

NEWS

New on the scene

Two restaurants bring own flare to Gainesville dining

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Two new restaurants in Gainesville expand dining options for area residents.

New on the scene are the New Deal Cafe - featuring dishes from America and Europe - and the soon-to-be-opened Laredo Mexican, serving some of the favorite menu items of Mexico.

New Deal Cafe, which opened July 1 at 3443 W. University Ave., in Gainesville, serves a variety of American and European one-dish "comfort meals," said Russell Baum, who owns the Cafe with Nancy Oscarson (his wife) and Bert Gill, the chef. Meals average about \$8, he said.

Baum, Oscarson and Gill also own Mildred's Big City Food. The New Deal Cafe is more casual, yet it's open from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Baum said.

Some examples of the New Deal Cafe's dishes include chicken pot pie, fish 'n' chips, flatbread pizzas, paninis and burgers.

"It's a place where adults can go with their children and also have a drink," Baum said.

Baum said the cafe serves martinis and uses different brainteaser placemats.

They also are adding a bar to the cafe next week, Baum said.

"Young people might feel more comfortable with a bar, and singles too," Baum said.

Also on W. University Avenue, a new Mexican restaurant is set to open within days.

Laredo Mexican is slated to open in a couple of days at 1222 W. University Ave., said Jose Ramirez, who co-owns the restaurant with Ramon Aranda.

The menu will include quesadillas, burritos, chicken breasts and hamburgers, as well as a children's menu with items such as hot dogs and french fries.

"You name it, we got it," Ramirez said.

Laredo Mexican will be open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, except Sundays, he said. Lunch selections will range in price from \$4 to \$5.95, while dinner choices will range from \$5 to \$8, Ramirez added.

