

Good food, environment found at country-western restaurant



The country-western craze has moved from the dance floor to the dining room in Lincoln. The Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon at 70th and O streets features country-western music in a relaxed, casual, old-west setting. The restaurant is part of a 34-restaurant national chain that moved into the capital city eight weeks ago. The friendly staff and down-home environment made a Saturday lunch visit enjoyable.

The luncheon menu features mesquite-grilled burgers, grilled chicken, ribs and tasty Texas-Teaser appetizers. The entrees ranged in price from \$3.65 for a Lone Star Burger to \$6.95 for lunch ribs or a steak sandwich.

This was my first visit to the restaurant and I had a few questions about the menu. Our waitress, Jody, did an excellent job answering them, and provided superb service.

My friend Mike and I ordered Amarillo Cheese Fries for \$4.95 from the Texas-Teaser list. The thick-cut french fries were smothered in Monterey Jack and cheddar cheeses, bacon and served with a side of ranch dressing.

They were delicious, a good start to our meal, and the serving was more than generous. It could have easily served four people.

For lunch, I chose the baby back ribs for \$6.95. The ribs, soaked in barbecue sauce, were

served up in about 10 minutes. The ribs had a good flavor, but were a bit fatty. I would have liked the barbecue sauce a bit tangier, but it was still tasty.

The ribs were served with a choice of rice, Lone Star french fries, baked potato or baked sweet potato. My baked potato was quite large, and served with sour cream and butter.

Mike ordered a Willie Burger. The half-pound burger was topped with Jack cheese and bacon, with lettuce, tomato, onion and a pickle on the side. He ordered his burger medium rare, and said it was done to perfection. The serving was more than generous.

He ordered Lone Star french fries for an additional 95 cents. Although the burger was worth the price, french fries, or another choice of potato could have been included.

Jody attempted to convince us to try home-made apple cobbler with ice cream, but we were full from our lunch. She did, however, assure us the cobbler was excellent and made us promise to try it on our next visit.

The restaurant also features eight different mesquite-grilled steaks on its dinner menu. They range in price from \$8.95 for a 12-ounce chop steak to \$19.95 for a 24-ounce T-bone steak.

The Lone Star is ideal for college students looking for a change from the downtown bars. They have great food at reasonable prices and a full-service bar open until 11 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends. For the summer months, the Lone Star features an outside patio with more country music.

— Jeff Zeleny



James Mehlsing/DN

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What's up...

CLOSE UPS

Thursday — Alternative-grunge group Alice in Chains, touring in support of its "Dirt" album, plays Peony Park in Omaha. Appearing with Alice, heavier-metal mates Circus of Power and hard-to-pigeon-hole Masters of Reality, featuring ex-Cream drummer, Ginger Baker. Tickets are \$16.50 in advance, \$18.50 on the day of the show.

Friday — The Sawyer Brown band on its way to Farm Aid, will be stopping at the Pershing to first sow some wild country-fried notes, along with guests, the newly-known Confederate Railroad and the well-known Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. The Dirt Band, on the tour circuit for 26 years, guarantees a foot-stomping show which blends bluegrass, rock and country music. Show begins at 7 p.m. Sorry...tickets are sold out!

Saturday — Farm Aid VI kicks off in Ames, Iowa at noon with a long list of acts. Performers include Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp, Neil Young, Paul Simon, Alice in Chains, Arlo Guthrie, Charlie Daniels Band, Don Was with Ringo Starr, Bryan Adams, Dwight Yoakam, Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Tammy Wynette, Ricky Van Shelton, Sawyer Brown, Bruce Hornsby, Roger Clinton, Drivin' & Cryin' and others. You can usually count on one or two big wig acts who delight in showing up unannounced. Tickets are \$27.50 for reserved seating.

KFRX presents rapper Positive K and Lighter Shade of Brown, appearing with Rob Base at the Pershing, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance, \$13.50 day of the show, \$5 student discount.

Coming to the Omaha Civic Auditorium, the Red Man Country Concert, starring a country trio of favorites: long-time CW veteran George Jones, blues-tinged honky-tonk singer John Anderson and 25-year-old hunk, Tracy Lawrence. Lawrence, fairly new to the country scene, is currently promoting his second album, "Alibis." Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18.50.

Sunday — Rock 'n' roll with Capricorn recording artists, Widespread Panic, promoting its recently-released "Everyday" album. Free outdoor concert starts at 4:30 p.m. at Broyhill Plaza, Nebraska Union. In case of rain, the concert will be moved to the Nebraska Union Ballroom. Sponsored by the University Program Council.

Konzert CALENDAR

Tonight — Skinny & the Wing Tips, Duggan's Pub; Girls Toys, Royal Grove; Not All There, Zoo; Overkill and No Fiction, Ranch Bowl in Omaha.

Tuesday — Girls Toys, Royal Grove; Percussion and Flute Ensembles Concert, O'Donnell; Randall Snyder, Kimball Hall; Rosebud/Green Machine, Duffy's; William Clark, Zoo.

Wednesday — Nebraska Professional Firefighters benefit concert with Andy Childs, Lou Christie and Lesley Gore, Pershing; Carolinar/Bomb, Duffy's; Girls Toys, Royal Grove; The Return, Zoo; jazz musician Richard Elliott, Ranch Bowl.

Thursday — Too Smooth, Ninth Street Blues; Girls Toys, Royal Grove; Dog Tooth Violet/Blah Budda, The Edge; Side Show/Roosevelt Franklin/Hour Slave/Water/The Geekos, Red & Black Cafe; Chicago blues guitarist Jimmy "Fast Fingers" Dawkins, Zoo; Top Secret, Ranch Bowl.

Friday — Distractions, Chesterfields; Tuna Fish Jones, Ninth Street; Rumbles, Pla Mor Ballroom; Urban Roots, Duggan's Pub; Ritual Device/Gregory/Mercy Rule/Uretha Franklin/Frontier Trust, Red & Black Cafe; Grateful Dudes, Mountains; Girls Toys, Royal Grove; Rockin' Fossils, Sweep Left; Charlie Burton/Evan Johns, Zoo; Top Secret, Ranch Bowl.

Saturday — Distractions, Chesterfields; Urban Roots, Duggan's Pub; benefit for the Red & Black Cafe; Rockin' Fossils, Sweep Left; Keely Zoo/Straw Dog, The Edge; Grateful Dudes; Mountains; Tuna Fish Jones, Ninth Street; Girls Toys, Royal Grove; Charlie Burton/Evan Johns, Zoo; Top Secret, Ranch Bowl.

Sunday — Children's Choir Festival, First-Plymouth Congregational Church; Wesleyan Jazz Fest VI, Knight Field House; Red & Black Cafe special folk and acoustic concert benefit; Sandy Creek/Blue Denim, Pla Mor Ballroom; James Harmon Band, Zoo.