

*Working women, the shining stars of our city*

# The Goodland Star-News

June 25, 2004



Bonnie Bollig, owner of "Uniques by Bonnie," reached for a box of candles while helping Lois Pearce of Wallace select the right candle for a special family occasion.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

## Woman made hobby into unique business

By Greg Stover

*The Goodland Star-News*

When it comes to working women in Goodland, Bonnie Bollig is unique.

For over 40 years, Bollig has been dealing in one-of-a-kind items. For the past 16 years, she has operated "Uniques by Bonnie" somewhere on Main Avenue.

In 1988 Bollig opened at her first location at 1614 Main, where Bob's Meat Block is now. About three years later she moved to 1218 Main, where the Goodland Churches' Thrift Shop is today. Bollig said she moved to her current location, 1020 Main, in March 1993.

The shop offers one-of-a-kind items for home decoration. Bollig says "Uniques by Bonnie" is the biggest in-stock retailer in current patterns of wallpaper and borders in Kansas. About 85-90 percent of her business comes from western Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwest Ne-

braska.

Some of the items available are decorative arrangements, crystal, mirrors and furniture. Bollig carries an assortment of Root brand candles, which she calls the "Cadillac of candles." The types she offers include tapers, collenettes, pillars, 20-hour votives, jar candles and tiny tapers.

For most of the past 16 years, Bollig said, she has had one or two employees to help her but, due to the slow economy, has been running the store alone since January 2003. She does it all, customer service, inventory control, receiving and shipping, janitor and the standard catch-all, other duties as needed.

She says keeping busy is one of the things that appeals to her about the business.

"I enjoy what I do, and I like people, so I have

**See UNIQUE, Page 2**

## Nurse finds herself tagged as 'queen of trash'

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Driving a packer truck wasn't Brenda Starr's first choice — she's a nurse, after all — but today she is queen of the trash in Goodland.

A year ago, she went to work for her older brother, Chuck Redlin, at In the Can, the new company collecting city trash. Since then, she has been driving one of the three trash trucks and helping answer the phones.

"I told my brother I would do whatever needed to be done," Starr recalled. "He originally thought there might be a rural route and I could handle that.

"I like to drive a truck, and I like the work as long as I don't hurt anybody."

She said kids sometimes follow the trash truck down the alley and watch with fascination

as she dumps the trash containers into the truck.

"I watch very carefully," she said. "They all wave at me when they see me coming.

"People are pretty good, but there have been times when I have to throw things out of the dumpsters."

She said as she was dumping one container she saw a tire and a wheel fall into the truck. She climbed into the back and threw them out. She said there were three tires and two wheels in the dumpster, though neither is acceptable for the county landfill.

"I was pretty upset," she said, "and it probably looked strange with the tires coming back out of the truck. They are still laying there as far as I know. Those kind of materials can dam-

**See TRASH, Page 3**



Brenda Starr watched the trash container dump into the compactor through the mirrors of the In the Can truck before heading for the transfer station.



# Unique business

UNIQUES, from Page 1

the best of all worlds," she said. "The secret is finding a job you enjoy doing, and it won't be work, but fun. No two days are the same, and I meet lots of interesting people."

Born and raised in Goodland, Bollig graduated from Sherman County Community High School in 1949. She said she met Alfred Bollig, now a retired forecaster for the National Weather Service, in 1950 and they were married in 1951. They raised four children: Mary, Kathleen, Sara and Tom, on the farm near Edison where the Bolligs lived for 35 years until moving back into Goodland in 1986.

Bollig is one of those lucky few whose hobby turned into a profession. She developed an interest in antique candlesticks including the various candles and the accessories that go with them. She became interested in turning piano and table legs from the 19th and early 20th centuries into large candle holders, each being a



A pig on wheels (above) is a "one-of-a-kind" home decorative item that greets customers as they enter the store. Totem poles (right) and wood-carvings of animals are just some of the "one-of-a-kind" items that can be seen and purchased at "Uniques by Bonnie."

unique creation.

Bollig said this specialty was what she is best known for in arts and crafts circles. Later her interests started to expand into Christmas arrangements and decorations until she eventually became involved in a wide variety of home decoration items, particularly those that are hand-crafted and unique.

When Bollig and her husband moved from the farm into town she tried retirement but after about two

years, with the encouragement of her family, she decided to open a business doing what she loved and "Uniques by Bonnie" was born.

"Uniques by Bonnie" is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Customers are welcome to come by and see what she has on hand which frequently changes therefore occasional visits might be needed to find that one item which might complete a room.



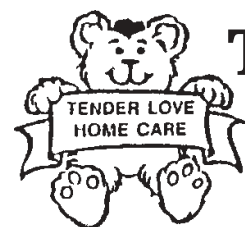
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# Nurse dumping trash

**TRASH, from Page 1**

age the truck, the plunger or the hydraulics. Besides, they should not be in the dumpsters.”

Starr said she drives most of the residential areas Monday through Wednesday and does the businesses on the east side of Main and the hospital and Good Samaritan Center.

Thursday, she does yard waste pickup, and said she has had people chase her down when they have forgotten to unlock their dumpsters or put out their roll-out container.

“I wish we didn’t have to sort, but that is what we seem to have to do,” she said. “Most of the people understand and do not put stuff in the trash like paint cans and construction debris. There are a few who still want to believe they can throw anything in the trash.”

Redlin, owner of In the Can, which got the contract from Sherman County for city trash collection last year, said they are trying handle trash problems in a friendly manner by communicating with the people. Sometimes it has helped to get the person a roll out rather than the large dumpster, he said.

“I’d rather sort at the dumpster than at the transfer station,” Starr said. “I guess sometimes people don’t really believe I will look inside and climb in and toss the stuff out. When I find stuff that shouldn’t be in the dumpster, it is set down beside it for them to dispose of properly.”

She said there are special dumpsters at the In the Can building on East U.S. 24 for small items of metal and construction debris that should not be in the dumpsters.

The company has been picking up the city trash for a year, and Starr said that most of the comments she has heard have been positive.

“We heard more of the complaining when we began,” she said, “but there have been some nice thank-you notes — especially from the yard waste people and those who have had special pickups.”

Once the trash truck is full, Starr drives to the county transfer station north of town. The truck is weighed by Margaret Russell, then backed into the building and dumped onto the tipping floor.

The trash is spread out using a front

**See TRASH, Page 4**



A trash dumpster swung high into the air on a hydraulic lift as it was dumped into the trash truck by Brenda Starr, a nurse who is working for her brother at In the Can.

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(Left to right) Shellie Gausman, Denise Archer,  
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Margaret Russell begins sorting through the load of trash that Starr is dumping onto the tipping floor of the transfer station.

# Trash lady keeps hand in nursing

TRASH, from Page 3

end loader, and Starr and Russell look for metal and other objects that should not end up in the landfill. On Wednesday, an empty insecticide bottle turned up, plus pieces of carpet, small bits of metal and a few pieces of wood.

Starr said the sorting at the transfer station is the least pleasant part of the job. Depending on how much they find in the load, it can take 20-30 minutes before she can take the truck back over the scales for the empty weight and then head back to the city.

She was born in Heffinger, N.D., and grew up in Bison, S.D., on the Redlin family farm. The family moved to Sherman County in 1975, and she graduated from Goodland High School in 1983.

Starr said she had always like the medical field, and attended Barton County Community College in Great Bend for a year in the occupational therapy program. This is where she met her husband, Neal Starr; they were married in 1984.

The couple moved to Wichita, and then to Goodland in 1985 where Neal attended the Northwest Kansas Vocational Technical School auto body



Sometimes the trash gets into the wrong part of the truck, and Starr has to climb in and shovel it out at the transfer station.

program.

They moved to Topeka in 1986, and Brenda went to nursing school, graduating in 1990 as a licensed practical nurse. In Topeka, sons Mark, 16, and Paul, 12, were born.

The Starrs moved to Goodland in 1994, and she worked at the Goodland Regional Medical Center for a year. She ran a daycare for four years and was a nurse for Dr. Natalie Griego.

To keep her hand in nursing, Starr works at Wheat Ridge Estates in the

evenings.

"I love working with people," she said, "and I don't want to give up my nursing."

When they decided to move back to Goodland, Neal went to work as the maintenance man at the county courthouse. He worked for M and M Trailer Sales painting trucks and then drove for American Freightways.

Now he is the maintenance man at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center.



Lisa Malsom

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# Welding business has always been her job

By Kathryn Gurfinkel

*The Goodland Star News*

Lisa Malsom has always been a working woman.

She has worked for the welding business owned by her husband, Dennis, Malsom Welding and Repair Service, 1008 W 17, for the past 16 1/2 years.

“It’s a diversified job,” said Malsom, who calls herself the office manager. “It’s not the same repetitious thing day in and day out.”

Malsom is in charge of the paperwork at the business. She pays the bills, sends out statements, and takes care of insurance and titling for trailers.

“I do everything,” she said.

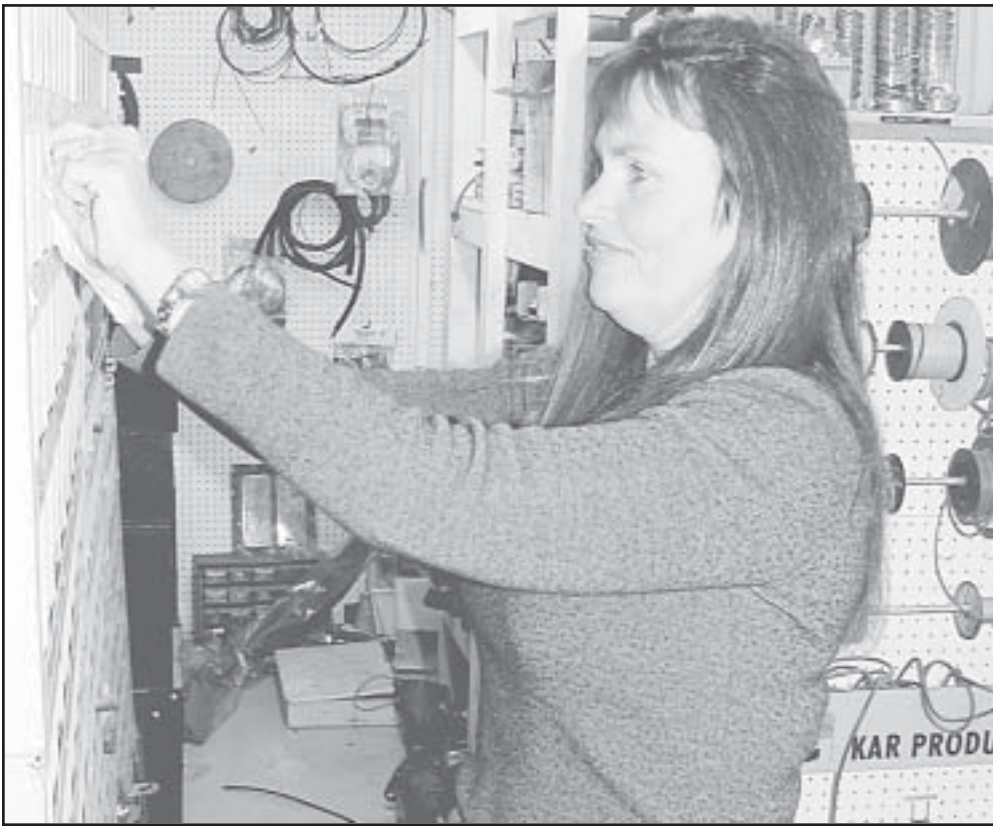
Malsom said she always wanted to manage an office.

“It’s always where I was heading,” she said. “I just didn’t know it would be an office of one.”

She works by herself in an office facing the shop, serving as a liaison between customers and the shop employees.

“I see everybody that comes through the door,” she said.

The employees work in specialized compartments building custom trailers, repairing trucks or constructing small buildings. Malsom said she sends the customers to the correct department.



Lisa Malsom arrived at work with a big smile (left), and enjoys managing the office for Malsom Welding. She does the paperwork, and helps keep the parts straight (above).

Photos by Kathryn Gurfinkel / The Goodland Star-News

See MALSOM, Page 6

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# Managing an office was one of her goals

**MALSOM, from Page 5**

The shop started out doing truck repair, a service they still provide. Some of their business comes from repairing semi trucks off of Interstate 70.

"Our hours aren't just 9 to 5," Malsom said. "We get called out in the middle of the night. We do all we can do to get them back on the road."

Malsom said the shop was forced to diversify from truck repair because of a poor economy.

"It just wasn't enough to get through," she said.

To expand, they started building enclosed, flatbed and airplane trailers. They also build trailers for powered parachutes, a dune-buggy style vehicle with an aircraft engine and a parachute-style wing.

"That's been real interesting," said Malsom. "Our powered parachute (trailers) have gone all over the U.S."

She said motorcycle and dirt bike trailers are popular, too. They build to customer specifications to accommodate different weights and sizes.

"We can do any kind of trailer," she

said.

The newest addition to the business is their construction branch. Malsom said they build small buildings and fences.

"(Dennis) is out putting up buildings," she said.

Recently the shop put together a grain cleaning facility in Edson. Malsom said her husband and the customer put together blueprints to lay out the large job.

"I couldn't believe how extensive it was," she said.

Although they prefer to work in metal construction, the shop will do whatever a customer requests. Malsom said she thinks construction is the future of their business.

"Dennis has turned wrenches for

**See MALSOM, Page 7**

Lisa Malsom (right) checked her files to be sure all the workdone in the ship is billed, and she keeps the bills all paid as part of being the office manager.



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# Managing office only part of her work day

**MALSOM, from Page 6**

most or all of his life," she said. "This is a whole new area for him."

The shop's market is mostly in Goodland, she said, with the construction extending out to the Tri-State area.

Out of the eight employees working at the shop, Malsom is the only woman, which complicates her job.

"It makes it a bit more challenging," she said. "It's a whole different set of problems."

Before her children grew up, Malsom spent eight hours at work and then came home to more responsibilities.

"It doesn't just stop at 5 when you leave the office," she said.

Malsom was raised near Wichita, but she said she loves Goodland's small town atmosphere.

"It's a great place to raise kids," she said. "I think the small-town rural community has a lot to offer. You're safe here."

Malsom has twin daughters Crystal

and Candice, who live in Hays; a daughter Cassandra, who lives in Colby; and a step-daughter Stacy and a step-son, Wayne, who both live in Oklahoma.

To get into the work world, Malsom suggests that women research potential jobs. She has participated in DECA, a program through the high school that gives credit to students for hands-on training. She said shadowing someone in the workplace can help students to decide what they want to do.

"I have found that real helpful for young women," she said.

Malsom said she feels that working women have their options open and can achieve anything. She advises women to search for the right balance between work and relaxation.

Lisa Malsom (right) is the only woman of the eight employees working at the shop, and feels women have their options open in today's world to have a balance between work and relaxation.



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Front row: Roberta Normandin, Linda Rummel, Judy Finley, Jennifer Hays, Joan Porsch  
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# Quick, easy meals for the working woman

In the hectic schedule of each day, busy women need quick, easy meals.

Eating out is not always the answer if you are supposed to be a certain diet, low salt, low carbohydrate, low fat or whatever.

The following recipes are from Taste of Home's 2002 Quick Cooking Annual Recipes.

## Zucchini rice pilaf

Preparation time 30 minutes  
 1/2 teaspoon dried basil  
 2 tablespoons margarine  
 2 1/4 cups water  
 1 1/4 teaspoons chicken bouillon granules  
 1 cup uncooked long grain rice  
 1/2 cup shredded carrot  
 1 small zucchini, halved and thinly sliced  
 Sauté basil in butter for 1 minute in a skillet. Add water and bouillon. Bring to a boil. Stir in rice and carrot and reduce heat. Simmer covered for 10 minutes. Add zucchini and simmer for 10 more minutes or until vegetables are tender. Four servings.

## Honey Dijon chicken

This recipe makes 2 casseroles and freezes very well.  
 12 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (3 pounds)  
 4 garlic cloves, minced  
 2 teaspoons dried thyme  
 salt and pepper to taste

1 tablespoon oil  
 2 tablespoons corn starch  
 1 1/2 cups unsweetened pineapple juice  
 1/2 cup water  
 1/2 cup Dijon mustard  
 1/3 cup honey  
 hot cooked rice or noodles

Rub chicken with garlic and thyme and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cook chicken in a skillet in oil until no longer pink.

Combine corn starch, pineapple juice and water in a bowl until smooth. Stir in mustard and honey and add to skillet.

Bring skillet to a boil, continue to cook and stir until thickened about 2 minutes.

Put half of the chicken and sauce into a greased 11 x 7 x 2 baking dish and cool.

Cover and can be frozen up to 3 months.

Serve rest of chicken and sauce over rice or noodles.

## Blackberry banana smoothies

Preparation time 15 minutes or less  
 2 cups orange juice  
 1/3 cup vanilla yogurt  
 2 medium ripe bananas, cut into thirds and frozen  
 1/2 cup fresh or frozen blackberries

In a blender combine ingredients. Cover and blend until completely blended. Serve immediately. Four servings.

## Pistachio mini loaves

When something green is in order these small loaves fit the bill.

1 package (18 1/4 ounces) yellow cake mix  
 1 package (3.4 ounces) instant pistachio pudding mix  
 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream  
 4 eggs  
 1/4 cup vegetable oil  
 1/4 cup water  
 3/4 cup finely chopped pecans  
 3 tablespoons brown sugar

2 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

Combine cake and pudding mixes in a bowl and add sour cream, eggs, oil and water.

Beat until blended. Pour into five greased 5 3/4 x 3 x 2 inch loaf pans.

Combine pecans, brown sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over the batter.

Bake 35-40 minutes at 350 degrees or until done. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from the pans to wire racks.

Yields 5 loaves.



Tammy Hageman, optometric assistant, and Connie Russell, office manager, assist patients in selecting and fitting eyewear, in addition to their many office duties.

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## Our working women help get the news to you



Above: Pat Schiefen, Katheryn Gurfinkel, Sheila Smith, Jennifer Arntt, Sharon Corcoran and Anne Hamilton. Left: Judy McKnight, Betty Morris, Shayla Cochran. Not pictured: Kris McCool and Lana Westfahl



## The Goodland Star-News

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