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2 Golden Strip restaurants update looks

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Despite heightened unemployment rates and an unsure business climate, two Golden Strip businesses are renovating.

TGI Fridays and Red Lobster, both on East Third Street in Loyalsock, are bringing a new interior and exterior design to their restaurants.

Red Lobster grabbed its inspiration from the seaside village of Bar Harbor in Maine and is in the midst of a complete makeover, according to Eric Redman, general manager of the local restaurant.

TGI Friday's is undergoing a project to update its appearance and bring a fresh and contemporary look to the restaurant, according to Steve Baliva, TGI Friday's vice president.

Inside, both restaurants offer a more inviting dining experience.

Inside Red Lobster, guests will find cozy, dark-wood paneling, warm-toned fabrics, soft lighting and nautical decor, such as signal flags and seaside-inspired artwork, according to the company.

TGI Friday's antique memorabilia will be replaced by a cleaner display of memorabilia depicting important cultural moments and trends throughout American history, according to the company.

Bright colors, freshly varnished woodwork and unique lighting are more changes coming to the restaurant.

"It is basically a facelift. We are on the outside replacing the lighting and awning, new signage, new paint and coloring. Internally, we are adding new comfortable chairs, bar stools and artifacts. It will be more reflective of 70s and 80s. The bar will get a complete overhaul. New plasma TVs, straight view, ceiling won't hang down. It will be perfect watching sports," Baliva said.

Outside Red Lobster, customers will see shingle and stone towers, lanterns, flags and Adirondack-style benches at the restaurant that seats about 250 and employs about 95 locally.

The building isn't the only place the restaurants have revamped. Changes were made to the menus as well.

"Anytime that you can refresh and bring a new look and appearance, it adds a little bit of excitement to the guests and crew. It really adds to the dining experience," Redman said.

At the Red Lobster, fish, lobster and other seafood dishes are prepared over open flame on wood-fire grills.

"The company has been taking steps to having more culinary types of dishes. There is an overall feel of updating and making the menu fresh," said Jenny Altman, Red Lobster spokeswoman.

Although it has nothing to do with the renovation project, new menu items will also be introduced just in time for TGI Friday's grand re-opening, sometime in July.

"We will have some Caribbean-themed items added to the menu. It doesn't have anything to do with the project. It just happens that both things are happening at the same time," Baliva said.

Updates at both restaurants are part of a company wide move to update each of its facilities.

Article Photos



IMAGE PROVIDED
TGI?Fridays, one of two restaurants on the Golden Strip upgrading their facades, submitted an artist's rendering of how the future eatery may look.