



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel photos

One of the as-yet-unclothed Macy's mannequins seems to be giving the eye to a security guard patrolling the 41st Avenue department store's floors as employees work to get the store ready for this weekend's 'soft' opening.

Macy's gets ready for opening

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

CAPITOLA — Macy's still has a little dressing up to do, but the store is nearly ready for its soft opening Saturday at the Capitola Mall.

The sneak preview and daylong shopping event benefits local nonprofits, which have been selling tickets to the opening for \$10 apiece. So far, \$90,000 has been raised for the organizations, said store manager Chris Thoryk.

Macy's will kick in an additional \$3 for every ticket brought to the store Saturday. Tickets purchased the day of the soft opening will be split equally among the 51 organizations.

Among the groups benefiting from

the soft opening: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cabrillo Music Festival, Hospice Caring Project, Kuumbwa Jazz Center, Shakespeare Santa Cruz and the Women's Crisis Support-Defensa de Mujeres.

The store's grand opening is May 3, and includes live calypso music, free makeovers, modeling and sweet treats.

The city of Capitola and the mall had been looking for a tenant to fill the space since a financially strapped J.C. Penney left in June 2000.

Macy's added 9,000 square feet to the space, making it the second-largest store at the mall, at 101,000 square feet. Sears is the largest, with 115,000 square feet.



A ceramic butler holds a pair of goblets in Macy's crystal department.