

What is the next big thing?

Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

What is the Next Big Thing? Maybe it is the World's Largest Thing. Today, in the third and final part of our series on grassroots art, we will meet an artist who has developed a specialty in the World's Largest Things. When she's not on the road, this artist can be found in rural Kansas.

Erika Nelson is a visionary artist, national researcher and speaker on the topic of roadside attractions such as the World's Largest Things. As an expert in grassroots art, it is fitting that she makes her home in Lucas, the Grassroots Art Center of Kansas.

Erika grew up in Missouri. As a child, she lived near a town which had painted its water tower to look like a giant billiard ball. In fact, it was called the World's Largest 8 Ball. Her grandparents lived up north near the supposed home of Paul Bunyan and the Babe the big blue ox. Perhaps those experiences shaped an early appreciation of unusual, oversized artifacts.

Erika got her bachelor of fine arts degree from Central Missouri State University and a masters of fine arts from the University of Kansas. She enjoyed the creative and unusual. Her first public art endeavor was a Spam carving workshop. "I always had a soft spot in my heart for these odd, offbeat things (such as I had seen as a child)," Erika said. She started traveling to visit those attractions which might be termed the World's Largest Things.

"I was mapping and recording these as I traveled," Erika said. "Then I wanted souvenirs and reminders of them, so I started making small replicas." Using her artistic talents, she started making small models of these distinctive landmarks.

In Kansas, she came to the community of Lucas which had become a center of grassroots art. "The town was so open and welcoming," Erika said. She volunteered at the Grassroots Art Center and then found a house next door to Lucas' Garden of Eden. It was such a good value that she bought the house and stayed.

Erika continues to travel extensively. She is a part of the Kansas Humanities Council speakers bureau and the Kansas Arts Commission Arts on Tour roster. As a working artist, she is involved in various public art projects such as community murals. She has created exhibits as far away as Philadelphia and at the Boca Raton Museum of Art in Florida.

In 2007, she created a non-profit organization relating to history, preservation, production and promotion of the distinctive roadside attractions known as the World's Largest Things. These are those unusual artifacts such as the World's Largest Ball of Twine as found in the rural community of Cawker City, Kansas, population 510 people. Now, that's rural.

Erika's travels have literally taken her coast to coast in her quest to study these attractions. For example, the World's Largest Box of Raisins is found

in Kingsburg, California, the World's Largest Ketchup Bottle is found at Heinz Park in Pennsylvania, and the World's Largest Beach Ball is in Pensacola, Florida. Erika has catalogued more than 500 of these remarkable, quirky attractions around the United States. She has even appeared on the TV show Conan.

One might expect to find more of the World's Largest Things in Texas, but that state ranks third behind California and Minnesota. (Kansas has a very respectable 17.)

As mentioned, Erika has created small replicas of these landmarks. That has now become – are you ready for this? – the World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things. Erika has created a traveling road show which displays this remarkable collection. She also consults with community members who want to create their own version of the World's Largest something. "For many communities, these things can be a point of pride or hope," Erika said.

For more information, and the entire list of biggies, go to www.worldslargestthings.com.

What is the Next Big Thing? Maybe it is the World's Largest Thing. We commend Erika Nelson for supporting grassroots art and helping communities grow their identity through the World's Largest Things. Such larger-than-life symbols can make a big difference.

Patrol to enforce no texting and driving

The July 4th holiday is this week, and the Kansas Highway Patrol has some important enforcement initiatives that motorists should be aware of.

Beginning July 1, and lasting through July 10, the Patrol will be conducting a texting enforcement initiative. Troopers will be out looking for drivers who are violating Kansas' texting law, and will be citing those observed in violation. The Kansas law states on a wireless device, drivers may not manually type, send, or read a written communication, including, but not limited to, a text message, instant message, or electronic mail.

According to statistics from the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration, texting while driving creates a crash risk 23 times greater than driving while not distracted. In 2012, an estimated 421,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver, this reflects a nine percent increase from the estimated 387,000 people injured in 2011. The Kansas Highway Patrol and local law enforcement enforce the texting law throughout the year, but this holiday period, the Patrol will place a special emphasis focused on locating those texting while driving.

With the July 4th holiday, many motorists will be traveling across the nation. The Patrol will be out actively looking for

impaired drivers. With many celebrations across the state, drivers should make sure they are designating a sober driver. The Patrol would also like to remind motorists to wear their seat belts and use the correctly fitted child safety seats, as they are the best defense should you be involved in a crash.

The Patrol wishes all of those traveling during the July 4th holiday weekend, and throughout the summer season, safe travels and to be well. If you are in need of assistance on a Kansas highway, you can call the Kansas Highway Patrol for assistance at *47 or *582 for the Kansas Turnpike.

Small business workshop scheduled for August

Nationally recognized marketing expert and small business strategist, Jon Schallert, will present a workshop in Norton Aug. 5, at The Rock. A limited number of slots have been reserved for Norton County businesses.

During the workshop, Increasing Sales And Profits As A Destination Business, Jon will present ideas and tactics to help you turn your business into a uniquely positioned destination capable of pulling in customers from hundreds of miles away!

The workshop is relevant to all types of businesses.

The registration fee for Norton County businesses is \$50 per person. The fee includes lunch and the opportunity to have a short one-on-one session with Jon. The registration fee must be paid in advance via check or cash.

You can find out more information about Jon Schallert and his company on the website, www.jonschallert.com.

This is a great opportunity for our local business owners to

learn from a business and marketing expert. To register or get additional information, please call Norton City/County Economic Development at (785) 874-4816 or email nortoned2@ruraltel.net.

Call Shylo with all of your local news.
877-3361
spaxton@nwkansas.com

HANSEN MUSEUM

The Dane G. Hansen Museum presents "Earth and Loom: A Century of Native American Art" May 16 till July 13. This exhibit consists of 20 Navajo weavings. They represent different regions and weaving styles over the past century. Also in the exhibit, will be 26 pieces of pueblo pottery representing the work of many significant Native American potters from nine different pueblos. This exhibition is the private collection of Dennis & Carola Deschner of Phillipsburg, Kan. They started collecting nearly 30 years ago by accident when they bought a Navajo weaving in Colo. They continued to find pieces as they travelled and fell in love with Southwestern Art, basketry, and Pueblo pottery.

Our July artist of the month is Ashley Schilowsky from Phillipsburg.. She will have beaded gemstone jewelry on display throughout the month of July.

We still have room for crafters in our 41st Annual Hansen Arts and Craft Fair. For more information call Nova at the museum office at 785-689-4846.

We are looking forward to the David Vollbracht Oil Painting Workshop on July 9-12. David has earned a degree in art from Fort Hays State University. He is a representational landscape painter of the west. His work reflects the quality of light, nature and spirit drawn from the land. For many years he has made trips to various parts of the west to gather reference material for realistic impressions created primarily in oil. David emphasizes the beauty and importance of the natural landscape in his compositions. He is intrigued by the patterns and shapes in nature and concentrates on the effects of light on these elements.

For more information on any of our classes or exhibits check

our website at hansenmuseum.org or call the museum at 785-689-4846.

General
Public Transportation Bus
Call 785-877-5352

WE COVER ALL OF NORTON COUNTY

Bus is Available to the General Public and is Not Limited to Senior Citizens
First Come, First Serve — Wheelchair Accessible

THIS PROJECT FUNDED IN PART BY THE
KDOT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Wrestling Camp



Norton Community High School and the University of Central Oklahoma hosted the Broncho's Wrestling Camp, Tuesday through Thursday, at the East Campus wrestling room. Kids from all over the area learned proper techniques from Bill Johnson, camp director, Kyle Evans, Central Oklahoma assistant coach; Casy Rowell, 2014 National Champion; Wes Ruth, Del City High School (Okla.) head coach; and Brent Sarette, Southmoore High School, (Okla.) Assistant Coach.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Update on Blue-Green Algae in lakes

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment samples publicly accessible bodies of water for cyanobacteria, commonly called blue-green algae, when the agency is alerted to a potential algae bloom in Kansas lakes. When harmful algal blooms are present, The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and other lake managers where appropriate, responds by informing the public of these conditions.

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism reminds visitors that a lake under an Advisory or Warning is not closed unless officials deem it absolutely necessary. Marinas, lake-side businesses and park camping facilities remain open for business, although swim beaches will be closed. Park drinking water and showers are safe and not affected by the algae bloom. It is generally safe to boat and fish as long as contact with the water is avoided. Also, it is safe to eat fish caught during a harmful blue-green algae outbreak, as long as consumers clean and rinse the fish with clean water; consume only the fillet portion; and discard all other parts. People should also wash their hands with clean water after handling fish taken from an affected lake.

Kansans should be aware that blooms are unpredictable. They can develop rapidly and may float around the lake, requiring visitors to exercise their best judgment. If there is scum, a paint-like surface, or the water is bright green, avoid contact and keep pets away. These are indications that a harmful bloom may be present. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism urge dog owners to be particularly mindful of the presence of blue-green algae. Dogs that swim in or drink water affected by a harmful algal bloom or eat dried algae along the shore may become seriously ill or die.

Based upon sampling results and established health risk levels, the following Warnings and

Advisories are remain in place from the previous sampling season.

CURRENT WARNINGS & ADVISORIES

Public Health Warning: High levels of toxic blue-green algae have been detected. A Public Health Warning indicates that water conditions are unsafe and direct water contact (wading, skiing and swimming) should be prohibited.

Kansas public waters currently under a Warning status:

MARION RESERVOIR (Separate from Marion County Lake), Marion County

MEMORIAL PARK LAKE (Veteran's Lake), Barton County

MILFORD RESERVOIR (Partial Warning: North of Farnum Creek), Clay, Geary and Dickinson Counties

SOUTH PARK LAKE, Johnson County

When a Warning is issued, The Kansas Department of Health and Environment recommends the following precautions be taken:

·Humans, pets and livestock do not drink lake water

·Water contact should be prohibited. Avoid swimming, wading or other activities with full body contact of lake water

·Clean fish and rinse with clean water, consume only the fillet portion, and discard all other parts

·Do not allow pets to eat dried algae

·If lake water contacts skin or pet fur, wash with clean potable water as soon as possible

·Avoid areas of visible algae accumulation

Public Health Advisory:

Harmful blue-green algae have been detected. A Public Health Advisory indicates that a hazardous condition exists. Water activities like boating and fishing may be safe; however, direct contact with water (i.e., wading, swimming) is strongly discouraged for people, pets and livestock.

Kansas public waters currently under an Advisory status:

LAKE WARNOCK (Atchison City Lake), Atchison County

LOGAN CITY LAKE, Phillips County

OLD HERINGTON LAKE, Dickinson County

When an Advisory is issued, The Kansas Department of Health and Environment recommends the following precautions be taken:

·Humans, pets, and livestock do not drink untreated lake water


·Clean fish and rinse with clean water, consume only the fillet portion, discarding other parts

·Do not eat or allow pets to eat dried algae

·If lake water comes in contact with skin or pet fur, wash with clean potable water as soon as possible

·Avoid areas of visible algae accumulation




Norton Gun Club
ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, July 16 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Norton American Legion
COME AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, ELECT NEW OFFICERS,
MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS
RECEIVE FREE CHANCE FOR A NEW FIREARM!!*
*Must be present to win. Must be 21 years old for handgun, 18 years old for shotgun. Annual dues \$25.00 family membership.

720 7th Street, Beaver City, NE



Two Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath, Extremely Large Family Room, Large Corner Lot with Landscaping and Underground Sprinklers, 2 Car Garage. VERY NICE!

Valley Real Estate, Oxford, NE

Duane Murdoch, Broker - 308/824-3270 (Office)
LesLee McGee, Sales Associate - 308/991-8080 (Cell)