Thousands visit Boulder Tap House in the first month

BY EMILY CARLSON | HERALD REVIEW

From the moment the Grand Rapids Boulder Tap House opened its doors, patrons have flocked to try its variety of burgers, wings, beer and more. General Manager Dennis Reiff sat down to talk about the business’s first month open and what he hopes to see in the future.

Reiff, the former general manager of the Grand Rapids Ground Round, has the unique perspective of working for both restaurants. He remarked that they have really felt the support of the community in these first weeks of being open.

“The community response has been unbelievable,” Reiff said. “It’s so good to see a lot of new faces as well as some old faces.”

Reiff estimates the restaurant sees 2,000-3,000 people each weekend, Friday through Sunday.

“There are some days it’s from when we open our doors to when we close them.”

Boulder Tap House has not been without its growing pains. With a large food and beverage menu to train employees on, there is a lot to learn. Even keeping food supplies stocked has been a challenge. Reiff noted patrons have been very understanding as they move through these phases and that it is also a learning curve for the customers.

“That’s probably the most fun about introducing a new business into your community, letting people expand their horizons a bit,” Reiff remarked.

Customers are able to work through this learning curve by sampling any of the beer options, including the many craft brews from regional breweries.

PHOTOS BY EMILY CARLSON | HERALD REVIEW

Just over a month of being in business, the Grand Rapids Boulder Tap House has seen thousands of people walk through its doors. Many changes were made to the interior of the building including the addition of more than 40 televisions, a bar with 40 taps (above) and a new entrance (below).

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Occupational Development Center (ODC) in Grand Rapids is celebrating National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) by sharing their background and understanding of what this month means for their staff, persons served, and partners.

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced the theme for the 2019 NDEAM is “The Right Talent, Right Now.” This emphasizes the importance of the role that people with disabilities have in America’s economic success, especially in an era when historically low unemployment and global competition are driving the need for top talent.

In honor of October’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month, MDI along with Medtronic and Special Olympics of Minnesota have announced the creation of the Unified Work Coalition. This group of like-minded Twin Cities organizations, from Fortune 500 companies to not-for-profit entities, intend to advance employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

“People with disabilities are continually left out of the diversity and inclusion conversation in the business community, and we aim to change that,” said Peter McDermott, president and CEO of MDI. “We know our differences make us stronger – but it takes inclusion to make them matter. The formation of the Unified Work Coalition brings us one step closer to realizing true inclusion.”

In Minnesota, people with disabilities are nearly three times more likely to be unemployed than the general population among people ages 18 to 64, according to a 2017 report from the Minnesota State Demographic Center. Organizations such as MDI are already doing work in this space, with 47% of its employees being people with disabilities. The formation of this coalition is in response to the need for organizational leaders to share sustainable best practices for hiring and supporting employees with disabilities.

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They accomplish this by providing the necessary services and supports. Since their establishment in 1971 in Thief River Falls, MN, they have grown to nine locations and serve over 1000 individuals with disabilities and other organizations in the state.

ODC emphasizes the importance of inclusive policies and practices to ensure that all Americans who want to work, can work, and have access to services and supports that enable them to do so. With continued advances in such policies, including accessible technology, it is easier than ever before for American employers to hire people with disabilities in high-demand positions.

ODC's mission is to develop the skills of individuals with disabilities by providing them with opportunities for sustainable, suitable, and competitive employment that results in greater independence. They accomplish this by working with communities and organizations specializing in employment skills development and supports for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment, working with communities and employers to provide options for inclusive and sustainable employment that results in greater independence.

The Grand Rapids Boulder Tap House is open Sunday-Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. to 2 a.m.

To learn more about the Unified Work Coalition visit midl.org/unified-work. According to Reiff, the best way to support the Special Olympics movement is to go to mdi.org/uni. This ensures that people with disabilities and other organizations in the state.

ODC emphasizes the importance of the spilt-entrance that supports individuals with disabilities. The spilt-entrance allows people to experience work and independence. The spilt-entrance was made possible by a donation from Boulder Tap House.

Boulder Tap House is a restaurant specializing in the spilt-entrance that provides the necessary services and supports. Since their establishment in 1971 in Thief River Falls, MN, they have grown to nine locations and serve over 1000 individuals with disabilities and other organizations in the state.

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