

New Shop Puts Decorative Trinkets, Gourmet Treats All In One Basket

If you're looking for just the right gift for a special occasion—or if you're looking for the right way to make just another occasion a little special—the Goodie Basket has what you need.

The Goodie Basket, located inside Clair's at 165 North Main Street, officially opened for business Monday, but co-owners Sandra Kerr and Judy Roach have been busy for the last few weeks perfecting their unique, personalized creations for Mooresville-area customers.

The name says it all for the new business. Kerr and Roach fill baskets with all types of delectable and decorative goodies, giving each one a personalized address and flavor created with the recipient in mind.

"We do baskets for anniversaries, birthdays and just about any other occasion," Kerr said, "and the baskets are made to order."

Depending on the customer's request, Kerr and Roach can include

scented soaps, fragrant bath accessories and other decorative trinkets, or fill the basket with a mixture of cheese, crackers, blended cookies and chocolates.

While Monday was the first day for regular business hours, things have been pretty busy at The Goodie Basket for weeks.

"In the last few weeks, the response we have gotten has really been amazing," Kerr said Friday.

That kind of response is what Kerr and Roach were hoping for when they decided to give the business a try. Both said they had been thinking about starting the business for more than a year, but couldn't get all the details worked out until now.

"I have some friends who are running a similar type of business in Statesville," Kerr said, "and I thought it would go over well in Mooresville. There's nothing like it here. We are providing a new service for people in this area."

Roach added that, while she

Community Business Spotlight

couldn't take credit for coming up with the idea for The Goodie Basket, she was enjoying the challenge of getting the new business started.

"The type of business was Sandra's idea, but I was glad she asked me to work with her," Roach said. "It has been fun getting everything ready and we're really excited about getting started."

Their children are also interested in the new business. Roach, who has three school-age children, and Kerr, who has two youngsters in school, said running the business is easier since the children are in school during the day, and it gives the families something new to talk about.

"We usually don't talk about business things at dinner, but the kids are so excited—that's all they want to do," Kerr said.

"They're more excited about it than we are," Kerr added. Working with their children, and other children at school and at church, provided The Goodie Basket "training" for Kerr and Roach.

"Neither of us has any kind of professional training for this, but for the most part it comes naturally," Kerr said.

"And we both keep a critical eye on each other's work," Roach added. "I hope it will be an advantage," Kerr said. "If we think a little something extra would look good, she tells me and I do the same for her. It works good that way and it allows us to learn as we go along."

Their vehicle accident, which began when a customer, after considering the wide assortment of tasty and

decorative treats displayed on The Goodie Basket's shelves, gives Kerr and Roach an outline of what he wants.

Kerr and Roach then begin the creative process of matching items with the right basket and the right kind of trim. Baskets for new parents, for example, might include mugs for "new mommy" and "new daddy" and other items for the baby brightly packaged in the appropriate—pink or blue—color.

Baskets for birthdays, housewarming and weddings are just a few of the specialty creations Kerr and Roach are offering and each basket is filled and decorated according to the customer's request.

"Two people might be sending baskets to the same person for the same occasion," Kerr said, "but that doesn't mean the baskets will be similar. One person might want to send some soaps or bath cubes and another might want to send wine, sausage, cheese and crackers."

Kerr said, "If we know the person will be decorated the same because we do each one individually," Roach added.

Both women added that working in a small town, where in many cases they know the people who will receive the baskets, should also help their business.

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Co-Owners Roach, Kerr In Attractive, Uniquely-Stocked Shop

and special occasions. The shop's wine rack, which many customers will visit to select the right centerpiece for their gift, is starting to fill up with other shelves already have an impressive variety of special, hard-to-find treats and novelties.

Kerr and Roach agreed that the next few months, through the busy holiday seasons, should give them a good indication of how well the business will fare in Mooresville.

"By the first of the year, we should know how things will be," Kerr said.

"We'll know if we have the support we need." If things stay like there were Friday, Kerr and Roach might need help to keep up with the "support."

Among the birthday and anniversary gifts, two orders for Christmas baskets came in, perhaps setting the tone for the next two months.

The Goodie Basket is open from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The phone number is 664-7650.

Customers are urged to come by and browse and phone-in orders are especially appreciated.

"It's a little tough fixing a basket with someone looking over your shoulder," Roach said with a smile. "With someone there watching, you don't feel rushed. When you don't feel rushed, it's easier to think together just right."

The Goodie Basket will also provide local delivery and ship personalized baskets anywhere UPS delivers.

'Goodie Basket' Samples On Display

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McKinney National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

Sandra McKinney, a senior at South Iredell High School and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKinney of Mooresville, has been named a semifinalist in competition for a 1988 National Merit Scholarship.

Miss McKinney was named to the program as a result of her PSAT/NMSQT score on the test taken in October 1986.

She will continue in competition for a National Merit Scholarship to be awarded in the spring of 1988.

Three students at South Iredell High School have been designated as Commended Students in the 1988 National Merit Scholarship Program and will receive a letter of commendation in recognition of outstanding academic promise.

The three are: Jamie McKinney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Wooten of Hildesheim, route 1; Kelly R. Gilley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold "Bud" Troutman, route 1; and Sharon L. Shoemaker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Shoemaker of a 45 Spicewood Circle, Troutman.

These seniors placed in the top 50,000 of more than one million participants in the 33rd annual Merit Program.

Participants entered the current Merit Program by taking the PSAT/NMSQT exam in October 1986, when most of them were juniors. Although their qualifying test scores are high, the 33,000 young people throughout the nation who are Commended Students scored slightly below the level required for semifinalist standing in their respective states. Only the 15,000 semifinalists, whose names were announced on Sept. 16, will continue in the competition for some 6,000 Merit Scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 1988.

Environmental Awards Materials Distributed

Keep North Carolina Clean & Beautiful Inc. has begun its environmental education program for 1987-88 in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

The books encourage environmental improvements on elementary, middle, and high school campuses in North Carolina in competition for district and state awards which will be presented in May 1988.

In 1986-87, hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of capital improvements were realized on school grounds as a result of this educational competition.

This year's program is being sponsored by the Carolina Glass Recycling Program.

Also, the eighth grade KNOCS Essay Contest materials have been distributed through the Division of Communication Skills in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

The 1987 contest theme is: "Take Pride...Keep North Carolina Clean & Beautiful."

The contest and Language Arts teacher who win first place on the state level will each receive a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond and will appear in a "second-grade" service announcement published by WDAV-TV in Raleigh.

KNOCS is a national, nonprofit, agency dedicated to the education of the nation's youth in the preservation of our natural resources.



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Leaves In North Carolina's Mountains Ripe For October Viewing

A combination of moderate summer temperatures and heavy September rainfall have left trees in good condition going into the October color season in Northwest North Carolina. Leaf watchers are expecting a spectacular color display in the higher elevations compared to previous years when summer drought put extra stress on the forest.

"We have already had 11.23 inches of rain this month, which is almost twice the average volume for September," said Grandfather Mountain Manager Tom Huskins, a veteran fall color season at the scenic travel attraction. "I think the rain came in time to hold the trees back so that the leaves won't turn prematurely. I don't believe that the leaves will come as early this year."

Howard Parr, chief ranger for the Blue Ridge Parkway, says, "We are looking for a beautiful and extended fall color season. It will probably run from early October to mid-November."

The many different colors that are seen in the fall leaves are actually the leaves' base color. The yellow and red pigments are noticeable when the leaves first bud in spring, but are quickly obscured by green pigments as the level of chlorophyll in the foliage rises. In fall, when the chlorophyll production ceases, the natural color of the leaf becomes visible again.

The intensity of colors are a function of the overall health of the tree and the weather conditions experienced in the color season. With trees entering the color season in excellent health in 1987, the quality of color will depend on increasingly cool nights to trigger the end of chlorophyll production in the leaves. A killing frost would promote the breakdown of chlorophyll production in all of the trees at the same time and serve to synchronize the turning so that whole hillsides would be ablaze at one time. Without the killing frost, each tree turns at its own rate, and though the color lasts longer, it can be more intermittent and less flamboyant.

Parr laughed as he recalled his prediction for last year. "What I

predicted last year was that the leaves would dry up and fall off early, but the rains came back to life and we had one of the best color seasons ever. This year is easier to predict. The leaves are healthy, the rain came at the right time, and this should be a memorable year along the Parkway."

Some of the best color in the South can be found along the newly opened section of the Blue Ridge Parkway which crosses the South slope of Grandfather Mountain, the highest peak in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The area is thickly forested with a wide variety of deciduous hardwood trees which turn every color in the spectrum between the dark red of the huckleberry and the

sunshine yellow of the birch. The fiery colors of the hardwoods are contrasted against the cool evergreen conifers which grow in profusion on Grandfather, as well as against the quiet gray boulders and cliffs that scrape against the deep blue October skies.

The best dates for leaf looking at Grandfather Mountain's high elevation will be between October 8 and 25. "The peak will be between the second and third weekends," said Huskins.

"Fall at Grandfather is like having two or three color seasons," adds Harris Prevoist, information director for the travel attraction. "Early in October we are looking up at the colors turning on Grand-

father's peaks. In mid-October, color is everywhere, and by late October, we are looking down on the color turning in the valley. This season the progression of color down the slopes should be even more protracted according to the experts."

Travelers who can schedule their visit during weekdays will find the area much quieter than on weekends when many harvest season events fill the schedule.

For travel information and help with accommodations, contact Northwest North Carolina's travel assistance organization, North Carolina High Country Host, at 800/438-7500 outside NC or 800/222-7515 inside NC.

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To Your Health

Among children, adolescents have the greatest incidence of spinal cord injuries. The resulting paralysis requires great adjustments in the lives of the patient and family.

"One of the most difficult things for a person to understand is why neurosurgeons can't see the spinal cord back together, so that the child could walk again," said Dr. W. Jerry Oakes, assistant professor in the division of neurosurgery and assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Duke University Medical Center.

The spinal cord is a length of nerve fiber about the thickness of a man's index finger extending from the lower brain down the back. All nerves to the trunk and limbs branch out from the spinal cord, which relays electrical impulses to messages from the brain to the nerves to conduct reflex action throughout the body.

The cord is protected by the spine, a bony structure consisting of 24 vertebrae that supports the body. The most common culprit of spinal cord injuries is diving accidents; injuries also can be a result of car or other vehicle accidents, birth injuries and falls from buildings or trees. Boys, who are considered to take more risks than girls, are two to three times more likely to sustain spinal cord injuries.

No breakage along the spine needs to occur for the spinal cord to be injured. "The spinal cord can be in one piece and still not work," Oakes said. "Electrical conduction can be disrupted whether the cord has been severed."

Unlike peripheral nerves in the arms, shoulders and legs, the spinal cord as well as nerves in the brain do not regenerate, once fibers are cut. "That modern medicine cannot currently overcome this is beyond many people's comprehension," he said.

Resulting motor and sensory paralysis will affect the rest of the body below the injured section of the spinal cord. Paraplegia means the entire lower half of the body is paralyzed, while quadriplegia is from the neck down.

"The rule is—and it has stood the test of time—that if there is no evidence of electrical conduction within 24 hours of the injury, a physician can be very sure that the child will be paralyzed," Oakes said.

These lunches are planned in all elementary and middle schools in the Iredell County system during the week beginning Oct. 12. Students may choose one meat, two fruits, or vegetables, a serving of bread and a carton of milk.

Monday: "SCANDINAVIAN MENU" Fish fillet; corn dog; parmesan potatoes; seasoned carrot coins; chilled applesauce; chilled fruit cup; raisin bread; choice of milk.

Tuesday: "AMERICAN MENU" Hamburger on bun; baked ham; lettuce leaf and sliced tomatoes; french fries; fresh apples; chocolate chip cookies; choice of milk.

Wednesday: "WEST AFRICAN MENU" Congo chicken; toasted cheese and bologna sandwich; savory rice; green broccoli; orange wedges; french fries; banana bread; choice of milk.

Thursday: "MIDDLE EASTERN MENU" Pocket bread with school made gyro; spaghetti meat sauce; Greek style green beans; Iranian grapes; Pompei fruit bar; french fries; school baked french bread; choice of milk.

Friday: "N.C. COUNTRY COOKING" Pizza; sliced turkey with gravy; tossed salad; rice with gravy; buttered corn; baked apples; chilled applesauce; school baked roll; choice of milk.

Dear friends, If a close friend passes away, and if you feel inclined to phone or visit the family to express your sympathy, it is proper to do so. However, your conversation should be brief and you should not insist upon speaking with immediate members of the family, who may be overcome with grief.

Respectfully,
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