



Items such as this section of seating from the old Wareham Opera House are just an example of the many items on display as part of the Riley County Historical Society's 100th anniversary exhibit.

## Riley County Historical Society commemorates 100th anniversary

By Gloria Freeland

When a loved one dies, it is comforting to keep some part of the person close. In countries such as Indonesia, the mummified remains are sometimes kept in the family home and even dressed to celebrate special occasions as if the person was still alive. Being unfamiliar with such a practice, some

people might find this quite unusual. Instead, they'll opt to remember a loved one by displaying a photo or keeping some object connected with that person, such as a pocket watch or a piece of china.

But as recently as the Victorian era, people sometimes chose to keep a part of the physical remains of loved ones. Some families had small bowls called hair receivers in which strands of a person's hair were routinely saved. Upon the person's death, that hair was formed into a figure such as a flower. A family memorial was sometimes created by grouping these small figures into the shape of a horseshoe, with the open end pointing upward to symbolize the

passage of the person's soul to Heaven. The hair figure of the most recently-departed was placed in the center. It would then be moved to the side when the next family member passed. These memorial hair wreaths were mounted on the wall or set on a table, protected by a glass covering.

One such hair wreath is on display at the Riley County Historical Museum. The museum turned 100 last fall, and staff members are commemorating the occasion with a year-long exhibition: "Celebrating a Century of History and Heritage."

In addition to the hair wreath, other items on display include a section of

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### Countian now available online

An online version of the *Countian* is now available. It is free to current print subscribers or \$20 per year for non-subscribers. Visit [www.riley-countian.com](http://www.riley-countian.com) for details and to sign up.



Hair wreath on display at the Riley County Historical Museum.



This trunk was shipped from Sweden to Olsburg, Kansas in the 1870s.

## Countian Quicks

### 2017 COMMUNITY GARDEN

The 2017 community garden is starting. Call Grant for details, 785-410-1945.

### USD 378 SCHOOL BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

USD 378 Board positions up for re-election: Pos. 4 - Ross Wahl; Pos. 5 - Kerry Thurlow; Pos. 6 - Nathan Mead. The deadline to apply for application at the county election officer's office is June 1, 2017, 12:00 p.m. Primary election - Tuesday, August 1, 2017. General election - Tuesday, November 7, 2017. The candidate filing packet can be found at [www.rileycountyks.gov](http://www.rileycountyks.gov)

### USD #384 SCHOOL BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

USD #384 Board positions open for re-election include Member Position 4, District 1 - Angie Pfizenmaier; Member Position 5, District 2 - Bruce Kaump; Member Position 6, District 3 - A.G. McLean. Deadline to file - June 1, 2017 noon. Primary election, if needed will be held August 8, 2017. General election will be held November 7, 2017. Elected members will take over January 2018. If interested in filing visit [www.rileycountyks.gov](http://www.rileycountyks.gov).

### RILEY CITY COUNCIL POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION

The filing deadline for all elections is 12:00 noon on June 1st. Candidates for municipal office are required to file with the county election officer. The City of Riley will have three council positions open. Anyone interested in filing can pick up a guide for city candidates at the city office, 222 S. Broadway.

### TAI CHI CLASS

The North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging is sponsoring a Tai Chi class in Riley at the Community Center. The class begins Friday, April 21 and continues through June 16. The eight-session class is from 11 a.m. until noon. Cost is \$16. Those wanting to enroll or seeking more information should call Lauren Steinlage at 1-800-432-2703 or email her at [laurend@ncfhaaa.com](mailto:laurend@ncfhaaa.com).

### TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP

There will be a Traumatic Brain Injury support group meeting for survivors of brain injury, family members, and friends on Thursday, April 27th, 2017 from 5:30 until 7:00 PM. The meeting will be at College Avenue Methodist Church. For more information, please contact Jane Mertz Garcia at Kansas State University Speech and Hearing Center at (785) 532-1493.

### RANDOLPH CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALES

City-wide garage sales Saturday, April 29, 8 a.m., Randolph.

### LEONARDVILLE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEETING

The Leonardville American Legion auxiliary will have their monthly meeting at the Leonardville Community Building at 7 p.m., May 1. Project for the month is 4th of July - supplies for the project will be provided. Additionally, we will have several sewing projects to work on-so bring your needles/scissors. Election of officers will also be held at this meeting. Visitors are welcome. Questions should be directed to Linda at 485-2219 or 785-565-1034.

### RILEY PRIDE 1ST WEDNESDAY EVENT

The next Riley PRIDE 1st Wednesday event will be Wednesday, May 3. Businesses will remain open late and anyone interested in setting up a booth on the sidewalks is encouraged to do so, but are asked not to block the entrances to the businesses.

### ADULT READING CHALLENGE PRIZE DRAWING

Wednesday, May 3 concludes the Adult Reading Challenge at Riley City Library. Drawing for prizes will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Library. Come downtown early for the Riley PRIDE 1st Wednesday event to shop the local gardener and crafter booths from 5 to 9. Shop and stop in to see the Reading Challenge winners!

### BLUE VALLEY FFA CHAPTER BANQUET

May 12th AT 5:30 p.m. Blue Valley FFA Chapter Banquet and Labor Auction at Blue Valley High School. Meal is provided by the Blue Valley FFA Alumni.

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