

## Falcon Tavern offers 'upscale' pub fare

Friday, May 19, 2006

By Christin Runkle

The Falcon Tavern strives to be a cozy, laid-back bar and grill. You know — the kind where everyone knows your name.

Serving up burgers, sandwiches and beer for almost two years, the Falcon is downtown Boise's "neighborhood pub," according to Corey Bresina, the Falcon's owner since November.

"It's not pretentious, yet it's upscale, not dive-y," Bresina said of his restaurant's vibe. "It's everyday food," he continued. "There's nothing, except for the finger steaks, that we don't do in house, including dressings and sauces."

On a recent visit, a companion and I sampled the Tavern's pub fare. We started with a small plate of hummus and pitas. The order included sliced cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, Kalamata olives and feta cheese. It was a tasty and inexpensive snack at only \$3.50.

I order a portobello sandwich nearly every time I visit a restaurant that offers one, and my trip to the Falcon was no exception. Their sandwich included a roasted, marinated portobello mushroom; roasted green chiles; cheddar cheese and Tavern sauce, also referred to as smoky mayonnaise in other menu items.

Initially, I asked for a side of onion rings with my sandwich, but I quickly switched my order to French fries. I was glad I did. The fries alone made my trip to downtown Boise worthwhile. The Falcon's light and crispy, melt-in-your-mouth fries are made with a non-hydrogenated oil that contains no

transfat. Therefore, you can feel a little less guilty about eating a whole plateful.

My companion ordered the Puyallup Burger with a Caesar salad. The burger normally comes topped with caramelized onions and smoky mayonnaise, but my companion added bleu cheese crumbles for a unique twist.

Falcon Tavern offers nine other kinds of burgers, the most popular of which is the All-American Burger, said Bresina. That burger comes with cheddar and smoked bacon. The Falcon is also the only Boise restaurant to boast a unique Kobe & Angus burger, according to Bresina.

The Falcon Tavern, as its name suggests, offers a modest selection of beer and wine. Bresina said the restaurant recently expanded from four to six beers on tap, and several varieties are available by the bottle.

The Falcon is on the small side, 50 people max, so expect a full house during the lunch rush. But it's a great place to relax after work, especially because there's a sidewalk patio for warm-weather dining and people watching.