

# Timelines

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**Board of Directors:**

President: Carol Sunseri, Waverly

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OPEN SEAT, Lebo

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Curator of Collections: Shirley Logan

Assistant: Erin Burdick

**Traveling Exhibit: The Atomic Age**

The Atomic Age: The Discovery and Evolution of Nuclear Science is a traveling exhibit from The Linda Hall Library in Kansas City, Missouri. This exhibit has three different parts: timelines, physics, and Atoms for Peace.

The Timeline begins with 1895 and Wilhelm Rontgen's discovery of the x-ray and ends in 1960 with the laser. It details many scientific discoveries and advances of atomic energy, such as The Manhattan

Project which developed the atomic bomb.

The physics section of the exhibit explains the physics concepts and terminology. It explains what an atom is and how it is structured, what isotopes are and how they are used, what is radiation, what is a Geiger counter, explains half-life, how atom smasher work, and other topics.

The Atoms for Peace is a pictorial display of President Dwight Eisenhower's push for

peaceful use of atomic energy. A few trials pictured is a nuclear powered ship and a radiation garden.

The Grand Opening was held in conjunction with the Coffey County Chamber After 5. About 45 people braved the Tornado Watch and viewed the exhibit. Matt Sunseri, CEO of Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, gave a speech about the impact of atomic energy. The exhibit is available for viewing until

June 5, 2011, Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.



Left: Dale Rein, Tammy Hughes, Barbara Merry, and Gene Merry visit during the grand opening. Right: Man and Larry Teal looks at one of the panels of the physics part of the exhibit.



Left: Wolf Creek CEO, Matt Sunseri (center) speaks with Carol Sunseri, Kimberly Robrahn, Linda Luke, and Stan Luke. Right: Matt Sunseri speaks about the evolution of nuclear technology to the crowd at the grand opening of the exhibit.



## How Much Work Is Put Into Traveling Exhibits?

Traveling exhibits come and go each year, but do you know how much time and effort goes into each traveling exhibit at the museum?

Before the decision is made about accepting a traveling exhibit, the staff at the museum has to figure out if we have space, correct lighting, and a way to pay for the

exhibit. A lot of measuring and visualizing is used in the process. Profit from our annual Chili Feed is used to help pay for traveling exhibits, but not all of the expenses are paid with this fund. We have to find another source to help us with the funding. Next comes filling out tons of paperwork to see if the lender of the exhibit will loan it to us. After we are approved to display the exhibit, we have to start making room for the exhibit. In 2009, we had the Cowgirl Art exhibit in the Cochran Gallery in the doll cases. It took us two weeks to

remove and properly store the dolls that were in the cases so the Cowgirl Art exhibit could be displayed. For the Atomic Age Exhibit this year, it



Curator, Shirley Logan, helps tape the large timeline panels of the Atomic Age exhibit with Linda Hall Curator, Eric Ward, while Linda Hall Curator, Nancy Green, places descriptions on the panels.

took us three weeks and a lot of outside help to move items in the Pioneer Gallery and we had to add additional lighting. Our small staff of two full time employees and a director had to move

19 plows, the covered wagon, buggy and surrey, and many other items in the Pioneer Gallery. Dave from Burlington Building Material came and removed the extremely heavy bell from the fire equipment



There are 19 plows that are on display at the Museum. Many of them are extremely heavy and require two or more people to move them.

cart so the cart was able to roll. A group of guys (Cory Matlock, Ron Strawder, Winston D’Juan, Josh Schelo, Steve Strawder, and Matt Moon) help move the fire truck to the other side of the gallery.

Once the exhibit arrives, it has to get put up. It took a day and a half to hang up the Atomic Age exhibit. With

the Atomic Age exhibit being more of an art exhibit, we had to add more lighting in the Pioneer Gallery.

The permanent lighting addition was installed by Murray’s Electric.

The museum

normally holds a grand opening for all traveling exhibits. Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation hosted the grand opening for the Atomic Age: The Discovery and Evolution of Nuclear Science. The museum checks all displays in the galleries to insure that the museum is show ready. Sometimes changes are made to some displays.

When it is time to pack up the exhibit, additional paperwork needs done and the gallery put back in proper order.



Shelia Teal, right, adds more items to the Wolf Creek Display with help from Deborah Kennamore and Shirley Logan before The Atomic Age Grand Opening



Dave evaluates the situation of getting the bell off the wagon without damaging the artifacts



Steve Strawder steers the fire truck while Winston D’Juan, Cory Matlock, Ron Strawder, and Matt Moon push it.

## Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation

After the events in Japan and the outage going on at Wolf Creek, we have had a lot of researchers in trying to find information about our nuclear plant. The site for Wolf

Creek was chosen in 1973. It began commercial operation on September 3, 1985, after more than eight years of construction. Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (WCNOC) a Delaware

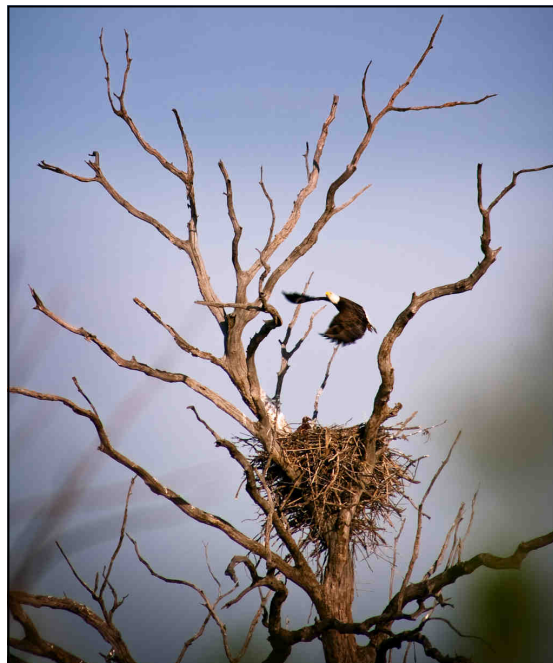
corporation, was organized April 14, 1986, to operate, maintain, repair, and eventually decommission the Wolf Creek Generating Station. Operation of the plant was transferred from its owners to WCNOC, January 1, 1987. WCNOC is a jointly-owned corporation formed by the owners: KGE, a Westar Energy Company, Kansas City Power & Light Company (KCPL), and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo). Wolf Creek is located on 10,500 acres and about 300 acres of the land is used for the power plant and associated buildings.

Nuclear energy has the highest efficiency rating (90%) and the lowest costs for producing electricity. Wolf Creek has an electrical capacity of 1,200 megawatts. You would have to fill up the entire state of Kansas with wind farms to produce that much electricity! It also has lowest impact on the environment and it is emission-free. Wolf Creek has developed wetlands, provided better nesting areas for waterfowl and other birds, new habitats for fish, and sanctuaries for other wildlife. In September 1994, the Wolf Creek Environmental Education Area (EEA) was opened.

The 500-acre area consists of five trails which guide you through a variety of Kansas habitats. Three of the trails begin at a silo which has a spiral stair



case inside to allow you to climb to the top and view the nature below. Wolf Creek's Lake, Coffey County Lake, covers 5,090 acres. This lake is open for public fishing and has often been called the "crown jewel" of Kansas fishing. For further proof of Wolf Creek being environmental conscience, the Kansas Wildlife Federation presented them with the Conservation Achievement Award as Conservation Organization of the



A bald eagle tends to its young. Bald eagle nests are often found at the Coffey County Lake.

Year.

So how does Wolf Creek work?

Inside the reactor, heat is produced by splitting or "fissioning" atoms of

uranium fuel. This fuel is about the size of the eraser end of a pencil and are stacked into 12 foot long metal alloy fuel rods. There are 264 rods that are bundled together to form one fuel assembly. Wolf Creek has 193 fuel

assemblies in the reactor. The fission is controlled by adding boron to the water surrounding the fuel or by inserting control rods. The water surrounding the fuel assemblies is heated to more than 600 degrees by the fission process. This water is kept under high pressure to prevent the water from boiling. The water is circulated in pipes through four steam generators where the heat is transferred through the pipe walls to a

second water system. This second water system boils and turns to steam. The steam turns the turbines that spin a magnet inside a generator creating electricity. The steam then enters the condenser where the water from Coffey County Lake circulates through tubes cooling the steam and condensing it back into water. The water returns to the steam generators to repeat the cycle. The water from Coffey County Lake discharges back into the lake and makes a thirty day cycle in the lake to cool it and then starts the process again.

What is the outage? The



## Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (cont.)

outage is time for refueling and maintenance. They are conducted once every 18 months and are scheduled for the spring and fall when electricity demand is typically lower. Wolf Creek started its 18th refueling outage in March of this year. The largest project is the replacement of all four turbine rotors making it the largest modification since the initial construction of the plant.

How safe is Wolf Creek? You get less radiation living next door to a nuclear power plant than you would get in just one flight from New York to Los Angeles. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ensures the plant is operated properly and that

operators are extensively trained and licensed. The plant cannot explode like a nuclear bomb because the concentration of fissionable uranium is only a fraction of what is needed for an explosion. Wolf Creek has numerous safety systems and physical barriers to prevent the release of radioactive material. There is also an elaborate emergency response plan that is designed to protect the health and safety of the public.

For more information, check out their website at [www.wcnoc.com](http://www.wcnoc.com).



The dome is three-feet thick and the walls of the containment building are four-feet thick reinforced concrete with pre-stressed, post-tensioned rebar. The building can withstand 300 mile-per-hour winds. The building to the right of the dome is the turbine building.

## Tours

May is always a busy time of the year for tours. So far, we have many school tours and three or more adult tours scheduled in May. A big feature this year is the traveling exhibit, *The Atomic Age: The Discovery and Evolution of Nuclear Science*, which we were able to receive through generous support from Wolf Creek. Wolf Creek has also updated their display and was expanded to two

displays. Wolf Creek has also given us a DVD to play for tours and visitors that explains how Wolf Creek works. In addition, they have also given us suits to dress a child in and a rate meter to scan a few household items to show radiation in everyday life. The traveling exhibit will be here until June 5, 2011. To schedule a tour, call the museum at (620) 364-2653 or Toll Free at (888) 877-2653.



Top right: The 1896 Rule Dale one-room school house provides a great opportunity for students to learn about what schools used to be like and how much they have changed.

Right: Shirley Logan answers a child's question about the Conestoga wagon and the hardships of the pioneers on the frontier.

Far right: Erin Burdick explains to a student that protective clothing must be worn when going into some parts of the nuclear plant.



## Genealogy

Spring and Summertime is the busiest time of the year when genealogy researchers will visit the museum or ask requests. The Genealogy Library contains numerous amounts of information available to researchers. We have on microfilm Coffey County newspapers that date back to the mid-1800's and census records. There is also a collection of yearbooks from the high schools in Coffey County. The library has a section of different topics and families that have been researched. There are also binders that are indexed of obituaries, engagement and marriage announcements, birth announcements, and anniversaries. We also have cemetery records. We are limited on time and money so we are always looking for volunteers that would like to help us maintain and update the information in the Genealogy Library. Contact the museum for more information.

We have been receiving numerous requests for genealogy research. Here are some of the topics that have been researched recently: Asa Veach and family, James and Martha Woods, Alexander Hamilton and an "airship" mystery, Fernando and Amorette Atherly, John A. and Jennie Jones family, Nelson and Sarah Slane, and Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation. Contact the museum if you have/would like more information on these topics. We periodically will do genealogy request after our other museum work is done. If you have a request, please email [erin@coffeymuseum.org](mailto:erin@coffeymuseum.org) with what you do know and what you would like to know. Remember, the more information you can provide us, the better chance we have to find the subject.



Fernando Augustus Atherly and his wife Florinda Amorette (Griffith). Mr. Atherly built the first house in Burlington (moved two houses from the town of Hampden and set them up in Burlington) and he built the first hotel, Burlington House, which was the third building erected in Burlington. In 1863, he helped established a woolen carding mill that developed into a woolen and cotton mill that was located at First and Miami. Mr. Atherly was elected as Burlington's first mayor. Fernando and Amorette Atherly later moved to a farm near Gridley in the Bangor district. Fernando died in 1909 and then Amorette moved into Gridley where she later died in 1926.

## So You Want to Donate to the Museum

**Does the Museum accept everything that is offered?**

According to our policy, the Museum collects items relating to the history and culture of Coffey County. Preference is given to objects connected to the Museum's exhibit or research themes. Due to limited space, large items and/or duplicate items might not be accepted.

**When will my donation be on display?**

This depends on the item's

appropriateness to the Museum's displays. Space limitations and conservation concerns dictate that we cannot exhibit all of our artifacts at any one time. There are many objects that should not be displayed frequently because they may be damaged by exposure to light and the environment. We cannot guarantee when or if your donation will be displayed; however, your objects will receive the best of care, insuring that they will be available for the use of future generations.

**Do you take loans?**

No. Due to limited space and resources and our insurance, we cannot take loans.

**Can I take a tax deduction on my donation?**

Certainly. The IRS and Museum policy prohibits us from appraising donations. For your own records and protection, we recommend that you obtain an independent appraisal.

## Bricks

We are still selling gazebo bricks! There are only 500 bricks that can be personalized and we have already sold over half of them. The personalized bricks form a walkway encircling the gazebo. Dedication bricks are a wonderful way to recognize, memorialize or honor a loved one while providing support for

the museum. The bricks can be engraved with two lines of 13 characters each. Bricks sell for \$40 each and can be purchased at the museum gift shop or by mailing the form (below) to the museum. We still have room for your name! So, hurry in and make sure your name is engraved in history! One brick has

been purchased since last newsletter: Marvin Hatch Marilyn Hatch. The proceeds of the bricks go towards the upkeep of the gazebo.

\*Please visit our website for the full list of Gazebo Brick names.  
[www.coffeymuseum.org](http://www.coffeymuseum.org)

*“Dedication bricks are a wonderful way to recognize, memorialize or honor a loved one while providing support for the museum.”*



### Step Into The Past...

Step into Coffey County History!

Personalized bricks are only \$40. All proceeds will fund the upkeep of the gazebo located at the Museum.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please make check or money orders payable to:  
**Coffey County Historical Museum**


Each brick may have 2 lines of print with 13 spaces each.

### The Coffey County Historical Museum

1101 Neosho Street  
 Burlington, KS 66839  
 620-364-2653  
 1-888-877-2653

[www.coffeycountymuseum.org](http://www.coffeycountymuseum.org)  
 email:  
[director@coffeycountymuseum.org](mailto:director@coffeycountymuseum.org)

**Last Chance to Renew 2011 Membership!**

This is the last chance to renew your 2011 membership or you will be removed from our membership! We would like to thank all current 318 members for their continued support of the museum. Their membership dollars help fund the museum and its various projects. Please renew your membership soon so you don't miss out on the benefits of your membership. Annual membership is \$5.00 per person per year. Members will receive a quarterly newsletter, invitations to all upcoming grand

openings, and a vote during election time of the board members during the annual meeting. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP is our best value; with a donation of \$100 or more per person you no longer have to pay the \$5 annual dues. As a lifetime member your name will be engraved on a plaque at the entrance of the museum and you will receive a Lifetime Membership Certificate. A lifetime membership also qualifies you for the quarterly newsletter, invitations to all upcoming grand

openings, and a vote during election time at the annual meeting. Past Due Memberships must be current before the Annual Meeting, **September 27, 2011**, in order to be eligible to vote! Please take a minute to fill out the membership below and return to the museum with your payment. If you would like to check on the status of your membership, please contact Erin at (620) 364-2653 or toll free (888) 877-2653 or by email at: [erin@coffeymuseum.org](mailto:erin@coffeymuseum.org).

**Membership Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your newsletter emailed to you? \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like to be a volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

Birth day: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Anniversary: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (please circle one):

Individual (\$5.00 annual per person)      Lifetime (\$100.00 one time fee per person)

Name as you would like it to appear on membership: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please mail completed form and check or money order to:  
 Coffey County Historical Museum  
 1101 Neosho Street  
 Burlington, KS 66839

If you have any questions or would like to know the status of your current membership, please call Erin at (620) 364-2653 or toll free at (888) 877-2653 or email [erin@coffeymuseum.org](mailto:erin@coffeymuseum.org).



## Lifetime Members

Ackerman, Gayla Lonene	Cox, Juanita	Hoover, Carlita
Adkins, Joan	Croll, Susan	Hoover, Lisa
Allegre, Peter	Curtiss, Larry M.	Hoover, Ned
Allen, Dan	DeLong, Roy G.	Hoover, Ron
Allen, Linda K.	Dunlap, Dr. James	Hoyt, Kent
Anliker, Tyler	Dunlap, Judith	Hoyt, Lori
Atherly, Mary Lou DeLong	Edelman, Albert L.	Hull, Kelly J.
Atkin, John D. M.D.	Epting, Gary	Hull, Sheldon L.
Atkin, Patricia	Epting, Polly	Johnson, Cloyce E.
Banks, Peggy	Evans, Dean	Johnson, Diane S.
Beaty, W. Jean	Evans, George	Johnson, Jerry D.
Bedwell, L.F.	Evans, Sue	Johnson, John E.
Birk, Julia Mae	Evans, Terry L.	Johnson, Loren E.
Bohrer, Paul	Ferrara, Melchoir A.	Jones, Don
Brecheisen, Betty	Finkbiner, Patricia	Jones, Carol
Bruce, Nellie	Finkbiner, Terry	Jones, Fred S.
Bruce, Robert Lyle	Fitch, Duane	Jones, Glenda
Central National Bank	Freeman, Bill	Irey, Diana L.
Citizens State Bank	Freeman, Calvin Dean	Irey, Ronald W.
City of Burlington	Freeman, Diane	Kaufman, Helen Garn
City of Lebo	Freeman, Elva	Keas, Sandy K.
Clapp, Grace (Sauder)	Freeman, Joan	Kennamore, Deborah
Clark, Joanna	Fulk, Doris L.	Kennamore, William "Pete"
Clark, Larry	Garrett, Emily	Klubek, Brenda Grace
Cochran, Dorothy	Garrett, Lisa I.	Knapp, Bill
Cockrell, Gilan	Garrett, Millie	Kniss, Clarence
Coffey County Council for the Arts	Geery, Barbara	Kniss, Donna
Coffey County Honda	George, Dennis	Kunkel, Connie
Coffey County Hospital	Griffin, Lena	Kunkel, David
Coffey County Land Title Co. Inc	Hatch, Bonnie	Kunkel, Opal I.
Coffey County Library	Hatch, Homer	Lifecare Center of Burlington
Coldsmith, Don	Hayes, Edris Irwin	Little, Charles F.
Coldsmith, Edna	Herr, Bob	Lowman, Nadine
<b>Combes, Irene E.</b>	Hess, Wayne	Luke, Linda Sue
<b>Combes, Kenneth L.</b>	Hood, Betty Jo	Luke, Lola Mae
Conrad, Mary E.	Hood, Herbert	Luke, Robert Standley, Jr
Cordell, Larry	Hoover's Thriftway	Martindale, Paul



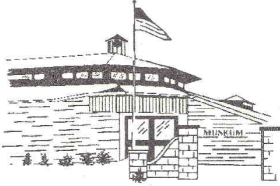
**Lifetime Members (cont.)**

Matney, Linda J.	Reimer, Paul	Wildman, Kay
Mattox, Martha	Reisbig, Clara L.	Wilkinson, Al
McAlister, V.S.	<b>Robbins, Carol A.</b>	Wilkinson, Opal
McConnell, John	Salava, Dan	Williams, James E., Jr.
McReynolds, Richard L.	Salava, Linda J.	Williams, Kathleen (Asper)
Meador, Craig	Salava, Tammy	Williamson, Arthur W.
Meador, Peggy	Salisbury, Florence Conrad	Williamson, Bernice
Merry, Barbara	Sanborn, Patty A	Williamson, Mitch
Merry, Gene	Sauder, Ray	Wilson, Ida M.
Montgomery, Dean R	Schick, Donald L.	Wilson, Warren D.
Morey, George	Schick, Ruth	Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
Muench, Cheryl	Schultz, Achsah Carter	Wolken, Deanna
Muench, Rick	Sleezer, Johnnie R.	Woods, Chloe
Neil, Eunice Johnson	Sleezer, Retha I.	Woods, Frank
Norris, David	Smith, Darlene	Worrell, Dallas G.
Norris, Kasu Stinson	Smith, Ivan	Zscheile, Lila L.
Park, William H.	Smith, Marjorie J.	
Parnay, Arlene Carpenter	Spade, Sharon	
Payne, Janet	Spatz, Caroline B.	<b>*new members are bolded</b>
Ponder, Mary Lou	Spatz, Robert J.	201 Total Lifetime Members; 6
Ponder, Randy	Spriggs, Judy	new Lifetime Members this year.
Purvis, Lois Jean	Stine, Phyllis A.	
Raaf, Clarence	Stukey, Arthur	
Raaf, Esther	Stukey, Kent	
Raaf, Fred A.	Sunseri, Carol	
Raaf, Gary	Trimble, Chuck	
Raaf, Harvey G.	Trimble, Jenifer	
Raaf, James L.	Trimble, Joyce	
Raaf, JoAnn	Trimble, Randy	
Raaf, Mark	Trostle, Jerilee	
Raaf, Ralph	Trostle, Kerry	
Raaf, Richard	TrustPoint Services	
Raynesford, Carolyn C.	Ubert, Ann	
Redding, Bud	Ubert, Gary	
Redding, Carol	Vannocker, Rebecca Louise	
Reeves, Glen W.	Veteto, Mona	
Reeves, Karen K.	Watson, Irene	

## Calendar of Events

### Coffey County Historical Society & Museum

1101 Neosho Street  
Burlington, KS 66839  
(620) 364-2653  
(888) 877-2653  
[www.coffeymuseum.org](http://www.coffeymuseum.org)  
[director@coffeymuseum.org](mailto:director@coffeymuseum.org)



**Take a walk through history!**

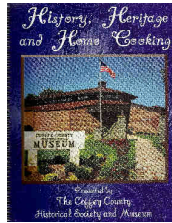
We're on the web!  
[coffeymuseum.org](http://coffeymuseum.org)



Visit us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/coffeymuseum](http://www.facebook.com/coffeymuseum)

#### May

- 2- School Tour
- 5- School Tour
- 6- School Tour
- 8- Mother's Day
- 9- Tour
- 10- School Tour
- 11- School Tour
- 12- Board Meeting  
School Tour
- 17- School Tour
- 18- School Tour
- 19- 7th grade volunteers
- 24- School Tour
- 30- Museum Closed-  
Memorial Day



Remember to get  
your mother a  
cookbook! On  
sale now! Buy  
1, Get 1 FREE!

#### June

- 3- Tour
- 5- Last day of Atomic Age  
Exhibit
- 9- Board Meeting
- 11- Wedding
- 18- Wedding
- 19- Father's Day
- 21- Summer Begins
- 24- Wedding

#### July

- 4- Museum Closed-  
Independence Day
- 14- Board Meeting
- 27-31- 131st Coffey County  
Fair

#### August

- 11- Board Meeting

Coffey County Historical  
Society & Museum  
1101 Neosho St.  
Burlington, KS 66839

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