

Hospitality: No big changes coming

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estate. She founded a property company and took over management of an eight-unit apartment complex in Seaside while pregnant with her youngest of three daughters.

After the birth, Sultana left on maternity leave and a sabbatical from Intel. Upon returning in July 2016, Sultana learned she was among the hundreds of employees being laid off during the company's recent restructuring.

"It kind of expedited my business ventures," she said with a laugh.

Her husband, Masudur Khan, had been in the hotel industry for 12 years, first as an investor and later as an owner after buying the Inn at Seaside in the summer of 2009. Khan now runs four properties in Seaside, including the River Inn at Seaside, City Center Motel and Coast River Inn.

Transition

The Simmons family started their hospitality careers in 2001 with the purchase of the Blue Gull Inn, adding the Inn at Haystack Rock two years later and forming the management company Haystack Lodgings to run other hotels. They bought the oceanfront Inn at the Prom in 2011 and the Gilbert Inn, a historic 1892 Victorian, in 2014.

Antoine Simmons, also a former employee of Intel before his foray into hospitality, said the properties in Cannon Beach had been on the market since last summer, as his family sought to transition out of the coastal hospitality industry.

"It's tough, because it's really about the employees, being with them," he said of leaving the properties and employees who grew to be like family. "We've been with many of them over 10 to 15 years."

Sultana learned last sum-



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Taslema Sultana works the desk at the office of just one of the hotels she manages in Cannon Beach. Sultana, who used to be an engineer at Intel, and her husband manage several hotels in Cannon Beach and Seaside in addition to other real estate properties.



Several of the hotels managed by Sultana and her husband feature elaborate landscaping, including a wide variety of flowers and other plants as well as fountains and areas to relax for patrons.

mer the properties were on the market. Simmons wasn't ready to sell in February, she said, but let her start managing the properties in Cannon Beach and learning the ropes.

Late last month, multiple LLCs owned by Sultana, Khan and other family friends as investors completed the purchase of the Simmons' four South County hotels. The Inn

at Haystack Rock and Blue Gull Inn in Cannon Beach sold for nearly \$3.6 million to SR Lodging LLC, run by Sultana and Sazzadur Rahman, with whom she and Khan also manage other properties. The Gilbert Inn and Inn at the Prom sold for more than \$3.9 million to Seaside Prom LLC, run by Sultana, Khan and family friend Bashir Mahmud.

Along with the four hotels, Sultana now manages two apartment complexes, coming to the coast from Portland several times a week. Despite the travel, she said the position is more relaxing and flexible than Intel, allowing her to spend more time with her children.

The future

Sultana said that beside some upgrades to the facades, furniture and other amenities, no big changes are coming to any of the properties,

which are still taken care of by the same 25 or so employees through Haystack Lodgings. "They know what our guests want, and they're really good people," she said.

Antoine Simmons, who last month pulled the plug on a proposed 48-room luxury hotel in Seaside after receiving an offer on the property, is developing a new 37-unit apartment complex in the center of Warrenton. He is also developing another apartment complex in Utah and a branded hotel in Sherwood.

"It just was a good fit for both of us," he said of his and Rocio's sale of the hotels. "I really think they know what they're doing, and they're going to do a great job."

He lauded Khan's experience in the industry, and said he was especially pleased that all his existing staff could be kept on. "They're kind of like the new us."

Needle swap: 'Public health needs to step up'

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to future conversations about seeking treatment.

"This was a controversy 20 years ago. The statistics and the data are there that proves it over and over and over again," Scott Lee, the board's chairman, said. "To me, this is super simple."

McNickle had been hoping to implement the program since he took over as public health director last September.

"Public health needs to step up and do our part," he said. "We've really been on the sidelines looking at this from afar."

Prior to the work session, McNickle approached law enforcement officials to inform them about the upcom-

ing program. Police chiefs, Sheriff Tom Bergin and District Attorney Josh Marquis expressed their concerns but agreed to let the program function, and some even recommended possible exchange locations.

The first exchange session is scheduled for Aug. 25, though locations have not been finalized. More information about times and locations will be shared through social media and word of mouth among those known to use syringes to inject drugs, McNickle said.

At the sessions over the next few months, those participating in the one-for-one exchange will also receive sharps containers, and nurses will be available to answer

questions. Nurses have been directed to shut down exchange sites if illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia are spotted.

Once the pilot program concludes, the county will evaluate whether to have a permanent program based on the number of needles collected. McNickle said that, in a recent poll at the Clatsop County Jail, each inmate who identified as an intravenous drug user said they would participate in the program.

Multnomah County, with a population of nearly 800,000 people, holds weekly sessions and exchanges tens of thousands of needles each time, McNickle said. Though he is hoping for proportionally similar results, McNickle

does not want to mirror Multnomah's practice of also handing out items such as cotton and tie-offs.

The Public Health Department, along with representatives from Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization and local nonprofit Jordan's Hope for Recovery, have been working to secure grants with other counties for a permanent version.

At the work session in July, Debbie Morrow — a member of the Columbia Pacific CCO Board of Directors — said political support such as the resolution Wednesday would be helpful in those efforts.

"This body endorsing, supporting, advocating on our behalf, it's huge," Morrow said.

Regatta: Arts, transportation, future discussed

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When she heard her name called, she said she felt overwhelming joy. "I get to represent my community," she said. "It means I get to be a role model to next year's court."

During her speech, Postlewait spoke of the importance of industry. "Industry is what motivates us to go to work in the morning and inspires us to work harder," she said.

Sydney Ordway, Rebecca Sprengeler and Mackenzie Strain are this year's Regatta princesses.

Ordway discussed arts and culture. "I don't know what the future holds for art, but I'm sure it'll be a masterpiece," she said.

Strain spoke about influential women. She discussed the gender pay gap and mentioned women who she believed are inspirational, including 2016 Miss Oregon Alexis Mather.

Sprengeler spoke about

the evolution and importance of transportation. "Transportation is what brought us here today and is what is taking us into tomorrow."

During her farewell speech, Aubrey McMahan, last year's Regatta Queen, thanked everyone who helped her.

"Over the last two years I've been given one of the best opportunities a teenage girl could have," McMahan said.

She said her experience has been intense and eye-opening. "I am so humbled by the dedication shown by these young women."

After passing her crown to Postlewait, McMahan said the princesses "all had so many amazing attributes."

"It threw me back to when they crowned me," McMahan said.

In her advice for Postlewait, McMahan said, "Be the best leader you can be and remember it has more to do than just with yourself."

Recycling: New program expected to build gradually

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increased fees. Those who opt out can have the new carts picked up and returned at no additional charge, according to Recology.

Recology General Manager Fred Stemmler said the company expects 10 to 20 percent of customers will decline one or both carts. But he also expects the program to build gradually, saying, "Most people are not zero to 60 with participation on this."

As it becomes more familiar, he believes more people will participate.

"We are confident this program will be widely adopted throughout the area and thereby result in a high diversion percentage right out of the gate," Stemmler wrote in a letter to City Manager Brett Estes. "This would mean less material treated as trash and we love that."

Recology has already

introduced a similar program in McMinnville. People there have been particularly enthusiastic about the glass collection service, Stemmler said.

The biggest adjustment, and where Stemmler expects there will be some confusion, will be with people's service schedules. That information will be included with the new carts. Anyone who needs additional information is encouraged to visit Recology's website or call the local office at 503-861-0578.

Stemmler said some people could end up saving money with these new curbside collection options since the yard debris option for Type 1 compost — plants and unprepared fruit and vegetable scraps — will likely reduce the amount of trash otherwise thrown into the regular trash bin. Someone with a weekly pickup schedule and a larger garbage bin could then downsize or go to twice monthly pickup.

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