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All Eyes On: Susie Gall

Kirkville resident creates her own cookie baking and delivery company based on love

BY EMMA MUELLER
Staff Reporter

Cookie Break
Hours: 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Call: 660-665-4255

Baking a few dozen cookies and driving a smart car is just another day in the life of Susie Gall. Gall, owner of Cookie Break in Kirkville, has only been in the cookie delivery business since this summer, but already has created quite the buzz for herself. Cookie Break allows customers to order up to two dozen cookies, delivered fresh, at almost any time of day.

It was now or never, Gall said. She was inspired to create Cookie Break last semester while living in London with her husband. She noticed the bakeries there and realized that she could turn her love of baking into a business. Gall said she understands that starting a new business is hard work.



"So much time and effort, much more than I ever dreamed really, and I'm just at the beginning stages of it," Gall said. "It's not just the baking part of it, it's also running everything. It's really just myself, and then my husband helps in whatever way he can, mainly some deliveries at night."

Gall said that her business is built on the foundation of love and she bakes every cookie from her heart.

"Ever since I was a little girl, I've loved to bake," Gall said. "When you do something you really love, then that shows through in whatever product it is. When you find your niche and you can go with that, your life is just fuller."

Gall has been baking her entire life. Her

house was always full of kids, and Gall often baked a few dozen cookies for all of her sons' baseball games. While Cookie Break features seven original cookies available for delivery, these are just seven of hundreds of recipes Gall has in her cookbook.

"I have some favorites from my childhood and some that friends have given me over the years, and a couple of those I use in my business that I adjusted a little bit and worked with," Gall said.

Gall's cookies are known as doozies. Doozies, everything from snickerdoozies to chocolate doozies to ginger doozies, are available for delivery. The snickerdoozies and chocolate doozies are her customers' favorites. Gall said "doozie" means something outstanding or unique of its kind, but it has

other meanings as well.

"Doozie is from my past," Gall said. "I had a real good friend that I worked with that called me 'Doozie.' I've laughed about it over the years. It's my take on some of these traditional cookies."

Repeat customer sophomore Joanna Leath's favorite cookie is the chocolate doozie. After trying free samples of Gall's cookies at the Farmer's Market, she has since ordered cookies six times. It's more than just cookies though. Leath has formed a relationship with Gall.

"They always know it's me when I call them,"



Photos submitted by Susie Gall

Susie Gall was inspired during her time spent in London to create a business of her own. At almost any time of the day, she delivers snickerdoozies and chocolate doozie cookies to residents of Adair County.

Leath said. "They call me the Chocolate Doozie Queen, which is really cute. I almost feel like she's my mom while I'm here. She bakes cookies with love, which is awesome. And she's really easy to talk to."

Jeff Gall, Associate Professor of History and husband of Susie, is always eager to help out in any way he can but he understands that the business is his wife's labor of love and is proud of the work she has accomplished.

"I think she's really excited about this," Gall said. "It's taken hold of her life in a really posi-

tive way. She's been somebody that worked different jobs over the years but never had the opportunity to do something very fulfilling for herself, and this is it."

Above all else, Gall's business is her way of showing love to students and the community.

"My favorite quote anytime, anywhere, is from Mother Teresa, and she says, 'We can't all do great things, but we can all do small things with great love, and so this is what I can do,'" Gall said. "I can do a small thing by baking you a cookie, and I can do it with great love."

Residents give back to community

Kirkville residents prepare Thanksgiving dinners at churches and soup kitchens for locals and students staying in the area

BY ANNA MEIER
Staff Reporter

A shiny coat of butter glistens on the skin of an oven-roasted turkey as people parade by heaping plates of rolls, vegetables and stuffing. The air is filled with the dull roar of conversation and the sweet, earthy smell of pumpkin pie.

Thanksgiving is a time for family, food and celebration, and Kirkville is no exception in taking part in these holiday festivities. Whether it's indulging in mass quantities of comfort food, serving others in the community or giving thanks at church, the Kirkville community has opportunities for those wanting to extend their Thanksgiving week beyond the borders of their own dinner tables.

For those who will be staying in Kirkville during Thanksgiving and might not be eating a traditional meal on Thursday, or just want to have a practice round of eating before the big day, the First Baptist Church of Kirkville will be offering a Thanksgiving meal. Church secretary Pam Barnett said the church has a free church-wide Thanksgiving dinner for anyone who wants to come. The dinner is at the First Baptist Church on Washington Street and will take place after the 6 p.m. service.

Although the dinner is supposed to be for church members, Barnett said the church extends the invitation to anyone in the community who wants a homemade traditional meal. Barnett said the families belonging to the church cook all of the food for the big event.

"Each Sunday School class is assigned a dish that they need to bring, so we know that we get a complement of everything," Barnett said. "You know, like the mashed potatoes, green beans, dressing."

Barnett said the residents of Kirkville actively participate in the dinner and seem to really enjoy it.

"It's always a big turnout," Barnett said. "It always fills the fellowship hall, and we spill over into other classrooms."

For those who want to celebrate the autumn holiday by giving back to members of the Kirkville community, Hope's Kitchen provides that opportunity. Hope's Kitchen is a soup kitchen that serves meals the third and fourth Saturdays of the month. Kathy Wood, an administrator with Hope's Kitchen, said the kitchen will be serving a meal Saturday in the Mary Immaculate Catholic Church parish center.

"It's going to be a regular Hope's Kitchen Saturday, but there won't be anything special on Thanksgiving Day," Wood said.

Wood said a different chef than usual is coordinating the meal and that the menu hasn't been set yet. The meal will include many typical Thanksgiving items. Hope's Kitchen will need of volunteers for the upcoming Thanksgiving meal.

If food isn't enough to satisfy some holiday appetites, the community is coming together to provide a Thanksgiving church service. A group of churches called the Kirkville Interchurch Ministries is sponsoring a community Thanksgiving church service at 7 p.m. Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church on High Street.

"We don't have anything big on Thanksgiving Day like some churches do," Marla Gramling, administrative assistant at First United Methodist Church, said. "But the Sunday before is our Thanksgiving Sunday, so that's a special time."

Additionally, Cottage Grove Bed and Breakfast hosts a Thanksgiving dinner every year for the students who stay in Kirkville during Thanksgiving Break, which usually includes a majority of

the international students and student advisers. After they started serving the dinner in 2001, the owners of the bed and breakfast Mac McCord and his wife, Jill, asked the president of the University, Jack Magruder, if they could feed the international students who didn't have anywhere to go for Thanksgiving. The couple worked with Joyce Brown at the President's Office, who gave them a list of foreign students who would be staying in Kirkville for Thanksgiving that first year; and Mac McCord said they fed Thanksgiving dinner to about 27 students.

"It was just a lot of fun," he said. "There was a Japanese fellow named Hakato who was a magician, and he entertained us, not one year, but all four years he went to Truman. We've just done it every year since, and it's just really great."

McCord said Jill puts on a real feast for the students every year, making a couple turkeys and turkey breasts, plenty of potatoes with gravy, green bean casseroles and "rolls to die for." He said she is also a wonderful baker and makes five pies and two huge cakes for the students. After the meal, he added, they gave the international students some takeout plates, and they scoured the bed and breakfast clean out of leftovers.

"There were two gals from Africa," McCord said. "They were a year apart, sisters. They had never tasted sweet potatoes, so they took the whole casserole. It was just so much fun, and so we swore we were going to do it every year."

Mac McCord said that this year they will be serving their Thanksgiving meal from noon to 2 p.m.. Those interested in attending should contact the Office of Residence Life. Cottage Grove has been voted the Best Bed and Breakfast near a college or university in North America.

"We've just had such great success here," McCord said. "This is our way of giving back to the University."

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Mac McCord
Cottage Grove Bed and Breakfast Owner

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