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**Web site embraces tourism
County offerings are showcased**

By Andrea Uhde

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Before Cherry House furniture store closed in La Grange, shoppers would come by the busloads from all over the area.

And even though the store has been gone for almost three years, Oldham County tourism director Kim Buckler hopes to keep luring busloads of visitors.

The tourism commission's new Web site — www.touoldhamcounty.com — is advertising a "taste and tour" of the county, which will include stops at local shops and attractions, ranging from Yew Dell Gardens in Crestwood to the shops in historic La Grange.

"My thought is Cherry House isn't here any more, but if we can take them around and show them the sites in the county, have a lunch and maybe a show at the Arts Center at night, (we can) create a reason for them to stay overnight," Buckler said.

If a group wants to take a tour, Buckler will make an agenda based on the group's tastes, budget and time. She said she could either accompany them on the bus tour or give them a route with directions. The groups can also schedule a lunch or dinner -- or both -- in Oldham County during their visit.

"Every tour would be different," Buckler said.

She said she organized a tour for some filmmakers who were part of the Bluegrass Independent Film Festival in September. The tour included a stop at the History Center in La Grange.

"That ended up being their favorite part of it," Buckler said.

The commission's new Web site also has links and information for attractions and events in Oldham County, including the Ironman triathlon in August and the La Grange ghost tours.

It also lets people sign up for an e-mail newsletter, which Buckler plans to eventually send out once a month to let people know about coming events.

"I think a lot of people come through and think Main Street in La Grange is really cool, but they only come once a year," Buckler said.

She said the Web site and e-mail will alert people to all the events in that area throughout the year, including Light Up La Grange each December.

She said the site also will allow organizations planning events to see what other events are already scheduled that month.

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