

Dodds to open solid wood furniture store

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Couple to continue Right Angle Construction.

Jim Dodds has been a carpenter all of his life.

Until 1989, it was a job he did on the side to make extra money. Since then, it has become a full-time profession for him and his wife Penny.

For the past three years, Jim and Penny have run Right Angle Construction out of their home in Gothenburg doing projects as big as new home construction and as small as interior handiwork.

“We decided it was time to expand and do more things,” Jim said of purchasing the former Hometown Variety building at 915 Lake Ave.

Jim and Penny plan to open the doors of Hometown Furniture Plus on Feb. 1. The building will also serve as the new headquarters for Right Angle Construction.

The business will feature finished and unfinished solid wood furniture of all kinds.

“What sets this product apart,” Jim said, “is that it is made from solid wood. These are things that can be handed down to your children.”

Although Jim has constructed many pieces of furniture himself over the years, he will not personally build what is displayed in the store just yet.

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"I am anxious to get back into that, though," he said.

Most of it will come from Whittier Wood Products of Eugene, OR.

"This is all American made furniture," Jim said. "In our current economy, I think that's important."

The heirloom quality pieces are made mostly of alder or pine are not outrageously expensive either, he said.

"Actually, the cost is pretty comparable especially when you see that it's something that will last forever," he said.

Whittier's products are unique too. Jim said the closest retailers are in Lincoln, Scottsbluff, Denver and Rapid City.

Because some of the wood pieces will be sold unfinished, Jim said the store will carry a full line of top-quality supplies to complete the project.

In addition to the new wood furniture, Jim plans to also offer mattress sets, some used furniture and a variety of items he and Penny find at auctions.

"If the price is right and the quality is good, I don't care what it is," Jim said.

So customers might find everything from a five-disc CD stereo to a lawn mower or sofa sleeper.

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“It will be an ever-changing treasure trove,” Jim said.

And along with a line of home decor, Jim and Penny hope to eventually offer more hand-crafted items, possibly on a consignment system.

“There are a lot of very talented people in this community,” Jim said. “This would be a way for us to attract customers and for them to get their pieces sold.”

Jim and Penny say Gothenburg has been a good fit for them since moving from Ainsworth in 2007.

“We really like this town,” Jim said. “The people here are helpful and honest and really willing to offer their support.”

Store hours will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

For more information, contact the store at 537-5225.