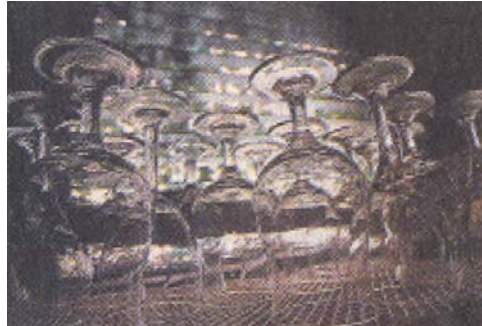




Filling a niche



Behind the Sandstone Grill bar area, window light shines through glasses waiting to be used.



Independent

Burwell's Sandstone Grill has kept the atmosphere of another time while bringing the menu and feel of a cutting-edge restaurant unlike any other in the area. During a four month restoration, the original tin ceiling and wood floors were brought back to life as were the booths and chairs.

Sandstone Grill owners Tenise Jarecke (left) and Tammy Forsberg stand in the restaurant's main dining area. The building, built in 1908 served as the café for the historic Burwell Hotel.



Restaurant's menu, atmosphere set it apart in Burwell

By Kyle Harpster
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BURWELL -- Burwell's Sandstone Grill offers steak, shrimp, homemade desserts and, yes, even a little bit of shark.

"We always try to do something a little bit different," said Tenise Jarecke, one of the restaurant's owners. "Our atmosphere is completely different from anything else you're going to get up in this area."

Jarecke, 37, co-owns the restaurant with her sister, Tammy Forsberg, 27. The sisters grew up in St. Paul and heard about the restaurant's building from an aunt who lives in Burwell.

"We decided to move back and try it out," Jarecke said. She had lived in Kansas City, Mo., for 12 years before moving back to Nebraska. Forsberg had lived in Seattle for the last six years.

The restaurant opened last November after a four-month renovation. The building, built in 1908, served as the café for the historic Burwell Hotel.

"We tried to maintain the integrity as much as we could," Jarecke said.

Forsberg and Jarecke restored the restaurant's original tin ceiling and wood floors. They also refurbished the booths and chairs and added new lighting.

Lynn Franzen, Burwell's economic development director, said the Burwell Chamber of Commerce "worked hand in hand" with Jarecke and Forsberg.

"They really were able to spruce up a building on our main street," she said. "They have a very viable business."

Franzen said the Sandstone Grill "fills a niche" in Burwell.

"The quality and the variety of food is one thing that makes them stand out," she said.



The Sandstone Grill is located at 416 Grand Ave in downtown Burwell. The building built in 1908, served as the café for the Historic Burwell Hotel before being transformed into the new restaurant.

Sandstone Grill's lunch menu includes soups, salads, burgers and deli sandwiches. It serves steak, seafood and nightly specials for dinner.

The restaurant's homemade desserts, including cheesecakes, cinnamon rolls and pies, have been a big hit, Jarecke said.

She added that business has been good so far, especially this summer. The restaurant, which has seating for about 65, usually fills up during the dinner hours, she said.

"We've also become kind of a destination spot," Jarecke said. "A lot of people come for special events."

As for the shark, Jarecke said the restaurant has offered it as a Saturday night fish special three or four times.

Forsberg first ordered a shipment of mako shark steaks in January, but

Jarecke was skeptical.

"I said, 'Tammy, we're in Burwell,'" Jarecke said, but they decided to offer the shark on a Friday and Saturday.

"So we ran it Friday night and sold out," she said.

Sandstone Grill

Location: 416 Grand Ave., Burwell

Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

Phone: (308) 346-4582

Employees: 11

http://theindependent.com/stories/081306/fea_sandstone13.shtml

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