

By Shari Friedel

PCAAC Member

As a perfect complement to the painted chairs that community members have contributed to Meadowlark Gallery, quilts by Mona Baldwin of Ogallala are on display during the month of November until the gallery closes for the year following the Holiday Open House.

Baldwin is a native Nebraskan who definitely favors the good life.



She and her parents moved to Ogallala in the 1950s and purchased the Sports Service on Lake McConaughy, where she spent her high school years waiting tables.

She left the area to work for North Central Airlines in Minneapolis for a few years, but eventually moved back to Nebraska, got married and raised two boys.

She and her husband bought the old Martin Bay Depot from the Union Pacific Railroad and converted it to a convenience store they named Sportsmen's Complex. Her boys, Mark and Duane, worked there during their high school years.

Mona learned to sew after selling the family business, and did alterations in her home at the request of Julie Peterson, owner of the Silver Thimble sewing store in Ogallala.

Mona began working at the Silver Thimble in 1991 and learned how to quilt, growing to love it and eventually teaching classes.

She calls quilting a "lifesaver" when her husband passed away in 2005.

She retired from the Silver Thimble in 2005, but still teaches classes and does alterations at home.

In her spare time, Mona enjoys fishing, traveling and visiting with friends old and new.

An open house to meet Baldwin will be scheduled at a later date.

Visit Meadowlark Gallery on Friday and Saturday evenings from 6-8 p.m. and check the arts council's Facebook page for past shows and a current gallery schedule.

Be sure to pay a visit to the gallery during the open houses Thursday, Nov. 17.

The gallery is operated by the Perkins County Area Arts Council, who meets the second Thursday of each month, 7 p.m. at the gallery. The meetings are open to the public.