



Wapakoneta business owner Sharon Kill began her career in sewing 25 years ago by helping a friend with her shop. She eventually opened her own sewing shop, the Sewing Nook.

Staff photo/ Megan Veit

## Nothing Kills local's joy in sewing

By MEGAN VEIT  
Staff Writer

Family members bustle around, conversation whirls — all matching the sound of the Singer sewing machine's needle.

"This is how it is around her," Sharon Kill said of her Sewing Nook located in the back of their Defiance Street home.

Kill started Sharon's Sewing Nook in 1995 and said the projects have made the years pass quickly.

Kill learned the craft from her mother and grandmothers, who recycled fabrics to create new projects.

"There was no waste," Kill said, "Clothes were passed down and then turned into scrap fabric."

A quilt made in this fashion is one of Kill's favorite

projects. The piece was made by her grandmother.

Kill has also taught her daughters to sew, and worked with them to create costumes for activities including Renaissance fairs.

"It's just a matter of will," Kill said as she teases the two teens.

Kill's career in sewing began 25 years ago.

"I started out helping a friend with their shop," Kill said.

The seamstress worked mainly on uniforms — adjusting hems and replacing zippers. Her business expanded and she is now certified in the production of soft furnishings. In order to receive certification, Kill was tested on techniques and knowledge of standardized production.

"It was a three-month

process," Kill said.

Kill also said she prefers the soft furnishing, which includes décor such as upholstery and window treatments. She receives a large amount of business from the designer's directory her business is listed in.

"I like a challenge," Kill said.

Her favorite project was a Roman shade created to fit a custom bay window.

"The customer wanted a plaid fabric," Kill said.

The print added complexity to the measurements and cuts of fabric.

Her business runs in seasons, from wedding to prom and spring cleaning.

During winter months, Kill receives an increased order for rugs. A loom located in the center of her office is used to create the various

sized rugs, which are woven in three hours.

Kill said she uses mainly retail patterns to be time efficient. When creating her own, she works with a computer program that makes the process go more quickly and smoothly.

While he weaving goes quickly, Kill explained that "he warping is an all day process."

This process requires her to count the threads and bring them from the back to the front of the loom, preparing them for weaving.

Kill uses two threads to create her rugs, a practice that increases their longevity.

"That way if something pulls, you still have a rug," Kill said. "I like creating my own designs. It's just so time consuming."

## Wapak seni can go, go, go

By MEGAN VEIT  
Staff Writer

Wapakoneta High School senior Jessica Nuss celebrated her birthday with a win at Waynesfield Motor Sports Park.

The 17-year-old driver is one of the few females in the racing circuit since her beginning in go karts nine years ago.

With her transition to truck racing complete, she is the only female in her heats. Being the only woman is "just something I've gotten used to," Nuss said, noting she does not view her stance as a disadvantage or advantage to her racing.

After eight years in go-karts, Nuss and her father spent nearly two years developing the Chevrolet S-10 into the performance vehicle it is today.

Nuss marks this work as a key part of what makes racing special for her.

"We put our blood, sweat and tears into the truck," Nuss said.

While the truck was premiered during the 2006 season, with Nuss racing both go-kart and truck, this is the first year she has raced the truck exclusively.

Nuss started this season with strong driving despite a missed race for her school's prom. She finished second in her first competition of the year, and made the feature race, where the night's best racers compete, during her second race.

However, a flat tire during the feature prevented her from finishing the night.

"We're at the of midseason," Nuss said.

Her racing season will continue into September giving her ample time to increase her overall record.

Even with her success of high school racing, Nuss has no plans of planning her racing.

She hopes to move up to a stock car following her to get a bigger "rush" she begins of each race.

"I wake up with butterflies," Nuss said after a heat victory on Monday.

Even after her success she says the butterflies not stopped, but grown into a surge of adrenaline.

The driver has success in various other sports.

Throughout her racing, Nuss has played basketball and softball.

She ultimately plans to play both sports to parlay the high school money into a traveling show competition. She credits her relationships to family and God for the opportunity she has had and she has discovered herself.

After graduation, Nuss plans to stay close to family by beginning her education at Ohio State University in Lima, where she tentatively plans to pursue a degree in marketing and business and design. She plans to continue her wheeling and dealing in college. Her school will continue in Columbus, where she will attend the main campus of Ohio State University.

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