



The Wood Girls of Patti's Petals are, left to right, Ashley, Patti, Kimberly and Alison.

The 'Wood Girls' are Patti's Petals

By **ABBY SCHMIDT**
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DENTON — Putting 10 years of floral industry experience to good use, Patti Wood has created a business she says offers small-town charm and big-city products.

Patti's Petals Florist, Garden and Gifts, on Third Street, is a new floral shop run by Wood and her three daughters, Ashley, Alison and Kimberly. The business offers not only cutting-edge floral arrangements for any occasion, but also flower arranging classes, a full line of party supplies, gift wrapping, birthday and tea parties and home decorating services.

Though the shop opened in May, it will be celebrating its grand opening Saturday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with a ribbon-cutting at 11:30 a.m. and sales, specials and door prizes throughout the day.

Wood said she wanted to wait until all her customers were back from summer vacation before she held the grand opening.

Wood said she has lived in Denton for 20 years after moving here from the western shore. She said her familiarity with Caroline County and surrounding counties will ensure quick deliveries.

Knowing the customer is important, Wood said, because it helps her know what type of flower that customer will like.

"I know the people in our community and what taste each individual has in their flower arrangements," Wood said. "I know who they send flowers to, where they live and who calls from out of state to order flowers for

"Not just ordinary, but extra-extraordinary."

As a single parent of four who homeschooled her children and works full-time for the Denton Police Department, Wood said her three daughters are key to the success of the business.

Ashley is the shop manager and runs it until Wood can get there at 4 p.m., and Alison and Kimberly help when needed. Wood said they all appreciate the hard work and long hours required by a floral business, and all three have been practicing their own arrangement skills since they were young and they would pick up cuttings from the floor to make their own displays.

"They have worked closely with me through holidays and special events, so they already have first-hand experience in what it takes to do this type of business," Wood said.

Wood said she and her three daughters are known in the community as "The Wood Girls," and are introduced as such when they sing in church together.

The floral shop is gearing up for the approaching holiday season. Floral arranging classes for autumn and holiday displays will be offered, and interested people can call the shop or e-mail Wood at pattispets@comcast.net.

Additionally, Wood said she will come to a family's home to help them make floral arrangements for a loved one's funeral.

"I was told this made it a little easier on the family members, so we gladly offer this service to anyone who requests it," Wood said.

The main objective of the shop is to provide customers' floral needs at an affordable