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Dillard's to go up in Casa Grande

By David Woodfill
Tribune

Casa Grande will get its first Dillard's retail department store. The retailer, which sells clothing, apparel, cosmetics, housewares and other products, was among a list of six new tenants announced for the Promenade at Casa Grande when it opens this fall at the northeast corner of Interstate 10 and Florence Boulevard. The 1 million-square-foot open-air shopping center also is getting a Famous Footwear, Lane Bryant, Michaels, PetSmart and Shoe Pavilion, Westcor officials said.

Promenade, which is being developed jointly by Westcor, WDP Partners and The Pederson Group, also will get a Best Buy, Harkins Theatre, J.C. Penney, Kohl's, Staples and Target.

The new Dillard's is expected to encompass about 100,000 square feet of space. The company has 14 locations in Arizona, according to the retailer's Web site.

Casa Grande Mayor Chuck Walton said the Promenade will contribute \$3 million a year in tax revenue, which the city had been losing to surrounding areas, including the East Valley.

"This is the greatest thing that's ever happened to Casa Grande," he said.

Walton said the center should get about 25 restaurants.

Promenade's first phase, which will encompass about 75 percent of the development, will open in November, said Todd Chester, a principal with WDP Partners. The second phase is set to open sometime in spring 2008.

Chester acknowledged the center is rather large for just Casa Grande alone, which has a population of about 40,000; however, he called the development a "home run," saying that it will have a much longer reach than a traditional shopping center, drawing customers from as far as Florence, Coolidge, Eloy, the Gila River Indian Community and Stanfield.

"This is the only choice out there," he said. Casa Grande itself has grown from about 25,000 to 42,000 between the last two censuses, Walton said. "If you were here 10 years ago, you wouldn't even know you're in the same (place)," he said. Dillard's officials were unavailable for comment.



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