

Hibbard's to celebrate peach during what would've been festival week

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we didn't want the hard black one that comes in all kinds of ice cream sandwiches that you find in the grocery store. We wanted something that was unique to Lewiston."

The Village Bake Shoppe is supplying a triple-chocolate cookie. Trunzo estimates almost 500 dozen have been paired with her family's custard since May.

"Kris reached out to me in the wintertime to see if we can collaborate with ice cream cookie sandwiches, and it was a no-brainer," owner Michael Fiore said. "We couldn't wait to get started, and we talked about some samples; and we ate lots of cookies; and they were happy, we were happy; and here we are."

He added, "Everything that we make is from scratch. So, what that means is we don't use mixes, powders or anything out of a bucket. We do it by hand – the old-fashioned way. That's why we're still here 27 years later – and you can taste the difference. With Hibbard's Custard, that's a Niagara County classic. And just to marry the two, Village Bake Shoppe and Hibbard's, it's just a perfect combination."

While the cookie sandwich was an immediate hit, "Unbeknownst to us, there are some people out there that don't like chocolate," Trunzo said. "We wanted to bring in a blondie cookie, and that's when we hooked up with Aimee from Just Desserts. She brought in three or four different samples, and we brought it down to that one. And we are going to be doing another cookie with her for the fall, as well."

Aimee Loughran opened a kitchen early last year at 755 Center St., Suite 5 (adjacent to the Lewiston Stone House). She, too, found success early on with numerous event planners utilizing her skills for special occasions. Of course, the pandemic put the kibosh on such things this spring. Loughran turned her attention to do-it-yourself pastry kits, which became an instant hit with customers.

"I met Harold (Hibbard) at the Lewiston Stone House. We were discussing cookies and he was interested in the blondie. And then I presented to them a funfetti blondie," Loughran said. "Blondie is kind of boring to me; I needed something a little bit more to catch people's eye, and sprinkles – everybody loves sprinkles. So, I in-



Village Bake Shoppe baker Chelsea Rosado and manager Casey Gillard (outside) and Hibbard's Original Custard employees Zak Medecigo and Sydney Wade (seated) admire their work as Izzy and Emma Loughran and Jeana Fiore (center) enjoy the new ice cream sandwiches.

corporated the sprinkles with the blondie and came up with the funfetti blondie. And I guess it's one of their top-selling items here."

Indeed, since Loughran started supplying her cookie in mid-July, she's sent over 220 dozen.

For the uninitiated, a blondie is "basically like a chocolate chip cookie without the chocolate chips. And then there's added sprinkles into the batter, as well," Loughran noted.

A second Just Desserts – this one with a retail component – is set to open this fall in the Little Yellow House on Center Street.

"(Things) are going very well for me," Loughran said. She explained, "I'm actually keeping my kitchen as a central location. That's gonna be my commercial kitchen. And then the Little Yellow House is going to be my retail location. I actually won't bake out of there."

She plans to sell macaroons, among other items.

"I'm known for my macaroons and also my cheesecake," Loughran said. "My cheesecake's phenomenal; cupcakes, things like that. I'm going to be offering cookie sandwiches, case cakes."

Each Hibbard's ice cream cookie sandwich is \$5, and "We pack them with a lot of custard," Trunzo said. "We've been switching flavors around. We started with just vanilla custard, now we're doing vanilla, chocolate and black raspberry custard."

Peach custard will be offered at the start of September during what would've been Peach Festival weekend in the neighboring Academy Park.

"We're going to be doing a whole week of peaches, since we don't have our festival," Trunzo said. "We're going to be doing a lot of peach everything, which will

include different types of cookies that are for fall, and peach."

She noted, "Normally we only serve peach custard during Peach Festival; all year that's the only time we ever do it. So, we decided, you know, we don't have a festival, but we want everyone to be able to have the peach custard. So, we're doing a special peach hurricane; we're doing peach sundaes, as we usually do; we're doing peach custard for the entire seven to nine days. I think we're gonna just run it all the way through every day as one of our specials – just because that's the only time we ever serve peach. And people look forward to it, so we wanted to make sure that we carried that through, festival or no festival."

Hibbard's Original Frozen Custard is located at 105 Portage Road, Lewiston.

Falls to be illuminated in celebration of 19th Amendment

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Niagara Falls will be illuminated red, white and blue for 15 minutes at 9:45 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 30.

On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was adopted into the U.S. Constitution, stating citizens could not be denied the right to

vote on account of their sex.

In honor of this historic event, the suffragists who fought for this right, and Niagara Falls' own ties to this turn in history, the Niagara Falls Illumination Board – at the request of Mayor Robert Restaino – will allow the falls to be illuminated in celebration.

As COVID-19 guidelines are still in effect, visitors who may want to attend this event are asked to adhere to public health guidelines by social distancing 6 feet and wearing a mask. The falls can also be viewed via livestream at <https://www.cliftonhill.com/niagara-falls/livestream>.

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