

New mall

Post Oak, shoppers ready for opening

by Colette Hutchings
Battalion Staff

Get your cash and credit cards ready — Post Oak Mall opens Wednesday.

Ribbon-cutting begins at 9:30 that morning, with Miss America, Elizabeth Ward, and Miss Texas A&M, Cindy Green, assisting in the ceremony. Stores will open at 10 a.m.

If trips to the 80 stores can't keep shoppers busy, other entertainment will be provided; Ward will perform and sign autographs at 1 and 4 p.m.; Fubar D. Robot — a friendly robot will canvass the mall to flirt and joke with shoppers and character cartoonist Steve Gipson will be on hand to draw cartoons of customers.

The contemporary American Clowns also will join the festivities by staging shows at 12:30, 3:30 and 7 p.m. and will join Gipson and Fubar Robot for additional shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

At least 20 stores will join the initial 80 later this year, Sewell said. Dillard's, Wilson's and Sears are three major department stores among several chain stores that will be in the mall.

For food lovers and hungry shoppers, the mall will feature a "Gourmet Food Court". The court seats about 300 people and is surrounded by 15 fast-food eateries.

Maria Polites, promotions director for the mall, said the food court is a new concept in shopping malls and offers more variety for shoppers.

"Each family member can choose something different to eat and meet back at the table," she said. The choices range from

pizza, seafood and ice-cream to salad and corn dogs.

And to finance these shopping and food trips, two Impact tellers are conveniently located in Post Oak.

After the opening day/week festivities end, Polites said shoppers can look forward to more activities in the mall.

Below are events planned for this spring:

Feb. 23-27 — Indian Exhibit sponsored by Encyclopedia Britannica: life-sized mannequins of famous American Indians in their authentic dress will be on exhibit throughout the mall. A tour guide will be on hand to provide descriptions and explanations of the figures.

Feb. 25, 26 and 27 — Girl Scouts will be selling cookies.

March 3-6 — A new car show featuring 1982 American car models will be on display in the mall.

March 13 — Local Girl Scout troops will present exhibits on Girl Scout community services.

March 26-27 — A house fair sponsored by health organizations in the Brazos Valley will be presented. Booths will be set up showing the clubs' various services. Blood Pressure testing also will be offered to shoppers.

March 26-27 — Items that will be auctioned in the KAMU television auction will be on display.

April 3 — Brazos Valley Association of Education of Young Children will sponsor a children's festival.



The interior of Post Oak Mall.

Photo by Janet Golub Joyce

'Old' malls planning special spring events

by Colette Hutchings
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The new Post Oak Mall is opening next week, but what about the old malls?

Their territory is threatened. Do they plan to fight back?

Well, not for a while, Susan Daily, promotions director for Culpepper Properties, says.

Daily, director for both the Manor East Mall and Culpepper Plaza said she expects the new Post Oak Mall to detract a lot of customers the first few weeks, but she thinks the community can support two shopping malls.

"We plan to lay low these first few months," she said.

"They (Post Oak Mall officials) are spending about \$79,000 worth on advertising, so anything we do now would probably be worthless."

But that doesn't mean the malls won't continue to have

shows and displays. Several spring events are planned for the Manor East Mall, Daily said.

Feb. 20 — Cavalier Motorcycle Exhibit: Local businessmen "mostly older men," Daily said, will display their motorcycles. These exhibits will include Harley Davidson's and other new bikes. Some of the vehicles also have side cars, Daily said.

March 13 — KTAM disc-jockeys will broadcast from in the mall in their radio-remote van.

March 22 — Summer Fashions will be presented in the mall and KTAM disc-jockeys will broadcast again from the radio remote van.

March 27 — "Crazy Ray", (also known as "Whistlin' Ray") the male Dallas Cowboy cheerleader, will be at the mall all day signing autographs and handing out balloons to shoppers.

April 1 — Easter Bunny will be in the mall for picture taking and easter egg requests. Daily said college students usually partake in the picture-taking with Easter Bunny and Santa Claus.

April 24 — Arts and Crafts show and sale will be presented. Local artists and crafts people in the community will display their work and sell wares to shoppers.

More events are planned for the mall, Daily said, but additional events aren't definite yet, excluding an antique show in September, she said.

Events are also planned for Culpepper Plaza, but at this writing nothing has been confirmed.

Daily said most of the shoppers at the Culpepper Plaza stores are students so the events will probably pertain to their interests.

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