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• Leader & Times

This year, organizers of the Society for the Prevention of Bored Housewives are celebrating another five-year anniversary. Not only is Liberal celebrating its 125th year, but the craft show has been a regular holiday shopping event for 45 years.

It's just a few more weeks and the artists will be making their way to town to set up their booths of exciting crafts, goodies and new and unique wares for Liberal shoppers to see, taste and enjoy.

This year, SPBH has several new vendors coming to the show as well as its long-time regular vendors. Last year, there was a new vendor who sold homemade root beer and old-fashioned drinks – SPBH is excited that Wild West Soda will be coming to the festival again.

Another favorite, like Tammy Nestor from McPherson, with her decorated sugar cookies, sold out her inventory on Saturday afternoon last year and sold more than 350 dozen cookies.

Steve Ferguson will also be selling his honey and honey products from Fall City, Neb.; Norman Urie will again have his unique metal sunflowers and animals; and one of the local artists, John McDonald, who now has his own glass studio in Valley Center, will be here with his blown glass pieces.



These are just a few of the artists. There are also new artists and craftsmen coming with handmade jewelry from glass, silver, stones and crystal beads. There will be several woodworkers with furniture made from cedar oak and old barn wood. Clothing and handwork vendors will show off their many wares for home decorating needs.

Everyone loves the great assortment of food vendors who bring wonderful taste delights, such as pumpkin rolls, cookies, fudge, caramel and kettle popcorn, jellies, jerky, salsa, dips and soup mixes, coffee, cinnamon roasted nuts and more.

Be sure to come out to the festival and support several of the area's non-profit groups such as Angels for Animals, Senior Citizens Center, the Coronado Museum and Dorothy's House, Mosaic, Good Samaritan, Stepping Stone Shelter, Needles and Friends Quilt Guild.

The festival also benefits several youth groups, such as Boy Scouts, 4-H, Liberal High School and Seward County Community College/Area Technical School art students. The above groups will be selling their baked and craft items to raise money for their groups.

The Great Western Food Service from SCCC will also be serving food in the kitchen and will be serving a Sunday meal for after church, so come out and spend all day with the SPBH from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday Dec 7, and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Seward County Activity Center in Liberal.

And don't forget to be there Saturday to sign up for a chance to win the 2013 Ford Focus to be drawn for that evening at the Leader & Times Christmas Parade. The festival is the last place – and chance – to sign up for the vehicle drawing.