

Dish Omaha – September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Jeff:** And here she is, Diane Watson, KVNO's resident foodie for Dish Omaha. Good morning, Diane.

**Diane:** Good morning. Hey Jeff, what's the last food you ate out? Was it at a food truck or a restaurant?

**Jeff:** A food truck or restaurant. Oh my goodness, a restaurant.

**Diane:** Okay.

**Jeff:** Yeah, I think so.

**Diane:** So, most people go to restaurants, but I have a couple of events, whether you like food trucks or restaurants, two amazing ones coming up. You know how I love food events.

**Jeff:** Yeah, of course. Yeah.

**Diane:** So, the first one is the food truck face-off, and that is this weekend, September 13th, at Stinson Park from 4 to 9. This is a first-ever event in Omaha. It's an event from Easy Trucks, which is a truck booking service. They're taking this to 11 cities. Most are in the Midwest and all around here, like Lincoln, Bellevue, Kansas City, and then a few in Florida. So, we're pretty lucky. It's a ticketed event, but that primary ticket will include all the food from the five food truck finalists. So, there have been some food truck battles going on throughout the month of June and July. It will allow you to taste all five food truck finalists, give you access to the local maker's market. Site one is gonna have a bar there. There's gonna be live music by "The Toast", and then a live podcast happening from Restaurant Hoppin and all kinds of games.

**Jeff:** And so this isn't just necessarily local food trucks?

**Diane:** It is local food trucks. Right, good question. So, the five finalists here are Smash Bites, Alley Taco 402, Pulled Barbecue Omaha, Short Cakes, and High Voltage Barbecue.

**Jeff:** Okay, so how do they choose the winner?

**Diane:** Oh, that's a great question. There will be two winners. A judge's winner overall, chosen by local food people, and then the festival goers will choose a winner. So, the judge's winner will win \$500, and the audience participant chosen will get \$2,000.

**Jeff:** Nice.

**Diane:** Now I'm sure you are excited for Omaha Restaurant Week.

**Jeff:** Of course, yes.

**Diane:** We are. KVNO is the media sponsor. That starts in a couple days, runs September 12th through the 21st, and they call it Omaha's 10 Tastiest Days. So, you know, we're known for a lot of things, our beef for sure, but we have really grown into a top destination for

culinary curious. During these 10 Tasty Days, there will be over 50 restaurants offering three-course dinners, priced \$20, \$30, \$40, or \$50. And I think it really gives you an opportunity to do one of two things. Try a new restaurant you've never tried before, or go to a familiar hunt and try...

**Jeff:** ... Something different.

**Diane:** ... you don't typically order.

**Jeff:** Because you tend to do that.

**Diane:** I know!

**Jeff:** You tend to go, that's something I like, but then you venture out and you're like, oh wait a minute, where has this other thing been my whole life?

**Diane:** It's the constant battle in your mind when you go out, isn't it?

**Jeff:** I know.

**Diane:** Now the nice thing you can also know is you are doing something for a cause. This is Hunger Action Month, and a portion of the Restaurant Week proceeds will benefit our own Food Bank for the Heartland, which is amazing. So, there's a couple new things in 2025. You can earn points with the Omaha Restaurant Week Pass. So, the more you dine out, the more you will earn, and then you get prizes. Dining gift cards, an exclusive t-shirt, all kinds of new things. Now I looked at the list and I'm gonna go with new restaurants this year, and I wanted to give you, because I know you're always hungry this time of day, a little preview.

**Jeff:** I'm always hungry every time of day.

**Diane:** That's great. I'm gonna give you a little preview of what I'm going to try at three restaurants that I've never been to. Legacy Chop House, which is kind of new out west, for their meal they're offering a glass of wine, soup or salad bar, and I'm going to have the center-cut applewood smoked pork chops with truffle potatoes and key lime pie for dessert.

**Jeff:** Woah.

**Diane:** All typically things I don't order a lot. I'm also going to try Vita at the Doubletree Restaurant off 72nd Street. We did an episode a couple months ago on hotel restaurants and I think it's easy to miss them.

**Jeff:** Yep.

**Diane:** This offering that I'm excited about is a cheeseburger Rangoon, blackened chicken with pineapple salsa, rice pilaf, and cilantro roasted cauliflower topped with salted caramel creme brulee.

**Jeff:** Yum. Nice.

**Diane:** And then I don't know if you've been to Wave Bistro, it's been on my list for a while, I haven't been.

**Jeff:** It's been a minute. Yeah.

**Diane:** Yeah. North 144th. What I'm looking forward to there is tempura shrimp, cashew crusted salmon, and steamed asparagus with a teriyaki reduction and chocolate cream cake. You can eat well and do good.

**Jeff:** Love it.

**Diane:** And don't forget to take your leftovers home in a leftover box and check out Leftover Chef and I'll show you how to repurpose them.

**Jeff:** Sounds good, Diane. Diane Watson, KVNO's resident foodie for Dish Omaha. Thanks so much.

**Diane:** See you at the restaurant.