

Nearby Pepsi facility due in July

Staff Reports

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Ground has been broken on the first business being built in what is now known as the Crossroads Industrial Park on Casa Grande's southwest side.

The 110-acre park's owners, Arizona Land Group in the East Valley, have sold off a 10-acre parcel to the Lane family of Tucson for a Pepsi distribution facility that is expected to open in late July.

"We're primarily doing site preparation work," said David Lane, president of the family corporation that owns Pepsi franchises in Tucson and in Colorado Springs, Colo. "Right now we're doing some clearing and grading."

The facility will consist of a 38,500-square-foot warehouse and 2,500 square feet of office space on the northwest corner of the industrial park at Schultz and Ash streets. There's space to nearly double the warehouse in the future. The facility should employ 25 to 30 people initially.

"We've been delivering all our Pepsi products from our Tucson facility up into Pinal County," Lane said. "With the growth going on in Pinal County, it's important to have a facility up there to service our customers more effectively. We service the town of Maricopa all the way over to the Johnson Ranch area. It's become increasingly obvious to us that we needed a facility there."

The family just opened a new warehouse in Yuma last August, so the franchise is definitely in a growth mode.

The Crossroads Industrial Park may be in a growth mode too, as Brown said his firm is negotiating with three likely tenants for other parcels there. The park is being pre-platted now to divide it into 4-, 5- and 6-acre lots. The land is zoned light industrial except for 10 acres at the southwest corner that is zoned commercial.