

BUSINESS

A whole lotta bakin' goin' on

Dunkin' Donuts opens to large, enthusiastic crowds

BY ALEXIS BECHMAN
ROUNDUP STAFF REPORTER

For sweets lovers, it was a moment that could not come soon enough. The doors to Dunkin' Donuts opened Wednesday and the smell of glazed delight wafted out.

Soon, a line formed along the side of the building as motorists pulled into the drive-thru off East Bonita Street and the Beeline Highway.

Inside, a staff of 15 quickly filled orders, working efficiently in the small space. By 9:30 a.m., they had already sold 50 dozen donuts.

To keep up, while one person put sprinkles on pink glazed donuts, another filled donuts



Photo courtesy of DJ Craig

With a steady pace of drive-thru and walk-in customers, Dunkin' Donuts had sold 50 dozens donuts by 9:30 a.m. on opening day.

with apple filling and rolled carts with the sugary concoctions to the front, stocking a display stand six-shelves high.

At one of the handful of tables inside, Chris Nottingham sat with his granddaughter CJ Vila, 7, a box of donuts between them.

Nottingham said when Dunkin' Donuts put up a sign counting down the number of days until they opened, CJ had updated him every day as it drew closer.

"She is doing cartwheels," he said of CJ's excitement. "She has been waiting. This morning she woke me up and said, 'Is it time to go yet? Is it time?'"

CJ picked a jelly filled donut and a hot chocolate for the occasion. She said it was "good."

Nottingham, a resident of Payson since 1970, said all the commotion around the store opening reminded him of when McDonald's opened.

Payson residents Wayne Walter and his wife Carolyn walked out of Dunkin' Donuts with half a dozen donuts. They said they'd been waiting for them to open since they started construction several months ago.

"This is going to be terrific," Wayne said.

Walter said he was also excited to see Five Guys was coming as well.

Store manager Desere Gonzalez said she came to work at 3 a.m. to get ready for opening day. A team of bakers had worked through the night baking donuts from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

All of the donuts are baked in-house in Payson.

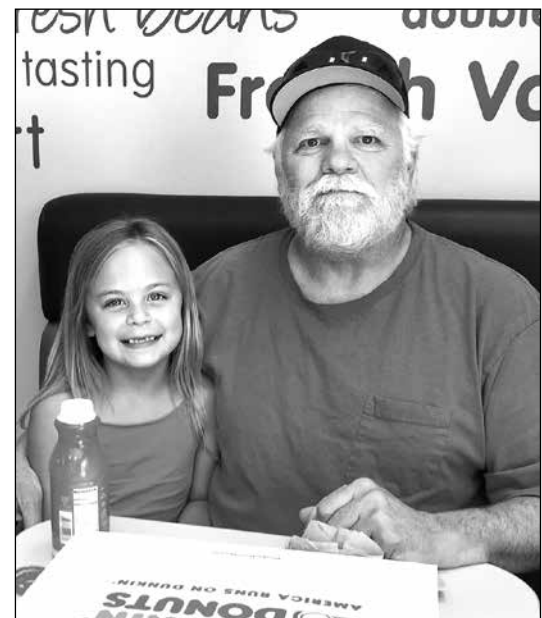
Gonzalez, a Payson resident of 11 years, said they had hired 22 local residents and were looking to hire a few more.

Because they started training June 9, she felt everyone was ready and prepared for opening day.



Alexis Bechman/Roundup

Patrons had to decide from fresh baked goodies stacked six-shelves high on the opening day of Dunkin' Donuts.



Alexis Bechman/Roundup

Chris Nottingham and his granddaughter, CJ, were among the customers at Dunkin' Donuts for the franchise's first day serving Rim Country residents.

Shoofly Quilters celebrate 20 years of fun and service

The Shoofly Quilters formed as a local chapter of the Arizona Quilters Guild in 1996.

It started when a group of women, who met every Friday in the upstairs meeting room of the Payson Senior Center on Main Street to quilt, decided to start a local chapter of the Arizona Quilters Guild.

This option would provide additional educational opportunities and more exposure to the statewide Arizona quilting community.

An announcement in the local newspaper invited interested individuals to attend an informational meeting in January 1996.

Out of that meeting, it was decided to choose the Shoofly name for the common "Shoofly" quilt block and from the Shoofly Indian Ruins located north of Payson.

The first "official" meeting was on Feb. 2, 1996, and the group elected officers. Harriet Goates served as the first president, Linda Stailey was vice president, Alyce Leach was secretary/treasurer, and Virginia Fowler was publicity chairman.

There were 23 charter members. Currently, Shoofly has about 55 members.

Besides education, service to the community is a premier goal for the Shoofly group. They make and donate quilts to several agen-



cies. These include the Prescott Veterans Hospital, Payson police and fire departments, Hospice, the Oncology Center, Banner Hospital, Dialysis Center, the Child Protective Service (CPS), and New Beginnings.

Dog beds are made from fabric scraps and donated to the Humane Society of Central Arizona.

To celebrate the 20 years of fun and service, Shoofly held a special program and luncheon at the American Legion Post in Payson and invited former members to visit and enjoy the socialization.

Business meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. at the American Legion Post on Highway 260 in Payson.

More information can be found on their website, www.shoofly-quilters.com, or by calling 928-472-7609.



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Contributed photo

INTERNATIONAL REACH FOR RIM

Pulse Combustion Systems in Payson recently met with customers from Mexico. The company is in the industrial park at the airport. Pictured are: (right to left) James Rehkopf, owner, Pulse Combustion Systems; Payson Mayor Kenny Evans; Sofia Rodriguez, manager, Tecsiquim, SA de CV; Hendrik Grobler, manager, Pulse Combustion Systems; Jorge Barradas, production manager, Tecsiquim; Marius Grobler, VP engineering, Pulse Combustion Systems; Abraham Rangel, maintenance manager, Tecsiquim; and RJ Frost, fabricator, Pulse Combustion Systems.

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