

Couple turning old Moose Lodge into coffee shop

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Rumors have been circulating about it; maybe soon they will be circulating in it.

Brian and Victoria Freeman envision their coffee shop and art gallery as an inviting atmosphere where you want to linger as you sip your coffee, where friends and neighbors gather to shoot the breeze and where the decor changes regularly, but no one minds.

People on the street have been talking about it, anticipating Goodland having its own coffee shop, and in this case the rumors are true — soon cappuccino aficionados will not have to go to Colby or Burlington for a “fix.”

The Freemans hope to open the shop at 1530 Main by July, but they aren’t sure how long it will take to get the building ready. They are re-furbishing the old Moose Lodge, which has required tearing down an addition that was crumbling and about 10 months of cleaning things up to be ready to remodel.

By the time it’s done, the shop will have hardwood floors, “spot lights” for the art displayed on the walls and plenty of light from plate glass windows in front and a side window of frosted glass squares from the floor nearly to the ceiling. Cracked and crumbling paint will be removed from the embossed tin ceiling, which will be repainted in a warm bronze.

The restoration will be historically accurate, Victoria said; there is an art deco facade on the building, and it will be done in art deco inside as well. That’s why it will take so long, she said.

Corporate coffeehouses are fine, she said, but privately owned shops have an atmosphere; they’re a place to meet and visit, not just to run in and out. It’s not just a coffeehouse, she said, but a destination — a whole environment.

She said they will sell pastries and have limited breakfast and lunch menus to start.

“If people get excited and want to see more,” she said, “we will do more.”

But the highlight will be the



Brian Freeman tore out part of the south wall of the old Moose Lodge last week. That part of the wall used to be a plate-glass window but was boarded up. Freeman will put frosted glass squares in, making a window from the floor nearly to the ceiling.

Freeman and his wife Victoria bought the building a year ago and are remodeling to put in a coffee house.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

cappuccinos, lattes, mochas and herbal teas.

“The specialty coffee drinks and fine teas will probably set us apart,” Victoria said.

The art may help with that, too. Victoria said she learned about the Artists’ Roundtable while serving on the Goodland Arts Council. The group comprises artists from Goodland and surrounding towns, said Tina Goodwin, Carnegie Arts Center director. Its purpose is to help them market their work, and to develop a relationship between artists and retailers to get their work seen.

There will be space artists can rent, she said. There will be paintings, drawings and so forth on the walls, she said, and woodworking and pottery can be displayed on some tables. It will decorate the coffee house and be for sale, she said.

Another thing that will set the coffee shop apart someday is the outdoor cafe that is a long-term goal. She said they have plans for a patio with outdoor seating on the north side of the building, but it won’t be there for the grand opening.

When the patio is ready, customers should be able to enjoy a large

painting. Goodwin and Kay Younger, economic development coordinator, are working with Goodland artist Shirley Houston, Victoria said, and have applied for a grant to do a mural on that side of the building.

As Victoria talks about her visions for the shop, it’s easy to tell she’s excited, as if she were fulfilling a lifetime dream. You’d never know when the Freemans bought the building, it was supposed to be a furniture store.

Brian is a licensed residential and commercial contractor who does

remodeling and restoration. His specialty is custom woodworking for older homes, skills that are coming in handy in transforming the lodge into a coffee shop.

He refurbishes furniture, which he planned to sell by appointment in the lodge, until they found out how badly Goodland needed a coffee house.

The couple moved from Denver to Goodland in September 2004, after buying the house at 1209 Center, across the street from the 1907 Victorian Ennis-Handy House. That was what drew them to Goodland.

“We feel an affinity for older

homes,” Victoria said.

While restoring the house, the Freemans began exploring the town and found the Moose Lodge and had to have it.

“It just called our names,” Victoria said, “so we decided to take the opportunity to do something cool with it. It needed tender loving care, and that’s what we do, especially what Brian does.”

Victoria said she isn’t a carpenter but helps her husband paint and run errands and is handling the administrative duties, such as finding coffee and tea sources.

Blue ribbons remind people of Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

If you’ve seen a lot of blue ribbons pinned on lapels and blouses lately, you may be wondering, “why?”

The people passing them out hope you’ll ask, because the goal is to raise awareness of steps people can take to prevent child abuse.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and members of the Sherman County Community Partnership for Prevention and Education are spreading the word. At the partnership’s meeting last Tuesday, Kim Chain, regional prevention consultant at the Northwest Kansas

Regional Prevention Center, handed out packets of ribbons on cards that explain why a blue ribbon was chosen and listing things people can do to prevent abuse.

Partnership members took ribbons to hand out to as many people as possible. Anyone who wants a ribbon can pick one up at Big Brothers, Big Sisters, 330 W. 17th, or *The Star-News* office, 1205 Main.

Chain handed out packets of information on preventing child abuse on behalf of Roxy Cabral, director of Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect for northwest Kansas. The packets include brochures warning parents and caregivers

of the damage that can be done by shaking a baby. Included are tips on how to cope when caring for a baby gets frustrating, a brochure encouraging families to have a “KidCode” to prevent kidnapping and lists of tips on identifying and reporting physical, emotional and sexual abuse of children.

A brochure by the National Exchange Club Foundation reminds parents that babies are fragile and talks about Shaken Baby Syndrome. There often are no outward signs of injury, the brochure says, but shaking a baby can cause brain swelling and damage, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, develop-

mental delays, blindness, hearing loss, paralysis and death.

Frustrated parents or babysitters sometimes think shaking a baby is a harmless way to make the child stop crying, the brochure says. It recommends placing the baby in its crib and leaving the room for a few minutes; sit down, close your eyes and take 20 deep breaths; relax; play music; ask a friend or relative to take over for a while; gently rocking or walking the baby; checking for signs of discomfort such as diaper rash, teething or fever; making sure the baby’s clothing is not too tight; and singing or talking to the baby.

Another brochure from the foundation recommends families have a KidCode, a protective password to prevent kidnapping. The parents and children come up with a code word that they don’t tell to anyone who isn’t allowed to pick the kids up. If someone tries to pick the kids up from school or offer a ride, the kids ask for the code and don’t go with anyone who doesn’t know it.

The brochure lists examples when this can be helpful, including having a neighbor, a parent’s secretary or a parent the child doesn’t live with trying to pick them up. The kids might normally go with them, since they are people they know, but

using the code can help kids to know when they shouldn’t.

A list in the packet gives tips on distinguishing accidental from non-accidental injuries, for example, knowing where accidental injuries normally occur and noticing the size and shape of the injury.

There are a list of signs of abuse to notice in children and to notice in their parents’ behavior and things to watch for in the interaction between parents and children. The information is available from Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, 505 N. Franklin, Suite E, Colby, Kan. 67701. Phone (785) 460-8177.

corrections

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.

matters of record

District Traffic
The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:
May 21, 2004 — Richard M. Thompson, \$132 reinstated for speeding.
Dec. 17, 2005 — James R. Smith Jr., \$168 reinstated for speeding.

Jan. 16 — Brian L. Merkel, \$177 for speeding.
Jan. 23 — Nitza I Milo, \$108 for speeding.
Jan. 28 — Vanessa J. Martin, \$150 for speeding.
Jan. 30 — Michael A. Kopetas, \$300 for speeding.

Jan. 31 — Kevin K. Young, \$125 for motor carrier regulations on persons and property.
Feb. 5 — Desmond C. Thornton, \$360 for driving while suspended; first conviction and \$60 for basic rule governing speed of vehicles.
Michael W. Wright, \$132 for

speeding.
Thomas E. Zalusky, \$168 for speeding and \$60 for unlawful acts with a vehicle.
Feb. 12 — Travis A. White, \$120 for not having a valid driver’s license.
Feb. 14 — Jonathan S. Klimek,

\$138 for speeding.
Feb. 16 — Kenneth L. Schneider, \$159 for speeding.
Feb. 18 — Ryan Elbert Whitney, \$150 for speeding.
Feb. 23 — Daniel M. Wynne, \$120 for speeding.

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