

## Getting into the team dance



SHANIA FINLAY/Golden Plains

Cadence Koch and Ava Brantley led the group in the dance routine the girls learned at the "Bad to the Bone" dance camp sponsored by the Golden Plains High School Dance Team. The girls performed prior to the elementary basketball skills games on Friday.

# Museum celebrates 25th

This year marks the 25th since the Prairie Museum of Art and History opened its doors, an anniversary that will be celebrated at the Thomas County Historical Society's annual meeting next Thursday.

As we prepare for this event and reflect on all that has gone on within and without these walls over the past quarter century, hundreds of photographs have been pored over and many memories – poignant, funny and inspiring – have been shared.

Above all, the picture that emerges from these memories is one that is filled with people – lots and lots of people. Organizers, board members, staff members, historians, donors, volunteers – an endless parade of dedicated, enthusiastic people without whom this museum would not exist and could not continue.

In our planning for a slideshow to be presented at the annual meeting we considered listing all the people who have been involved with the museum, but quickly realized doing so could easily consume the entire 20-minute program. Instead, we will rely on photographs to convey an idea of the hundreds of people whose hearts, minds and hands have created and sustained the world-class museum we have today.

Coming into this story late as I do, on the backs of the people who have brought the museum and historical society so very far, there are certain moments that strike me about this history. I picture deer-in-the-headlights facial expressions when board members of the then-modest historical society learned that three and a half moving vans crammed full of Kuska artifacts were headed their way in 1973. "Quick! We need a museum!"

I am amazed by the five years of effort on the part of some wonderful volunteers who unpacked, organized and documented each and every one of those 40,000 ar-



**Ann Miner**

### Around the Museum

tifacts. It makes me laugh when museum Director Sue Taylor tells about her mom, dressed in jeans and a sweatshirt inside the cavernous maw of the brand new Prairie Museum building in 1988, pausing from the dusty work of unpacking to give visitors a tour of the empty exhibit cases using photographs of the objects they would soon house.

I am awed by the incredible level of planning, organization and cooperation it took to move the Cooper Barn here in 1992 and by the skill and many hands it took to put up the sod house in 1994.

I'm humbled by the boundless generosity of those who opened their wallets whenever money was needed to construct, move or repair buildings or develop exhibits and programs.

I am impressed by the foresight embodied in the decision to invest in display cases worthy of the collection, which has resulted over and over again in astonished visitors who arrive expecting to see old dusty stuff with peeling labels and leave three hours later declaring their undying love for this wonderful museum.

Most of all, I admire the long history of programs and events for all ages which have sought to make this place a living museum in which the past constantly informs the present. It's a remarkable facility and a testament to the community whose members have recognized its value and given so generously of their time, talents and resources to keep it alive.

We hope you will join us for a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday to welcome artist Jennifer Higerd, whose ceramics exhibit

has been on display for the past month.

Beginning Monday, "The Way We Worked" exhibit will go on once more and be on display through May.

Look for our "American Gothic"

cutout at Movement Connection during this year's Art Walk Friday, April 19, and bring your camera to take a picture of your friends and family portraying the iconic farm couple. Kids can pick up a coloring page to complete and bring to the museum later for a free admission.

The local chapter of Kansas Anthropological Association will sponsor another Archeology Day at the museum from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Activities and displays for all ages will be on hand. Admission for the day will be reduced to \$2 for adults and \$1 for kids.

The Prairie Fair is coming up on Friday, May 3. We are focusing on agriculture as the day's theme and partnering with the Northwest Research Extension Center to bring a full day of fun and educational activities to the area's grade school students.

Mark your calendars for our second "Night at the Museum" camp to be held Monday through Friday, June 10 to 14, with public performances on the evening of June 14. Adults and all kids who have completed fourth grade and up are invited to join in the fun. Call 460-4590 to register.

*Ann Miner is the Education Director at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.*

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## On the Beat

### COLBY POLICE

#### Saturday

2:53 a.m. – Driving under the influence report filed on traffic stop.

2:53 a.m. – Driving while suspended report filed on traffic stop.

3:56 a.m. – Caller reported subject sitting in the roadway. Not found.

7:13 a.m. – Subject reported someone sleeping in parked semi. All OK, spoke to reporting party.

12:42 p.m. – Caller reported dead cat in street. Animal disposed of.

3:30 p.m. – Domestic disturbance. Report filed.

6:38 p.m. – Caller reported dog at large. Uncatchable.

7:17 p.m. – Illegally parked vehicle. Spoke with owner; vehicle moved.

10:39 p.m. – Walkthrough at college.

10:52 p.m. – Caller reported possible domestic disturbance.

11:19 p.m. – Security check at Twister's.

11:41 p.m. – Assault: 911 caller advised of a subject with blood on his face. Three officers responded,

report filed.

#### Sunday

12:24 a.m. – Helped undersheriff with traffic stop.

12:39 a.m. – Security check at the B-Hive.

12:45 a.m. – Security check at Mabel's.

1:22 a.m. – Security check at Twister's.

1:52 a.m. – Subject called in reference to report of assault at 11:41 p.m. Saturday. Subject brought to the Law Enforcement Center to wait for ride. 8:33 a.m. – Caller reported dog at large. Not found.

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