

TOGETHER TONGANOXIE THRIVES

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES

DOWNTOWN DRUGSTORE will continue to offer curbside pickup in the 500 block of East Fourth Street. Pharmacist and owner Sarah Breuer said the drugstore will continue the service even after the pandemic ends.



Shawn F. Linenberger/Staff

Downtown Drugstore planning for permanent curbside pickup

By Shawn F. Linenberger
slingenberger@
tonganoxiemirror.com

The Downtown Drugstore has been offering curbside pickup in the 500 block of East Fourth Street in Tonganoxie during the COVID-19.

Owner and pharmacist Sarah Breuer said the drug store will continue to offer the service moving forward.

"That's as a change we made that we're going to keep around," Breuer said, noting that the business will be installing a sign denoting the curbside pickup in the coming weeks.

Customers again can go inside the store for its pharmacy, medical supply, gift, snack and Tonganoxie High School apparel needs. Plus, pharmacy counter at the back of the store now has a plexiglass barrier to protect customers and workers.

Breuer became owner of the business at 516 E.

Fourth St. in July 2009.

She said some renovation plans were in the works this year — and then came March.

"We were hopping to do a renovation in the next year," Breuer said. "That was our big goal and then COVID hit and we hit our brakes."

Some of the potential future plans: updating the store and adding a consultation room for providing vaccines "and a little more clinical stuff," Breuer said.

She also would like to add more local products to the store's shelves, such as local honey, for instance.

"I know there's just some local people who do some neat things who I've got my eye on to bring that in to go along with the Booster Club," Breuer explained. "I kind of want this to be a destination to get to see some neat stuff about our town."

The THS Booster Club apparel and memorabilia also is a popular spot near

the front of the store.

"We love supporting the schools," Breuer said. "All of that gets donated back."

A Tonganoxie High School graduate herself, Breuer headed to the University of Kansas to become a pharmacist.

"I wanted to do something in medicine, but I wasn't really sure what kind of medicine," Breuer said. "I landed on pharmacy and once I did I made a goal to go to pharmacy school and I wanted to own a store. I met that goal."

The Downtown Drugstore continues to maintain its same hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays.

Something else that hasn't changed: the popular Barq's Red Creme Soda, available in fountain form.

"We might have an uproar," Breuer joked, discussing the notion of discontinuing the soft-drink offering at the store.



Shawn F. Linenberger/Staff

FLASHBACKS CAFE IS OFFERING socially distant dining while still doing carryout and delivery at Fourth and Main streets in downtown Tonganoxie.

Loyal following continues at Flashbacks

By Shawn F. Linenberger
slingenberger@
tonganoxiemirror.com

Flashbacks restaurant has been a popular spot, whether for curbside pickup or socially distant dining in recent weeks.

"Since we've opened back up, we're getting better than 75 percent back," said Charlie "Tuna" Conrad, who with his wife, Debi, owns and operates the downtown spot for breakfast and lunch at Fourth and Main streets. "A lot of it is because we started the carryout business during time we were closed down."

Flashbacks also provides free delivery to roughly a 2.5-mile radius of the community.

"We offer free delivery for those stuck at home," Conrad said.

Debi is no stranger to the restaurant business. Flashbacks has been in business the past five years. Before that, the

couple operated West End Cafe where 1866 Bar and Grill now operates.

Overall, Debi has 27 years of restaurant experience.

Customers again can dine in, though tables are spaced at least 6 feet apart and available seating is about 50% capacity.

"We've had some outstanding customers," Tuna said. "They supported us when we didn't have dine in at all."

Flashbacks got a bit of a makeover while just offering carryout and delivery. Tuna said that some new pictures and frames were posted on the walls, among other updates.

"We cleaned from one corner to the next," Tuna said. "We got a lot of compliments on that."

The restaurant has plenty of Tonganoxie and Jarbalo memories, including a large portion of the former Tonganoxie High gymnasium hardwood

floor adorning the west wall inside the restaurant.

Flashbacks also has information about notable THS graduates, including Dr. Robert Matthews, who went on to a successful and award-winning career in education in California. He's also a member of the Tonganoxie Education Foundation Hall of Fame.

The atmosphere provides many discussions about local history, but popular menu items also keep customers coming back.

"Breakfast and our burgers, those are the two main things," Tuna said.

Though the pandemic has required some adjustments for everyone, Tuna said that carryout and delivery services have given Flashbacks a new customer base.

"We couldn't ask for a better community to be in, we just couldn't," he said.

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