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Bringing The “Twang” Back

Rising country singer discovered at Grazer’s

By Janet Larreau

When you first meet Arnold resident B.J. Jamison, he just seems like a quiet, unassuming, pretty much right-out-of-high-school kid. But when he gets behind a mic, boy can he sing. Country twang that is...and Nashville is taking notice.

Jamison first caught someone’s attention just 18 months ago in a corner spot at Grazers Bar & Grill in Arnold. Since then, one man, Michael Schmidt, has been the catalyst for his good fortune.

“Eighteen months ago, while watching another artist at Grazers, I decided to call it a night early and leave halfway through the show. What I didn’t know at the time was that something happened that night that would change the course of my life,” said Schmidt, a business owner and resident of Lexington. “The next day the bartender from Grazers called me and said, ‘You missed one of the best country singers I’ve ever heard. He came in and played some songs during the other



B.J. Jamison (third from left, with (from left) his manager Mike Schmidt, and Grazers Bar & Grill owners Annie and Jesse, stand in the corner of Grazers where he first performed 18 months ago.

performer’s break. He’s 18 and still in high school. Look him up!”

A few months went by, and when Grazers hired Jamison to play his own gig, Schmidt was sure to be there. He was astonished at Jamison’s guitar and singing abilities.

Schmidt hired Jamison to play at a birthday party in Callaway a couple of weeks later at Shotgun Annie’s Saloon & Grill and learned all about him.

B.J. grew up on a ranch north of Ashby, Nebras-

ka, and comes from a family that has a long history of rodeo. His parents are both well-known on the rodeo circuit. His dad, Monte Jamison, is a championship team roper who still competes regularly, and his mom, Lisa Poese-Jamison, who was Miss Rodeo America 1991, and his sisters, Brook and Savannah, have had excellent careers on the rodeo circuit, as well.

Jamison taught himself how to play the guitar at age 14. After he got com-

fortable, he went to a local fair and asked the band that was playing if he could get up and play guitar with them. That band was the Twin River Band from Merriman, Nebraska. After playing with the band and being asked to sing, he started playing regularly with them a few months later. That’s what started Jamison’s path into a love for singing, playing guitar, and performing.

Jamison planned to move to Montana to do law enforcement after high school, but in the meantime, he wanted to do a few solo acoustic gigs for the summer, as well as play with the Twin River Band for their remaining gigs, as the band was planning to retire at the end of the year. By the middle of summer, Jamison approached Schmidt and said, “Maybe I should just continue playing music and try to make a career



B.J. Jamison, who makes Arnold his home, celebrated the release of his new song, “The Note,” Wednesday night, February 28, at The Local in Nashville, Tenn. - Courtesy photo

out of it.”

Schmidt, who really had no role in music aside from hanging out with country bands in bars over the last 25 years, said that from the moment he met Jamison, he knew with a little coaching and growth into an adult, there would be endless opportunities for him to shine. Schmidt became Jamison’s manager and quickly started finding more gigs, but he needed help. He called his longtime friend, Paula Bourlle, who owns a booking agency. She said she was planning to retire during the first phone call, but after watching some videos of Jamison for about 15 minutes, she called back and had all the time in the world to help put together

a solid schedule.

Around November of 2022, Schmidt and Jamison started focusing on some of Jamison’s own songs and spent a lot of hours getting their feet wet with recording some of those songs and even releasing Jamison’s first single, “Lost Without You.”

Around that same time, they decided to put a band together and showcase at the Fair Managers Convention in Kearney, where the results were overwhelming. Now, with the year 2023 behind them, they can say they’ve played over 125 shows.

“We had a lot of fun and spent a lot of hours at gigs together the last year and

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Learning With a Twist



Arnold 5th grade teacher Kevin Neth gives his students a break from their regular routine and keeps them away from playing on their laptops with his Rubik’s cube challenge. - Gracie Neth photo

By Gracie Neth, Sentinel Intern

ARNOLD: On May 19, 1974, a Hungarian sculptor and professor of architecture invented a new puzzle. Little did Ernő Rubik know that he would start a cubic craze in Arnold, Nebraska. The Rubik’s Cube, a popular puzzle, was super trendy in the 1980s and today now has national, continental, and even global competitions with 17 events. The world record is held by Max Park, an autistic 21-year-old Californian, whose record is 3.3 seconds. However, the colorful cube is not just a global trend, but a fun part of the culture at Arnold Public Schools.

Tysen Schacher, an 8th grader, was talking to his dad about being able to solve the Rubik’s cube when the Schwan’s man came over. The Schwan’s man bet that Schacher wouldn’t be able to solve the cube by the time he came back from stocking up the freezer and mixed up the cube. Tysen won that bet. “I was even waiting around a little bit,” Schacher said. The Schwan’s man didn’t be-

lieve him at first, but after Tysen proved himself, Tysen got a free treat. He chose vanilla ice cream.

José Melendez, a 6th grader, used his Rubik’s cube to win the Fall Festival Talent Show. His skill and speed with the cube won him \$75.00. Malachi Neth, a freshman, can solve it one-handed and enjoys finding new ways to challenge himself on the cube. Neth made a mosaic of an apple out of 120 Rubik’s for an art show.

These students - and more - learned to solve the Rubik’s cube in Mr. Neth’s 5th grade classroom. Mr. Neth said, “My dad taught me how to solve the cube about the time I started teaching in 2006. This was before YouTube had popularized solving the cube and being able to solve it was still a novelty.”

Neth started teaching his students how to solve the Rubik’s cube four years ago and even buys them their own cubes as a Christmas present.

Neth said, “It serves as a break from the regular routine of our day and a skill they can practice and improve with rather than spending free time playing on their laptop.

Although it might have some benefits of spatial reasoning and problem solving, it is primarily used as a tool to make students feel smart because they can accomplish a difficult task.”

Fourteen 5th graders can solve the Rubik’s cube and five can solve it in under a minute. These Rubik’s Cube kids have even started learning how to go beyond the average Rubik’s cube. Eleven students can solve the 2x2 Rubik’s Cube and two can solve the 4x4.

“I like feeling the joy of solving it,” said Ruby Hagler.

Other reasons why students like solving the Rubik’s cube were showing off to little kids and making patterns.

Mr. Neth even started an annual Rubik’s cube tournament at the school that any student can join - high school, junior high, and elementary levels can all participate three years ago. He bought prizes with his own money, including key chains, 3x3 Rubik’s Cubes, 2x2 Rubik’s Cubes, and even 1x1 Rubik’s Cubes.

Conditions Change Fast



Red flag fire conditions changed to an 11 inch blanket of snow in the blink of an eye last Friday, March 8, requiring big equipment to move the heavy, wet stuff. The snow gave local firefighters a break from continually monitoring canyons and pastures in the area surrounding Arnold. More snow was forecast for this week.

Danah Baldwin of Arnold Wins Nebraska Young Artist Award

LINCOLN, NE (03/05/2024) -- Danah Baldwin of Arnold, a junior at Arnold, has won a Nebraska Young Artist Award from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts.

The awards recognize 11th-grade students from Nebraska for their talents in visual art, dance, music, theater, and film and emerging media arts. Baldwin’s specialty area is music.

Eighty students from more than 40 high schools across the state have been selected as award winners

and will be invited to a day of activities on campus April 3.

“The faculty always look forward to this event,” said Chris Watson, director of recruitment for the college and coordinator of the awards. “They love meeting enthusiastic young artists, working with them and celebrating their talent.”

Students applied for the recognition and submitted an example of their work. Applications were received from 107 students. Hixson-Lied College faculty chose the winners.

Award winners were



also asked to nominate the teacher who provided them with the greatest amount of mentoring and support in the development of their special talents.

Students will receive a certificate and an original piece of artwork commissioned for the event and created by a School of Art, Art History and Design printmaking student.