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Dining Notes: New restaurant concept Tossgreen opens at Jacksonville's Tinseltown

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Gary.Mills@jacksonville.com
 Tossgreen is now open at 4375 Southside Blvd. in the former Cold Flame gelato location.

By **Gary T. Mills**

If adding more healthful options to your diet is part of your New Year's resolution to be more healthy, a new restaurant concept now open on Jacksonville's Southside might help you do just that.

Tossgreen, located at 4375 Southside Blvd. near **Jason's Deli**, offers custom salads and burritos featuring organic, local and seasonal ingredients.

The fast-casual restaurant allows customers to choose from a selection of chef-designed salads or burritos — or they build their own, choosing from dozens of toppings, proteins, dressings and more.

Owner **Manali Patel** plans to source many of his ingredients locally.

"We're in the process of working with farmers to get food directly from their farms," Patel said in a phone interview.

In addition to locally grown ingredients, Tossgreen offers 100 percent natural chicken, Patel said, plus a variety of dressings that include gluten-free, oil-free and dairy-free options.

Build your own salad, choosing from iceberg, romaine, spinach, mesclun and arugula. The \$5.99 price includes five free toppings and one of 18 dressing options. Avocado, bacon, boiled eggs, chicken, shrimp, steak and tofu are each available for additional charge, ranging from 99 cents to \$1.99.

Or choose from Ancient Greek (\$6.99), Caesar (\$7.69), Classic Cobb (\$8.99), Sunshine Shrimp (\$8.29) and other salads.

Burritos start at \$5.29, and include your choice of wheat or flour tortilla — or have yours in a bowl. Fill it up with rice, beans or grilled veggies; add a protein (additional charge); then finish with a

Entertainment Blogs

At-A-Glance: 2012-13 Entertainment Calendar

Over the next nine months, there are literally hundreds of concerts, performances, exhibitions, festival, recitals, games, shows and just plain fun stuff that's taking place in Northeast Florida. There's hardly a day when something exciting's not going on.

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Gary T. Mills
Dining Notes

garytmills New restaurant Taste planned for closed Urban Flats Tinseltown location. More soon in #diningnotes
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Find a local restaurant

Restaurant:

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the restaurant's doors read:

"It is with a great deal of sadness that we are announcing the closing of the Arby's Store on Normandy Blvd. and the Arby's Store on 103rd Street on Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012.

"We have enjoyed doing business with you for the last 23 years, but it has come time for us to retire."

The restaurants were the only two in Jacksonville not operated by Atlanta-based **Arby's Restaurant Group**.

Wendy's opens Northwest Jacksonville restaurant

Wendy's newest Jacksonville restaurant is now open in Northwest Jacksonville at 9055 New Kings Road, just north of Interstate 295 at Trout River Boulevard.

The new restaurant, however, does not feature the Dublin, Ohio-based fast-food company's new look, which it describes as "bold, sleek, 'ultra-modern' designs" that feature lounge seating with fireplaces, flat-screen TVs, wi-fi and digital menu boards.

After launching the new design in 2011, Wendy's was on track to build 16 restaurants from the ground up and remodel about 75 of its restaurants by the end of 2012, according to a November news release. One of those new restaurants opened in December in south St. Louis County, Mo. Its modern exterior incorporates a large bank of floor-to-ceiling windows in its dining room.

The new Jacksonville restaurant — built at cost of nearly \$550,000 according to building permits on file — is rather Spartan, both inside and out.

The restaurant is owned by Grand Rapids, Mich.-based **Meritage Hospitality Group**, which operates

selection of sauces, salsas and other toppings.

Think Chipotle, but with more ingredient options, offering customers a new experience each time they stop in.

Tossgreen is open daily at 11 a.m.

2 longtime Arby's close; owners retire

Two of Jacksonville's longest-operating **Arby's** restaurants have closed.

Just before the New Year holiday, Westside locations at 6466 103rd St. and 5835 Normandy Blvd. closed. According to records, the restaurants opened in 1986 and 1988, respectively. Only the Arby's at 10477 San Jose Blvd. (1986) has been open as long or longer, according to a search of Jacksonville City Directories.

Owner/operators **Douglas** and **Suzanne Lott** announced the pending closing of the restaurants to their customers in December. A sign on one of

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about 20 of Jacksonville's approximately 32 Wendy's locations, according to a search of restaurant licenses.

Wendy's restaurants in Jacksonville, however, could see a change beginning in March. That's when Wendy's plans to roll out a new logo on packaging, advertising, crew uniforms, restaurant signage, menu boards and more.

Chicken Nuggets are among BK's new items

With the New Year comes a new rollout of menu items from **Burger King**, including the introduction of Chicken Nuggets.

Burger King's new Chicken Nuggets, featuring premium white meat inside and a crispy, tempura-style batter on the outside, are offered with six dipping sauce options: Honey Mustard, Ranch, Sweet and Sour, Buffalo, Barbecue and Zesty. They are available in serving sizes of four (\$1), six (\$1.99) and 10 (\$2.69) pieces. Beginning Monday, a shareable 20-piece serving will be available for \$4.29.

The addition of Chicken Nuggets comes nine months after Burger King's introduction of Chicken Strips, one of 10 permanent menu additions in what was the largest menu expansion in 58 years for the nation's No. 3 fast-food burger chain, based on sales volume.

Burger King this week also launched the following six limited-time-only menu selections (with suggested retail pricing):

- Avocado Swiss Whopper Sandwich (\$4.49): USDA-certified fire-grilled beef, topped with thick-cut bacon, melted Swiss cheese, creamy avocado spread, lettuce, tomatoes and avocado aioli, served on a toasted sesame seed bun. Also available as a Whopper Jr. Sandwich (\$2.19).
- Cheesy Tots (\$1.99 and up): Bite-sized snacks of potatoes and American cheese with a crispy coating. Available in eight-, 10- and 12-piece servings.
- Philly Original Chicken Sandwich (\$4.29): Burger King's Original Chicken Sandwich topped with red and green bell peppers, seasoned grilled onions and two types of melted cheese, served on a toasted sesame seed bun.
- Italian Original Chicken Sandwich (\$4.29): A lightly breaded chicken fillet, topped with a thick slice of melted mozzarella cheese and marinara sauce, served on a toasted sesame seed bun.
- Molten Fudge Bites (\$1.69): Bite-size fudge brownie with molten chocolate filling, served hot and dusted with powdered sugar.
- Molten Fudge Sundae (\$2.29): A made-to-order sundae featuring vanilla Soft Serve and Molten Fudge Bites, topped with chocolate fudge and caramel.

Only Cheesy Tots and the Italian Original Chicken Sandwich have previously been offered at Burger King.

The new items continue Burger King's emphasis on larger, limited-time-only menu offerings, such as its BBQ-themed summer menu, and premium desserts, which the company introduced in September 2011.

How Do You Roll closes at Tinseltown

Open just 10 months, fast-casual sushi shop **How Do You Roll** has closed at Tinseltown.

The restaurant — the small, Austin, Texas-based chain's first (and only) restaurant in Florida — closed recently at 9734 Deer Lake Court. (Additional locations are planned for Gainesville and Sunrise, according to the company's website.)

The closing is the third for the small, **Mellow Mushroom**-anchored retail strip near Cinemark's Tinseltown theaters. In September, neighbor **Yobe Frozen Yogurt** closed after just seven months. That same month, **Cruisers Grill** closed after 15 months in business. (Based in Jacksonville, both operate multiple restaurants.) Only Mellow Mushroom and cupcake shop **Cami Cakes** remain open.

How Do You Roll responded to a customer's Facebook query about the restaurant's closing with the following: "Our Jax franchisee is one of the most passionate about our brand and we hope one day to be back! The location just wasn't working out."

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