

Italian restaurant comes to Kirksville

New restaurant owners plan to open the doors of Milano's in Kirksville later this month

BY RACHEL LIKERT
Staff Reporter

Milano's, a new Italian restaurant, is set to open in Kirksville by the end of September.

Milano's will be located at 2523 S. Franklin St.

The restaurant will cater to students, General Manager Tony Vesili said, offering a 10 percent student discount on pastas, seafood, pizza, subs and salads, with a student ID.

Vesili said he decided to bring his restaurant to Kirksville after he discovered through a Google search that Napoli's Italian Restaurant had closed, leaving the building vacant.

After researching Kirksville demographics he said he decided Kirksville would be an ideal place to expand the restaurants his family already owns in Texas and Iowa. He said the restaurant plans to serve traditional family recipes brought by his family from Italy. He said he feels very confident about Milano's



Milano's, located on South Franklin Street where Napoli's used to be, is still undergoing renovations as of Monday. The opening date for the restaurant is still undetermined.

opening, because it will be the only Italian restaurant in Kirksville.

Vesili said his food is made from

scratch, and he aims for the prices to remain affordable with lunch dishes ranging from \$6.95 to \$10.95 and dinner

dishes ranging from \$6.95 to \$15.95.

Vesili said Milano's is designed with students in mind, however, it will not be a late-night food destination, typical to college towns. He said Milano's will be a family business and he wants to uphold those values in the ambience of the restaurant.

Milano's will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and won't serve alcohol.

Vesili said he plans to work on and reopen the dining patio located at the rear of the building. The building can seat more than 100 guests.

Vesili said he is looking to hire an undetermined number of servers, and said he hopes that Truman students will be among the staff. He said applications can be picked up at the restaurant from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sophomore Gentry Fowler said the opening of Milano's is bittersweet for her and her family. Fowler said while Napoli's was open she and her family visited the restaurant once or twice a month. She said she has fond memories of Napoli's and described it as a good place to celebrate.

"I am hopeful," Fowler said about Milano's opening. "If they can keep with Napoli's prices, they should be fine."

Grooving on The Quad



Rose Sparks/Index

Sophomore Ginger Crotteau and other members of the University Society of Middle Eastern Dance belly dance on The Quad Tuesday afternoon. The group was publicizing their organization, which meets 7-8 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and 7-8:30 p.m. Sundays in the Pershing Dance Studio.

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*according to the Missouri Department of Revenue's website

Law changes for veteran licenses

Missouri Senate Bill 470 allows veteran designation on licenses

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS
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Missouri veterans can now receive recognition on their driver's license for service in the military, thanks to Senate Bill 470.

The bill, effective Aug. 28, will allow veterans to obtain a veteran designation on their Missouri drivers' license or state I.D. card. Designations will be on the back of cards and will picture a ribbon with the word "Veteran" inside.

Daniel Bell, Missouri Veterans Commission public information officer said veterans want the designation so it will be easier for them to be recognized without official paperwork, like a DD-214 discharge paper. He said this is helpful during Veterans Day when many restaurants offer discounts for veterans.

He said this also is a way to recognize veterans' service officially and for the state to show appreciation for them.

"Veterans in the state of Missouri have been wanting [a designation] for several years," said Bell.

Michael Elmore, Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations vice chairman and Kirksville veteran, said as many as four vet-

eran organizations throughout the state participated in the efforts to pass the bill, including the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign War, the American Legion and MAVO, which is a compilation of many veteran organizations across the state.

The organizations banded to get legislator and state license bureau support to pass the bill, Elmore said. The groups also worked with lawmakers to decide who will be able to have this designation and what documents will be necessary to obtain it.

He said another benefit of the designation is that it will create a way for veteran associations to get statistics about where veteran populations are in the state. This will allow individual organizations to better assess and serve the veterans throughout their area.

Senior and veteran Eric Balsman said he didn't know this bill was going through the Senate, but he is happy it passed. He said the designation will be a convenient change.

"This is a benefit for the veterans," Elmore said. "Veterans have to put this together for veterans, for the honor and distinction they deserve."

Veterans wanting the designation must present a copy of their DD-214 to any Missouri license office, Elmore said. For more information about how to get a designation, visit <http://dor.mo.gov/faq/drivers/veterans.php>.

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