

Mouth

Continued from page 12

veggie-friendly grill. It had an excellent texture, and, unlike so many other burger-substitutes, held form rather than becoming mush. With the Un-Burger I added a gluten-free bun (+\$1.50). Again I was pleased. It was dark, wheat-like and chewy.

All of the burgers — both meat and meat-less — were

quite deliberately assembled, with swirls of sauce specific to the top and bottom buns, and precise layering that leads me to believe that consistency will rule at Custard King. Size-wise, the burgers are somewhat in-between: They're not skimpy, nor are they enormous. Show up starving, and a plain burger by itself may not fill you up. Add a salad, or the fries, which were cooked to-order but totally just plain old fries

— and you're in business. Not sleepy, not heavy — just right. (Again, go for the kale salad!)

Then there are the sweets: frozen custards, milkshakes and a soda float. As it's in the name, Organic Custard (\$2.50) seemed the thing to do. It comes in vanilla, chocolate or swirled together, and the first topping is free. I went with vanilla, and from the toppings — sprinkles, crushed Oreos, Butterfinger, Heath Bar and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups — I chose the cups. The custard was creamy and rich, but I was hard-pressed to differentiate it much from regular ice cream. (The main difference: Custard is made with eggs.) With the crushed candy, I was reminded of a Dairy Queen Blizzard.

And after trying the vanilla custard, I thought Custard King has the opportunity to do what it's already done to the rest of the menu: tune it up. Some fruit toppings — heck, even the cranberries that were in my salad — would offer great contrast and color.

But I won't be surprised if we see a few the menu get tweaked as the re-incarnated, two-month-old Custard King grows up. I say that not only because of the cheeky "Testing... Testing..." sign that's now up in the window; I say it because, as is the stated plan, this Custard King seems predestined as a test chamber for a potentially franchise-able future.

National Park Service celebrates 99 years

Find fun family activities, meet builders of 1955 Fort Clatsop

ASTORIA — The National Park Service is 99 years old, and Lewis and Clark National Historical Park is hosting a Founder's Day birthday party from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22.

There will be family fun activities, kids crafts and free canoe rides for age 5 and up, music, face painting, painting lady bugs on rocks, an insect-catching contest, and free hamburgers, veggie burgers, chips, veggie snacks and beverages — courtesy of the Lewis and Clark National Park Association and prepared by the Astoria-Warrenton Lions Club.

During the 99th anniversary party of the National Park Service, Lewis and Clark National Historical will also commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Fort Clatsop builders. The general public will get to meet and greet the original Fort Clatsop builders from 1955.

The party will be held at Netul Landing, located one mile south of Fort Clatsop on Fort Clatsop Road. This event is to bring the community together and celebrate having a National Park in the local neighborhood.

Additionally, in honor of Founder's Day, there is free admission to all National



Photo by Joshua Bessex

There will be free canoe rides for ages 5 and up — plus more activities — at Netul Landing during Lewis and Clark National Park's party Aug. 22, celebrating the 99th anniversary of the National Park Service.



Submitted photo

Red the horse and Bill Springle from Crown Zellerbach Veronia Tree Farm haul out logs for the building of the first Fort Clatsop replica in 1955. Attendees of the National Park Service birthday party Aug. 22 at Netul Landing can meet and greet builders of the 1955 fort replica.

Parks on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

For more information, call Fort Clatsop at 503-861-2471.

Birthday party

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22

Netul Landing at Fort Clatsop

92343 Fort Clatsop Road, Astoria

503-861-2471

Free

Crossword Answer

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