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Participations get fired up for Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac

Fond du Lac—Four more Fond du Lac area culinary establishments are firing up the grills for Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac Feb. 28, 2005. Arby's, Backyard Grill & Bar, Linstrom's Catering and Sombrero's will be serving their new, most popular and signature menu items for Taste-goers to savor.

Arby's, W. 6606 Hwy. 23, will be back for the third year in a row with a few new Market Fresh items. Instead of sandwiches, though, this year Arby's will be wrapping up your taste buds with flavor. The new Turkey Ranch and Bacon Wrap, Ham 'n' Swiss Wrap and Turkey 'n' Swiss Wrap will be served at the Arby's booth.

"We really want to show people what we have to offer," said Arby's Unit Director Joe Munoz. "And we like to be involved in the community as well."

The area's "casual dining, serious food" Backyard Grill & Bar, 838 E. Johnson St. has been open for about nine months and serves everything from appetizers and sandwiches to steak and seafood.

The Backyard booth at Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac will be offering one of its house specials, Hickory Smoked Baby-Back Pork Ribs, and a brand-new menu item, Blackened Chicken Wraps.

"Taste of Fond du Lac is fun for everybody," said Colleen Trepanier, manager of Backyard Grill & Bar. "It's great for getting your name and your food out there."

Trepanier added that currently, 10 percent of Backyard Grill & Bar gift card sales and merchandise sales goes directly to Arc of Fond du Lac, which is a charity that promotes the general welfare of people with developmental disabilities through advocacy, services, and community involvement.

Linstrom's Catering, 400 University Dr., will give everybody a chance to dine like the president. Linstrom's was the official caterer for President George W. Bush's visit to Fond du Lac in July, and everyone can sample the presidential-caliber cooking at this year's Taste. The special-occasion catering service, owned by David and Heather Linstrom, has been bringing its delectable menu to Fond du Lac for the past four years. Linstrom's caters to weddings, corporate events, fundraiser dinners, daily business events and "just about anything and everything," according to Heather Linstrom.

Linstrom's will start Taste-goers out with its appetizer, Crab Cakes with a Red Pepper Salsa and Sour Cream, David Linstrom's personal recipe. The next course is Southwest Shrimp Sauté Over Rice, sautéed right in front of the lucky diners who order it. Finish off the Linstrom's experience with its specialty dessert, Chocolate Mousse Cheesecake with a Frangelica Glaze.

"The Chocolate Mousse Cheesecake is always a big hit," said Heather Linstrom. "It's a wonderful homemade dessert."

Linstrom added that they are really excited to be a part of Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac.

"Fond du Lac has great diversity of different foods and flavors," she said. "'Taste' is a great showcase."

Sombrero's, 445 N. Pioneer Rd., will be spicing up Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac for the first time in 2005. Sombrero's has been open for a little over a year, since December 2003, and features great Mexican food, a unique building and décor, and fresh salsa made daily.

Sombrero's will be bringing its Mexican flavor to Taste with chips and its fresh salsa, Quesadillas, and its new menu item, the Chicken Tender Wrap.

"We look forward to meeting new customers at Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac," said Jaime Jimenez, owner of Sombrero's. "And we also look forward to serving the Fond du Lac community in the years to come."

Check out the great food at any of these booths and more at Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac on Monday, Feb. 28, from 3:00-8:30 p.m. at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds Expo Center, 17th St. and Martin Ave. The annual event will feature approximately 25 area restaurants and more than 50 silent-auction items, including Brewer's tickets, family getaways, savings bonds, restaurant gift certificates, golf packages and much more.

Tickets will cost \$2 at the door or \$1.50 in advance, and children under 5 are free. Advance tickets can be purchased at Wegner's Office Supply, the Association of Commerce, the Fond du Lac Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Jo Jo's BBQ & Grill and any Hometown Bank location. As always, food tickets will cost only 50 cents apiece.

Hometown Bank's A Taste of Fond du Lac is sponsored by Hometown Bank, Charter Communications, Hopper's Silk Screening and All Star Trophy, Michelob Amber Bock, Pepsi Americas, News-Talk AM 1450 KFIZ, K107.1 FM and the Reporter.

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