Changes afoot for restaurants, shops in liberty

By Angie Anaya Borgedalen

Just like the weather, a lot of changes are in store for Liberty's central business district as spring approaches. There will be several new places to eat and to shop. In Liberty Square on the corner of Main and Missouri Highway 291, the former Kramer Hardware space at 5 E. Kansas St. in Liberty will soon be home to Pop A Top, a bakery and lunch restaurant.

Karen Hampton is co-owner of Every Bride’s Dream at 9771 N. Cedar St., off Missouri Highway 291. She said she thought of her nearly opened business in Liberty offered a wide variety of bridal wear.

Karen Hampton said she had her own mother sew her a dress for her daughter’s wedding. “I’ve gone to two bridal stores farther away from here, and since neither one catered to the mother of the bride, I had to have my mother make me a dress,” Hampton said. “But today I walked in here and immediately found two dresses that I like.” It’s the kind of mother-and-daugh- ter feedback Hampton likes to hear. She and co-owner Cindy Peterson dreamed of opening a bridal store in Liberty before Hampton opened Every Bride’s Dream after she had her own wedding.

“Every Bride’s Dream offers dresses for prom and other formal gatherings. Dream owner Karen Hampton said she would open in March in the space recently vacated by Kitterman’s Boutique, 10 N. Main St., next door to recently opened Farmstead, a home decor shop. Linda Flandermeyer, owner of Edie’s Gift Shop, said she would offer garden decor and distinctive chocolate items as well as items by local artisans.

Robin Hawkins, owner of Downriver Florist, at 2 E. Franklin St., said her building was for sale. She said a number of people had expressed interest in buying the two-story building that includes two upstairs apartments.

“I’d prefer to sell it to someone who wants to put it back in retail, but I’m willing to sell it to anyone who gives me a check that clears the bank,” Hawkins said.

Barbara Lutzer, a member of the HDLI board of directors, said several downtown merchants were interested in forming a buying group to acquire properties that came up for sale on the Square with the goal of keeping them retail. Charles Small, who owns the former Hardware Café building, said he was in the process of remodeling the building so he could house Martinali Café Intermezzo.

Every Bride’s Dream offers dresses for prom and other formal gatherings. Hampton said, “I’m just the right time in my life for me to do this.”

When John Wheeler hosts his grand-opening celebration for his new business, Pop A Top, on Friday, Feb. 16, the store will host its grand opening set for Friday.

Pop A Top is owned by Tim Harris, president of Star Development, and will open in the former Kramer Hardware space at 9771 W. Liberty Drive.

After spending decades at a grocery store in Claycomo for the past 28 years, Wheeler said it was time to go out on his own. “I figured it was now or never,” he said. “I wanted to do this.”

Tanya Daniel seemed to hit the jackpot when she walked into Every Bride’s Dream, a new bridal store that opened recently just across Missouri Highway 291 from Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

Daniel had already purchased her wedding dress where she lives in Colorado, but because she’s getting married in Jacksonville, Florida, she needed some services and accessories close to her wedding location. Daniel said she was especially impressed by Every Bride’s Dream after her mother saw a dress for her daughter’s wedding. “I’ve gone to two bridal stores farther away from here, and since neither one catered to the mother of the bride, I had to have my mother make me a dress,” Hampton said. “But today I walked in here and immediately found two dresses that I like.”

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Liberty Hospital urologist Kent Haggard is the patient-side assistant during a robotic-assisted prostatectomy Jan. 18. Haggard viewed the tumor removal from an overhead monitor and aligned the viewing cam-
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ROBOT: Recovery time can be reduced

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During the surgery, two robotic arms, right, mimic the work Dr. Justin Albani performs behind a viewfinder. Liberty Hospital surgical technician Nancy Jones, below, wraps the da Vinci surgical system in sterile plastic prior to surgery.

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