

Breaking from old traditions

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They did their most important research in other people's homes.

Rod and Barbara Pfeiffer, who have recently finished building Devonridge Bed and Breakfast at 1403 Devonridge Drive, off of Greensprings Drive in Klamath Falls, drew inspiration from their travels before taking on their roles of host and hostess.

"They're just so different, that's the fun of it," Barbara said of the variety of homes they've visited. "That's part of what got us into this is staying at bed and breakfasts."

Devonridge doesn't fit the idea of the traditional home stay.

"I think many people's idea of a bed and breakfast is that they will be old and very Victorian," Barbara said. "We've stayed in many and most of them are old."

Recently constructed with more than 3,800 square feet, Devonridge has two guest rooms, complete with gas fireplaces, private bathrooms equipped with jetted tubs and a panoramic view of Klamath Falls including Upper Klamath Lake, Lake Ewauna, and the Klamath River. The guest rooms also have features uncommon in a bed and breakfast - phones and independent thermostatic controls.

And if a guest wants to know what others thought of their own time at Devonridge, the Pfeiffers have placed journals in each room for their guests to comment in.

Beyond their own experiences, the Pfeiffers found their best information on how to run their home-based business via the Internet through the Professional Association of International Innkeepers.

"They were a great help," Barbara said. "They're a great source."

Most people get into the bed and breakfast business, planning to semi-retire, Barbara said, without an accurate idea of the work involved.

"They have no idea," Barbara said, noting that if an owner doesn't want to do things like landscaping and bookkeeping, this adds to the cost of running their business, and ultimately their bottom line.



H&N photos by Gary Thain Owners Barbara and Rod Pfeiffer stand in the common room, or "corral", of their recently completed Devonridge Bed and Breakfast.

The Pfeiffers do it all - cooking, cleaning, yard work - and with the view Devonridge offers, they wash lots of windows.

Rod, who had been in the towing business for 33 years, sold his business, Ace Towing, in July.

He says he's now the official chief cook and bottle washer at Devonridge.

Barbara works for the Oregon lottery from her home office, making occasional trips to Bend and Salem.

The Pfeiffers bought 20 acres off of Greensprings Drive 15 years ago, with the intent of subdividing the land into 10 commercial and 15 residential lots. They later altered their plans to include only 13 lots in order to provide more open space.

The design for the bed and breakfast came from a magazine, and with some redesign help from Scott Souders, general manager of ZCS-Engineering in Klamath Falls, and construction started 2 1/2 years ago.

"He actually engineered in progress," Rod said of Souders.

And with the installation of deadbolts on the guests' rooms, Devonridge will have a Triple A rating.

"We're just finally getting finished up with it," Barbara said.

Building the house has been a family project, too. Finish work like tile, trim and paint were done with the help of the Pfeiffers' three children.

The house also helps them remember a son, who died while the house was being built.

"His handprint is all over the house," Barbara said. "It's good."

Hanging over the living room fireplace is another touch of family - a commissioned work of art.

"Our daughter painted the oil painting for us," Barbara said.

The house was decorated by Barbara for the most part, with the exception of a common room for the guests, which Rod decorated.

"Barbara let me do one room in the house," Rod said.

Rod's knotty pine-lined room, decorated with Western art, bits, bridles and lassos, has a



The Devonridge Bed and Breakfast, at 1403 Devonridge Drive off Greensprings Drive in Klamath Falls, offers visitors a scenic view of the Basin, while large windows give the house a light, airy feel.

collection of books and games, a big-screen television and exercise equipment. The room also features a mini kitchen for guests.

"We were going to call that the corral because that is where people will gather," Barbara said.

Guests coming to Devonridge can sit and relax with a snack, a glass of wine or a drink in the check-in room.

"The most important thing is when people come in if there is a place where they can feel comfortable," Barbara said.

Guests can choose to eat breakfast in the comfort of their room, or in a variety of other places in the home, including the dining room, kitchen, breakfast nook area or on the patio overlooking the Klamath River.

But the kitchen is where the Pfeiffers are most likely to be found.

"We probably spend 99 percent of our time in here," Barbara said.

Rod is enjoying learning how to cook a variety of breakfast dishes and the couple have taken cooking classes offered at the Linkville Kitchen and Candy Shoppe.

Recipes in their breakfast repertoire have come from a variety of sources - friends, guests and a variety of bed and breakfasts where they were guests themselves.

Outside of the house, the landscape has changed over the last 15 years. When they bought the property, there was one lone tree on the corner of the property.

"We've actually got over 300 trees on the lot now," Rod said.

On the way up to the house, a long, wide strip of rocks lines the driveway.

"One day I hired 12 OIT football players," Rod said. "They threw rocks in the dump truck. We filled that truck three times."

The Pfeiffers also did the landscaping, both designing and digging, themselves. A waterfall flows around a flower garden that features native plants such as Indian paintbrush, wild lupine and sage brush. Barbara learned quickly that to keep the garden in bloom, it took trips to the nursery every couple of weeks to find something new.

"So we'd have blooms from early spring to fall," Barbara said.

The Pfeiffers also created a friend's garden, showcasing plants that they've been given.

Through all of the work and learning during the project, Barbara says she can appreciate the lessons along the way.

"I think we all have gifts, unique gifts, finding them and putting them to work is a real pleasure," Barbara said.

And in their plans for the near future, the Pfeiffers will hold an open house to let people see their bed and breakfast.

Room rates at Devonridge range from \$145 for single occupancy to \$159 for double occupancy. Special rates are also available and information is available on the Pfeiffer's Web site [www.devon](http://www.devonridge.com)

[ridge.com](http://www.devonridge.com). For more information, call the Pfeiffers at 883-3172.