



Friday, August 6, 2010

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Currents

RELIGION, PAGE C2

Some advice for interfaith couples

MARKETPLACE INSIDE

Jobs, Rentals & Wheels

THE SIDEBAR

Remembering Front Street



The Blue Earth County Historical Society wants your stories about Front Street for a book and exhibit next spring.

Every Friday in Currents we're publishing a new topic for you to reminisce about and submit your stories for the Front Street Project.

This week, the historical society wants your stories about transportation. Do you have stories about the cars that drove down the streets? Maybe your parents or grandparents told you about the trolleys?

Call 345-5566; or e-mail your story to bechs@hickorytech.net; or mail it to Blue Earth County Historical Society, c/o Front Street Project, 415 E. Cherry St., Mankato, MN 56001.

Top Tens



These are the Top 10 renting video game titles nationwide for the week that ended Aug. 1:

1. Red Dead Redemption — X360
2. NCAA Football 11 — X360
3. Red Dead Redemption — PS3
4. Super Mario Galaxy 2 — Wii
5. Crackdown 2 — X360
6. NCAA Football 11 — PS3
7. Battlefield: Bad Company 2 — X360
8. UFC: Undisputed 2010 — X360
9. New Super Mario Brothers — Wii
10. Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell: Conviction — X360

Verbatim

"I certainly felt comfortable when it came to anything cop-ish or action. But with all the other comedy stuff, I just wanted to follow their lead. I basically did what they told me. I'd learn the lines and show up. I was willing to try anything."

— Mark Wahlberg, on acting beside Will Ferrell, Michael Keaton and Steve Coogan in "The Other Guys."

— Free Press Staff and news services

The two faces of

RED SKY

The bar caters to the martini crowd, as well as the night-lifers

Night Life Series

By Jake Bohrod
Special to The Free Press

At midnight on a Thursday, the southern Minnesotan band Parallax returns to the Red Sky Lounge stage with renewed energy after mounting technical issues forced an unscheduled intermission.

Now playing to a larger, looser, seemingly nocturnal crowd, who is feeding as much off the deepening night as the band, Parallax sways and bounces to its own concoction of two parts funk, two parts hip-hop and a healthy dose of bob-inducing slap-rock.

Red Sky live music is go. Just a few hours before, Red Sky Lounge, located on South Front Street, was hardly the same place. Apart from three young patrons enjoying drinks at a table against the wall and a smattering of early bar-goers, the dim-lit music venue, restaurant and hang-out sits still. No yelling. No television noise. Not even a giddy greeter waiting at the door, yelping "hello" whenever someone walks in. Only the galloping of reggae over the house speakers and the soft murmur of polite conversation.

These are the two lives of Red Sky night life. "We try to get the best of both worlds," said Red Sky co-owner and general manager Ryan Stroup.

Stroup speaks of welcoming



Red Sky has a crowd that comes in after work on weekdays and during the early hours of the evening. A much larger crowd forms at midnight for live music.

and catering to both the after-work crowd and happy hour customers, as well as those interested in the frequent weekday and weekend live music the venue offers.

"We're the only place downtown that can really offer live music as far as on a consistent basis," he said. "It's what sets us apart."

It's true that Red Sky — with its seemingly endless expanse of hallway, sectioned off with tables, booths, angled walls and darkly hued drapes — can entertain any crowd a

live performance may draw. The modern and understated layout tinged with tiny stalactite light fixtures and sleek, silver chairs makes for an experience set aside from the norm of surrounding establishments.

"It's a relaxing atmosphere," said Kevin Weise, as the night's music hit its stride forcing him to speak up. He sat soaking in the growing energy with his daughter, April Weise.

Nights such as this are typical of Red Sky, April said. One moment it's empty and the next it's swarming. For the most part, however, she said it maintains a less hectic key than other downtown hotspots.

"(We've achieved) a more comfortable environment," Stroup agreed, "(especially compared to) places in the surrounding area that are crazy shoulder-to-shoulder packed."

Close to 10 p.m., a group of shaggy-haired 20-somethings begin to gather around a pool table, lending to the increasingly lively scene. A lone singer/guitarist has been belting soft rock on stage as a few listeners followed his songs with inconsistent claps. At this point, the vibe speaks more

"coffee shop" than burgeoning musical oasis.

The night takes a sharp turn, however, when one of the pool players steps on stage. To a handful of onlookers now gathered around, he transforms Red Sky into an underground hip-hop club. His quick and fluid rhymes contrast strikingly and refreshingly to the previous solo guitar ballads.

Stroup admits this radical change in musical type is no accident, and not rarely seen: "I try to diversify the kinds of music that comes in. I want to be known as providing good quality music and not just one genre."

"They have a good variety," April Weise seconded.

As the night flows forward, the hip-hopper continues to beam on stage while more and more people fill the hall. It's past 11, and some sit, some stand, some talk, some drink, but at the center of it all is the music: a local live music scene that Stroup is determined to resuscitate.

"I've been in town for 14 years, and it seems like the

Please see RED SKY, Page C4



A long corridor broken up by sections of seating can hold many people during big shows.

National country band coming to Busters

I'm not big into country, but even I have heard the song "God Blessed Texas" — well, the chorus, anyway — about a hundred times in my life.

I was talking to a pal about upcoming Mankato shows, and he mentioned Little Texas was coming (that's the band behind "God Blessed Texas," by the way). I thought he meant at Riverfront Park, brought in by the Verizon Wireless Center.

But, no, he said: Little Texas would be performing Aug. 13 at Busters. This seemed odd to me. I like Busters. Really good food, and if you ask me, the live music sounds better there than most venues in



AMANDA DYSLIN
Free Press Features Editor

town. But I had always pigeon-holed Busters as being a rock bar.

I went to their website to confirm. Sure enough, other entertainment scheduled includes the band SevenDust, Hairball and MINI KISS tribute band. Those certainly fall under the rockish entertainment category.

And then all of a sudden, out of nowhere, not only do they bring in a country act, but a national one at that. Very interesting.

I plan to get to the bottom of all of this for a story on Busters to run Friday, Aug. 13, the day of the Little Texas concert. But I thought I'd give an early



mention that they're coming this week in case people are as surprised as I was to hear they are coming.

If you like country, but aren't too familiar with Little Texas, here's a bit more about the band so you can decide if you want to check out the show:

Little Texas was formed in Nashville in 1988 by Tim Rushlow (lead vocals, rhythm guitar), Brady Seals (lead vocals, background vocals, keyboards), Del Gray (drums), Porter Howell (lead guitar), Dwayne O'Brien (rhythm

If You Go

What
Little Texas

When
5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13, at Busters in Mankato

Tickets
\$15 in advance; \$20 the day of the show; or \$25 for a two-day pass for Little Texas Friday and Hairball Saturday

For more information, visit www.bustersbar.com.

guitar, background vocals), and Duane Propes (bass guitar/vocals, background vocals).

The band's debut album came out in 1991 on Warner Bros. Records and was called "First Time for Everything." The single "Some Guys Have All the



Submitted photo

Little Texas' best known singles are "God Blessed Texas" and "My Love."

Love" reached No. 8 on the Billboard Hot Country Singles & Tracks chart.

"Big Time" — an album that came out in 1993 and included the single "God Blessed Texas" and the No. 1 song "My Love" — went double platinum, and 1994's "Kick a Little" went platinum.

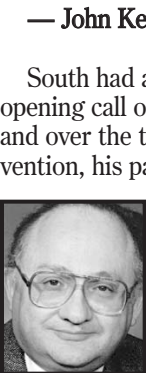
The group broke up in

1997, but reformed in 2004 with a new lead vocalist. The current lineup is all original members: Gray, Howell (lead vocals), O'Brien and Propes.

Little Texas has since released two albums for Montage Music Group: "The Very Best of Little Texas: Live and Loud" and "Missing Years."

Pulling off the dummy reversal

"Was it a vision or a waking dream? / Fled is that music: — Do I wake or sleep?"



BOBBY WOLFF
The Aces on Bridge

South had a comfortable opening call of two clubs, and over the three-level intervention, his partner's pass showed values. (With a really weak hand, North would have doubled three clubs.) When the auction reverted to South, he decided to bid his hearts rather than double for take-out.

Now North's jump to five hearts asked South to bid slam with a club control. With only a second-round control and a minimum (in context), South might well have taken the low road, but the slam bonus was an irresistible lure — he let his good trumps persuade him to act.

West led a passive spade against six hearts, and South thought he could count 12 tricks. If trumps were going to behave, he had six trump tricks, two diamonds and four spades. Just in case it was not his lucky day, declarer needed to plan how to cope with a 4-0 trump break. The winning line took him a moment to find, but he spotted it eventually.

South won the spade in dummy, then led a low heart to his ace, discovering the bad trump split. He cashed both top diamonds and went to the spade king to ruff a diamond high, crossed back to the heart nine to ruff another diamond high, then went back to the heart 10 to draw the last trump, pitching a club from hand.

He could run the spades now and concede trick 13 to

the club ace — a perfect dummy reversal.

08-6-A

NORTH	♠ A K 5		
	♥ J 10 9 4		
	♦ J 10 3 2		
	♣ 10 9		
WEST	♠ 9 8 2		
	♥ —		
	♦ Q 9 8 6		
	♣ A Q J 8 6 5		
EAST	♠ 10 7 3		
	♥ 7 6 5 3		
	♦ 7 5 4		
	♣ 4 3 2		
SOUTH	♠ Q J 6 4		
	♥ A K Q 8 2		
	♦ A K		
	♣ K 7		

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2♣	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♥	All pass		

Opening lead: Spade nine

BID WITH THE ACES

08-6-B

South holds:

♠ A K 5
♥ J 10 9 4
♦ J 10 3 2
♣ 10 9

South	West	North	East
1♦	1♠	2♦	
2♠	3♦	3♥	Pass
?			

ANSWER: Despite the opponents' energetic bidding, you should be happy that you have some extras in high cards as well as decent shape to offer partner. Although the three-heart call may be your partner's only game-try, you should accept the offer by raising to four hearts and let partner go back to four spades if he wants to.

Can Amanpour save Sunday mornings?

By Patrick Goldstein
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Call me crazy, but I've never been able to shake the habit of watching the Sunday morning news shows, even though you can go weeks on end without ever seeing any real news. So, of course, I had to watch Christiane Amanpour's much-ballyhooed debut Sunday on ABC's "This Week," ever hopeful that the fearless globe-trotting foreign correspondent might breathe some new life into the ossified world of Washington news chatter.

If you watch these Sunday programs, you know that they're a lot like "Law and Order." The faces may change, but the format stays exactly the same. The format is as rigidly structured as a Jerry Bruckheimer action film, opening with a newsmaker interview or two, followed by a lengthy panel discussion, much in the way that, in a Bruckheimer film, a brief comic interlude is followed by a visual-effects studded action sequence.

In interviews promoting her arrival, Amanpour

acted as if she were going to shake things up, but judging from her debut, there was no such shaking going on. She started with what was billed as an "exclusive" interview with House speaker Nancy Pelosi — which was about as much an exclusive as a YouTube appearance by Justin Bieber — followed by another "exclusive" chat with Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Of course, these weren't really exclusives, since both Pelosi and Gates are on the Sunday morning shows all the time. Even worse, Amanpour didn't make any news. Part of the fun of watching these shows is seeing how pros like Pelosi and Gates adroitly fend off even the most blunt questions, never offering anything but the usual bromides and platitudes.

Amanpour didn't get a glove on either of 'em. In fact, she seemed so frustrated by their bland responses that she amped up the volume of her questions, becoming shrill and some-

what hectoring. The rest of the show was devoted to the usual round-table discussion, which had all the same insular Washington chatter that you can hear on every other show. You know you're not breaking any new ground when the big excitement is seeing the curmudgeonly George Will treat NYT columnist Paul Krugman with the same bemused condescension that Steve Carell gets from most of the attendees in "Dinner for Schmucks."

I'm still willing to cut Amanpour some slack, but if she really wants to reinvent the cobwebby news show format, which is even older than the three-camera situation comedy, she should get the hell out of Washington, as far away from all these tedious pseudo-newsmakers

as possible. Politicians make for horrible interviews, since they're even more obsessive on message than Hollywood stars at a movie junket. Christiane's never going to break through their media armor — they're too well trained in the art of deception. She should take the show to New York and London or Shanghai and the Silicon Valley.

Washington is a quagmire full of partisan hacks, who only make news when they squabble and snipe at each other. It's abundantly clear that the real news in the world is happening elsewhere. Amanpour should take the show out on the road and find it.

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- Marmaduke (PG) (1:15, 3:15)
- The A-Team (PG-13) (7:00, 9:30)
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RED SKY: Trying to tap back into local talent

Continued from Page C1

music scene used to be a lot larger," he said. "There's a lot of good local talent, and that is the kind of people I try to bring in."

Kevin Weise, who plays in a local cover band, shared the same opinion and recognized Red Sky as a prime place to tap into those that crave live music but rely on the centrally located downtown area as their means for entertainment.

While playing at places such as Busters across town, Kevin said, he noticed people tapering off early in the night in search of what he assessed was somewhere within walking distance and preferably featuring a DJ and a dance floor. He said Red Sky's commitment to local, live artists is a well-received addition to a scene that needs all the support it can get.

Around midnight, Red Sky reaches its most crowded. The later it gets, the more people come, and the more explosive the stage.

During a guitar-heavy breakdown of one of Parallax's songs, a handful of its most devoted fans swim-dance and stomp to the music at the front of the stage. Where once there was no line, one has formed outside the building, people peering in as they hand out their IDs wondering what all the hub-bub is about. Parallax leaves, but not without a promise: another set is soon to follow.

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