M's on 4th chef Jeni Van Beek

Christy Wright and her father, Dave Ferris, hold a plate of broasted chicken in front of Sneaky's Chicken

Pandemic prompts pivoting

Business partners Clay Lillie, left, and Tyson Sanchez at Daga's

Francisco Lepe, owner of Tako N' Madre food truck, seasons shrimp

MANY EVENTS THIS WEEK

SIoux CITY'S FREE READ | DEC. 30-JAN. 5, 2022 | VOL. 23 ISSUE 5 | AT WWW.SIOUXLAND.NET: EVENTS, MOVIE LISTINGS, BANDS & MORE
What will you remember most about 2021?

Earl Horlyk

Staff Writer
earl.horlyk@lee.net

"After not stepping inside of a movie theater during 2020, I finally went back in 2021 and turned into Homer Simpson’s dad: ‘When did movies get so loud? Were kids always this obnoxious? I need a nap!’"

Chad Pauling
Publisher
cpauling@siouxcityjournal.com

“Going fishing with my kids.”

Mason Dockter
Staff Writer
mdockter@siouxcityjournal.com

"Working from home for the first five and a half months of the year was eye-opening. I felt like a king.”

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

Back in Black?

Celebrate NYE with some country boys! The Dane Louis Band as well as Ben Grillet & The Black Bloods will be ringing out 2021, beginning at 9 p.m. Friday at The Marquee, 1225 Fourth St.
‘Wasted’ no more!
For many years, the Omaha-based Jason Mayer was part of the country-rock band Wasted Highway. Now, he’s gone off on his own and will be in concert at 9 p.m. Friday at Beer Can Alley, 1109 Fourth St.

A ‘Sinister’ End!
Think 2021 has been a sinister year? Then, head on over to DOXX Warehouse Bar, 1219 Fifth St., to see the ‘80s hair band Mr. Sinister at 8 p.m. Friday.

Purple ‘Reign’
For a mellow end of the year, chill out with Angie, Shawn and their Ultra Violet Fever crew. They will be toe-tapping their way into 2022, beginning at 8 p.m. Friday at the Elks Club, 1001 Tri View Ave.

Nerd Year’s Eve!
So, what’s the opposite of chill? That’s right, it is spazzy. The Spazmatics will be bringing their brand of dweebiness to Hard Rock Hotel & Casino’s Anthem, 111 Third St., starting at 9 p.m. Friday.

Put a stick in ’21!
Not into music? Then, how about some puck action? The Sioux City Musketeers will be taking on the Omaha Lancers at 7:05 p.m. Friday at the Tyson Events Center, 401 Gordon Drive. Will the Muskies be wishing the Lancers “Auld Lang Syne”? Depends on the final score!

Syphilis is on the rise in Iowa.
Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection. Early numbers show a 75% increase in syphilis cases in Iowa from 2020 to 2021.

It’s more common and easier to get than you might think.

Syphilis is curable but can cause serious health problems without treatment. Talk to your doctor about whether you are at risk.

Find a testing location near you:
gettested.cdc.gov
Free and low cost options available

Learn more about syphilis at ashasexualhealth.org/syphilis
MOVIES
THURS. DEC. 30 - WED, JAN. 5, 2022

New DVD releases for this week:
‘Hell Hath No Fury’
‘Hotel Transylvania: Transformania’
‘Resident Evil: Infinite Darkness’
‘Fortress’

JOCKEY

“CLIFTON COLLINS JR., IN THE ROLE OF HIS CAREER. A REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION, AN EXCEPTIONAL DRAMA.”
— Dale Davis, VARIETY

“CLIFTON COLLINS JR. IS SIMPLY SUPERB, A GEM.”
— Ted McCarthy, ROMANTIC

“CLIFTON COLLINS JR.’S SUNDANCE BEST ACTOR WINNING PERFORMANCE IS MORE THAN JUST A CAREER-BEST — IT’S A CAREER-REDEFINING PERFORMANCE. DIRECTOR CLINT BENTLEY MAKES HIS DEBUT WITH A RESILIENT AND TOUCHING CHARACTER PIECE.”
— Justin Apple, THE SPRAWL

‘CYRANO’ (Rated PG-13 for some strong violence, thematic and suggestive material and brief language)
Too self-conscious to woo Roxanne himself, wordsmith Cyrano de Bergerac helps young Christian nab her heart through love letters.

‘THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH’
(Rated R for violence)
A Scottish lord becomes convinced by a trio of witches that he will become the next King of Scotland, and his ambitious wife supports him in his plans of seizing power.

‘DON’T LOOK UP’ (Rated R for language throughout, some sexual content, graphic nudity and drug content)
Two low-level astronomers must go on a giant media tour to warn mankind of an approaching comet that will destroy planet Earth

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ASTRO ADVICE
EUGENIA LAST

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Step up and make a difference. The changes you implement will help you head into next year with optimism. Say what’s on your mind and pursue what excites you. Forward thinking will pay off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): Once you speak your mind, you cannot take it back. Problems will develop if you judge others too quickly. Focus on personal goals and improvements, not on trying to change someone.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20): Listen, learn and verify. The information you gather will help you make better decisions. Don’t spend money unnecessarily or neglect to take care of matters you should address before the end of the year.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be careful. Don’t let your emotions steer you in the wrong direction. Honesty is the best policy when it comes to financial and contractual differences. Keep a tight rein on your spending habits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Change will excite you. Dig in and see what life has to offer. Explore something that interests you and consider if it’s a viable or lucrative option. A partnership looks promising.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A laid-back attitude and approach will help you dodge a mistake. Spend more time on personal improvement and less on trying to change someone. You can be amicable without being gullible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change in your mood or a minor change in your surroundings could lift your spirits and give you something new to explore. If you discuss your plans and intentions, you will receive valuable feedback.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An emotional moment can limit progress if you aren’t prepared to compromise. Look at every angle, and you’ll find a way to appease others and satisfy your needs at the same time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Slow down and distance yourself from turmoil and chaotic people. Self-discipline, personal growth and exercise will encourage you to spend more time perfecting who you are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotions will lead to fluctuating circumstances. Be a good listener, think about what’s going on around you and how others think and feel, and take a reserved approach. Keep life simple.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Use your energy wisely. Too much of anything will be your downfall. Focus on getting things done on time and moving on to self-improving activities. Close the year on a high note!
Elvis performers pictured do not represent current contestants. Must be 21 or older to attend shows in Anthem. Management reserves all rights. If you or someone you know needs gambling treatment, call 800.BETS.OFF.

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CASEY DONAHEW // 1.22
MITCHELL TENPENNY // 1.28

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Elvis performers pictured do not represent current contestants. Must be 21 or older to attend shows in Anthem. Management reserves all rights. If you or someone you know needs gambling treatment, call 800.BETS.OFF.
In business for more than 42 years, Sneaky's Chicken owner Dave Ferris has successfully fought back increased competition, a serious illness, a major fire and, more recently, a worldwide pandemic.

"We were literally prepping for the day when Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered all Iowa restaurants to suspend on-site sales due to COVID-19," he said, recalling the March 2020 day that radically changed Sneaky's Chicken. "It all happened in a flash."

Ferris has likened Sneaky's previous business model to that of a four-legged stool.

"We'd catered events, delivered corporate lunches, ran a buffet while doing a brisk takeout and delivery service at night," he explained. "When COVID first hit, we were limited to takeout only. Three out of our four legs were taken away."
While the suspension of onsite sales was lifted by the summer of 2020, business took a while to return.

LONGTIME EATERY EXPLORE WAYS TO STAY RELEVANT

Indeed, Ferris credited his daughter Christy Wright and Sneaky’s loyal employees for coming up with ways of keeping the venerable 3711 Gordon Drive eatery afloat.

“When people couldn’t come in, Christy ramped up our takeout and delivery service,” Ferris said.

Slowly, Sneaky’s was able to go back to business as usual, only with an asterisk.

“Our customers like options,” Ferris said in October 2021. “Sometimes, you want to eat in a nice restaurant. Other times, you want food on the go.”

This was a trend Peggy La also noticed.

“It is also the reason why La, the longtime owner of Hong Kong Food Market, joined forces with her husband John Keoasa in creating a permanent home for food trucks at 700 W. Seventh St.

A ‘YUMMI’ SOLUTION

While mobile “restaurants on wheels” have become a common sight around town as well as at downtown Sioux City’s Food Truck Fridays, loyal customers would either rely on social media or drive around to track down favorites.

“(Yummi Blox) will be different for Sioux City because customers won’t have to track down their favorite food truck,” La said, prior to the site’s June 2021 grand opening. “That’s because many favorites will be here from three to six days a week.”

In fact, customers frequented Yummi Blox for food truck fare, courtesy of Tako N’ Madre, Chinos, and La Palapa, among others.

“I think food truck culture is getting bigger and bigger every year,” La said. “People are responding because the food is good and there is so much variety.”

REIMAGINING MIDWESTERN COMFORT FOOD

But can there be too much of a good thing? Veteran food truck owner Tyson Sanchez was hedging his bet a bit.

The owner of the Siouxland’s Choice award-winning Daga’s on Wheels for more than five years, Sanchez has seen the mobile dining scene explode very quickly.

“I think within a few short years, you’ll see more taco trucks than stand-alone restaurants,” he explained in August 2021. “I started Daga’s on Wheels at the right time. Now, I’m ready for Plan B.”

This is why Sanchez purchased the Dakota City’s former Hungry’s Steakhouse, turning the 100 N. Main St. site into Daga’s on Broadway.

However, don’t expect to see Daga’s on Wheels’ made-to-order wet burritos, super nachos or queso tacos on the sit-down restaurant’s menu.

Instead, Sanchez wants to reinvent Midwestern comfort food at Daga’s on Broadway.

“People loved Hungry’s because they loved its steaks, chops and chicken,” Sanchez explained. “When it closed, diners were disappointed and Dakota City lost a destination restaurant.”

Sure enough, Daga’s on Broadway offers sirloin, New York strip and ribeye steaks served daily. Plus on Fridays, prime rib will be available.

But Daga’s wasn’t skimping on burgers, chislic or sandwiches like a special New York steak sandwich, served open-faced with creamy Swiss cheese, onions and horseradish.

Daga’s on Broadway’s menu is the brainchild of Clay Lillie, who previously worked as the executive chef at such fine dining establishments as the Key Club and Clyde’s. Before that, he was sous chef for the late Rick Beaulieu at the former Bev’s on the River.

“I knew Clay had the talent and the imagination to create an awesome menu,” Sanchez said.

If Daga’s on Broadway represented Sanchez’s Plan B, Lillie had a different idea.

“I always wanted to own my own place and be my own boss,” Lillie said.

CONEY ISLAND & MORE

Opening a new restaurant is always a challenging endeavor. Keeping an established eatery also proved tricky during a time of COVID-19.

In 2021, Siouxland has seen popular places like M’s on 4th, Coney Island at Marketplace, Merrill Mexican (in Merrill, Iowa) and Schweddy’s Hot Dog closed their doors for the last time.

Perhaps bucking the trend, Lillie, his wife Cherry Lillie, and longtime bar owner Mac Dolan, opened The Shack, a fast bar food joint at 211 Fourth St. which, ironically, was home to the former Schweddy’s.

SOME THINGS CHANGE, OTHER THINGS GET A MAKEOVER

So, what’s on the menu at The Shack? Loose meat taverns, which is Sioux City’s own contribution to the culinary world.

“People know about Miles Inn’s Charlie Boy and they know about Tastee In & Out’s Taste,” Lillie said in December 2022. “The Shack takes the tavern and gives it a different flavor.”

Huh, it seems like as much as Sioux City’s restaurant scene changes, other things stay the same.
A trio of acts coming to Hard Rock’s Anthem

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 111 Third St., has announced a trio of concert at Anthem, featuring an up-and-coming country musician, a multiplatinum country star plus a Midwestern cover band named after meat.

Mitchell Tenpenny, best known for his breakout country single, “Drunk Me,” has been nominated for Top Male Artist of the Year at the ACM Awards. He’ll be at Anthem on Jan. 28, 2022.

Deana Carter has been a pop and country mover and shaker for the past two decades. Best known for her superhit “Strawberry Wine,” Carter will perform at Anthem on March 4, 2022.

Iowa cover band The Pork Tornadoes have performed music from such diverse stars as Katy Perry, Lizzo and the Killers. They will be coming to Anthem on April 22, 2022.

Tickets are on sale at The Rock Shop and hardrockcasinosiouxcity.com. All Anthem events for guests, age 21 and older.
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