

Custard King prepares to reign once again

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Custard King is readying for a revival.

The local icon was recently purchased from Susan and Paul Brost by three partners, including Greg Glover, owner of Commercial Astoria; Franz Spielvogel, owner of Laughing Planet Cafe; and David Demers, principal commercial real estate broker with HSM Pacific Realty in Portland.

"First and foremost, we're committed to what they did," Spielvogel, the main spokesman for the new partnership, said. "It's not going to change dramatically."

The targeted opening date is June 3.

Spielvogel said he has the head chef of Laughing Planet, John Huyck, coming up with a new recipes for custard, fry

sauce and a secret sauce for Custard King's burgers. Once the restaurant is set up, he added, it will be run by a local staff of four to five employees.

"The commitment is obviously to custard, burgers, shakes, fries and floats," Spielvogel said, adding that it will drop other items such as fish and chips, to avoid competing with nearby offerings. It will add new items, such as sweet potato fries, kale salads and coleslaw.

The new owners will be restoring the neon sign of Custard King and painting the building navy blue, white, gray and an antique yellow. It's also looking at a variance to add outdoor seating in its existing parking spots, although Spielvogel said that project won't impede the expected opening date.

Spielvogel said that he and his partners are perform-

ing their own anthropological study of Custard King, the history of which stretches back more than 60 years.

In the 1950s and '60s, it was owned and managed by Roma Bigby. Since 2001, it has been owned and operated by the Brosts, who moved to Astoria from Milwaukie, to run the business. Health issues kept them from opening the restaurant as much in recent years, and Paul Brost said they'd been trying to sell it for about six years.

"I was having a hard time keeping the place up," he said. "She (Susan Brost) could only handle three or four hours (a day)."

Spielvogel said that when Custard King reopens, it will operate from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week.

For updates, visit Custard King's Facebook page.



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Custard King has new owners, who plan to repaint and refurbish the historic icon, with a grand opening in early June.

Cannery Pier in travel website spotlight

Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa was recently ranked No. 25 on Trip Advisor's 2015 Travellers' Choice "Top 25 Hotels for Romance — United States."

It joins a prestigious group of U.S. hotels, including No. 1, The Inn Above Oak Creek in Sedona, Ariz.; the No. 2, the Desert Riviera Hotel in Palm Springs, Calif.; and No. 3, the Hotel California in Palm Springs.

"Travelers rave about the Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa's location in the Columbia River, friendly staff and special amenities such as complimentary chauffeured vintage cars which take guests to and from dinner at downtown restaurants, wine and hors d'oeuvres reception featuring Smoked Salmon on local Finnish Rye Bread, binoculars in every room for watch-



Submitted photo

The Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa was recently ranked No. 25 on Trip Advisor's Travellers' Choice "Top 25 Hotels for Romance — United States."

ing wildlife and passing ships as well as complimentary Cruiser Bicycles to ride along the Astoria Riverwalk," wrote Donna Quinn, director of sales and

marketing, in a release.

Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa is a luxury boutique hotel built on the former site of a historic cannery 600 feet out into the

Columbia River. Waterfront balconies in each room allow guests a bird's-eye view of river traffic to and from the Pacific Ocean. Hotel owner and Astorian Robert Jacob designed and built the hotel as a tribute to the Finnish fishermen who created the first fishermen's cooperative in Astoria — Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company — during its heyday of canning salmon. Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa opened in 2005 and has been written up in the New York Times, Sunset Magazine, Travel & Leisure and other publications.

For the full list of the "Top 25 Hotels for Romance — United States," visit www.tripadvisor.com/TravelersChoice-Hotels-cRomance

CEDR hosts Excel class

Clatsop Economic Development Resources (CEDR) is hosting a workshop on Microsoft Excel, an electronic spreadsheet program from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Clatsop Community College's Towler Hall Room 105 computer lab.

The workshop will teach participants how to:

- Navigate within workbooks and worksheets.
- Organize data into rows and columns.
- Format text and cells.
- Write simple formulas and create charts.
- Track and analyze business data.
- Enter formulas and use simple functions to calculate automatically.
- Create charts.

The workshop costs \$15, payable at class by cash, check or credit card. The instructor is Jane Francis, owner of Personal Computer Training and instructor for the college's workforce computer skills classes.

To register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/o5o5yxj>.

For more information or assistance, call Penny Rodgers of CEDR at 503-338-2402, or email sbdc@clatsopcc.edu

Area unemployment rates continue to lower

Seasonally adjusted unemployment continues its downward March in Northwest Oregon, as statewide unemployment drops below the U.S. national average.

Clatsop county posted a 5.3 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.3 percent in March, down from 5.6 percent in March and from 6.2 percent a year ago. It was lower than both the statewide rate (5.4 percent) and the U.S. rate (5.5 percent).

The county added 110 jobs, 50 fewer than expected. That left seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment at 17,590, 510 positions higher than at the same point last year,

a growth rate of 3.1 percent.

Over the month of March, the private sector added 140 jobs, but government employment dipped by 30. Leisure and hospitality grew by 160 jobs; manufacturing trimmed 20; and local government education shed 30. It is not uncommon to get small fluctuations in education employment, as the number of substitute teachers and other temporary staff varies.

Industries adding the most jobs over the past year included retail trade (150); leisure and hospitality (160); and professional and business services (130). The industries shedding the most jobs in the past year

were food manufacturing (60) and paper manufacturing (50).

Columbia County

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate through March was 6.9 percent, down from 7.1 percent the previous month and from 7.5 percent one year prior. The county gained 110 jobs, 50 more than expected. That left total nonfarm payroll employment at 10,120, 150 more than the year prior and a growth rate of 1.5 percent.

Over the month of March, the private sector gained 120 jobs and government employment decreased by 10. Trade, transportation and utilities added 50 jobs; other industries had small gains; and local government education em-

ployment dipped by 10.

Industries adding the most jobs since last year were manufacturing (150); and trade, transportation and utilities (80). Industries losing jobs included professional and business services (130) and construction (60). Local governments, including school districts, added 80 jobs over the year.

Tillamook County

Tillamook County's 5.3 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down from 5.6 percent the month prior and from 6.4 percent the year prior. Employment wasn't expected to change in Tillamook County over March, but it added 90 jobs, leaving total nonfarm payroll employment at 8,690, 200 more than

the year prior, representing a growth rate of 2.4 percent over the past year.

The private sector grew by 80 jobs over the month of March, and governments chipped in 10. The growth was driven by the leisure and hospitality industry, which added 70 jobs. A few other industries had small changes. Local government education shed 10 jobs.

Industries adding the most jobs over the past year included retail trade (90); professional and business services (40); and educational and health services (40). Leisure and hospitality was down 30 jobs over the year.

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the statewide unemployment



*Preliminary, seasonally adjusted rates.
Source: Oregon Employment Department

Daily Astorian graphic

rate and employment survey data for April on May 19. For more information, visit qualityinfo.org/ClatsopEcon



Miranda Johnson



Darel Grothaus



Katy Walstra

Windermere Stellar adds three brokers

Windermere Stellar, a regional real estate firm, recently added Miranda Johnson as a new broker. She comes to Windermere Stellar after working at Woldmark in Seaside.

Also added in the Gearhart office was broker Katy Walstra, previously employed with Café Mingo for the past 10 years.

In Cannon Beach, Windermere Stellar added broker Darel Grothaus, who was the owner, founder, coach and program developer at InSight Personal Development & Leadership Coaching Services.

Locally owned and managed for 40 years, Windermere Stellar has offices in Portland, Lake Oswego, West Linn, Vancouver, Wash., and on the North Coast.

Localized real estate information can be found at windermerereportland.com, windermerereoregoncoast.com and windermererevancouver.com

North Coast Home Care celebrates 30 years and a move

North Coast Home Care, a local home medical equipment company, is celebrating its 30th anniversary and a new location in Astoria.

Formerly located in the Park Medical Building across from Columbia Memorial Hospital, North Coast Home Care is now located in the former Owl Drug building at 2230 Exchange St., near Columbia Memorial Hospital.

North Coast Home Care has

been serving Clatsop County since 1995 and also has a branch location in Tillamook where the company began in 1985. It is owned by Larry and Linda Slawson.

"North Coast Home Care's staff represents over 180 years of home care experience," read a release by the company. "The company employs knowledgeable staff with experience fitting and recommending wheelchairs and seating sys-

tems in power and manual wheelchairs and many other types of equipment; a respiratory therapist; caring customer service representatives; trained equipment repair technicians; and delivery drivers."

The company is accredited with the Health Quality Association for Accredita-

tion; is an approved provider with Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurances; and provides 24-hour emergency service.

North Coast Home Care will soon announce its 30th anniversary. For more information, call 503-325-9906, or visit www.nchc.net

Seaside lodgings sold

SEASIDE — ACT Enterprises L.P., of Calistoga, Calif., has purchased the 61-unit Guesthouse Inn & Suites and Weiss' Paradise Suites & Rentals in Seaside. Guesthouse General Manager Steve Coletta said the sale of the economy motel by Heritage Hotels was final on April 2.

"It sounds as if everything will remain the same in terms of branding and amenities for now," he said.

Guesthouse employment stood at nine in April, but Coletta said it ramps up during the summer. Paradise offers a variety of rental properties in Seaside.

Sellers: Michael J. Morrisey and Cheryl D. Morrisey
Buyer: GHC, Inc.
Address: 49332 U.S. Highway 30, Westport
Price: \$700,000

Sellers: Robert Proffitt and Joanne Proffitt
Buyers: Joel D. Andersen and Misti D. Andersen
Address: 80415 Carnahan Road, Arch Cape
Price: \$640,000

Seller: Premier Community Bank
Buyers: Robert Howell and Patricia Howell
Address: 1715 Thompson Falls Drive, Seaside
Price: \$380,000

Seller: Reagan Jeffers
Buyer: North Coast Properties Management Co., LLC
Address: 1856 Haystack Rock Lane, Cannon Beach
Price: \$360,000

Clatsop County Property Transactions

Seller: Sidney R. Snyder, Jr.
Buyers: David Remer and Candace Remer
Address: 871 H St., Gearhart
Price: \$1 million

Seller: Sandra J. Zupan
Buyer: MFF Properties, LLC
Address: 3401 S. Hemlock Drive, Cannon Beach
Price: \$720,000

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