

BUSINESS

Steakhouse celebrates 50 years in business

Cavalryman plans several events to commemorate anniversary

By DANIEL BENDTSEN
dbendtsen@laramieboomerang.com

Cavalryman Steakhouse marked its 50th anniversary this week with a free party on Thursday.

Cavalryman's building was constructed around 1925, but before a restaurant was even thought of, the building was used as the Wyoming Country Club featuring an above-ground pool and a nine-hole golf course.

In 1970, Robert and Betty Gerard bought the building and opened up the restaurant.

The Gerards kept the business until 1975 when Marion Griffin, a local entrepreneur bought the place. She ran the business for most of its existence from 1975 to 2005.

The Blue Sky Group bought it in January 2006.

Blue Sky Group CEO John Pope talked about Cavalryman's "raucous" history on Thursday night, recounting

how the steakhouse was a social hub full of drunkenness in decades past.

In the last decade, the steakhouse has seen significant renovations and an expansion of its menu.

Now, as its 51st year begins, the restaurant is opening a "grab and go shop" on site in collaboration with another Blue Sky Group company, Heritage Foods.

That new shop, the Whistle Stop Liquor & Larder, will have a separate launch party on March 20 from 5-7 p.m.

To celebrate its anniversary, Cavalryman will offer a \$50 dinner special throughout March that includes steak, bread, sides, dessert for two people and a bottle of wine.

On Wednesdays in March, kids also eat free with the purchase of an adult entree.

Pope said Cavalryman will also be imminently "stepping into growth opportunities."

"We want to take Cavalryman Steakhouse ... into other places and share the mystique and mystery and beauty of Wyoming," Pope said. "That's something we're pretty jazzed about and that's right on the horizon."



John Pope talks about the Cavalryman's history at a party Thursday to celebrate the business's 50th anniversary.

DANIEL BENDTSEN/BOOMERANG STAFF

Tax/from A1

"This industry deserves your vote of confidence today," Sen. Mike Gierau, D-Jackson, said. "For those of you who think this is a tough vote philosophically, I promise you that in a day not too far away, you're going to regard this as one of your best votes. ... You want to diversify the economy? This is your chance!"

About 85% of the tax will be paid by people visiting from out of state, as noted by Sen. Hank Coe, R-Cody. Yet many legislators opposed to the tax argued it would hurt the tourism industry in less-populated areas in the state. Sen. Dan Dockstader, R-Afton, said the state's rural areas "are being left out" as the bill is currently written.

Sen. Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, D-Rock Springs, who manages a few hotels in southwest Wyoming, also spoke against the bill. Many people who travel within the state operate on tight budgets, the senator said, recalling a mother who didn't have the \$10 her son needed for a cross-state sporting event.

"Not everyone has this silver spoon in their mouth, and I just ask you to think about the residents who take their boats across the state or travel with their sports teams – not all of them are that lucky," Anselmi-Dalton said.

With the state facing long-term uncertainty in its oil, natural gas and coal industries, however, others saw the investment in the Wyoming Office of Tourism

as a way to foster growth in areas beyond energy.

"We need this for the future of Wyoming," Sen. Jim Anderson, R-Casper, said. "If you look up in 10 or 20 years, this could possibly be our number-one industry."

The bill marks the only tax measure with the support of Gordon, who has voiced support for the tax proposal in recent months. In a statement provided to the Wyoming Tribune Eagle following Friday's vote, Gordon commended those who supported the legislation, which he said "reflects a true agreement between industry and state government."

"This bill allows Wyoming's tourism industry to sustain itself and control its own future," Gordon said in the statement. "Wyoming is competing with our neighbors for visitors and tourism dollars. We must continue to stimulate tourism in all regions of our state, not merely those that receive heavy visitation."

While HB 134 appears likely to become law, other tax proposals were either defeated in the Legislature or not introduced at all. Legislation to create a corporate income tax, which generated a lot of debate during the 2019 session, was not considered for an introductory vote this year.

After winning approval in the Senate, HB 134 will go to a joint conference committee, where a few senators and representatives will settle any differences over amendments, before it heads to Gordon's desk for consideration.

Final plats/from A1

The future Bill Nye Avenue is a predicted thoroughfare for traffic to cross the city.

While the road is years away from being completed, City Planner Derek Teini said that the traffic light at Bill Nye and Third will at least provide "a safe way across Third Street and bringing people to a controlled intersection."

At its Monday meeting, the Planning Commission also approved a final plat for 14 more residential lots off Battle Street, northwest of

Indian Paintbrush Elementary.

While not required by the city, the developer has dedicated four of the plat's lots for a city "pocket park."

Planning Commission member Maura Hanning praised the developer, Warren Greaser's Rawstone Development, for volunteering park space.

"You come at it with a big heart," Hanning said.

According to a report from staff, the city anticipates a public planning process related to the park to begin this summer with a potential park build starting in 2022.

Joe Coulombe, founder of Trader Joe's markets, dies at 89

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joe Coulombe envisioned a new generation of young grocery shoppers emerging in the 1960s, one that wanted healthy, tasty, high-quality food they couldn't find in most supermarkets and couldn't afford to buy in the few high-end gourmet outlets.

So he found a new way to bring everything from a then-exotic snack food called granola to the California-produced wines that for flavor compared with anything from France. And he made shopping for them almost as much fun as sailing the high seas when he created Trader Joe's, a quirky little grocery store filled with nautical themes and staffed not by managers and clerks but by "captains and mates."

From the time he opened his first store in Pasadena, California, in 1967 until his death Friday at age 89, Coulombe watched his namesake business rise from a cult favorite of educated but underpaid young people — and a few hippies — to a retail giant with more than 500 outlets in over 40 states.

A giant yes, but one that across more than half a century has never lost its reputation for friendly service from employees decked out in goofy Hawaiian shirts, a newsletter that looks like it was published in the 1890s, and rows and rows of high-quality, moderately priced healthy food and great wine, even if you sometimes can't ever again find exactly the same thing.

"He wanted to make sure whatever was sold in our store was of good value," said Coulombe's son, also named Joe, who added that his father died following a long illness. "He always did lots of taste tests. My sisters and I remember him bringing home all kinds of things for us to try. At his offices he had practically daily tastings of new products. Always the aim was to provide good food and good value to people."

He achieved that by buying directly from wholesalers and cutting out the middleman, in many cases slapping the name Trader Joe's on a bag of nuts, trail mix, organic dried mango, honey-oat

cereal or Angus beef chili. He named several products after his daughters Charlotte and Madeleine and gave quirky names to others. Among them were Trader Darwin vitamins and a non-alcoholic sparkling juice called Eve's Apple Sparkled by Adam.

He prided himself on checking out every vintage of wine from California's Napa Valley, including Trader Joe's standby, Charles Shaw, affectionately known as Two-Buck Chuck because it sold for \$1.99. (It still does in the California stores, although shipping costs have increased the price in other states.)

"He sold a lot of better wines too," his son noted with a laugh, recalling trips the family made to France to seek them out.

After selling Trader Joe's to German grocery retailer Aldi in 1979, Coulombe remained as its CEO until 1988, when he left to launch a second career as what he called a "temp," coming in as interim CEO or consultant for several large companies in transition. He retired in 2013.

Longhurst/from A1

Valentine also remembers Longhurst's compassion for the families she worked with. For example, she was often willing to extend bereavement care beyond the standard 12 months for those who needed it.

"She was very caring and compassionate to understand that," he said.

Longhurst organized a number of different fundraisers and community events on behalf of Hospice of Laramie, including the Wine Gala, February Fest, Downtown Toodeloo 5k and Breakfast With Santa.

She planned events with a mind toward bringing families and friends together and enjoying life, which she described in multiple past interviews as the mission of hospice care.

"I think the philosophy she had toward hospice care is that it was a celebration of life, and she used those events to advocate that perspective of what hospice was," said board chair Mario Rampulla. "Hospice care isn't really about death. It's a celebration of life."

United Way executive director Paul Heimer said Hospice of Laramie was always among the leading agencies when it came to the number of people designating their donation to a

specific organization. United Way supports 19 local non-profits.

"They had broad-based community support, and that's a credit to Terri and her work," he said. "It's a loss for the community."

As devoted as she was to her work, Longhurst was more devoted to her family.

"She was very proud of her kids and what they were doing," Valentine said. "There was not a conversation that I had with her where she wasn't talking about what her kids were up to, and how proud she was of them, and what they had going on in their lives."

Rampulla said he was at a loss for words to describe the impact of Longhurst's death.

"She was a pretty amazing person," he said.

A celebration of life is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at the Laramie Historic Railroad Depot, 600 S. First St.

VETERANS:

If you need assistance with:

VA benefits
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your service to our nation.

Congresswoman Cheney
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Office Hours
Rachel Allen (307)772-2595
Eppson Center for Seniors
560 N 3rd St, Laramie, WY
Tuesday, March 3, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM