

Three Fingers Pub Soon to Open in Hawley Lanes



By JEN MILLER
Staff Writer

There has been a lot of activity down at Hawley Lanes since Bryan and Gina Bortnem took over the bowling alley, located at 504 Main Street. While the two have made some significant improvements, Bryan never saw himself running a bowling alley. "My dad, Jim, purchased the bowling alley back in 2015. I understood his reasons, but I wasn't interested because I was busy with other aspects of the family business," Bryan explained.

Before Jim's death, he was on a mission to bring life back to the heart of downtown Hawley. He was looking to build a local family venue and a place where older kids could ride their bikes to and hang out with friends. Unfortunately, Jim died, but his mission has become a reality as his son and daughter-in-law continue to carry out his plans.

Bryan and Gina took over Hawley Lanes in June of 2018. Once the brick building, formally known as Ernie's Lanes, was theirs, they rolled up their sleeves and stripped out what Bryan referred to as "sixties nostalgia." He tore out the boxed-in entryway and opened it up to give a more welcoming feel to the establishment as well as remodeled and made the bathrooms handicap accessible. From new flooring to fresh paint, that was only the beginning. "I put in new lighting, black

and party lights for cosmic bowling, a sound system, new synthetic lanes, electronic scoring system, ball returns, and more TVs," Bryan listed.

The list is long, but it doesn't end there. "I had a customer who comes in regularly comment, 'Every time I come in here, you've improved something. You don't stand still. You're always moving forward, and I love that.'" And that's the goal, to always be improving," Bryan explained.

This spring, Three Fingers Pub will open in Hawley Lanes. "Our goal is to be open the weekend of March 20, St. Paddy's weekend and March Madness, the Final Four. Fingers crossed, we make it in time," Bryan announced.

Three Fingers Pub has a full kitchen menu that will focus on a variety of brats, from original to wild rice while rotating through monthly flavors, pizza, and a sports bar must, chicken wings. "Wings and beers and sports go hand in hand," Bryan said. There will also be two soups of the day and chili during the winter months.

The Bortnems are also expanding their tap from three to six beers. While you'll likely find your usual, you'll also find local craft-brewed. "We're going to try at any given time to have a beer from a Fargo or Duluth Brewery on tap since we have connections to both areas," Gina mentioned.

"It is our way of giving a nod to our two hometowns," Bryan stated and



Bryan and Gina Bortnem, owners of Hawley Lanes and Three Fingers Pub.

went on to say, "We will push to get as many of our ingredients from local businesses as economically feasible to share our love of local. We believe in small-town, homegrown businesses."

For those with a palate for IPA, it is a beer you'll likely find on tap or in the cooler at Three Fingers Pub. "Another goal of ours is to provide beers and drinks you wouldn't necessarily find in the area," Gina said.

Once Three Fingers Pub opens, they'll be open seven days a week: Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. and Sundays from 12 noon to 10 p.m. The kitchen will operate from open to 10 p.m. Their hours provide those working in the area, a place to pop in for lunch.

People have been asking for a place close to home where they can get some decent wings, a cold beer, and a game on the big screen, and that is precisely what Three Fingers Pub is offering. "We are establishing a place in Hawley that friends and family can get together and have entertainment, good food and dinking options, and a lunch menu," Gina explained.

"Where they can either bowl a game or watch the game," Bryan added.

If there are several games on, don't worry about it. Three Fingers Pub

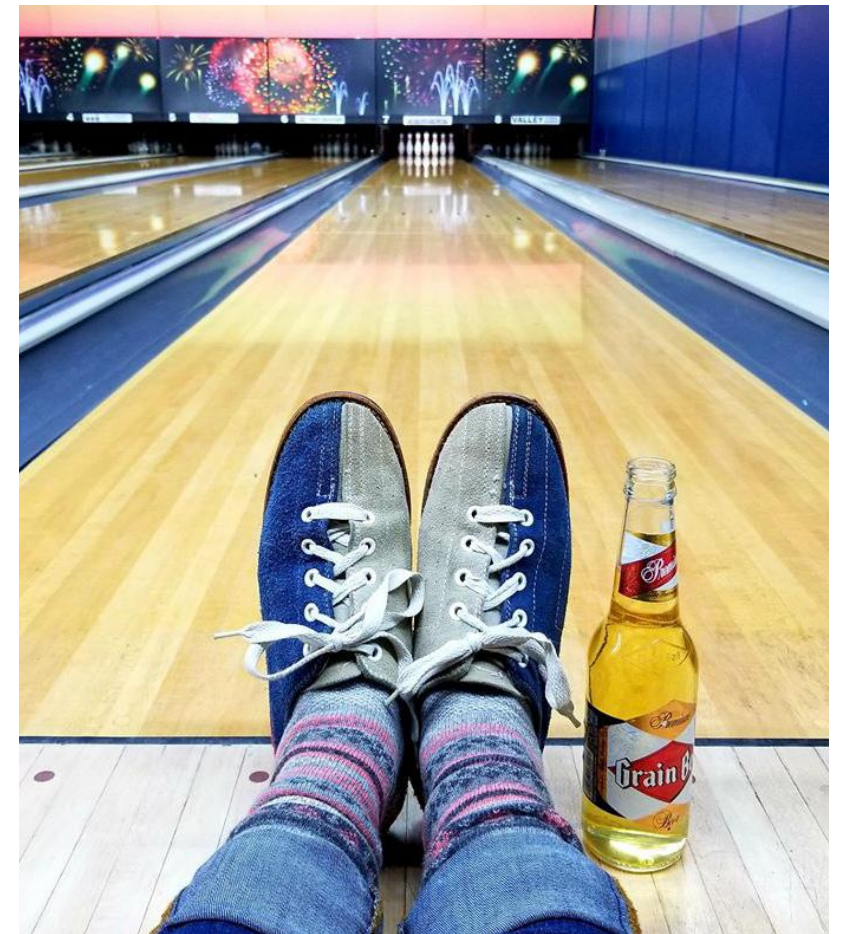
has it covered. They're opening with nineteen screens and will add more as needed. With the NFL Sunday tickets, Final Four, and Baseball package, you won't miss a game. Plus, Three Fingers Pub will stream local games and state tournaments, such as the Nuggets and local area schools and colleges.

Three Fingers Pub will be a nice addition to Hawley Lanes, which is already a fun place to hang out with friends and family. Hawley Lanes also offers an affordable birthday package for the kiddos. "We do parties all the time. It's so fun to see that people are able to stay in town to celebrate and that we can provide that," Gina commented. The birthday package includes two hours of bowling, shoes, pizza, pop, and a bowling pin souvenir cup with a certificate to come back and bowl a free game, all for \$11 a child.

Hawley Lanes and Three Fingers Pub will add dart boards with their pool table and tend to bring back pull tabs. "We are offering a good time at your local watering hole, but with all the amenities and feel of a bigger city sports bar vibe where you can cheer for our local or favorite teams or bowl a game," Gina explained.

"My dad would be stoked about his place," Bryan stated and went on to say, "He would've been so happy

to work here. He would be standing behind the bar, in the back fixing machines, doing it all. Everything I'm doing, but better. This would be right up his alley."



Come down to Three Fingers Pub and bowl a game or watch a game on the big screen.



A Busy Sunday evening down at Hawley Lanes

1212 Jetvig Blvd.
Hawley, MN 56549
218-486-5140
hawley.mn@americinn.com

Think **AmericInn** For:
* Birthday Pool Parties * Weddings * Family Reunions
* Employee Rewards * Community Meetings * Business Meetings