



PJ's Coffee moving from Pueblo West to Rawlings - Pueblo Chieftain, The (CO) - September 12, 2022 - page A1

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A new PJ's Coffee will soon open at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library in downtown Pueblo, bringing the Steel City in line with a national trend among libraries that offer beverages and food as part of their amenities.

Cafe owner Renee Prutch said she and her staff of nine are "very excited" about the new cafe, which should be fully open within a couple of weeks.

"We are super excited about it," said Jon Walker, executive director for the Pueblo City-County Library District. "In today's world people love amenities and it is not uncommon for libraries to be trending toward offering coffee and light refreshments."

The Boulder Public Library and another Denver suburb already offer coffee cafes in their main branches. Walker said when he worked in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the main library had a Starbucks.

In order to run the new location, Prutch decided to close the PJ's Coffee at 922 E. Hailey Lane, Unit D, in Pueblo West. The library coffee shop, located just to the left of the front door at the Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., will offer everything the Pueblo West shop had, from coffee drinks, teas and smoothies to breakfast and lunch sandwiches, croissants, bagels and muffins.

Prutch said she bid for the opportunity to open the library coffee shop back when library staff first started remodeling the Rawlings branch.

"It has been neat and fun to see the whole process. The Rawlings Library is beautiful, and with the new design and layout, to be a part of this amazing facility is so exciting for us," Prutch said.

Cafe patrons will be able to sit in the lobby area adjacent to the cafe, which is set up with tables and chairs.

Walker said the newspapers and magazines have been moved close to the cafe so "it will be really convenient to browse through them or read a book, as you can sort of imagine, and have a coffee."

"There's a lot of comfortable seating and it's just a lovely space for light conversation, studying or sharing information," Walker said.

The library's expansion is about 80% complete, Walker said.

Another part of the remodel will be a brand new InfoZone, which will chronicle the history of the human record, from Indigenous rock art to modern day digital information technology. There also will be new meeting rooms, and PJ's will have the option to cater events like breakfast meetings.

Prutch said it has been a fun experience to help design the cafe, from the equipment to electric and plumbing specifications. An added perk for PJ's is "to be able to take advantage of support from the library's security, information technology and janitorial departments," Prutch said.

In return, the library will collect some lease revenue from the cafe to help cover its costs, Walker said.

Once PJ's Coffee shop opens, its hours will be will be 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The coffee shop will open earlier, at 7 a.m., once its staff gets settled in. Prutch said she will have two baristas working each shift.

"I anticipate it's going to be a great location for us," she said, pointing out that a PJ's

parking spot near the front door will also allow for quick pick-ups of to-go orders.

As for the site of the former PJ's in Pueblo West, Prutch and her husband, Joe, will put the unit up for sale. The couple built the four-unit strip mall that housed it in 2017.

"It has a little under 2,000 square feet and a drive-thru, and it's a great location," right next door to Baskin Robbins, she said of the Pueblo West building.

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