



Staff photo by Andi Stempniak

Robert Hollingshead, managing partner at Outback Steakhouse in Eau Claire, said it's the restaurant's food and service that earned it the Leader-Telegram's Readers' Choice Award for new restaurant.

Steakhouse's service is well-done

By Leader-Telegram staff

David Hutchings gave the type of testimony that every restaurant wants to hear: "It has the best steaks and the service is great."

Hutchings, 24, and his girlfriend, Cassandra Fleming, 23, both of Eau Claire, had just completed a meal at Out-

back Steakhouse, 5020 Keystone Crossing, which earned this year's Leader-Telegram Reader's Choice Award for favorite new restaurant.

"I like the Australian theme," Fleming said. "I think Dave likes the food and cute waitresses though."

Outback managing part-

ner Robert Hollingshead said the restaurant, which opened Oct. 9, has been successful largely because of its food and presentation.

"We've been very well received so far. I think Eau Claire has been looking for a great steakhouse and a menu like Outback fits the commu-

nity well," he said. "It's unique because we tie it in with a lot of the Australian theme."

Hollingshead said patrons appreciate that the food is made fresh every day.

"We cut the bread ourselves for croutons and season them," he said. "The food is fresh and the serv-

ers really connect with our guests, taking them on a 'walkabout' of the menu to help them find out what they'd prefer for their meal."

Customer favorites are the ribeye and filets. "It's all good though," he said.

"I like a good steak every now and then and this is the

best place to get one," said Ben Thompson, 37, of Menomonie. "I just enjoy it every time I'm here."

The restaurant employs 110 people and has a seating capacity of 192. Its hours of operation begin at 4 p.m. on weekdays and noon on Saturday and Sunday.