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SOUTH FLC

GFS Marketplace grows in Florida



R&R ROUNDUP

Susan R. Miller

Gordon Food Service is expanding its reach across the Sunshine State. The Grand Rapids, Mich.-based company has been opening its Marketplace grocery stores from Key West to points north.

It has 14 stores in Florida – including two in Miami-Dade County and two in Broward County – and is

planning to open one in Boynton Beach and another in Orlando next spring.

GFS Marketplace spokesman Mark Dempsey said the company doesn't have a specific number of locations it plans to open, but is looking for developers, shopping center owners and others to partner with.

GFS Marketplace is an outlet, like Costco or Sam's Club, but without the membership fee.

The company entered Florida in 2003 with the purchase of Smart & Final's Florida food-service direct delivery and store business.

As part of its statewide expansion, the company in August 2010 opened a distribution center in Plant City, its third in Florida. Its other distribution centers are in Miami and Ocala.

DR. G'S BUILDING THREE MORE CLINICS

Dr. G's Weight Loss & Wellness, a Davie-based company that provides individualized weight loss programs, continues its expansion with construction of three more South Florida locations. Two other locations are in the design phase.

Those under construction are at 77 S. Federal Highway in Deerfield Beach, 1567 S. Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale and 4 W. Flagler St. in Miami.

Pasquale Kuritzky Architecture is also designing clinics in Wellington and Jupiter that are expected to be completed in January.

Franchise Planning Group expects to have 70 Florida locations, 30 of which are either open or in the planning phase.

Dr. G's sold out its South Florida territory in less than a year and is now expanding in Central Florida, Atlanta, Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston.

In September, the company announced plans to grow internationally through master franchises, with clinics in Brazil, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Australia.



Shula Burger will open Dec. 8 at the Postcard Inn Resort and Marina on Islamorada.

TWO RESTAURANTS, UNDER ONE ROOF

Downtown Miami is getting two new restaurants. On Dec. 5, The Lucky Clover Irish Pub will open in the Axis on Brickell building at 1111 S.W. First Ave. The 10,000-square-foot restaurant will have indoor and outdoor seating for 350.

The following week, Mare Nostrum, an 8,000-square-foot Mediterranean restaurant, will open under the same roof. The main dining room will seat 114, and the outdoor terrace will seat 60.

It's the first U.S. restaurant venture for Polaris World Development, a Spanish company that owns golf resorts, restaurants and hotels in Europe.

SHULA BURGER TO OPEN IN ISLAMORADA

Shula Burger is set to open Dec. 8 at the revamped Holiday Isle on Islamorada, home to the Tiki Bar.

Actually, the name of the resort is now the Postcard Inn Resort and Marina at Holiday Isle. The new name came with a \$10.5 million renovation.

The 200-seat Shula Burger is part of former Miami Dolphins coach Don Shula's restaurant empire.

RUSTY PELICAN SET TO RE-OPEN DEC. 12

The Rusty Pelican will reopen Dec. 12 after its five-month, \$7 million renovation.

The 40-year-old South Florida icon shuttered July 5, laying off about 151 workers.

The restaurant was stripped down to its bare bones. The patio area and interior bar have been turned into an indoor/outdoor lounge with space for 200, and the ballrooms were updated.

The main dining room's décor is described as casual, with 1960s-style custom furnishings, lots of wood and floor-to-ceiling windows that provide views of Biscayne Bay. There's also a new bar and lounge with low-slung couches, and a VIP dining room with bottle service.

ON THE WEB

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