



Food banks brace for millions of users

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Trader Joe's Store Captain Pamela Volk cuts the ribbon Oct. 30 for the grocer's first day of operation in Columbia surrounded by team members. PHOTOS BY CHARLES DUNLAP/COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Grocer cuts ribbon

Columbia's new Trader Joe's marks store opening with celebration

Charles Dunlap
Columbia Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

Excitement grew steadily Oct. 30 as the minutes ticked by to the 9 a.m. opening of Trader Joe's in Columbia.

The much-anticipated store opening wasn't without its detractors. Prior to the doors opening, a protester with Direct Action Everywhere walked up and down the line with microphone and speaker to speak against Trader Joe's, encouraging those in line to shop elsewhere and to look into DXE's accusations against the grocery retailer, which center on Perdue Farms and the California-based Petaluma Poultry.

This didn't deter the crowd. Before the doors opened, Trader Joe's team members handed out samples, led chants of "MIZ" "ZOU" and those that involved spelling out the store's name. The celebratory atmosphere outside extended inside once the crowd slowly entered the store and were handed baskets, carts and leis to wear.

The line out the door was exciting for Store Captain Pamela Volk, who moved to Columbia from Ballwin. She was among the few team members that came from other locations, joining 70 local crew members Trader Joe's hired. Volk said she did not try to set any expectations for opening day.



The line starts making its way into Trader Joe's on for its first day in operation in Columbia.

"There could be nine people, there could be one person, there could be 100 people, but I am just going to show up and do my best every day," she said. "I love my store. I love Columbia. It's a really tight-knit community. Everyone really supports each other and this community is really excited for Trader Joe's."

Trader Joe's has wanted to have a presence in Columbia for some time and it is nice to bring the store and what the community can now experience here, Volk said.

The grocery retailer also has its Neighborhood Shares Program. It provides unsold products that still are safe for

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Direct Action Everywhere had one protestor at the Trader Joe's opening prior to the ribbon cutting to encourage those in line to shop elsewhere and for the company drop its relationship with Petaluma Poultry, based in California.

Experts: Rubio leads policy on Venezuela

U.S. applies 'maximum pressure' on regime

Cybele Mayes-Osterman
USA TODAY

Much has changed since late January when Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and President Donald Trump's special envoy, Richard Grenell, shook hands in Maduro's palace.

Some hoped Grenell's deal would lower tensions between Washington and Caracas, and perhaps even renew access to Venezuela's rich oil reserves. Instead, experts say, Secretary of State Marco Rubio appears to have taken Grenell's place and is spearheading an aggressive campaign to bring down Maduro.

Nine months after Grenell and Maduro's pact, eight U.S. warships are circling the waters off Venezuela, and the largest U.S. aircraft carrier and its three escorts are cruising toward the region. Roughly 10,000 troops are stationed in the area. B-1 and B-52 bombers have approached Venezuelan airspace three times in two weeks, in an undisputed threat of force.

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Secretary of State Marco Rubio has pushed for Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's ouster for years. EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/REUTERS

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