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Tidbits

Bartell Drugs opens a new Lake City store Monday at Northeast 125th Street and Lake City Way Northeast. The store replaces a smaller location a few blocks away and will include a larger pharmacy and wider selection of natural, organic and "made in the Northwest" products. Bartell owns and operates 55 stores in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties. — *AM*

A full-size supermarket is slated to open in March in the heart of downtown Seattle. The 17,000-square-foot store will be in the basement of a building on Third Avenue, a space occupied by the department store S.H. Kress & Co. for 50 years until it closed in the 1970s.

The new grocery store, Kress IGA Supermarket, is owned by Myers Group on Whidbey Island. Myers opened its first grocery store in 1978; this is its third store affiliated with IGA, an independent alliance of grocers. — *MA*

CeFiore, a Los Angeles-based frozen-yogurt chain, opened its first Pacific Northwest location last month in Kirkland. The chain, which sells what it calls "Italian nonfat yogurt," has 17 stores from Hawaii to Louisville, Ky. — *MA*

Seattle has spawned another beverage concept — Zevia, a sugar-free diet soda in cola, orange and lemon-lime twist flavors. Founders Derek and Jessica Newman and Ian Eisenberg market the drink as a "carbonated stevia supplement." Stevia, an herb used as a sweetener in many products, is known for being sweeter than sugar with almost no calories.

The new diet soda retails for about \$1.19 a can and \$5.99 for a six-pack. It is available at PCC Natural Markets, Metropolitan Markets, Thriftway and Pasta & Co., and online at www.zevia.com. — *MA*

McEwen Ranch in Oregon has been certified organic by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, its managers said this week. The roughly 150,000-acre ranch is about 90 miles west of Boise. It has the capacity for up to 5,000 head of organic cattle and plans to expand.

McEwen will sell the cattle to Dakota Beef, whose president, Matt Grove, praised the ranch's organic certification. "It's time for the organic beef industry to shift the paradigm and start to focus on quality, rather than trying to get the green stamp on just any piece of beef," Grove said in a release. — *MA*

Vulcan Real Estate is welcoming three new retailers at its South Lake Union developments over the next month. Tutta Bella Neapolitan Pizzeria opens its third Seattle-area restaurant Monday above Whole Foods at 2200 Westlake Ave. In early December, clothing boutique Opal will begin doing business at 2200, and GolfTEC will join Alley24 across from REI. — *AM*

PlayNetwork in Redmond has been chosen to provide custom music programming for Under Armour's first store opening this week in Annapolis, Md. PlayNetwork, which also installed the store's audio and video systems, said it will select songs with an "intense, high-energy club-DJ vibe" to help Under Armour sell athletic apparel. — *AM*

Four J.C. Penney stores in the state, including one at Bellevue Square, are among the first retail buildings in the nation to earn the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Energy Star" rating for superior energy performance.

The Bellevue, Burlington, Puyallup and Vancouver stores use, on average, about 35 percent less energy than typical retail stores and produce about a third of the carbon-dioxide emissions of other area retailers, according to the EPA. The agency implemented the Energy Star rating for retail buildings last month. — *AM*

Starbucks' headquarters building has been certified LEED-EB Gold, making it the country's oldest existing building to earn certification for Leadership in Energy and Environment Design.

The U.S. Green Building Council administers the benchmark designation for high-performance, environmentally sustainable buildings. Starbucks and the building's owner, Nitze-Stagen, worked together to gain certification. — *MA*

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