

Beyond bread

Next generation expands offerings at Farmhouse

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Ben Daniels has been baking for much of his life, but that doesn't mean he's not still pushing the envelope.

Daniels, the son of Bob and Pat Daniels, founders of Farmhouse Bakery in Cottage Grove, began learning the craft when his parents started their own business about 18 years ago.

"I was home-schooling our kids, so it was a pretty natural transition," Pat Daniels told the Sentinel in a 2013 interview. "As the kids started getting older, I started making bread, and people liked it a lot."

These days, the Daniels' bread makes its way to the shelves at Sunshine Market in Cottage Grove, Eugene's Friendly Street Market, Sundance, New Frontier and other specialty stores. But Ben Daniels, the new head baker at Farmhouse, said the success of the family's wholesale bread business hasn't prompted him to rest on his laurels.

"I'm trying to take baking to a whole new level," he said. "There doesn't seem to be a lot of care in the craft these days. It's a lot of hard work, and a lot of people have a hard time with that."

Daniels worked at another wholesale bakery for a time before returning to the family business. He said he hopes to found a store-



photo by Jon Stinnett

Ben Daniels helps daughter Azryel work with bread dough.

front for Farmhouse products in the near future, but for now he's set up a stand at the Farmers Market downtown on Thursdays to showcase a new line of pastries and other baked delicacies.

"I'm working on a little bit of everything," he said.

Growing up in a bakery has instilled a deep love of food, and Daniels said he loves to visit other bakeries to see what tips and techniques they might have to offer. It's a love that he's also working to instill in his own daughter, Azryel.

"We're starting on her early," he said. "Growing up, my mother was a fabulous

cook, and I'm grateful for the lessons I learned in the kitchen."

Daniels said his burgeoning interest in baking has come at the right time, as his parents are reaching the age where they "don't want to be working their butts off anymore."

"I took it on myself to keep building the business," he said.

For now, Daniels, known by many as "Ben the Baker," keeps the ovens fired and the flour mill, which is used to mill flour each day for extra freshness, churning along.

"I'm just doing what I can to keep the art of baking in the family," he said.

Mayoral candidates' forum scheduled Sept. 22

The Cottage Grove Sentinel and radio station KNND will partner with the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce to present a candidates' forum for the three candidates for mayor in the upcoming election on Thursday, Sept. 22 beginning at 6 p.m. at the City Council chambers at City Hall. A forum for the seven candidates for City Council will fol-

low on Tuesday, Sept. 27 and will also begin at 6 p.m. The events will consist of opening statements from each candidate, after which the candidates will address a set of questions for which they have prepared responses beforehand. Members of the audience will then be asked to prepare questions for the candidates on note cards during the event.

Meet and Greet to serve as business showcase

Diane O'Renick of local radio station KNND said that the station sought a way to bring local businesses, nonprofit organizations and home-based businesses together to showcase their offerings downtown, a gathering billed as the Cottage Grove Meet and Greet that's scheduled at the Armory this Saturday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Meet and Greet will offer wine-tasting, live music and a kids' play area and coloring contest, O'Renick said, in addition to an outdoor chainsaw carving demonstration. The Duck football game will be shown, courtesy of Dish Network. The

event represents a partnership between KNND and the Cottage Grove Sentinel.

The Meet and Greet aims to incorporate aspects of the now-defunct Chamber of Commerce Business Faire and KNND's Home and Garden Show while also offering a chance to visit the Armory, O'Renick said.

"We're hoping to get people used to visiting the Armory," she said, "and hoping that while they're there they might be encouraged to see the potential that it holds for downtown and all of Cottage Grove."

Music from local bands Haywire and Calvary Creek will be heard outside from 3-7 p.m.

Tree planting to commemorate National Public Lands Day

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites volunteers to devote Sept. 24 to planting trees and shrubs and improving parks at Cottage Grove Reservoir.

The event supports National Public Lands Day — the nation's largest annual, single-day volunteer restoration effort for America's public lands. Groups such as scouts, youth groups and civic clubs are encouraged to participate in the Cottage Grove Reservoir event, but individuals and families are also welcome.

For their efforts, volunteers are invited to stay in the Pine Meadows Campground at no charge, either the night before or the night of the event.

"We thought it would be nice to give volunteers a chance to stay the night and en-

joy the campground they will be working to improve," said Corps Park Ranger Christie Johnson. "The campground will be officially closed for the season, so the volunteers will have the whole place to themselves."

Volunteers will also receive a pass good for free entry any day during the next year at public land sites managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The event begins at 9 a.m. at the Pine Meadows Campground; work will be completed about 12:30 p.m., then volunteers will be treated to a pizza lunch. All volunteers are advised to wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and long pants. Gloves, tools, drinking wa-



courtesy photo

Volunteers who help plant trees will receive a free camping pass.

ter and snacks will be available throughout the morning.

Volunteers are asked to pre-register no later than Sept. 16 by contacting a Corps of Engineers park ranger at (541) 942-5631. For more information about National Public Lands Day go to <http://www.publiclands-day.org/>.

Veteran to honor veterans at the Moving Wall

The Moving Wall, the nation's original traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial, will be in Eugene from Thursday, Sept. 29 through Sunday, Oct. 2 at Skinner Butte Park. The memorial is meant to help bring healing to veterans, families and friends of those who died or are missing in Vietnam, especially those may not have the opportunity to see the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

Cottage Grove's American Legion Post #32 and VFW Post #3473 will be out honoring veterans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by placing flags and supplying the Rifle Honor Guard for The Moving Wall. The Moving Wall visits between 22 and 28 cities in the United States each year, and 75,000 to 100,000 people come out to see the memorial during the week long appearances at each spot. The Wall has been displayed from Hawaii to Alaska and in every state across the entire continental United States as well as Canada. There is no admission fee charged to visit.



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<p>31361 Gowdyville Rd. Cottage Grove, OR -Only the Finest!!! On the Creek enjoy peace and quiet on this fabulous 15 acres minutes from town. 1level beautiful and charming home. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 43X48 barn with 4 stalls. Perfect for your horses and livestock. Home has been updated and has hardwood floors and gas fireplace. 1902 Sqft. \$445,500.</p> 	<p>79488 Territorial Hwy. Lorane, OR -200 acres in the beautiful Lorane valley, home is solid. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Large barn and a storage shed. property would be good for pasture, growing grapes. Hard to find large acreage, ready for you. 2560 Sqft. \$524,900.</p> 
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