

The Bandera PROPHEET

August 27, 2019

Here a chick, there a chick

By Vicki L. George
Special to the Prophet

When what was once the Gingerbread House sold in July of last year, no one could imagine what would happen to the huge building on Cedar Street in Bandera. The building sold to Virgil and Beth Klaus and they lease it out to three entrepreneurs who have turned it into Cedar Street Market.

Raenell Aragones, Maggie Ferragamo and her mom Sylinda Meinzer leased the entire building in October 2018 and brought in more vendors to add to their own enterprises. Ferragamo sells metal yard art and Aragones creates home decor with cacti and succulents she grows. Meinzer has a clothing store in Benjamin, and comes down each week to assist her partners. The trio now has almost 40 vendors, who sell a huge selection of eclectic items for discerning shoppers. Their focus is to use local business people to accentuate Bandera's western and Hill Country atmosphere.

According to Aragones, "We want to keep the hometown feel."

The Market, located at 1110 Cedar St. in Bandera, is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. They can be found on Facebook and called for information at 830-522-3149.

The most popular vendor in Cedar Street Market is The Hen's Nest. This writer stopped by for lunch and enjoyed an amazing grilled deviled egg sandwich. It came with a side of deliciously seasoned macaroni and a

small square of rich fudge as dessert. The owner is Sheli Hinton, who owns over 40 chickens and has plenty of eggs.

Hinton joined the Market in January of this year and her cafe serves breakfast, brunch and lunch three days a week. Asked why she decided to make this move, she said she wondered what she was going to do when her youngest son went to college this fall, making her and her husband empty-nesters. With so many chickens and so many eggs, she decided on a cafe featuring egg dishes, hence the name The Hen's Nest. As she put it, she wanted "something to fill the void."

The cafe is open Friday through Sunday, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The other days of the week Hinton works for a Kerrville dentist as a dental hygienist. She says she loves both her jobs and finds the cafe a lot of fun. The Hintons live in Bandera County and raised four sons here. Her husband works in the oil industry and is her best supporter.

When asked what she wants people to know specifically, she said she wants all first responders to know that she will give them a free meal when they come in wearing their uniforms. She appreciates them and thanks them for their service.

Hinton is a breast cancer previvor and feels strongly about women getting their mammograms. To encourage other women, she offers a free meal to any woman who brings in her receipt for her mammogram, done within the past year, on the first weekend of each month.

The Hen's Nest can be found on Facebook. They can be reached at 210-912-0311.

"It's the most delicious food you ever put in your mouth," one patron said. Another added, "It's my home away from home." And another enthusiastic woman said, "It's a happy place."

Indeed, The Hen's Nest is a happy place and the food is delicious. It adds to the atmosphere of Cedar Street Market as a friendly addition to that "hometown feel."