

White Christmas



People were greeted by snow starting Christmas morning. The snow continued throughout the day with an accumulation of 4.2 inches.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Women's agricultural conference in February

The 2013 Women Managing the Farm Conference is scheduled Thursday and Friday, Feb. 7 to 8, and will be held in Manhattan at the Hilton Garden Inn.

The popular agriculture conference for women will be the eighth in a series. It began as a regional offering before becoming a multi-day conference held in Hutchinson and, in recent years, in Wichita.

Moving the conference to Manhattan allows greater access to resources at Kansas State University and Kansas State Research and Extension, said Janet Barrows, who, with Robin Blume, are serving as volunteers for the educational effort.

Moving the conference also provides an opportunity for adding a pre-conference session, which Barrows dubbed "Blue Jean Basics" on Wednesday, Feb. 6. The session is being planned as a less formal introductory and interactive opportunity for participants to learn from Kansas State crops and livestock specialists.

The conference is recommended for women who are land owners, farm or ranch managers, partners or employees, absentee landlords, or career women engaged in agricultural careers.

Women new to production agri-

culture - by inheritance or marriage - find the conference to be informative and reassuring, Barrows said. And, while geared to women, spouses and others appreciate conference topics and time to network with women moving into leadership roles in agriculture.

The 2013 edition of the conference promises a full agenda with featured speakers and more than two dozen breakout sessions considering financial risks; human risks; estate planning and legal issues; insurance; production; drought management; social advocacy; retail agriculture and, yes, even farming in the city.

Jolene Brown, a champion for agriculture and consultant for family-owned businesses will blend humor with tips into two conference presentations.

Her topics, "If We Huff and We Puff Will We Blow Your House Down?" and "The Balancing Act: 10 Ideas to Relieve Stress and Bring Renewal to Our Farm and Family Life" promise a realistic look at agriculture and family life in today's world and offers ideas for moving forward successfully and keeping peace in the family.

The cost to attend the two-day conference is \$145 for registrations received by Wednesday, Jan. 23,

and \$170 for registrations received after Jan. 23. Registration includes conference sessions, materials and packet, two lunches, one breakfast buffet, and refreshment breaks.

More information about the conference and online registration is available at www.womenmanagingthefarm.info.

The conference hotel (Hilton Garden Inn) will offer a limited number of rooms at a conference rate (\$104, plus 15.05 percent tax). Reservations can be made online as part of the registration process or by phone: (785) 532-9116. The conference code is WMFC.

The conference typically attracts more than 200 attendees, and early registration and reservations are recommended, Barrows said.

Conference sponsors and partners include the USDA Farm Service Agency; Kansas State Research and Extension; Kansas Farm Bureau; Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, which includes Frontier Farm Credit; American AgCredit; Farm Credit of Ness City; High Plains Farm Credit; Farm Credit of Western Kansas, and Farm Credit of Southwest Kansas, Kansas Dairy Commission, Kansas Wheat, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Fossilized foot displayed at Kansas Cosmosphere

In 1964, the Hutchinson Planetarium had on display what was believed to be the fossil of a three-toed dinosaur foot estimated to be between 70 and 100 million years old. The fossilized foot originally belonged to Charlie Dovel who had been storing it in his basement along with several other artifacts. Dovel offered the foot to then-director (and founder of the Planetarium) Patty Carey - or Mrs. Howard Carey, Jr., as she was called in the newspaper article documenting the historical find.

Fifty years later, the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center is in a new location and has undergone some significant changes. Nearly unrecognizable from its chicken-coop beginnings, but with the constant mission of honoring the past and inspiring the future of space exploration, the Cosmosphere has, once again, an opportunity to display this prehistoric artifact.

Though not the kind of "curiosity" one would expect to find at the internationally acclaimed space museum, this Mesozoic

marvel makes a timely appearance. The fossil was originally retrieved from 2,750 feet below the surface of a coal mine in Utah and weighs approximately 200 pounds. It has been returned for display while Flying Monsters, the dinosaur documentary narrated by David Attenborough, is showing in the Cosmosphere's Carey Digital Dome Theater. Having transferred ownership several times over the past five decades, the fossil was offered on loan to the Cosmosphere courtesy of Tom Zarnowski of Hutchinson.

Every day, the Cosmosphere offers stunning documentaries at the Carey Digital Dome Theater. Now showing are Flying Monsters and The Last Reef. Full-length Hollywood feature films show every night. Other educational programming includes "Dr. Goddard's Lab," where viewers explore the history of rocketry and experience explosive experiments, and Planetarium presentations - including the miraculous holiday favorite, Star of Bethlehem, and the in-

spiring Night Sky Live showing daily. Visitors can also explore the world-famous Hall of Space Museum, documenting the history of space exploration from the beginning, and featuring actual flown artifacts and spacecraft - including Liberty Bell 7 and the Apollo 13 command module Odyssey.

The Smithsonian-affiliated Cosmosphere houses the largest collection of U.S. space artifacts outside the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. It also houses the largest collection of Russian space artifacts outside of Moscow. The Carey Digital Dome Theater proudly supports education. Camp KAOS is dedicated to inspiring explorers of all ages using STEM principles and provides students the opportunity to build leadership and teamwork skills.

The Cosmosphere is located at 1100 N. Plum in Hutchinson. For tickets, hours and pricing call (800)397-0330 or visit www.cosmo.org.

corrections

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Dr. Swinehart will be in Burlington, CO on the following days:
January 4, 2013; February 1, 2013;
March 15, 2013; and April 2013-TBD.

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