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35th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

MAGAZINE

Golden Fork Awards

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October 2018

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Celebrating the Place We Call Home.



foxcitiesmagazine.com

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BRILLIANCE AWAITS.

Lawrence events are open to the public and most are free.

- Concerts
- Art exhibits
- Dance
- Cinema
- Theatre
- Recitals
- Athletic events
- Speakers

A photograph of two young women from Lawrence University performing a traditional dance. They are wearing red tank tops and black pants. Each is holding a large, flowing fan made of orange and yellow fabric that trails behind them as they move. The background is dark, making the bright colors of the fans stand out. In the bottom left corner, the Lawrence University crest is visible, featuring a blue shield with a white cross and a small figure above it, with the year 1847 written below.

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
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Hungry? Our searchable dining guide is here to help. Visit www.foxcitiesmagazine.com to browse restaurants by location, type of cuisine or price point.

artist SPOTLIGHT



the Saturday before the season's first game.

"We like the impact that completing it in one day creates," Statz says. "It's a wow factor and gets fans excited."

Last year, the fence featured Mike Daniels and Clay Matthews in a comic book style "Defenders of Lambeau" theme. This year Statz and Young painted the fence on September 8 in tribute to the Packers 100th season.

"The fence [features] some of the greats to wear the Packers uniform along with the reasons why the fans love supporting a community-driven team," Statz says.

Statz plans to bring the power of murals to more areas in Northeast Wisconsin.

"I hope this transforms into something bigger and I can impact more spaces," he says. "It's fun to brighten up a space and add a whole new look on life with one wall."

*To see more of Statz's work, visit zasdesigns.com.
- By Amelia Compton Wolff*

Green Bay graphic designer and muralist Zane Statz creates work in all shapes and sizes, but his heart belongs to multistory murals.

"My main passion is large-scale work," he says. "The bigger the canvas, the more freedom I have. It lets me be more creative."

Last fall, the St. Norbert College grad was contracted by Main Street Greensburg to paint a 1,000-square-foot mural for the City of Greensburg, Indiana. Statz painted the mural on 26 sheets of plywood in his garage and drove the finished panels to Indiana for installation.

Statz took inspiration from the city's agricultural roots and incorporated wheat stalks along with the text "Love grows here" over a vibrantly colored background. Heavily influenced by the pop art and street art scenes of the West Coast, Statz uses bold colors in much of his work.

"I don't think I've found a way to use too much color and I hope I never find that," he says.

Locals can find Statz's work in the shadows of Lambeau Field. For the past three years, Statz and collaborator Spencer Young have created the mural on the Packers Fence, a landmark located on Lombardi Avenue across from the Lambeau Field Atrium. Each year the duo paints the 6-foot high, 70-foot long fence in one 15-hour marathon day on



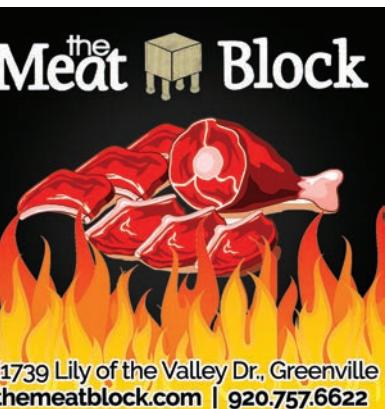
HIDDEN in plain sight

Recognize this architectural detail?



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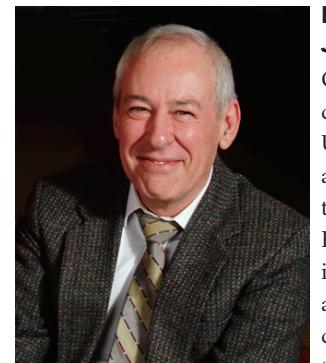
AUGUST WINNER



Tim Jandrey, Appleton

Answer: Lime Kiln Tower in High Cliff State Park

vote from the PUBLISHER



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, OR, JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

One of the greatest interchanges in Wisconsin nears completion. Interstate 41, U.S. Highway 10, Highway 441 started as the "Polish Connection, the bridge to nowhere" – dropping as it did onto Racine Street in the then strongly Polish Menasha. The derision reflected the attitude of Fox Citians, a name yet to be coined and indeed pushed to reality by this modest beginning. Locals saw the original Little Lake Butte des Morts bridge as a pathetic answer by the state to our pleas for better transportation connections.

Decades earlier the state constructed full interstate highways both to the east, I-43, and west, I-39, of us, each serving far smaller populations.

Meanwhile, the state grudgingly built a new four lane Highway 10 which they connected to U.S. 41 and the Butte des Morts bridge with a severely inadequate half interchange. No north from west, no west from south. The state had wanted to make Highway 29 the only east-west connection north of I-94 at Madison.

This, in conjunction with the Tri-County Expressway, now U.S. Route 441, built on right of way purchased by the three counties, (Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago), a first in Wisconsin history.

Now, the most grudgingly built highway in Wisconsin history is the magnificent construction we see approaching completion just in time for Christmas 2018.

Interesting that the interchange looks like a giant concrete Christmas bow.

Nice work, all of us!


Marvin J. Murphy, publisher

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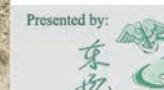
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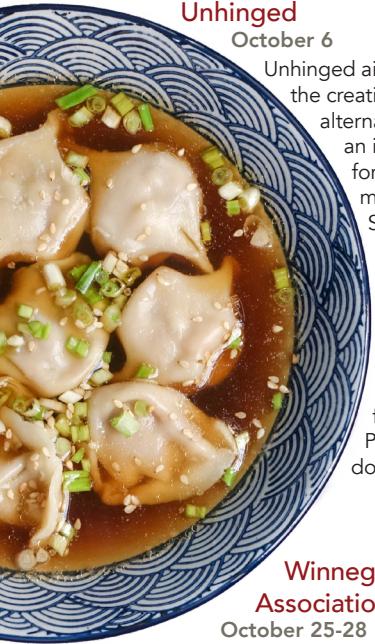


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COMMUNITY EVENTS



Unhinged

October 6

Unhinged aims to galvanize artists and expand the creative identity of Green Bay through an alternative art experience. Unhinged brings an immersive art experience through performance, live visual art, music, food and much more! 6-11pm. 211 N Broadway St, Green Bay. unhingedexhibition.com.

Downtown Appleton Soup Walk

October 20

Try soup samples at different downtown restaurants and vote for your favorite. Benefiting St. Joseph Food Pantry. 1-4:30pm. Various locations, downtown Appleton. 954-9112.

Winnebago Home Builders Association Fall Parade of Homes

October 25-28

Meet some of the area's best builders and service providers to learn about home design, materials and building techniques. The public may walk through showcase homes and gather ideas. 25-26, 5-8pm. 27-28, 11am-4pm. Various locations, Winnebago and Outagamie counties. 235-2962.

MUSIC & STAGE

PUSH Physical Theatre's Dracula

October 4 & 5

By combining PUSH's speechless artistry with traditional dialogue-driven theater, the collaborators have created a groundbreaking, thrilling and unforgettable ride into the warped world of one of literature's most famous villains. 7:30pm. The Grand Oshkosh. 424-2350.

Nobuntu

October 8

Nobuntu, the female a cappella quintet from Zimbabwe, has drawn international acclaim for its inventive performances that range from traditional Zimbabwean songs to Afro Jazz to Gospel. 8pm. Harper Hall at Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6749.



The Avett Brothers

October 9

They are a reality in a world of entertainment built with smoke and mirrors, and when they play, the common man can break the mirrors and blow the smoke away, so all that's left behind is the unwavering beauty of the songs. Wherever The Avett Brothers are, that's what you'll find. 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

For a complete list of current exhibits and our events calendar, go to foxcitiesmagazine.com.

HALLOWEEN HAUNTS

Creepy Crawlies Halloween Event

October 5 & 6

Activities for everyone include live owls, storytelling and a horse-pulled hayride lit by jack-o'-lanterns. Try the fun and spooky haunted trail or the Little Spooks trail for children 5 and under. 6-9pm. Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, Menasha. 720-9349.



The Hallows: A Haunted Trail Walk

October 5 & 6

With the light of a single lantern, it will be your challenge to survive what waits for you in the woods and find a way out. 7-10pm. Memorial Park, Neenah. 722-1435.

Fox Valley Ghost Hunters

October 25

Learn about the haunts and spooks that the Fox Valley Ghost Hunters have encountered. It will also be revealed if the Ghost Hunters' investigation at the library brings about any terror! 6:30-7:30pm. Kimberly Public Library. 788-7515.

Romp in the Autumn Swamp

October 27

The event will include tractor hay rides, trick-or-treat trail, face painting, Halloween games and a bonfire with s'more making. Fresh popcorn and beverages will be available for purchase. 2-4pm & 5-7pm. Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Appleton. 731-6041.

Women of Country

October 11

Milwaukee-native musicians, Nora Collins and The WhiskeyBelles, bring a standing room only concert experience to the Kimberly-Clark Theater. Please note there are no seats on the main floor. 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

From Chant to Contemporary: The MasterWorks Concert

October 20

Sacred and sublime, the expressive music of the church becomes powerful music of the stage as the Appleton Boychoir ChamberSingers and MasterSingers present the opening concert of the 40th Anniversary Season. 2pm. St. Mary Catholic Parish, Appleton. 955-2224.

Something Rotten

October 23-28

Broadway's new hit comedy "Something Rotten" is "an explosion of musical joy!" (NPR). Set in 1595, this hilarious smash tells the story of two brothers who set out to write the world's very first musical! Ages 8+. 23-26, 7:30pm. 27, 2 & 7:30pm. 28, 1 & 6:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.



Ray LaMontagne: Just Passing Through

October 30

Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Ray LaMontagne returns to the stage on his acoustic tour, highlighting songs from his vast and varying body of work. 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

FUNDRAISERS

Ultraviolet: Domestic Abuse Fundraiser

October 12

This new fundraising event is a treat for all of the senses. Participate in an interactive art display, taste exotic flavors, dance to music and leave with a brighter light than you came. Proceeds benefit Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs. 6:30-10pm. Wisconsin Dance & Cheer, Kimberly. 955-9114.



3rd Annual Barn Bash

October 19

Dance the night away at this country-inspired fundraiser for Rise Together, a grassroots organization dedicated to empowering youth to stand up and speak out on issues such as suicide, bullying, mental illness, drugs and alcohol. 6-11pm. Tryba's Simply Country Barn, Freedom. 257-8036.

An Evening of Star Power

October 26

Join us for an inspiring night of fun, food and star power in support of scholarships for girls in need for Girls on the Run of Northeast Wisconsin. Hear incredible stories from Girls on the Run coaches, girls and parents of how Girls on the Run has positively impacted their lives. 7-10pm. The Reserve Ballroom, Neenah. 570-2189.

HISTORY

Historic Kaukauna Bus Tour

October 12

Join local historian Carol Mainville Van Boxtel as she takes you on a bus tour of historic Kaukauna. The tour will stop at over 10 sites that have historic significance to the development of the City of Kaukauna. Registration required, part of the Fox Cities Book Festival. 10-11am. Kaukauna Public Library. 766-6340.



Oral History Workshop

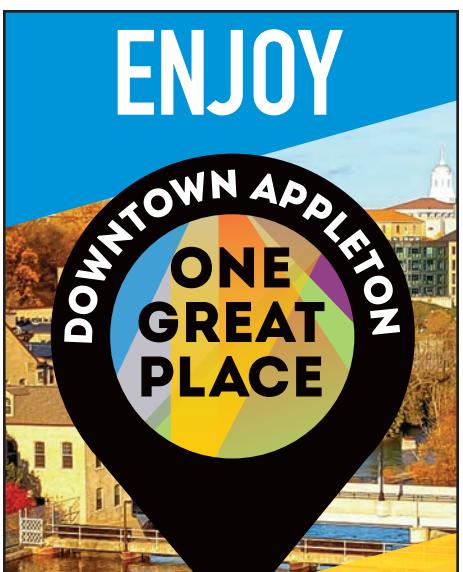
October 18

Come for a workshop on the important job of collecting oral histories and come back in the evening for a presentation on oral history collection for the community. 10am-2:30pm & 7pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

A Toast to Appleton History

October 18

Taste locally produced craft beer, wine and cheese and other local goodies. There will be a silent auction, raffles, live auction, hors d'oeuvres and several historical displays. This signature event of Appleton History Museum/Resource Center raises funds to support the organization. Tickets required. 6pm. The Grand Meridian, Appleton. 540-3699.



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October 13

SOUP WALK

October 20

DOWNTOWN AWARDS CELEBRATION

October 25

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Shall We Dance?

Eight community members will hit the dance floor on October 27 for the 11th annual Shall We Dance event. The dance competition fundraiser benefits the Sexual Assault Crisis Center-Fox Cities which provides free crisis intervention, advocacy and counseling for people affected by sexual trauma and exploitation.

Each of the community members have been partnered with a professional dancer with whom they've been training since June. Together, the pairs choreograph a 2-minute dance that will be performed in front of a live audience at the event.

Marty Curtis, president and CEO of Provisions Wealth Planners, is partnered with Nicholas Plante, owner of Fred Astaire Dance Studios, and the duo will perform the fox trot to Bette Midler's version of "Fever."

Curtis says in addition to helping her grow personally, participating in the event has made her realize the urgency of addressing sexual assault in the Fox Cities.

"It's a huge issue now," Curtis says. "The Interstate-41 corridor makes us prime targets for sex trafficking and we don't expect it. We have to raise awareness, because it's staggering here."

Amy Flanders, executive director of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center, says the center's 24-hour crisis hotline receives more than 500 calls annually. About 300 of those callers receive supportive services through the center.

"It's very difficult to talk about sexual assault, but this event is an opportunity for us to have that conversation," she says. "It's helping us raise awareness of



On Stage: Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein"



Just in time for Halloween, The Weidner Center for the Performing Arts on the UW-Green Bay campus will host a one-night production of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" on October 26.

This stage adaptation by Aquila Theatre Company celebrates the 200th anniversary of Shelley's chilling 1818 novel. Aquila Theatre Company is based in New York and is known for its bold adaptations of literary works.

The play follows Swiss scientist Victor Frankenstein who has a goal to create an artificial human. After Frankenstein succeeds without considering the

consequences, the monster comes for Frankenstein and his family after getting left on its own in the wilderness. Although the story was written 200 years ago, it remains relevant today by posing many ethical questions about science and innovation.

"Many credit 'Frankenstein' as being the original horror story," says Kelli Strickland, executive and art director of the Weidner. "It's the earliest of all of the monsters with association to Halloween. I think that Frankenstein is a sweet spot of science fiction and horror."

True to the novel, this stage adaptation is recommended for adult audiences. Tickets can be purchased at weidnercenter.com. -EH

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River Bookends



Art and science intersect in "River Bookends: Headwaters, Delta and the Volume of Stories in Between," an exhibit running through November 4 at UW-Fox Valley's Aylward Gallery in Menasha.

The exhibit is a collaboration between UW-Fox Valley art professor Judith Baker Waller and James A. Brey, a former UW-Fox Valley geology and geography professor and current senior science consultant for the American Meteorological Society (AMS).

"As an artist (me) and an earth scientist, (Jim), and both having taught on the UW-Fox Valley campus, we often took students into each other's studio or lab," Waller says. "After Jim took a position with the AMS, we discovered another way to teach and that is through art and science exhibitions."

"River Bookends" is the duo's third collaboration and will showcase paintings, drawings, essays, poems and interactive experiences on the theme of rivers. Waller created the visuals and Brey authored many of the accompanying essays.

While their two previous collaborative exhibits informed gallery visitors of catastrophic environmental loss and threats, "River Bookends" focuses less on disasters and more on cultural and other human activities linked with rivers.



"While the resulting art does not always focus on specific people, it addresses how elements of human culture have been shaped by rivers and how both individual and collective human experiences have historically been, and still are, inextricably linked," Waller says. "One of our goals is to present an opportunity for students on the campus—and

members of the public—to consider a subject, in this case, rivers, from different points of focus."

In conjunction with the exhibit, a one-time event titled "River Bookends: Fox Wanderings," will take place at the Barlow Planetarium in Menasha at 7 p.m. on October 11. The performance will include visual art, spoken word and music.

"In both the gallery and the planetarium shows, we celebrate the connections between disciplines in our focus on one topic," Waller says. "These collaborative links are important in teaching and learning about so many of the stories in our world."

For updates, visit uwfox.uwc.edu. —ACW

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Showcase

Sequential Killers: The Victorian Terror

Hearthstone Historic House Museum in Appleton is hosting a not-so-typical haunted house every Friday in October, with continuous one-hour presentations from 6 to 9 p.m. Haunted Hearthstone will provide a theatrical glimpse into the 19th century beginnings of serial murder investigations.



Performances will feature notorious murderers Jack the Ripper, H.H. Holmes, Sweeney Todd, The Bloody Benders and Mary Ann Cotton as well as the chance to see through the eyes of the victims, detectives and perpetrators who stalked them.

Tour the Hearthstone and see the story of a different serial killer unfold in each room. The

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house will be decorated for mourning during the Victorian Era to really bring these stories alive.

Thomas Weiland, development director of Hearthstone Historic Museum says, "I think [the tour] has a lot of interesting information about the era and the killers. People can enjoy it from a scary yet educational standpoint since these characters actually existed and did the things depicted in this presentation."

This is a sophisticated, adult-oriented event suitable for ages 12 and up; an alternative to the traditional (blood-and-gore-jump-out-at-you) haunted house. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at hearthstonemuseum.com. -EH

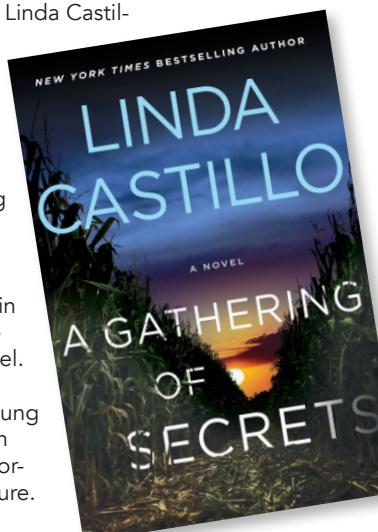


Fox Cities Book Festival

The 11th annual Fox Cities Book Festival is hosting 60 authors participating in over 70 events from October 8-14. Connecting readers to the writers they love, the festival focuses on a wide range of genres for everyone. Vice President of the Board of the Fox Cities Book Festival Ashley Thiem-Menning says, "We try to make sure that we can connect at least one person somehow with the festival."

Headlining this year's festival is author Linda Castillo who writes the New York Times bestselling Kate Burkholder mystery series set in Amish country. Her most recent novel, "A Gathering of Secrets," was released on July 10th and is the 10th book of the series. Castillo will be speaking at three events during the festival.

Authors Sarah Read, Richard Thomas, Chris Welch, James Lowder and Kathrin Köhler will be discussing writing in the horror genre at the Horror Writers Panel. The festival's second panel, Diverse Voices in Youth Literature, will have young adult authors Lori M. Lee, Crystal Chan and Kurtis Scaletta discussing the importance of diverse voices in youth literature.



A new feature added to the festival this year is spoken word poetry. This type of poetry is both read and performed. Milwaukee poets Dasha Kelly Hamilton, Amanda Reavey, Matt Cook and De'Shawn Ewing will be presenting their poems as well as talking about how spoken word poetry works.

Attendees will be able to engage with writers at free events throughout the week at different locations spread across the Fox Cities from The Draw to public libraries. "It's really an awesome week of celebrating authors and the written word," Thiem-Menning says.

For more information, go to foxcitiesbookfestival.org or follow the festival on Facebook at Fox Cities Book Festival, on Instagram @fcbookfest and Twitter @FCBookFestival. -SW

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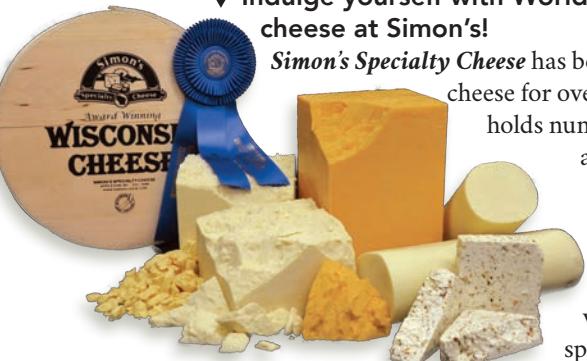
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KAI & HALL

By Frank L. Anderson

A Hawaiian musical sensation and an Australian boxing champion – what could they have in common? They both met their untimely fates in the Fox Cities and are buried at local cemeteries. These are their stories.

THE GUITAR KING

In an unmarked grave at St. Joseph Cemetery in Appleton lies the body of William Henry Kai, a profoundly gifted musician and entertainer. He was born in the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1880. From 1899 to 1907 he toured in bands and orchestras of varying sizes across the United States. By 1908 he was elevated to the rarified air of being a featured solo performer on the American Vaudeville circuit. Kai was a guitar hero before there was such a thing. Already a well known multi-instrumentalist, he was among the first musicians to introduce the ukulele to mainland audiences and was the first virtuoso of that instrument. He also pioneered the use of multimedia in musical performance.

Kai arrived in Appleton in early October 1908. He rented a room at the house of Mr. and

Mrs. George Hamilton on Atlantic Street, then walked downtown to check in at the Bijou Theater where he was booked for a week of shows. His solo act was brilliant. Surrounded by a wide array of stringed instruments, he would sing, tell stories about and perform the music of his homeland in front of a giant screen upon which a changing series of hand-tinted glass slides were projected. Appleton fell in love with the handsome young man who onstage wore a signature white suit with several colorful leis draped about his neck. After a successful run at the Bijou, Kai decided to remain in town in order to rehearse a modified version of his show for upcoming dates in Marinette, Milwaukee and Chicago.

On Friday, October 23, he finished afternoon rehearsals at the Bijou and was returning to his rented room on Atlantic Street. Kai, impatient at a stopped freight train blocking his path

at the corner of Bates and Appleton Streets, attempted a shortcut between two boxcars. As he set his foot atop the couplers, the train lurched forward. Kai's foot slipped into a gap between the couplers and was crushed by the recoil of a sudden stop. Nearby pedestrians rushed to his aid. He was conveyed to St. Elizabeth Hospital where four toes were amputated from his injured foot. The surgery went well and Kai was upbeat.

"His room was filled with flowers and fruit. I went to visit him three times," wrote Appleton's Chief of Police Fred Hoefer. However, early on the morning of October 27, Kai began to cough blood. By 4:30 a.m. he was dead. He was 28 years old.

The cause of death was described as "internal hemorrhages." His grave was not marked with a headstone as his burial was thought to be temporary. Surely some family member would



William Henry Kai arrives in Appleton. Final destination. Papier Mâche. Frank L. Anderson.

claim his body, but little was known about Kai's past. In November, Kai's brother George Sea (Kai is the Hawaiian word for Sea), the High Deputy Sheriff of the Territory of Hawaii, sent a letter of inquiry to the Appleton Police Department. He expressed interest in claiming his brother's body. Tom K. Hennessey, a Hawaiian musician and Kai's closest friend, turned up in Appleton to claim Kai's belongings on behalf of his wife, a cousin of Mr. Kai. Hennessey revealed Kai's parents died when he was a small boy and he was raised by his grandmother. His grandfather, rumored to be a millionaire, would soon claim the young musician's body. A month went by, but there was no communication from the mysterious grandfather and in early 1909, George Sea unexpectedly passed away. In the years that followed, the gravesite of William H. Kai was forgotten.

In 1912, the Hawaiian music and culture that William Kai worked so hard to promote became a national craze. Hawaiian musicians now flooded the mainland and filled every theater circuit across the United States. Just years earlier Kai had been one among a few dozen Hawaiian entertainers working full-time in America. The Hawaiian influence on two emerging styles of American music, blues and country, was profound and two unique Hawaiian instruments, the ukulele and the steel guitar, attracted mass followings and spawned a number of popular hybrid instruments. I think William Kai would enjoy the fact that Appleton has transformed into a musical town and that so many talented musicians pass through The Refuge at the end of Ballard Road, so close to his grave. William Henry Kai can be found in section J Row 20 Plot E at St. Joseph Cemetery. P.S. He needs a headstone.

Acknowledgement: Many thanks to Frank Groh and Tara Oberg-DuPont at the St. Joseph Cemetery office for kind help, prompt replies and a plot location walk.

THE PRIZEFIGHTER & THE BODY SNATCHER

On March 8, 1913, an employee of the Northwestern Railroad in Neenah was sent to investigate a one room shack adjacent to railroad property behind a boarding house. Loud, violent coughing could be heard inside the structure. The railroad man opened the wooden latch door. Inside, he found a man, slight of figure, lying in a small bed. The man was in the final stages of consumption. In his right hand and close to his face, he clutched a bloody rag. There were numerous scars on his hands and face. A thin wool blanket covered his body. The railroad man kept his distance and asked his name.

Jim Hall was an Irish-born Australian and the most gifted prize fighter of his generation. He fought at the very end of the bare knuckle era and at the beginning of the gloved era. His was a household name at a time when boxing was the number one sport in America. He also was a world class drinker with an explosive temper who delighted in the pure physicality of fighting both in and out of the ring.

In the end, the great Jim Hall would be secretly buried in an unmarked grave in Neenah in order to protect his bones. Twenty years earlier in 1893, Jim Hall fought his rival, Bob Fitzsimmons – a former blacksmith who had once killed an opponent in the ring – for the world middle-weight title. To call it the fight of the century would be an injustice. To those who were there, the high level of drama and pageantry surrounding the fight would never be seen again in their lifetimes.

Hall prepared for the fight at the finest training gym in America – John Kline's Manly Art Institute in Beloit, Wisconsin. Kline, one of the most respected trainers of his time, believed he had in Jim Hall the single finest athlete the fight world had ever seen. But, as always happens in the Jim Hall story, Jim Hall got the best of Jim Hall. He fell off of his training regimen, got lazy and took to women, whiskey and song.

On fight day in New Orleans, the money was on Hall. All across the United States, in cities big and small, millions gathered near telegraph offices to receive blow by blow accounts of the fight. Jim Hall was drunk and confident when he entered the ring. Fitzsimmons was nervous. Hall owned the first three rounds. But in the fourth round, Fitzsimmons caught Hall on the underside of his chin with the entire weight of his considerable body. Hall flew upwards into the air and landed in a heap. "He was raised off his feet by the power of the blow and was out cold before his body hit the ground," noted an observer. "For a moment, we thought he was dead."

Jim Hall never recovered. The years that followed were a downward spiral of won and lost fights, bar brawls, arrests for assault and battery and frequent theft. No one, not even Jim Hall, could keep up with the Jim Hall lifestyle. By 1912, he was bedridden, dying of TB at a charity ward in Chicago, reduced to sneaking into an adjacent morgue at night to steal valuables from the pockets of the recently deceased in order to buy liquor. One day, a Chicago surgeon named Dr. Rahde offered Hall a deal: \$150 - half payment up front - for ownership of the prizefighters bones upon death. Rahde planned to exhibit the skeleton of Jim Hall in sideshows across the country. Jim Hall took the money and embarked on a final bender.

When the doctor arrived the next day with final payment, Hall came to his senses. He floored Dr. Rahde with a hard punch and fled north to the last friendly refuge he could think of - Neenah, Wisconsin. A businessman and several Jim Hall fans from the Fox Cities provided the Australian with a room and some pocket money. Hall's rapidly deteriorating condition forced a series of moves and he ended up in the shack near the railroad tracks where he was found on the morning of March 8, almost 20 years to the day of his title bout with Fitzsimmons.

Hall's friends arranged for him to be taken to the River Pines TB sanitarium in Stevens Point, an hour train ride to the west. Jim Hall quietly passed away in Stevens Point on March 12, 1913 and was buried in Neenah. When an attempt to raise money for a headstone caught the attention of the ever-watchful Dr. Rahde, the friends of Jim Hall made a pact that there would be no headstone and Hall's burial site would never be revealed.

Eighty years later in 2006, Bill Schutte, a historian of boxing's early era, bought the Australian a headstone which reads "Jim Hall, Prizefighter." Hall is buried, plot 283 at Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah. He prefers whiskey.

Frank L. Anderson is a musician, animator, director and writer living in Appleton. In 2006 he co-directed the critically-acclaimed feature film, "The Life of Reilly," based on the life of comedian Charles Nelson Reilly. He is the author of Wisconsinology.com and wrote the book "Wicked Fox Cities" for History Press.

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ARTISAN KITCHENS

Adding personal touches to the heart of the home

By Sarah Wells

Photos by Phil Weston of Weston Imaging

back and asking, what can I do to make it beautiful," says Jane Baken, designer at Studio Kitchens in Appleton.

Baken emphasizes that along with eye-pleasing design, there has to be function. Work habits in the kitchen don't always align with the designs customers initially desire.

As Vice President of Engineering at Galloway Company in Neenah, Tod Galloway found it easy to focus on his kitchen project's goals dealing primarily with function. "This was supposed to be a functional kitchen, not a trophy kitchen," Galloway says.

"Anyone can walk into a room and see four blank walls and put cabinets around those walls. However, design is stepping

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His design choices proved to be functional while also incorporating personalized details. When putting in the vent above the cooking surface, the builder brainstormed how to hold various pieces of the ductwork together. Galloway immediately began thinking how the issue would be handled at his factory. This resulted in the builder using clamps similar to what Galloway has seen on machines at the factory.

"...design is stepping back and asking, what can I do to make it beautiful..."

"What makes it personal is that it reflects the industrial design aesthetic that I have at my factory," Galloway says.

Baken says many times personal touches in a kitchen remodel result from something preexisting in the home. For Galloway, it was his love of art collecting. Much of the wall space was reserved for his collection of paintings.

Galloway also chose to include a custom made glass backsplash by Studio Glassworks in Madison. Statement backsplashes are

Continued on Page 18 >>

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becoming more of an artistic and eye-catching aspect of kitchens and are one of the year's most popular home trends. The glass backsplash is also functional as it is low maintenance and easy to clean.

HARMONY IN STYLE

Susan Hirschberg is an architect at RH Design Build in Oshkosh who recently worked with a local couple on a home addition and kitchen remodel. For the project, the husband wanted a popular rustic-style kitchen while the wife wanted it to be more decorative.

"The goal is to make the clients completely happy with the project," Hirschberg says. "Sometimes couples can be on the same wavelength, and other times on different ones."

Hirschberg was able to incorporate both styles through certain elements of the kitchen. While the veneer stones on the walls



were to bring out the rustic element, the design of the island with the concrete countertops was made to be more decorative. Marbled quartz countertops are another popular choice of homeowners because they can be designed to look like marble and make the countertops appear seamless.

When customized, range hoods can become a centerpiece for the kitchen. The range hood in this project is a mix of both rustic and decorative elements. Hammered copper makes it appear rustic, while the clean lines are traditional and elegant.



Hirschberg explains that every project she works on is unique when incorporating personalized details. As one of the most used rooms in a home, kitchens with personality are more in demand than ever. "The kitchen has almost become the living room," Hirschberg says. "It's where the majority of people spend their time."

Continued on Page 20 >>

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McFleshman's Brewing Company



The Newest Microbrewery in Town

Appleton's newest microbrewery, McFleshman's Brewing Co., opened this spring in a historic building on S. State Street.

Husband/wife owners Bobby Fleshman and Allison McCoy Fleshman are Oklahoma transplants who relocated to the area for jobs at Lawrence University; choosing the area for its history, rich culture and enthusiasm for beer. It was the perfect place to open a microbrewery as well. They partnered with Bob and Jacque Fleshman (Bobby's parents) to make the business a reality.

Bobby earned his Master Brewers degree from UC Davis in 2013 and received his diploma from the Institute of Brewing and Distilling, London, in 2014.

The family was joined by sister/daughter Cindi Jackman and her family for business management and they quickly recruited fellow Oklahomans Layla Cowper and Shane Butner. Having met Layla and Shane through a home brew club, they were an ideal fit for taproom manager and head brewer respectively. The team has worked tirelessly renovating the historic building over the last year.

Hard work has finally paid off. The brewery now has a traditional English pub vibe with an outdoor German-style beer garden that hosts local food trucks. The ground level taproom features a 21-foot-long stained-glass antique back bar and two-level mezzanine that hosts live music. Instruments such as a guitar, ukulele and piano are waiting in the taproom for impromptu

jam sessions. Craft beer enthusiasts will eventually be able to view fermentation in an open-top fermenter through glass windows in the production area.

McFleshman's has carved out their market with the traditional styles. Currently brewing five different beers with plans to increase that number to 12, the beer menu consists of traditional English and Irish ales and German lagers. "I'm a process person," Fleshman says. "I love the tradition in these styles because you find a lot of steadfast brewing methods that have been vetted."

The flagship beers on tap are a traditional English mild ale, an English IPA, a Munich Helles lager and an Irish dry stout. Guests can also select from a variety of local brewery guest taps.

In 2019, the brewery's upstairs event hall will be completed and will offer space for private events and parties. As a self-proclaimed "brewery for brewers," Fleshman says the upstairs will eventually become a brewer's school, offering education for home brewers and craft brewers of all levels.

"We are seeing a lot of people going from their garage to owning breweries, but there is a gap in education," he says. "They might not have the resources to go to California or Chicago to take classes, we can be an affordable middle ground with smaller, tailored courses."

The tasting room is open Thursday 4-10 p.m., Friday 4 p.m.-close, Saturday 12 p.m.-close and Sunday 12-6 p.m.



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HOW TO ACHIEVE THE ARTISAN KITCHEN OF YOUR DREAMS

- **THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX.** Baken says, "Clients can struggle with contemporary, modern things because neighbors or friends don't have them in their kitchens, but sometimes it's an act of bravery to do something different."
- Baken also suggests **VISITING ONLINE INSPIRATION SITES** like houzz.com. The site offers thousands of kitchen pictures and can help people start to determine their likes and dislikes.
- For rustic looks, Hirschberg recommends **LOOKING AT ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE SHOPS** such as Urban Evolutions in Appleton or Crescent Moon in Oshkosh. "When homeowners are creative and put in the work, there can be tons of ideas that can stem from these raw materials."
- **HIRING BOTH A GOOD DESIGNER AND BUILDER** is essential to the project. Doing general research on projects they have done before and talking to other clients can help with the process of finding the team who will be the best fit.
- **KNOW THAT IT'S NORMAL FOR EMOTIONS TO CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS.** While looking for ideas and designing might be exciting, living through a months-long kitchen remodel might be difficult and frustrating at times. Keep your eye on the prize and take one day at a time.

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24th Annual Golden Fork Awards

By Amelia Compton Wolff & Erika Hearden
Photography by Jordan Ashwood

The ballots have been tallied and the results are in. For our annual reader survey of area food and drink, Fox Valley foodies selected their favorite establishments in 33 categories of dining, from Best Steak to Most Vegetarian Friendly. Learn more about the winners in the following pages, then make it your mission to visit each and find out exactly why they came out on top.



BEST OVERALL: CARMELLA'S ITALIAN BISTRO

After an upset in 2017, Carmella's Italian Bistro has found its way back to the top spot in 2018's Golden Fork Awards. This is the eighth Best Overall win for the Appleton restaurant and it's extra sweet this year, says co-owner Nicole DeFranza.

"There are so many great new restaurants. It's nice to be included in this whole new crop," she says. "It only elevates the food scene here in Appleton."

A lot has changed since 2009 when DeFranza opened the restaurant with her sister, Kristen. The pair launched a second restaurant, began selling their jarred pasta sauce in retail outlets and grew from 25 to 120 employees. But some things haven't changed much.

"At our core, who Kristen and I are in our philosophy is what perseveres and you have to keep teaching it and finding the right people in the front and back of house who hold themselves to a higher standard," DeFranza says.

Carmella's also took home Golden Forks for Best Salad, Best Ambiance and Best Waitstaff. DeFranza says the Best Waitstaff win is especially meaningful, as she and Kristen come from a long line of restaurateurs who pride themselves in hospitality.

"When you are born into the restaurant industry, you become a person who likes to make people happy through food. That's where our background is and where we get to connect with people," she says. "It never ceases to amaze us how lucky we are to have found so many amazing [employees] who are great at what they do and who love people."

The menu is served in the traditional bistro style and is complemented by a hand-picked wine and beer selection. From fresh pastas to thoughtfully prepared entrees, guests can take their pick and never worry about going wrong.

"We are so thankful for our guests and, since day one, for the community who has rallied around us the way they have," DeFranza says. "The friends we make at the restaurant are truly a gift." —ACW

BEST DINE-IN DELI

I enjoy New York Deli because you really get a feel for the New York style sandwiches. My favorite sandwich is the turkey d'aosta panini. But what I really enjoy is the tortellini pasta salad and the skin-on red potato salad. I usually buy an extra one to take home with me. — Samantha Lutz, Appleton



BEST NEW RESTAURANT: AUTHOR'S KITCHEN & BAR

Author's Kitchen & Bar opened in Appleton on June 22, taking over the old IL Angolo spot.

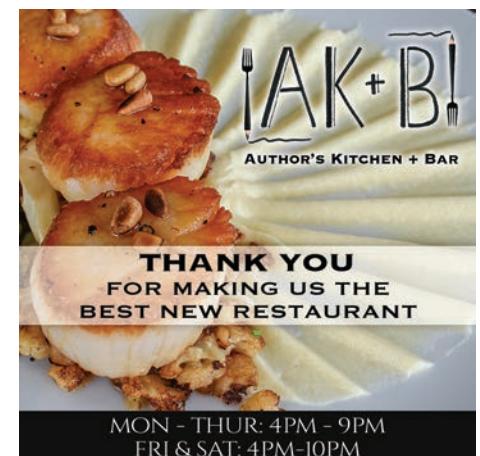
Owners Josh Sickler and Matias Whittingslow met four years ago while working together at SAP Brunch, Brown Bag & Bakery. Author's is their first independent venture.

"We've always worked for other people really hard and we were at the point in our careers where we either needed to do it for ourselves or get out of the business," Sickler says.

Since opening, the restaurant has gained a reputation for their handmade pastas (particularly the gnocchi), fresh seafood and innovative specials. The menu, which changes frequently, also offers small-bite snacks, shareable appetizers, salads and entrees.

"People who come here really enjoy food," Whittingslow says. "We see that because they are willing to try new things. I feel like we are gaining their confidence."

With just 16 tables in the restaurant, Sickler and Whittingslow knew a spacious, relaxing wait area would



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2018 GOLDEN FORK AWARD WINNERS LIST

BEST OVERALL

Carmella's Italian Bistro
Runner Up: Greene's Pour House

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Author's Kitchen + Bar
Runner Up: Bowl Ninety-One

BEST WORTH THE DRIVE

Black Otter Supper Club
Runner Up: Village Hearthstone

BEST AMBIANCE

Carmella's Italian Bistro
Runner Up: RYE

BEST WAITSTAFF

Carmella's Italian Bistro
Runner Up: Greene's Pour House

BEST APPETIZER

Greene's Pour House
Runner Up: Red Ox Seafood and Steakhouse

MOST VEGETARIAN FRIENDLY

Basil Café
Runner Up: Harmony Pizza

BEST STEAK

George's Steakhouse
Runner Up: Mark's East Side

BEST SEAFOOD

Mark's East Side
Runner Up: Red Ox Seafood and Steakhouse

BEST FRIED/BROASTED CHICKEN

Mary's Family Restaurant
Runner Up: The Cozy Corner

BEST FISH FRY

Mark's East Side
Runner Up: Camelot Bar & Grill

BEST CURRY

Sai Ram Indian Cuisine
Runner Up: Basil Café

BEST PIZZA

Stuc's Pizza
Runner Up: Harmony Pizza

BEST DESSERT

SAP Brunch, Brown Bag & Bakery
Runner Up: Town Council Kitchen and Bar

BEST BURGER

Home Burger Bar
Runner Up: Mihm's Charcoal Grill

BEST CHEESE CURDS

Milwaukee Burger Company
Runner Up: Stone Arch Brewpub

BEST SANDWICH

SAP Brunch, Brown Bag & Bakery
Runner Up: WeatherVane

BEST BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

SAP Brunch, Brown Bag & Bakery
Runner Up: WeatherVane

BEST HOMESTYLE/COMFORT FOOD

The Cozy Corner
Runner Up: Mary's Family Restaurant

BEST DINER/CAFE

Little Diner Xpress
Runner Up: Third Street Diner

BEST ASIAN FOOD

Basil Café
Runner Up: GingeRootz Asian Grille

BEST SUSHI

Katsu-Ya of Japan
Runner Up: Island Sushi

BEST MEXICAN FOOD

Antojitos Mexicanos
Runner Up: Solea Mexican Grill

BEST ETHNIC FOOD

Sai Ram Indian Cuisine
Runner Up: Apollon

BEST SUPPER CLUB

Mark's East Side
Runner Up: Dick and Joan's Supper Club

BEST CUP OF COFFEE

Copper Rock Coffee Co.
Runner Up: Seth's Coffee

BEST DINE-IN DELI

New York Deli
Runner Up: Green Gecko Grocer & Deli

BEST LATE NIGHT DINING

Muncheez Pizzeria
Runner Up: Sal's Pizza

BEST BAR & GRILL

Greene's Pour House
Runner Up: Home Burger Bar

BEST CRAFT COCKTAIL

Ambassador
Runner Up: Town Council Kitchen and Bar

BEST HAPPY HOUR

Greene's Pour House
Runner Up: Ground Round

BEST SEASONAL MENU

The Source Public House
Runner Up: Town Council Kitchen and Bar

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BEST ASIAN CUISINE: BASIL CAFÉ

For the fifth year running, Appleton's Basil Café has won the Golden Fork for Best Asian Cuisine.

"There are so many great places to eat in the Valley and the friendly competition pushes us to keep on top of our game," says manager Larry Chomsisengphet.

Basil Café's loyal fan base has grown mostly through word of mouth recommendations. As word spread about the amazing Thai, Vietnamese and Lao food being pumped out of the unassuming building on Richmond Street, the business grew.

Last year, Basil Café began introducing more authentic Lao dishes to the menu like Nam Khao (Lao-style crispy fried rice), Sai Oua (pork sausage) and Sien Savanh (sweet beef jerky). Chomsisengphet says when his sister, Sou Chomsisengphet, opened the restaurant nearly seven

years ago, she never thought authentic dishes like these would sell.

"Never did she dream that in Wisconsin there was a market for these dishes, but the community has shown us there is," Chomsisengphet says. "We are so thankful they have accepted these dishes, because that's acceptance of our culture."

The majority of Basil Café's dishes can be made vegan or vegetarian, which helped the restaurant secure the Most Vegetarian Friendly Golden Fork as well. Chomsisengphet says new dishes will be added to the menu in the near future, as soon as the right staff members are in place.

"We always have our staples like Pad Thai, but the best parts of the menu are the really authentic Lao stuff that gets guests to push their boundaries," Chomsisengphet says. -ACW

BEST PIZZA: STUC'S PIZZA

There's a whole lot that makes Stuc's Pizza different from other pizza places. With a focus on quality products and excellent customer service, Stuc's took home the Golden Fork for Best Pizza in 2018.

Stuc's offers pastas, salads and sandwiches in addition to their pizzas which feature a unique sauce whose recipe has never changed (and never will). Long time employee and owner since 2007, Erik Anderson recommends that newbies try classics such as the Chicago-style deep dish pizza or one of the calzones baked to perfection. Of course, the Stuc's Special Deep Dish is always a favorite.

BEST CRAFT COCKTAIL: AMBASSADOR

Craft cocktail bars have a reputation for pretension, but they aren't required to come with a side of snootiness. You certainly won't find that at Ambassador, winner of Best Craft Cocktail, says bar manager Josiah Brown.

"Midwestern folk, we like things that are real, heartfelt and genuine. That's something we offer," Brown says.

Anderson says Stuc's, with locations in Appleton and Neenah, not only uses quality ingredients, but their staff pays attention to the small details as well.

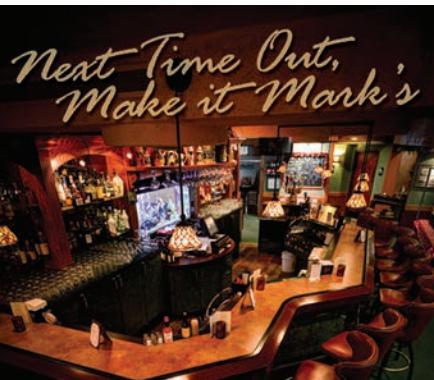
"We focus on quality in both product and customer service," he says. "Aside from that, we have withstood the test of time through road construction, a bad economy, ownership change and competing restaurants - after all of that we are still here and growing." -EH

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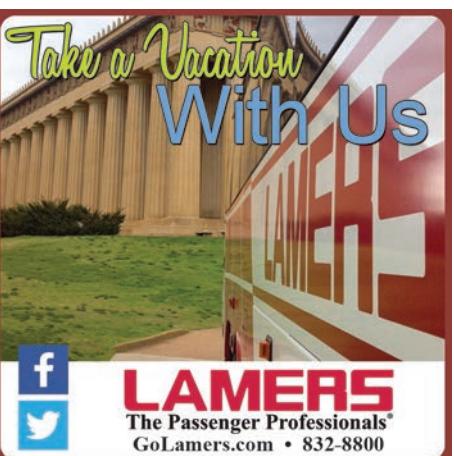
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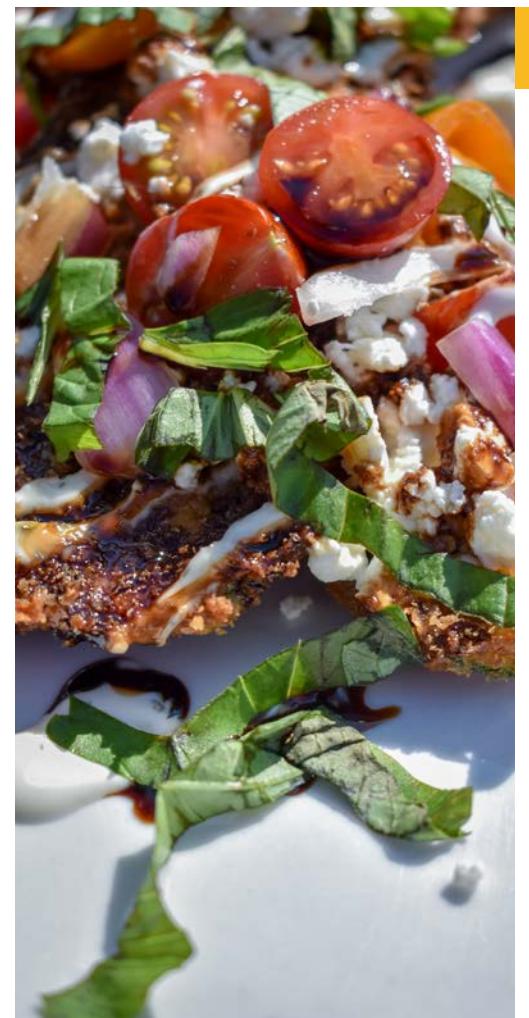
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BEST SEASONAL MENU: THE SOURCE PUBLIC HOUSE

The Source Public House in Menasha took home the Golden Fork for Best Seasonal Menu in 2018. The restaurant's menu changes with the seasons and everything on it is completely made from scratch. From fresh vegetables and fruits to meat, fish and poultry, most ingredients are sourced from farmers right here in the Fox Cities and across the state.

JD Gildemeister, general manager of The Source says it's hard to pick a favorite menu item with so many from which to choose. "We have many different items across the board with different food palettes and offer vegan options as well," he says.

This fall, The Source will launch their harvest-themed menu. Expect to see fall favorites such as oven roasted acorn squash filled with wild mushrooms, carrots, kale, cranberries and wild rice, topped with toasted pecans.

In addition to its focus on local and sustainable food, the restaurant also features a full bar, dog-friendly patio, regular live music and local art. The Source prides itself on appreciating all forms of local creativity – from brewers and cheesemakers to musicians and painters. –EH

BEST WORTH THE DRIVE: BLACK OTTER SUPPER CLUB

If you're looking for a dining experience that goes big, head to Bob & Geri's Black Otter Supper Club in Hortonville, winner of the Golden Fork for Best Worth the Drive. The restaurant is home to one of the largest prime ribs in the country – the extreme cut prime rib weighs in at 160 ounces, or about 10 pounds. Finish it and receive a \$20 gift certificate, your photo on the "Wall of Fame" and a congratulatory T-shirt.

Even the salad bar, included with every meal, is huge. It features a selection of homemade soups, a dozen different vegetables, dinner rolls, spreadable cheeses and a variety of additional sides and salads.

Geri Guyette, who owns Black Otter with her husband Bob, says her staff plays a key role in the success of the supper club. "We couldn't do it without them," Guyette says. "They know how to treat customers and we get many compliments on our staff often."

Guyette recommends the tenderloin, twisted mac and cheese or Cajun broiled haddock. Their famous slow-roasted prime rib can be ordered in several cuts besides the intimidatingly large extreme cut. Try the 32-ounce queen or 72-ounce king cut for something (slightly) more manageable. –EH

BEST SUPPER CLUB: MARK'S EAST SIDE

Mark's East Side has been gaining fans ever since owner Mark Dougherty's parents first opened the supper club in 1967. The Appleton restaurant has plenty of Golden Forks under its belt, and this year it landed wins for Best Supper Club, Best Seafood and Best Fish Fry.

Going the extra mile and having the freshest ingredients makes Mark's award winning, but attention to the little details really sets it apart – the battered haddock uses a special family recipe, the coleslaw is made with hand-shredded cabbage and the tartar sauce is a homemade house recipe as well.

"Doing everything in house – trimming and cutting meat, peeled and deveined shrimp, fresh cabbage, and freshly made soup – is what really is the difference maker," Dougherty says.

Fridays at Mark's are practically a holiday. The restaurant serves upwards of 500 guests during their all day fish fry. Guests can find haddock, perch, frog legs and other options like walleye, salmon, mahi-mahi, shrimp and scallops on the menu.

The family-owned feel is important to Dougherty, who says his staff executes the restaurant's mission daily.

"Another restaurant could buy the same, have attention to detail, but what they can't do is have my staff," he says. "They are the ones who make it all come together and make sure the details are paid attention to." –EH

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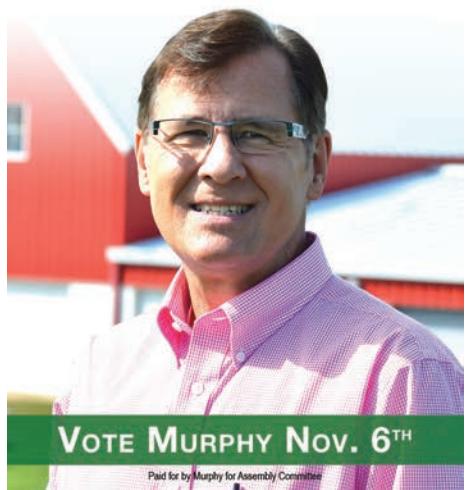
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In the beginning of 2019, renovations will begin as the restaurant expands into the adjacent building space that previously belonged to Tina Marie's Unique Boutique. The current bar area will become a private dining room for parties. The bar will be relocated to the new space as will the main dining room. The current dining room will become a lounge and waiting area with room for DJs and live music. Almanza says the front of the building will open to the streets with accordion windows for an al fresco feel.
—ACW

Best Bar & Grill

[Green's Pour House has] consistently great food, a large selection of beer on tap, friendly staff, a very cool historic space (including being able to open the front in nice weather) and live performances in a comfortable downtown atmosphere.
— Stewart Ellison, Neenah

ask Chef JEFF

Have a culinary question for Chef Jeff? Go to foxcitiesmagazine.com and click Community Chat.



Q. What is the difference between Panko and regular breadcrumbs? Is one better than the other and can they be used interchangeably? — Hannah, Appleton

A. Panko crumbs are breadcrumbs that are larger and coarser than standard breadcrumbs which tend to be finer. Panko crumbs are prepared using only the inside white part of the bread. Since no outside crusts are used, they are much whiter than traditional breadcrumbs that are made by grinding all of the bread including the crusts. For these reasons, Panko crumbs tend to be more expensive than traditionally prepared breadcrumbs. Panko crumbs are usually used when a crispier, crunchier coating is desired on the product being made. In essence, Panko crumbs and traditional breadcrumbs can be used interchangeably, but the results will be noticeably different. I keep both Panko crumbs and traditional breadcrumbs at home so I have a choice when I am cooking. For example, I use Panko crumbs on my baked coconut shrimp recipe to give them a nice crispy coating. I oven-bake my Scotch eggs, and because of this I prefer to use Panko crumbs to provide a little more crunch on the crust. If I need breadcrumbs to help bind a crab cake, I would use traditional breadcrumbs.



Best Breakfast/Brunch: SAP Brunch, Brown Bag & Bakery

When it comes to the most important meal of the day, voters made it clear their preference is Appleton's SAP Brunch, Brown Bag & Bakery, voting it the winner for Best Breakfast/Brunch. The funky diner-style cafe also secured wins for Best Dessert and Best Sandwich.

Co-owner Nicole DeFranza says SAP proudly supports local producers, and guests will taste the difference it makes. Many dishes begin with organic chicken or duck eggs from Kellner Back Acre Farms in Denmark. Cheese is sourced from Wisconsin producer Carr Valley Cheese and bread products come from Breadsmith, also headquartered in the state. Produce comes from Produce with Purpose in Fond du Lac and New Community Farm in Neenah.

"We want people to know where their food comes from," DeFranza says. "It's from our backyard, it's from our friends."

In breaking eggs Benedict news, SAP now offers theirs all day (previously they were only served until 2 p.m.) This is excellent news when you need a Benny fix for dinner. Try the classic eggs Benedict or opt for the pulled pork or chorizo versions for something different.

Take your meal to the next level by finishing with one of SAP's award-winning bakery items, from French macarons to fresh fruit tarts, prepared by chef Kari Mueller. Whatever you order, you'll probably want to snap a picture before scarfing it down.

"Not only do they taste good, but they look beautiful too," DeFranza says. —ACW

Continued on Page 32 >>

To read more Chef Jeff and find recipes, go to foxcitiesmagazine.com and click "Columns."

Chef Jeff Igel is Program Director of Culinary Outreach at Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton. "Chef Jeff" has spent his entire career in the restaurant and hospitality industry, serving in many capacities.



Best Diner/Cafe: Little Diner Xpress

Little Diner Xpress owners Rod Bergman and Mike Forrest believe their caring, kind and thoughtful staff, along with a strong customer base, cinched their win in the Best Diner/Cafe category.

"We provide quality products at a really affordable price point for doctors, newlyweds and high schoolers," Forrest says, emphasizing that the Appleton diner caters to a wide variety of clientele.

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The diner is open 24-hours and prioritizes organic and non-GMO products including fair trade coffee and sunflower oil for a healthier deep-frying alternative. This philosophy includes sourcing ingredients locally whenever possible. The focus on fresh, organic and healthy food sets the diner apart.

Forrest recommends trying any of the soups, breakfast sandwiches or burgers. Recently added to the menu is a new build-your-own burger option so guests can customize the burger of their dreams. Start with a hand-patted organic grass-fed beef burger, add your favorite toppings and select a pretzel, brioche or whole wheat bun. -EH

BEST STEAK

I really like both the rib eye and the prime rib at George's Steak House. The flavor is great, and the atmosphere really lends itself to making the evening an experience rather than just a meal.
- Mike Zaves, Appleton

Best Coffee: Copper Rock Coffee Company

With two Appleton locations, Copper Rock Coffee Company once again locked in the win for Best Coffee in the 2018 Golden Fork Awards.

When it comes to serving the best cup of coffee, owner Bill Heiges explains that it's all about the highest quality and focusing on the details. There are many nuances to consider such as where the beans are grown and the type of soil in which they are grown. Heiges has worked hard to develop relationships with farmers who produce quality coffee and works with importers to bring in top tier coffee beans.

Continued on Page 34 >>

BEST CHEESE CURDS

I like Milwaukee Burger Company's cheese curds the best because they are big, cheesy and delicious! We like to order the cheese curd sampler to try all the different flavors. -Amanda Siergiej, Menasha



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BEST NEW RESTAURANT

"It's a journey and I never feel like I've arrived because I'm always learning and finding out what is working for other roasters," Heiges says.

The cafe has something for every taste whether it be the brightness of a light roast or the smooth, velvety finish of a dark roast as well as lattes, mochas and specialty drinks.

Heiges says his staff plays a key role in the success of the business.

"We have had a consistent staff for years and years because they have loved working for us," Heiges says. "I thank my staff for serving consistently good coffee and serving it with a smile. That's part of the reason that we have gotten voted for so many times since beginning 15 years ago." -EH

BEST BURGER

Home Burger Bar is amazing! They have a very unique menu and there is always something new to try. The burgers are perfect every time and never dry or bland. I usually go with the mushroom and swiss burger, but sometimes I'll treat myself to the badger burger which is everything that is great about Wisconsin on a bun.
- Ashley Ziolkowski, Appleton



BEST SUSHI

I grew up on the East Coast, so I'm particular when it comes to seafood, and I think **Katsu-Ya** has some of the best tasting and freshest sushi/seafood in the area. I really enjoy the variety and creativity of the sushi and sashimi they have to offer; from small and traditional, to the specialty and exotic, there's something for everyone's taste. I'm particularly fond of the rainbow roll, geisha's kiss, big in Japan, veggie curry and spicy shrimp tempura. - Shandra L. Stevenson, Appleton



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Stone Toad is the perfect venue for group reservations, offering a spacious event space. The restaurant is able to accommodate up to 180 people for weddings, banquets, meetings, class reunions, birthday parties, anniversaries or any group get-together. Make sure to consider Stone Toad Bar & Grill for your next event.

The revamped menu includes items like build-your-own burgers, macaroni and cheese and seafood tacos. From fresh-made salads to succulent steak, Stone Toad can accommodate a diverse range of tastes. The pizza menu is perfect for sharing with family and friends.



Stop by on Friday for one of the Valley's best fish fries which includes a variety of offerings such as walleye, perch and haddock. Whatever you choose, a hand-made old fashioned is the perfect complement to your Friday fish.

In addition to all the fabulous food, Stone Toad is home of the seven hour happy hour. Check out the new happy hour two-for-one specials Monday through Thurs-

day from 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. Stone Toad proudly serves a growing collection of whiskeys of the world. Ask your bartender about the highly allocated and hard to find bourbon selections including Buffalo Trace, High West and Blanton's.

Gather your friends for a Packer or Badger game day unlike anywhere else. Celebrate your next Sunday Funday at Stone Toad with the Packer game, a build-your-own Bloody Mary bar, prizes and raffles including a trip to Las Vegas. Ask the friendly staff for details. Watch the game inside on one of 16 large-screen TVs or enjoy the fall weather on the dog-friendly outdoor patio.

Stone Toad is quickly becoming the Valley's go-to venue for live music. The Fall Concert Series is offered every Friday and Saturday September through May. The entertainment is free and features some of the hottest local acts including RPM, Road Trip and Ask Your Mother.

Open daily at 11 a.m. and serving food until at least 9 p.m., Stone Toad makes a great stop for lunch, dinner or a late night snack. Stone Toad offers quality service, great food and beverages at a fair price. Stop in today and discover your new favorite bar.



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On a perfect fall day, photographer Cathy Donker took this photo of abandoned railroad tracks over the Fox River in Appleton. "I love how the sun brings out the colors of the foliage in the background, while the leaves in the foreground are a telling sign of what's soon to come," Donker says. "Fall is my favorite season, and while it's short, it's a beautiful time to explore the Fox Cities area."



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