

# Seneca welcomes speakeasy

## Capone's Brickhouse Grill

### set for grand opening this weekend

BY CAYCE FINLEY  
SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

SENECA — In the days of Prohibition, bars called “speakeasies” served thirsty patrons outlawed beverages.

Intrigued by these secret saloons, Fedoras and flappers, Amanda Moore, owner of Capone's Brickhouse Grill, knew the motif would be the perfect backdrop for Seneca's newest Ram Cat Alley restaurant. One thing will be different, however — Moore is hoping her new restaurant will be anything but secret.

Capone's, which opened in early December, will be holding its grand opening this weekend.

“With the Bassmaster Classic Tournament, city of Seneca's Half-Marathon and 5K, and St. Patrick's Day all this weekend, we figured we'd just go all out and make it a big celebration,” Moore said. “It'll be a two-day event Friday and Saturday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4 p.m. on Saturday. We'll be offering special prices on food and drinks as well as door prizes and giveaways.”

Joining other specialty shops and restaurants in Seneca's historic downtown area, Capone's offers what Moore calls a “fine

dining steakhouse.”

“Oconee needed a place like this. Capone's brings to the area something it's needed for a long time. There's not another steakhouse like ours in the county,” Moore said.

While proudly serving 100-percent certified angus beef, Capone's is far from just a steak place. Kitchen manager David Garrison says the menu has a little something for everyone.

“We do a lot of our own personal recipes and in-house sauces. We take care of our customers by having a variety of different-priced options,” Garrison said. “Our dinner entrees range from about \$9 to about \$32.”

Capone's serves a Southern-style meat-and-three on Sundays, offering comfort food favorites.

“On Sundays we offer a meat-and-three while also serving breakfast all day. Amanda's famous meatloaf has really become famous,” Garrison said with a smile. “We have to have meatloaf every Sunday because everybody wants it.”

Every Thursday evening, Capone's cooks up a low-country boil with fresh shrimp from either Beaufort or the Gulf of Mexico.



IF YOU GO ...

**What:** Capone's Brickhouse Grill  
**Where:** 113 Ram Cat Alley, Seneca  
**When:** Monday to Saturday from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.  
**For reservations:** (864) 882-3882

Capone's recently expanded its hours and now serves breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week. They are open Monday to Saturday from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

In addition to angus steaks and made-from-scratch sauces, Capone's atmosphere is reminiscent of a by-gone era. With an impressive center staircase, a speakeasy-style bar down-

stairs and a craft beer bar upstairs, the restaurant offers customers a dining experience that goes hand-in-hand with the restaurant's theme — the infamous Al Capone.

The restaurant's name was chosen by Moore's daughter, Trinity, but the mafia-style uniforms were Moore's idea. Servers tip their hat to the restaurant's namesake wearing all black with white bowties and suspenders.

“I want customers who come in for the first time to say, ‘Wow,’” Moore said. “There's nowhere else you can go where you will see bow-ties and suspenders.”

Customers are responding positively to the newest downtown addition, Moore said. And she's committed to keeping it that way.

“I try to go to each table and make sure everything is good — the food, the service. I always try to make sure everybody is happy when they leave.”

Just three months in, Moore is already recognizing some of her “regulars.”

Michelle Whitman, longtime Seneca resident, visited Capone's twice in one week.

“The food is excellent. The



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**Capone's Brickhouse Grill owner Amanda Moore says her restaurant is putting Seneca on the map. People have driven all the way from Atlanta to enjoy the food as well as the atmosphere. A 1938 Plymouth, owned by a friend of Moore's, periodically extends the restaurant's footprint into Ram Cat Alley. The car captures the vibe of her new restaurant, Moore said.**

wait staff is excellent. It actually reminds me of something you would see in Charleston," Whitman said. "It's a nice change from the mostly fast-food restaurants around town. I'm super impressed — really super impressed."

This spring, Capone's will add an open-air courtyard, providing customers with an outside dining option. "You'll be able to come in for breakfast or you can come in and have a starlit dinner," Moore said.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, Capone's offers free valet parking and a complimentary golf cart shuttle from the city's downtown public parking lot to Capone's and anywhere else on Ram Cat Alley. A private upstairs meeting

area is also available — free of charge — for Capone's patrons.

"We want to be not only your anniversary place, but your business meeting place or a place you can simply meet a friend," Moore said. "We want to be here for every occasion."

Capone's Brickhouse Grill serves up a taste of the roaring '20s, a plateful of fine Southern cuisine, and the chance to freely raise a toast, no matter the occasion.

