

December Horses – 1

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HOLD

Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort in Hot Springs will feature horse races in December for the first time. Wayne Smith, Oaklawn's general manager, hopes moving the start date of its racing season from late January to early December will bring a boost to the local economy.

News20 0:16 "...for us to do."

The new racing season is also longer than previous seasons, with 66 days of racing. Races will be run every weekend, except for Christmas weekend, starting this Friday through May 8th. Oaklawn recently completed work on a \$100 million dollar expansion.

December Horses – 2

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HOLD

Tourism revenue in Hot Springs could receive a bump from an earlier start of the horse racing season at Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort. Steve Arrison (air-ih-son), CEO of Visit Hot Springs, says December has often been a slow month for tourism in the city.

News21 0:19 "...we usually see."

Arrison says some area restaurants and hotels are still facing staffing shortages that have been an issue since the pandemic began. Earlier this year, Oaklawn held the grand opening for a new hotel and spa that were part of a \$100 million dollar expansion project. Casino gambling became a part of the facility two years ago after being approved by Arkansas voters in 2018.