

James Beard Foundation honors Doe's Eat Place chain

■ **The Mississippi-based chain's Paducah restaurant will celebrate its one-year anniversary Friday.**

Staff report

Doe's Eat Place, a family restaurant based in Greenville, Miss., with a location in Paducah, is a winner of the national 2007 James Beard Foundation Award honoring food and beverage professionals across the country. Awards will be presented May 6-7 in New York City during a celebration honoring selected restaurateurs, chefs, book authors, media professionals, restaurant designers and graphic artists.

Doe's Eat Place owner Doe Signa Jr. and his family will accept one of the foundation's four America's Classics Awards, which honor small, regional restaurants — casual watering holes, shacks, lunch counters, or eateries — that have offered good, down-home food and unmatched hospitality for generations.

The Mississippi Delta res-



BARKLEY THIELEMAN/The Sun

Paul Signa, 26, is a third-generation restaurateur and grandson of the founder of Doe's Eat Place, Doe Signa.

taurant, established in 1941 in Dominick and Mamie Signa's grocery store, sold homemade hot tamales and eventually transformed into a casual steak place, serving both African-American and white communities in segregated Mississippi during the civil rights era.

The Paducah eatery, operated by Paul Signa, 26, a third-generation restaurateur and grandson of founder Doe Signa, will celebrate its one-year anniversary

Friday at 136 Broadway.

Signa said the decision to locate in Paducah resulted from the Mississippi restaurant's popularity with the river industry. "A lot of our customers work on barges out in Paducah, so we saw the potential for development here."

The restaurant is open Monday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 to 10 p.m., "or later if people keep coming in," Signa said.