



# 26th annual Flatlander Festival starts Friday

The 2012 Flatlander Festival, the biggest event on the Goodland calendar, will bring thousands of visitors to town this weekend.

With hotels filled to overflowing in advance, the Flatlander Festival brings in thousands of people, thousands of dollars in revenue for area businesses, and plenty of tax money for local government.

In addition to the Brick Top Cruisers Car Show and the Northwest Kansas Bike Show, there are many attractions throughout the weekend. Things kick off with the Flatlander Fall Classic car races at 5:30 p.m. Friday and 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Sherman County Speedway.

The Main Street festival begins Saturday morning with a 5K run sponsored by the Goodland Activity Center. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. at Eighth and Main, with a 7:30 a.m. start time. The street festival begins runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Some of the festival attractions include vendor booths, which often have food, crafts and games. The Northwest Kansas Technical College booth will have a live-action Angry Birds game built entirely by students. Players will fire bean-bag birds out of custom-made sling shots and try to knock over cans painted like pigs. The college will also have an old-

fashioned "Plinko" game.

The Scruffy Dog Contest, a local favorite, will begin at 11 a.m. at the grandstands at 12th and Main. At noon at the grandstands award-winning singer Lulu LaFever will perform. There will also be open mic musical from 1 to 4 p.m.

In the past, the Flatlander Festival has attracted such spectacles as a National Guard-sponsored racing car. This year, the Army National Guard is bringing the Patriot Bike, a custom-made chopper. Also new this year, The Basement will have a beer garden its building at 17th and Main.

At 3 p.m., The Buffalo Guys will hold Buffalo Patty Bingo at 114 W. 12th St.

The street festival will close with a motorcycle and car parade at 8 p.m. on Main Street.

On Sunday will be the Picnic in the Park at Chambers Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the picnic will be the Flatlander Horseshoe Tournament at noon. There is a \$10 entry fee. There will also be free lunch, live music and vendor booths.

The Flatlander Festival Committee is always looking for more volunteers and committee members. Anyone interested should contact Brent Wood.



The Flatlander Festival always brings in big crowds to Goodland, and is one of the main events held in town each year. The thousands of people result in a big boom for area businesses.

## On the cover

Dennis Shoff's 1972 Chevelle posed in front of Goodland's Giant Van Gogh.

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The car show isn't just about classic cars. Modern cars are also welcome.

## Lots to see at the car show

The stretch of Main Street between 13th and 15th Streets will be filled with gleaming and not-so-gleaming cars during the Flatlander Festival.

The 26th annual Car Show will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday. There will be early registration and a meal for car owners Friday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 1311 Main St. Registration will reopen Saturday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The show itself opens at 8 a.m.

Entries are in several classes: pre-1949; 1950 to 1964; 1965 to 1975; 1976 to 1989; 1990 to present; trucks; and Young Cruisers – ages 14 to 20. This is the second year for the Young Cruisers class, which was started as a way to get future generations involved and interested in classic cars. There will be awards in each class as well as dash plaques for the first 200 entries.

Some of the entries will be what are known as "Rat Rods," a recent American phenomenon. Instead of ultra-glossy finish, rat rods are custom street hot rods which are intentionally left a bit rough and unfinished, but run like a dream underneath.

During the show, there will be a disc jockey providing music as well as the popular Valve Cover Races, which will begin at 12:30 p.m. in front of Central Elementary School. Racers should check in an hour or more before the first race.

Valve cover racers are made from automobile or pickup truck engine valve covers that are cleaned up and fitted with wheels. Nothing may extend beyond the gasket surface on the front, and the cover must retain the origi-

nal gasket sealing surface. The racers are sent down a two-lane track, relying only on gravity for propulsion.

There are three classes: "Stock," with no cutting or extra holes and no modification to the cover; "Custom," with paint or after market covers allowed; and "Outlaw" where anything goes as long as a portion of the valve cover is identifiable.

The car and bike shows will join forces for a parade up and down Main Street at 8 p.m. Saturday.

Things continue Sunday morning with a "Show and Shine" at 8 a.m. at the Goodland Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade. There will be a fun walk and games from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and an awards ceremony at 11 a.m.

The Brick Top Cruisers club has been holding a car show at the Flatlander Festival for the last four years, although annual car shows have been a fixture in Goodland since well before then. They hold events throughout the year.

Current members include: Alan Alanis, Jim and Sharon Bowker, Levi Coon, Brad Cowan, Brandon Cowan, Jason Cowan, Daniel, Elizabeth and Sierra Estes, Loyd Fog, Tammy Fog, Ernie Gonzales, Dave and Betty Hageman, Dylan Hageman, Gary Houston, Fred & Patty Kirby, Dan, Diane, and Jason Krayca, Robert Krisle, Tammy Longgear, Frank Lund, Tommy Lund, George Morrell, Matt & Michelle Murray, Darrell and Sharon Rohr, Tehnee Ridder, Tim Scheck, Ryan Scott, Dennis Shoff, Harold Stefan, Todd Trzcinski, Cody Waite, Adrienne West, Ray West, and Brent White.

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