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MENU

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PHOTO BY REBECCA HERREN

New employee trainee Julia Jenkins (left), realtor Craig Weston and barista Evan Uritt enjoy time in the garden outside of the Sweet Shop.

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products, and the columns separate the larger room from a lounge area.

The extended side of the building has become a gathering place with its inviting sofa of warm-colored leather and oversized coffee table stacked with books and games. She has added Wi-Fi, a workspace and a big-screen TV. Williams refers to it as “an extension of my home,” adding, “I want it to be open and homey, a place to bring the grandkids.”

Realizing Pop’s was known for its coffee, homemade waffle cones and breakfast scones, Williams wanted to maintain that sentiment, yet lay a foundation of her own. In a few short months, she created a new look, new menu and brought in new products. She emphasizes local, organic and homemade items. She also supports products made by women and by people through her advocacy work.

‘Paying it forward’

In addition to selling coffee, ice cream and scones, her homemade soups, tuna salad and wraps have

become word-of-mouth famous. She’s added a sizable wine selection with wine accessories. There’s also growler jugs and covers; picnic baskets; condiments, sauces and jams; teas; candy and baked goods. She sells books, games and beach toys for kids. Williams noted it’s one of the last stops before the beach where shoppers can buy almost anything they need for a beach outing.

Williams admits she is no chef, and her homemade soups, salads, wraps and baked goods are as organic as she can make them. She changes up the recipes to keep the offerings fresh and trendy, simple to decadent. Her experience comes from cooking for a large family, children with allergies, and her travels where she experienced all kinds of foods, calling herself and daughters “foodies.” During those travels, she took a baking class in France and a cooking class in Italy.

Williams has begun to establish herself in the community. The Sweet Shop has become part of the Gearhart ArtWalk, supporting local artists. She supports local

organizations and wants to offer employment to people who are working on rebuilding their lives. At some point, she would also like to work with the culinary students at Seaside High School, and future plans include having a farmers market in the garden area west of the building. “It’s about paying it forward,” Williams said.

Williams would also like to form a merchants group for Gearhart businesses. “Seven businesses have expressed interest in a business round-table along with the mayor and a council member,” said Williams, “there are many possibilities to support each business here.”

Though Williams does not believe the Sweet Shop is the last chapter in her life, she does see it as a gathering place and an anchor to the town.

“We give free water and our prices are really reasonable and honest. If people leave happy, they come back. Besides, we offer ice cream, wine and coffee — there shouldn’t be any stress,” she added with a smile. 