ERICK'S Fantastic USteren 0 & Craft Show Mardi Gras Saturday, March 7, 2020 "PEARL OF THE PLAINS"

Press-Leader AltusTimes MangumStar



John Worthington spoons some freshly fried oysters during a previous Oyster Fry. Don't forget to get your tickets for this year's event which will be held on March 9.

Courtesy photos Betty Kriz from the Center for Creative Living enjoys oysters in 2012

The history of Frederick's Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show

BY KATHLEEN GUILL

kathleen@press-leader.com

Often referred to as the "Pearl of the Plains," Frederick's Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show will celebrate it's 31st year in Frederick. This local event brings tourists through town in high volume.

After spending 30 years in Manitou, the Frederick Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show moved to Frederick. The oyster fry first began in 1952 in Manitou. A man named Bramlett Johnson brought oysters back from the Gulf Coast of Texas. After frying and serving them to the



Manitou school board, it became an annual fundraiser. The oyster fry was held in Manitou for 30 years before the Frederick Chamber of Commerce picked it up. The oyster fry took a brief hiatus after the Manitou school closed its doors. The Frederick Chamber of Commerce adopted the event and held Frederick's first oyster fry March 16, 1990. The tickets were \$7 and someone from the
Chamber went to Texas and brought back 120 gallons of oysters.

or 2013.

The oyster fry has been held in Frederick for over 30 years. So, for more than six decades someone has driven to Texas and brought back fresh oysters. To ensure the oysters are safe, they are immediately packed in ice before they're transported to Frederick for breading and frying.

According to a press release sent from the Frederick Chamber of Commerce March 9, 1990, people could buy oysters for \$1 a plate at the March 16 oyster fry. The Parent-Teacher Association or PTA came out \$30 ahead and decided to make the oyster fry an annual event.

"In 1983, 724 people were served 120 gallons of fried oysters," the release reads. "By this time, the price of oysters had become so high that the people of Manitou decided to discontinue the event."

In 1991, The Frederick Oyster Fry was mentioned in USA Today in the "Across the USA = News From Every State" section.

"Frederick - Second Annual Oyster Fry Fri-

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day - revival of tradition that began 40 years ago in Manitou - is Friday, city Chamber of Commerce says."

Twyla Elsener has been involved with the oyster fry since its beginnings.

"Bramlett Johnson brought that first gallon back in 1952 just to feed the school board," Elsener said. "My grandfather was actually on the school board at that time. Then they thought, hey, we can do this as a fundraiser and so that's what they did."

In 1990, the Chamber board of directors included President John Hester, Leon Allison, Ken Ames, Karen Caldwell, Art Cunningham, Elsener, Lois Kent, Cora Sue Kitchen, Kim Lamb, Brent Morey, Darrel Simpson, Gwen Smith, Kevin Sparks, Barbara Tucker, Clarice Ward, Rick Burton and Allen Smith.

"We [the board] went to Hester with the idea of taking over the oyster fry," Elsener said. "Now it's their biggest fundraiser every year."

The oysters had been served breaded for many years and about 10 years ago, they started serving them raw. They're served with a side of coleslaw that is the original recipe from when the event was held in Manitou.

The oysters are now served with a red sauce that, according to Elsener, is a Louis Box original recipe. The sauce and the coleslaw are both handmade in the Prather Brown Elementary School kitchen.

"I'll tell you a couple of fun facts from the first year," Elsener said. "We

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Courtesy photo

Frederick's Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show was held for the last time in the Central Elementary Gymnasium in 2011 before the building was torn down.



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FREDERICK'S FANTASTIC OYSTER FESTIVAL 2020 • 3





Stained glass vendor to set up at Oyster Fry

BY KATHLEEN GUILL

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Leta Mastroni and Leana Mann (LM2) are sisters and manage SisterStuff and more. We live in different sections of South Metro Oklahoma City. They sell jewelry and stained glass creations. Their work can be found at www.facebook. com/groups/407056653246 954/?ref=share.

Mastroni said they also sell mixed media items.

"Our primary products are re-purposed jewelry art and stained glass," Mastroni said. "Secondary is mixed media items. We have rarely seen the jewelry art at any of the craft shows we have attended and most pieces of stained glass are custom designs. Each art form is unique and one of a kind."

This is Mastroni's and Mann's first time setting up at the Oyster Fry.

"We have never had a booth at the oyster fry, but primarily sell our products via craft shows," Mastroni said. "We are looking forward to participating in the oyster fry craft show this year. Our favorite thing about jewelry art is the memories it evokes of times gone by and loved ones who wore similar jewelry. Some of the pictures have been created using family jewelry and buttons. These pictures then become a treasured conversation item rather than the unworn pieces stashed in a box. For the stained glass, just enjoying the beauty of the shapes, colors, and textures as the sunlight brings the glass to life is calming and can also evoke nostalgia."

Mastroni said one of the hardest things about business is pricing. "The hardest thing, as

with many other vendors,

is pricing," she said. "We do what we love, and love what we do – how do you put a dollar amount on that? Of course, an amount is required, and we try to price fairly. The easiest thing while selling our products is sharing the enthusiasm we have for our crafts. We

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Welcome to Frederick! Frederick's Fantastic Oyster Fry MARCH 7TH FREDERICK FURNITURE

211 W. Grand, Frederick, OK 580-335-3766

HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ground all the crackers we used to bread the oysters in little food processors. We'd do them in little home food processors. We did that for probably five or six years until we had enough sense to use what the school had."

Today, the oyster fry serves thousands of people who come from across Oklahoma and Texas, and some even as far away as Georgia and New Mexico.

Greg Howard is in charge of the volunteers who spend hours breading and frying the mussels.

"The oyster fry has always brought the town together," Greg said. "It's one of our biggest events and certainly the most unique. Our community always shows up to support the Chamber. We have over 100 volunteers every year that donate their time for this event."

Greg's wife Wendy Howard is a teacher at Frederick High School. "The oyster fry is a

great chance for students to give back to the community that supports them in all of their endeavors, she said. "Many student groups donate their time. We have high school students who have helped every year since the age of four and some that even come home from college to help with the event. It's a fun day of small town community life."

According to frederickokchamber.org, the oyster fry serves thousands of people each year. The recipe has not changed since the 1950s. A craft show is typically held next door to the event with an assortment of booths from vendors across the country who sell everything from homemade jams, to woodwork, to crocheted or knitted items.

It's a place where people can show off their art and hard work.

The Frederick Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show won't be the only draw to the town Saturday.

Tourists can visit the Pioneer Heritage Townsite Museum and Abernathy Boys Exhibit, the Hackberry Flat Center, take a tour of the historic Ramona Theatre, or visit several downtown shops, including one of the last Carnegie libraries still open to the public.

For details on this or other Chamber events, contact Felisha Crawford at 580-335-2126 or frederickcc@pldi.net or visit www.frederickokchamber.org.



The Frederick Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show draws customers and vendors to the area from across the United States, including New Mexico, Georgia and Kansas.



A Cajun style musical group called Casey and Mina came in to serenade Oyster Fry guests at last year's event. Pictured with the musicians are Chamber Director Felisha Crawford and her husband Ben Crawford.

Courtesy photos



We are a Proud support of the annual Frederick Oyster Fry, March 7th!!! GREAT PLAINS Technology Center

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315 South Main Street Frederick, 0K 73542 580.335.2020

809 East Tamarack Rd. Altus, 0K 73521 **580.482.1756** WELCOME TO FREDERICK'S FANTASTIC OYSTER FRY! HELD MARCH 7TH

Frederick has much to offer

BY KATHLEEN GUILL

kathleen@press-leader.com

Frederick is the Tillman County seat and an agricultural community, producing mostly wheat, cotton and cattle.

One of the biggest tourist draws is the Frederick Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show.

Frederick hosts several festivals throughout the year that bring in many visitors from all over Oklahoma and neighboring states. One year, a man came for the Oyster Fry and Craft Show all the way from Georgia, because he "didn't have anything else to do that weekend." Frederick is also home to the restored World War II Hangar, which houses the World War II Airborne Demonstration Team. The team hosts Open Hangar Day twice a year — in the summer and the fall.

When people come for events from that far away, they end up spending money on places to eat, shop and sleep. This helps promote the economy of Frederick.

The following is a list of places and attractions in Frederick.

Places to stay:

The Frederick Apartments, 1621 N. 13th St. in Frederick.

Call 580-335-2162. The Just Ducky Apartments, 1403 N. 12th St. in Frederick.

Call 580-335-2162.

Scottish Inn, 1015 U.S. 183 S.

in Frederick. Call 580-335-2129. Tanglewood Motel, 1123 U.S. 183 S. in Frederick. Call 580-

335-7557. White's RV Park, 1201 U.S. 183

S. in Frederick. Call 580-335-3121.

Places to eat:

The Grill, 610 E. Gladstone Ave in Frederick.

Frederick Country Club, 1001 N. First St. in Frederick.

Tacos N' Taters, 112 W. Floral Ave. in Frederick. Very Good Coffee Company, 106 S. Main St. in Frederick.

Sonic, 500 S. Main St. in Frederick.

Pizza Hut, 618 S. Main St. in Frederick.

Subway, 800 S. Main St. in Frederick.

Places to shop:

Deeryard Boutique, 722 S. Main St. in Frederick.

Ace Hardware, 620 E. Gladstone Ave. in Frederick.

KC's Gifts, 116 N. Main St. in Frederick.

Box Inc., 400 S. Main St. in Frederick.

Attractions:

Pioneer Townsite Museum,

200 N. Main St. in Frederick. Crawford Collection, 115 N. Main St. in Frederick.

Ramona Theater, 114 S. N. Ninth St. in Frederick.

WWII Airborne Demonstration Team, 1801 Flying Fortress Drive in Frederick. Hackberry Flat

Festivals:

Oyster Fry, March. Arts and Action, September. Cotton Festival, November. For a complete list of things to do in Frederick, contact Chamber Director Felisha Crawford at 580-335-2126 or frederickcc@pldi.net or visit FrederickOKChamber.org.

Bizzy Bee Knits to set up at Oyster Fry

BY KATHLEEN GUILL

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Sabine Ussery with Bizzy Bee Knits is slated to set up a booth at this year's Oyster Fry, March 7.

Ussery sells knitted items.

"I hand knit anything from baby items to toys, ladies garments, men's sweaters, hats, ear warmers, finger-less mittens, slipper socks, Christmas stockings, doll clothes for American Girl dolls and dog sweaters for small and

tiny dogs or anything someone wants me to make," Ussery said.

She also knits afghans. Last year's Oyster Fry was her first time setting up a booth, but she does primarily sell her products at craft and other vendor shows. Ussery said it gives her pleasure to create new and unusual items, but it can be a little scary handling technology for her online sales.

"I am tech challenged!" she said.

Ussery also said starting up her business came naturally, as she loves to be creative.

"My Mother was very creative as is my sister," she said.

"If you love what you are doing you never work a day in your life! Everything I sell is made with love and I welcome suggestions for new products and special orders."

Ussery says that for a fee, she also teaches classes to individuals or groups by appointment. Be sure to stop by her booth at the Oyster Fry March 7.

GLASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

love hearing from those visiting our booth their memories that were inspired by some of our products.

"We have been crafting over 20 years," Mastroni continued, "but Sister-Stuff and More was born in 2019. As sisters, it was a natural move to join forces. We get to spend quality time together, creating and laughing. The money we make is like cake icing. The 'and more' part of our name includes family and friends who contribute products and/or help." Mastroni said one of their favorite things is getting to boss each around.

"Our favorite thing managing our craft booth at shows and working together is that we get to boss each other off," Mastroni said. "Harassment between sisters is perfectly legal and fun! We also have freedom to apply to the shows we would like to participate in and set our own hours for crafting. The least favorite thing is the setup and tear-down at each show."

Three things Sister-Stuff and More would like to stress about their products are:

• All items are one of a kind. There will not be anything exactly the same, possibly similar, but definitely no "cookie cutter" items. Each is unique.

• Everything is made with love and fun. Of course, a few grumbles when there is an uh-oh moment, but lots of satisfaction when the piece is completed.

Custom orders are welcome. The jewelry designs can be made with personal items, and you get to select your colors and general designs for stained glass.

"The only advice we have for someone starting their own business is to have patience, and to make sure you love what you do," Mastroni concluded.

Thank you!! We hope to meet you at the show.



FREDERICK PRESS-LEADER, MANGUM STAR, ALTUS TIMES



Annette Rowe and Jeanie Scott began a Barn Quilt business and have begun offering classes. Sign up at this year's Oyster Fry.

Rowe, Scott offer barn quilt painting classes

BY KATHLEEN GUILL

kathleen@press-leader.com

Annette Rowe and Jeanie Scott began a business called Heritage Barn Quilts a few years ago. Since then, they have successfully put a Barn Quilt Trail on the map in Tillman County.

Rowe and Scott sell them at various art shows and they also take custom orders and teach classes.

The idea for their business came from a trip Scott took to Bonham, Texas.

"She [Scott] went to Bonham, Texas and discovered this wonderful barn quilt trail," Rowe said.

A barn quilt trail is a series of painted wood or metal, hung or free standing, quilt-like squares installed at various locations along a given route. There are quilt trails in about 43 of the United States as well as several in Canadian provinces. To find trails in individual states visit http://barnquiltinfo.com/map-US.html.

The closest barn quilt trail to Tillman County is in Stephens County so Rowe and Scott began one in Tillman County. They have been painting the squares on wood and several of them are displayed around Frederick and Tillman County.

"The barn quilts are on the fence and the eaves of our house," Scott said. "They all have names too, which is what's really interesting about it."

Each design has a name just like quilt designs. "They're actual quilt pat

"They're actual quilt pat-

terns," Rowe said. "Ours are painted on plywood and then mounted on barns, houses, fences, decks, patios, bird houses; you name it, they're everywhere."

They come in a variety if sizes.

"They can be one foot by one foot, two by two, three by three, four by four, and even up to sizes big enough for the side of a barn," Scott said. "They can just be huge. The Chamber and the arts council are thrilled about having a Tillman County Barn Quilt Trail.

"What that means is that the chamber will give names to the patterns or some patterns already have names, but the chamber will have a map of where the barn quilts can be found and it's kind of like a scavenger hunt. We're hoping people in Tillman County will be interested in putting these up. It's really a tourist draw. Like the people who come for the Oyster Fry, this would be something new they could do while they're here."

Although Rowe and Scott are painting some existing patterns, they will take orders from people who want to customize their own pattern, like local music teacher Marcy Prescott. She has completed several Barn Quilt projects. Some were Christmas gifts and one was a personal project. She came up with the patterns and Rowe and Scott helped her visualize and get it down on the wood.

"I made some for Christmas gifts," Prescott said. "Then I went back and made one for myself with a music theme. I also plan to go to another class to paint one for the community quilt that will be displayed along Main Street."

To see what the barn work quilts look like in person, drive through Tillman County. They have more than 20 through the county so far.

Rowe and Scott also offer classes, with the idea that they can make a huge barn work quilt design somewhere visible, like Main St. Box, Inc. has donated a building front for the use of the project. Rowe and Scott hope to get citizens involved in designing and painting the barn quilt squares. Designs can include honoring loved ones, painting a fa-

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Husband and wife team to set up booth at Oyster Fry

BY KATHLEEN GUILL

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Husband and wife team Hank Poppe and Martine Poppe are scheduled to set up a booth at this year's Oyster Fry and Craft Show March 7.

They don't have an official business. They sell their product primarily at craft and vendor shows.

"Martine makes and

sells beadwork in various forms," Hank said. "She's been doing her work for close to 30 years and is considered by many to be a master beader. Her beadwork has received several awards from shows here in SW OK. Often shoppers have to come early to her booth. She's known in the area and is usually in high demand." Hank produces and markets computer generated imagery.

"At last count there are only three CGI artists in the state," Hank said.

"I've been doing it professionally for 20 years, mostly for the US Army, and retired from active production in 2017. I usually attend several art shows a year in SW OK.

"My work is creating visual art uniquely done with a computer using the same software that's used in Hollywood to produce movies.

"We don't get to share a booth very often," Hank continued.

"We've participated in five — if memory serves us right — previous Oyster Fry shows. Most of our sales come from Arts and Craft shows here in SW OK."

Martine said she's an admitted fingerholic,

spending hours and days weaving beads together into beautiful patterns.

Creating her beadwork is rewarding when the item is finished and she gets to see it being worn by one of her customers.

Hank said creating computer generated images is not only artistically challenging as all visual art is, but the technical challenges needed to get a computer to actually render an image, and to see that accomplished is very satisfying.

"Because we don't operate out of a store, probably the hardest thing is getting customers to where we are.

"The products pretty much speak for themselves when people see them. Both our products are unique, professional quality and competitively priced."

QUILT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

mous person, recreating a famous painting, and the list just goes on. If you can dream it, you can paint it.

"The main thing is just getting more exposure," Scott said. "We'd like to see us get to 100 eventually."

If you would like to sign up for a barn work quilt painting class or get more information about Heritage Barn Quilts or the Tillman County barn quilt trail, call Scott at 580-305-0829 or Rowe at 580-305-2401.

Chamber of Commerce Director Felisha Crawford said the Barn Quilt Trail is a great addition to the County.

"The Barn Quilt Trail gives visitors a chance to enjoy the talents of two of our residents in addition to getting out and enjoying a pleasant ride together," Crawford said. "Jeanie and Annette have painted some beautiful works of art. The quilts, the scenery and good conversation are a perfect combination! In addition, all that driving encourages visitors to buy a tank of gas when they are in town and perhaps enjoy a meal or a little shopping. It's proven that people don't get in the car and just drive one place, they visit multiple locations during their outing so the Barn Quilt Trail is just one more fantastic way to get people in the doors of Frederick businesses." To find a map of the

To find a map of the Tillman County Barn Quilt Trail, visit http:// frederickokchamber.org/ Barn%20Quilt%20Trail. html.



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FREDERICK'S FANTASTIC OYSTER FESTIVAL 2020 • 9





ABOVE: An example of a pearl bib necklace.

LEFT: Fox Lane Pearls set up at Oklahoma City's Mistletow Market.

Pearl vendor will return to oyster fry

BY KATHLEEN GUILL

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The Frederick Fantastic Oyster Fry and Craft Show will have a returning pearl vendor this year. Judy Goodrich and Cecilia Lane

of Fox Lane Pearls are scheduled to set up at this year's event March 7. "Fox Lane is a combination of

our names," Goodrich said. "My maiden name and her married name. Our husbands Buz Goodrich and Rick Lane, are also our partners."

Fox Lane Pearls has been in business for almost two decades.

"We've been importing and selling pearls for nearly 18 years," Goodrich said. "We registered our business in Oklahoma on April 23, 1999, so we'll celebrate our 18th anniversary in April."

Goodrich said that she and Lane have really like pearls for years, but



Fox Lane Pearls offers bracelets in a variety of colors. From left is a hinged bangle bracelet — rhodium on copper — and the others are reasonably priced stretch bracelets.

realized how expensive they were when they saw what was available.

"We just fell in love with pearls a long time ago," Goodrich said. "We love the shiny luster, the smooth and silky surfaces, the veritable rainbow of natural colors, and the way pearls seem to glow from within. A pearl is sensuous and unique since it is a biological phenomenon, born of the water in an oyster in the sea or the lake.

"Other gemstones are geological phenomena," she said. "They are of the earth, born of heat and pressure. The pearl is unique. We also knew that the pearl is the most ancient gem of all, and we knew that we both wanted pearl necklaces. So 18 years ago we shopped for freshwater pearl necklaces but went into sticker shock when we saw what was available."

"We managed to connect with a Chinese wholesale source, and our business was born when we began selling pearls off our necks," she said. "Over the years we've made many trips to China to the pearl markets in Beijing and Shanghai. We were even able to visit a pearl farm near Wen Ling and got to see exactly how pearls are cultured."

Lane and Goodrich sell their jewelry to shops, boutiques, department stores and jewelers primarily through exhibiting at AmericasMart wholesale market in Atlanta, Ga. They also sell their pearls at retail shows and fundraising events for various charitable organizations. Goodrich said that had shows in many states over the vears.

Goodrich said that their freshwa-

ter pearls come from China.

"About 90 percent of our collection are freshwater pearls, which are very reasonably priced," Goodrich said. "Our freshwater pearls come from China. We also have a small, high-end collection of saltwater and Tahitian pearls. Our saltwater pearls include Japanese Akoya as well as Chinese saltwater pearls, and our Tahitian pearls come from the South Seas and Eastern Australia.

"All the pearls we sell are real pearls made by real oysters," she said. "We have both classic pearl jewelry and fun fashion pieces featuring our own unique designs. Some combine gem stones with pearls, in a wide variety of colors and styles. Our pearls are of high quality and priced to suit any budget with prices ranging

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Dragons Fire Creations to set up at Oyster Fry

BY KATHLEEN GUILL kathleen@press-leader.com

John May with Dragons Fire Creations plans to set up a booth at this year's Oyster Fry, March 7. Although May is based out of Shawnee, he has a website where you can find his items for sale. That website is www.dragonsfirecreations.com.

May sells custom crafted coin rings, coin jewelry, and accessories and coin bells. This will be his first time at the Oyster Fry, but he has sold his products at other arts and craft fairs around the state.

May said his craft often affords him the opportunity to make keepsake jewelry for people who may have lost a loved one.

"It allows me the opportunity to take coins that might have a special significance for someone into something that will last far into the future and provide a different and unique form of remembrance," May said. "My products are unique enough that they sell themselves. I have been making coin rings for two years and coin bells for about seven months. May said he started making the coin jewelry to remember his mother.

"My journey into creating custom crafted coin jewelry began late in 2016 with a desire to find a keepsake in remembrance of my mother," he said. "She was born in 1928 and grew up in a small town north of Munich, Germany (Pfaffenhofen an der Ilm). As I searched for a coin minted in 1928 in Munich, I began to notice references to coin rings and began to watch YouTube videos about making them. After watching several videos about 'forging coin rings,' my interest began to grow and I soon decided to try my hand at making coin rings. After acquiring the minimal amount of tools required to forge a coin ring, I began to practice what I had learned. My first rings were given away to friends and family. As my skills improved, I began to gather more tooling and branched out from just making rings from everyday quarters. I pride myself with crafting beautiful rings and sets from old silver coins from the US

and around the world, as well as replica coins made out of .999 silver."

May also said he loves that he gets to meet new people through his business. He loves sharing his craft and creating memories.

Three things May would like people to know about his product are:

• Every item I create is hand crafted and unique.

• Not every coin wants to be a ring or a bell (sometimes things go wrong or don't work out as planned). I take personal pride in every item I create and will work to provide the best product possible.

I provide free re-sizing and refreshing of ring purchased from me (customer pays for shipping).

May said if someone came to him for advice on starting their own business, he would tell them it's best if you can develop a business that fulfills a public need, it's better if it is something you enjoy and are willing to do every day and to be prepared to spend long hours and many a weekend taking care of the business.

PEARL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

from \$7.50 for a simple pearl bracelet to \$10,000 for an opera length Tahitian pearl necklace."

Goodrich said that this will be the first time that Fox Lane Pearls has set up a booth at the oyster fry.

"We just learned about the Frederick event from a customer and decided that since our pearls come from oysters, they would be a natural at an oyster fry. Plus, we love oysters," Goodrich said. "We hope to make the oyster fry an annual event." Goodrich said they also do custom work.

"We work with brides and other customers on unique designs and we make the jewelry to the customer's specifications," Goodrich said. "We restring pearls, and we love to help our customers reconfigure Grandma's pearls from yesteryear into a beautiful piece of jewelry that will be worn and cherished today and tomorrow.

"We include a fabric pouch with every item we sell," she said. "Pearls are more delicate than most other jewelry, so the pretty pouch has a practical application for safely keeping the pearl jewelry and all our customers love our packaging."

Custom leatherwork and pen shop to set up at Oyster Fry

BY KATHLEEN GUILL

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Brance Barnett with BNB Leatherworks and Turning X Pens by Braxton are scheduled to set up at this year's Oyster Fry, March 7.

You can see some of their work at https:// www.facebook.com/ brance.barnett/ and https://www.facebook. com/turning.x.pens/.

Brance sells handmade leather bags and wristlets and Braxton sells hand turned wood pens. Brance and Braxton have never set up at the Oyster Fry, but they do sell their products at other craft shows, as well as Facebook and word of mouth. Their favorite thing about their items is they

are one of a kind, unique pieces.

"There are so many options that people have a hard time choosing their favorite," Brance said. "We have unique, trendy products that are handmade."

Their favorite things about selling their product are meeting new people and creating a custom product that exceeds their expectations, according to Brance.

Brance said his least favorite thing about owning his own business is being his own boss.

"I am my own boss. I have to be the one who

makes the decisions and sometimes those decisions are hard or out of my comfort zone," he said.

Brance is 13, and Braxton is nine.

"We are in 4-H and our project area is Entrepreneurship," Brance said. "We are learning as we go."

Brance's advice for anyone wanting to start their own business is to, "Step out of your comfort zone. That fear is the biggest hindrance to getting started."

Brance said they are open to custom orders and wholesale accounts and they also have laser products but they are mostly custom.



Living Tree Studio to set up at Oyster Fry

BY KATHLEEN GUILL

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Ronald Kuykendall with Living Tree Studio is scheduled to set up a booth at the 2020 Oyster Fry and Craft Show. He is coming in from Petersburg, Texas and will be selling handmade wheel thrown stoneware pottery, cookware and deco, hand drawn mountain scenes and stamped flower designs.

Kuykendall is a retired art teacher and has been in business for many years. He primarily sells his work at arts and crafts shows like the oyster fry.

Kuykendall said his favorite thing about his work is that it's handwork because "no one else does what I do."

He said the hardest thing is selecting and getting into good shows. He also said people like what he has to offer.

Three things Kuykendall would like people to know is that he stands behind what he does, his sales are to repeat customers and he enjoys the people.

If he could give advice

to someone looking to start their own business, it would be to start slowly.

"Do not go into too much debt," he said. "Make customers happy and grow in a stable fashion and slowly."

Kuykendall comes to Frederick twice a year.

"I love the people of Frederick," he said. "I have made many friends and acquaintances. I come twice a year — Oyster Fest and Arts in Action."

The Oyster Fry and Craft Show is scheduled for March 7.

Shelly's Jellys scheduled to set up at Oyster Fry

BY KATHLEEN GUILL

kathleen@press-leader.com

Shelly Gorrell with All Things Handmade is scheduled to set up a booth at the Oyster Fry and Craft Show March 7.

Gorrell sells Shelly's Jellys, Old Bobs Peppers, Old Bobs Peppered Sea Salts and Rib Rubs. She has set up at the Oyster Fry in previous years and is always a hit. She has been in business for seven years.

Gorrell said she primarily sells her products at events, festivals and craft shows and he favorite thing about her product is her family recipe.

"[It's a] family recipe, passed down from out sweet sister who has passed," Gorrell said. "[The hardest thing] is picking events that are well attended. The easiest thing about selling is when people taste it they gotta have it."

Gorrell said she came up with the idea of starting a business came around when her husband was trying to make a pepper jelly and he did a great job.

"People started asking

for other flavors and it grew from there," Gorrell said.

Gorrell also said she loves that people look her business up to find more of a product they love and she would like people to know they're available in Oklahoma, they offer wholesale pricing and all of their illustrations are hand drawn.

If Gorrell could give advice to someone looking to start up their own business, she said it would be to take a class first at the capitol to learn about all of the tax ins and outs.



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