

Mother-daughter duo are baking up a storm at Trillium

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IVN Contributing Writer

"Food has always seemed to be my focus," said Marjie Millard, owner and operator of the new Trillium Bakery at 119 Redwood Highway. Millard and her daughter Katie Houston started their venture in Cave Junction Nov. 7, 2019, at the suggestion of her son who felt the town needed a donut shop.

Houston moved to the Illinois Valley four years ago and Millard followed a couple of years later (from Brownsville, Ore.). Initially Millard had a booth at the Cave Junction Farmers' Market, offering wild mushrooms and a wild cream of mushroom soup mix as well as natural hand-made soaps. Millard and her kids foraged for the mushrooms while Houston handled the "selling side" at the market.

Both Millard and Houston love to bake and create, having gained a solid foundation at a chocolate shop and at bakeries in Newport, Oregon, which gave them the expertise to share their delicacies with the residents of the I.V. Millard's favorite (go-to) creations are cake donuts, cookies and chicken pot pie, while Houston's favorites are yeast donuts, cookies and cupcakes.

A third member who rounds out the baking team is Blanca Koci, Houston's best friend and the first person she met when she moved to the Valley. Koci's specialty, besides taking part in baking, is creating a sumptuous eggs Benedict dish on Sundays.

The Trillium team tries to use local resources for as many ingredients as possible, and is very proud to serve "real food," everything made from scratch. Their goal is to provide a homey atmosphere while their guests enjoy their comfort food.

The menu features ... donuts! As well as turnovers, cinnamon rolls, cheesecake, pound cakes, cookies, muffins and bread. Trillium Bakery also has a featured soup four days a week, with their most popular being clam chowder served in a sourdough bowl.

When she's not working in the hot bakery kitchen, Millard stays busy taking care of her family (yes, she does the cooking at home too), picking wild mushrooms and making soaps. Houston loves to make time to go rock-hounding on the Oregon Coast.

The bake shop is currently open Thursday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to

3 p.m. Millard hopes to to be open Wednesday as well within the next couple of months.

How did the mother-daughter

duo come up with the name of their bakery, you ask?

Millard said, "We really love the trillium flower. We used

to pick a lot of wild mushrooms and the trillium is one of the first wildflowers to pop up in spring!"



(Photo by Daniel J. Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

Katie Houston (left) and Marjie Millard at Trillium Bakery Sunday, Jan. 12.

STORM....

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"All that rigging is extremely dangerous if you're not well-trained," cautioned Beeler's wife and business partner, Erika Beeler. "If people attempt to do this type of work themselves it can be really hazardous."

She also wants people doing their own tree clean-up work to be safety conscious - especially when using chainsaws. "Always wear eye protection, hard hats, chaps and gloves. The chainsaw is a very dangerous tool. And if

you're uncomfortable, don't do it!"

Like many local arborists, Beeler is now working dawn to dusk. "We're doing emergency pruning to stabilize damaged, split or cracked trees to keep them from falling. Then after things die down we'll go back to deal with these dangerous trees or do clean up. We've had to prioritize the emergencies first," he explained. "And it's definitely more expensive during emergencies. A bit of prevention can really save a lot of money and

stress when it comes to tree maintenance."

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"As the weather improves, people should also take a good look and see if they have any 'widow makers,'" added Erika, referring to loose, broken or dislodged branches hung up

in trees. "Especially look for larger branches in high traffic areas used by kids and pets."

Finally, Hanson said those still experiencing flickering power, or customers with electronics

or appliances damaged by a power surge, should call Pacific Power's customer care line at 877-508-5088. "We have damage claim forms, so customers can be potentially reimbursed."



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