

Faces: Q&A with Cory Buettner, co-owner of Leo's Grill and Malt Shop in Stillwater.

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Cory Buettner, co-owner of Leo's Grill and Malt Shop in Stillwater.
(Pioneer Press: Jean Pieri)

Occupation: Co-owner (with wife Naashom Buettner) of Leo's Grill and Malt Shop, 131 S. Main St., Stillwater; 651-351-3943; leosgrill.com

Age: 39

How did you come up with the idea for your place

I was a former general manager at Michael's Frozen Custard in Madison, Wis. My wife and I now live in Stillwater, and for quite some time, we had been looking at spaces where we could sell frozen

custard. A few years ago, my dad and I stopped here for lunch when it was Lily's Grill and Malt Shop. He said if the space ever became available, we should jump on it. A month after my father passed, I found out the owners were looking to sell. This place is named after my dad. Ultimately, we decided the space was too small to add frozen custards, so we're sticking to burgers and malts, just like when it was Lily's.

What menu item are you most proud of? Our most-loved burger is our "Mucho Leos," a spicy burger with jalapenos and chipotle mayo. It's supposed to be a painful burger to eat, but people just love it.

Any "off the menu" items we should know about Once in a while, customers have asked if we can put a fried egg on a burger. If we have eggs in stock, we'll do it.

What's your favorite malt and burger shop? Dott: Dumplings Dowry in Madison. The hand-blended malts, fries and burgers are all good.

What would you want your last dessert to be? A muddy banana. It's a sundae we sell here with vanilla ice cream, hot fudge, Oreos and sliced bananas.

What's next on the horizon? It has been only nine months since we took over, so we're still settling in.

— Nancy Ngo

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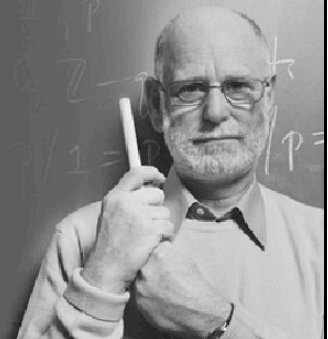


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