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HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

Restaurant roundup: Rodeo Goat Ice House finally opens, Pappy's Café sets moving date



Rodeo Goat Ice House opened in Houston on March 26 after nearly a year of delays.



By **Jen Para** – Web producer, Houston Business Journal
24 minutes ago

Here's the latest in Houston's restaurant scene:

Rodeo Goat Ice House finally opens

After nearly a year of delays, Rodeo Goat Ice House opened in Houston on March 26, according to Eater Houston and the Houston Chronicle. It's located in the East Village mixed-use development in East Downtown.

The Dallas-based burger joint is leasing 5,000 square feet of indoor space along with a 4,000-square-foot patio at 2118 Lamar St. from Ancorian Development.

The eatery was first expected to open in Houston in spring 2017. Later, it changed the expected opening date to mid-November. The delays occurred for several reasons, including red tape from Houston's Planning and Development Department and Hurricane Harvey, a spokesperson told the Houston Business Journal in September.

Rodeo Goat has two other locations in Dallas and Fort Worth. It's owned by Dallas restaurateur Shannon Wynne and his partners, Keith Schlabs and Larry Richardson. Wynne is behind several restaurant concepts, including Flying Fish, Flying Saucer, Meddlesom Moth and Mudhen.

Pappy's Café to reopen at new location in April

In just a few weeks, a longtime restaurant will say goodbye to its 34-year-old home.

Pappy's Café will serve its last meal at 9041 Katy Freeway on March 31, and it will reopen at 12313 Katy Freeway near Dairy Ashford Road on April 5, according to a press release.



After 34 years at its 9041 Katy Freeway location, Pappy's Café is moving.

Last October, Pappy's Café announced it would move from its current location to a larger building about 5 miles west.

To celebrate the new space, Pappy's Café will host a grand opening party from noon to 4 p.m. on April 14. The event will feature live music, giveaways, specials, an all-day happy hour and the unveiling of Pappy's Café's new specialty cocktail menu.

The new location has a nearly 7,000-square-foot building, which includes an expanded bar area and two private dining rooms, along with additional parking.

Although the Braden family, who own Pappy's, announced they were looking to relocate the restaurant in September, the search for a new location began about two years ago when the landlord couldn't promise to renew the lease in writing. The Bradens also mentioned that their restaurant was outgrowing the 4,100-square-foot space.

Salata to open first Beaumont store

Houston-based salad brand Salata is slated to open its first Beaumont location near Parkdale Mall, at 4215 Dowlen Road, suite B, according to a press release.

Franchisees Joe Piro and Chad George of Edgy Veggies will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on March 29, with regular business hours to follow. This is Edgy Veggies' second Salata location.

The Houston Chronicle reports the store is 2,500 square feet and has seating for 80 guests.



Salata is slated to open its first Beaumont location on March 29.

Earlier in March, the company announced it aims to open 30 stores this year — including its first locations in Florida — and another 100 stores by the end of 2020. It tapped CBRE Group Inc. (NYSE: CBG) to find the locations for the upcoming stores

The fast-casual food chain currently has more than 70 corporate-owned and franchise locations in five states. On its franchising webpage, Salata states that it will only accept “franchise applications from individuals who have experience operating 10 or more restaurants simultaneously.”

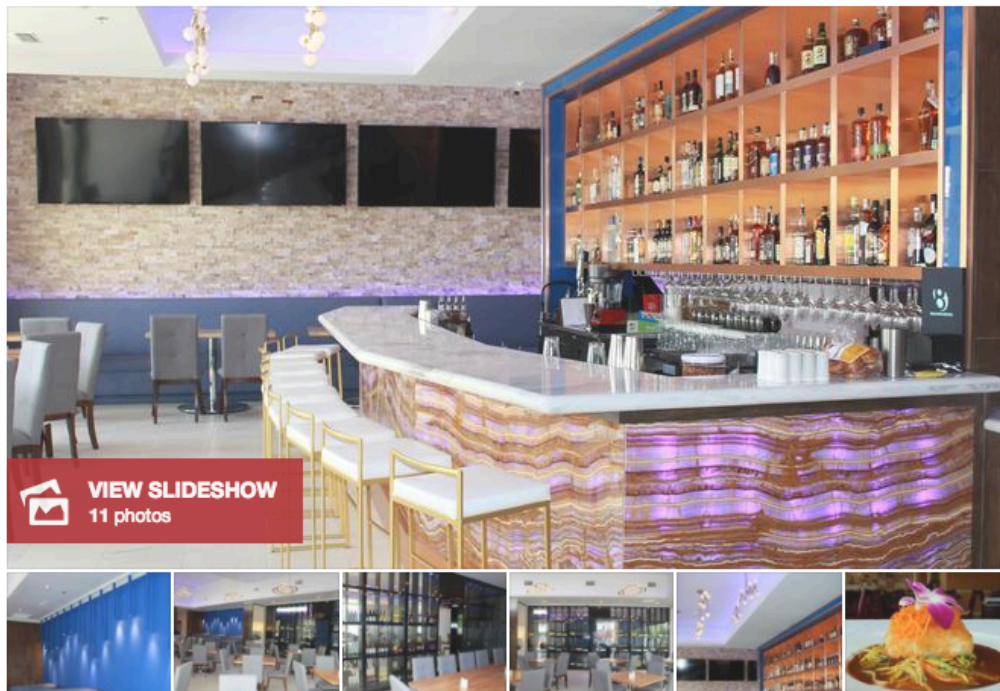
Blue Onyx Bistro to debut soon

New Galleria-area seafood and beef restaurant Blue Onyx Bistro will begin to host soft opening events on March 28, though the grand opening is still to be determined, according to a press release. The restaurant was first announced in January.

Located at 4720 Richmond Ave., suite A, the concept is under the direction of executive chef and owner David Chang and his wife, Rolita Chang, owners of Redfish Seafood Grill at 19550 Highway 249.

Blue Onyx Bistro to open near Galleria

Blue Onyx Bistro will open in late March at 4720 Richmond Ave. under the direction of executive chef and owner David Chang and his wife, Rolita Chang.



In total, the Blue Onyx space will accommodate 150 people, which includes 20 in a private room and another 20 on the patio, per the release. The restaurant's designer was Nicole Niu, who incorporated unpolished blue onyx stone into the design.

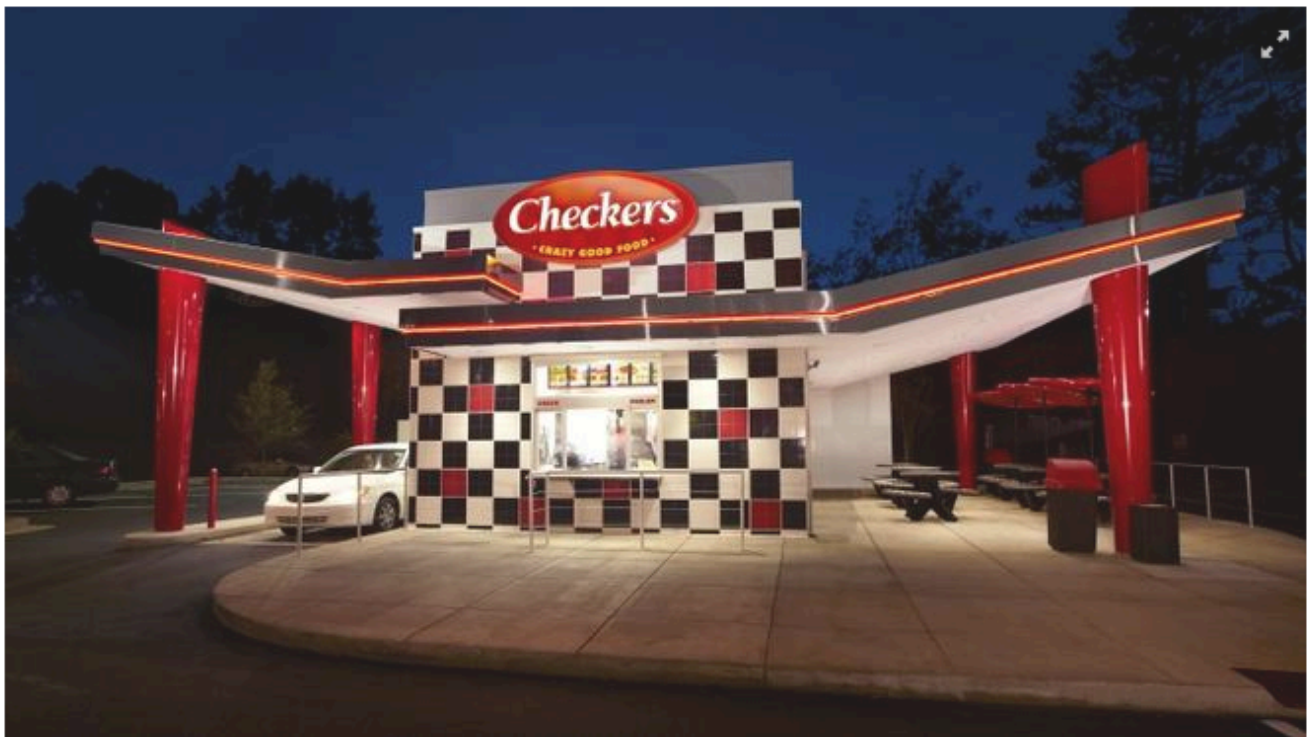
Other Blue Onyx investors include Cecilia Chang, also an investor of Redfish; Kam Kian Tjoe, the owner of Walprice Inc., a seafood distributor; Hower Shen; and Raymond Ng, the manager of Redfish Seafood Grill, a spokesperson said. Mona Lui will be the general manager, per the release.

Florida-based burger chain to add 25 Houston-area locations in 2018

Checkers & Rally's Restaurants Inc. is gearing up for an expansion in the greater Houston area, Bruce Kim, the company's director of franchise development, told HBJ.

The Tampa, Florida-based franchiser plans to add up to 25 new locations in the region by the end of 2018, Kim said. The company's analysis indicates that there is room for more than 90 Checkers restaurants within the Houston metro, he added.

Currently, there are 12 locations in the area, and one of those opened this year, he said.



Checkers & Rally's Restaurants Inc. plans to open up to 25 locations in greater Houston by the end of 2018.

"We have received numerous requests over the past few years from our loyal customers who

have moved to Houston from other cities to open stores in Houston,” Kim said. “Houston is the fourth most populous city in the U.S. and in need of a value-oriented burger chain.”

To open a franchise of Checkers or Rally's, an interested candidate must have at least \$750,000 in net worth with \$250,000 in liquid assets, according to the company's website. The franchise fee is \$30,000 per restaurant. The total estimated initial investment ranges between \$96,414 and \$1,501,265, but the average net volume in the first year is roughly \$1.2 million.

The company currently has over 870 stores in the U.S., per the release.

Florida-based pizza chain opens second H-town store

Another Florida franchiser is expanding in the Bayou City.

Miami-based Piola Pizza opened its second Houston location in the Memorial area at 1415 S. Voss Road, suite #135, in February, according to a release. Emilio Vicens is the franchiser.

Known for its authentic Italian thin-crust pizza, Piola Pizza has another Houston location in Midtown at 3201 Louisiana St., suite #103, that franchisees Bruno and Michele Cencini opened, per the release.

Piola founders Dante and Stefano Carniato also publish a magazine that is available at every location. The magazine is edited in Italy and translated into five languages.

The chain currently has nearly 40 restaurants around the world, including 13 U.S. locations in Houston; the South Florida area; greater Washington, D.C.; and Raleigh, North Carolina.

Other upcoming pizzeria openings include Pizaro's Pizza Napoletana's third location near CityCentre; the debut of Pizza Motus: Roman Inspired Cucina in West University this summer; and Brandon Young's new concept Mr. Nice Pie, which will be inside the upcoming Finn Food Hall.