

W weekender



DID YOUR FAVORITES WIN?

MANY EVENTS THIS WEEK

SIoux CITY'S FREE READ | FEB. 23-MARCH 1, 2023 | VOL. 24 ISSUE 13 | AT WWW.SIOUXLAND.NET: EVENTS, MOVIE LISTINGS, BANDS & MORE

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Which unusual category would you like to add to the Siouxland's Choice Awards?



Chad Pauling
Publisher
cpauling

@siouxcityjournal.com
"I would like to do something in jest and for fun. Maybe look at some of the worst things in town. Like the worst pothole or parking lot. Just some fun things to 'award.' Then we work with a contractor to fill the pothole and make it better! Sort of a fun, full circle thing."



Earl Horlyk
Staff Writer
earl.horlyk@lee.net
"We have a category for Best Public Restroom. What is the Worst Public Restroom?"



Mason Dockter
Staff Writer
mdockter@siouxcityjournal.com
"Places with the best, 'cheap' clothing for cash-strapped journalists."

Have a question you'd like us to answer? Send it to events@siouxland.net and it may end up on this page.



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Your comments welcome

Have something to say? We'd like to hear it. Seriously. Call 712-293-4229 or email events@siouxland.net

Contributors

Tim Hynds and Jesse Brothers



ON THE COVER: Veronica Johnson serves up a winner at Buffalo Wild Wings where she has worked for five years in Sioux City. Johnson was chosen as Siouxland's Choice for best bartender. (Photo by Jesse Brothers)

CALENDAR

MUSIC

Brandon Santini - Hypnotizing Blues Harmonica, 8 p.m., Feb. 25; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

NMM Live! Concert - Catalina Vicens & NMM's Antunes Grand Piano, 2 p.m., Feb. 26; National Music Museum, 414 E. Clark St., Vermillion, S.D. Information: 605-658-3450.

NMM Live! Concert - Chris Vallillo, 12 p.m., March 3; National Music Museum, 414 E. Clark St., Vermillion, S.D. Information: 605-658-3450.

The Kentucky Headhunters, 8 p.m., March 3; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7600.

Head East, 8 p.m., March 4; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7600.

Nick Schnebelen - Blues Rocker, 8 p.m., March 4; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

Sioux City Symphony Orchestra John Osborn: A Legend Returns Home, 7:30 p.m., March 11; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-277-2111.

Powerman 5000, 8 p.m., March 11; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7600.

Good Morning Bedlam - Furious Folk, 8 p.m., March 11; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

REO Speedwagon, 7:30 p.m., March 17; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Ryan Kisor Trio, 8 p.m., March 17; Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St. Information: <http://www.vangardearts.com/events>.

Pet Rock, 8 p.m., March 18; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7600.

Think Floyd USA, 8 p.m., March 18; Hard Rock Casino, 111 3rd St. Information: 712-226-7600.

ART

Sioux City Art Center: Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez: Turn of the Sea, Aug. 20 to March 5; Heavy, Nov. 11 to April 23; Youth Art Month Exhibition:

Middle School Students, Feb. 25 to April 9; Facing a Changed World, March 16 to July 30; Grant Wood's Corn Room mural, ongoing; Earth-Water-Light, ongoing.

Betty Strong Encounter Center and Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center: Scraposaurs Traveling Exhibit, year-long.

OUTDOORS

Winter Tree Identification Hike, 10 a.m., Feb. 25; Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road. Information: 712-258-0838.

THEATER

Menopause The Musical, 7 p.m., March 4; Orpheum Theater, 528 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-4850.

Le Mars Community Theatre Presents On Golden Pond, 7:30 p.m., March 9, 10, 11; 2 p.m., March 12; Le Mars Community Theatre, 105 1st St. Northeast, Le Mars, Iowa. Information: 712-546-5788

COMMUNITY

February 2023 Legislative Town Hall, 10 a.m., Feb. 25; Sioux City Public Museum, 607 4th St. Information: 507-438-8001.

South Sioux City Public Library Book Sale, 1 p.m., Feb. 25; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

Simple Sewing, 5 p.m., March 8; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

Works in Progress: Open Mic for Stories, Poetry + More, 7 p.m., March 11; Design West Sioux City, 1014 Design Place. Information: info@allykarsyn.com.

Equipping the Persecuted 2nd Annual Fundraising Gala with Kevin Sorbo, 6 p.m., March 18; 1132 Larsen Park Road. Information: 319-504-1771.

INFORMATIONAL

Financial Peace University, 11:45 a.m., Jan. 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12; Morningside Lutheran

Church, 700 South Martha St. Information: 712-560-6684.

Intro to Tarot: Unlocking the Secrets, 1 p.m., Jan. 29, Feb. 12, 26; Expansion Center, 1119 4th St. Information: 605-232-8888.

SPORTING

Adult Co-ed Volleyball Tournament, 8 a.m., March 11; Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA, 601 River View Drive, South Sioux City. Information: 402-404-8439.

HISTORICAL

NMM Special Exhibition "As Good As Gold: The First 50 Years", Jan. 20 to Oct. 7; National Music Museum, 414 E. Clark St., Vermillion, S.D. Information: 605-658-3450.

CONTINUING EVENTS

Breathe Yoga & Meditation Class, 5:30 p.m., Feb. 23, 28, March 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21; 9 a.m., Jan. Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18; Breathe Yoga & Meditation Center, 1551 Indian Hills Dr. Building C. Information: 712-293-4900.

Dungeons and Donna: An Introduction to Dungeons & Dragons, 4 p.m., Feb. 23; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

Holy Cross Parish Famous Fish Dinner, 4:30 p.m., Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17; Holy Cross Parish St. Michael Catholic Church, 2223 Indian Hills Drive. Information: 712-277-2949.

Saturday Art Lesson, 10:30 a.m., Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18; Gilchrist Learning Center, 220 Pierce St. Information: 712-279-6580.

Siouxland Discovery Barbershop Chorus Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20; Friendship Community Church, 305 Sergeant Square Drive, Sergeant Bluff. Information: 712-212-3633.

Tech Talks with Reenie, 6 p.m., March 1, 8, 15, 22; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City. Information: 402-494-7545.

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No recounts, no worries!

The 2023 Siouxland's
Choice Awards are here!

BY EARL HORLYK

Wait, we don't have to check in with FiveThirtyEight's Nate Silver or hear back from any of the political pundits at the Weekender's election desk?

Nope, there is no need for any post-election recounts with the 2023 Siouxland's Choice Awards.

Sorry, Cyber-Ninjas, your work here is done. Our readers have opinions and they're not shy about sharing them.

Each year, the Weekender asks its readers to vote in a dizzying number of categories.

This year, we received more than 16,000 nominees and more than 170,000 votes.

In case you're keeping track at home, that represents the largest number of votes we've ever received in the history of the Siouxland's Choice Awards.

More significantly, our little contest is designed to answer all of life's most important questions.

For instance, we must know which building has the fanciest public restrooms and which business had the best CBD supply, right?

Well, your nosy friends at the Weekender are ready to spill the beans.

Where can you get Siouxland's best tacos, trampoline or tummy tuck? Check out the following pages and see if you agree with your fellow readers.

Alright, you've been *very* generous with your advice. Now, take some from the Weekender.

Sit back, prop up your feet and get cozy. Here is the 2023 edition of the Siouxland's Choice Awards.

Enjoy, y'all.



JESSE BROTHERS PHOTOS, THE WEEKENDER

Fajitas Volcan are a meat lovers delight with steak, chicken and shrimp at Monterey Mexican Restaurant. The restaurant was recently selected Siouxland's Choice for Mexican restaurant.

Fantastic fajitas, friendly atmosphere

After years of being a runner-up, Monterrey nabs top Mexican restaurant honors

BY EARL HORLYK

On the wall of Monterey Mexican Restaurant's 3130 Singing Hills location is a plaque promoting its status as a 2021 Siouxland's Choice runner-up as well as a plaque promoting its status as a 2022 Siouxland's Choice finalist.

It will soon be joined by another plaque.

You see, this year, the popular Mexican eatery has earned the top prize, beating out competitors like Navarrete's – a Sioux City mainstay for more than 40 years – and Blue Tequila – a restaurant best known for its oversized margaritas.

Monterrey's victory was especially sweet for owner Salvador Leon, who owned Mexican restaurants in Altoona, Clive and West Des Moines as well as the Singing Hills location and a newer 1754 Hamilton Blvd. locale.



Victor Mejia serves a plate of Volcaina Fajitas at Monterey Mexican restaurant on Singing Hills Boulevard.

PLEASE SEE MONTERREY, PAGE 5

Monterrey

FROM 4

“We want to thank (our customers) for their support,” he said. “We have seen so many businesses close their doors. For us, it is a great achievement to continue to be visited by diners.”

So, what are Monterrey customers clamoring for? Authentic, made-to-order specialties like burritos, enchiladas and quesadillas.

Don't forget out-of-this-world fajitas like the Fajita Volcan, which is a veritable carnivore's delight.

Consisting of steak, chicken, shrimp and mushrooms, all grilled and topped with shredded cheese and a cheese dip. Combine it with rice, beans, lettuce, guacamole, sour cream and tortilla on the side, the meal could feed a family of four or one hungry hombre.

Leon thanked Monterrey's customers for sending the eatery

DETAILS

WHAT: Monterrey Mexican Restaurants

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday - Thursday; 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sundays

WHERE: 3130 Singing Hills Blvd. and 1754 Hamilton Blvd.

ONLINE: monterrey123.com

to the top.

“We continue doing the best we know how, trying to improve in our food and drink selections,” he said.

Even more than that, it is the diners who keep Monterrey Mexican Restaurant going, year after year.

“We fight every day to meet the expectations of our customers,” Leon said.

This time out, Monterrey has secured a much deserved victory.

“We are grateful to the entire community,” Leon said.



The service staff are shown at Monterrey Mexican restaurant.

Always a call
or click away



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TIM HYNDS PHOTOS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Left: Kenny Crampton, owner of Big Papa's Grub on the Run food truck, holds his menu board while parked outside The Filling Station. Right: Crampton holds a Cleveland Pork Chop with French fries and order of grub balls.

Meet the 'Food Truck Whisperer'

Big Papa's Grub on the Go is on a roll with the Siouxland's Choice award

BY EARL HORLYK

They call Kenny Crampton the "food truck whisperer."

It's because the proprietor of Big Papa's Grub on the Run has been dominating the Siouxland's Choice in the Food Truck category every year since 2021.

This year is no different. Big Papa's menu of sandwiches, tacos and grub balls (chicken tenders dusted in flour and doused in a flavorful sauce) beat out such popular mobile restaurants as Daga's on Wheels and Smash Burgers for the top spot.

Which is why Crampton often fields calls from newcomers wanting to cash in on the food truck craze.

"I don't dissuade people from their dreams, but running a food truck is more of a lifestyle than it is a profession," he said. "It takes commitment."

That's true in the summertime when temps may climb into the triple digits inside Big Papa's kitchen on wheels. It is even the case when Crampton pulls into The Filling Station bar on a drizzly day in February.

"The Filling Station has both a pool league and a dart league going

on," he said, standing under a tarp. "This place will be hopping before too long."

A native of Toledo, Ohio, Crampton began working in restaurants as a teenager. He eventually became the assistant to the personal chef for NBA legend LeBron James.

Since moving to Sioux City more than a decade ago, he began putting his imaginative spin on All-American comfort food at various sit-down eateries.

Yet he always wanted to be his own boss.

"I opened Big Papa's Grub on the Run right after (Iowa Gov.) Kim Reynolds gave the OK for takeout businesses to resume service after COVID closed everything down," Crampton said. "It was definitely the right time to have a food truck."

Even so, he had the culinary chops to make the new business hum.

While you can get a damn fine cheeseburger at Big Papa's, don't pass up the opportunity to order a Legion Legend (a stuffed burger with jalapeno, bacon or cheese); a Bomber (which is burger that comes with bacon, cheese, a fried egg as well as PB&J); or the "high on the hog" Boar Burger

(hamburger patty, grilled ham and onions, Swiss cheese and a fried egg on Texas toast).

Bored with burgers? Then consider the Cleveland Pork Chop Sandwich, which Crampton modeled after the many down-home eateries in the Ohio city.

"We are always adding new things on the menu to keep things fresh for our regulars," he said.

Indeed, Big Papa's Grub on the Run does have plenty of regulars who will stop by the Filling Station (1808 Lewis Blvd.) or Le Mars, Iowa's Wasmer American Legion Hall (110 Plymouth St. W.) when they spot Crampton's truck.

"We're not venturing into new territory because we want to stay loyal to the people who've been loyal to us," he said. "We're also loyal to the nonprofit organization that we help out with fundraisers."

Loyalty means a lot to Crampton. It is something he stresses when fielding calls from wannabe food truckers.

"You'll never work harder than you do on a food truck," he reasoned. "But there is that satisfaction that comes when you get to serve great food to great customers."



Kenny Crampton, owner of Big Papa's Grub on the Run food truck, holds a Cleveland Pork Chop with French fries.

2022 SIOUXLAND'S CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

FOOD

Here's some food for thought ... literally. Get ready to gorge yourself with 2023's Siouxland's Choice Award winners when it comes to food.

ALL-AMERICAN

First place: Johnnie Mars Family Restaurant

Favorite: Bob Roe's Point After

Favorite: SoHo Kitchen + Bar

APPETIZERS

First place: Bob Roe's Point After

Favorite: CRAVE American Kitchen & Sushi Bar

Favorite: P's Pizza House

ASIAN

First place: Da Kao Restaurant

Favorite: Golden Bowl

Favorite: Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi Bar

BAKERY

First place: The Sugar Shack Bakery

Favorite: Jitters

Favorite: Sunkist Bakery

BAR FOOD

First place: Bob Roe's Point After

Favorite: Pub 52

Favorite: The Bronson Bar

BBQ

First place: Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que

Favorite: Iowa Barbeque Company

Favorite: Kylie Q

BRUNCH/BREAKFAST

First place: Brightside Cafe

Favorite: Harvey's

Favorite: Johnnie Mars Family Restaurant

BUFFET

First place: HuHot Mongolian Grill

Favorite: Pizza Ranch

Favorite: Sneaky's Chicken

BURGER

First place: Oto Pub & Grub

Favorite: Jim's Burgers

Favorite: Smash Burger Food Truck

CHICKEN WINGS

First place: Bob Roe's Point After

Favorite: The Bronson Bar

Favorite: Townhouse Pizza & Lounge

CONVENIENCE STORE

First place: Casey's

Favorite: Kum & Go

Favorite: Kwik Star

DESSERT

First place: Blue Bunny Ice Cream Parlor

Favorite: The Sugar Shack Bakery

Favorite: Velpa

FAST FOOD

First place: Chick-fil-A

Favorite: Greek to Me!

Favorite: Taste Inn & Out

FINE DINING

First place: Kahill's Chophouse

Favorite: Archie's Waeside

Favorite: Table 32

FOOD TRUCK/MOBILE FOOD VENDOR

First place: Big Papa's Grub on the Run

Favorite: Daga's on Wheels

Favorite: Smash Burger Food Truck

FROZEN TREAT

First place: Blue Bunny Ice Cream Parlor

Favorite: Billy Boy Drive-Thru

Favorite: Dairy Queen

GREEK

First place: Greek to Me!

Favorite: Johnnie Mars Family Restaurant

Favorite: Opa Time

HANGOVER CURE

First place: La Juanita

Favorite: Smash Burger Food Truck

Favorite: Tacos El Guero

HOT DOG

First place: Milwaukee Wiener House

Favorite: Bob's Drive Inn

Favorite: The Corn Dog Company

ITALIAN

First place: Trattoria Fresco

Favorite: Olive Garden Italian Restaurant

Favorite: Trattoria Buon Gusto

LOCAL CATERER

First place: Aggies Catering Specialists

Favorite: Karla's Catering

Favorite: Sneaky's Chicken

LOOSEMEAT/TAVERN

First place: Miles Inn

Favorite: Bob's Drive Inn

Favorite: Tastee's Inn & Out

MEXICAN

First place: Monterrey Mexican Restaurant

Favorite: Blue Tequila

Favorite: Navarrete's

OUTDOOR DINING

First place: CRAVE American Kitchen & Sushi Bar

Favorite: Marto Brewing Co.

Favorite: P's Pizza House

PLEASE SEE FOOD, PAGE 11

DRINKS

It's always 5 o'clock somewhere, right? Drink up with these 2023 Siouxland's Choice Awards honorees.

BARTENDER

First place: Veronica Johnson - Buffalo Wild Wings

Favorite: Angel Treglia Perera - Wheelhouse Bar & Grill

Favorite: Bailey Krogman - P's Pizza House

BREWERY

First place: Marto Brewing Co.

Favorite: Brioux City Brewery

Favorite: Jefferson Beer Supply

COFFEE

First place: Movillatte

Favorite: Scooter's Coffee

Favorite: Stone Bru

DOWNTOWN FOURTH ST. BAR

First place: Buffalo Alice

Favorite: Marto Brewing Co.

Favorite: The Diving Elk

HAPPY HOUR

First place: P's Pizza House

Favorite: Marto Brewing Co.

Favorite: Old Chicago Pizza + Taproom

MARTINI

First place: The Diving Elk

Favorite: Table 32

Favorite: The Warrior Hotel, Autograph Collection

MIXED DRINKS

First place: The Diving Elk

Favorite: P's Pizza House

Favorite: The Wheelhouse Bar & Grill

NONHISTORIC FOURTH ST. BAR

First place: Miles Inn

Favorite: Marty's Tavern

Favorite: Pub 52

SMOOTHIE SHOP

First place: Scooters

Favorite: Best Day Ever Nutrition 4 You

Favorite: Stone Bru

WINE/LIQUOR STORE

First place: Beer on Floyd

Favorite: Callahan's Liquor Store

Favorite: Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits

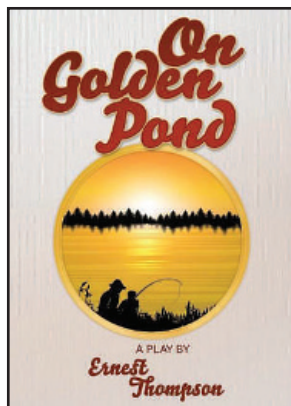
WINE LIST

First place: Oscar Carl Vineyards

Favorite: Archie's Waeside

Favorite: Kahill's Chophouse

Le Mars Community Theatre



March 9 - 15

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BEHIND THE LENS!

You've seen him
at concerts. Now
Britton Hacke is a
Sioux-lebrity
all on his own

BY EARL HORLYK

It's hard to make a plate of prime rib or an open-faced sandwich look sexy but Britton Hacke was giving it a go.

The Sioux City-based photographer was shooting menu pictures at a Dakota City eatery that will be used by The Market Delivers.

"The Market Delivers is one of my clients," Hacke said. "I may not be the best food photographer in town, though these dishes do look pretty appetizing."

DETAILS

WHAT: Britton Hack Photography
PHONE: 712-202-6970
ONLINE: brittonhacke.com

Indeed, he is now able to snap photos for advertisers, graduating seniors and nervous brides and their beaus.

Hacke is perhaps best known for being the unofficial nightlife photographer of Sioux City. Whether at concerts, events or just surveying the scene, he's been a regular Johnny-on-the-Spot.

One only needs to look at his website (brittonhacke.com) for confirmation.

"Britton Hacke is someone you have probably seen at events around town," his website reads. "It seems like anywhere you go, you'll see him behind the lens of his camera."

Perhaps due to his ubiquitous nature, Hacke was selected as Siouxland's Choice of Sioux-lebrity.



Photographer Britton Hacke shoots food at Gateway 2.0h in Dakota City, Nebraska, for client The Market Delivers, a food delivery company.

TIM HYNDS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Which make him feel weird. "I'm not a celebrity or, even, a Sioux-lebrity," Hacke said. "I'm just a guy who likes taking pictures."

He credited his love of photos to his mom, who was also a photographer.

"When I was growing up, my mom had a book that was full of photos by Annie Leibowitz," Hacke said, referencing the famous portrait photographer best known for her Rolling Stone covers. "Whenever I photograph a concert, my mind goes back to the work of

Annie Leibowitz."

Over the years, he has photographed everybody from Bret Michaels, Flo Rida and Wu-Tang Clan.

So, who's on Hacke's photographic dream list? The Rolling Stones, Nine Inch Nails and the

hip-hop duo of Run the Jewels.

Alright, one final question: what is the worst thing about being the Siouxland's Choice Sioux-lebrity?

"Getting my picture taken," Hacke, the photographer, said. "I've never liked having my picture taken."

2023 SIOUXLAND'S CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

ENTERTAINMENT

*Hello, all of you party people!
Meet 2023's Siouxland's Choice
Winners in Entertainment.*

CAMPGROUND

First place: Ponca State Park
Favorite: Sioux City North KOA Holiday
Favorite: The Lazy H Campground

CASINO

First place: Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
- Sioux City
Favorite: Beano & Sherry's Casinos
Favorite: WinnaVegas Casino Resort

ENTERTAINMENT/SPORTS VENUE

First place: Anthem/Battery Park
Favorite: Orpheum Theatre
Favorite: The Marquee

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

First place: LaunchPAD Children's
Museum
Favorite: Dorothy Pecaut Nature
Center
Favorite: Siouxland Historical Railroad

GOLF COURSE

First place: Sun Valley Golf Course
Favorite: Green Valley Golf Course

Favorite: Whispering Creek Golf Club

LIVE THEATER

First place: New Stage Players
Favorite: Orpheum Theatre
Favorite: Sioux City Community
Theatre

LOCAL COMEDIAN

First place: Garie Lewis
Favorite: Drake Strong
Favorite: Josh "Auggie" Augustine

LOCAL COUNTRY OR ACOUSTIC BAND

First place: Dane Louis
Favorite: Ben Grillet & The Black
Bloods
Favorite: Shawn Blomberg

LOCAL HIP-HOP ARTIST OR DJ

First place: C-Note Bankin
Favorite: DAD
Favorite: Gifo

LOCAL ROCK/METAL BAND

First place: Above the Covers
Favorite: Artificial Stars
Favorite: Ghostship

LOCAL SIOUX-LEBRITY

First place: Britton Hacke
Favorite: Fat Boy Food Blog
Favorite: Moose & Google

LOCAL SPORTS TEAM

First place: Sioux City Musketeers
Favorite: Morningside University
Football Team
Favorite: Sioux City Bandits

MUSEUM/ART GALLERY

First place: Art SUX Gallery
Favorite: LaunchPAD Children's
Museum
Favorite: Sioux City Railroad Museum

OUTDOOR FESTIVAL/ LIVE MUSIC EVENT

First place: Saturday in the Park
Favorite: ArtSplash
Favorite: Battery Park Concert Series

PLACES TO DANCE

First place: 5678 Dance Studio
Favorite: Arena Dance Academy
Favorite: Just for Kix

REC LEAGUE

First place: United Sports Academy
Favorite: Jim's Lounge
Favorite: The Arena Sports Academy

RESIDENTIAL HOLIDAY DISPLAY

First place: Christmas Acres
Favorite: Barnes Family, South Sioux
City
Favorite: Gene Watchorn, Ponca, Neb.

SPORTS BAR

First place: Bob Roe's Point After
Favorite: P's Pizza House
Favorite: The Wheelhouse Grill

TOURIST DESTINATION

First place: Palmer's Olde Tyme Candy
Shoppe
Favorite: Adam's Homestead and
Nature Preserve

Favorite: The Warrior Hotel, Autograph
Collection

WATER PARK

First place: Siouxnami Waterpark
Favorite: King's Pointe Resort
Favorite: Wild Water West Waterpark
and Flamingo Falls Campground

FOOD cont.

PIZZA

First place: Jerry's
Pizza
Favorite: Bob Roe's
Point After
Favorite: El Fredo
Pizza

SANDWICH

First place:
Pickerman's Soup
& Sandwich
Favorite: Jimmy
John's
Favorite: Pierce
Street Coffee Works

SEAFOOD

First place: Red
Lobster
Favorite: CRAVE
American Kitchen
& Sushi Bar

Favorite: Ichiban
Japanese
Steakhouse and
Sushi Bar

STEAK

First place: Fireside
Steakhouse
& Lounge
Favorite: Archie's
Waeside
Favorite: Texas
Roadhouse

SUSHI

First place: CRAVE
American Kitchen
& Sushi Bar
Favorite: Ichiban
Japanese
Steakhouse and
Sushi Bar
Favorite: Koi Sushi
& Steakhouse

TAKEOUT

First place: La
Juanita
Favorite: Bob Roe's
Point After
Favorite: Golden
Bowl



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Twin Bing at 100! How an iconic candy store became a tourist destination spot

BY EARL HORLYK

By the time you read this, Stephanie Conyers will be prepping for Easter, her fourth major holiday as the manager of Palmer's Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe.

"I started my job last summer, made it through Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day," she said with a smile.

Barring a St. Patrick's Day rush for emerald-colored sweets, Conyers should be fine until Peter Cottontail comes looking for a candy fix, come April 9.

Yet Palmer's Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe – and the adjacent Palmer Specialty Foods – is more than simply a holiday stopover.

Indeed, Weekender readers named the 405 Wesley Parkway store to be Siouxland's Choice for favorite Tourist Destination.

This is because the Palmer Candy Company has been a part of Sioux City ever since Edward Cook (E.C.) Palmer moved to town in 1878.

Starting with a wholesale fruit business, the industrious Palmer family began making fancy, hand-dipped boxed chocolates, penny candies, gumdrops and marshmallows from a four-story factory around the turn of the 20th century.

Always seeking innovation, Palmer Candy Co. jumped at the chance to manufacture its own candy bar and the legendary Twin Bing was born.

Consisting of two round, chewy, cherry-filled nougats coated with chopped peanuts and chocolate, the Twin Bing has been made by hand at the Palmer Candy Company since 1923.

That's right, the Twin Bing is turning the big 100 this year.

Not too many candies have remained popular for a century but Palmer Candy actually manufacturer two of 'em.

In 1956, Palmer purchased the candy division of the Johnson Biscuit Company, which included the already well-established La Fama chocolates, that had been around since 1919.

Uh-huh, the La Famas are actually the older sibling of the top-selling Twin Bings. Bet you didn't know that.



Palmer's Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe manager Stephanie Conyers said her store is popular with local people, visitors and folks coming back to visit family and friends.

TIM HYNDS, THE WEEKENDER



CAITLIN YAMADA, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

The Twin Bing (featuring a cherry nougat and roasted peanut filling) started what has become a Bing empire. Now you can find cookie jars, ice cream bars, beer and coffee that sport the logo. Visitors can shop at the Palmer's Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe located at 405 Wesley Parkway.

However, Conyers is quickly becoming a connoisseur of Bings, La Famas and all things sweet, decadent and chocolate-y.

Indeed, she and her crew try to

taste test as much of their merchandise as possible.

"We have to know what the candy tastes like for the sake of our customers," she said.

DETAILS

WHAT: Palmer's Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays

WHERE: 405 Wesley Parkway,
Sioux City

Hmm, yeah, it's all about the customers. We *totally* believe that.

On a more serious note, Conyers and assistant manager Monica Waldon do go to national trade shows to see what is trending in the world of candy and specialty foods.

"Our customers want the new and the unexpected," Conyers said. "If I see something, food-related, is trending on TikTok, we'll be getting calls right away!"

Which is amazing for an old school business like Palmer's, right?

According to Conyers, Palmer's retail store remains as relevant as ever.

"I saw it personally around the holidays," she said. "If a person came back to Sioux City for family on Christmas, a visit to the Palmer's Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe would always be in the plans!"

Sure enough, the customer would likely leave the store with a big box of Bings.

Or what about the traveler who wanted to discover the tastes of Sioux City? Well, what can represent Sioux City better than chocolate-covered pieces of nougat-y goodness.

"The Twin Bing has become synonymous with Sioux City," Conyers said. "I think that's why Palmer's Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe is considered a local tourist destination!"

DRINK MASTER

Buffalo Wild Wings bartender proves she has plenty of mixology moxie

BY EARL HORLYK

What was the first thing Veronica Johnson did after learning she was chosen Siouxland's Choice for Bartender?

"I went into the ladies room and screamed in excitement," she said. "Then I told my manager, went back into the ladies room and screamed again."

You can't fault Johnson for her enthusiasm.

A bartender at Buffalo Wild

Wings for the past five years, she's known for her outgoing personality and some mad drink-making skills.

"I love making colorful cocktails," Johnson said, creating a ruby-red Mez-garita, which replaces a Margarita's traditional Tequila with Mezcal. "This one goes really well with hot wings."

Yet the classic cocktails really demonstrate her mixology moxie.

PLEASE SEE BARTENDER, PAGE 14



DETAILS

WHAT:
Buffalo Wild Wings
WHERE:
5001 Sergeant
Road, Sioux City
PHONE:
712-266-9464

JESSE BROTHERS, THE WEEKENDER

Veronica Johnson holds a Mezgarita drink with mezcal at Buffalo Wild Wings where she has worked for five years in Sioux City. Johnson was chosen as Siouxland's Choice for best bartender.

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JESSE BROTHERS PHOTOS, THE WEEKENDER

Left and middle: Veronica Johnson pours beer for customers at Buffalo Wild Wings where she has worked for five years in Sioux City. Right: Johnson shows off some of her favorite mixology moves at Buffalo Wild Wings.

Bartender

From 13

“People know what an Old Fashioned should taste like,” Johnson explained. “You have to hit the mark each and every time.”

However, her behind-the-bar acumen is only part of the reason for the Siouxland’s Choice victory.

“The cliché about bartenders having to be part-buddy and part-psychologist (is true),” Johnson, a Morningside University graduate, admitted. “People will tell you stuff in complete confidence and I’m OK with that.”

In large, this is because the atmosphere at Buffalo Wild Wings is so chill.

“We’re simply a place where folks can hang out and have a good time,” she said.

Working most weeknights, Johnson gets her fair share with regulars.

“That is so much fun,” she said. “I’ve been waiting on some guests for so long that they become my friends.”

Plus Johnson also tends to the needs of newcomers, who need extra care.

“I tell them that my favorite sauce for wings is the Asian Zing because it has the perfect blend of

sweet and heat,” she said.

And what are Johnson’s drink recommendations?

“It varies all the time,” she said. “Sometimes, you want a beer, a soft drink and a special occasion cocktail.”

As the after-work crowd began to build at the 5001 Sergeant Road Buffalo Wild Wings, Johnson reflected for a moment.

“I have the perfect work/life balance,” she said. “I don’t work

on the weekends, which means I can go to as many sporting events as possible. But during the week, I get to be with my friends here at work.”

And those friends include the people both behind and in front of the bar.

“Being named Siouxland’s Choice of bartender is so crazy,” Johnson said with a big smile. “I want to thank everyone who voted for me.”

TRACY FANNING LILLY TEAGER

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Veronica Johnson pours a Mezgarita drink with mezcal.

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Cast members try on their costumes for the first time during a rehearsal for "Shrek The Musical," a New Stage Players production at South Sioux City Middle School.

JESSE BROTHERS PHOTOS, THE WEEKENDER

New season, new shows

New Stage Players 2023 season will include two stage premieres and two favorites. The year will also include two projects for young performers, two musical productions and two plays.

- "On Golden Pond," Feb. 24 - 27
- "The Nerd," April 20 - 23
- El Proyecto Dramtico presenting "Tomas and the Library Lady" and "The Singing Nana," April 28 - 29
- Penguin Project presents "101 Dalmatian Kids," June 9 - 11
- "Moana Jr." Youth Camp, June 26 - July 22
- "The Spongebob Musical," July 28 - Aug. 6
- "The Church Basement Ladies," Nov. 2 - 5

For information: newstageplayers.com



Charlie Weinmeister, left, plays Baby Shrek and Cody Juffer, right, plays the evil Lord Farquaad in "Shrek The Musical."

Curtain up!

New Stage Players making theater accessible to all types of audiences

BY EARL HORLYK

It might not look like it right now, but the New Stage Players stage will soon transform itself into the vacation home of Ethel and Norman Thayer, the alternately loving and cantankerous couple from Ernest Thompson's "On Golden Pond."

Directed by Billy Denker and featuring a cast of six actors, the Tony Award-nominated play will be performed, Friday through Sunday, as the South Sioux City-based theater's first stage production for the 2023 calendar year.

Founded in 2016, New Stage

plays are traditionally staged inside of a former elementary school building, located at 3201 Dakota Ave.

Considered a newcomer in Sioux City's theatrical scene, New Stage Players was voted as Siouland's Choice for live theater, beating out both the Sioux City Community Theatre, which is celebrating its 75th season, and LAMB Arts Regional Theatre, which has been around for 43 seasons.

"I don't consider New Stage Players to be in competition with other theaters," Kristy Tremayne, one of New Stage Players founding members, explained. "I think we're simply making theater accessible to different types of audiences."

Certainly, one of the specific goals of the theatrical upstart was to get more people in Northeast Nebraska involved in the performing arts.

"South Sioux City didn't have its own theater group and we felt there was a definite need for one on the Nebraska side of the (Missouri) river," Tremayne said.

Just as important was New Stage Players' involvement with the Penguin Project.

"The Penguin Project gives young people with developmental disabilities or special needs the opportunity to develop creative and social skills while participating in a musical production," Tremayne said.

Last spring, New Stage Players presented the Penguin Project production of "Willy Wonka, Jr." featuring a cast of able-bodied as well as disabled actors.

This year, "Disney's 101 Dalmatians" will be the Penguin Project's musical.

Under the direction of Tremayne, the production – which will have actors with Down syndrome, autism, Asperger's and other neurological, physical and developmental disorder – will run June 9 - 11.

"A disability should never prevent an actor from experiencing the joys of acting," Tremayne said.

PLEASE SEE CURTAIN, PAGE 19

Curtain

FROM 18

Neither should a language barrier. New Stage Players is also home to El Proyecto Dramtico, which is Siouxland's only bilingual theatrical company.

"Tomas and the Library Lady" and "The Singing Nana" – two books by author Pat Mora – have been adapted for the theater's "From the Page to the Stage" series on April 28 and 29.

Also coming up is a summer-time youth camp, revolving around "Disney's Moana Jr.," which will take place from June 26 - July 22.

In addition, New Stage Players is offering a series of summer day camps on various topics for kids, age 5 - 9.

"The day camps will let children experience performing, maybe, for the very first time," New Stage Players' Deb Morgan said. "It's fun to introduce a new set of kiddos to the world of theater."

It also set the stage, so to speak, for the local premiere of "The Spongebob Musical."



New Stage Players community theater on Dakota Avenue in South Sioux City, Neb. is celebrating its fifth anniversary.

New Stage Players has the rights to the musical version of the popular Nickelodeon animated series. It will be performed July 28 - Aug. 6 at the Briar Cliff University Theatre.

"Briar Cliff wasn't using its stage, so they're allowing us to host the summer youth programming there," New Stage Players board president Christine Wolf said. "It's an awesome facility!"

Which also follows the sentiment that Tremayne always had.

"We want to make theater accessible to as many people as possible," she said.



Karlee Hughes, left, who plays Veruca gives her golden ticket to Willy Wonka played by Camdyn Meier as they rehearse a scene for their production of Willy Wonka at New Stage Players.

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JESSE BROTHERS PHOTOS, THE WEEKENDER

Left: Jordan Pullis tattoos Zoe Johnson's arm at TDF Tattoo and Body Piercing in Sioux City. Owned by veteran tattoo artist Tracy Fanning, the 5408 Morningside Ave. shop currently has two female tattoo artists as well as a female apprentice learning the art of inking. Right: TDF Tattoo and Body Piercing is often a busy place, according to owner Tracy Fanning. That may be why the 5408 Morningside Ave. shop earned a first-place in the Siouxland's Choice for tattoo/piercing parlor.

SKIN DEEP!

TDF Tattoo and Piercing is leaving a mark on Siouxland

BY EARL HORLYK

TDF Tattoo and Piercing was buzzing – literally – on a chilly Tuesday afternoon.

All of Tracy Fanning's fellow tattoo artists were hard at work, inking images onto their clients while he was taking a breather before the arrival of his appointment.

"We stay pretty busy around here," he said, inside of a back room at his 5408 Morningside Ave. shop. "I like it that way."

Another thing that Fanning liked is TDF securing a first place finish in Siouxland's Choice for tattoo and piercing parlor.

Which is even more noteworthy since Fanning's shop has been open for less than a year, though he's been tattooing for more than a quarter-of-a-century.

"When I was starting out, learning the trade meant looking at design books, watching what more



Artist Lilly Michaels sketches a design for a tattoo on her husband Hasten Michaels' arm at TDF Tattoo and Body Piercing in Sioux City. Lilly Michaels calls her husband "the human sketchpad" because she tests out designs on his skin.

experienced artists were doing and practicing on friends and loved ones," he explained.

Nowadays, the tattoo artists in Fanning's shop must go through an extensive apprenticeship that can take years to complete.

"Certainly, things are now

more professional and business-like," he maintained.

Another innovation at TDF is the fact that outside of Fanning and piercer Steve "Stevee Cee" Carlson, the other crew members – Jordan Pullis, Lilly Michaels and apprentice Kay Suhorepetz – are female.

DETAILS

WHAT: TDF Tattoo and Body Piercing
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday

WHERE: 5408 Morningside Ave., Sioux City
PHONE: 712-560-0749

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JESSE BROTHERS, THE WEEKENDER
Jordan Pullis, left, Tracy Fanning, behind, Kay Suhorepetz, Steve Carlson, and Lilly Michaels, right, are the artists at TDF Tattoo and Body Piercing in Sioux City.

“Tattooing used to be a guy thing,” Fanning said. “Guys got tattoos from other guys. Now, things are evenly split.”

Indeed, some men prefer being tattooed by a woman. This is the case with Hasten Michaels, who was being inked by his wife Lilly Michaels.

“I call Hasten my ‘human sketchpad’ because I always try out designs on his skin,” Lilly Michaels said

with a smile. “I don’t think Hasten likes that nickname though.”

Maybe not, but there is gratification when someone trusts you enough to ink them with permanent art.

That is something Fanning will never take for granted.

An artist best known for realistic wildlife, Fanning was a fan of tattoos before he became a tattoo artist.

“I’ve done tattoos celebrating achievements and

I’ve done tattoos that were mourning a loss,” he said. “Tattoos tell a story and are deeply personal for both the artist and the client.”

Which is why Fanning said this Siouxland’s Choice first-place finish is something he’ll share with his fellow artists and their many clients.

“We’ve had clients who range in age from 18 to 90,” he said. “We enjoy sharing our art with Siouxland.”

2023 SIOUXLAND’S CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Here’s how to stay healthy, courtesy of this year’s Siouxland’s Choice Award winners.

ASSISTED LIVING/ SENIOR LIVING

First Place: Sunrise Retirement Community

Favorite: Bickford of Sioux City

Favorite: Kingsley Specialty Care

CHIROPRACTOR

First place: Ruehle Family Chiropractic

Favorite: Heartland Chiropractic Associates - Dr. Wyatt Hagan

Favorite: Inside-Out Family Chiropractic

DENTIST/ORTHODONTIST

First place: Elite Dentistry

Favorite: Lohr Family Dentistry

Favorite: Sunnybrook Dental

DERMATOLOGIST

First place: Midlands Cosmetic

Dermatology & Skin Care

Favorite: Dunes Dermatology

Favorite: Lace and Needle

DOCTOR’S OFFICE

First place: Siouxland Women’s Health Care PC

Favorite: Family Health Care of Siouxland

Favorite: Siouxland Obstetrics & Gynecology, PC

EAR & HEARING

First place: Ear, Nose and Throat Consultants and Hearing Services

Favorite: Morningside Audiology

Favorite: Siouxland Hearing Healthcare

Favorite: Wagner Ear Nose & Throat

HOSPITAL

First place: UnityPoint Health - St. Luke’s

Favorite: Dunes Surgical Center

Favorite: MercyOne Hospital

IN-HOME CARE

First place: Live Well Home Health

Favorite: Hospice of Siouxland

Favorite: SYNERGY Home Care

PHYSICAL THERAPY

First place: Impact Physical Therapy and Wellness, LLC

Favorite: CNOS

Favorite: Physical Therapy Specialists, PC

VISION CARE

First place: Korver Eyecare Center

Favorite: Hedquist Eye Care

Favorite: Sergeant Bluff EyeCare

WALK-IN CLINIC

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Favorite: CNOS Orthopaedic Urgent Care

Favorite: Family Health Care of Siouxland



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TIM HYNDS PHOTOS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Brett Lias, owner of Sioux City's iconic Miles Inn, smiles while talking in front of a group of historical photographs at the iconic tavern.



A Charlie Boy loosemeat sandwich is shown at Sioux City's iconic Miles Inn.
24 . Weekender . 02.23.2023 . www.siouxland.net

Smile with Miles

Owner of Iconic Sioux City bar says consistency is key

BY EARL HORLYK

Is Miles Inn a place where everybody knows your name?

Probably, but its owners will also sell you a ceiling tile with your name, favorite sports team or pretty much any type of message at all.

According to Brett Lias, that's the way Miles Inn has been since his parents Denny and Julia Lias purchased the venerable 2622 Leech Ave. sports pub more than

a decade ago.

To be fair, Miles Inn has been a friendly place since John Miles opened it as a convenience store in 1925, before transitioning it into a bar, sometime in the 1940s.

"There's a lot of history here," Lias said, "That's for sure."

He isn't kidding.

A framed, black-and-white photo of John Miles and his wife hangs on the wall. So, what does

the sign say behind Mr. and Mrs. Miles in the picture? "Remember Pearl Harbor!"

Which is nice since Miles Inn has been selected Siouxland's Choice for Favorite non-Fourth Street bar.

That doesn't surprise Lias, who says Miles Inn's customer base ranges in age from 20-something to 80-something.

What keeps people coming back, generation after generation, is the



Sioux City's iconic Miles Inn is located at 2622 Leech Ave.

TIM HYNDS PHOTOS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL



Brett Lias, owner of Sioux City's iconic Miles Inn.



Brett Lias, owner of Sioux City's iconic Miles Inn, pours a schooner of beer at the tavern.

unpretentious decor, extensive beer and drink menu and a popular sandwich item called the Charlie Boy.

Legend has it that the Charlie Boy was named after Charlie Miles, son of the original owner.

In case you didn't know, a Charlie Boy is a loose meat tavern sandwich, made extra peppery.

This makes it the perfect

accompaniment to a big schooner of beer.

"We could never get rid of the Charlie Boy," Lias said. "Not only is it original to Miles Inn but the loose meat tavern was invented in Sioux City."

However, that doesn't mean the current owner of Miles Inn hasn't expanded the Charlie Boy universe.

Nowadays, a customer can get his Charlie Boy in a traditional hamburger bun or a hot dog bun. It can be the topping on a plate of nachos or be served inside of a bowl of chili.

And Lias said Miles Inn goes through a ton of Charlie Boys, especially around the holidays.

"Around Thanksgiving or Christmas, people will come

home to Sioux City to see families and friends," he explained. "Any visit homes requires a schooner and Charlie Boy from Miles Inn." Which is perhaps the secret of Lias' success.

"At Miles Inn, we're not trying to reinvent because people seem to like us the way we are," he maintained. "We don't want to mess things up."

2023 SIOUXLAND'S CHOICE AWARDS

HOME SERVICES

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ELECTRICIAN

First place: Ward Electric Company, Inc.

Favorite: Thompson

Favorite: Vakulskas Electric

HEATING AND COOLING COMPANY

First place: CW Suter Services

Favorite: Green Planet Solutions

Favorite: Kalins Indoor Comfort

HOME MORTGAGE

First place: Security National Bank

Favorite: Primebank

Favorite: Siouxland Federal Credit Union

LAWN CARE/LANDSCAPING COMPANY

First place: Sharp Lawn Care, Inc.

Favorite: Jay-Lan Lawn Care

Favorite: Jeff's Lawn Care

PLUMBING SERVICE

First place: Johnson Plumbing, LLC

Favorite: Foulk Brothers Plumbing & Heating

Favorite: Wrenn's Plumbing and Heating Inc.

REAL ESTATE AGENT

First place: Ashley Divis, RE/MAX Preferred

Favorite: Brittne Willett, Century 21 ProLink

Favorite: Hannah Koerselman, Keller Williams

REAL ESTATE TEAM

First place: United Real Estate Solutions

Favorite: CENTURY 21 ProLink

Favorite: Keller Williams Siouxland

REAL ESTATE COMPANY

First Place: Carlson Group at RE/MAX Preferred

Favorite: Delfs Real Estate Group

Favorite: Property Pros Group at CENTURY 21 ProLink

ROOFING COMPANY

First place: Kuchel Roofing

Favorite: Casey Roofing

Favorite: JC Roofing & Insulating

WINDOWS

First place: Mullins Awning & Siding

Favorite: Gerkins Windows & Doors

Favorite: Joe Gutters



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Briar Cliff University interim president Patrick Jacobson-Schulte volunteers as a barista at the college's coffee shop, Charged Food and Brew. Briar Cliff University was voted as Siouxland's Choice for Higher Education.
TIM HYNDS PHOTOS, THE WEEKENDER

A Charger for Change

Briar Cliff University expanding neighborhood beyond its campus

BY EARL HORLYK

Briar Cliff University's Charged Food and Brew has a new barista who knows how to make a smooth and refreshing Red Bull Infusion.

Which is good to know, since a smooth and refreshing Red Bull Infusion is actually the *only* drink

Patrick Jacobson-Schulte has been taught to make.

Wait, isn't Jacobson-Schulte also Briar Cliff's interim president? So, what is he doing, taking smoothie and cappuccino orders during a morning rush behind a coffee kiosk counter?

"After I started as Briar Cliff's interim president (in July 2022), I knew I wouldn't be happy behind a desk and away from the students," he said.

This is why Jacobson-Schulte prefers to be seen on campus, at sporting events or, on occasion,

volunteering his time as a barista-in-training at BCU's Charged Food and Brewed.

Jacobson-Schulte already has a fan in Patrick Gassant Jr., a BCU graduate student who is also a defensive back on the Chargers' football team.

"You always see (Jacobson-Schulte) around the school," Gassant said. "He's always

approachable and friendly!"

Perhaps it is because of the university's interim president that Briar Cliff University was named 2023's Siouxland's Choice for higher education.

Known as Patrick or PJS to faculty and students, Jacobson-Schulte is originally from

PLEASE SEE CHANGE, PAGE 29

Change

FROM 28

Lakeville, Minnesota. He joined Briar Cliff in June 2021 as its vice president of finance and serving as its executive vice president in preparation for the interim position.

“When I came to Briar Cliff, I wanted to improve our community, both on and off campus,” he said.

For the latter, Jacobson-Schulte walked door-to-door in the residential neighborhoods that surrounded BCU.

“To the homeowners, we weren’t thought of as neighbors,” he explained. “Instead, we were simply thought of as the school on top of a big hill.”

Making the college more “neighborly,” Jacobson-Schulte invited residents to grab a cup of coffee from the Charged Food and Brew.

“People thought our coffee kiosk was only open to students,” he said. “In fact, it has always been open to everyone.”



Patrick Jacobson-Schulte, interim president of Briar Cliff University, said volunteering at the college’s Charged Food and Brew allows him to stay connected with students on campus.

Jacobson-Schulte even made sure that the BCU outdoor Christmas tree could be seen and enjoyed throughout the extended neighborhood.

More important was creating a community among the BCU students, who were coming across the country and, even, around the world.

Gassant, who was originally from Lawrenceville, Georgia, admitted he felt a bit of culture shock.

“First of all, Iowa is a heckuva

lot colder than Georgia,” he said. “That was the first thing I noticed.”

Despite the sometimes frigid temps, Gassant immediately warmed up to Midwestern hospitality.

“In the dorms, you could knock on any door and make a friend,” he noted with a smile. “That was pretty cool.”

Gassant even encouraged his younger brother Winston to attend college at BCU.

“There are bigger schools out there,” Gassant said, “but they’re probably not as friendly as Briar Cliff.”

Certainly, that’s music to the ears of Jacobson-Schulte.

“We’ve already taken steps to improve the educational side of BCU,” he said. “Now, we’re working on the quality of life at BCU.”

So, does that mean Jacobson-Schulte will finally expand his barista repertoire beyond Red Bull Infusions?

“Patrick did pretty well today,” Charged Food and Brew manager Fay Weitzel said. “Next time, we’ll have him make hot drinks.”

2023 SIOUXLAND'S CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

Beauty & Fitness

They make you look good and, now, you can return the favor. Here are the 2023 Siouxland's Choice Award winners in beauty & fitness.

BARBER SHOP

First place: Rumor Haz It
Favorite: Bespoke Salon
Favorite: Salon Uplift

FITNESS CENTER/GYM

First place: JT Training
Favorite: Arena Fit
Favorite: Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA

HAIR SALON

First place: Rumor Haz It
Favorite: Belle Salon & Spa
Favorite: Bespoke Salon

MANICURE/PEDICURE

First place: PrettyThingsEm
Favorite: KSC Nails
Favorite: Lynn Nails

MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO

First place: Jiu Jitsu and Kickboxing Unlimited
Favorite: Marshalls Taekwondo Academy
Favorite: Tiger-Rock Martial Arts of Sioux City

MASSAGE/SPA

First place: Equilibre Massage
Sioux City

Favorite: Evolve Yoga and Wellness

Favorite: Mind & Body Connection

TANNING

First place: Sun Tan City
Favorite: Lavish Looks Salon
Favorite: Sunless Oasis by Brooke Kafton

TATTOO/PIERCING PARLOR

First place: TDF Tattoo and Body Piercing
Favorite: Haley Bones
Favorite: Maya Modification

WEIGHT LOSS CENTER

First place: JT Training
Favorite: HOTWORX Sioux City
Favorite: Optavia with Coach Erin Bahrenfuss



Automotive

Vroom-vroom! Here's the full list of 2023's Siouxland's Choice Award winners in the automotive categories.

AUTO BODY/ REPAIR SHOP

First place: Prime Performance Auto Repair
Favorite: Dreamworks Collision Center, Inc.
Favorite: Driven Auto Body/C & J Body Shop

AUTO DETAILING

First place: Brad's Detail
Favorite: Hamilton Touchless
Favorite: Mendoza's Auto Detailing, South Sioux City

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS STORE

First place: Arnold Motor Supply
Favorite: Advance Auto Parts
Favorite: O'Reilly Auto Parts

BOAT SALES & SERVICE

First place: Cimmarina Boats
Favorite: Boat Farm LTD.
Favorite: Quality Marine Repair

CAR WASH

First place: Hamilton Touchless
Favorite: Silverstar Car Wash
Favorite: Sunnybrook Shine

MOTORCYCLE/ATV DEALER

First Place: Salmen Cycle Solutions (SCS)
Favorite: Rooster's Harley-Davidson
Favorite: Taggart's Power Sports

NEW CAR DEALERSHIP

First place: Vern Eide Honda Sioux City
Favorite: Knoepfler Chevrolet Co.
Favorite: Woodhouse CDJR Sioux City

NEW/USED CAR SALESMAN

First place: Doug Johnson, Ideal Wheels
Favorite: Brady Dam, Dam Auto Sales
Favorite: Fred Hexom, Vern Eide

TIRE STORE

First place: Fremont Tire/T & W Tire
Favorite: Ben Fish Tire
Favorite: Tires Tires Tires

TRACTOR/LAWN SALES & SERVICE

First place: Bomgaars
Favorite: Bernie's Lawn and Garden
Favorite: Robertson Implement Co.

USED CAR DEALERSHIP

First place: Ideal Wheels
Favorite: Dam Auto Sales
Favorite: La Fleur Auto Sales



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2023 SIOUXLAND'S CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

Shopping

Ready to shop 'til you drop? You will be after taking a gander at your 2023 Siouxland's Choice Award winners in shopping.

ANTIQUES, COINS & FLEA MARKETS

First place: Sweet Repeat Flea Market
Favorite: Pioneer Pickers Coins & Collectibles
Favorite: Rustic 2 Refined

APPLIANCES

First place: Karls TV, Appliance & Furniture
Favorite: Kollman Appliances, Inc.
Favorite: Menards

BEST SIOUXLAND BRAND

First place: Palmer Candy Company
Favorite: Jolly Time
Favorite: Marto Brewing Co.

BOUTIQUE

First place: Bluejay Boutique
Favorite: 305 Main Boutique
Favorite: A La Mode

CBD STORE

First place: Flamez
Favorite: Bud & Mary's Dispensary
Favorite: Nukana

FLOORING

First place: Creative Carpets
Favorite: Curry Floor and Acoustic Co.
Favorite: Knova's Carpets, Inc.

FURNITURE

First place: HOM Furniture
Favorite: Miller Bros. Furniture
Favorite: Unclaimed Freight Furniture

GARDEN/GREENHOUSE

First place: Bloomers Lawn & Garden Center
Favorite: Earl May Garden Center
Favorite: Green Acres Greenhouse

GROCERY STORE

First place: Fareway Grocery
Favorite: ALDI
Favorite: Hy-Vee

GUNS & AMMO

First place: American Brothers in Arms
Favorite: Dunhams
Favorite: SCHEELS

HARDWARE STORE

First place: Wilmes Do It Best Hardware
Favorite: Bomgaars
Favorite: Menards

HOME DECOR

First place: Hobby Lobby
Favorite: Target

Favorite: The Barn Loft Home Decor, Accents & Artisan Market

JEWELRY STORE

First place: Ambrosia - Custom Jewelry Studio

Favorite: Greenberg's Jewelers

Favorite: My Jeweler

MATTRESSES

First place: Bargain Bedding
Favorite: HOM Furniture
Favorite: Mattress by Appointment

MENS CLOTHING

First place: SCHEELS
Favorite: Bomgaars
Favorite: Claussen's Menswear

SHOES

First place: Peak Performance Fitness Gear
Favorite: Fit My Feet - Dakota Dunes
Favorite: Rudolph's Shoes

SPORTING GOODS STORE

First place: SCHEELS
Favorite: Beginner's Luck Tackle & Supply
Favorite: Dunhams

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

First place: Maurice's
Favorite: Gypsy Soul Boutique
Favorite: Rooted Boutique



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BOSS TALK

A few words from the publisher Chad Pauling



Chad Pauling

Another Siouxland's Choice has come and more records have been broken.

"For 2023, readers gave us around 16,000 nominees and more than 185,000 votes were cast," said Chad Pauling, publisher of the Sioux City Journal and the Weekender. "That's up from 2022, when we had 12,000 nominees and 170,000 votes."

Pauling credits that to Siouxland citizens who were proud of their community and wanted to salute the best of the best.

It certainly helps when a few businesses – and quite a few first place-finishers – have made it to our list.

Yet Pauling is quick to point out that anyone who made it to the top three are winners in his eyes.

"In past years, we'd list first, second and third place finishes," he explained. "That never seemed right to me."

In this this year's listing, the top vote-getters were listed in first place while the rest were called favorites.

"Any business that had tens of thousands of votes can't be called anything else but favorites," Pauling said.

Also, people do peruse the list to pick out "hidden gems" that are worth checking out.

"I know my wife and I have checked businesses, simply because they were successful in the Siouxland's Choice Awards," Pauling said. "We have some pretty savvy readers with discernable taste."

After all, there are many things to be proud of in Siouxland.

"The Siouxland's Choice Awards salutes the people who make our community great," Pauling said. "We thank everyone for their input. Now, it's time to show some love for the best of the best."

THANK YOU

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Siouxland

2023
weekender
Sioux City Journal

Siouxland's Choice
AWARDS

WINNER



Ready for some music? We have winners

Two winners in the music categories: Dane Louis topped the Local Country or Acoustic Band competition. C-Note Bankin led the Local Hip-Hop Artist or DJ category.

Both have been featured in the Weekender. (Does that mean we can claim credit for their success?)

Not pictured: Above the Covers, which won the Local Rock/Metal Band category.



C-Note Bankin (AKA Charlie Franklin III) has been having a banner year. In addition to performing around Siouxland, he has launched several product lines. **JESSE BROTHERS, THE WEEKENDER**

Dane Louis entertained at Sneaky's for a Hope Street benefit. He also appeared at Saturday in the Park and was a winner in last year's Siouxland's Choice competition. **BRUCE MILLER, THE WEEKENDER**



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ADVICE

ANSWERS FOR ALL YOUR WOES



DEAR ANNIE
ANNIE LANE

Is there still hope for this relationship?

Dear Annie: I was hoping you could help me out with a family problem. I'm a woman in my early 20s who was adopted at age 5 by a gay couple (two men). One of them, "Eric," is fairly kind and docile but is only comfortable with surface-level emotions and discussions. My other "dad," "Tom," is another matter entirely. He is aggressive,

contemptuous and hostile. Whenever I have had life challenges, he blames me and screams and rants for hours until I'm a mess of tears and feel infinitely worse than I did to begin with.

This consistent treatment over time led me to have issues with substance abuse, which lets Tom have something to paint himself as a martyr about while berating me worse than ever under the guise of being "worried about me."

I escaped from them at age 20, becoming homeless and then crawling my way out and into a better life situation with no help from them. You might ask, "Where was Eric when Tom was screaming abuse at you?" He would often stand there stone-faced, sometimes leave the room in discomfort, but always, always would defend Tom and insist that this is just his

way of showing his love and worry for me. For a long time, I believed I was worthless — otherwise, why would they have treated me this way? I finally have found a therapist who sees what I went through as traumatic, and it feels so validating. She recommends going completely "no contact" with my parents in order to heal. Annie, do you think there's any hope for my relationship with my parents? I'm prepared to walk away but was wondering if you had ever encountered a similar situation and could possibly offer some advice. — Parent Problems

Dear Parent Problems: First things first, I want to congratulate you on something that you gloss over in your letter. As you put it, you "crawled your way out and into a better life situation," but such an occurrence is never an accident. The truth is you *built*

yourself a better life situation, from the ground up, against all odds. Don't forget that.

As for your relationship with your parents, your therapist has the right idea. That's not to say you can *never* have a relationship with your dads, but it will be hard to keep them in your life while you are trying to repair the very damage that they caused. Oftentimes, a little distance grants us a new — and more objective — perspective.

Eventually, with the help of your therapist, you can work on creating a set of boundaries — and articulating these boundaries — for your parents, if you decide you want them in your life. For today, though, I would focus on protecting your energy, healing and surrounding yourself with trusted members of your new "better life."

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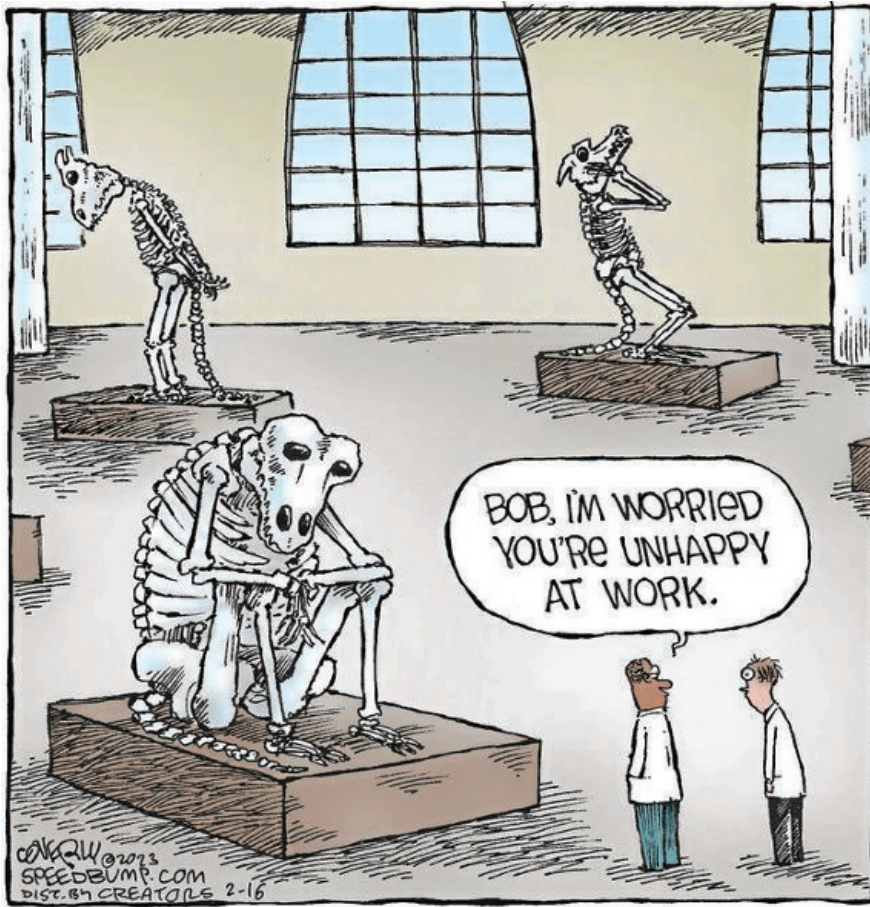
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MOVIES

THURSDAY, FEB. 23 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

New DVD releases for this week:

'Running the Bases'
'Empire of Light'
'Station Eleven'

'The Old Way'
'The Price We Pay'



'Cocaine Bear' (Rated R for bloody violence and gore, drug content and language throughout)

An oddball group of cops, criminals, tourists, and teens converges in a Georgia forest where a 500-pound black bear goes on a murderous rampage after unintentionally ingesting cocaine.



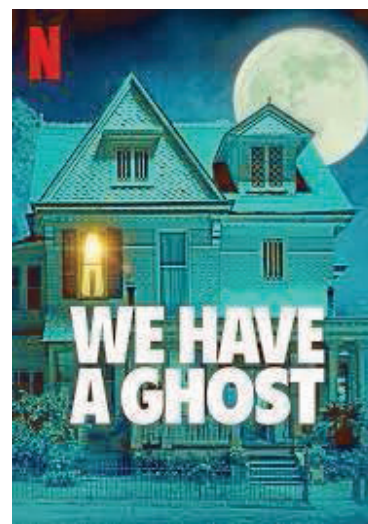
'Blueback' (Rated PG-13 for some thematic elements, peril and brief mild language)

Follows Abby, a child who befriends a magnificent wild blue grouper while diving. When Abby realizes that the fish is under threat, she takes inspiration from her activist Mum, Dora, and takes on poachers to save her friend.



'Mummies' (Rated PG for mild action/language and some rude material)

It follows three mummies as they end up in present-day London and embark on a journey in search of an old ring belonging to the Royal Family, stolen by the ambitious archaeologist Lord Carnaby.



'We Have a Ghost' (Rated PG-13 for language, some sexual/suggestive references and violence)

Finding a ghost named Ernest haunting their new home turns Kevin's family into overnight social media sensations. But when Kevin and Ernest investigate the mystery of Ernest's past, they become a target of the CIA.



'Ambush' (Rated R for violence, some bloody images and language)

A group of young elite commandos, led by Captain Drummond are tasked with collecting highly classified information that can change the fate of the war.



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**Avatar: The Way of Water 4:50
7:00**
80 for Brady 4:20 6:50
Marlowe 4:15 7:15
**Winnie-The-Pooh: Blood and
Honey 7:00**
Maybe I Do 4:20 7:30
M3GAN 4:20 7:15
Plane 4:25 7:05
A Man Called Otto 4:00
**Puss in Boots: The Last Wish
4:10 7:10**

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9:00**
Marlowe 4:30 7:15
80 for Brady 7:30
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Plane 3:00 8:00
**Avatar: The Way of Water 3:10
M3gan 3:30 6:25**
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www.acxcinemas.com

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7:20
Knock on the Cabin 7:15
A Man Called Otto 7:20
80 for Brady 7:20
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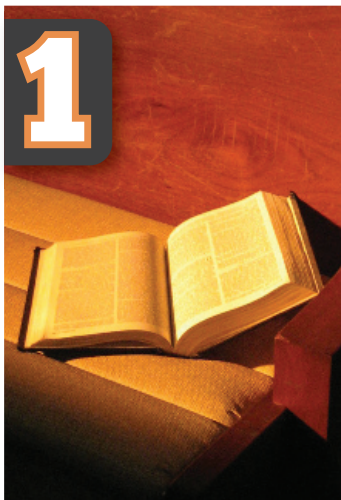


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SUX 6

THE BEST THINGS TO DO IN SIOUXLAND



1 Troubling theology

The controversial life of puritan adviser Anne Hutchinson (1591-1643) will be examined during “The Trials of Anne Hutchinson,” a presentation by noted historian Scott Culpepper. The free-to-the-public program will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Betty Strong Encounter Center, 900 Larsen Park Road.



Culpepper

2 Fight for your right (to paint?)

Forget those UFC dudes! You know who’s really tough enough? Painters and other artists. Staring Friday and continuing March 3 and 10, Vangarde Arts, 416 Pierce St., has invited 16 artists to compete during Art Brawl. Artists have 30 minutes to whip a masterpiece. We do not know if boxing gloves will be involved ... but that would be cool.



3 Artistic Life: The Early Years

The 34th annual Youth Art Month Exhibition will open at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Sioux City Art Center, 225 Nebraska St. This year’s exhibit will feature work by sixth through eighth grade middle school students. It will be juried by Morningside University Professor Shelby Prindaville.



Prindaville



TIM HYNDS, THE WEEKENDER

Kari Sandage, a naturalist with the Woodbury County Conservation Board, is shown on a trail, at the board’s Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. The Woodbury County park has several miles of nature trails that are open year-round.

4 Know your trees!

Could you identify a tree simply by looking at its bark, twigs or buds? Huh, neither can we. Luckily, naturalist Kari Sandage will conduct a Winter Tree Hike where several types of trees will be identified. The class begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road.

5 Going for the ‘Gold!’

The critically-acclaimed “On Golden Pond” will be performed Friday through Monday at the New Stage Players Theatre, 3201 Dakota Ave. South Sioux City.



6 Who wants pancakes?

Mark this down on your calendar: Saturday, Feb. 25 is officially, National Pancake Day. This may not mean much to you, but we like pancakes.



ADVICE

ANSWERS FOR ALL YOUR WOES



TWEEN 12 AND 20 DR. WALLACE

I made a huge mistake: am I now doomed?

DR. WALLACE: I regret recently participating in a binge-drinking episode at my university in the Pacific Northwest. I'm only 20, so I'm not a legal drinker yet, but I had no trouble at all attending a local fraternity party and consuming as much alcohol as I wanted.

Before this episode, I'd only had a few drinks ever in my life, usually just one at a time, except for one occasion in which I had two drinks over a six-hour period. Even with those episodes I didn't feel so great the next day, but after my binge drinking this past weekend, I literally was in bed for two days straight with an unbelievable headache, and I got physically sick several times in a row over and over. I'll spare you the gory details, but needless to say it was not pretty, and I am both embarrassed and ashamed of myself. I spent many hours on the floor in front of my toilet at my apartment.

Does the fact that I've now been drinking on a binge one time mean that I'll soon become an alcoholic, or am I already an alcoholic?

How can I avoid falling into a situation like this again? — Full of Regret and Remorse, via email

FULL OF REGRET AND REMORSE: If you are sincerely full of regret and remorse, do your utmost to lean on those feelings. Before you even consider engaging in underage drinking of even one drink again, remember exactly how you felt this past weekend and why you don't want to repeat the mistakes you've made.

You are not necessarily an alcoholic now based on this one horrible experience, but you have certainly opened the door toward going down a road that may lead you in that direction.

The key now is to get control of your life and your free will, and to engage in smart,

thoughtful decision-making. Plan in advance how you're going to act and what you're going to say when you're in a similar situation in the future. Refrain from drinking alcohol, and enjoy your social activities without falling into the pattern of feeling

you need the crutch of alcohol in order to fit in. The truth is, you do not need alcohol to have fun and enjoy your life.

Consider yourself lucky that nothing worse happened to you, and chalk this up to a hard lesson learned. But if you repeat this binge behavior even one more time, I suggest that you seek professional counseling immediately at that point.

Why do they do this?

DR. WALLACE: These days, everyone knows smoking is really bad for any human being. You would think young people in particular would refrain from smoking due to the overall awareness of health consciousness that exists in today's younger generations when it comes to healthy food, clean air and clean water and personal fitness, but I often observe many teenagers in my part of the country who not only smoke cigarettes, but several of them appear to be chain smokers!

What do you think accounts for this cognitive dissonance? — I Can't Believe My Eyes, via email

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES: I do agree with you that many people experience cognitive dissonance, and today's teenagers are not exempt. You also did not mention the rapid rise of vaping that took place recently in this country, with the majority of those who fall into the 16- to 29-year-old age range.

My experience with young people leads me to believe the primary reason for this is that young people tend to have a sense of invincibility. This of course is not true, especially in the long run, but in the short run younger individuals often feel that they can power through many situations, including smoking and dangerous driving maneuvers, without harm or consequences. Too often we see that this sadly is not always true.

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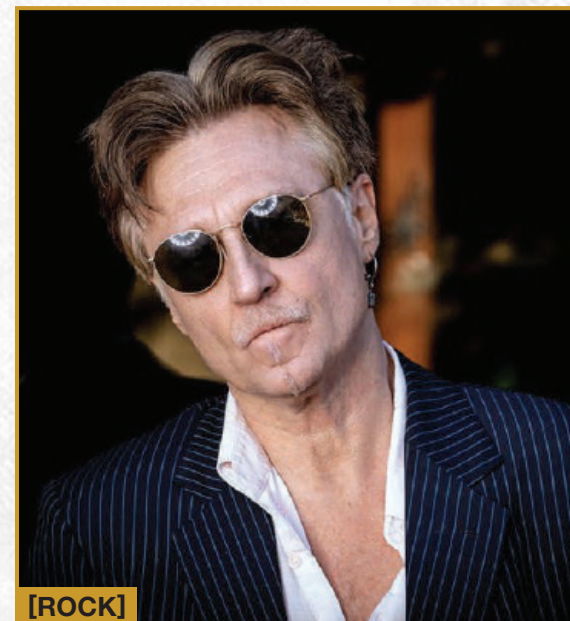
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