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Cabela's sets July 28 for Glendale store opening

Scott Wong

The Arizona Republic
Jun. 6, 2006 12:20 PM

Cabela's, the outdoors retailer building its first Southwest location near Cardinals Stadium, has pinned down the date shoppers will get their first peek at the store's stuffed wildlife displays, walk-through aquarium and boat showroom.

The 160,000-square-foot megastore, about three football fields in size, will open for business beginning July 28. A grand opening celebration, with festivities and celebrity guests, is set for Aug. 18.

The July opening means that the store will be up and running before the Cardinals kick off their first preseason game at the new \$455 million stadium, near Loop 101 and Glendale Avenue.

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And with the nearby Westgate City Center not launching its first half-million square feet of shops, restaurants and movie screens until late October, Cabela's will entertain football fans before and after games.

On average, a customer spends 3½ hours in the store, with half of all visitors traveling more than 100 miles, according to Cabela's. The Glendale outlet is expected to draw 4 million visitors a year.

Decades of experience as an outdoors catalogue company

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What's in store at Cabela's?

• More than 400 stuffed animals, including an African action scene where an elephant, rhino, lion and other creatures are recreated in their natural habitats.

• A 29-foot-tall "conservation mountain" featuring a running waterfall and stream, a trout pond, beaver dam and wild-game displays.

• A 40,000-gallon walk-through aquarium stocked with freshwater fish indigenous to the Southwest.

• An 8,000-square-foot wildlife museum with a collection of trophy mounts, including pronghorn antelope, elk and mule deer.

• A showroom featuring hundreds of wild-game trophies.

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has shown that the greater Phoenix area and Arizona provide a strong customer base for Cabela's, said John Castillo, a spokesman for the Sidney, Neb., retailer.

"Arizona does have a lot of great natural resources and a population that participates in many outdoors activities," Castillo said. "That is very attractive to our company."

Cabela's, just north of Westgate City Center, Glendale Arena and the football stadium, will serve as the centerpiece of the Zanjero project. It also will be the first piece of the 150-acre development to welcome customers.

Just north of Glendale Avenue, Zanjero will feature hundreds of townhouses, condominiums and apartments, several hotels and a mixed-use village with Class A office space and residential lofts stacked on top of shops and restaurants.

Set on 28.6 acres, Cabela's will exhibit more than 400 stuffed animals in dynamic poses, from an elephant and rhino to pronghorn antelope and Coues deer. Many of those will appear on a 29-foot "conservation mountain," with a trout pond, running waterfalls and a beaver dam.

The mountain showcases the "grand slam of sheep" (bighorn sheep, desert bighorn, Dall's sheep and Stone's sheep); the "four bears" (black, brown, grizzly and polar); and moose from Alaska, Yukon Territory, Wyoming and Canada.

Meanwhile, hundreds of freshwater fish indigenous to the Southwest will be stocked in a 40,000-gallon walk-through aquarium. Interactive kiosks with touch screens will keep children busy, prompting them to identify each species and describe its characteristics.

For further information, visit www.cabelas.com.

Reach the reporter at (602) 444-6914.

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• Indoor archery range where archers can test their equipment.

• Boat display and maintenance shop, shooting gallery, restaurant offering wild-game sandwiches, fly-fishing shop, general store, gift shop.

Source: Cabela's

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