

Goodland florist opens new craft mall

Crafters have new market for wares

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Those high priced craft malls you find in Denver and Wichita have a new competitor right here in Goodland.

Cobblestone Floral and Garden has expanded to add crafts booths for local artisans.

The front room of the flower shop has been transformed into a mini craft mall.

Each booth is sectioned off with white lattice, separating each seller's wares.

Ashleigh Flodin, who owns of the flower shop with her husband Edward, said the mall is a chance for talented crafters in the area to sell their stuff.

"There are a lot of very crafty people around," she said. "These people are very talented."

So far, the mall features leather goods, woodworking, oil paintings, jewelry, plants, silks, birdhouses and homemade place mats and table runners.



Ashleigh Flodin straightened some items in one of the new craft booths at Cobblestone Floral and Garden.
Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

"I think we have a little bit of everything for everyone," Flodin said. "It's very diverse."

Flodin said they have openings for every type of crafts and services.

She said if you make wedding cakes, have small antiques to sell, take photographs or anything, the space is perfect.

The shop offers booths in sizes including 3 feet by 3 feet by 4 feet, 4 by 4 by 4, 5 by 5 by 4 and window booths that are 13 by 5 by 4.

Cobblestone charges \$20, \$30, \$40 and \$50 per month for the booths, along with an 18 percent commission on items sold and 30 percent on items on consignment.

Anyone who signs up for space must start with a minimum of three months, but Flodin said they could share a booth with a friend.

Crafters are given price tags that include the booth number so employees can identify the account. Flodin said the shop takes care of sales tax and bankcard fees.

Each account holder gets a check and an invoice once a month.

The shop provides hooks for lattice displays, she said, but crafters can add shelves, holders, bulletin boards or signs as they choose.

"We have everything to get them

started," she said.

Flodin said crafters can remain anonymous or identify themselves.

The crafters, she said, are responsible for keeping their items in stock.

If they run out, though, store employees will alert them.

Flodin said she wants to preserve the original business and plans to keep the flowers, bedding plants and small gifts that have been a staple over the years.

The business has been Cobblestone for the past seven years, three of which Flodin has been in charge.

She said the business was called Goodland Greenhouse before that.

The idea for the craft mall came from visiting similar malls in Denver, where she is from.

"We're very excited," Flodin said. "It's been very positive."

She said once the booths are full, the mall may extend into a back room.

When that's full, she said, they want to add a used bookstore.

Cobblestone is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

Anyone interested in signing up for a booth or in more information should talk to Ashleigh or Lavera at 899-3663.

Flatlander Fall Festival starts Saturday, Sept. 24

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

The Flatlander Fall Festival is set to kick off on Friday, Sept. 23, with people from all over flocking to Goodland for the fun.

The opening event is the stock car races at 6:30 p.m. on Friday at the Sherman County Speedway. The races continue at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24.

They will feature mini stock, econos, bomber, super stocks and modified contests.

Saturday, the festival revs up with the car and motorcycle shows on Main Avenue.

Registration for the Early Iron Car Club Rod Run starts at 8 a.m. at Central Elementary School, 1301 Main.

The show is split into classes from the first automobiles to 1949; 1950 to 1964; 1965 to 1975; 1976 to 1989 and 1990 to present; and trucks.

The morning features a "show and shine" and a continental breakfast.

Door prizes, games, dash plaques for winners and a "motor blow," a contest where organizers drain oil from an engine and let it run until it blows up.

The evening fun starts with a meal followed by an evening cruise through town.

The motorcycle show starts with registration at 9 a.m. at 9th and Main.

The bike events start with a show, followed by rodeo games in the afternoon. The evening starts with a dinner and awards before all the riders all head out for a parade of motorcycles on Main.

Sunday, Sept. 25, the motorcycle club gets together for a religious service and then they plan a poker run.

Starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Main Avenue will be lined with ven-

Art, movie featured events

The Flatlander Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 24, again will feature the Flatlander Photo Contest, with the doors of the Carnegie Arts Center open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Photographs for the show have to be turned into the center by Friday, Sept. 9.

The show will open on Sunday, Sept. 11, and stay up through the end of the month.

Tina Goodwin, center director, said the display will feature photos taken by Sherman County people. She said anyone can enter and photographs have to be original.

They is no theme this year, she said, so they have no specifications on the type of photos.

Entries must be ready to hang, mounted on board, in a frame or matted, as long as they can easily be hung.

The center will be serving refreshments during the festival.

Goodwin said over the month, visitors will be asked to vote on favorites and they will add up the winners with awards for the top three adult photos and the top youth photo.

The arts also will be featured in a showing of the movies American Graffiti after dark on Saturday on 10th Street between Center and Main.

As part of the summer outdoor movie program through the Goodland Public Library and the center, Goodwin said, the car-themed movie will be shown under the stars.

The movie is free, she said, and participants are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs. She said they will probably have a popcorn machine on hand for treats.

dor booths.

The fun includes a Scruffy Dog Contest at 11 a.m. at 11th Street and Main. Participants can sign up at the Animal Shelter booth.

A scale model show will be set up from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at High Plains Office Supply, 1118 Main.

Off Main, the Goodland Activities Center will hold a Punt, Pass and Kick contest for boys and girls ages 8 to 15 at 10 a.m. at the high school.

The south end of town will feature the fourth annual flea market and garage sale all day Saturday in the parking lot of the Antique Warehouse Mall at 17th and Main.

An Army Reserve fire truck display will be set up in front of the Cowboy Loop on Saturday. The parking lot of the store will have spaces for booths.

Greg Shores is sponsoring the annual swap meet at 15th and Main. He said visitors can swap any motor-sport related items. Last year, he said, one person sold a race car mo-

tor to a driver who won using the new motor in the races the same night.

Tractor and Jeep displays will be set up on South Main, too.

"Hopefully we can make it worth the trip to come all the way down," Shores said.

The tractor display, he said, will feature some with engines used for pulling.

He said plans for the Jeep display have not been finished, but they are considering an articulation ramp to demonstrate how the suspension on a Jeep flexes.

He is trying to get some paragliders - a motorized vehicle that glides in the air - to set up a few of the crafts for visitors to examine.

"They're just cool to look at," he said.

A beer garden will be set up between 16th and 17th Street on Main. Shores, who ran the garden last year, said they will start setting up around 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. and will close at 5 p.m.

Committee plans for celebration

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Car and motorcycle lovers have already started drooling, owners of scruffy dogs are working on their talents and business people are gearing up for this year's Flatlander Fall Festival.

The festival, Friday, Sept. 23, through Sunday, Sept. 25, will feature stock car races, a car show, a motorcycle show, food and game booths on Main, and more.

Brent Wood, a member of the festival committee, said the booths will feature everything from food vendors to game booths.

Wood said the three-day festival is being run by a new combined committee instead of being mostly organized by the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the car and motorcycle clubs.

The Chamber sends a representative to work with the other clubs in the committee.

The new group, Wood said, is working toward complete independence for the festival.

"We're trying to become self-funded," he said.

The portable bathrooms alone will cost \$900.

Wood said they are looking for a clean-up crew to help after the festival.

This year, the group has gotten

\$1,000 from the county and has opened up a separate bank account.

Tuesday the Flatlander committee received \$500 from the Sherman County Economic Development Council.

He said the group is charging \$40 each for vendor booths and \$25 more for electricity.

The deadline to sign up for a booth, he said, is Monday, Sept. 12. Call the Convention and Visitor's Bureau 890-3515.

The Madd Hatters Music Emporium will provide a stage and sound system for entertainment Saturday, he said.

While not every deal has been set in stone, Wood said the committee is working on posters to promote all of the events.

This year, Wood said, the committee plans to provide people movers - transportation trams - to move people from one end of Main to the other.

"We've got a lot of things planned," he said. "Everything's come together pretty nicely."

He said the committee is looking for volunteers to help organize the events and work on Saturday.

Call the Visitor's Bureau at 890-3515, the Chamber at 899-7130 or Brent Woods at 899-9290 if you're interested.

correction

A story "County rental reduced" on Page 3 of the Tuesday, Aug. 23, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* identified Cris Riebel with the wrong preschool. She is holding a garage sale at the county 4-H building this weekend to help raise scholarships for her Joyful Noise Preschool, 416 Caldwell, that will open on Monday, Sept. 12. The preschool will handle children ages 3 to 5, and Riebel can be contacted at 890-8895. This was a reporting error.

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