

Harkins plans new Flagstaff cinema



Sue Doerfler, The Republic | azcentral.com 4:58 p.m. MST June 6, 2015



(Photo: Courtesy of Harkins Theatres)

Harkins Theatres is bringing its luxury theater concept to Flagstaff in a new 16-screen cinema expected to open in the spring.

The new 72,000-square-foot complex, which is under construction near Flagstaff Mall northeast of Interstate 40 off Country Club Drive, will replace the current Harkins Flagstaff 11.

The Scottsdale-based company also is building a 16-screen multiplex in Goodyear that is slated to open in the spring.

The Flagstaff complex, which has five additional screens, will allow Harkins to open more movies including a wider variety of films, Dan Harkins, Harkins' owner and CEO said in a company release.

The cinema will have more features than the existing theater.

These include: Harkins Ultimate Rocker seats, stadium seating, wall-to-wall curved screens, state-of-the-art digital projection and sound and a large parking lot. Its expanded concession stand that will offer Freschetta pizzas, White Castle cheeseburgers, mini-corndogs and popcorn chicken.

Flagstaff 11, which is near University Avenue and Woodlands Village Road, will remain open until Flagstaff 16 is completed.

Kahala Brands has purchased Brentwood, Tenn.-based Planet Smoothie and Tasti D-Lite.

Planet Smoothie has more than 100 stores, including one in Mesa and two in Tucson. Tasti D-Lite, which also sells smoothies, has locations in Texas, California, Nevada and on the East Coast.

Kahala Brands will consolidate the corporate operations and run the franchising platform for both brands from its headquarters in Scottsdale.

With the addition, the franchisor oversees 16 quick-service restaurant brands. Others include Blimpie, Samurai Sam's Teriyaki Grill, Cold Stone Creamery and America's Taco Shop.

Metro Phoenix's third Rally's hamburgers is slated to open in the next month.

The new Phoenix location, 1345 W. Camelback Road, happens to be the site of a Rally's location that closed years ago, said Jennifer Durham, vice president of franchise development for the Tampa-based Checkers & Rally's Restaurants. The two brands have the same menu.

The new Rally's will sell the chain's signature burgers and will feature its expanded menu that includes a Southern spicy chicken sandwich, she said.

The other metro Phoenix locations are in Tempe and Mesa. A fourth Arizona restaurant is in Yuma.

Checkers & Rally's Restaurants is planning to build more locations across the country, including the Phoenix area, Durham said.

The company, which has 808 locations nationwide, has plans to expand by 100 locations in the Phoenix market and is hoping to find three to four more franchisees, she said.

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