

WiseGuys coming to Killeen: You got a problem with that?

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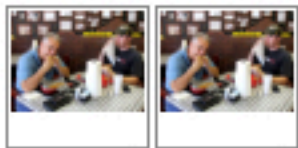
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Herald/CATRINA RAWSON - Kenn Taylor and Peter Davies, both contractors with Proactive Communications, eat lunch Wednesday at WiseGuys in Harker Heights.



WiseGuys twice a week to order a hot dog, chicken cheesesteak or cheeseburger. The Killeen location will be even more convenient, he said.

About 65 percent of Nychay's customers are from Chicago or have family members who are, he said, and the rest quickly become addicted to WiseGuys' traditional Windy City fare, including Chicago cheesesteaks, Italian beef and the cheekily named "Al Capone," a marina sauce- and herb-coated grilled chicken with sauteed onions, bell peppers and mushrooms, topped with Provolone cheese and served on an amoroso roll.

The eatery is rated No. 1 for "Best Cheap Eats" on the user-driven restaurant review website Urbanspoon.com.

Nychay, a Chicago native, moved to the Killeen area from California to be closer to his wife's family several years ago. After making a pilgrimage to a famous Chicago comfort food eatery, Portillo's, Nychay and Dugger decided to launch WiseGuys.

The pair hope to open another location in Belton by the end of the year. After that, they'd like to open two or three more stores each year throughout Texas and the U.S. The partners will consider franchising after they open five restaurants, Nychay said.

"Wouldn't it be ironic if a national Chicago-style chain got started in Harker Heights?" he asked, grinning.

WiseGuys in Harker Heights is located at 300 W. Central Texas Expressway. For more information, call (254) 200-9201.

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Colleen Flaherty The Killeen Daily Herald | 0 comments

By Colleen Flaherty

Killeen Daily Herald

HARKER HEIGHTS - At least one business is undaunted by low Fort Hood troop levels' impact on the local economy.

WiseGuys Chicago-style eatery is moving forward with plans to open up a new location at 1200 Willow Springs Road in Killeen.

"We're still a city of 130,000 people," co-owner Jerry Dugger said Wednesday, while sitting at a checkered-cloth-print table inside the Prohibition-era themed restaurant he opened with his brother-in-law, Bill Nychay, in February 2010. "We're adding another store, and adding a substantial dessert section (in Harker Heights), with cheesecake, cannolis and gelato."

The Killeen location, formerly a Quiznos sub shop, will open Aug. 1 and cater to Fort Hood soldiers. WiseGuys is packed with camo-clad Army personnel at lunchtime, even with troop levels at a two-year low through September, Nychay said, so it makes sense to open a location closer to post.

There are 25,000 soldiers deployed from Fort Hood, about half of the post's population.

It's good, authentic food and a regionally unique concept that keeps WiseGuys bustling despite a drop in potential diners, Nychay said.

Revenue has dropped some in the last few weeks, he said, but the 1,000-square-foot restaurant still serves several hundred people each day. The new, 2,600-square-foot location will allow WiseGuys to serve more people, Nychay said, including Killeen resident Al Howard.

The Chicago native came to Texas in 1993, he said, and has missed the food ever since. Howard comes to