



November 19, 2009

## Sideways Grill open in Highland

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STAFF WRITER

Choices, choices and more choices.

Sometimes, small packages have plenty inside — which is what you'll find at the new Sideways Grill in Highland.

With an extensive menu that offers steak, salmon, tuna and pork entrees, pastas and salads, a large assortment of sandwiches and burgers, kids meals, desserts and more, the Sideways Grill is getting plenty of positive feedback from customers who are happy to see the variety available, said owner Carrie Akey.

"People are surprised at the entrees we have," she said.

The restaurant opened in mid-October, filling the space that was vacant for a couple months after Joe's Cafe closed down. Akey said a customer base of "regulars" is already building, and customer favorites are emerging. The more popular selections include the turkey wrap with cranberries — one of Sideways Grill's seasonal items — pork chops with warm cinnamon apples and fresh Atlantic salmon topped with butter sauce. Grilled chicken and tiger shrimp is another top seller, as are the grilled portobella mushroom sandwich and the Sideways Burger, stuffed with mushrooms, onion and cheddar cheese, she said.

"Everyone is really enjoying the food," Akey said.

Her husband, Mike Akey, takes care of maintenance at the restaurant, but has plenty to say about the menu, as well. "We're still feeling out what people want, and what doesn't sell, we will end. And we are open to suggestions," he said. "For example right now, we have prime rib and sword fish specials on the weekends, and that's going pretty well."

Nightly specials are offered, and a senior menu is in the works, which will offer smaller portions at reduced prices.

The Sideways Grill is smoke-free, has three large flat screen TVs and can seat 25 inside. In the summer, there's outdoor seating. If business goes well — and a liquor license is granted — the Akeys are considering expanding into the space next door, adding a bar.

Head chef Benjamin Fisher said the Sideways Grill "is different than the other restaurants" in that stretch of Highland.

"We mix it up. Sure, it's a little time consuming to have so much on the menu, but we are getting good feedback," he said. "That's what we strive for, and it makes it all worth it."

The Sideways Grill is at 1100 S. Milford Road, Suite 110 in Highland. Hours are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eat in or carry out, and call in your order in advance for faster service. Free delivery is available in the local area. Phone (248) 529-3240.

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