

Local Business

The Pantry serves streamside

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Cool mountain air, a meandering stream and lush trees — brunch on the patio at The Pantry in Green Mountain Falls is about having it all. With natural ambience, fresh fruits from a farmers market, omelettes cooked to order, biscuits, cinnamon rolls, bacon and sausage, brunch at The Pantry is an ode to a Colorado summer as well as local growers.

"It's almost perfect out here in the morning," said the restaurant's owner, Ben Stephens.

Stephens credits the chef, Chad Peterson, for the restaurant's joining the nationwide trend toward locally-grown food. "Chef Chad buys all the fruit on Friday mornings at the Woodland Park Farmers Market," Stephens said. "Chad is the best chef I've ever had."

With its regional reputation for breakfast in Green Mountain Falls, The Pantry was nearly overwhelmed by success, by the number of people who wait in line for the morning meal in the mountains.

"We did this to alleviate the wait for breakfast inside and on the front patio," Stephens said.

The outdoor venue is the result of a savvy business plan that capitalizes on the restaurant's fortunate location on the banks of the creek, where, two years ago



The McDonald-Vinson family enjoys brunch on the patio at The Pantry in Green Mountain Falls. Photo by Pat Hill

If you go:

The Pantry is located in Green Mountain Falls. In addition to brunch and barbecue, the backyard patio is available for weddings and private parties. For information, call 719-684-9018.

Stephens initiated barbecue dinners four nights a week in the summer. The popular singer and guitar player, Ted Newman, entertains Thursday and Sunday evenings.

"We got rained out the first two weeks, so this [brunch] is really helping," Stephens said. "I've got a big investment back here."

The three dining opportunities that provide employment for 31 people and have

a direct affect on the economy in Green Mountain Falls. "In June, we served 7,700 people; in July, 10,600 people came through the door," Stephens said. "Restaurants are going out of business all over and we're growing."

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Chef Chad Peterson prepares freshly-cooked omelettes as part of the summer brunch buffet on the patio at The Pantry in Green Mountain Falls. Photo by Pat Hill