

New Astoria steakhouse is a throwback

Charlie's goes old school for inspiration

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

After three years of planning, eclectic local business owner Charles Holboke has opened his steakhouse.

Charlie's Chop House recently opened in the former Hazel's Tavern on Marine Drive next to Holboke's Tiki Bar and Charlie's Chowder House. He now runs four businesses in Astoria, including Godfather's Books & Espresso on the corner of Commercial and 11th streets.

Holboke said his chop-house is inspired by old-school Portland steakhouses like Saylor's Old Country Kitchen and RingSide Steakhouse. He handed much of the creative control of the chophouse over to his new chef, Chris Dunn.

Head chef

"Charlie's idea basically came from kind of the old-school steakhouses that he used to go to when he was a bit younger," Dunn said. "Those kind of got lost along the way with all the fancy food and all the fancy chefs coming out and trying to do too much. I think we just wanted to do something pretty basic, but really good."

Dunn, who came to the chophouse from Merry Time Bar and Grill, said he started cooking at age 17, starting in a hyperlocal, small-town bistro in Minnesota, working his way up from the dish pit to sous chef while learning from the restaurant's executive chef.

After moving to Portland, he worked at several venerated



Chef Chris Dunn prepares steaks Thursday before Charlie's Chop House opens for dinner.

Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

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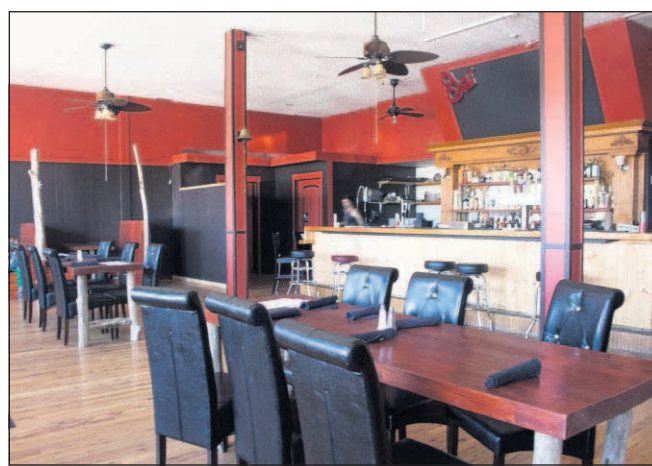
Chris Dunn, chef

Portland eateries, including the Shanghai Tunnel Bar, University Club of Portland, Tasty n Alder, The Country Cat Dinner House and Bar and The Oregon Golf Club before coming to Astoria. He connected with Holboke through employees at the Chowder House.

Beef, including top sirloins cut block style, bone-in and boneless rib eyes, New York strips, filet mignon and chopped sirloins. The steaks are flame-grilled or broiled, basted in brown butter, garlic and rosemary and rested.

"It's such a simple technique, but nobody really does it," Dunn said.

Sides come a la carte. For those not wanting to commit to a steak, Dunn said, the chophouse offers an 8-ounce sirloin steak burger,



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Charlie's Chop House has an all-wood, red-and-black interior Chef Chris Dunn describes as 'blue-collar nice.'

IF YOU GO

Charlie's Chop House
Location: 1313 Marine Drive
Hours: 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday

pork chops, chicken, seafood, sandwiches and salads. The chophouse sources its bread from Sea Level Bakery in Cannon Beach. Meals come with house-made buttermilk mini-biscuits sweated down with jalapeño and sweet onion, along with pickled vegetables.

"It's an opportunity to really showcase what I can do, and it's a really exciting opportunity to see it grow," Dunn said. "The most exciting thing is making people happy with

the food, and the environment and the experience."

Charlie's Chop House, at 1313 Marine Drive, is open from 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

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Thank You, Linda!

Linda Praus, who died on May 2, 2017, was known for her kind heart, her warm sense of humor, and her abiding love for animals. She will be deeply missed.

Linda left behind three dogs (Mabel, Shye Girl, and Joey) and a cat (Dora). Linda's death was unexpected, but she had made provisions for her beloved animals, naming Clatsop County Animal Shelter as the recipient of her Life Insurance policy. That money won't just ensure her furry family is taken care of, it will mean scores of the animals who land on our doorstep will also be fed, vetted, and loved until they find their new homes.

What happens when your animals land at our Shelter?

Dora, Linda's cat, was adopted almost immediately and is thriving in her new home.

Mabel, her eldest dog, was in the final stages of renal failure when she arrived. In her own home -- with Linda helping her stand and get into the yard -- she might have lived a few more weeks, but with her momma gone, Mabel called it quits. She is with her beloved momma now.

Shye Girl and Joey have been checked over by our beloved vet and are now being loved by shelter staff and volunteers, while we search for their new people. Linda knew that, no matter how long it takes, we do *not* give up on the animals who come into our care, which was likely one of the reasons she adopted from us and left us \$146,000.00.

That's right, Linda left us a huge chunk of change, so we could continue doing what we do best:

loving and caring for the lost, left, and abandoned animals of Clatsop County.

Mabel, Shye Girl, and Dora were all adopted from this Shelter, where Linda was a weekly visitor. -- but her boy, Joey, was originally a gift to her father.

Another volunteer, Linda Dygert, had taken in a stray pit bull, Sadie, only to find out Sadie was carrying pups. Linda D. cared for Sadie and her little ones until they were ready for adoption. Linda P., meanwhile, had been on the lookout for a dog for her elderly father.

Linda P. drove to Linda D.'s house and, because Linda P's father couldn't get out of the car, the two Lindas took each of the pups out to him, so he could pick his favorite. He chose the black-and-white pup with a kink in his tail. He picked Joey. Sadly, Linda P's father died shortly thereafter, but Linda had sweet, sweet Joey to love and comfort her.

And that's exactly what her animals did: they loved her and she loved them, which is why Shye Girl and Joey -- at ages 12 and 13 -- are still full of beans and raring to go. We're going to make sure they are adopted together, in honor of Linda.

Though we mourn the loss of this loving, caring soul, Linda's light lives on in Shye Girl, Joey, and all the animals her incredible financial gift will help us save. It's a fitting tribute to a woman who built her life on such a loving foundation.



Joey

Shye Girl

Bonded Pair

Clatsop County Animal Shelter