

Fire Oak Grill

BY DARREN WHITE

Let's face it, chicken fried steak gets old after a while.

Not to take anything away from the magic of deep-frying just about anything, but sometimes, everyone needs a meal created from the finest of fresh ingredients.

Enter Fire Oak Grill, which quietly opened in July on Weatherford's historic square, not far from *Parker County Today's* offices. From fresh appetizers to zesty entrees to subtle desserts, the food at Fire Oak tastes like a good meal should.

"It's Texas food," said head chef Eric Hunter. "We're going for fresh, simple quality."

He should know a thing or two about good Texas food: Hunter was a chef at Fort Worth favorite Lonesome Dove for two years before taking the post at Fire Oak.

In fact, the restaurant is full of culinary pros. Hunter's good friend, restaurant owner Britton Schweitzer, has been in the restaurant business for nearly a quarter-century, working for restaurants like Daddy Jack's and Michael's. He's also a hometown boy: Schweitzer graduated from Weatherford High School in 1989.

"I wanted to be part of the downtown redevelopment," Schweitzer said. "And I didn't want people to have to drive to Fort Worth to have a nice meal."

In that case, Schweitzer has succeeded on both counts. The building, which is well over 100 years old, has taken on a fresh, modern feel under Schweitzer's ownership and combines the best aspects of both upscale and casual dining.

And then there's the food.

For starters, the shrimp tacos with cilantro lime sweet cream are a good choice, or try the bacon-wrapped grilled jalapeños with chipotle shrimp and cream cheese.

Stuffed yet? Let's hope not, because the signature dish, applewood bacon-wrapped tenderloin with Dr Pepper sauce, is a must-try. Enjoy some mango iced tea with



dinner, and save room for dessert. The bourbon pecan pie or the Parker County peach foster are fresh twists for old favorites, but the underrated gem of the sweets selection is the Key lime pie, with a taste so understated and refreshing that even this native Floridian finished the last bite with a big smile.

The Fire Oak Grill is a BYOB establishment, so call ahead and see what's on the menu. It's going to change by season, and the friendly staff might even be able to provide a good recommendation.

And, while certain entrees may be on the expensive side, Schweitzer is quick to note that the cost is still considerably less expensive than the dishes at many other restaurants of similar quality.

Plus, think of all the money you're saving by not driving to Fort Worth. 🍷

Fire Oak Grill

Sunday - Thurs 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Fri.-Sat. - 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. for
dinner and drinks (BYOB)

Location:

114 Austin Avenue, Weatherford, TX 76086