

# Raven Inn celebrating 30 years in business

👤 Tyler Francke 📅 Wednesday, January 28, 2015



When Tina Wiltsey-Trevizo took over the Raven Inn in Woodburn from her late mother, Janice Isom, she readily admits she had a lot to learn.

She was 21, living in California at the time, and had to borrow \$250 just to have enough cash to operate the till.

“It was very sudden,” she said. “One day, I didn’t have a bar, and the next day I did.”

But now, more than 25 years later, Wiltsey-Trevizo finds it hard to imagine life without the place.

“I worked here everyday for 15 years, and I fell in love with it,” she said. “I have a real emotional connection to it. It’s like a piece of my soul.”

Wiltsey-Trevizo said her mother actually left the bar to her and her grandmother, whose share she later bought out.

She did learn a lot in those early years, when the clientele was generally a bit rougher than it is today, such that law enforcement kept an especially close eye on all the local watering holes.

She said there was a fairly strong effort in those days to close down all the bars in Woodburn, and it was not unusual for the police chief to call her down to the station to discuss incidents and how things could be improved.

“It was the school of hard knocks,” she said. “But, you know, I think if it hadn’t been for all that, I probably wouldn’t still be here.”

She no longer tends bar — leaving that to her staff, especially head bartender Tracy Yazzolino, a veteran mixologist who started at the Raven even before Wiltsey-Trevizo — but she does run the place from afar.

She also serves as landlord for Rumors Bar & Grill, which is located down the highway from the Raven Inn, but the bulk of her time and energy is devoted to Wiltsey & Associates, her commercial real estate firm that specializes in bar and restaurant acquisitions.

Wiltsey-Trevizo said the Raven is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year with a party on the 30th of each month (except February, which will be on the 28th). On those days, the bar will have drink and food specials, prizes and giveaways throughout the day.

And on Aug. 30 — its “official” anniversary — the Raven is hosting a Hawaiian-themed pig roast.

Wiltsey-Trevizo said she’s seen a lot change over the years, not the least of which has been the Raven Inn itself.

“When I first started here, this was really more of a man’s bar,” she said. “Now, we have a lot of women coming in here, even alone a lot of times, so you know it’s a safe, friendly place.”

Wiltsey-Trevizo attributes a lot of that to the staff — which is all female and the “best (she’s) ever had” — and to the full interior remodel the bar underwent a couple years back.

And, by virtue of being around for more than three decades, the Raven is now seeing second- and even third-generation customers coming to visit.

But, even with the influx of new clientele, the Raven still has its fair share of regulars. The bar has a whole group of regulars whose birthdays are celebrated each year; it’s hosted baby showers and even a wedding.

“It’s like a family here,” Wiltsey-Trevizo said. “It really is.”

The Raven’s selection of Lottery and video poker machines, and its new lunch specials are popular during the day.

For more information, call 503-982-2951 or drop by at 262 N. Pacific Highway.

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