

'It's been great'



Chris and Jamie Strowenjans pose for a portrait inside Black River Billiards. PHOTOS BY ADAM VANDER KOOY/HOLLAND SENTINEL

New menu, fresh look for billiards hall in Holland

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For many years, the pool business at 91 Douglas Ave. was known as Rail House Grill and Billiards. Now, the space has been given new life as Black River Billiards, with a “side pocket” eatery customers are raving about.

The business was rebranded, for a short time, as Ride the 9 Billiards. Now, owners Chris and Jamie Strowenjans — who took over in November 2024 — have introduced lunch and dinner items on a made-from-scratch menu, new interior artwork, and the return of many employees beloved by longtime visitors.

The changes are all part of a bigger vision for the couple, who operated on a temporary liquor license until May, when big investments began.

“It’s been great,” Jamie said. “We didn’t know 100% what to expect, but it’s been awesome.”

The Side Pocket, a new restaurant located in the business’ former storage space, is a bit of a hidden gem.



The Side Pocket at Black River Billiards serves fresh, homemade food at 91 Douglas Ave.

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The menu is diverse, with appetizers like homemade crab rangoon, sandwiches and wraps, burgers, and steak.

“The number one compliment we get is that our food is absolutely fantastic,” Chris said. “As soon as we can get a butt in the seat here, we always hear the same thing.”

The couple is also bringing back Latin Night on Fridays and live music on Saturdays, as well as trivia and bingo.

When it comes to billiards, customers can choose from close to 20 tables, countless leagues, a bar for drinks and the availability of the full restaurant

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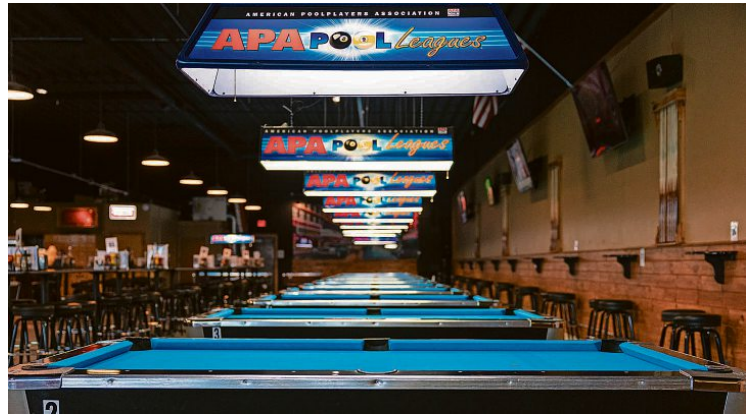
menu.

It’s been a lot of long days and late nights for Chris and Jamie, but transforming the space they’ve known and loved for years has been worth it.

“We want this to be like Cheers,” Chris said.

To learn more, visit facebook.com/blackriverbilliards.

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Black River Billiards in Holland has nearly 20 pool tables ready for competition.
ADAM VANDER KOOY/HOLLAND SENTINEL