

Winning craft beer destination @

# Lockport Brewery

Bolivar spot sports good variety of beers, plus munchies

**BOLIVAR** I used to be envious of my sister Kate. She lives outside Boulder, Colo., which is a craft beer paradise. Within an hour's drive of her house are the famed Left Hand, Oskar Blues, Odell, New Belgium and Avery breweries. Boulder County alone has 34 craft breweries.



Dan Kane  
@cantontalks

Happily, the brewery scene here at home is on the rise, with quality breweries in the area to keep me satisfied and more on the way. My latest discovery is Lockport Brewery in Bolivar, which has found an avid following since opening on Black Friday last November. At 5 p.m. on a recent Wednesday, the place was lively with customers and more were coming in all the time. Behind the bar was a familiar face, Andy Bors, a friendly guy I used to see often at Buzzbin, who's also known as

## LOCKPORT BREWERY

■ 10891 Route 212, Bolivar.  
■ 330-874-6037  
■ www.lockportbeer.com  
■ Hours: 4 to 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; noon to midnight Friday and Saturday; noon to 8 p.m. Sunday.  
■ Ratings (1-poor, 2-fair, 3-good, 4-very good, 5-outstanding):  
Food and beer: 4  
Service: 4  
Value: 4

electronic musician Duckii.

Lockport is a well-thought-out place with a clear following of customers. I appreciated the well-curated, complex-flavor variety of the brewery's seven beers. Prior to opening Lockport, owner-brewmaster Andrew Marburger spent two and a half years making beer at the Millersburg Brewing Company.

Gateway XPA is a light, bright pilsner that was created as a gateway into craft beers for Bud Light drinkers. Ruckus IPA (7.5% alcohol) has a full flavor, hoppy for sure, but not



■ The Cubano panini, with smoked pork, ham, Swiss cheese, mustard and pickle.

REPOSITORY DAN KANE



SEE GRUB PAGE 7 ■ A basket of chips topped with blue cheese, scallions, red onions and balsamic drizzle.

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# GRUB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

obnoxiously so. Hefweizen, a Bavarian wheat, is quenching and “deliciously hazy” (according to the Lockport menu) with citrus, clove and banana notes. Fort Laurens Amber, which uses Mt. Hood hops, is a very drinkable ale.

Since I’m a dark-beer aficionado, I enjoyed both the Lockporter, which has a prominent coffee flavor, and the heavy-duty Big Debbie Stout (8.5%), billed as “stout milk chocolate momma.” Bors said some people like to mix Lockport’s StrawbBEERY Ale and Big Debbie together for a chocolate-covered strawberry effect.

Beers are \$4.25 to \$6.25 for a pint draft, of \$8 for a flight of four 5-ounce samples.

There’s also a menu of hefty panini sandwiches.

My friend and I split a Cuban sandwich (\$8), served on thick-sliced toasted bread, with smoked pork (from Sublime Smoke BBQ in downtown



■ Bartenders Kate Stephan and Andy Bors at Lockport Brewery in Bolivar.

Bolivar), ham, swiss cheese, yellow mustard and dill pickle. We intended to each get a sandwich but this one was a whopper. Other paninis, all \$8, include grilled cheese (with smoked gouda, provolone, bacon, balsamic and caramelized onion jam); caprese (mozzarella, tomato, fresh basil, pesto and balsamic glaze) and Pizza-nini (pepperoni, bacon, provolone, red onion and banana peppers with marinara dipping sauce), plus a BLT, Reuben, Italian and hot ham

and cheese.

A must-have is the Bleu Cheese Chips (\$5), a whopping basket of potato chips topped with loads of crumbled smoked blue cheese, scallions and red onions and drizzled balsamic glaze. This item alone could serve as a meal; I’m yearning for more. Other munchies include red pepper hummus with warm naan bread (\$6), and chocolate fudge lava cake with marshmallow and strawberry drizzle (\$5).

Visually, Lockport is bright

and open and clean, with a hip industrial feel to the decor.

(Interestingly, the building’s previous tenants included a marketing firm, hair salon and eye doctor.) There’s a long U-shaped bar and tables, with patio seating out front. There are a couple of televisions, lots of visible kegs and tanks, a mounted deer head, and a colorful wall of nostalgia-inducing record albums (Black Keys, Prince, Bob Dylan, Partridge Family, Tina Turner). Bors enthusiastically told me to

pick one out and he’d play it on the turntable behind the bar; I chose Led Zeppelin’s “Houses of the Holy.”

Marburger, a 2004 Tusky Valley High School graduate, said he was an avid home brewer before finding the brewing job in Millersburg. Halfway through his time there, he and his wife, Lauren, started planning a brewery of their own in Bolivar.

Asked if he’s surprised that locals have taken to his craft beers so readily, he said, “I’ve learned to never judge a book by its cover. People I assume wouldn’t want anything but a light beer want a double IPA, and vice versa.”

Lockport has a cool logo, and high-quality merch — shirts, hats and beer glasses. The only drawback to the brewery is the noise level, an issue it shares with other concrete-floored area breweries.

Live music is offered semi-regularly. Scheduled are Bakers Basement, 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday; Front Country Ramblers, 3 to 5 p.m. June 17; Brothers, 7 to 9 p.m. June 24; Piece, 7 to 9 p.m. July 8.



**Stark County**  
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**June 15 - 17**  
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**Entertainment Schedule:**

**Thursday, June 15**

Tuscan Trio ..... 4:30 - 6:00

La Flavour..... 7:00 - 10:00

**Friday, June 16**

I Campagnoli ..... 4:30 - 6:00

Gli Italiani ..... 7:00 - 9:00

Moreno Fruzzetti ..... 9:00 - 10:30

Matt Schafer strolling throughout festival

**Saturday, June 17**

Mirella The Musician..... 1:00 - 3:00

Anima E Cuore ..... 4:00 - 6:00

Allegro Dance Company..... 6:15 - 7:15

Disco Inferno ..... 8:00 - 11:00

Matt Schafer strolling throughout festival

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Look on facebook for **Stark County Italian American Festival Foundation**

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