

Cheyenne County Museum is getting ready for spring

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Museum on U.S. 36, St. Francis, is getting a "face lift." Margaret Bucholtz, volunteer curator, and Deb Harper, Cheyenne County Historical Society member, have been moving furniture and tables, and cleaning the refrigerator, just to name a few of the jobs. They are now painting and decorating the tree.

Deb and George Harper donated gallons of paint for the walls in the office and several walls of the main room, then Mrs. Harper and Mrs. Bucholtz painted. Even the beautiful old safe received a coat of paint and it is now a subtle but striking fixture in the room. However, more walls need to be painted and the museum board would appreciate more paint being donated. The volunteers will put it on the walls.

In the future, the floor of the museum needs a coat of paint. Floor

paint is expensive but anyone wanting to donate money to buy paint, even if it is money to buy a gallon, would help.

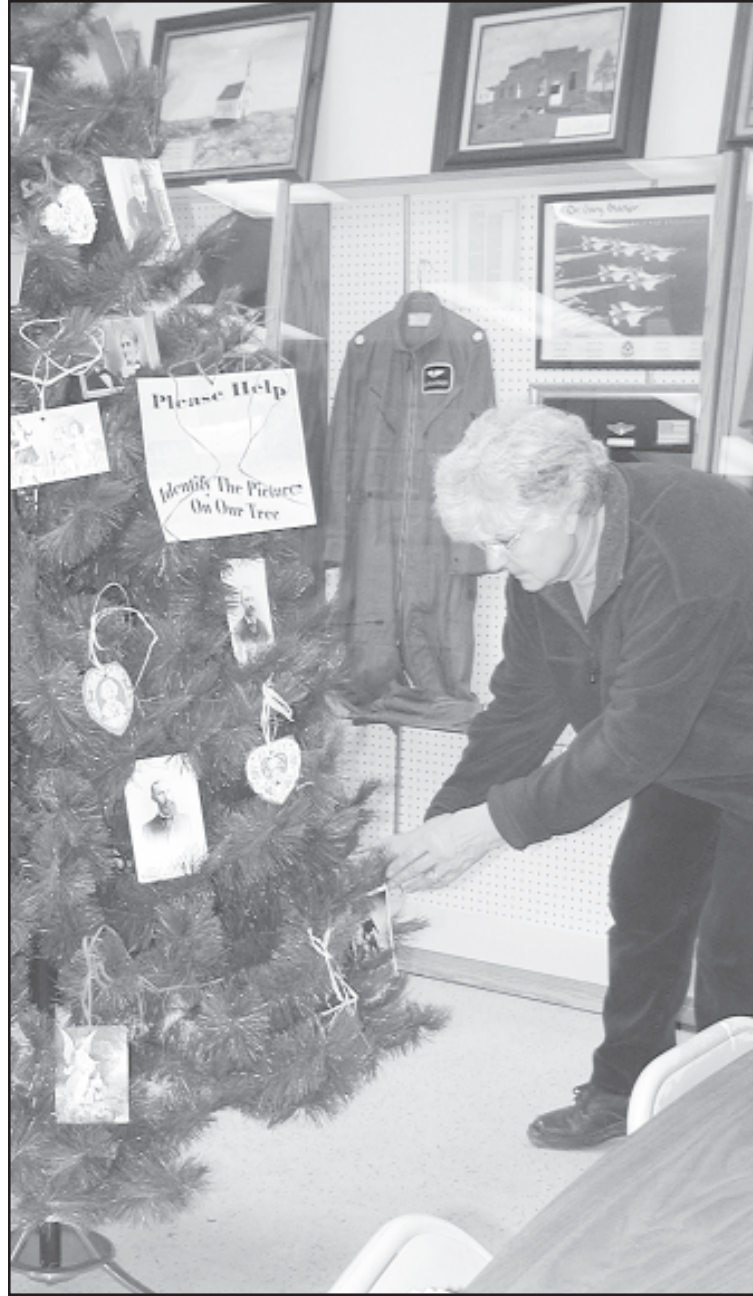
In the future, look for a "beckoning" door when the entrance receives a coat of paint to match the brick walk.

Tree all year long

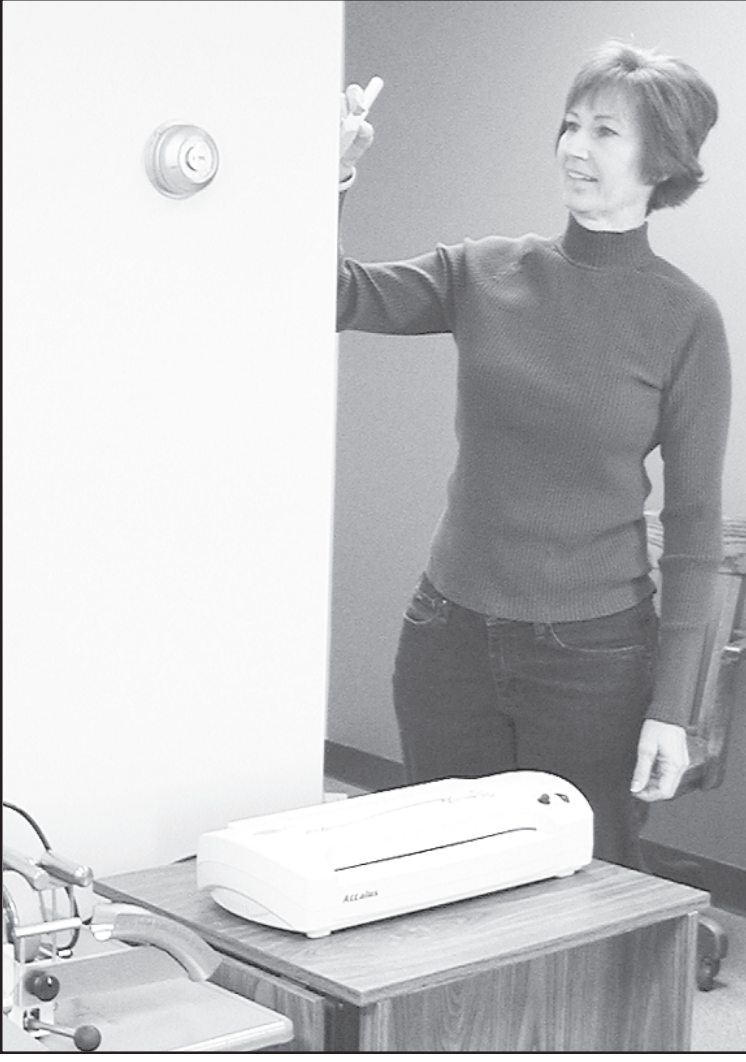
The evergreen tree will be up all year long and will be decorated for each season. The main attraction of the tree will be the unidentified photos, most of long ago. They are hoping that people will be able to identify some of the photos.

For February, the tree is decorated with valentines along with the photos. One of the mystery photos is pictured with this article.

People are urged to stop by the museum from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Friday or people can call 332-2504 or 332-2040 if they would like a special tour.



MARGARET BUCHOLTZ hangs old photos on the tree to be identified.



DEB HARPER give the walls in the office a new coat of paint.



ONE OF THE old photos on the tree at the museum.

Deadline released for cost share funds

An application deadline for cost-share through the Clean Water Farm - River Friendly Farms Project (CWF-RFFP), has been released by the Kansas Rural Center (KRC). Applications for up to \$5,000 in cost-share will be accepted until March 31.

Farmers and ranchers in high-priority and identified Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) watersheds across Kansas are eligible to apply for technical and financial assistance to address water quality issues and assess environmental strengths and weaknesses. To be eligible to apply for cost-share funds, farmers and ranchers must complete the River Friendly Farm Plan, which is an environmental self-assessment.

This assessment was developed by Kansas State University and Kansas Rural Center to assist farmers in identifying family and farm goals, water quality problems or potential problems, and prioritizing a plan of action to solve these problems. The assessment consists of a notebook with questions to help farmers assess and score the status of soil conservation and the management of nutrients, pests, and livestock waste on the farm. Upon completion of the assessment, farmers and ranchers are eligible for a \$250 payment. The state Rural Center has four field organizers throughout the state who assist the farmer in completing the assessment, developing an action plan, and applying for cost-share funds.

Once the River Friendly Farms Project is completed, the farmer or ranchers can apply for cost-share

which can be used to implement water quality improvements including: alternative livestock watering systems; legume-based crop rotations; cover cropping; regular soil testing; grass buffer strips along streams and roadways; conversion of cropland to grasses, and adoption of management intensive grazing.

"The assessment is an educational tool that helps farmers and ranchers better determine where to

put their money and their energy. It helps them evaluate their farms, prioritize work needed to improve water quality, and identify available assistance programs, whether ours, or other federal and state programs," Mary Fund, project coordinator, explained.

"Plus, River Friendly Farms Project funds can also be used in conjunction with federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program dollars and/or State Conservation Commission cost-share programs," stated Ms. Fund. "But we also work with a lot of farmers who for one reason or another, such as ineligibility or lack of funds, do not participate in other federal or state conservation programs, so our funds can do a lot of good for producers. Pending receipt of funds early this spring, our advisory committee will be reviewing applications and making decisions in April."

Since 1995, Clean Water Farm - River Friendly Farms Project has assisted 122 farmers and ranchers in at least 35 Kansas counties, with projects in at least eight of Kansas' 12 major river basins. Thus far, the project provided almost \$500,000 in producer grants. Kansas Rural Center is also active in at least 18 to 20 Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy watersheds in the state.

The project is funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 funds through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and administered by the Kansas Rural Center, a non-profit research, education, and advocacy organization located in Whiting.

For more information regarding the this program, contact the Kansas Rural Center at 785-873-3431 or by emailing kscc@rainbowtel.net

Please reference the Kansas Rural Center website for a copy of the River Friendly Farms Project assessment, cost-share application, a map of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy watersheds, and a list of eligible cost-share practices at www.kansasruralcenter.org/CWF.htm

Kansas legislators to be on television

Our state legislators representing central and western Kansas will discuss the past week's activities at the statehouse when Smoky Hills Public Television's public affairs series "The Kansas Legislature 2007" airs live at 8:30 p.m. Friday.

Scheduled to be on the program are state senator Ralph Ostmeyer (R-Grinnell, District 40) and state representatives Bob Bethell (R-Alden, District 113), Dennis McKinney (D-Greensburg, District 116) and Melvin Neufeld (R-Ingalls, District 115).

Chris Crawford, vice provost and associate professor with the Depart-

ment of Leadership Studies at Fort Hays State University, will serve as moderator.

Viewers can speak directly with the legislators during the program's call-in segment. The telephone numbers for calls are 1-800-337-4788 or (785) 483-6990.

Smoky Hills Public Television has produced the series annually for over 20 years in conjunction with the Kansas legislative session. Currently produced and directed by Les Kinderknecht, the discussion is moderated by staff and fellows from Fort Hays State University's Docking Institute of Public Affairs.

Identification card needed for license

Those applying for a Kansas driver license or an identification card will need to come prepared with a valid Social Security number. If the applicant is unable to provide the number, they will need to submit a sworn statement indicating that they do not have a Social Security number and they will also be required to provide proof of lawful presence in the United States.

In addition, the applicant will be required to present proof that they are residents of Kansas.

A list of acceptable forms of proof is available at the treasurer's office in the courthouse or they can go to the web at www.ksrevenue.org/dmvproof.htm. For more information, contact the Cheyenne County Treasurer's office at 785-332-8810.

Ag Talk with Jeanne

Kansas Number 1 Wheat Variety

By Jeanne Falk, K-State Multi-County Agronomist

For the 2007 wheat crop, the variety seeded the most across Kansas was Overley. This is a change from last year, when Jagalene was the number one planted variety.

Jagalene slipped to the number two position with 23 percent of the acreage. Jagger is still represented quite well in third at 17 percent of acres.

It is interesting to note that both Overley and Jagalene are direct descendants of Jagger. Overley has been comically been referred to at 'Jagger on steroids.'

It was released from the wheat breeding program at Kansas State University in 2003 and seems to be best suited for production east of Russell. Jagalene is an AgriPro variety that was released in 2001.

The pedigree on Jagalene is Jagger and Abilene. Jagger was released from the Kansas State University breeding program in 1994 and has Karl in its parentage. In northwest Kansas, the top va-

riety was not Overley, but was Jagalene. Just over 38 percent of all acres were planted to Jagalene. Second was Jagger at 17 percent, and third was TAM 111 at nearly 9 percent of acres planted.

Overley and Wesley round out the top five with 4 and 3 percent, respectively. Thunderbolt was in sixth place with 2.8 percent of acres in northwest Kansas. Danby was the number one white wheat and was planted on over 2 percent of acres in northwest Kansas.

On a side note, the majority of the white wheat was planted in the western one-third of Kansas. Blends accounted for 7 percent of the acres planted in northwest Kansas. Over 60 percent of these blends contained Jagger in the blend and over 51 percent of the blends contained Jagalene.



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