

# Geneseo Republic

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## Coffee ... to go

By Lisa Depies  
Republic Editor

Geneseo's newest business is also one of its smallest. It's so small, in fact, customers don't even have to leave their cars to make a purchase.

Espress Lanes, a two-window drive-up coffee shop opened in Geneseo Feb. 6. The business is located on Route 6 near Aldi's.

"When Kurt and I lived in Tacoma, Wash., there were these little coffee drive-ups on almost literally every corner," said Heidi Gazay, who along with her husband, Kurt, co-owns Espress Lanes.



Espress Lanes, a dual drive-thru coffee shop on Route 6 in Geneseo is now open. The shop is located near Aldi's.  
Photo by Lisa Depies

"When we moved here, there was nothing," she said. "At that time, even Starbucks wasn't in the Quad Cities."

Although her husband is a Washington native, Gazay grew up in Geneseo and was eager to "provide a little bit of the Pacific Northwest culture" to the Midwest.

"Ever since we moved here, opening a drive-up coffee shop has been in the back of my mind," she said.

The business name, Espress Lanes, is a play on the coffee term "espresso," she said.

"Because it's a drive-thru, we have a car theme for the business," she said. "Our drink sizes are 'compact,' 'mid-size' and 'full-size.'"

In addition, Espress Lanes labels its "smoothies" as "cruzies."

Aside from the car-themed words, Gazay said she really wanted to keep the menu's vocabulary simple.

"I think some people are intimidated by the fancy words used in some coffee shops," she

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said. "We want to make everything simple. If you want chocolate, you say chocolate."

In addition to coffees - both hot and cold - Espress Lanes offers hot chocolate, apple cider, lemonade and soda, as well as several baked goods.

"We wanted to carry something for the kids as well as something for adults. We're essentially a beverage bistro," she said.

Espress Lanes has a variety of flavorings that can be added to its drinks.

"If we don't have something on the menu, that doesn't mean we don't have it. I'll make anything for anyone," she said.

Espress Lanes will be open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., though Gazay said she hopes to expand the business' hours at a later date.

"We'll eventually be open through the lunch hour, but we wanted to start with just mornings so we could get in our groove," she explained.

"We're targeting everyone who leaves the house and goes anywhere in the morning. Anyone who wants a good drink without having to leave their car will like Espress Lanes," she said.

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