

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—March 4, 2005

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Backyard Grill & Bar is Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac People's Choice Award winner

Fond du Lac—To find fantastic food, the people of Fond du Lac don't think that you have to go much further than the backyard. The Backyard Grill & Bar, that is, which has been named the 2005 People's Choice Award winner at Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac.

Backyard Grill & Bar's "casual dining, serious food" slogan was taken seriously by the community members who attended the Taste and cast their votes for the Backyard Bar & Grill on Monday.

"It definitely makes all the amount of work and effort put into it worthwhile," said Mark Trepanier, the owner of Backyard Grill & Bar. "And it's important to us, as a new business, to know that the community thinks that we're headed on the right track."

The 10-month-old restaurant at 838 E. Johnson St. was a newcomer to Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac and appeared to take it by storm. They served Blackened Chicken Wraps, a new item on their menu, and Hickory-Smoked Baby-Back Ribs. They took home the second-place award in the entrée category for the ribs, and received their People's Choice Award at a press conference Friday.

"I really like this award," said Mary Ann Dilling, Executive Director of Fond du Lac Festivals, Inc., which organizes the annual event. "It gives the community an opportunity to voice their opinion." The award was created in 2003 to get the community more involved in the 18-year-old event.

"We want to thank all of the help we get from those who aren't seen," said Trepanier. "For all of the extra work done preparing for this event. You can't do it alone."

Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac, an annual event, was held Monday at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds Expo Center and featured 28 restaurants, a silent auction and local entertainment. It was sponsored by Hometown Bank, Charter Communications, Hopper's Silk Screening and All Star Trophy, Michelob Amber Bock, Pepsi Americas, WFVR CBS 5, News-Talk AM 1450 KFIZ, K107.1 FM and the Reporter.

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