

# Smoke detectors save family's lives

The area's second trailer fire in two weeks forced a Sherman County family to spend the holiday weekend putting their lives back together, thankful for the smoke detectors that saved their lives.

Rick Pummer said smoke detectors woke him and his wife, Krista, about 2:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day. They found their home filled with smoke, but were able to gather their three children and escape unhurt.

Pummer said he believed the fire started outside near the porch, next to a pile of logs, and spread up the outside wall of their trailer at 5925 County Road 21, about five miles southeast of Goodland.

The fire destroyed the living room, one wall of the kitchen and part of the trailer's ceiling. Lost in the living room was all the family's furniture, their computer, a fish tank and most of their Christmas deco-

rations, including the tree.

Fire officials told the Pummers that having working smoke detectors probably saved their lives. They also said having sheet rock walls helped slow the fire's spread.

The family, who said they have no insurance, lost most of their food and kitchen utensils. Most of the children's clothes and bedding suffered smoke damage.

The couple and Jonathan, 10; Davada, 6; and Brittany, 2, are staying with friends. Pummers said they have started rebuilding.

Carol Gamblin, Krista Pummer's mother, said despite the material loss, her daughter was thankful everyone was alive and safe, making it a most meaningful Thanksgiving.

Emergency relief funds have been established at the Bird City, St. Francis and Goodland branches of First National Bank.



The Pummers' trailer home at 5925 County Road 21 caught fire early Thanksgiving morning. Rick and Krista Pummer and their three children escaped without injury.  
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# New restaurant taking shape after extensive remodeling

By Greg Stover

*The Goodland Star-News*  
Hank's restaurant will offer Goodland a new dining option next month.

Henry Breeden of Bennett, Colo., purchased the building at 118 E. 17th St., which used to be Ray's Restaurant, on Sept. 3. Breeden said he plans an open house during the first week in January, with refreshments, so people can take a tour.

Breeden said Hank's should be open for business shortly thereafter, offering family-style dining, with "home-cooked" meals at prices people can afford. He has over 40 years experience in the restaurant business.

"All my life has been in either the restaurant business or in the military," said Breeden, a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Breeden owns Slackers Restaurant in Bennett, which he leases to another operator. He used to own Hank's Happy Acres Truck Stop on I-70 in Bennett, about 40 miles east of Denver, but sold it in June 2002.

"A lot of customers I had in Bennett live in Goodland," Breeden said, "and I look forward to renewing old acquaintances."

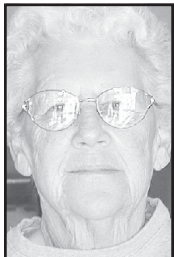
Randy Topliff, of Overhead Door Co. of Northwest Kansas, is the on-site project manager for the remodeling. He said except for the structure, the interior is being completely redone.

Most of the remodeling is done. The interior now has a new ceiling, floors, carpeting and all the walls have either been repainted or wall-

## corrections

A front-page article in the Friday, Dec. 5, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* said clients of the Golden West Skills Center are making Christmas trees. The center changed its name to Golden West Community Services when it ceased being an institution in 1998. This was a reporting error.

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.



Myrna Topliff



Randy Topliff (above, left), remodeling project manager and Henry Breeden, owner of Hank's, discussed the work's progress Friday morning. Bob Horton (right), owner of Wane's Carpet and Drapery Shop, applied tile glue to the kitchen floor in preparation for its new covering. Breeden said the restaurant should be open for business around the second week in January.  
Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

papered. All the old kitchen equipment is being removed and replaced with new or reconditioned appliances.

Breeden said the electrical systems and the plumbing have been updated. The building has all new sewer lines, he emphasized. Once the kitchen floor is completed, said Breeden, they will start putting things back together. He said the remodeling is costing more than the building.

Myrna Topliff, who is helping with cleaning the interior, said that Breeden is making a maximum effort to utilize Goodland businesses for the remodeling. So far, she said, all of the services and most of the equipment purchased came from

Goodland businesses.

"Myrna is the whip that keeps everybody straight around here," Breeden said.

Colleen Smith, of Goodland, is Breeden's representative and assistant for Hank's. She said they are accepting applications for cooks, wait staff and dishwashers. People interested in applying can either stop by Hank's or call her at 821-3867.

Breeden said Hank's will have an open meeting later this month for anyone interesting in a job. He said the date and time will be announced in *The Goodland Star-News* and on the radio.

Breeden plans on opening a cocktail lounge and sports bar in the



## student of the week



**Name:** Megan McCall  
**Parents:** Susan and Stephen McCall  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Age:** 18  
**We've nominated this student because:** Megan does a good job in everything she does. She was wonderful in the recent production of Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

**Student Comment:** My favorite aspect of school life is the time spent in classes with my friends. My favorite subjects are Physics and X-Pressos. After graduation, I will remember the great teachers that supported the students and my friends who

were always there for me.

**Activities involved in at school:** Musical, X-Pressos, American Field Service, Stuco, National Honor Society, tennis, math relays, Fellowship of Christian Students.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** Movies: Lord of the Rings series, Silence of the Lambs, Monty Python and The Holy Grail, The Game. Music: Finch, dead poetic, P.O.D. Linkin Park and Chevelle. Books: Lord of the Rings series, The Stand and the Bible. Games: Cranium, ultimate frisbee, Cory Fitzgeralds "game".

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** attend a college that is, as of yet, undecided and majoring in forensic science/criminology.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** 28 years old.  
**Favorite Quote:** "I don't pretend to have all the answers. I don't even pretend to know all the questions. Hey, where am I?" —Jack Handy —

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