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Cafe Yumm! to open restaurant in Portland

(<http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/business/24552983-41/mall-store-yumm-eugene-center.csp>) |

The franchise location will be the 10th outlet for the rapidly growing Eugene-based chain

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Eugene-based Café Yumm! has begun construction on its 10th store, marking its first, but not last, foray into Portland.

The store, set to open at the end of May, is at 1806 S.W. Sixth Ave., part of the new five-story Portland State University Recreation Center in downtown Portland, Ed Gerdes, Café Yumm's vice president and general counsel, said Thursday.

Not counting equipment, Café Yumm! expects to spend about \$370,000 on tenant improvements for the new store, Gerdes said. The franchisee is Elizabeth Smith, who used to own Central Print in Eugene, Gerdes said.

Cafe Yumm! plans to open three more stores by the end of 2010 in the Portland metro area, he said.

Cafe Yumm! is best known for its rice-and-bean bowls that come with a variety of sauces and toppings, with meals ranging from \$3 to \$8. The chain is considered part of the "fast casual" restaurant segment, a niche between fast food and casual dining.

Owners Mark and Mary Ann Beauchamp opened the first Cafe Yumm! in 1997 at the Fifth Street Public Market. They opened a second store in the Meridian Building in south Eugene in 2001 and a third outlet at Oakway Center in 2002. They closed their Fifth Street store in 2005, but embarked on an aggressive expansion plan around 2007. The chain now has four stores in Eugene, two in Springfield, and one each in Bend, Corvallis and Beaverton. (Locations can be found at www.cafeyumm.com.) The store at North Delta Center is company owned; the rest are franchise stores.

The chain has been able to grow even during the recession because of "the food we serve," Gerdes said.

"It's delicious, it's organic, it's locally grown. The price point is right. It's healthy," he said. "You put those together and we're competing very well."

Greenhouse Outlet to open

After 10 years building greenhouses and selling them online and at home and garden shows, Bruce Burggraf is getting ready to open a retail store.

Burggraf is owner of GlassHut Greenhouses. He said he plans to sell his own greenhouses and those of three competitors at the Greenhouse Factory Outlet Center at 825 River Ave. in Eugene when it opens sometime in the next month.

“We’re not quite organized yet, but I think it’s really going to take off,” he said.

Burggraf said he’s not worried about the competition. Rather, he wants customers to be able to see the difference between GlassHut greenhouses and those made by other manufacturers.

GlassHut Greenhouses feature sturdy welded aluminum frames and come fully assembled with either polycarbonate or tempered glass siding.

Burggraf was a general contractor for 35 years when he built his first greenhouse. He sold it and built another, and soon after launched GlassHut. On the Web: www.glasshut.com.

Gateway Mall plans 20-year celebration

Gateway Mall is celebrating 20 years in business from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Center Court. The celebration includes activities such as face painting, balloon art, a trivia prize wheel and cupcakes. The first 300 people will receive a Gateway Mall shopping tote filled with items from merchants, including special offers.

General Growth Properties announced plans to build the mall on 67 acres in January 1988, and construction began in October of that year. The mall’s first two anchors, Sears and Target, opened in time for the Christmas shopping season in 1989; the rest of the mall opened in spring 1990.

When the mall was announced, then-Springfield Mayor Rich Gorman was exultant. “This is a real turning point in the growth of Springfield,” he said. “A shot in the arm, a kick in the pants, whatever you want to call it, it means jobs, jobs, jobs.”

Retail Notebook runs in Friday’s Register-Guard. Tim Christie can be reached at tim.christie@registerguard.com or at 541-338-2572.

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