



FRANCESCA FERICANO and DAN FISHER

CJ’s Bagel Junction rolls out ‘noshable’ baked eats

Intrigued by the thought of how yeast bread is simmered in boiling water on the way to becoming bagels, Francesca Fericano gave it a try at home.

Ten years and thousands of bagels later, she has opened Bagel Junction at the north end of Downtown Cave Junction on the northwest corner of Redwood Hwy. and W. River Street. Her partner in the business is Dan Fisher.

“July 1 was my 10th anniversary being a bagel maker,” said Fericano, who was born and raised in San Francisco.

Before opening Bagel Junction, featuring hand-rolled organic bagels, she owned and operated Little Shop of Bagels in Ashland. She’s still the owner, but that operation, a wholesale outlet, is run by her children, Tim and Angelina.

Actually, the word “little” could be misleading, as the Ashland site churns out some 1,200 bagels daily. However, a machine does the rolling, while in Cave Junction, the bagels are all hand-rolled.

Bagel Junction is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; 8 to 3 Saturdays. It’s closed Sundays and Mondays so that the partners can rest from their 12- to 14-hour work days.

Among menu offerings, which include light breakfast and lunch items, are “Green Eggs and Ham Omelette,” Eggel Bagel (egg, ham and cheddar cheese on a toasted bagel), and the Sunrise Omelette, which includes sundried

tomatoes.

Other items include soup (with or without a bagel), crème cheese on a bagel, Reuben sandwich on homemade rye bread, and a lox sandwich (bagel) with tomatoes, red onion and crème cheese.

The business offers a variety of bagels, plus cookies and scones. In addition, Fericano has her version of a New York item called bialys. She describes it as a flat bread onion roll.

It took her awhile to perfect it, but she kept at it, trying different “designs” and offering samples to New Yorkers. Finally a consensus was reached when samplers told her, “You got it!”

She and Fisher, a native of Yonkers, N.Y., met in Brookings. A carpenter by trade, who also has worked as a chef at several major restaurants, he was working on remodeling a café, and she was there to help open the business.

They get along well together, and share the chores at Bagel Junction. And he built the display case for the store.

They need to be early risers to ensure that the baked goods are ready by opening time each day. “Hand-rolling takes time,” said Fericano.

She noted that making bagels just right and with top quality is a painstaking process.

“You’ve got to know the tricks, the science behind it,” she said, “and know what to watch for during the process.”

After dropping the dough into boiling water and getting that perfect shiny seal, the bagels are baked.

“It all kind of steam-rolled,” she said, referring to the fact that what started just out of curiosity at home has become a career.

“Some people like to bake cakes; I like to bake bread,” she said. Bagel Junction’s telephone number is 415-0072.

The business will be part of Second Friday Art Walk on Nov. 12 from 5 to 8 p.m. Featured artists will be Joanna Jackson and Crystal Schroeter with “Piece Together Mosaics.”

Judges needed for speeches tournament at middle school

On Feb. 24, Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS) students will have the opportunity to compete in a speech tournament.

“This is an exciting, fun way for students to showcase their public speaking abilities,” said LBMS.

The categories will include not only the traditional categories of years

past, but also Reader’s Theater and Choral Poetry.

The tournament will take place during fourth and sixth periods. For each category, parents and community members are needed as judges.

Those interested should phone the school office at 592-2163, and leave their name and number with Meme Osipovich.

Toxin levels ‘undetectable;’ Lake Selmac has reopened

There’s a green light for swimming, boating and fishing at Lake Selmac, but don’t drink the water -- at least not yet.

Closed to recreation since Aug. 19 because of a toxic bluish-green algae, the latest test results, received Friday, Nov. 5, show “zero to undetectable amounts of the toxins in the water,” said Mike Strahan, assistant director of the Josephine County Parks Dept.

Based on the test results for the lake, it’s likely that the water supply is safe, but those results will not arrive for another couple of weeks from a lab in Ohio, Strahan said.

But fishing and swimming are deemed safe.

Because the algae bloom of anabaena and microcystis species could reappear next year, Strahan and Selmac ranger Steve Schalk will attend a special seminar in Portland on Friday, Nov. 19.

The conference, sponsored by the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, will address algae problems in lakes statewide. Attendance will help the county better prepare for a possible infestation next year, Strahan noted.

Warning signs at Lake Selmac have been removed, Schalk said, but stored for next year “just in case they’re needed.”

Closure of the lake marked the longest period of such county action.

Subscriptions to the ‘Noose’ make great Christmas gifts. Please see page 16

Citizen patrol work gains McMillen national award



DEPUTY RICH McMILLEN

Deputy Rich McMillen, of Josephine County Sheriff’s Office, has been chosen to receive the national “Citizen Patrol Coordinator of the Year” award.

The honor is bestowed by the National Association Citizens on Patrol, with headquarters in Corona, Calif. It is a nonprofit organization that supports more than 5,000 volunteers in 15 states.

McMillen, as the county’s crime prevention deputy, supervises 50 citizen volunteers around the county, said Undersheriff Brian Anderson.

They provide a variety of community services that include investigating non-sufficient fund checks, tagging abandoned vehicles, and performing home security checks for vacationers.

They also investigate illegal trash dumping, and assist the sheriff’s office civil department with fingerprinting.

McMillen said that Illinois Valley has three or four citizen patrol volunteers, including a Selma couple. He said that more volunteers always are welcome. He can be contacted at 474-5120.

A Volunteer Academy

will be conducted from Jan. 11 to March 15 on Tuesdays from noon to 3 p.m. in Grants Pass.

Besides the volunteers in Illinois Valley, the program here includes one black-and-white sheriff’s office vehicle with “Citizen Volunteer” painted on it.

“Our volunteers do a lot that cops don’t have time to do,” said McMillen. “They keep busy, and we like a high profile.”

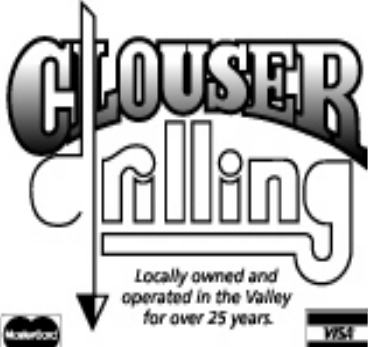
Citizen patrollers also staff substations in Merlin, Murphy and Wolf Creek. The I.V. Substation in Cave Junction is handled through the office of county commissioners.

Said the undersheriff, “Without the volunteers, we would not be able to fund the operations of these vital links to our rural communities.

“The volunteers,” said Anderson, “save the county approximately \$178,000 annually, or equivalent to nearly three deputies in hours served.”

“Winning the award was a surprise,” said McMillen.

He is retired from service with the Buena Park Police Dept. and Orange County Sheriff’s Dept., both in California.



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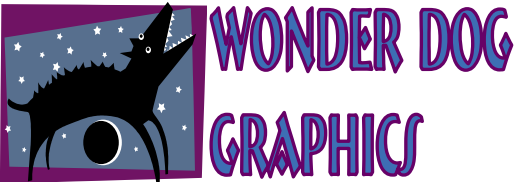
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