

Winery sets grand opening

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The Stateline Area's newest winery is already growing in popularity.

Dry Creek Estate, 8925 Stateline Road in South Beloit, will hold its grand opening this weekend with several events planned Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Ashley Bingham, operations manager for the winery, said Dry Creek Estate already has hosted about 10 weddings since about May, and even a high school graduation party in April.

The winery has been open for business for about six weeks, and guests can come in for wine tastings or visit the gift shop. Hours are 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Friday; from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday; and from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday. The winery is closed on Mondays.

On Friday from 5 - 8 p.m. there will be wood fire, brick oven pizzas as well as music by The Lone Canary, a folk band from Rockford.

On Saturday from noon - 3 p.m. 317 Studio and Gallery will host a Loaded Brush Party where registered guests will learn to paint. Then from 2:30 - 6:30 p.m., Big Al Wetzel Band will be playing, and on Sunday the winery will invite fans to watch the Chicago Bears game. The official ribbon cutting ceremony will be on Tuesday starting at 6 p.m.

Bingham's parents, Heidi and Edison Wirth, have owned the property for about 10 years, and have been planning the winery for about four years, Bingham said. Her father got a job out in the Stateline Area a number of years ago, and operating a vineyard has been in the works for a long time, she said.

Some of the wine vineyards were planted about three years ago, and construction began on the building last November. More grapes were planted this summer. About 800 vines in total have been planted on about 1.5 acres of land.



Ready for grand opening celebration

Ashley Bingham with Dry Creek Estate Winery in South Beloit prepares for a wine tasting on Wednesday afternoon. The winery, at 8925 Stateline Road, will have its grand opening this Saturday and Sunday. The property features a banquet hall, gift shop and lounge area.

Bingham said business has gone very well over the last few weeks, and the banquet hall is nearly all booked up for next year.

“It’s definitely starting to pick up now that we have gotten through our soft opening,” she said.

Edison is originally from Michigan, and is working with another vineyard to help bottle their wine.

Bingham said it will still be another two or three years before production begins on the premises.

“We are definitely planning for the future,” she said.