

Fall offers a playground!



Little Olivia Graham takes advantage of her big sister's hard work by taking the opportunity to play in a leaf pile. It's just one of the many joys that the fall season brings us.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Clinic in a can for Haiti

Luann Horchem and son, Jerod, Ransom, flew to Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Sept. 4, to volunteer.

First they traveled to Leogone, the epicenter of the earthquake. Each day of the week they traveled to surrounding areas for rural clinics. One was held on the Gressier beach under the palm trees.

"Mom, I'd rather work out away from the city. The smell isn't so bad," Jerod said.

Luann is a board certified nurse practitioner, and Jerod is a teacher, coach, and bus driver at Ransom High School.

Luann was one of the first to use the "Clinic in a Can" provided by Wesley Hospital and the City of Wichita.

The "Clinic in a Can" is a shipping container that has the generator, water supply and air conditioning unit in one end, and two exam rooms, a pharmacy, nurse's station and storage area in the other end. It also has three doors

and some windows. Patients were first interviewed in an area under the trees near the clinic.

Several Wichita schools also donated personal care items to hand out as people came to the clinic. Luann and the Haitian doctor she worked with saw 120 patients in one day.

At the Mennonite compound in Leogone where they stayed, she met the doctor who was going back to that clinic this week.

After the Fauway clinic they traveled down the mountain-side five-and-a-half hours back to Port-au-Prince, where they worked in the inner city clinic of Belair.

They said goodbye to the medical team Saturday night and boarded the plane early morning Sunday for the trip home.

Luann is the daughter of Jack and Jane Kersenbrock, Norton. Jerod is their grandson. Luann is planning to return in February.

Farm and Ranch expo planned in November

The McCook Farm and Ranch Expo is Thursday and Friday, Nov. 17 and 18 at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds. The expo is 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. Admission and parking are free.

A free producers breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday will kick off the Expo.

The event is sponsored by Willow Creek Meats, Vap Construction, Hometown Family Radio, Kugler, Pepsi, KRVN and Nebraska Bull Service.

"We are expecting 350 vendors from 20 states, Canada and Australia," said Darren Dale, show manager.

Exhibitors include displays for farm and ranch equipment, seed and chemicals, agricultural services, irrigation manufacturers,

financial providers, commodity organizations, colleges, governmental services, home services, furniture and art galleries.

It will feature live cattle handling demonstrations by Dr. Tom Noffsinger, DVM Wednesday.

"Entertainment to the MAX," world renowned act featuring Max Reynolds will be trick roping both days of the show. His performance will be brought by McCook National Bank and Vap Construction.

Miss Rodeo Nebraska Michelle Boeshart will also be featured both days along with other area rodeo queens.

For more information contact Darren or Tana Dale at 866-685-0989 or www.mccoockfarmandranchexpo.net.

Not all rural grocery stores fading

By Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University.

"Rural grocery stores fading into history. Since 2006, 82 out of 213 stores have closed," said the front page headline. Against that grim backdrop, imagine finding a small town grocery store that was newly opened, just eight years ago. Why would someone in a small town open a grocery store against these odds? It's the subject of this week's Kansas Profile.

Mary Jane Constantin is owner of Main Street Market in Bucklin. She opened this store in 2002.

Mary Jane is an Oklahoma native. She and her husband Jules moved here 14 years ago when he took a position as the shop teacher in the Bucklin school. Mary Jane commuted to work at a dentist's office in Dodge City, some 25 miles away.

There had been a grocery store in Bucklin, but it had changed hands several times. In 2000 the store burned down and the owners chose not to re-open it.

"A committee was put together to see about getting another store

and I volunteered to be on it," Mary Jane said. "The old store closed at 6 p.m., which meant I usually couldn't make it back here in time to shop after work. I'd have to shop in Dodge City and I got tired of it."

The committee deliberated for a couple of years with no solution. Finally Mary Jane decided to take it on herself.

"It takes someone to throw caution to the winds," Mary Jane said. "I didn't have any business experience, but I wanted our community to have a store."

Mary Jane got a Small Business Administration loan to buy and equip a building in downtown Bucklin.

The Bucklin Community Better Life Foundation provided a low-interest loan so she could buy stock in the supply company, Affiliated Foods.

Mary Jane had a community painting day when local people were invited in to help paint the walls.

Meanwhile, a grocery store had closed in the rural community of Burdett, population 247 people. Now, that's rural. Mary Jane bought that equipment. The John

Deere dealer in town, who had served on the committee with her, volunteered to provide trucks and trailers to transport that equipment to Bucklin, where she furnished her new store.

On Dec. 2, 2002, Main Street Market opened in Bucklin.

The store offers a full line of meat, produce, dairy and consumer items with weekly specials.

It also demonstrates Mary Jane's creative touch. Antiques of various kinds line the tops of the displays on the walls. Pinatas hang near the front doors. A pizza counter and deli area in one corner offer hot food with a place to eat it.

In order to install a new freezer and coolers, a section of the outside wall had to be taken out.

Instead of replacing a solid wall, Mary Jane had the creative idea to install a walk-up window. Then when customers in town wanted pizza or ice after the main store had closed, they could pick them up at the window.

This old building has a hardwood floor, with a large grate from a furnace that was removed long ago.

One day a girl near the pizza counter saw a pan in the basement

below that grate.

Mary Jane said, "The kid had her change in hand and she could see that pan below the grate, so she had to try to drop her change into that pan. After that, everybody else had to try it too."

It became a game and then a tradition. (For the record, I hit the pan on my third coin.)

"At the end of the school year, I buy ice cream for all the school kids with the change that gets dropped through that grate. Last year I bought ice cream for 250 kids," Mary Jane said.

Rural grocery stores are closing, as a recent headline pointed out, but Mary Jane Constantin is making a difference by bucking that trend.

She is using her ingenuity to develop fun and creative ideas to engage the community. These are vital if rural grocery stores are to survive.

And there's more. Mary Jane opened another business in Bucklin.

The mission of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural development is to enhance rural development by helping rural people help themselves.

HANSEN MUSEUM

By Shirley Henrickson, Director Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum

The Dane G. Hansen Museum, Logan, is proud to present "The Science of SuperCroc" created by Project Exploration. This exhibit will be on display until Nov. 7. Please take time out of your busy schedule to view this once-in-a-lifetime exhibit! Immersing visitors in prehistoric Africa, the exhibit showcases the planet's largest crocodile, Sarcosuchus imperator, better known as its nickname, SuperCroc. SuperCroc was 40 - 50 feet long, had 132 teeth, weighed 17,500 pounds and lived 110 million years ago. Paleontologist Paul Sereno and colleagues made the discovery in 2000 in Niger, Africa, at a remote site in the Sahara Desert. The fossils are from an extinct species that first came to light more than thirty years ago when French paleontologists reported several skulls and other parts of the creature and named it Sarcosuchus imperator, meaning "flesh eating emperor."

We will be holding our Kaye Franklin Oil & Pastel Workshop on Nov. 3, 4, 5, and 6 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Kaye has previously instructed an oil & pastel class at the museum in 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. She has been asked to return by popular demand. Kaye has received many national awards

and honors that have culminated in her recognition as a master pastelist. Kaye has taught in Canada, Mexico, England, France, Spain, Italy and the Pacific Northwest. Call or go to our website for more information.

The Hansen Museum will be sponsoring a Ladies Dance Aerobics Class. Nettie Palmer, from Logan, will be instructing the classes. The first class will meet Wednesday, Nov. 3, at the city building from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. This class will be an orientation session. If interested, just show up and decisions will be made as to the future classes.

Our October Artist of the Month is Crystal Vette from McCook, Neb. Crystal has sterling and gold, handcrafted jewelry on display and for sale. This jewelry is beautiful and would make a nice birthday, anniversary or even Christmas gift. Come in and see for yourself!

Museum hours are Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. & Holidays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m..

We are handicapped accessible, there is never an admission fee and we have offer a free Wi-Fi Hotspot in the Community Room.

For more information about this and other exhibits, contact Shirley at 785-689-4846 or you can check out our web at www.hansenmuseum.org.

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