The Community Page













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Home tour sets holiday tone

By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansas.com Homes decked out for Christmas gave people on the Goodland Arts Council's annual Christmas Home Tour a way to get into the spirit of the season.

with the sounds of a barbershop quartet and smells from homebaked goodies and snacks on sale. The tour also included the



Jack Eisenbart drove his Percheron, Mindy Bell, pulling a white carriage once used in New York's Central Park down Center Avenue. Eisenbart gave carriage rides during the Goodland Arts Council's holiday homes tour last week.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/Star-Newss

Paul's Episcopal Church and the Ennis-Handy House run by the Sherman County Historical Society, all within a block on Center Avenue.

The tour, on Sunday, Dec. 2, is one of the The Carnegie Arts Center was filled many fund-raising events the council puts on each year. The homes were all decked out with Christmas trees and lights and tables set with china and crystal, ready for a holiday feast. Council members served refreshments at each of the stops.

Center director Kay Younger said a lot of people were surprised at the changes made in her home at 12th and Center. She said the council made over \$250 from the event for the center, with some money still to come in from the homemade snacks.

The Ennis-Handy House, a Victorian home owned by the historical society, is open for tours and group activities year around.

Every Christmas, the house has lights around its two porches, with a sleigh on the that gives a smooth ride, he said. back porch.

At the arts center, the barbershop shop quartet Mel Pfau, Kelly Beek, Dean Graber and Jeff Mason entertained. At the church, Father Hal Lycett explained the Christian season of Advent and how it is celebrated. Advent, the beginning of the church year, is a time of preparation for the traditional celebration of the birth of Jesus.

There are four Sundays in Advent, which is considered a time of penance and preparation.

A manger scene in the church had an empty stable because Joseph and Mary had not arrived, Father Lycett said, and the Wise Men were still on the way. Later, those figures will be added.

He also talked about eight banners adorn-

home of Kay and Dr. David Younger, St. ing the church, made by Maxine Rauscher. He said there was a banner for each of the church seasons, including Christmas and Easter.

> Rauscher, a Goodland artist, also made the wooden Stations of the Cross. Younger said that people were surprised at how artistic the banners at the church are.

> Jack Eisenbart offered carriage rides around the area with Mindy Bell, an 11-year-old black Percheron, providing the horsepower.

> The carriage has two red leather seats, one facing forward and one facing to the rear, and each will hold at least two adults. A canopy can be raised over the back seat when the weather gets cold.

> Mindy, her coat coal black, wore a silverstudded black harness, giving a stark blackand-white effect with her in front of the carriage. Eisenbart said Mindy is a gentle horse and is good with children when they come up and want to pet her. She has a steady gait

> The Percheron breed is named for Le Perche, an old province 50 miles southwest of Paris, he said. The Percheron has been described as a horse "accustomed to the affectionate attention of the entire household.'

Eisenbart said the carriage came from New York, where it was used in Central Park for 23-24 years.

The farrier from New York who sold Eisenbart the carriage told him it had been used to carry Jackie Kennedy Onasis from her apartment on Seventh Avenue to the Tavern on the Green twice a week.

"Everyone had a wonderful time and thought the tour was worth going on," said Younger.















