



—RENDERING COURTESY OF BLACK ROOSTER, MAPLEWOOD, MINN.

This about 100-room Holiday Inn Express hotel is under construction south of Interstate 90, near the intersection of Seltice Way and Northwest Boulevard, in Coeur d'Alene. It is being built by KVC Development Co., of Spokane, and is expected to open this summer.

Permit values up sharply ...

North Idaho still sprinting

Post Falls tops Coeur d'Alene in new single-family home permits

By Rocky Wilson
OF THE JOURNAL OF BUSINESS

Kootenai County construction activity continues to grow at a breakneck pace, and observers say they see no end to that in sight.

Last year, permit values for commercial projects in Post Falls jumped 40 percent to \$27.7 million, while such commercial permits climbed 21 percent in unincorporated Kootenai County and 19 percent in the city of

Coeur d'Alene. Residential construction shot up again, too. Single-family home permits rose by 24 percent in Post Falls, 19 percent in Coeur d'Alene, and 7 percent in the unincorporated county, and that was over strong 2004 figures.

"The last couple years have been incredible," says Ryan Nipp, a spokesman for Parkwood Business Properties, of Coeur d'Alene. "The growth rates remain strong, and the population is growing. It will be hard to match the last two years, but 2006

should be another strong year."

Chris Pereira, who owns Sierra Builders Inc. and Ginno Construction Co., both of Coeur d'Alene, says, "The potential for growth is phenomenal."

Pereira says his home-building company, Sierra, already is "maxed out with the staff we have," and he isn't worried about getting more commercial work for Ginno. "It's only March, and we already have the same volume on the books, \$19 million, that we did all last year."