

By ROBERT PIERCE • Daily Leader Coffee has been a staple of society for centuries, and coffee beans are now grown on trees in more than 70 countries.

In the near future, visitors to Liberal's Coronado Museum and Dorothy's House will soon be able to enjoy new blends of coffee based on characters from the Wizard of Oz, and some special local people will be helping with the manufacturing and distribution of the brew.

Amanda Stout of Liberal's Mosaic agency said the idea came about as part of the work of an organization similar to Mosaic. "Opportunities Unlimited is a provider of services similar to what Mosaic does here in Liberal and Sioux City, Iowa," she said. "A gentleman had a son that had a traumatic brain injury and wanted to create something meaningful for his son for a meaningful day."

Stout said Opportunities Unlimited purchased the company Jumpy Monkey Coffee, and clients from that agency are now packaging, grinding and roasting the coffee as part of providing meaningful work for them.

"They have now opened that up for other providers of similar services to buy into the distributorship of the franchise of Jumpy Monkey Coffee so they too can create meaningful work for the people they serve," she said.

Stout said Mosaic has an agency in Osceola, Iowa, that was involved with Jumpy Monkey, and she said now, all of Mosaic's Kansas offices have bought into the company and will now be packaging the product for meaningful work.

"It's coffee that is packaged and distributed by people with developmental disabilities in Mosaic and Liberal, Kansas, here locally," she said. "Anybody that buys Jumpy Monkey Coffee is creating meaningful work for people with developmental disabilities."

Stout recently provided samples of the coffee at the Seward County Five State Fair, and this is when she linked up with Coronado director JoAnne Mansell. Stout said museum board member Jim Rice later came up with the idea for Dorothy's House Blend, and she said she and Mansell ran with the idea from there.

Tuesday, Mansell, Rice and other board members picked one flavor of coffee from five that were chosen from a list, and that flavor will now be Dorothy's House Blend.

Stout said other flavors will be available as well, including a seasonal one for fall – pumpkin praline, which was selected as the official flavor of the upcoming OzFest celebration.

"We will have an OzFest blend that will be available at the Coronado Museum only every year, and Dorothy's House Blend will only be available at the Coronado Museum," she said.

Mansell said she is looking forward to having the coffee at Coronado.

“We’re real excited they have this to offer to our community,” she said. “I think it’s a marvelous opportunity to not only promote Dorothy’s House and the Land of Oz and OzFest, but also the great work that Mosaic does for our community.”

Both the Dorothy’s House Blend and OzFest flavor will be available at OzFest on Oct. 9.

“They can purchase it for themselves at the Coronado Museum gift shop anytime after that,” Stout said.