

Former Sullivan store getting new life as an auction house

BY JACQUELINE WEAVER SULLIVAN — The former O'Connor's Store on Route 1 — once lionized in *Gourmet Magazine* for its steamed hot dogs — is being reincarnated as an auction house.

Keith Young of Gouldsboro purchased the building on Dec. 31, 2015, and is sprucing up the lot and building.

His longtime friend, Jack Schmelzer of Hog Bay Auctions in Franklin, will conduct auctions in the space that will be called "The Treasure Chest."

The first of what is hoped will be many auctions will be held Saturday, May 28, beginning at 10 a.m.

Young bought the building on Dec. 31, 2015. He said he had been eyeing the 5½-acre property for some time.

"It has great visibility," he said.

Most recently the building was used to raise cod fish.

The interior of the 67-foot-by-28-foot building is spacious and spare.

Young said he will paint the interior and is having artist Scott Moshier of You Name It! in Gouldsboro design a mural for the exterior.

Young also wants to feature the treasure chest theme in a tall sign that once advertised Gulf gasoline at O'Connor's, a gas station and convenience store.

"I am clearing the lot up to have room and to make it neater and cleaner," he said of the current site work at the property.

Young and Schmelzer, who has an auctioneer's license, said the first auction will be a test of the public's interest.

"It may turn into a weekly or

biweekly thing," Young said.

Schmelzer said he will auction antiques, general merchandise, household goods, tools and equipment, with a special interest in marine equipment.

"We are looking for antique marine equipment and equipment that is still useable in the fishing industry," Schmelzer said.

"There will be something for everybody — antiques to dishes," Schmelzer said.

Young said he is looking for someone to run a food concession at the auction house.

Schmelzer said anyone with items to sell can call him at 266-7241. He said the commission is on a sliding scale, depending on the value of the object.

The two said they also will hold benefit auctions.



ELLSWORTH AMERICAN PHOTO BY JACQUELINE WEAVER

Keith Young (left) has purchased the former O'Connor's Store on Route 1 in Sullivan. His longtime friend, Jack Schmelzer (right), will conduct the first of what they hope will be many auctions there May 28.