

Unique developer breaks ground, following Westside retail spurt

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Over the past few months, Albuquerque's Westside has seen a spurt of retail development. And that spurt has encouraged a new project from a unique developer.

Acoma Business Holdings broke ground in late February on a new retail development near Unser Boulevard and La Morada Place Northwest. Las Lomitas Plaza is a 2.6-acre development with both retail and restaurant space.

[John Jonezy Mohr](#), spokesman for Acoma Business Holdings, said the first three businesses planned for the project are Growler USA, a microbrew pub; PostNet, a shipping and design company; and Bonchon, a South Korean-based chicken franchise. The plan now is for the Acoma Pueblo to manage those three businesses.

Beyond those initial stores, Las Lomitas will have 7,800 square feet available for either build-to-suit or ground lease, said Mohr. Though no numbers are finalized, Mohr said the going rate for retail on Albuquerque's Westside is between \$24 and \$32 a square foot.

Mohr said Acoma Business Holdings was encouraged to break ground on Las Lomitas by the flurry of retail development to hit Albuquerque's Westside, including the Andalucia at La Luz project at Coors Boulevard and Montaño Road, where Sprouts Farmers Market just opened a new location and [where La Cumbre Brewing Co. is planning a new tap room](#). Just to the south of Las Lomitas is a new retail development anchored by a Walmart Neighborhood Market. Blake's Lotaburger, Starbucks, Verizon and Panera Bread are taking up residence at the nearby Coors Pavilion across the street from St. Pius X High School. And just north of La Morada is Peterson Properties' Unser Shops and Pads, where Lava Rock Brewery opened its doors late last month.

"It seemed like the right time to put something up there," Mohr said. "We saw the opportunity for the development."

Mohr also cited new home development on the Westside, [along with the city's new massive sports complex](#), as for why Acoma opted now to break ground.

Growler USA is slated to open sometime in August.

Klinger Constructors is the general contractor and Mullen Heller Architecture, both based in Albuquerque, also worked on the project.

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Growler USA is the first business slated to open at Las Lomitas Plaza, which recently broke ground. Growler USA and two other businesses will be managed by the Acoma Pueblo.