



ONLY IN NEW JERSEY

HAUTE
DOGS

Dominick Jeanette, top left, drove from Newark to enjoy lunch at Amazing Hot Dog. (This picture was taken in January shortly after the eatery opened.) Among the offerings of this eclectic hot dog joint are the Reuben Classic, topped with Swiss cheese, sauerkraut, Russian dressing, caraway seeds and hot dog shavings, top; and the signature Amazing Dog, left, wrapped in bacon and dressed with toppings of your choice. Photos by ELIZABETH LARA / Herald News

After a bad fire, eatery is reopening with its unusual menu intact

By CAROLINA BOLADO
Herald News

When Amazing Hot Dog opened the first time, the menu featured 12 specialty hot dogs loaded with unorthodox toppings such as cream cheese, Teriyaki sauce and crushed pineapple.

Fifteen weeks later, after a fire that destroyed the new restaurant, owners Eric Eisenbud and Matt Applebaum have added one more combination to the list: The Phoenix.

"It's going to be a hot dog with any and all of the spicy ingredients we have – sambal, hot relish, jalapeños," Eisenbud said. "We don't expect to sell a lot of them, but

we just figured it'd signify rising out of the ashes."

Eisenbud and Applebaum are hoping to pick up where they left off on Feb. 25, when the battery backup for their computer system sparked the fire. They'd been open for slightly more than a month, but already they'd begun to see a steady trickle of customers. After weeks of cleaning the restaurant and working with insurance adjusters and contractors, they're slated to re-open on May 1.

"We have a plan and this is a little bump in the road," Eisenbud said. "The grand reopening is going to be even more grand than the first one."

The restaurant, which occupies a space

on Bloomfield Avenue in Verona that formerly housed a sushi bar, features Best's all-beef quarter-pound hot dogs, flash-fried – fried quickly, so the skins don't break – and served on a bun. Diners can choose from the Classic, a standard all-beef hot dog, or an Amazing, which is the same hot dog wrapped in bacon. Both are fried and can be topped with a variety of ingredients.

It's the toppings where Eisenbud and Applebaum have parted ways from most North Jersey hot dog joints. Their menu features specials like the Jersey Breakfast, an Amazing on a bed of fried egg and melted American cheese, and My Schmiero, an

Please see **AMAZING HOT DOG, D2**

THE BASICS

What: Amazing Hot Dog

Where: 148A Bloomfield Ave., Verona

Hours: Open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Sundays.

Phone: (973) 433-3073

Web site: www.amazinghotdog.com

Note: Eric Eisenbud and Matt Applebaum are hoping to re-open on Monday, May 1, but it's a good idea to call ahead and make sure that there has been no delay.

FOOD SIGNS

You act out
what you eatBy LISA RYCKMAN
Scripps Howard News Service

There are many things that might be said about people who love cheese curls, chief among them that they have orange fingers and smell like spit-up.

But that's just one woman's opinion.

Dr. Alan Hirsch has a completely different take on the matter. When a trial attorney asked to use Hirsch's research about food preferences and personality to help pick a jury, Hirsch had a warning:

"I told him not to pick people who like cheese curls," he says. "They're very moral, have very high standards and see things in black-and-white. You don't want this person on a jury, especially if your guy might be guilty. The one word that describes them is 'integrity.'"

Hirsch, a psychiatrist and neurologist, has written

Please see **FOOD SIGNS, D2**



Scripps Howard News Service

Looking for your soulmate? Find out if the person you just met is compatible, with a trip to the ice-cream store.

Want to know whether you and the person you just met are compatible? Pick your faves and then check the key for your perfect match.

■ You and your date are at the ice-cream parlor. Which of these flavors would you pick?

Vanilla
Double chocolate chunk
Strawberries and cream
Banana cream pie
Chocolate chip
Butter pecan
Strawberry
Coffee
Mint chocolate chip
Rocky road

Here's what your ice-cream flavor preferences from the quiz mean and whom you're most likely to hit it off with:

1. Vanilla

You're colorful, dependent and needy, an idealist and a risk-taker. You're a private person who enjoys close relationships with others.

Best match: rocky road or another vanilla.

2. Double chocolate chunk

You're self-absorbed, enjoy being the center of attention and tend to be somewhat dramatic. You're

also lively, charming and flirtatious. You like novelty and are bored by routine. You're a clotheshorse and into looking good.

Best match: butter pecan or chocolate chip

3. Strawberries and cream

You're an introvert who handles stress poorly and can become overwhelmed, irritable and cranky.

Best match: chocolate chip

4. Banana cream pie

You're well-adjusted, easygoing and empathetic. You make the perfect spouse and parent.

Best match: vanilla, double chocolate chunk, strawberries and cream, chocolate chip, butter pecan or another banana cream pie

5. Chocolate chip

You're ambitious, competitive, a go-getter and a visionary. You're charming and enjoy being catered to.

Best match: butter pecan or double chocolate chunk

6. Butter pecan

Please see **TEST, D2**