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## Wal-Mart selects Kingman as site of new one million square-foot distribution center

KINGMAN – Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., announced the selection of Kingman as the site of a new, one-million square-foot distribution center that will be constructed approximately 14 miles south of Kingman on Interstate 40. Construction of the new distribution center will begin in the summer of 2006 and the center will begin serving the needs of Wal-Mart stores by the Fall of

2007. There are Wal-Mart stores in each of Mohave County's major cities of Kingman, Bullhead City and Lake Havasu City.

In an election last March, 73 percent of King man's voters overwhelmingly supported a new Wal-Mart Supercenter for their community. The facility when in operation will employ approximately 500 individuals. Ninety percent of the jobs created are

planned to be full-time and initial hiring of area residents is expected to begin in the summer of 2007, according to Jami McFerren of the Arizona Department of Commerce.

"The Mohave County distribution center will provide Wal-Mart the opportunity to better serve the growing number of Wal-Mart customers who shop at our

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## For first time, monthly sales tax revenues soar over \$1 million mark

BULLHEAD CITY – For the first time ever, Bullhead City has topped the million-dollar mark in monthly transaction privilege or city sales tax revenues.

According to the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR), August sales tax revenues were \$1,016,075, more than 20 percent higher than July's numbers and about \$170,000 over budget projections. An additional \$5,800 was collected during a recent audit bringing total city tax revenues up to \$1,021,929.

The City has seen a steady revenue increase for the past three budget cycles. August figures in 2003-2004 jumped 17.61 percent over the previous year, from \$714,920 to \$840,808. July numbers also hit a record high of \$994,896, up 30 percent higher than the same month in the previous budget year.

Tax revenues from construction reached \$182,238 in July of this year, thus posting an increase of 37.5 percent. In the same month in 2003 revenues was \$132,532. Retail sales were up nearly 23 percent.

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Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce earns 2004 Rural Development Award presented during this year's Governor's Rural Development Conference in Lake Havasu. From left are Legislative District III Republican State Representative Joe Hart, District III Republican State Senator Linda Binder, Ginger Shoup of Havasu Chamber, Kevin Myers, chamber president and Dale Bailey, recently appointed by the governor as commissioner to Community Economic Development Council. (Photo courtesy of Havasu Chamber)

## Development Award given Havasu Chamber for leadership handbook

LAKE HAVASU CITY – Lake Havasu City, Kayenta Township, Flagstaff, Payson, Chino Valley, Apache Junction, the Town of Marana and the City of Casa Grande all earned honors in the 2004 Excellence in Rural Development Awards in recognition of outstanding economic development strategies community projects and partnerships involving municipal and county governments, community organizations, associations, non-profits, service clubs, and companies.

The awards are presented each year during the Governor's Luncheon at the Rural Development Conference (RDC) in Partnership with the Arizona Association for Economic Development (AAED) Fall Conference. This year's conference was hosted by Lake Havasu City in early October.

The conference and awards are produced through the Arizona Department of Commerce (ADOC). "We're proud to honor

these cities, towns, tribes and individuals in creating communities that welcome people to Arizona," said ADOC Director Gilbert Jimenez. "The largely volunteer activities we recognize during this event attract and bring business to rural Arizona."

There are eight categories for the 2004 Excellence in Rural Development Awards listed below along with the name(s) of the honorees: They categories and honorees are:

• Leadership Development – The Lake Havasu City Chamber of Commerce for its Havasu Leadership Development Program Curriculum Handbook

• Business Assistance & Development – The Greater Flagstaff Economic Council

• Innovative Economic Development Practices – The Arizona Rim Country Branding Project

• Governor's Excellence Award for Public Works, Facilities

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## More than 300 vehicles trucking sod to Laughlin Ranch Golf Course slated for Dec. 18 opening

BULLHEAD CITY – Since Oct. 25, more than 300 trucks have been transporting specially grown sod from the city of Casa Grande and for the next several weeks, landscape technicians at the Laughlin Ranch Golf Course east of the Bullhead Parkway will be laying the sod across 85 acres of the course.

According to Laughlin Ranch Golf Club General Manager Pat Laughlin and Bob Weekes, golf course superintendent, there will be a 'gentle opening' of the 18-hole, championship-styled golf course on Dec. 18. The Laughlin Ranch Golf Course is one of three 18-hole courses planned for the huge 10,000-acre Laughlin Ranch

project currently under development east of the parkway.

As an example of how large the sodding project is by itself, 1.5 acres of sod is the equivalent of one football field. Weekes said the Laughlin Ranch Development's principal partner, Dave Lords, has been "fully supportive of the pro-

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[Laughlin Ranch Story >>](#)

## Sod....

gressive agronomic plan to give the best quality course to the golfers.” As he has vowed in the past few months, Lords expects to be out on the links on December 18 with a number of guest players who will be on hand at the invitational opening.

There are many innovations created by the Laughlin Ranch and as its development progresses, those innovations will be publicized. Growing of the sod in itself was a creative process. Over-seeding of the hybrid bermuda sod with perennial rye has made for a solid foundation and immediate greening.

By mining the top-soil at Laughlin Ranch, the course was prepared to accept the trucked in sod. More than 300 semi trucks are rolling in from Casa Grande, AZ where the sod was custom grown on 1 2 inches of special sand...to allow proper rooting of the more permanent bermuda. For now, the visible green is from the winter rye, inter-seeded in the dormant bermuda. When the temperature reaches the 100s, the rye will dye off and the hearty bermuda will take over.

For pure toughness has a strong network of roots and rhizomes, hybrid Bermuda grasses take rough treatment, filling in damaged areas as well as withstanding temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. However, bermuda goes dormant, turning golden brown during the colder winter months, greening up just in time for spring. Bermuda varieties have improved characteristics and require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides than other

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varieties which improve our environment.

Laying and preparing the sod is being performed by crew of about 25 “sod specialists” from Evergreen Turf and, like other workers in the large development, the sod specialists are working at a fast pace to insure the Dec. 18 gentle opening of the course. The hillside golf course is quickly becoming a reality for anxious golfers across the Tri-State.

“This golf club will be a true golfing experience with 18 unique holes to challenge golfers at every level”, said Pat Laughlin, pointing out that the clubhouse currently under construction will include a full service Day-Spa, Sports Bar, Grill, Meeting Rooms, Banquet Facilities, Complete Practice Facilities, GPS Units on every cart and a number of other amenities.

Laughlin Ranch Golf Club will be open to the public with daily fee play. For further information on booking tournaments or general info, call toll free at **1-866-684-GOLF (866-684-4653)** and leave a message with your questions.

For purposes of convenience, interested parties can also fax their requests for information and receive a return call at this fax number, 928-754-1243, or, simply e-mail Pat Laughlin at [plaughlin@laughlinranch.com](mailto:plaughlin@laughlinranch.com). Additional information about the overall Laughlin Ranch project can be found at the following website [www.laughlinranch.com](http://www.laughlinranch.com)