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DAD

June 15th

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morsels

Food on the Fringe

Mini-reviews of suburban dining spots.

JUNG'S MONGOLIAN GRILL

4355 Commerce Street, Suite 110,
344-7578

The Bethel area offers few interesting dining options — I can count on one hand the restaurants that actually require you to get out of your car, where food is served on a table and not through a little glass window.

Lucky for hungry West Eugene wayfarers, Carrie and Stephen Snyder opened their first restaurant, Jung's Mongolian Grill, on May 20. Located on W. 11th Avenue, between Courtsports and Target, the new eatery boasts ochre walls, red kanji-inspired borders, blue silhouette lamps over the booths and marble-finished green concrete floors that take you from the standard mini-mall restaurant to a place far more stylish.

Chest-level curved walls separate what could have felt like a cafeteria into a more intimate dining environment. On this Friday night, only 10 days into the new venture, Chef Greg Dunkin and Chef/Owner Stephen Snyder are stationed behind the grill and brushed steel counter.

After my companion and I are seated, we dash for the buffet, filling our bowls with fresh, raw peppers, onions, carrots, mushrooms, water chestnuts and broccoli; next we heap on the noodles, then move to the protein: tofu in large chunks, shrimp, scallops, thinly sliced beef, pork and chicken. (Note: There is no separate vegetarian grill.)

Finally, we savor the sauces: citrus and ginger-based sauces delight the palate and the chili sauce sends even the toughest tongue begging for ice water. We hand our buffet selections over to the chefs, who whisk everything onto the grill for the ensuing cooking entertainment. Spatulas flip and clap. Dunkin and Snyder add liberal amounts of teriyaki upon request and then dish up and hand back the whole steaming mess.

While a second round of grilled goodies sounds appetizing (the meals are all you can eat), waiting in the now long grill line does not. I guess being Bethel's best does have its downside.

The air is filled with the sounds of families chatting and the smells of grilled food. Co-owner Carrie Snyder sits smiling in a booth with her baby on her lap — Jung's fills the bill for what West Eugene has been missing and Snyder knows it.

Lunch: 11:30 am-4 pm daily,
dinner 5-9pm Su-Th, 5-10 F
& Sa. \$\$ — *Erin Lusk*

POP'S DINER

1170 Hwy. 99 N. 688-8900

Inside Strike City on Highway 99 is a little café with great strawberry milkshakes — the kind with big chunks of

frozen strawberries and thick, creamy ice cream. It's not served in a metal cup, sadly, and you don't get a long metal spoon, but the flavor and texture are impeccable. The menu includes all the Americana favorites: great big, fat burgers, crisp fries, chicken in all forms and specials. The prices are reasonable, the side vegetables were once frozen, and the waitresses are down-home friendly.

Of course, Strike City is really better known for its entertainment. There's bowling, miniature golf, pool, air hockey, bowling, and more video games than you can shake your quarters at, including Dance Revolution, which is much harder than it looks.

Diner hours: 7 am-9 pm Su-Th, 7 am-10 pm F & Sa. Call for bowling and mini-golf hours. \$-\$\$ — *Marina Taylor*

LEFTOVERS:

Don't forget it's U-pick strawberry season. Go get a bucket and freeze yourself some. It's fun and easy, it supports local farms, and you do the work yourself, making the reward that much sweeter. Bush's farm, north of Elmira on Territorial, has big, red, juicy Shuksan berries — call 935-4083 for availability. Or try Corwin Farm's smaller, tangy, intense Bentons. Corwin Farm is at the end of River Loop #2, out River Road. Call 689-7297 for more info.

Now is also the time to nominate your favorite server or chef for Chow's Happening Server. Call 484-0519, x. 20 or email marina@eugeneweekly.com and tell me all about them!

EW

