



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Chef Diwash Neupane checks on some tandoori chicken cooking in a traditional Indian tandoor oven Friday at Indian Kitchen and Steakhouse in Hermiston.

BUFFET: Will do some painting and minor changes to the restaurant

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been asking. People wanted healthy food in town," he said. Bhatia and his wife also own the Eastside Market in Hermiston and the Irrigon Mini-Mart.

Bhatia said he and his family first discussed the idea about three months ago, and moved quickly when an opportunity arose to buy Stockman's.

He admitted that Indian food and a steakhouse are an uncommon mix, but said it came down to an opportunity.

"It was a space in town we could get into, and it was a good location," he said. "I know it's a different type of combination, but hopefully it will work out."

Though there will still be steaks and traditional American fare available, Bhatia said there will be a heavy focus on introducing customers to different types of Indian food — both vegetarian and non-vegetarian.

He said so far, the reception has been positive on social media and in person.

"People wanted to try new stuff," he said, referring to the recent growth of food options in Hermiston. "They wanted to try Chinese, Thai, Japanese — and Indian, too."

He said so far, the most popular dishes have been chicken tikka masala, Tandoori chicken, lamb curry, and spinach pakora — spinach dipped in batter and deep-fried.

Customers at lunch on Friday were eager to try the food — some for the first time.

"Growing up here, all we had was Chinese, pizza and Mexican food," said Dan Schulz, who visited the lunch buffet with his friends. "This is a great addition."

Schulz had never tried Indian food prior to Friday, but loaded up his plate anyway with things he thought looked good. Later, he was spotted going back for seconds.

Hermiston residents Mo Aguilar and Otey Muniz said it had been more than



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
The new Indian Kitchen and Steakhouse is a family affair run by Gaurav Bhatia, wife Rosy Sidhu, father Suresh Bhatia and cousin Raman Singh Malhi in Hermiston.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Rosy Sidhu, right, offers customers fresh baked nan, Indian flatbread, on Friday at the Indian Kitchen and Steakhouse in Hermiston.

a decade since they'd eaten Indian food, but they were excited to have the option in Hermiston.

"As of lately, I've seen more variety," Muniz said. "Especially with this place and the Hibachi place — I think people want more."

The restaurant's chef is from Oklahoma, but many of the servers and chefs cooking American food are staff from the original Stockman's restaurant. The owners of the former restaurant, Chuck and Karen Fontaine, were also there, helping out and spending time at the restaurant.

Bhatia and his family live in the Tri-Cities, and moved to the area about two years ago from Bellingham, Washington.

He said they get supplies from a restaurant depot in

Portland, an Indian store in Auburn, Washington, and from Cash and Carry.

Bhatia said they will do some painting and minor changes, but their focus will be on the food. Sidhu was busy restocking clean glasses and plates, and taking fresh naan to people as they ate.

She said the buffet, which is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., will feature different dishes every day.

The buffet will include dishes from north and south India, she said. They will also add Indian dishes to the menu.

"Business has been pretty steady," she said. "We're glad people are liking it."

The restaurant is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays, and until 10 p.m. on weekends. The buffet starts at 11 a.m.

MARIER: Sitz plans to retire soon himself

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college student, he studied chemical engineering at Manhattan College, then got accepted to medical school at New York University where tuition cost him \$2,400 annually.

He dove into his chosen profession with gusto and good humor. Sitz describes Marier as his highly intelligent and hyperkinetic partner.

"There was never a dull moment," Sitz said. "I'll miss having Dan to bounce ideas off of."

Marier saw plenty of change during his Pendleton career. In early years, access to specialists such as cardiologists was limited unless one drove to Portland, so local physicians performed treadmill tests, echocardiograms and other noninvasive tests. Hospitalists didn't exist yet, so doctors admitted patients to the hospital and did rounds.

"We'd follow our patients," he said. "We'd go see patients in the morning before office hours and after office hours and sometimes at noon."

Marier found certain developments frustrating. One was a federal push in the last decade for doctors to use electronic medical records to track their patients. He

found the software clunky, complex, time-consuming and distracting. In the exam room, Marier found himself gazing at the computer screen typing information into a database and missing non-verbal clues from his patients. Finally, both he and Sitz opted to hire scribes so they could concentrate on patients. Eventually, Marier said, "I reverted back to what I was doing 30 years ago. I had a pen, a pad and a dictaphone."

Another frustration, he said, was doctors' decreasing clout with insurance companies. In order to have negotiating power, physicians are selling their practices to health care companies. Marier and Sitz did that three years ago when they sold to the Praxis Medical Group.

He also commented on the rising cost of medication such as the price of an EpiPen for allergic attacks, which surged 535 percent from 2007 to 2014. Marier finds this type of spike ethically troublesome.

"The cost of meds has gone through the ceiling — it's insane," Marier said. "I think it's immoral."

America doesn't seem destined to return to the days of Marcus Welby anytime soon, though. Marier believes the country needs a

single payer system and tort reform to heal our hobbled health care system. Health care, he mused, is unlike any other commodity.

"Market forces don't apply to medicine the way they do to the auto industry," Marier said. "When you walk into a dealership and you don't like the deal, you walk out. When you walk into an ER, you don't get to say, 'Well, I'll think about it overnight.'"

Marier worries about the nation's worsening shortage of primary care physicians. His partner, already stretched, can't take on Marier's patients. It gets worse. Sitz plans to retire soon himself.

"I'm going to retire at the end of June," Sitz said. "There's going to be a lot of people trying to find doctors."

Marier doesn't miss the irony of he and Sitz having to doctor shop.

"Norm and I wonder who's going to take care of us," Marier said.

Marier's list of retirement goals includes playing more guitar, singing with the Pendleton Men's Chorus and traveling with his wife, Connie.

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or 941-966-0810.

BOUNDS: Letters of support were sent to Merkley and Wyden from 15 Oregon senators

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Democrats, because they said Bounds had not gone through a bi-partisan review process. Senators have the ability to withhold "blue slips," a Senate rule that essentially allows the minority party veto power over judicial nominees.

If his nomination is approved this time around, Bounds would require a confirmation hearing from the Senate Judiciary Committee before joining the Circuit Court.

Merkley and Wyden didn't dispute Bounds' credentials, however, and he has support from Rep. Greg Walden and attorney

associations down to local mayors.

Walden, a Republican, wrote in September that Bounds would represent a conservative, rurally-rooted voice on the court which holds great power on federal decisions in the Second Congressional district.

Letters of support were sent to Merkley and Wyden from 15 Oregon senators including Bill Hansell, the Oregon Criminal Defense Bar, the Oregon Wheat Growers League and both Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann and Pendleton Mayor John Turner.

Bounds has been a federal prosecutor for the

District of Columbia, an assistant to the President on domestic policy and a deputy assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy.

Earlier in his career Bounds was a law clerk for O'Scannlain, one of the most conservative judges on the 29-member Ninth Circuit court. Bounds has a B.A. in psychology and political science from Stanford University and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

Oregon has traditionally had two seats on the circuit court, which is directly beneath the U.S. Supreme Court. It guides federal law in nine Western states.

Walden secretly settled disabled vet's complaint

PORTLAND (AP) — Records show Oregon Congressman Greg Walden paid \$7,000 in a secret settlement with a staff member to resolve the man's complaints that Walden unfairly cut his hours because of health-related problems.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Thursday that Walden of Hood River settled with Cody Standiford in 2013.

Standiford provided the newspaper with the settlement and complaint documents.

Walden said in a statement to KTVZ he has never discriminated against an employee, and the case was settled to avoid expensive litigation.

Standiford started working for Walden in 2010 after being discharged from the Army because of an improvised explosive

device in Iraq.

Standiford's complaint says he worked as a veteran outreach coordinator but a promotion was rescinded after he missed two weeks of work for chest pains.

He said Thursday that he broke the settlement's nondisclosure agreement not to disparage Walden but to shed light on the fact that members of Congress spend taxpayer funds on settlements.

Oregon Attorney General Settlement Notice

The Attorney General's Settlement Could Benefit You!

Did You Buy a TV, Monitor, or Laptop Computer That Contained an LCD Flat Panel Screen, During the Years 2002 to 2006?

Or Did You Buy a TV or Computer Monitor That Contained a Cathode Ray Tube ("CRT"), During the Years 1995 through 2007?

You May be Entitled to Compensation.

Please read this notice carefully as your legal rights are affected whether you act or do not act. PARA UNA NOTIFICACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL, LLAMAR O VISITAR NUESTRO WEBSITE.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has resolved two lawsuits she brought on behalf of Oregon natural persons against certain manufacturers of liquid crystal display ("LCD") flat panels and cathode ray tubes ("CRTs"). The lawsuits allege the manufacturers illegally agreed upon the pricing of LCD flat panels and CRTs.

Oregon has settled with all defendants for a total of \$36,900,000 ("Settlement Fund"), and you may be entitled to a portion of the Settlement Fund.

Who Is Included?

Natural persons who indirectly purchased at any time during the years 2002 to 2006, for their own use and not for resale, LCD panels incorporated into flat panel TVs, computer monitors or laptop computers; or who indirectly purchased at any time during the years 1995 to 2007, for their own use and not for resale, CRTs incorporated into TVs or computer monitors. A purchaser must have been an Oregon resident at the time of the purchase. An indirect purchaser is someone that purchased products containing LCD flat panels or CRTs from someone other than the company that manufactured the LCD flat panel or CRT component, such as from an electronics retailer or a device manufacturer other than one of the Defendants. "Natural persons" means a human, not a business.

How Do I Get Settlement Funds?

File a claim: Consumers need to file a claim to obtain benefits in this settlement. Claims can be completed online at www.OregonScreenSettlement.com or by mailing the claim form, available for download, to the Settlement Administrator. The deadline for filing claims is April 2, 2018.

How Do I Get More Information?

More information about the lawsuits, settlements, and the claims process can be found at www.OregonScreenSettlement.com, by calling 1-877-940-7791, or writing to: Oregon Screen Settlement, c/o GCG, P.O. Box 10240, Dublin, Ohio 43017-5740.

This Notice is an official legal notice of the Oregon Department of Justice

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