



Photos by Carolyn Hoard

ABOVE: A mural in Pizza a'fetta's Cannon Beach location shows James Faurentino's grandmother looking down, encouraging patrons to 'manga,' Italian for 'eat.' **BELOW:** Server Bri Crews is happy to greet customers.

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"A second location would allow the Seaside and Gearhart locals that have been asking for years the ability to enjoy our product year-round and the staff could work in both stores full time with set schedules year-round," Faurentino said. "A space that I have liked for years came available down the street from the original location (we wanted) in Seaside. We decided to build in that location and just do Pizza a'fetta."

Group effort

Brian Johnston is the general manager of the Seaside location and a co-owner with Faurentino and Kevin Countryman. Johnston started working for Faurentino after graduating high school in 2012.

"(Johnston) reminded me of myself at his age in many ways. He has the ability to multi-task, challenge himself daily and think things out. We placed him in the management program and watched him develop his skill set to what it is today," Faurentino said.

Kevin Brown, a manager at Pizza a'fetta in Cannon Beach, has worked there for eight years and known Faurentino most of his life. He looks up to Faurentino as a "father figure," Brown said.

One of Brown's favorite parts of the job

is creating new pizzas. He loves collaborating with staff and coming up with new "pie of the month" combinations.

Server Bri Crews enjoys the "super friendly, super fun, laid back" atmosphere of Pizza a'fetta. Her favorite pizza is a roasted veggie pizza with pesto sauce, spinach, tomatoes, Romano cheese and Feta cheese.

Faurentino and Countryman train the employees. They set the standards of how things run but allow their management team voting rights and input on daily operations of the business.

"They know that they will always be backed up when they make a judgment call," Faurentino said.

Looking forward

Faurentino, Countryman and Johnston look forward to the experiences that will be part of the Seaside location's tenure. While running the Cannon Beach location, the customers and staff have made all the difference for Faurentino, he said, from teenagers having first jobs at the restaurant, to sharing special family moments, like engagements in the restaurant.

Faurentino credits his grandmother with teaching him to "do something well and stick with it."

"We keep it simple," he added.

