

Cafe and bakery is rolling in dough

By Denise Ruttan

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A new family-run cafe and bakery in Sublimity has experienced a promising first two months in business.

"We feel we've been very blessed with the economy being the way it is," owner Jon Cates said. "Things have really taken off. We still get people visiting us who didn't know we were here."

Paneza Nellie's Bread Stick Shoppe opened in mid-November at 111 NE Starr St. in Sublimity, near D & W Automotive. The cafe serves homemade pizza by the pie or slice, bread, breadsticks, specialty salads, sandwiches, baked goods and a line of espresso drinks. The cafe serves Equal Exchange fair-trade coffee and is known for its sticky rolls and pizza, Cates said.

Cates said the restaurant is doing so well, the family hopes to expand the day business while still keeping the cafe space small. The cafe is looking to add wine tasting from area vineyards and gourmet cheeses to its repertoire in the coming months, Cates said.

Cates said the family wanted the restaurant to have the feel of a European sidewalk cafe or bistro. The interior is filled with antiques, collectibles and such family heirlooms as a butter churn from Jon Cates' grandmother, Nellie, the namesake of the restaurant. "Pane" is Italian for "bread" and the restaurant's name is pronounced "Pan-za-Nellie," Cates said.

His grandmother inspired much of the restaurant, Cates said.

"She was a very strong woman, a strong Christian. She taught us grandchildren how to cook. She was a very inspiring person in our lives," Cates said.

The cafe also sells collectibles, gifts, crafts and fresh-cut flowers.

Owner Jon Cates runs the kitchen and his daughter Kristen Cates is the shop manager. Cates' five daughters and his wife Moira are all involved in the business. The restaurant has 12 employees.

The family has lived in Sublimity for more than 30 years.

"We've moved three times, but always the next street over," Kristen Cates said.

Jon Cates said his family enjoys running a cafe that has a community-oriented atmosphere.

"That's been our focus, to provide the best service to our friends and neighbors. You've got to do well in your own backyard and give the best you can. It's very important to us," Cates said.



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Father and daughter Jon Cates and Kristen Cates own and run Paneza Nellie's Bread Stick Shoppe, a bakery and cafe that opened in Sublimity two months ago. The whole Cates family is involved in running the restaurant.

If you go

Paneza Nellie's Bread Stick Shoppe is at 111 NE Starr St. in Sublimity.

The cafe is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and can be contacted at (503) 767-STIX.

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