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Member Update

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By Tony Burton • Oct 26, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...830 words

In today's October 26, 2026 Update:

- **Stephanie Hansen to Emcee Stars of the Future November 19:** Register Now to Support Hospitality's Future!
- **Tuesday Webinar at 1 PM:** Discover Your Healthcare Options with UHC
- **Made in Restaurants:** Join the National Conversation on Restaurant Experiences
- **Stars of the Industry:** Celebrate Hospitality's Biggest Night January 21
- **Mark Your Calendars and Register:** Hospitality Minnesota's Double Hitter - Stars of the Industry and Day at the Capitol
- **Take Advantage of October Grants:** Funding Opportunities Available to Hospitality Operators
- **Wildfire Economic Survey Reopened:** Share the Impact of Wildfires on Your Operations
- **ServSafe Offerings:** Find A Class Near You
- **In the News**

Is your organization interested in sponsorship? Email us to learn more.

Stephanie Hansen Named Emcee of Stars of the Future

STARS OF THE FUTURE
RENAISSANCE MINNEAPOLIS, THE DEPOT
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026 | 6 - 9 PM
EVENT EMCEE:
STEPHANIE HANSEN
TASTE BUDS WITH STEPHANIE
Taste Buds with Stephanie

Stephanie Hansen to Emcee Stars of the Future: Five-time regional Emmy Award winner Stephanie Hansen will emcee Stars of the Future on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot.

About Stephanie: Stephanie's food career started behind the bar at the Heartthrob Café in downtown St. Paul.

- Today, she hosts "Taste Buds With Stephanie" on FOX 9 and co-hosts "The Weekly Dish" on myTalk 107.1. Her story is a fitting one for a night celebrating the next generation of Minnesota hospitality.

Read More & Register!

Hospitality Minnesota | UHC
Renewal time?
Serve up something fresh.
Employee health plans ›

Find the Health Care Plan That Works for You with United Health Care

UHC

Discover your healthcare options: From opening prep to last call and beyond, group health plans should bring quality benefits to the table—without burning your budget.

Members will learn more about:

- A variety of group health plan offerings—to help balance employee needs with business priorities
- Digital support tools and wellness programs—for added value without added cost
- Dedicated support teams with restaurant and hospitality expertise—for a more seamless experience

Go deeper: Learn more, compare options, and take a closer look at the value behind each choice.

Register Here!

****Disclaimer:** Discounts are available to members with the following SIC Codes: 5812 (Eating Places), 5813 (Drinking Places - Alcoholic Beverages), 7011 (Hotel & Motels), 7032 (Sporting & Recreational Camps).*

Share A Video Testimonial for the Made in Restaurants Campaign

CHARACTER
MADE IN RESTAURANTS
Hard work starts and careers grow, right here.
madeinrestaurants.org
NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

The big picture: The National Restaurant Association has launched Made in Restaurants, a multi-year national campaign about what the restaurant industry builds beyond food: careers, skills, community and economic impact.

- **How it works:** Restaurants operators are being encouraged to share their experiences in the industry via the Made in Restaurants video submission portal.

Need inspiration? Check out Tony's Made in Restaurants testimonial here!

Share Your Story!

Registration for Stars of the Industry Now Open!

Calling all hospitality professionals: Stars of the Industry is heading to Mosaic Venue on January 21, 2027. Attendees will experience an exclusive evening honoring the outstanding professionals and organizations shaping today's hospitality industry.

What's in store:

- **Red carpet welcome:** Step into an elegant night alongside the industry's finest, from hoteliers and restaurateurs to service innovators and rising stars.
- **Gourmet dining and premium cocktails:** Connect with peers over an evening built for celebration.
- **The main event:** The highly anticipated awards ceremony, honoring standouts across 11 categories.

Register Here!

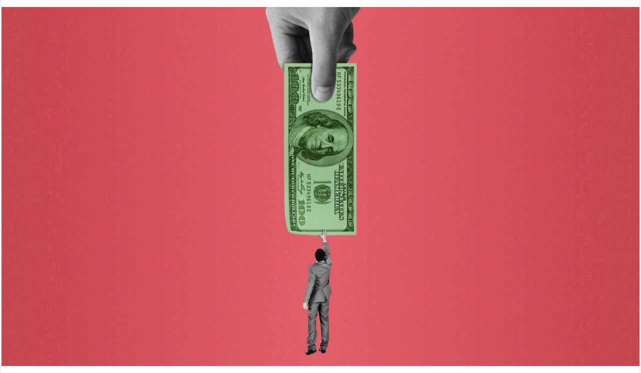
Double-Hitter Alert: HMDATC27 & Stars of the Industry Back-to-Back in January

HOSPITALITY MINNESOTA
HOSPITALITY MINNESOTA
DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2027
STARS
OF THE INDUSTRY

Heading to the Capitol, too? Hospitality Minnesota's Day at the Capitol is January 20, 2027, the day before Stars of the Industry. A hotel room block is coming soon for guests attending both events.

- **Stay tuned:** Booking details will land in your inbox soon.

Last Chance: October Grant Opportunities Now Available!



The big picture: Several small-business grants are open this month, with awards ranging from $1,000 to $10,000.

Deadlines this month:

- **Oct. 31: Breva Thrive Grant.** The winner receives $5,000. Applicants must already be generating revenue and must show community impact, such as new jobs, new products or more accessible services.

- **Oct. 31: Amber Grant.** Each month, three women-owned businesses receive $10,000 grants. One monthly winner also receives $50,000 at year's end.

Year-round options:

- **Verizon Small Business Digital Ready.** Join the free online community to become eligible for grants throughout the year. Verizon provides up to $1 million in total grant funding annually.
- **National Association for the Self-Employed.** NASE offers a $4,000 growth grant on a rolling basis, for members only.

ServSafe Classes Near You

SERVE WITH CERTAINTY:
MINNESOTA SERVSAFE CERTIFICATION CLASSES
NOW AVAILABLE
Hospitality MINNESOTA
ServSafe
National Restaurant Association

Did you know: Minnesota law requires at least one certified food manager on staff at nearly every food establishment.

Check this calendar for all upcoming ServSafe classes!

- Duluth - November 4
- Plymouth - November 10
- Winona - November 10
- Bloomington - November 11

Find a Class Near You!

In the News

- Emmy-Winning Host Stephanie Hansen to Emcee Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation's Stars of the Future | Hospitality Minnesota
- Pizza and gelato restaurant opens at the doorstep of Allianz Field | Bring Me The News
- DEED awards $347,450 for downtown hotel | The Journal (New Ulm)
- Revival's revival continues with a second location coming to Malcolm Yards next month | MSP Business Journal
- Minneapolis Hotel Ventures, Lion Hotel Group buy Radisson Red | MSP Business Journal

See you back here next week!

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