

THE DAILY
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BUSINESS

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Business owners welcome American Airlines

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — Business owners in an area that has long been a major transportation hub welcomed the arrival of American Airlines on December 29, 2007. The airline's new service to Grand Junction was a significant milestone for the community, and business owners were about to build an even greater development in Palisade.

The development, known as Wine Country Inn, should be finished in mid- to late-summer or a few months after the airline begins service in April.

For Tally, adding the world's largest airlines to the roster of carriers at Grand Junction Regional Airport will be good for business. That is why she was in town Tuesday to meet with airline executives at Courtyard by Marriott.

"This is huge," said Tally, who joined about two dozen other business owners and civic leaders in welcoming the airline executives. "Dallas-Fort Worth is a major hub for American Airlines."

She said that will give western Colorado access to major international and domestic markets, in turn giving Wine Country Inn access to a broader and deeper tourism pool.

"We are thrilled to death."

Tally said of the possibilities that American Airlines can bring to the area.

Airline executives expressed similar sentiments at the morning event. The carrier, which will start service to Dallas-Fort Worth beginning April 7, plans to use its regional affiliate, American Eagle Airlines, to service the route.

"It has it all. Business and leisure," said Dale Morris, who is managing director of

governorment community relations, on the Colorado.

"We are excited about this market. Ahead of the competition, Grand Junction Airport has a lot of change in the next few months, with a \$20 million project that is up in early