

## DINING

## Brothers pioneer new family tavern

BY KEELY WYONIK  
STAFF WRITER

With the same can-do spirit of pioneers who traveled "westward ho!" Brothers Dan and Joe Josifoski rustled up family and friends to turn a long vacant restaurant into a welcoming wagon stop. They opened Pick-A-Bone Family Tavern on Wednesday.

"We love the community, and thought it would be a great place to operate a family restaurant," said Dan Josifoski who spent four years renovating the former Vargo's, which closed 10 years ago.

"We felt Livonia was lacking a place where family and friends could gather. We will be working together as a family. We'll both be on the premises all the time to greet customers."

The brothers live in Livonia, and their parents - Danny and Zlatka, brought them up in the restaurant business. Dan's grandfather started their family-style restaurant in Roseville.

While Joe worked at the restaurant with his father and mother, Dan, who has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, and an associate's degree in electronics, worked on renovations at Pick-A-Bone.

"We did a 120 percent job," he

said. "Everything is new."

They worked with a designer, Rosanne Duncan of Bloomfield Hills, to create an Old West atmosphere that's fun, comfortable, and eclectic. A mural inside the saloon area was painted by local artist Frances Fletcher.

Like the setting, the menu also has a Western flare. Barbecue ribs are their specialty. Pick-A-Bone ribs are marinated in a flavorful blend of seasonings, smoked to enhance the flavor, then char-grilled and basted with a family's secret sauce.

Ribs are served with garlic toast and choice of dinner salad or cole slaw, steak fries, red skins or baked potatoes.

Appetitive offerings include a rib sampler, buffalo wings, and Jesse James Cajun Style Pizza.

The brothers recommend "Picadillas," which they describe as being like Quesadillas only better. Of course there's chili on this menu, and onion soup.

Try one of the salads - Antipasto, Chicken Caesar, Greek, Tropical Chicken, or Blackened Chicken Salad.

Pick-A-Bone also offers a variety of sandwiches including burgers, a barbecue pork sandwich, Reuben, turkey and barbecue chicken sandwich, served with choice of soup of the day or steak fries.

## Pick-A-Bone Family Tavern

Where: 30325 Six Mile Road, (between Middlebelt and Merriam Livonia, (734) 762-2063, or (734) 762-RIBS  
Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. Closed Monday.  
Menu: Western Style fare including ribs, steaks, chicken, some seafood, salads, sandwiches, soups. Children's menu for kids 12 and under. Lunch menu served until 4 p.m.

Reservations Accepted for parties of six or more.  
Credit Cards: All majors accepted  
Carry-out: Yes, they also offer Roasted Chicken by the piece for parties.

Banquet Facilities: For up to 120 people, dance floor. Banquet room has private entrance.

Seating capacity: Restaurant seats up to 190 people

If you're not in the mood for ribs, there are a couple of steak options - Cowboy Steak - the original T-Bone Steak; City Slicker Steak - 12 ounces of classic New York Strip, or a one pound mutton-chickening Porterhouse. Pick-A-Bone uses top quality Black Angus Beef for their steaks.

Broiled pork chops, prime rib in 16 or 12 ounce cuts, and sirloin steak are also available. Steaks and chops are served with garlic toast, vegetable of the day, choice of dinner salad or cole slaw, and choice of steak fries, red skins, or baked potato.

With so many choices, it's hard

to decide. Try one of the combos, barbecued ribs 'n' chicken' barbecue ribs 'n' shrimp, barbecued chicken 'n' shrimp, or 'The Ultimate B.B.Q.' - ribs, chicken, shrimp, and pork loin. Combos are served with garlic toast, dinner salad or cole slaw, and choice of steak fries, red skins, or baked potato.

If you don't feel like "pigging out" seafood choices include jumbo shrimp, honey barbecued salmon steak, broiled white fish, char-grilled swordfish and tuna, or fish and chips served with salad or cole slaw, rice pilaf, vegetable of the day and garlic toast.



New restaurant: Joe (left) and Dan Josifoski welcome customers to Pick-A-Bone Family Tavern.

There are also many other entrees to choose from including broasted chicken, barbecued chicken and pork loin, lasagna, spaghetti, Chicken Monterey, Chicken Pecan, and Chicken Stir-fry, Steak, Chicken or Shrimp Fajitas, served with dinner salad or cole slaw.

"We want to appeal to all groups of people, and different palates," said Joe.

Pick-A-Bone offers a variety of beers, white, sparkling and red

wines, and specialty drinks including Margaritas - traditional, or raspberry, strawberry or lemonade.

The prices are reasonable, ranging from \$4.45 for a Billy the Kid Burger to \$16.95 for Whole Slab of Ribs for Two.

"We're here to stay, we're not travelers," said Dan. "We're devoted to Livonia." Joe said he's "glad open a business and serve the people."

## Backstage Pass welcomes songwriter Bernie Taupin

## BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

Right now, Wisconsin is full of cheeseheads analyzing their performance at this past Sunday. "Maybe if my head were made of American cheese instead of cheddar..." Assessment is a part of getting better, and we run each episode of Backstage Pass through a virtual spectroscopy of analysis. Did it succeed in getting people to the hot side hot, the cool side cool?

Any way you slice it, tonight's show is a winner. For starters, we have one of the most prolific lyricists of the 20th century in the Detroit Public Television studio: Bernie Taupin. And here's a surprise, he sings. Bernie will lead a trio with words he's written for his own voice.

Of course, people know Bernie Taupin from his 27-year collaboration with Elton John, a pairing that has resulted in sales of more than 100 million records. Together, these talented men have authored countless pop classics, including hits like "Your Song," "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road," "Daniel," "Candle in the Wind," and "The One."

Praise for the Taupin/John team has really poured in recently, as if the industry and fans have taken stock of the most amazing songwriting tandem since Lennon and McCart-

ney. In '91, there was the CD/book/video package "Two Rooms," a tribute that included artists like George Michael, Sting, O'Jays, Sade, Eric Clapton and Phil Collins interpreting Bernie and Elton's music. Other accolades include 1994 ASCAP Songwriters of the Year, induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, six Ivor Novello Awards (the European equivalent to the Grammy), and the coveted INAs International Achievement of Excellence. Bernie was also inducted into the American Academy of Achievement in 1994.

Bernie has figured out the healing power of music, too. In 1992, he produced "Commitment to Life VI," which raised an unprecedented \$4 million for the AIDS Project Los Angeles. The event included top industry stars

and was so successful that in 1995 Bernie introduced a follow-up event, "Commitment to Life VII - Under the Influence."

Switch gears from pop to jazz, and we have another blockbuster booking: a quartet of world-renowned Detroit jazz all-stars, fronted by James Carter on saxophone and including Harold McKinney on piano, Don Maybury on bass and Richard "Pistol" Allen on drums. Each one of these guys has chops on the world jazz scene in his own right, and they're playing together as an ensemble exclusively for Backstage Pass.

James Carter, who plays this Friday night at Orchestra Hall, is widely regarded as one of the most exciting young saxophonists to arrive on the jazz scene in the last 25 years. I called our Backstage Pass jazz hosts Kim

Hunter and W. Kim Heron for perspective on this special play. Hunter explained, "There's a big schism in jazz - there's the avant garde, and there's the classical. Most people can do one of the other. James can play both, and that's unusual. He's well respected in both camps, because he can play far out and really in."

Both Kims had great things to say about all the players in the Backstage ensemble. Kim Hunter said, "Harold McKinney is probably one of the best piano players on the planet. And he's gotten better as he's gotten older, which is rare for anybody. But Harold's still got it, and he's got

a lot of imagination, too." W. Kim concurred, "McKinney's nicknamed 'The Baron,' and is an elder statesman of the Detroit jazz scene. He's played with people like Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Donald Byrd, Charles Mingus, Sarah Vaughn - the list goes on and on."

Hunter continued, "Don Maybury is an incredible bass player. He did a great collaboration with a singer named Angie Smith. It's just the two of them, which is unusual. You can really hear what each of them do. And he has a great tone." Heron said, "Pistol Allen was a Motown mainstay. He's played with people like Nancy Wilson, Sammy

Davis Jr., June Christy and Arthur Prysock and worked a lot at Baker's in his heyday." Hunter summed up their assemblage of talent, "Each one of these guys can just flat out play. They're not these young pyrotechnic players with something to prove. They just play."

We also welcome actor John Amos ("Roots," "Good Times," "Coming to America," to name a few), at Music Hall with his incredible one-man tour de force, "Halley's Comet," and visit the exhibition "White" at the Center Galleries. That's tonight on Backstage Pass on Detroit Public Television at midnight, repeated Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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