop the property for retail, residential and office space and has been in talks with Wal-Mart officials.

In September, Smith said he intended to submit plans for the development to the city within 60 days and hoped to complete the project at the end of 2010.

Last week, Smith said his company is in its study phase of the property but everything is still on schedule.

WRS Realty Investments has an option to buy the property. The property has a total of 124.78 acres and is valued at more than \$5.4 million.

Morganton Mayor Mel Cohen believes the realty company doesn't want to buy the property until its rezoned.

The property is currently zoned heavy industrial. It would have to be rezoned commercial, Cohen said.

As for Wal-Mart and whether it will build a super store in Morganton, Cohen believes, even though it is still doing well, the retail giant is waiting to see whether the economy straightens out. Cohen said there's no guarantee Wal-Mart will build a super center in town.

If it does, it will take about two years to complete, Cohen said.

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens," Cohen said.