

# Schnitzel in the Grove: New restaurant moving in



PHOTOS COURTESY PIG AND TURNIP

Pig and Turnip is headed to Cottage Grove and plans to serve its traditional German food with a Pacific Northwest flair. Owner Natalie Sheild pegged the restaurant's schnitzel sandwich as its most popular dish.

By Caitlyn May  
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Natalie Sheild's mother didn't like to cook and as the oldest of nine children, the task soon fell to Sheild.

"I used my family as guinea pigs for awhile," she said.

Now, Sheild, who goes by Chef Natalie, and her husband, Joe are ready to start a new experiment: serving up their food in Cottage Grove.

Pig and Turnip will take over the space previously occupied by Bruddah's and Sister's on Gateway Blvd. The Hawaiian restaurant closed quietly earlier this year when customers reported finding the doors locked and windows blacked out with brown paper.

Pig and Turnip's entrance into the space will mark the second location for the restaurant, in addition to a catering business with the same moniker that's also under Sheild's leadership.

"The name came from our logo," she said. "I had a clear vision of what I wanted it to be and we were inspired by that old-world pub feel so we

said, we could just do exactly what the logo is; a pig and a turnip. It's not a fancy story, but everyone loves it."

The restaurant will serve up what Sheild describes as "German-ish" food including hand-rolled pretzels and bratwurst with an Oregon twist.

"I was struck when I was in Germany," she said. "The Pacific Northwest and Germany are very similar. They're both temperate, lush and beautiful and the food really is complimentary."

Sheild moved from her mother's kitchen to sorority kitchens to deciding to open a catering business—without a culinary degree—when her son was small. Soon, Sheild and her husband made the leap and bought a food cart, settling in Eugene in 2015.

"In February of the following year, we were getting a lot of feedback from people saying they loved the food but it was hard to eat from a cart on a daily basis," she said.

So, the couple decided to move the business indoors and

starting taking orders at Scrap Cafe in Springfield.

As executive chef, Sheild turns out schnitzel—a breaded pork dish that's a customer favorite—but also offers hamburgers and dinner dishes. "It's German but accessible," she said.

Owen Griffin will be manning the kitchen in Cottage Grove, a place Sheild said was perfect for Pig and Turnip's second location.

"It was a double purpose. We really needed a brick and mortar that is four walls and we wanted to be off the beaten path," she said. The couple, who will continue to run the catering business and the Springfield location, were no strangers to Cottage Grove with catering clients in the area that inspired a sense of community for the couple.

"We love Cottage Grove. We think it's a cool space and we really like the growth happening up there but it's also quaint," she said. "You can tell everyone really loves the community itself

## Pig and Turnip will take the place of Bruddah's and Sista's on Gateway in Cottage Grove



and it's a bunch of people really committed to the community."

Natalie and Joe plan to officially join the community via Pig and Turnip on April 10 when they'll hold a soft opening.

"Joe is actually there now, hanging pictures," she said, noting that five-year-old son Zeke is also in on the family business. "I had him wrapping

silverware yesterday. He likes being part of a restaurant and will brag to his friends about it."

Pig and Turnip will have a limited schedule through the rest of the month, opening Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. until its grand opening planned for May. Prices rang from \$5 for a basket of fries or a traditional German pretzel to

the most expensive meal on the menu at \$12.

"We want to be a part of this community," Sheild said of the restaurant that is currently in the market for experienced line cooks. "We came here because we thought, 'We could go to Eugene and be one in a sea of faces or go to Cottage Grove and be a focus.'"



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July 4	Jerry Zybach	Multi-Genres
July 11	Bradley Shepherd's Perfect Flavor	Eclectic Covers and More
July 18	Cowboy Cadillac	Country Rock
July 25	Blue Mountaineers	Country, Blues, Bluegrass
August 1	Calvary Creek	60's and 70's Folk Music
August 8	Blue Skies Big Band	Classic Swing Jazz
August 15	Annie Mae Rhodes Band	Country Bluegrass, folk & gospel
August 22	The Men From S.U.R.F.	60's Surf and Hot Rod
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