

Distillery launches in Sisters

Cascade Street Distillery announces its launch with the opening of its tasting room in downtown Sisters. Located at 261 W. Cascade Ave., the tasting room is open Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Cascade Street Distillery is a local, family-run artisan spirits company passionate about creating artisan spirits that are smooth and delicious. Cascade Street has recently introduced its first spirit, North Sister Vodka. Made from 100 percent American corn grain distilled six times and then filtered six times to achieve a clear 180 proof base.

The base is blended with the best water on earth to create a perfect sipping vodka as smooth, fresh and clean as a high alpine lake.

"We're excited to be opening our tasting room in Sisters. We have a vision to provide smooth-tasting spirits made from the best ingredients on earth — it's our attention to combine the best water on earth with the finest grains that makes our North Sister Vodka one of the best in the country," said Nick Beasley.

Future plans call for the introduction later this spring of South Sister Gin. Cascade Street has also started the aging process on its Broken Top Bourbon that will be ready in 2017. In addition to the tasting room in Sisters, Cascade Street has started work on a new distillery located in an historic barn in Sisters.

Cottonwood Café serves up breakfast, lunch

By **Jim Cornelius**
News Editor

There's something especially pleasant about sitting down to a delicious, well-presented breakfast in congenial surroundings.

Folks in Sisters are discovering that pleasure at The Cottonwood Café, located at the former home of Jen's Garden. The players who made Jen's Garden a fine dining destination in Sisters are on board for this new venture: Jennifer McCrystal and her former husband, T.R. McCrystal, and chef Brad Wood.

"T.R. and I are still business partners," Jennifer explained. "It's kind of that 'take what works and maximize on that.' Choosing what your strengths are and playing to that."

The partners have shifted their focus in the new restaurant in a couple of significant ways. The Cottonwood Café serves breakfast and lunch (breakfast is served all day, from 7 a.m.; lunch starts at 11 a.m.). And while the quality that made Jen's Garden stand out is still at the forefront, dining at The Cottonwood Café is well within most folks' reach. The most expensive menu item is \$13.

That menu includes classic breakfasts, including a variety of scrambles, a couple of special takes on eggs Benedict and creative specialties like Huevos Motuleños and Cotton Cristo. Lunch offers a selection of soups, salads, and sandwiches.

"We started with about 70 items and pared it down and pared it down," Jennifer said.

The focus was on

providing creative, fun food at reasonable prices.

"We wanted to do something that was affordable and accessible to everybody," Jennifer said.

That has allowed an "organic little mixture of people who come together" at the café. "To me, that's what it is about — to have a little community gathering spot." That extends to the staff, who are all Sisters folks and enjoy chatting with their neighbors who come to dine — and with the new visitors who come through the door. It's a hometown feel that also appeals to a growing trend toward culinary tourism.

"We're pulling people from all over," McCrystal notes.

With children aged 9 and 13, it was also important to have evenings free for the parents — for the first time in years. It's an early day, but



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Brad Wood and Antonio Flores plate a couple of breakfasts at The Cottonwood Café.

service wraps up at 3 p.m.

The Cottonwood Café is open Wednesday-Sunday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 403 E. Hood Ave. During summer, that will expand to Tuesday as well, and the owners are

working on outdoor seating. Reservations are only taken for parties of eight or more. All else is first-come, first-served.

For more information call 541-549-2699.

Salon Renaissance

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