

Art center adds back room

By **CHUCK SMITH**

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Limited seating entertainment and limited edition art glass are both to be found in new additions to the Barton Arts Center. Forest and Main.

The Back Room is a new addition to the arts center and it features a mini-theater, with just 40 seats, providing for an intimate performing arts experience, according to Bob Feldt, one of the organizers of the new addition.

The small theater is intended for special events and the seats will be open, first, to members of the Barton County Arts Council.

Feldt explained that when an event is planned, invitations will go out to the council members. Any seats still available after that will be open to the general public. To insure seating for coming events, it would be a good idea to join the arts council, Feldt suggested.

The Back Room is actually in a second building that is attached to the main arts center.

Where the art exhibition and sales area is was once a shoe store, the Back Room was the old Army recruiter office.

It now features a small stage and seating.

Improved seating, lighting and stage settings are planned in the future, Feldt said

Programs coming up for the Back Room include movie night, on Dec. 1, when Kevin Willmott's movie about Junction City, "Ninth Street," will be shown. On Dec. 5 there will be a poetry reading. And on Dec. 9 there will be music from Small Potatoes.

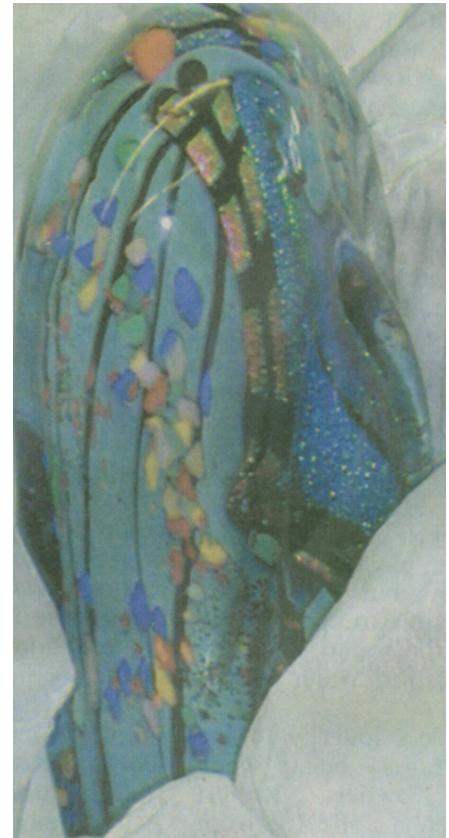
In front of the Back Room is the main salon, where a variety of art works are on display and are for sale, including a collection of art glass by Wichita area artist Roffin Karg.

Karg has been an engineer, photographer, potter and woodworker, before getting involved in glass blowing and now he runs an art glass studio in Kechi, just outside of Wichita.

His pieces range from small paper weights to large display pieces. Each combines a variety of colors of glass.

Elaine Pugh, one of the council's directors, was familiar with Karg's work and made contact about including some pieces here, with Christmas shopping right around the corner. She was surprised when his studio not only provided a number of pieces for the local arts center but included the larger pieces, which can be seen in one of the display windows.

Also in the center shop are paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by local and area artists.



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A piece of Roffin Karg's art glass is wrapped up at the Barton County Arts Center. Forest and Main.