

DINING

Seafood Tavern rolls out welcome mat

By **KEELY WYGONIK**
STAFF WRITER

Casual and friendly, Chuck Muer's Seafood Tavern, which opened in March, has something on the menu for everyone — seafood, ribs, chicken, pasta, and beef. You can stop in for appetizers and drinks, a seafood dinner, or burger with soup or salad. There are booths and tables, and the bar is separate from the dining area. Don't leave your kids at home, they're welcome here.

There's a game room with video and pinball games, a wall of aquariums to look at, and a special menu for children under 10. Even the most finicky child will find something to their liking. Choices include burger with fries, chicken strips, fried oyster, Linguine with Alfredo or butter sauce, and cheese pizza. A soft drink and ice cream are included.

For more sophisticated palates, the chefs will gladly create a child-size portion. "There was a seven-year-old girl in here recently who ordered Cedar Plank Salmon," said Executive Chef Tom "Buzzy" Holzer of West Bloomfield. "We've had kids order mussels and Shiraz Danielle. The adult portions are too big for kids."

Believing that kids grow up to be big kids, and that means more customers, the staff at Chuck Muer's aims to please. "We're open to suggestions from customers," said Holzer. "If a guest wants something special, we'll call to see if we can get it,"

added corporate chef Jim Blake. "Then we'll call to say we've got it."

Check the board for daily seafood specials. On Monday the chefs call different purveyors to see what's available. After the restaurant featured Ivory White Salmon, customers called to find out when it would be on the menu again. Fish is like produce; it's seasonal, and not all varieties are available all the time. Look for smelt in the spring, but lobster tails, an often requested item, are available on weekends.

When they were developing their Blue Plate lunch and dinner menu, the chefs asked people what their favorite comfort food was. Monday is chicken pot pie, Tuesday, beef stroganoff, Wednesday, lasagna, Thursday, roast turkey served with mashed potatoes & gravy and season vegetable, Friday, lemon crumb sardor with choice of potato or rice, and seasonal vegetables, and Saturday, prime rib of beef.

Popular seafood offerings include Potato Encrusted Whitefish (\$9.50), Salmon Rockefeller — Salmon filet stuffed with spinach Rockefeller mix, rice medley, and seasonal vegetable (\$11.95), jambalaya, and Cedar Planked Whitefish (\$9.50) or Salmon (\$11.50). Chuck Muer's Seafood Tavern also sells a lot of ribs and beef. Diners have a choice of BBQ St. Louis Ribs or Texas Beef Ribs, filet mignon, London Broil, or Steak a la Muer. Chicken breast, with Martha's Raspberry, Teriyaki or Barbecue sauce is on the menu, along with half of a roasted

chicken. You can order Pasta Fagiola — salmon, shrimp, scallops, mussels & linguine (\$14.95), or Fettuccini & Meatballs (\$7.25).

In addition to the Tavern Burger (six ounces fresh ground chuck topped with cheese, bacon & BBQ sauce), and traditional hamburgers, they also sell almost 1,000 salmon burgers a month. Chinese Chicken Salad — Asian vegetables, grilled chicken, Mandarin oranges, crispy wontons and peanut dressing (\$7.95) is a much-ordered lunch item.

For something light, try a Diner Jimmy's giant pizza with house-made sausage, pepperoni, onion, mushrooms and three cheeses, individual pizza pies, smoked salmon pizza, BLT pizza and White Vegetable Pizza — broccoli, garlic, zucchini & three cheeses.

During the summer, the chefs order produce locally from Centennial Farms, which is owned by the Gars Family. They supply the restaurant with corn, tomatoes, beans, raspberries, squash and herbs. A Summer Lite menu, which started July 5, features items made with farm-fresh produce. Chuck Muer's Seafood Tavern is known for their Gazpacho, which will be available through Labor Day.

Save room for dessert; there's Key Lime Pie, New York Style Cheesecake with berry sauce, apple and Michigan cherry pie, and a brownie hot fudge sundae.

Muer's Seafood Tavern

Where: 5656 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, near Orchard Lake Road, (910) 851-2231

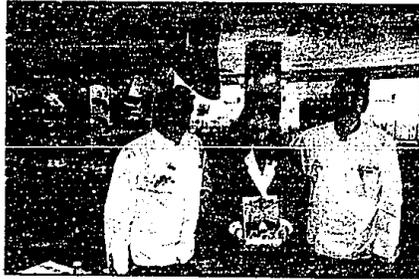
Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday (lunch); 4:10 p.m. Monday-Thursday (dinner); bar open to 11 p.m.; 4:11 p.m. Friday-Saturday (dinner); bar open to midnight; 5-9 p.m. Sundays

Menu: Seafood, steaks, salads and sandwiches, burgers & chicken, pasta, dinner pizzas

Highlights: Carry-out, dine-in and carry-out, daily specials, Happy Hour 4-7 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 50 cents off drinks, a selection of beer including microbrews, wines by the glass, 24 Seafood Tavern Hours, 3 sections, white, red and lunch \$10 a la carte

Reservations: Not accepted

Credit cards: All majors



At your service: Corporate chef Jim Blake, general manager Amy Feutz, and executive chef Tom "Buzzy" Holzer inside the dining room of Chuck Muer's Seafood Tavern.

RESTAURANT SPECIALS

Send information about special dinners, new restaurants, restaurant renovations, restaurant anniversaries, and menu changes for consideration in Restaurant Specials to: Keely Wygonik, Food & Entertainment editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Or fax information to (313) 691-7279.

CLOSED

Machus City Grill on Hunter Boulevard in Birmingham, closed July 2. Machus will honor all gift certificates or promotional pieces at any of its other locations — the Machus cafeteria and bakery at Adams Square in Birmingham, the Rochester City Grill, and the pastry shop at the old Machus Red Fox restaurant building at

Telegraph and Maple.

WINE TASTINGS/DINNERS

Relish
Spanish Wine Feast 7 p.m. Friday, July 12, at Relish, 34555 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Wines of Marques de Griñon and Rene Lenece-Berberana will be featured in the celebration of classic Spanish food and wine. Cost is \$45 per person. Call for reservations, (810) 489-8852.

Nifty's
Gourmet wine dinner 7 p.m. Thursday, July 18 on Nifty's enclosed deck, 1403 S. Commerce, Wolverine Lake. Seven course dinner, complementing the wines of Sonoma Valley's Rodney Strong Winery. Cost \$65 per person. Call (810) 624-6660 for reservations.

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