



By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

On Aug. 21, Ellie McCormick began putting her creative desires to work, along with her experience in retail as new owner of Grant Floral.

The business toward the south end of Central Avenue switched hands when McCormick bought the shop from former owner Janet Beck.

"It is great to be able to give a young person an opportunity," said Beck.

The name Grant Floral will remain the same, but McCormick has some new ideas, wishing to offer some more modern designs and maybe some tropicals.

"Things are always changing in the world of retail," said McCormick. "I just plan to keep things as fresh and unique as possible."

Always being interested in the business of design, she has been enjoying experimenting with colors and concepts.

McCormick plans to take some classes in Denver to gain information and get new ideas, then additionally spend some time with a cousin who owns a floral shop in Kearney.

After 17-and-a-half years, Beck said it was time to pass along the business to someone else with fresh ideas and enthusiasm, just as previous owner Brenda Styskal did when Beck was interested in the floral shop.

"Ellie is so far ahead of where I was when I purchased the business," said Beck. "She is already creating unique arrangements and has a great eye for design."

As a 2007 Perkins County High School graduate, McCormick returned to the area in March 2008 after attending Larabee School of Real Estate. She was employed at Grant Pharmacy as the gift buyer prior to starting her own business across the street at Grant Floral.

She just recently became a new bride. Her husband Eric has owned Bench Warmers bar and restaurant on Central Avenue for two-and-a-half years, where she also has enjoyed working.

"We both put in a lot of hours there and we enjoy every minute of being involved in the community," she said.

McCormick says she has three very talented and creative individuals on board to help run the Grant Floral shop from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturdays—Ashley Smith, Amy Busking and Kristy Kruegger who owned her own shop in Holyoke.

McCormick's parents Greg and Carmen Pelster, along with other members of her family also live in Perkins County.