## 1D GRANDBUSINESS **SEND US YOUR NEWS!** Email to news@grhr.net, or call 218.326.6623 **Thousands visit Boulder Tap** House in the first month



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).

#### **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

day

"There are some days it's from when we open our doors to when we close them."

Boulder Tap House has not been without it's 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.



# October is National Disability **Employment Awareness Month**

## ODC emphasizes importance of people with disabilities in the workforce

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 com-

**SEE OCCUPATIONAL, PAGE 3D** 

## THE RIGHT TALENT, RIGHT NOW

National Disability Employment Awareness Month #NDEAM | dol.gov/odep

### Minnesota companies, nonprofits announce coalition

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 nonprofits 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 Mc-Dermott, president and CEO of MDI. "We know that 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 45% 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.

**SEE COALITION, PAGE 3D** 

## BOULDER

FROM PAGE 1D

Klockow Brewery in Grand Rapids is one of the recognizable brews on the menu. It's not surprising that the most popular food items are cheese curds, burgers and wings.

For those who have already visited Boulder Tap House, some new menu items may be coming later this year. According to Reiff, the restaurant updates their menu a couple of times each year. Ĥe also expects to start seeing more seasonal craft beer available from the breweries for the fall

and winter seasons. Reiff said, "We're re-ally looking forward to introducing some new items on that menu. I don't know what they are yet. ... But hopefully in the next month or so." There have been many changes to the interior of the building. The first change customers will likely notice is the open doorway into the restaurant, rather than the spilt-entrance that was there previously. In addition to color and seating changes, there are 41 televisions on the walls and a bar with 40 taps. But one thing has stayed constant, the friendly employees.

"They are still the same smiling faces that are ready to greet the customers when they come in," Reiff said.

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

#### **COALITION** FROM PAGE 1D

Founded by Medtronic, Special Olympics Minnesota and MDI, the coalition includes other organizations such as 3M, Andersen Windows and Doors, The ARC Minnesota, DPI Staffing and Opportunity Partners. The group will meet regularly and host roundtable discussions to work toward achieving the shared long-term goals of creating sustainable employment models based on real-life, working examples, and assisting businesses with hiring and supporting people with disabilities.

The Special Olympics movement is all about inclusion, and we have seen that our athletes make tremendous employees when given the chance," said Dave Dorn, president & CEO of Special Olympics Minnesota. "By partnering with entities like MDI, Medtronic and other companies that believe in a unified work environment, we can build models and training to make it easier for others to follow suit." To learn more about the Unified Work Coalition

visit mdi.org/unified-work.

#### **OCCUPATIONAL** FROM PAGE 1D

petition are creating a high demand for skilled talent.

NDEAM aims to provide education regarding disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. ODC provides individuals with a multitude of services in life skills, vocational, and employment training needs. They work with businesses in their communities to provide individuals with an option to experience work in a highly integrated setting. NDEAM 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 to enable them to do so. With continued advances in such supports, including accessible technology, it is easier than ever before for America's employers to hire people with disabilities in high-demand jobs. ODC's mission is to develop the skills of individuals with disabilities by providing opportunities for suitable, sustainable employment that results in greater independence. 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 600 individuals throughout northern Minnesota.

"We at ODC are celebrating National **Disability Employment** 

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Awareness Month this October because we want to draw attention to the awesome individuals we serve every day, and the contributions they bring to this area's workforce, and employer's," said Tori Peterson, VP of Programs. "This year's theme for NDE-AM is 'The Right Talent, Right Now' and ODC is proud to be a part of the organizations spreading this important message. We value, and encourage all employers to be inclusive of workers with disabilities.'

ODC is a nonprofit organization specializing in employment skills development and support for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment, working with community businesses to provide options for inclusive and sustainable employment that result in greater independence. The Grand Rapids division is located at 401 SE 11th Street.

**CLASS** FROM PAGE 2D

- Debits and Credits and the double-entry accounting system
- How to record different transactions correctly in your accounting software

Space is limited for this event and registration is required. Contact Teri Heikkila at theikkila@ itascadv.org or call (218)326-9411, x20 to register. IEDC is located at 12 NW 3rd St in Grand Rapids.