

PENDLETON



Photo by Antonio Sierra

Govinda's Garden owner Surya Das made extensive renovations to his Court Ave. restaurant, which opened Feb. 12 and serves an Indian vegetarian cuisine.

Steakhouse becomes vegetarian buffet

East Oregonian

Govinda's Garden owner Surya Das scoured the globe to bring his vegetarian cuisine to Pendleton and open the city's only Indian restaurant.

The cooks' previous jobs were in Memphis, Tennessee and Baltimore, Maryland, a tandoor oven was shipped from the United Kingdom and the buffet bars were bought out of Indiana.

All of these additions don't include the significant renovations Das made to the restaurant space, which was home to Stetson's Steakhouse for 14 before its move to Hermiston in September.

Das said all of these efforts were made to ensure an

authentic Indian experience.

"We don't want to compromise anything," he said.

Govinda's Garden, which opened Feb. 12, features a full salad bar with several Indian dressings. Lunch and dinner options include multiple varieties of rice, soup and curry.

The restaurant also includes a full menu that serves Indian dishes such as naan and mango lassi.

Govinda's Garden is located at 103 S.E. Court Ave. on the ground floor of the Knight's Inn, which Das also owns. The restaurant is open Wednesday through Monday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. for dinner.

Wal-Mart raises could help lift pay in lower-wage industries nationwide

WASHINGTON (AP) — The modest raises that Wal-Mart has said it will give its lowest-paid workers provide a glimmer of hope for lower-wage workers in other companies and industries.

Other retailers and some fast food restaurants may now feel compelled to follow suit to retain their workers and attract others to fill openings, economists said.

Wal-Mart's move follows a sustained campaign for higher wages by some of the company's employees and a nationwide debate over whether to raise the federal minimum wage. Given Wal-Mart's position as the nation's largest private employer, its decision to yield, even in a limited way, could embolden more employees to seek raises.

"They really set the standard across the retail sector," said Claire McKenna, a policy analyst at the National Employment Law Project, which advocates for low-wage workers. "What they do really matters."



AP Photo/Gareth Patterson
Doug McMillon, Wal-Mart President and CEO

Josh Bivens, research and policy director at the liberal Economic Policy Institute, said Wal-Mart's move also reduces the pressure on other retailers to keep labor costs at rock-bottom levels.

"It at least takes away the excuse from other firms that 'We'd like to raise wages, but we can't because we have to compete with Wal-Mart,'" Bivens said. "It could possibly give some competitive breathing space to other retailers to raise wages."

On Thursday, Wal-Mart said it

would increase its minimum pay to \$9 an hour in April and to \$10 by February 2016. The move will mean raises for 500,000 of its 1.3 million employees. The average full-time wage will tick up to \$13 an hour from \$12.85. For part-timers, the average will go to \$10 from \$9.48.

Wal-Mart's decision follows similar steps by other companies. The Gap has raised its minimum wage to \$10 an hour. Swedish home furnishings retailer Ikea raised pay for thousands of its U.S. workers this year by an average of 17 percent to \$10.76 an hour. Health insurer Aetna has said it will pay a minimum of \$16 an hour. That's more than double the federal minimum wage of \$7.25.

All of which means that many people who earn less than \$10 an hour will now have more options.

"If you work at a fast-food restaurant" for \$7.25 an hour, "you are going to want to leave that job and work at the Wal-Mart nearby," said Sylvia Allegretto, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley.

PENDLETON

Sykes brothers re-brand printing business

East Oregonian

Originally known as Rapid Print when it opened 27 years ago by David Sykes of Heppner, Sykes Brothers Printing recently renamed its business to fit the family vibe.

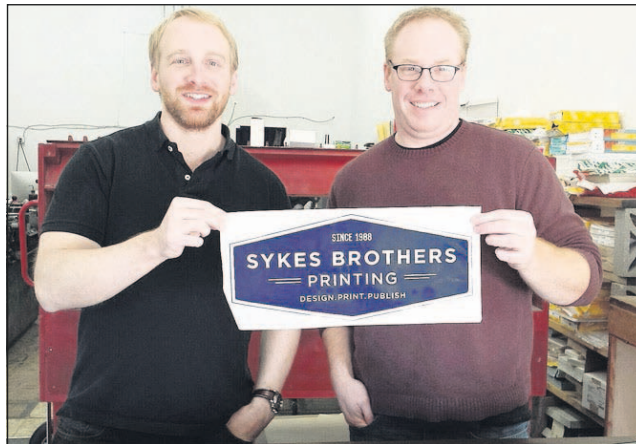
The shop became a second-generation family business in 1998 when Sykes' son, Chris Sykes, came on board and was later joined by his brother, Andrew Sykes, in 2006.

Sykes said he realized it was time for a name change recently when answering the phone for the print shop. The customer, David said, didn't know the name of the business.

"He said, 'Is this the print shop run by those two brothers?'" Sykes recalled. "I realized, that's how people knew this business, not by the name, but by the two brothers."

With that, the idea of re-branding Rapid Print to Sykes Brothers was born.

The brothers, who both



Contributed photo

Sykes brothers, Andrew and Chris, hold up the logo designed by their sister, Allison Sykes Hayes. Formerly Rapid Print, Sykes Brothers Printing recently re-branded its downtown Pendleton business.

live in Pendleton, work on each of their strengths. Chris handles in-house printing, advertising and sales. And Andrew, who holds a degree in fine art from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, fills the role of business manager, as well as production and customer service.

Keeping it in the family,

the brothers called on their sister, Allison Sykes Hayes, to create a new logo.

Hayes, who has a bachelor's degree in art from the University of Oregon, is a senior graphic designer for Pelicon Iconic Services, based in Manhattan Beach, California.

Hayes, who works extensively with company brand-

ing and logos, said she was happy to put her expertise to work for the family business. She designed 15-20 logos for consideration.

In the spirit of family cooperation, Chris and Andrew used the democratic process to make a selection, with voting rights also given to parents David and April Sykes, Hayes and husband Matt, and sister Camille Sykes. The winning logo is now displayed on signs, print products and a large area rug in the Sykes Brothers lobby.

The brothers say the re-branding process has gone well, with positive feedback from the community. Chris said the company hasn't changed, just the name in front of it.

"The company was nameless and faceless," he said. "Now it represents who we are."

Sykes Brothers Printing is located at 25 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. For more information, call 541-276-2152.

BRIEFLY

Umatilla seeks award nominations

UMATILLA — There's still a little time to submit nominations for Umatilla's Distinguished Citizen Award banquet.

Nomination forms for Citizen and Business of the Year are available at Carlson's Umatilla Drug Store, Java Junkies and the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center office. They must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 27.

The banquet, which has an Oscar night theme, is Saturday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Quality Inn, 705 Willamette Ave., Umatilla. Tickets are \$30 each or \$55 for two. The meal includes a choice of tri-tip or crab-stuffed salmon, baked potato, Caesar salad and dessert served by Sharon's Sweet Treats.

For more information, call the chamber office at 541-922-4825.

Former lobbyist still advocates for working class

HERMISTON — Chuck Sheketoff, a founder of the Oregon Center for Public Policy, is the guest speaker for the upcoming Business to Business luncheon.

Sheketoff, who lobbied the Oregon State Legislature on behalf of legal aid clients (1993, 1995) and the Oregon Law Center (1997), will share how the OCPP works with businesses across the state, how they help set policy that helps working class people and what their legislative priorities are.

The no-host luncheon is Tuesday at 11:45 a.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395. The cost is \$10 for members and \$13 for non-members. To RSVP for the luncheon, contact 541-567-6151 or info@hermistonchamber.com.

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