

FORK IN THE ROAD

# Espresso Cafe offers more than a warm cup of joe

By SHAMONA MCCLARY  
Staff Writer

DUNCAN — Espresso Cafe opened in October of 1995 in the Poplar Springs Plaza near Publix. The restaurant was bought and sold several times until Candy Oerth, who had been employed since 1996 as a cook/baker, finally decided to buy the business last June.

"The time was never right for me to buy until now," Oerth said. "From the day I walked in, this was my niche."

Oerth gives a lot of credit to her staff for her business' success.

"I have an incredible team here," she said. Oerth said if there were one word to describe Espresso, it would be "homey."

"I want people to feel comfortable here," she said.

Oerth said customer favorites include Espresso's signature Panini sandwiches and chicken salad.

**Decor:** With the smoking section being outside, customers are greeted with the aroma of coffee beans and homemade pastries when they enter the cafe.

Every wall has a reminder of some of the hot drinks available at Espresso. In formation behind a green countertop with a sign that says "We'll trade coffee for gossip" is a row of more than 40 bottles of flavored syrups and several containers of coffee beans.

**What's on the plate for breakfast?** Start the day off with some of Espresso's homemade muffins (\$1.50) or creamy

**FOOD AND DRINK**

The Espresso Cafe is located at 2153 E. Main St. Suite C-13, Duncan

**PHONE:** (864) 433-9030

**HOURS:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

**PAYMENT:** Cash, check and all major credit cards

**OWNER:** Candy Oerth

cinnamon rolls (\$1.89). Espresso also has bagels with butter or cream cheese (\$1.25-\$1.50).

And for those who like all of their breakfast items in one, Espresso makes breakfast sandwiches full of bacon, ham, eggs and cheese (\$3.75). The cafe also offers daily side items: bacon (three slices for \$1.50); scrambled egg (\$1),

with cheese (\$1.25); toast with butter (\$1.25); or fresh fruit (oranges, grapes, pineapple, banana for \$1.50).

**What's on the plate for lunch?**

Espresso serves up to 13 different sandwiches, of which five are its Panini sandwiches.

These are served on grilled focaccia, which is an Italian flat bread brushed with olive oil with a hint of pesto (whole \$5.25 or half \$3.25).

**An espresso and a meal at Espresso Cafe.**

Espresso has several meat selections: honey maple turkey and ham, top round corned beef, prosciutto, tuna salad and chicken breast. All sandwiches are served with chips and a pickle. Veggie



PHOTOS BY GERRY PATE/STAFF

Espresso Cafe owner Candy Oerth, front, shows off some muffins and other goodies with her crew, from left, Susan Craven, Lindsay Connolly, Tina Waddell and Vicky Sudduth.



Greg Swafford tells Candy Oerth how much he's enjoying his espresso at The Espresso Cafe.

sandwiches are also available.

**Beverages:** For a hot buzz, Espresso offers the store-named drink along with lattes, cappuccinos and mocha, which all range from \$1.25 to \$2.75.

Espresso serves its signature iced or frozen espresso drinks ranging from \$2.50 to \$3 for a single and \$3 to \$3.45 for a double. Other drinks such as tea, soda, lemonade, juice, milk and milkshakes are also offered.

**Desserts:** All of Espresso's desserts are homemade and vary from day to day.

**Children's menu:** Grilled cheese or peanut butter and jelly with chips, pickle

and a small drink (\$3.25).

**Something extra:** Catering is available for small events with 24-hour notice.

There are free samples of new flavored drinks daily, and Espresso sells West End coffee beans by the pound, bottles of its specialty syrup, birdhouses, a 96-ounce Coffee-to-Go and many more items.

*Do you know of a Fork In The Road you would like to see in Escape? Contact Entertainment Editor Jose Franco at 562-7229 or e-mail jose.franco@shj.com.*