

Pipestone
County

STAR

Dave's Guns moves to old Pizza Hut building in Pipestone

By Kyle Kuphal
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Sheila and Dave Sommers stand in front of the former Pizza Hut building in Pipestone. They bought the building in July and are remodeling it to house Dave's Guns and other business ventures. Photo by Kyle Kuphal

Change is afoot at the former Pizza Hut building along U.S. Highway 75 and state Hwy. 23 in Pipestone. The building had most recently been an antique store called nine Vintiques, which was owned by LeWayne Carlson, of Marshall.

Dave and Sheila Sommers bought the building in July and are remodeling it for multiple uses, including growing Dave's Guns. Dave opened the gun shop as a side business in 2016 at S&S Truck Repair. He sold S&S to his stepdaughter, Kayla Smith, and her husband, Greg Smith, last year, and has continued to work there part-time and operate Dave's Guns there.

Half of the former Pizza Hut building will be used for the gun shop. The rest will be used for a packaging company and space for the health sharing business.

Dave said he plans to sell items from the gun shop online, so they would need to ship items, and Sheila suggested that they open a packaging company to do that internally and also do shipping for others. Customers will be able to drop items off at the store and UPS and potentially Amazon will pick them up from there.

"We'll be able to do the packaging for them and labeling and all of that stuff for everybody," Dave said.

The health sharing business is through Impact Health Sharing. Sheila said they started working with Impact Health Sharing about a year ago as a side business. They described it as an affordable alternative to regular insurance, offered through a non-profit organization.

"We tell people it kind of looks and smells and feels like insurance, but it's not," Sheila said.

Dave said they had looked at other properties and liked the location of the former Pizza Hut building right on the highway. They plan to close up some of the windows for security and to create more retail space along the walls, and add office and storage space. The plans also call for new insulation, sheetrock, flooring, lighting and metal siding. They said the remodeling project became larger than originally anticipated because they found some water infiltration.

"I could see that some of the windows had rot around them and so we knew we had to replace the windows," Dave said. "When we started pulling the paneling off inside and exposed the sheetrock, we could see that there was moisture in behind the paneling on the wall."

Dave and Sheila hope to have the remodeling project completed and be ready to open by October or November. When they're done, they said it will look like a new building.

They anticipate having the store open Tuesday through Saturday. At first, they will run the store themselves, but eventually they hope to add employees as the business grows.