

## Openings, closings and what to expect in 2014 Namely: steak, Korean barbecue, doughnuts and waffles

By Mackensy Lunsford

**A**sheville's restaurant scene saw its share of ups and downs in 2013, with more than 40 new eateries opening in the area.

**Pizza came:** **All Souls Pizza** opened in the 175 Clingman Ave. building that used to house The Asheville Public as well as the Silver Dollar Cafe, and the reception has been positive. So too for **Pizza Pura**, the latest restaurant by the White Duck Taco Shop owners, which in April began serving Neapolitan-style pizza at 342 Depot St. in the River Arts District.

**And pizza went:** **Digable Pizza** on Haywood Road was purchased by Asheville Sandwich Company, which plans to move into the building early in 2014.

**Asian food options grew:** **Ben's Tune Up** opened at 195 Hilliard Ave. as a venue for local chef Elliott Moss to flex his Asian food muscles. The restaurant has a new chef and a revamped menu with Chinese-American food and Japanese fare like ramen. **Baan Thai Kitchen**, the latest restaurant by Noi Dimaio of Noi's Thai, opened at 1950 Hendersonville Road.

**Biscuits got big:** **Biscuit Head** opened on busy Haywood Road, serving big, inexpensive biscuit platters, courtesy of former Lexington Avenue Brewery chef Jason Roy. Don't look for those Biscuit Head lines to shorten anytime soon. And **Blue Ridge Biscuit Company** opened in Black Mountain, serving a very similar menu.

Southern food got a couple of great new stages when Mike Moore's **Seven Sows** and John Fleer's **Rhubarb** opened within blocks of each other.

The **Omni Grove Park Inn** also added two restaurants: **Vue 1913** and **Edison**.

So what's ahead?

This month, **King James Public House** is slated to open on Charlotte Street. See **Page 4** for more about that.

And **Korean House**, a Korean barbecue restaurant, should open at 122 College St. in just a few days, according to co-owner Jayson Im, a former



Jayson Im, co-owner of the Korean barbecue restaurant Korean House, said his restaurant is awaiting final inspections and is slated to open soon at 122 College Street.

MATT ROSE/SCENE



Jason Roy opened Biscuit Head in West Asheville in May 2013 and has had lines out the door ever since.

MACKENSY LUNSFORD/SCENE



Vortex Doughnuts will add a shop in the South Slope, just south of downtown, in the spring.

ERIN BRETHAUER/SCENE

**THE YEAR AHEAD IN FOOD**



Pizza Pura opened on Depot Street in the River Arts District in April 2013. All Souls Pizza opened a few months later just down the road, on Clingman Ave.

ERIN BRETHAUER/SCENE

employee of Stonebowl Korean in Arden. At press time, Im was still awaiting final inspections.

**Nightbell:** The newest restaurant from the team behind Curate will open in February on South Lexington Avenue with star power like chef Katie Burton and bartender Kyle Gray Beach, who had worked at MG Road since its opening. Beach won this year's Elixir, the Asheville Wine and Food Festival's cocktail competition. Felix Meana will lead service and beverage direction.

Ryan Kline, the chef of **Buffalo Nickel** at 747 Haywood Road in West Asheville, said the restaurant and bar will target Feb. 1 for its opening date. Kline is calling the menu "Americana" but, with menu items like pierogies, keilbasa and clams and Pittsburgh style steak, you might also call it "mid-Atlantic comfort food with a European influence."

**King Daddy's Chicken and Waffle** is also expected to open at 444 Haywood Road Feb. 1, according to Julie Stehling. Stehling, with her husband, John Stehling, also owns downtown Asheville's Early Girl Eatery. King Daddy's Chicken and Waffle will have an outdoor patio, a late-night drive-through window and a full bar. As for the menu, the name is fairly self-explanatory.

**Vortex:** This independent doughnut shop will open next year at 32 Banks St. Vortex Doughnuts makes sweet treats incorporating unusual ingredients such as goat cheese, chili peppers and bacon. The shop will sell locally roasted coffees and locally made sodas, too. Doughnuts are apparently in, as another indie doughnut shop, **Hole**, will open in West Asheville this year, courtesy of the people who brought Asheville the Tin Can Pizzeria food truck.

We'll be getting plenty of steak in 2014, too. **Magnolia's Raw Bar and Grill** closed late last year to make way for a Brazilian steakhouse called **Brazilia Churrasco Steakhouse**, which will open as early as February on the corner of Market and Walnut streets in downtown Asheville.

Another Brazilian steakhouse **Rio de Brazil**, part of a Charleston-based chain, will open at 1829 Hendersonville Road, also early in the year.

**Green Sage** expands this year, opening a third location in the Westgate Shopping Center, likely in March.