

Brunch spotlight: The Machine Shed



Above: Sean Amber runs the omelette station at the Machine Shed. **Left:** A fruit pastry. Eric Rowley/Juice photos

Find it: 11151 Hickman Road, Urbandale

Info: 270-6818 or machineshed.com.

When's brunch? 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. I went at 11 a.m. on a Sunday and had to wait about 20 minutes. More and more customers poured in as part of the after-church rush. There are so many people in fancy clothes around that time that it starts to feel like you're waiting to get into a nightclub, not a plate of eggs. Also, way more grandmas.

The options: If it's ever been served on a farm, you will probably find it on the Machine Shed menu. Most of the dishes have interesting names like "The Hired Man's Breakfast" (two eggs, bacon, ham, country or southern-style sausage), "The Plowman's Favorite" (corned beef hash and eggs), "The Pork Producers Breakfast" (eggs, bacon, ham and sausage) or the massive "Hungry Man's Breakfast" (three eggs, fries, sausage, bacon, ham and pancakes). Most dishes also include hash browns and your choice of toast, an English muffin, a biscuit and gravy or a pancake.

What I ordered: Breakfast buffet, \$10.99

I always have a hard time choosing at breakfast, so if a buffet is available I will go for it. I love being able to get both the shredded hash browns and the big chunks of potatoes. Why limit myself? Seconds on bacon are a given. They keep a steady supply coming so the strips stay crispy, not the soggy bacon noodles that sit in some buffets. I went through a few biscuits, which were huge and fluffy, and a few churros. I was surprised to see those on the dessert tray, but the Mexican dessert goes really well with bacon.

There are three parts to the buffet, so make sure you work your way around. There is a ham-carving station, an attendant who will make an omelette with your choice of fillings and a big tub of the Machine Shed's awesome cinnamon rolls. Those go quickly, so if you see they've refilled it, don't be slow. — **Joe Lawler**