

Hauser property transformed into event center

By Alex J. Hayes, Gettysburg Times Managing Editor
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PROJECT — Melinda Davis, Hannah Hauser, and Mindi Wood have transformed a former winery into Hauser Hill Event Center. Alex J. Hayes/Gettysburg Times

The transformation of the Hauser property is obvious from the moment you turn off of Cashtown Road. The long, windy driveway that was once covered with dusty rocks is now a smooth blacktop surface.

Inside the structure that overlooks the Cashtown area, other improvements are evidence of the work completed by sisters Melinda Davis and Hannah Hauser and Melinda's daughter, Mindi Wood. The deck has been restained, the floor refinished and the walls covered in fresh paint.

"My sister and I cannot sit still, so this was our project. Sitting inside doing nothing during the pandemic was not an option for us," Davis said. "We are glad we had this to do."

The former Hauser Estate Winery is now Hauser Hill Event Center. The change was an obvious one, Wood said, because people often asked to book the property for private events and that was not always possible while running a winery. Now, private events will be the overwhelming majority of their business, Wood said.

"People love being out here," Wood said.

Wood is excited to welcome people. She previously spent about 25 years as a wedding photographer and said she knows how to work with someone to plan and execute the perfect special day. The handicap accessible, dog-friendly, event center allows for indoor and outdoor events, Wood said.

The indoor space was built in 2007 but the 172 acres of land's history in the Hauser family dates back to 1989 when Hauser and Davis' parents, Helen and John Hauser, purchased it. Acres of apple orchards covered the grounds and grapes were planted in the early 2000s. The grapes remain, Davis said, and are being cultivated and sold by another farmer.

A historic packing house on the property serves as great spot for wedding photos, Hauser said.

Wood is excited to bring the community together on Hauser Hill. Biggerstaff's catering will be the exclusive caterer, she said, and local wineries, distilleries and breweries will have the opportunity to sell their products. Once a month, Hauser Hill Event Center will host public events with live music, Davis said.

A public grand opening celebration will be held Aug. 23, Davis said. Halbrendt Winery will serve beverages and food will be provided by Biggerstaff's.