

Nights of wine and song

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New Upscale Bar Replaces Stockman's

After a long stint of vacancy, the old flatiron building at 201 N. Weber Ave. again is full of life. Most people probably know the building for its rowdy history as the Stockman's Pub, or perhaps its slight resemblance to a wedge of cheese. The building has been renovated since its pub days, though it is still wedge-shaped. On Friday, Latitude 44 made its debut on the building's ground floor. The name hails from Sioux Falls' own latitude of 43.56 North - rounded up.

Owned by Cynthia Evans, the upscale wine bar will feature live music every Friday and Saturday, said manager Ted Chrisopulos. With space for about 90 people, Chrisopulos said they wanted to make the bar musician-friendly.

"Music was not an afterthought, it's a focus," he said. The new owners hope to play up the building's odd shape rather than its past history. In the future the decor will include photos of similar wedge-shaped buildings from around the country.

Michael's Steakhouse Moving Once Again

Michael's Steakhouse is planning to reopen at 2501 W. Russell St. where Soul Food and the Front Porch Grill once operated. The upscale restaurant that uprooted from Worthington and for about a year operated on South Louise Avenue might be just the kind of restaurant that can successfully fill this space.

Michael's owner Larry Lang closed his location on South Louise Avenue earlier this year to make way for Puerto Vallarta, the Mexican restaurant that recently opened there. Though Lang hadn't intended to open up in a new location, he started thinking about it after customers urged him to do so. "I thought this would be a great location next to the arena," he said. "We've got some hotels around us."

The new space is somewhat smaller, with capacity of about 140 people, which Lang said might work better for the restaurant, which he operates with a beer and wine license. Lang is renovating the building and plans to open on Nov. 5.

People can expect the same menu items. Lang said they'll continue to cut their own steaks and also still will offer their signature homemade onion rings.

Put up Your Christmas Lights - Once and For All

Well, it's getting to be that time of year when men and women get out on their ladders in sub-zero temperatures and 40 mile-an-hour winds to hang Christmas lights. There's a new company in the area that could make the job easier from year to year.

A ChannelBrite location is now open in Dakota Dunes. ChannelBrite installs permanent LED holiday lighting for homes and businesses. The lights are supposed to be almost unnoticeable in the daytime and don't use a lot of energy. The Dakota Dunes franchise will be operated by Bill Kahler. The company will serve southeastern South Dakota, northeastern Nebraska and western Iowa.