

# Perk Up Shines in the Eyes of Students

Anandhu Shaji, staff writer

Before you walk in through the front doors of the South Entrance at PVCC, your nose will be met by the smell of delicious food. Where is it coming from? Well it is from the campus restaurant Perk Up.

I had the opportunity to try their burger with fries. There are few words to describe the experience. The burger with fresh lettuce, green pickles, melted cheddar cheese was a celebration of flavors in the mouth. Just thinking about it makes my mouth water.

If you are not a meat person, there is no need to worry. "We have salads, veggie

burgers, veggie wraps and much more for the vegetarians," said the friendly and smart staff member at Perk Up.

Perk Up also has a coffee stand outside their doors where they brew many selections of fresh and tasty coffee. So if you want to get a nice cup of coffee in the morning or before class, then the Perk Up coffee stand is the place to go. Compared to many of the restaurants around Charlottesville, Perk Up is affordable for the students at PVCC. The burger with fries came out to \$10.

Overall, Perk Up is worth trying. Perk Up is open Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

# Hidden Gem in the Heart of Cville: Pho

Elizabeth Phan, staff writer

Thai Cuisine & Noodle House may have some of the best Thai dishes, but what might surprise you is that they also take pride in serving traditional Vietnamese Pho. It might be a little confusing that a Thai restaurant is serving Pho, but trust me when I say that my father would be so upset to know that I loved it.

Since Oct. 24, 2014, Thai Cuisine & Noodle House has been serving up traditional and authentic Thai and Vietnamese food. Located at 2005 Commonwealth Dr. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday at 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and then re-open again at 5-9 p.m.. Unfortunately, they close on Mondays. Many locals swarmed in for a relaxing and laid back dinner. Its walls decorated with local art, and across the restaurant, a football game played above the bar as the chef prepared my dinner.

Pho, a Vietnamese favorite, is a noodle soup dish made from beef broth. It is served with a huge serving of Banh Pho, which is made out of rice, thinly sliced beef, bean sprouts, and fresh herbs. The Pho was

reasonably priced at \$8.50 for a small portion or \$10.50 for a larger portion. Be careful, though, because the small is still a very large helping. The soup was warm and savory and reminded me of home.

Thai Cuisine & Noodle House serves up a four-page menu of gluten-free and dairy-free options. And if you are lactose intolerant like me, you'll be glad to know that they have dairy free dessert options that are just as good as their Pho.

Thai Cuisine & Noodle House left a wonderful first impression with very kind staff and welcoming owners. The open-style kitchen left me feeling excited about my dessert.

Even Ivan Rekosh of ZoKoLo agrees that Thai Cuisine & Noodle House deserves the full rating for their dish. The Charlottesville 29 rated it as one of the best dishes to have been eaten back in 2016.

If you are a Charlottesville local, Thai Cuisine & Noodle House is a must for any special occasion or night out with friends. Be sure to try out the chef's specials and be surprised at how delicious Thai and Vietnamese Cuisine can be.