

Tidyman's Selling off Last Eight Stores

JUNE 22, 2006 -- SPOKANE, Wash. -- The Tidyman's supermarket chain here, which once operated 21 stores in three states until a sexual discrimination lawsuit led to financial woes, will sell its remaining eight stores, according to a published report. A news release from the company, which is 60 percent owned by its employees under an employee stock ownership plan and 40 percent by Minneapolis-based Supervalu, said it had already found buyers for two of the stores, in Pullman, Wash. and Sidney, Mont.

The other stores are located in Latah and Spokane Valley, Wash.; Post Falls, Idaho; and Great Falls and Billings, Mont. The company didn't disclose any potential buyers.

The payout to employee-owners depends on such factors as debt and proceeds from sales, and is likely to take about a year to determine, company president Mike Davis told the Spokane Spokesman-Review.

Earlier in June the retailer said it had sold a store in Livingston, Mont., and shuttered two underperforming locations in Spokane.