

Bookstore reopens in Watsonville

By ERIK CHALHOUB

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE — With much fanfare, Watsonville's eight-month bookstore drought ended Saturday when Kelly's Books opened in the Watsonville Square Shopping Center.

Formerly Crossroads Books in the Crossroads Shopping Center, owner Kelly Pleskunas was forced to relocate the store after the landlord declined to extend the lease in April to make way for a Kaiser Permanente health clinic.

"Everywhere in town I got encouragement from the entire community to do this again," she said. "The community has been such an outpouring of love and support."

In addition to a variety of books available for purchase, including local authors, children's books, mysteries and more, Kelly's Books also has locally made, non-perishable food products for sale.

The store will be the home of book-signing events by local authors. The first book-signing will be Saturday, Dec. 17 from 1-3 p.m., with former Register-Pajaronian

See BOOKSTORE, page A12



Johanna Miller/For the Register-Pajaronian

Kelly Pleskunas (holding scissors), owner of Kelly's Books, prepares to cut the ribbon to officially open the bookstore in the Watsonville Square Shopping Center on Saturday.

BOOKSTORE

From page A1

editor Mike Wallace autographing copies of his fourth mystery novel, "The Daughters of Alta Mira."

Watsonville Mayor Felipe Hernandez presented Pleskunas with a proclamation from the city, noting that the bookstore has opened "just in time for Christmas" and is conveniently located next to Bagel Café.

"There is nothing better than books and coffee," he said.

Standing in a long line with a stack of books in hand, longtime Crossroads Books customer Tammy Rose said she was "super excited" to see the bookstore reopen.

"I was really upset when she closed," Rose said.

She added that Pleskunas is able to make special orders that can be in the store within a day.



Johanna Miller/For the Register-Pajaronian

Kelly Pleskunas (left) interacts with customers during the grand opening.

"This is my go-to place," Rose said. "I plan on coming back once a week at least."

...

Kelly's Books is located at 1838 Main St. in Watsonville

Square. It is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

For information, call 728-4139 or visit www.facebook.com/watsonvillebooks.