

Long Beach go-kart business gets new owners

Local merchant Trusty fulfills lifelong dream

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Glenn Trusty saw his chance to make an offer on the go-kart track, and he literally raced to make it. He and his wife, Hillary Trusty, laughed on Tuesday as they recalled how he “sprinted across the parking lot” calling, “Do you want to sell this property?”

“I probably looked like some kind of crazed lunatic,” he said.

The Ilwaco couple, who own Dr. Roof, plan to reopen the newly christened Fun Beach Speedway later this month. It will have new gear, a new name and a new emphasis on safety and family fun.

For Glenn Trusty, the purchase was the fulfillment of a lifelong ambition.

“That’s a business I have always wanted,” Trusty said. The couple has already begun repairing and cleaning up the troubled property; something city officials had been asking the previous owners to do for years.

“I’m just so tickled pink. They’ve done more work in probably four days than (the previous owners did) in the

last 10 years,” Long Beach Mayor Jerry Phillips said. “I just think it’s tremendous, I really do.”

‘A personal mission’

The Merrill Family Trust previously owned the downtown entertainment complex, which occupies a city block at the corner of Sid Snyder Boulevard and Pacific Avenue. Before an April raid, Tony Merrill, formerly of Long Beach, had operated the track for about a decade.

The business closed when Merrill and his then girlfriend, Doreen Morris, were arrested on drug charges, following the raid on his home and businesses. Since then, several of Merrill’s associates have been arrested and charged for gun, burglary and drug-related charges. Merrill disappeared after bailing out of jail.

At first, it seemed another member of the extended Merrill family would take over the businesses. In July, Julie Merrill, of Ocean Shores, was reportedly negotiating a lease with Tony Merrill’s parents, Robert and Eldora Merrill, Phillips said.

When they met in the parking lot, Julie Merrill told Trusty the Merrill family had no interest in selling their business. He gave her a business card anyway. She called 45 minutes later.

An intense negotiation pro-



Fun Beach Speedway

New go-karts are among the many positive changes coming to the Long Beach business at the corner of Pacific Avenue and Sid Snyder Drive.

‘We do have plans in mind, but those kind of are surprises.’

Glenn Trusty

new owner of Fun Beach Speedway

cess coincided with the Trustys’ annual vacation in Hawaii.

“There were a couple of days where my husband literally did not get in the water once,” Hillary Trusty said. “He was on the phone and the computer.”

“I was on a personal mission,” he added.

Glenn Trusty declined to name the sales price, which is not a public record yet, but acknowledged that he paid

more than market value for it.

“Let’s just say it was a lot,” he said.

Immediate changes

As soon as the Trustys took over, workers cut down the knee-high weeds that had taken over, and began hauling truckloads of old tires and other junk away. Over the weekend, a roofing crew replaced the roof on the ticket booth.

Long Beach officials and state agencies had been asking Tony Merrill to deal with those issues and other safety hazards and code violations for at least a couple of years. Phillips said he, City Administrator David Glasson and Fire and Building Inspector Matt Bonney provided the Trustys with a list of issues they’d have to address before and after opening.

Glenn Trusty is “already

way ahead of the game,” Phillips said. “He is doing a fantastic job of meeting requirements, getting everything done the right way.”

The Trustys said they remembered when the amusement complex thrived under the management of Robert and Eldora Merrill. That helped them see its potential to be a positive, family and community-oriented business. Despite everything that happened after their son Tony took over, the Trustys said the elder Merrills still wanted to find a buyer who would care about the business.

“That meant something to them,” he said. “It had to not be just about the money, it had to be about the right fit for them.”

Priorities and plans

Although the Trustys now own the whole city block,

including the shuttered Long Beach Mopeds and Long Beach Crazy Kars buildings, the focus this year will be on the track.

“The biggest priority was to clean up the property and get the track running, so that we could begin to generate some revenue to fund the expedition,” Glenn Trusty joked. “We have a lot of plans for the rest of the property that I think people are going to be very excited to see.”

Right now, they’re refurbishing a few of the older go-karts, and waiting for an order of new go-karts to arrive. They are also installing a new safety railing and another safety feature called a “pit gate.” They’re consulting with state workplace safety experts, and will soon be doing a two-day training with an experienced amusement park operator. Soon, they’ll be hiring four to six part-time workers to run the track, but they expect to be involved in day-to-day operations for the foreseeable future.

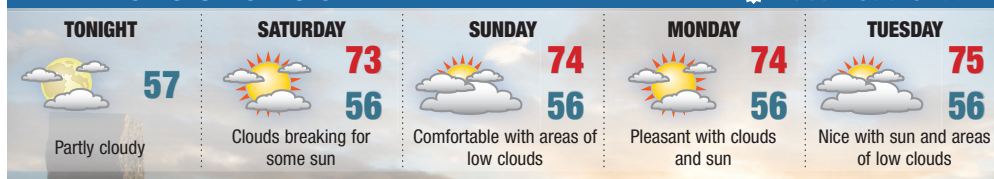
Eventually, they may open another amusement-oriented business in the moped building, or rent it to a tenant. However, new bike and moped rental ventures have opened since Merrill went out of business, and they don’t want to compete with them.

“We don’t have any intentions of being in the moped business,” Glenn Trusty said. “We are in support and hope that the existing bike and moped shops find great success.”

He said they also have plans for the large green “Crazy Kars” building.

“We do have plans in mind, but those kind of are surprises,” Trusty said.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.

Temperatures	High/Low
High/low	76°/58°
Normal high/low	68°/54°
Record high	85° in 1988
Record low	43° in 1969

Precipitation	Amount
Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.07"
Year to date	49.67"
Normal year to date	37.01"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight	8:41 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday	6:02 a.m.
Moonrise today	6:39 p.m.
Moonset today	3:17 a.m.



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight’s Sky: The constellation Sagittarius represents an archer; however, to modern eyes, its brightest stars outline the shape of a teapot.

TOMORROW’S TIDES

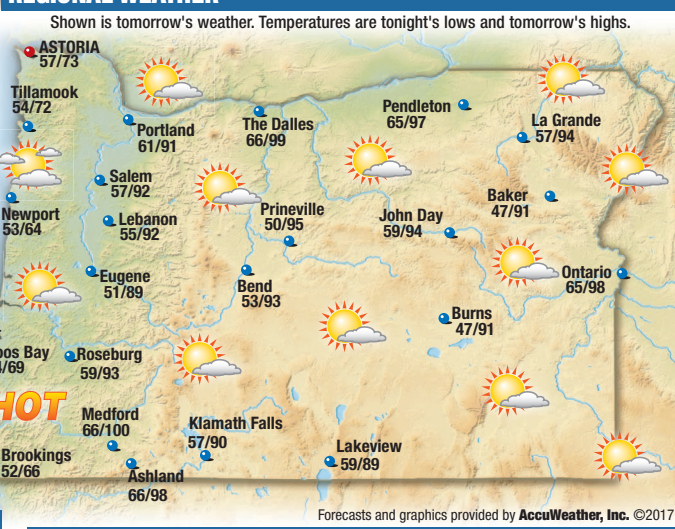
Astoria / Port Docks	High	Time	Low
1:27 p.m.	7.0 ft.	7:03 a.m.	-0.5 ft.
none		6:51 p.m.	2.4 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Sat.	Lo	W
Atlanta	87	69	pc	87	70	pc		
Boston	80	67	pc	75	63	t		
Chicago	69	59	c	79	63	pc		
Denver	90	61	t	88	58	t		
Des Moines	79	58	s	76	62	t		
Detroit	76	57	t	78	61	pc		
El Paso	95	73	pc	96	75	pc		
Fairbanks	69	53	pc	79	57	s		
Honolulu	90	74	pc	89	73	pc		
Indianapolis	71	57	pc	79	63	pc		
Kansas City	77	60	s	70	64	r		
Las Vegas	98	81	pc	100	82	pc		
Los Angeles	88	70	s	84	68	s		
Memphis	86	64	c	87	70	s		
Miami	93	82	pc	93	81	pc		
Nashville	82	60	t	84	64	s		
New Orleans	85	74	t	88	76	t		
New York	84	72	pc	83	64	pc		
Oklahoma City	96	69	pc	93	71	t		
Philadelphia	90	72	pc	82	64	pc		
St. Louis	80	62	s	80	65	pc		
Salt Lake City	99	75	s	97	71	pc		
San Francisco	77	62	pc	76	59	s		
Seattle	93	62	pc	89	64	s		
Washington, DC	91	71	pc	83	65	pc		

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

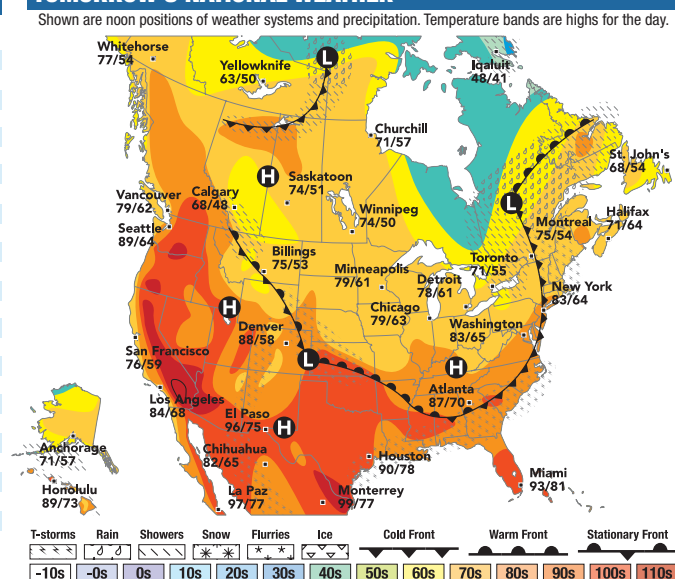
REGIONAL WEATHER



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	City	Today	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	96	47	s	91	47	s			
Bend	97	53	s	93	53	s			
Brookings	66	54	c	66	52	pc			
Eugene	96	51	pc	89	53	s			
Ilwaco	68	59	s	69	58	pc			
Klamath Falls	93	57	s	90	55	pc			
Medford	105	66	s	100	66	pc			
Newberg	96	55	pc	91	59	s			
Newport	64	53	c	64	52	pc			
North Bend	68	53	c	67	55	pc			

TOMORROW’S NATIONAL WEATHER



Decemberists frontman Meloy headlines Cannon Beach concert

The Daily Astorian

Colin Meloy, the frontman of The Decemberists, is headlining a September music event in Cannon Beach.

The balladist from the Portland-based indie rock band will perform solo at the inaugural “Stackstock” — a music festival Sept. 23 at Haystack Gardens — along with Pure Bathing Culture, Chorale PDX, Cardiod and a lineup of other Pacific Northwest musical acts.

Meloy promoted his appearance at the festival on his Twitter account Thursday.

“Stackstock” is the brainchild of Cannon Beach’s Ryan

Snyder, president of Martin Hospitality.

“The North Coast of Oregon is not really on the tour schedule for big name touring acts like Colin Meloy or Pure Bathing Culture,” Snyder said in a news release. The festival is “my way of sharing this incredibly unique music with the community here and our visitors alike.”

Originally from Helena, Montana, Meloy attended the University of Oregon before transferring to the University of Montana, where he studied creative writing.

The singer-songwriter is also the author of the New York Times-bestselling “Wild-



Wikimedia Commons

Colin Meloy of The Decemberists will play a solo show at a Cannon Beach music festival in September.

wood Chronicles,” a series of children’s fantasy novels illustrated by his wife, Carson Ellis.

Mandatory boater class Saturday

The Daily Astorian

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 62, in partnership with the Oregon State Marine Board, will teach a mandatory boater education class leading to a boater education card.

The course covers practi-

cal boating safety information, local boating rules, regulations, cold-water survival and tips and techniques for making boating more enjoyable. Students who complete the course can apply for a boater education card, which is required by Oregon’s and Washington’s

mandatory boater education programs.

The class is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the second-floor conference room at Englund Marine and Industrial Supply at 95 Hamburg Ave. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. The cost is \$10.

DEATH

Aug. 2, 2017

HALL, Wendy Ruth, 64, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory of Astoria/Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

CORRECTION

Timeline incorrect — Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston stepped down as assistant city manager in July. A 1A story Thursday incorrectly said his resignation from the post came earlier this month.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Thursday’s Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 1-2-2-9
4 p.m.: 3-7-6-5
7 p.m.: 1-2-7-7
10 p.m.: 5-9-8-1

WASHINGTON

Thursday’s Daily Game: 3-4-4
Thursday’s Keno: 04-10-15-21-22-23-25-26-32-33-37-50-51-52-53-57-66-72-74-77
Thursday’s Match 4: 10-16-18-24

KEEN

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LADIES SIZES 6-11

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