



HENRY A. BARRIOS / THE CALIFORNIAN

A buffalo head and other wild game trophies hang on the walls of Pappy's Coffee Shop.

PAPPY'S: Quality of food appeals to both parties

CONTINUED FROM D1

They then transitioned into a story from junior high with all the details of the most hated boy in their class and his misadventures. Eventually the conversation came back to politics and personal strengths and weaknesses of each of the Republican presidential candidates.

Mark them undecided at this stage of the race.

The longtime Pappy's fan said he remembered when the coffee shop boycotted Heinz ketchup because 2004 Democratic candidate John Kerry was married to Teresa Heinz. He didn't know when they switched back.

Despite all that, Pappy's was not exactly politics central when I've visited. I've not once eavesdropped on any heated political debates.

But you really don't need a political sideshow to keep you entertained with so many foods worth ordering. My personal favorite is the crunchy "Freedom" toast with walnuts and caramel sauce (\$8.29).

It's incredible. You get six thick slices of the egg-cinnamon griddle-fried toast covered with what looks like a small fortune of walnuts and caramel sauce.

I rationalize eating this by pointing to all the studies saying that walnuts are a nearly perfect food, and skip dessert to make the caramel sauce acceptable.

I also add no maple syrup. This is practically health food.

If you're averse to anything healthy anyway,



A gas pump gumball machine sits near the entrance of Pappy's Coffee Shop.

Pappy's is the only Bakersfield restaurant I know that offers fried bologna and eggs (\$8.99) on its breakfast menu. So go nuts.

For our lunch visit, the soon-to-leave-for-college students went for the Philly steak sandwich (\$9.29), the chipotle bacon cheeseburger (\$8.99) and the Pappy's Western burger (\$8.99), while I selected the open-faced chili size burger (\$8.89). One wanted to order the Driller burger, but after four years as a Patriot football player, he just couldn't.

The best of the group had to be the chipotle burger, with a dark red salsa on it that the waitress told us was made fresh on the premises. Figures that a Pappy's regular would know to order that. The guy who ordered the Western burger gets it regularly and proclaimed, "If this burger was a girl, I'd ask her out on a date." (He's been



Krazy Krunchy Freedom toast from Pappy's Coffee Shop.

PAPPY'S COFFEE SHOP

10595 Rosedale Highway
587-8954
pappyscoffeeshop.com

Hours: 5:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.

Prices: Senior menu \$5.99 to \$7.99, breakfast \$4.59 to \$10.99, burgers and sandwiches \$6.99 to \$10.99, cold cuts and salads \$6.99 to \$9.49, child's menu \$3.29 to \$4.69

Payment: MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover and personal checks accepted.

Dress: Casual.

Amenities: Wheelchair accessible; no alcohol served; few vegetarian options.

Food: ★★ ★

Atmosphere:
★ for Democrats,
★★★★ for Republicans

Service: ★★ ★

Value: ★★ ½

Next week: Moo at Racquet Club

going through a rough streak.)

The cheesesteak came on a toasted bun and had a nice balance between the onions, green peppers, beef and provolone cheese. The chili on my burger had a nice homemade taste, but it couldn't match up to the perfection of the chipotle burger.

The biggest complaint from the four of us was that the companion that had been the most loyal cus-

tomers was served a mere 10 steak fries with his burger, while the rest of us had adequate portions.

I refused to share, figuring the kitchen had its reasons for shorting him (he told me he once asked for two patties on his Western burger and they gave it to him, possibly as some sort of trickle-down economics experiment).

Either that or maybe an old girlfriend was extracting her revenge.

"Being in the oilfields, he knows a guy wants to eat, a guy wants to be full. That's what we based portions on, charging a decent price and never letting anyone leave hungry."

— Peter Anthony Cisneros Jr., who runs Pappy's with his brother, sister and her husband

CISNEROS: Hard to argue politics with full mouth

CONTINUED FROM D1

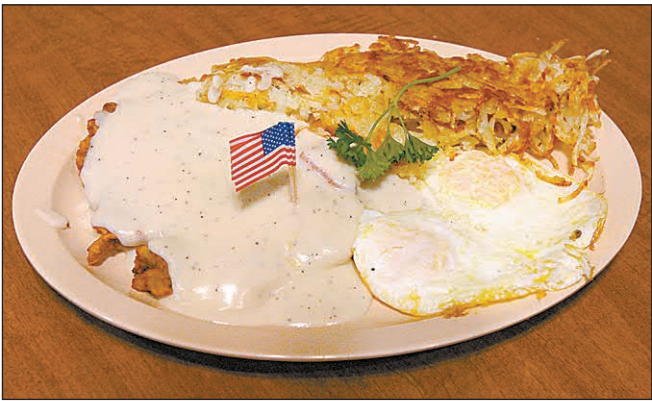
at either the Rosedale restaurant or the Pappy's in Shafter, which opened nearly three years ago. The menu's the same, the portions are humongous enough to feed a family of four and the decor still proudly promotes conservatism.

"My dad was not ashamed of his beliefs," Cisneros said. "He put it up there and people haven't left because of it. Or, if they have, they never said anything. But they like the food and that's why they come back."

"Make sure you say that Democrats are allowed in the restaurant," he was quick to point out.

Judging from the overflowing parking lot on bustling weekend mornings, Cisneros undoubtedly was on to something when he said that folks return to the restaurant, whatever their politics. After all, it's hard to argue about President Obama's jobs plan or Congress' sinking approval ratings when your mouth is full of chicken-fried steak — one of the most popular items on the menu, in part because there's just so much of it.

"Being in the oilfields, he knows a guy wants to eat, a guy wants to be full," Cisneros said of his father.



Many patrons order the half chicken fried steak with eggs and hash browns from Pappy's Coffee Shop in Rosedale. It's one of the most popular items on the menu, in part because there's just so much of it.

"That's what we based portions on, charging a decent price and never letting anyone leave hungry."

Though working in the oilfields gave him plenty of perspective on how much a working man wants to eat, Cisneros, a 1969 East Bakersfield High graduate, didn't actually start his career in oil. He joined the food industry out of high school, managing chain restaurants like Happy Steak and Denny's.

The oil boom of the early 1980s convinced him to hang up his apron for a while and off he went for a 20-year career in production. But by 1999, the siren call of the

deep fryer could be ignored no longer.

"He wanted to hold on to his vision, be his own boss, do the whole American dream and go back to his dream, which was food," Cisneros said.

And with the Rosedale location packing them in, the family decided to expand to Shafter, opening on East Lerdo Highway in a building that once housed a Perko's.

"It's been steady in Shafter, but we didn't open up at the right time. The economy is pretty rough still. But it's great. We're involved in the Shafter ministerial association and I'm involved with Kiwanis."

MUSIC EDUCATOR APPROVED

YAMAHA
Band Instruments

0% interest

\$15 /mth

as low as

• 0% Interest
• No long term contracts
• First month FREE*
• Rentals as low as \$15/mth

*See store for details.

California Keyboards Music Center
100 Oak Street, Bakersfield (661) 327-5397
californiakeyboards.com

YOUTH SHOTGUN SHOOTING PROGRAM

Sign up at the **Kern County Gun Club**
Saturday, September 10th at 9:00am

Learn how to shoot Trap & Skeet, all skill levels welcome. The program is open to boys and girls in Elementary, Jr. High and High School. Shooting days are the second Saturday of each month, September - May.

Cost: One time fee of \$75.00 per shooter.
Includes instruction, ammunition, targets, and lunch.

KERN COUNTY GUN CLUB
BAKERSFIELD, CA

SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM
CALIFORNIA

The Park at River Walk Concert Series presents

KARLA BONOFF

"Before Alanis and Jewel, there was a breed of singer/songwriters whose earthly anthems of soul-searching, heartache and joy touched souls in a way few can muster today. Karla stands as a testament to the ideal that the good ones are indeed ageless." — Billboard

bright house NETWORK AMPHITHEATRE

SEPTEMBER 10TH

Tickets Just \$10!

www.KarlaBonoff.com

NOLITA SHIMMER collection

Available at **Bakersfield's original Brighton store.**

CHRISTINE'S
www.shopchristines.com
4915 Stockdale Highway • 661-834-3068
Monday - Friday: 10-6 • Saturday: 10-5