

Painting serves as community tribute to deceased Jesup woman's activism

By **SCOTT LEITH**
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JESUP — In the quiet library Janeen Seehase helped create, a simple memorial will ensure she is not forgotten.

"She donated a lot of her time," said Janeen's husband, Richard, who gathered with relatives and friends Wednesday to help unveil a painting dedicated to her. "She wasn't selfish about giving."

Janeen, 47, died in late January after being exposed to freezing temperatures while walking home from a basketball game at Jesup High School. She was found lying just a quarter mile from her farm house, with only a light coat to protect her from the frigid winter winds.

Janeen's death startled resi-

dents, partly because she spent so much of her time serving the community. Her work included time spent on the Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Members of that group donated the painting Thursday, by wildlife artist Steve Carter of Cedar Falls.

"She enjoyed the beauty of the land and had a deep appreciation for wildlife," said L. Jeanette Winegarden, who took over as chairperson of the Conservation Commission after Janeen's death. "We wanted to have a memorial."

The painting of a wild turkey joined several other memorials in the library, including a rocking chair and grandfather clock.

Janeen, who worked part time at

the library, was one of the people who helped design the building.

"Janeen was not only a co-worker," said librarian Cindy Lellig. "She was a good friend."

The painting presented in her memory hangs in a quiet reading area, amidst long rows of books.

Richard Seehase said he appreciated the efforts to remember his wife. "I don't know if I can put my feelings into words."

A new painting in the Jesup Public Library was dedicated in memory of Janeen Seehase. Her husband, Richard, said he appreciates the efforts of the community to remember Janeen, who died about 10 months ago.

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