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# The News

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## Riverside Casino will launch sports book on Aug. 15



BY JAMES JENNINGS  
The News

**RIVERSIDE**

After more than a year of preparation and anticipation, the Riverside Casino and Golf Resort will open its sports book on Aug. 15.

This spring, the state legislature passed a law allowing sports wagering in the state, and the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission finalized the rules last week.

Riverside General Manager Dan Franz said that the casino has been working to get ready for next week's sports book launch.

"We've been working diligently to establish rules, internal controls and procedures to

be ready to serve the public on Aug. 15," Franz said. "A lot of work was done after the law was in place to have sports betting with integrity."

Even before the legislation passed, Riverside began working on an \$11 million renovation, which included repurposing a high-limit room and VIP lounge into its Draft Day facility, which will house the sports book.

"We're still working on things for the sports book, like adding TVs, betting windows and kiosks," Franz said.

Riverside's sports book will be called Elite Sportsbook.

"Elite Sportsbook is our own entity," Franz explained, adding that some other casinos around the state opted to

contract out their sports book operations.

They are partnering with BetWorks for sports betting technology.

"BetWorks operates the system behind taking wagers," Franz said. "They will be setting the lines, marketing and deciding what bets to offer and accept."

There will be two aspects of the sports book: In-person wagering and online wagering.

Franz said that people will be able to make bets online by going to elitesportsbook.com. However, state law mandates that people must set up an account in person first.

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JAMES JENNINGS/THE NEWS  
The Riverside Casino and Golf Resort is prepping its Draft Day facility to house its Elite Sportsbook, which opens Aug. 15.



SUBMITTED

Kalona Brewing Company Production Manager Lucas Gibson adds 60 pounds of clover honey from Ebert Honey to a batch of Free Range.

## Kalona seeking state grants to refurbish bakery building

BY JAMES JENNINGS  
The News

**KALONA**

The city of Kalona is moving forward with plans to renovate the former Kalona Bakery building.

The city is seeking state grant money to repair damage to the building caused by a June 25, 2016, fire.

"We've done preliminary work on the applications for two grants to help with mitigation efforts," City Administrator Ryan Schlabaugh said. "We've done an assessment and review and took photos."

The city is seeking money from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Derelict Building Grant Program and the Iowa Department of Economic Development's Community Catalyst Grant Fund Program.

"These would help pay for temporary and permanent repairs inside the building," Schlabaugh said.

Some of those repairs include a new roof, framing and replacing damaged parts of the structure.

"There are some charred timbers and still some of the original ceiling, sheetrock and drywall," Schlabaugh said. "We need to get it all gone."

The Community Catalyst program offers grants up to \$100,000 to assist communities

with the "redevelopment, rehabilitation or deconstruction of buildings to stimulate economic growth or reinvestment in the community."

The Derelict Building Program addresses commercial or public structures that have sat vacant for at least six months.

The building, located at 209 Fifth St., was owned by Troyer Property Management. Owner Jonathan Troyer operated the Kalona Bakery until the 2016 fire. The building has been vacant since the fire.

The city, in partnership with Communications Network – a division of KCTC – purchased the building this spring.

The city used \$20,000 in municipal riverboat funds, casino money distributed quarterly to cities in Washington County, for its share of the purchase.

Schlabaugh said that the partnership with Communications Network makes it possible to receive state money to help restore the building.

"We're not looking to rebuild anything," City Administrator Ryan Schlabaugh said in May. "This is to facilitate economic improvement in the city. This will spur economic development in a building that's been stagnant for three years."

On Monday, Schlabaugh said, "A number of individuals have expressed interest in the building."

## Kalona Brewery gets sweet on local honey

BY JAMES JENNINGS  
The News

**KALONA**

Kalona Brewing Company is known for utilizing local ingredients in their beers whenever possible.

That philosophy is apparent in its two summer honey brews.

"We use honey from Ebert

Honey," head brewer Warren "W" Yoder said. "They're Iowa hives and Iowa aviaries. They're out of Lynnville and Mount Vernon, and they have hives all around the area."

He said that Ebert makes a great clover honey.

"I know it's local," Yoder said. "I know how it's produced."

The honey is used in brew-

ing Good Day Sunshine, a honey wheat beer, and Free Range, a honey Kolsch.

"We found that they've been good styles for the summer – lighter in (alcohol by volume), lighter in style, less hoppy," Yoder said. "The grains we use with them really let the honey

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## Highland schools seeking Goldilocks solution

Sept. 10 bond vote includes system to keep classrooms from getting too hot, too cold

BY JIM JOHNSON  
The News

**RIVERSIDE**

With temperatures daily pushing 90 degrees, it is sometimes hard to remember how cold it was in Highland high school and middle school classrooms earlier this year.

It was cold, really cold.

At the same time some of the classrooms were hot with teachers opening windows to let in freezing cold air to cool

down the rooms.

It is no secret that the heating and air conditioning system does not work at the secondary school buildings.

The Highland school board has called for a district vote on a \$3.7 million bond issue for Sept. 10. The bulk of the bond money would go to upgrading the school's heating and air conditioning system and installing energy efficient windows.

The secondary building has

been constructed over four phases and as a result has four different HVAC systems in place.

Some of the building has central air conditioning; some of the classrooms have window units and other parts of the building do not have any air.

District consultant Mike Jorgensen said that some classrooms have windows open in the winter because they get so hot while others are using space heaters because they don't warm up.

"There are areas that don't have cooling and very little heating that will be addressed by this," Jorgensen said. "It's

just not right in this building."

Teachers were contacted last April and asked about the challenges of teaching under these conditions.

"We desperately need to do something about the system," social studies teacher Jayme Kallaus said. "It is very non-productive to learn and work in a room that is extremely hot or too cold and try to perform to the standards that we expect from this district."

How cold does it get?

Dean of Students Bill Zywiec, bundled in a parka while supervising lunch in the mid-

SEE BOND | PAGE 8A



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