



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer  
Otis Pettit, son of original Dandy Burger owner Bill Pettit, has reopened the fondly remembered burgers and fries drive-thru on Monmouth Cutoff Road in Dallas.

## Burger fans rejoice: An oldie, but goodie is back

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — OK, longtime Dallas residents. Ready for a blast from the past?

Remember the name Dandy Burger? It's back, now operated by original owner Bill Pettit's son, Otis Pettit.

The first Dandy Burger was only open from 1982 to 1987 before the Pettit family sold the drive-thru-only restaurant. It closed shortly after, but those first five years made an impression on Dallas. Pettit said since he's been open, he's seen a stream of familiar faces come through his new location off Monmouth Cutoff Road in Dallas.

"They are happy that I'm back, everybody that remembers it," Pettit said. "A lot of people I grew up with used to eat here back in the day. That's why I came back here to do it, because I knew I had a pre-existing clientele."

Those former customers will find that only the location has changed. The menu — with the addition of a few

### Check It Out

**What:** Dandy Burger.  
**Where:** 888 SE Monmouth Cutoff Road, Dallas.  
**Business hours:** Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
**Phone:** 971-284-9469.

items, such as fish and chips, a BLT, grilled ham and cheese, and a garden burger — is the same, as are the recipes.

"1950s-style burgers and fries," Pettit said, describing the drive-thru's fare.

Pettit, who formerly was in the construction field, wanted to reopen Dandy Burger for years, but didn't get the opportunity until he moved back to Dallas about a year and a half ago. Upon returning to his hometown, he noticed a former coffee drive-thru was available and decided there was no time like the present.

Pettit opened about a month ago, welcoming back customers he hadn't seen since he was in high school.

Back then, Pettit was a cook at the original restaurant and had fond memories of the time he spent in the kitchen — that's still his favorite part — working with his dad.

"He didn't pay us anything back then, we just got to eat all the food we wanted," Pettit said, chuckling. "That was our payment."

Pettit recalls working a lot of late nights after Dallas High home games. Back in those days, there were dances after the games, so customers would pull in late into the night.

"We'd stay open until midnight or 1 in the morning for that, when the games (and dances) were over," he said.

That tradition is re-emerging, as customers came through after a recent home basketball game.

With only himself and one employee, covering the Friday night football crowd may be a challenge, but Pettit is looking forward to it.

"I like operating this place and seeing all the people I grew up with," Pettit said.

## New WOU public safety officer feels right at home on campus

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — One thing Louisiana native Rebecca Chiles is sure of: Southern hospitality is not just in the south.

"I've been welcomed more warmly in this town and on this campus than I've been welcomed anywhere else," she said. "It's not a Southern hospitality thing; it's a people thing."

Chiles, 45, took the job of Western Oregon University's director of campus public safety on Feb. 2, making the move from Shreveport, La., to Monmouth.

She said it hasn't been a huge culture shock, noting that Monmouth's as-yet mild winter has been a nice change from Louisiana's typically extreme weather.

"People are the same wherever you go, I guess, but I think maybe (there's) a better quality of life," Chiles said about Monmouth. "It's more open, more accepting, a cel-

ebration of diversity more up here in the Pacific Northwest, more than in the Deep South area where I grew up."

Chiles has spent 18 years in campus security. She started working in the field after graduating from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a degree in criminal justice.

"I loved it, and I've loved it ever since," Chiles said. "I love the (college) age group. I love the excitement that people that age have, the college student and the other things that come with it."

Her last job, at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, was more of a commuter college.

"The city (of Shreveport) is a lot bigger, around 200,000 people," Chiles said. But Western's enrollment is much larger than her last job, with only about 400 students living in campus apartments — no residence halls.

"So the town is smaller here, but your campus is larger, and your campus life,

student life, is larger because you have a lot more students on campus."

As director of public safety, it is her job to oversee the safety and security of the campus and everybody on it, she said, including faculty, staff, students, visitors and property.

Chiles focuses on community policing, noting that public safety staff can't be patrolling everywhere at once.

"We need everybody to work together and see things and report things and be aware of things," she said. "This is our place, our environment. This is where you live, you work, you learn, you do all of those things. Let's do it together. Let's make it safe together."

Chiles hopes to get campus public safety more of a presence on social mediums like Twitter and Facebook to help keep the student body, faculty and staff updated quickly.

To contact Chiles: send an email to [chilesr@wou.edu](mailto:chilesr@wou.edu).



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer  
Rebecca Chiles takes over as Western Oregon University's director of public safety and hopes to get the campus community more involved in its own safety.

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