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Cordelia Cochran, visiting the peninsula from Tacoma while preparing for an upcoming doctoral internship at a local clinic, stopped by before heading out of town. Cochran said that she looks forward to doing homework at the new bakery. “It’s really a great place,” she said.

An Ilwaco resident of four years, Perkins decided to recruit community members to help her in revitalizing Ilwaco’s center. She soon realized that the success of her business hinged on daily foot traffic.

Perkins now heads the Downtown Ilwaco Revitalization Committee, a new five-member volunteer task force affiliated with the city’s planning commission. One of the group’s goals is for Ilwaco to become a member of the Washington State Main Street program, a decadeslong state initiative managed by the Trust for Historic

Preservation that helps communities revitalize their downtowns.

“We have a wonderful downtown with sidewalks and many historic buildings that are just sitting vacant,” Perkins said. “We really need storefronts to bring people into our community and when we can do that it serves all of our businesses and people who live here,” she added.

Susan Yirku, executive director of the Pacific County Economic Development Council, welcomed the bakery. “Everybody is extremely excited,” Yirku said. “It’s a great addition to the area,” she added.

Ilwaco is undergoing a period of transition, according to Yirku. “Historically the peninsula just didn’t change much, which was actually part of its charm, but we’re officially discovered now,” she said, pointing to population growth. “The bakery is a harbinger of things to come.”

Photos by Peter Korchnak

ABOVE: Ilwaco Bakery opened on the Long Beach Peninsula in early July. BELOW: A customer smiles with a pastry outside of the new peninsula bakery.



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