Last August, firefighters battled the blaze that destroyed the Anchor Inn.

File photo

New state-of-the-art Anchor Inn to open

By Michelle Lovrine Honeyager
Special to The Reporter

It's been a year since the fire that decimated the Anchor Inn, and the local favorite is set to open soon after a complete rebuild. John Kinnett, owner of the Anchor Inn, said they are currently aiming to open around Labor Day. Building inspections are currently taking place. Everything should be done next week, and they'll know more about opening specifics then.

The new bar has seen some major upgrades. Most notable is the tripling in size of the floor space. The building has gone from being about 3,600-square-feet to about 10,000-square-feet.

There will be an indoor banquet hall that will seat about 160 people. Before the Anchor Inn held banquets outside in tents during good weather. Now banquets will be available all year. There will also be 20 beers on tap.

Kinnett said, "Everything is state-of-the-art. We paid attention to energy efficiency, so the insulation factor is beyond what is required and all the lights are now LED."

As far as the rebuilding process itself, Kinnett said it was a smooth one overall.

"We worked with local contractors," said Kinnett. "Everything fell into place and everyone did what they were supposed to do. Our

See **ANCHOR INN,** page 10

The impressive new Anchor Inn in Newville.

Edgerton Reporter photo/David Esau

ANCHOR INN

Continued from page 1

biggest setback has been Mother Nature. We wanted to get more done in the winter, but with the cold we couldn't do digging or concrete, so that set us back about two months."

Since the fire, the business has still been chugging along. The small bar, The Naughty Mermaid, has been open Friday through Sunday all summer. Boat rentals having been going strong this summer and will run through September or October of this year, depending on the weather.

Early during the construction of the new Anchor Inn.
File photo

A focus on atmosphere

The design of the new bar will still stay true to the establishment's history. Old pictures of the bar will hang in the new establishment. Kinnett said they've been collecting photos from locals, and the Town of Sherman donated some photos.

Fred Falk also donated old racing boat from the 1950s and 1960s, which wi be on display in the bar. They've also been able to p cure some old racing moto for display.

Kinnett said they are ai ing for a "nautical/north woods/industrial theme."

The Anchor Inn's Storied Past

The Anchor Inn has a r history behind it. The previous building dates its humble origins back to a residential home that goes back at least to the late 1800s.

In the 1920s the location became a grocery store and tavern owned by Esther and Ray Simon. Back in those days the bar portion went by the name of Simon's Magic Bar. The establishment ran with the magic theme, as the bar was wired so that when customers set down a glass, neon lights would light up. Mary Lingo, daughter of Ray Simon, said her father's business card read, "Simon's Magic Bar- Where the glasses get lit before the customers."

It was during those days that the boat racing started. Ray rented out rowboats and held races.

Around 1945 the Simons sold the business, and the bar has passed between multiple owners, all the way up to John Kinnett.

The bar has faced a couple of setbacks: a flood in 2008 caused the bar to close for a month, and there was the fire in August of 2014 that led to the current rebuild.

A side view of the nearly constructed new Anchor Inn.

Edgerton Reporter photo/David Esau