

Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The Flavel Building on the southeast corner of Commercial and Ninth streets has been purchased by Lisa and James Long of Portland.

Sale: All of the building's original fixtures remain

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Other recent sales The building is the third Flavel property to be sold recently. A year ago, Warrenton couple Marcus and Michelle Liotta purchased the M & N Building on the northeastern corner of Ninth and Commercial streets. In 2015, City Lumber co-owner Greg Newenhof bought the family's former mansion at 15th Street and Franklin Avenue. Local historian John Goodenberger said there were two other homes the Flavel family owned on Grand Avenue.

The Flavel mansion at Eighth and Duane streets was donated by the family in the mid-20th century to Clatsop County and eventually turned into the Flavel House Museum, owned and operated by the Clatsop County Historical Society.

Faded glory

Completed in 1924, the Flavel Building first played host to Astoria Florist, Bell Eastern Outfitting Co. Over the years, the building has housed various offices, the retail outlet of a dairy and multiple restaurants. Drina Daisy entered the space in the mid-2000s.

Brothers Jewelry and the

To the east of Drina Daisy is the former Szenders clothing store, a dilapidated storefront that still elicits grandeur with its black tiling and large alcove, complete with a stand-alone glass display case.

Lisa Long said she and her husband were in awe after seeing the inside of the storefront's art deco interior, described in a historic building report as "arguably the most elegant commercial space in town."

The ceiling is falling down, she said, but all the original fixtures remain. She said her husband will do most of the restorative work, while hiring some subcontractors. "We feel like we want to be curators to the vintage part of it, and just add to the history of Astoria."

Fair: Volunteers needed to help manage parking

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Also debuting this year is the barn lounge, which has two tasting bars with live music from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily. This new storage building will house a saloon and beer garden starting at ing fees or five-day passes for \$8. Carnival wristbands are available at the gate for \$30.

The fair is seeking volunteers to direct parking and manage the parking gate. Contact the fair office at 503-325-4600.

For their help, volunteers

Food processers: 'It's all about price ... and health consciousness'

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years. Chief among them is a shift from canning produce to freezing it or shipping it fresh, either packaged individually, sliced or as salad mixes.

Other changes include the consolidation of processing companies, the introduction of private labels and the expansion into new products and more efficient facilities. While the changes appear to be beneficial overall for the industry, processors must also keep adapting to the changing field.

Recent changes

NORPAC, a grower-owned cooperative based in Salem, stepped away from the canning business this year. It sold its canning operation to Seneca Foods Corp. in June to focus more "energy on growth and innovation in the frozen category," Amy Wood, NOR-PAC spokeswoman said.

Canning represented 6 percent of NORPAC's business. Its other products include chili and soups, frozen fruits and vegetables and ready-to-eat meals, such as pasta.

"The transition away from our canning business will help us drive efficiencies and reduce operational complexities as we invest in continued growth and innovation in our frozen product lines," Shawn Campbell, president and CEO of NORPAC, said at the time.

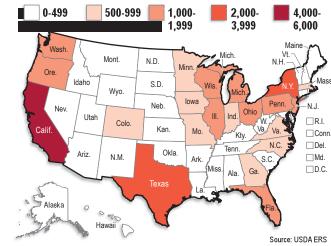
This change is not lost on Loughmiller.

"We're a fruit cannery. If people are eating more fresh fruit and less canned fruit it certainly affects us. I see it in my own life and we own a cannery; we eat more fresh fruit because it's available," he said.

Fruits and vegetables are more popular than ever among consumers. Since 2008, the consumption of fresh vegetables has increased 20.6 percent and fresh fruit has increased 16.2 percent, according to a report by Eugenio J. Alemán, a senior economist at Wells Fargo Securities. At the same time, processed fruit and vegetable consumption has only increased 9.9 percent.

Alemán equates this change to the stabilization of fresh fruit and vegetable prices since the recession. The recession has also had the opposite effect on the processed fruit and vegetable market, causing prices to surge and making them "higher than what they were at any time before the Great Recession," he said.

Food and beverage manufacturing establishments in the U.S., 2015



Alan Kenaga/Capital Press

Rank/state	Number	Rank/state	Number						
1. California	5,531	7. Florida	1,212						
2. New York	2,508	8. Wisconsin	1,119						
3. Texas	2,175	9. Ohio	1,067						
4. Pennsylvania	1,489	10. New Jersey	1,028						
5. Illinois	1,384	11. Michigan	1,026						
6. Washington	1,323	12. Oregon	1,016						



Aliya Hall/Capital Press

shipped across the country,"

Loughmiller said. "There are

Jobs grow

processing industry has also

With the changes in the

opportunities there for us."

Muirhead Canning Co. of The Dalles has expanded its product line to include applesauce and fruit spreads. Hood-Crest is the applesauce brand that owner Russell Loughmiller is looking into placing in stores.

have declined, while peach sales have climbed; today almost half of what the company sells is peaches.

"Local" is also a factor among many consumers. A 2016 study by Duff and Phelps, global corporate financial adviser, found that 53 percent of consumers seek out locally grown or processed food. Muirhead Canning caters to that niche — offering local fruit packed with only fruit, water and sugar. "Even as (consumers) eat more fresh fruit or get away from canned fruit, there are more opportunities for us as a smaller player to say that this is a local product and local fruit that can be consumed in the winter without being

the last four years — that's tremendously fast."

Those percentages include the growth in the number of breweries and other beverage producers such as cider makers and distilleries.

Economists say the processing job market growth will shrink to 1 percent in the next year, but only because it is expected to "taper off at some point," said Lehner.

Overall, food processors employ more than 100,000 people in the West. Oregon food manufacturing companies employ 11,550 workers. Processors in Idaho employ 4,710 workers, Washington state processors employ 4,030 workers and California, with its massive fo

Looking ahead

In the future, U.S. processors are expecting more competition, both domestic and foreign.

Simplot is expecting to see global competition grow, as consumer demand for specialty products and variety in products has increased, driving other countries to match the U.S., Jordan said.

"There's been an increase in production out of Europe, China and other areas of the world that means the U.S. food producers aren't just competing with themselves, but in a global marketplace," he said.

Jordan also said the success of companies will depend on which ones can provide the "highest quality and best variety of products in the most efficient manner."

"Quality and consumer choice are more important now than ever before," Jordan said.

Loughmiller, the niche cannery operator, also believes the industry will be even more segmented and have more artisan players. Especially with the millennial generation of 20- to 30-year-olds, he said, there's more demand for uniqueness and local food.

"How do we make this, and what do we want to do with that?" he said. "Some of these are smaller and don't have a huge impact, but we're trying a bunch of things."

He has begun to expand

A talent show for all ages is 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Animals abound as 4-H youth show their animals during the fair. About 40 horses are participating this year, which is a large increase from the last couple of years, Edwards said.

Daily admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for youth 12 and younger, and \$18 for adults and \$8 for youth for five-day passes.

There are \$2 daily park-

have the choice of admission wristbands for the fair for the week or tickets to see Montgomery Gentry 7 p.m. Thursday.

Mattinen said she is grateful for the help they have already received. "We could not make this come together without the help from volunteers," she said.

More information can be found at clatsopcofairexpo. com. The fairgrounds are located at 92937 Walluski Loop. "It's all about price ... and health consciousness," Alemán said.

As the operator of a niche cannery, Loughmiller sells directly to customers on his company website, muirheadcanning.com. Apricot sales come growth. Employment in food processing continues to grow "briskly," said Josh Lehner, an economist at the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.

"(Jobs) have grown quite quickly for the last decade. We've outpaced some of our neighbors from Washington and Idaho, even though they have larger corporations," Lehner said. "We're having slower growth now than what we've seen in the last five years because it's so strong; we've had 4 percent growth in Muirhead's operations to include such items as fruit spreads, maple syrup and apple sauce.

"We have to find ways to be different and set our products significantly apart," he said. "Everyone has organic, so if it comes from a large company, why buy local? If you can, you meet the person that carries weight for. People who come here are excited; they are practically dancing around to see where it's being made."

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