

DEATH NOTICE

Bonnie Sue Roeder, 78, Grandview, Mo., passed away June 23, 2014. Visitation will be

from noon to 1 p.m.; funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 27, at the Mt. Mo-

riah & Freeman Chapel, 10507 Holmes. Burial will be at Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

Honoring the Grassroots artists

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

Self-taught art. Visionary art. Primitive art. Outsider art. Native art. Recycled art. Trash art. Contemporary folk art. Raw art. Intuitive art. Marginal art. There are many names worldwide for the type of creative endeavor which I am describing today, but perhaps the best umbrella term might be "grassroots art." Grassroots art, a term coined by Kansan Greg Blasdal, refers to spontaneous, unique, and sometimes outlandish yard environments. Our state's center for grassroots art is found in rural Kansas.

Rosslyn Schultz is the director of the Grassroots Arts Center in Lucas, Kansas. She went to Kansas State University and met and married a farmer near Lucas. As a wheat farmer's wife, she was creating wheat weavings. She found others in Lucas who wanted to promote art in area schools.

Then a unique opportunity came along. A collection of limestone sculptures from Inez Marshall became available. In 1991, local entities at Lucas formed the nonprofit Lucas Arts and Humanities Commission to purchase the Marshall collection.

Inez Marshall had been injured in a serious trucking accident in 1933 and started carving limestone sculptures. She did so for the next 50 years. She displayed her distinctive carved structures at the nearby rural town of Portis, population 120 people. Now, that's rural.

After Inez Marshall passed, her sculptures went up for auction. Eventually they ended up in Lucas where three downtown

limestone buildings were acquired where her collection and other unique types of outsider, recycled art could also be displayed. That was the beginning of the Grassroots Art Center.

Volunteers worked thousands of hours renovating the buildings downtown. In 1995, the Grassroots Arts Center opened in Lucas.

Lucas already had a bit of a reputation for off-beat art, because it was the home of the Garden of Eden—a collection of unusual concrete figures created by eccentric businessman S.P. Dinsmoor, as we have previously profiled. However, the Grassroots Art Center has its own collection of remarkable artifacts from contemporary local artists.

It began exhibiting four local artists with yard environments plus the Inez Marshall collection. Today the Grassroots Arts Center features more than 20 artists in permanent and rotating exhibits. What is the common theme of these works of art? One description would be quirky. It is truly grassroots, self-taught art, usually created from recycled materials by someone of retirement age.

For example, Herman Divers started making things out of the pull-tabs which we used to get off the top of aluminum cans. He created a full-size motor-cycle using 179,200 pull-tabs. A Model T car is made of hundreds of thousands more. When pull-tabs were no longer available, he made things with buttons strung on fishing line.

Jim Dickerman created whimsical figures of people and animals using scrap metal and spare parts from cars, trucks, tractors and farm implements. Janet Fish

makes one-of-a-kind dolls from recycled clothing, foam insulation, and more. Farmer Adolph Hanneman carved hundreds of depictions of people's faces in wood during the last 20 years of his life. M. T. Liggett created more than 500 scrap metal totem poles. At age 84, Warren Ling of Cawker City started carving figures and totems of people from dead trees. Betty Milliken painted hundreds of miniature portraits on chewing gum, dried grapefruit peel and Styrofoam meat trays. Ed Root embellished his farmstead with concrete sculptures embedded with broken glass, stones and metal. All of these artists and other regional environments have been featured at the Grassroots Art Center.

"We've never found any two yard environments the same," Rosslyn Schultz said. "It's always so interesting. These are genuine Kansans doing their thing. They are creating artwork, not for a commercial market, but to satisfy a creative urge."

For more information, go to www.grassrootsart.net.

Whatever this is called, it is definitely grassroots. We commend Rosslyn Schultz and all those involved with the Grassroots Art Center for making a difference by honoring these artists and sharing their distinctive works of artistry. They are ordinary people creating extraordinary art.

And there's more. Lucas is also home to what has been described as the world's most artsy public toilet. We'll learn about that next week.

10th circuit rules for Freedom to marry

Wednesday the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, Colo., ruled in favor of same-sex couples' freedom to marry, upholding a marriage ruling out of Utah in December. It is the first ruling by a federal appellate court since last year's victory in the Supreme Court and, unless reversed, will pave the way for the freedom to marry throughout the 10th Circuit, including in Colorado, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Kansas.

Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry, released the following statement:

"Today, from the heart of the Mountain West, in a case arising

out of Utah, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals has brought us one giant step closer to the day when all Americans will have the freedom to marry. This first federal appellate ruling affirms what more than 20 other courts all across the country have found: There is no good reason to perpetuate unfair marriage discrimination any longer. America is ready for the freedom to marry, and it is time for the Supreme Court to bring our country to national resolution and it should do so now."

Currently, 44 percent of Americans live in states where gay couples share in the free-

dom to marry: 19 states and the District of Columbia. Recent polling by the Washington Post/ABC News shows 59 percent of Americans support marriage, including a majority of young evangelicals and Republicans under age 45 in other polls.

Oregon and Pennsylvania became the most recent states to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples after courts found the ban on the freedom to marry unconstitutional. In total, 22 rulings in recent months have found that state bans on marriage for same-sex couples are unconstitutional.

Tips for safe travels during harvest season

Attention, patience keys to safe travel during harvest

Wheat harvest is now in full swing in many areas of Kansas. Travelers should expect to share the road with large, slow-moving farm equipment for the next few weeks.

Making sure farmers get their harvest to market and travelers reach their destinations safely begins with paying attention, using caution and having patience on the road.

The Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas Highway Patrol offer the following tips for travel in farm country during harvest:

-Slow down when approaching farm equipment. Think of the triangular, slow moving vehicle emblem on the rear of farm machinery as a warning to adjust your speed.

-Allow extra room when following farm equipment.

-Be aware of heavy truck traffic near grain elevators and COOPs. Grain trucks may stop on the road while waiting in line to unload grain. Find an alternate route away from elevators if possible.

-Be aware of trucks, tractors pulling grain carts and combines pulling onto roads from farm fields. Also, be prepared for farm equipment to suddenly

turn off the road into fields.

-Don't pass unless absolutely necessary. Before passing make sure the farm machinery isn't turning left, determine if the road is wide enough for you and the equipment to safely share, look for roadside obstacles such as mailboxes, bridges or road signs that may cause the machinery to move to the center of the road and be sure there is adequate distance to safely pass.

-There may be several pieces of farm equipment traveling together. Be sure there is adequate space to accommodate another vehicle before attempting to pass.

-Don't assume the farmer knows you are there.

-Remember, grain goes to market by train as well as truck. Be watchful when approaching railroad crossings.

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Car catches fire



On Monday evening, the Norton Fire Department was called out to Dollar General for a car on fire in the parking lot. Joe Sanko's car engine had caught fire while he was inside the building. The fire was already out once the Fire Department arrived on site.
- Telegram photo by Shylo Paxton

Town hall meeting hosted by Senator

United States Senator Jerry Moran, (R)-Kansas, announced that he will host a town hall meeting in Norton as part of his Kansas Listening Tour on Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Norton County Hospital in the Lower Level Conference Room, 102 East Holme, Norton, KS 67654.

Area residents are encouraged to attend and share feedback with Sen. Moran on the critical

issues facing Kansas and the nation. The issues Sen. Moran focuses on and the work he does in Washington, D.C., are largely based on the conversations he has with Kansans during these town hall meetings.

Throughout his time in Congress, Sen. Moran has made it a priority to stay connected to the people he represents despite a distance of more than 1,000 miles between Capitol Hill and

Kansas. Since his election to the U.S. Senate, Sen. Moran has held a town hall in each of Kansas' 105 counties. Then-Congressman Moran traveled to each of the 69 counties during his annual "Big First Listening Tour."

Questions about the event may be directed to Katie Niederee at Katie_Niederee@moran.senate.gov.

Tickets go on sale for Biggest Rodeo

Tickets go on sale July 1 for the 85th annual Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg.

The rodeo will take place at 8 p.m. each night, July 31 - Aug. 2.

This year's show will feature rodeo clown Robbie Hodges and specialty act Cowboy Kenny and the Steel Rodeo Tour, a freestyle motocross act. Announcer Randy Corley will call the play-by-play action and Bennie and Rhett Beutler, Beutler and Son Rodeo Co., will supply bucking horses and bulls. The Beutler family has been bringing their livestock to Phillipsburg since 1960.

The rodeo benefits the town financially, but it's more than that, says Mike Erhart, CEO of Prairie Horizon Agri-Energy, and rodeo fan and sponsor. "It's

more than the economic gain," he said, "Sure, we feed a lot of people and the hotels are full. To us, it's our community review, something we are all very proud of. It's a very proud moment for the community."

The rodeo committee is made up of volunteers, and volunteers staff every part of it: the ticket gate, concessions, parking, and more. People work as a team, Erhart said. "We all come together to make it work. It doesn't matter your religious views, whether you're rich or poor, everybody pulls together and does their thing. And they don't get paid for it. The only reward we reap is to look up at the stands and see they're full. That makes it worth it."

The rodeo began in 1929 as a community celebration. In

1930, the Rock Island Railroad advertised excursions on rail from eastern Kansas to "Kansas' Biggest Rodeo" in Phillipsburg, and the name stuck. Countless world champions, pro rodeo Hall of Famers and contract personnel have worked or competed in the arena north of town.

Tickets can be purchased at Heritage Insurance in Phillipsburg via phone (785-543-2448) or in person (685 Third Street). Tickets are \$15 for reserved adult seats and \$13 for children's adult seats. General admission tickets are \$13 for adults and \$10 for children. Children are ages 3-12. For more information, visit the website at KansasBiggestRodeo.com.

Expected increases for future Ag lending

Agricultural lenders indicated less optimism early this year than they did near the end of last year, according to the results of the March 2014 Kansas State Agricultural Lender Survey. Lenders were not as optimistic as they were in the fall 2013 survey, although one area of continued optimism is farm loan volume. Results show that respondents expected an increase in interest rates, farm loan volume and non-performing loans, and land values are expected to decrease.

Allen Featherstone, interim department head and professor of agricultural economics at Kansas State University, said the survey gives farmers an idea of the current and future state of agricultural credit conditions. As with the survey conducted in the fall of 2013, the purpose

of the spring 2014 Kansas State Agricultural Lender Survey is to not only answer questions about the evolution of agricultural credit conditions, but also to provide a broader overview of all agricultural lenders.

There were noticeable differences between the spring and fall survey responses, Featherstone said.

Interest rates are expected to increase in the short term and long term, while the spread over cost of funds is expected to increase in the long term. Loan interest rates for farm real estate rose slightly, but decreased slightly for operating loans.

Land prices continued to increase in the last three months, although future expectations have weakened since the last

survey. The current survey shows expectation for the short and long run suggest more sentiment that land values will fall than expressed in the fall 2013 survey. More respondents expect land prices to decrease during the next year than those who expect it to increase.

Although agricultural lenders indicated that they were not as optimistic as they were in the fall of 2013, one area where they were optimistic was farm loan volume. Lenders indicated that they expect farm loan volume to increase for all categories. The sentiment that non-performing loans will rise also increased as respondents indicated that they expect non-performing loans to increase in the short and long term.

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