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New Lyons Outdoor Market starts strong

By Scott Rochat
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LYONS — It started as an idle remark.

“We should do a market like this in Lyons.”

Susan McCausland said that six months ago. On Saturday morning, it became reality. On a Main Street lot where two train cars once sat, 20 vendors set up shop for the first-ever Lyons Outdoor Market.

“I had no idea we had this kind of space in town,” said Lyons resident and artist Kim Sims as she looked through some jewelry for sale. “I’m rather excited — it’s going to bring the community together.”

There was plenty to offer the crowd. Woven baskets here. Custom-made guitars there. Crepes in this direction. Gluten-free muffins in that one. And a beautiful May morning didn’t hurt, either.

“We get an average of 14,000 cars a day in Lyons that pass through town,” jewelry artist Linette DeSano said. “If we can capture a portion of that, to spend their money in town, we’ll do just that much better.”

The idea came in November, as McCausland and her husband, Matt DePofi, were heading to a market in Fruita. They’d been to a similar one at Minturn, near Vale, a couple of months before, that seemed pretty successful.

Even so, when the words came out of McCausland’s mouth, she wasn’t expecting DePofi to immediately agree.

“I thought, ‘Oh, (no), he’s going to make me do it,’” she said, laughing.

It seemed crazy. McCausland does landscaping work. DePofi does property maintenance. For both, summer is the busy season.

But it seemed like such a good idea. And they did have that lot at 446 Main St., home to an old Pullman car and a caboose.

So they started taking offers on the train cars. And contacting possible vendors. Even leveling off the lot to make it easier for customers and sellers.

The result was an opening-day boom. The lot had room for 26 vendors. Only six spots were left empty. And the ones that came had plenty of visitors.

“So far, it’s great,” said Deb Zell of Boulder. Her business, Deb’s Gluten-Free, had its first day of business at the market, dealing in wheatless muffins and granola.



Kim Sims of Lyons, left, examines a piece of jewelry by Lyons resident Linette DeSano, right, on Saturday at the first Lyons Outdoor Market. DeSano was one of 20 vendors at the market, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday through Oct. 10 at 446 Main St. **Scott Rochat/Times-Call**

“People are blown away by how yummy the granola is,” she said. “It’s gratifying to see how much people like your pet project.”

That’s something McCausland and DePofi can understand completely.

“We love craft fairs,” McCausland said. “And Lyons has a lot of artists, a lot of musicians — it just seemed like a good idea for this place.”

The outdoor market will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday through Oct. 10. It also will be open on Sunday and Monday during Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend, and on Sunday for the Fourth of July weekend.