

Airman 1st Class Clifton T. Lopez
BJC 8-98
Features 8

LAGREGGS

5-48HB-1 (30-32)

5-24HLI-1 (64 - 66) (drop)

La Gregg's offers sweet treats

Shop sells gourmet bakery goods, drinks to DINFOS students, staff

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LAGREGGS

The smell of baking cookies floats in the air. A line of students moves toward the cashier. The students chatter away about various subjects, perhaps classes, perhaps their breakfast, perhaps their weekend.

There are several tables around. They are small tables, and they are square or circular in shape. Their fake granite tops are cluttered with coffee cups, class work, danishes and donuts. This is La Gregg’s Gourmet Coffee.

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LAGREGGS 2-2-2-2

La Gregg's is a small coffee and pastry shop located on the first floor of the Defense Information School here. La Gregg's offers a variety of pastries, an assortment of coffees and a selection of baked goods such as cookies and bagels. La Gregg's also offers sandwiches and hot dogs.

La Gregg's sells a variety of baked goods, such as danishes, muffins, donuts, cinnamon buns and turnovers. The most popular item on the menu at La Gregg's, however, are the cookies, baked fresh right in front of the customers.

"On the average, we bake about 20 to 40 pounds of cookies [a day]," said Greg Irby, the manager and owner of La Gregg's Gourmet Coffee.

"Cookies are our number one top seller," said Deborah J. Murphy, head cashier at La Gregg's. Although she conceded that there is "probably a close draw between coffee and cookies."

This is not surprising since La Gregg's has a selection of 17 coffees on rotation.

"We do about 5 every week," said Irby.

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LAGREGGS 3-3-3-3

Irby said that the non-flavored coffees, such as the house blends “Nantucket” and “Colombian” are more popular than the flavored coffees.

Irby said that the male coffee drinkers prefer their coffee to be un-flavored.

Although, said Irby, “Females are mostly flavored coffee drinkers.”

La Gregg’s is open Mondays through Fridays. It opens at 7:30 a.m. and stays open until 2:30 p.m., but business peaks during the early morning hours as students come in for a light breakfast.

“We have two big rushes, one is usually around 7:30 a.m. and then [the other is] at 9 a.m. I guess everybody’s classes get out at 9 a.m.,” said Murphy.

One reason for early morning rushes might be that some students miss breakfast at the post dining facilities.

“I eat here a lot,” said Navy Seaman Recruit M. Kurtis Maddox, a Basic Journalist Course student here. “If you don’t have breakfast, it’s good to go to [La Gregg’s].”

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LAGREGGS 4-4-4-4

“It’s very convenient,” said Maddox.

Other customers at La Gregg’s come in to socialize with friends while enjoying their food.

Air Force Airman Heather K. Sitzes, a Video Information Production and Documentation student here, was eating with friend, Air Force Airman Andrew W. Lepperd, a Radio Television Broadcast student here.

Sitzes said that her favorite cookies are the double chocolate. “They get me through my day.”

Lepperd, who usually orders cookies and pastries “such as cheese danishes”, offered an unusual explanation for some of his visits to La Gregg’s.

“Sometimes, if I do well in my classes, I’ll reward myself with a trio of cookies,” said Lepperd.

In addition to pastries and breakfast type foods, La Gregg’s offers lunch fare.

“We also have [freshly] made sandwiches and salads,” said Irby.

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LAGREGGS 5-5-5-5

While the sales during lunch are not quite as busy as breakfast, there are enough students around to keep the staff busy.

“A lot of people have deadlines and stuff, try to finish up their work here,” said Irby.

La Gregg’s, which is privately owned by Irby, currently has only one location. But there are plans in the future for expansion.

In November, there are plans for opening a La Gregg’s at Kimbrough Army Community Hospital here, said Irby.

“The store will be a little bigger than this one,” said Murphy. “They’ll definitely have a more room.”

“We like trying to make La Gregg’s like a family atmosphere,” said Murphy. “[By] getting to know the students, their little quirks and [by] getting to know them on a regular basis, you can anticipate their needs. They enjoy that personal touch and we enjoy doing that.”