

Community flushed with pride

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

Have you ever visited a community that is flushed with pride and I mean that literally? Today we'll learn about a rural community which is a center of grassroots art. The community's latest project involves, well, a toilet.

As we learned last week, Rosslyn Schultz is the director of the Grassroots Art Center in Lucas, Kan. The center features distinctive and unique works of art, usually created by retirees with no formal artistic training. These quirky works of art annually attract thousands of people from all across the nation and beyond.

One visitor said, "I could see these foil-lined walls with recycled sculptures in New York or California, but not in the middle of Kansas."

With all those visitors, something was needed: Public restroom facilities. While working on a grant, the community held a public meeting at which public restrooms were identified as a top priority.

But in keeping with Lucas's role in grassroots art, people also said, "It can't be a normal restroom. It's got to be quirky."

That led to plans for what has now been described as the world's most artsy public toilet. With help from a creative architect, several years of work from lead artists Mri-Pilar and Eric Abraham, and thousands of volunteer hours spearheaded by the Grassroots Art Center,

Lucas hosted a grand opening celebration of its new public restroom on June 2, 2012. What is the new restroom like? Well, it's quirky.

The restroom is set in what is called the Bowl Plaza which is shaped like a giant toilet with an oval shape sunk into the ground so that people can sit on the edge. A six-foot porcelain artistic creation shows swirling water with items individuals have accidentally dropped into toilets. The 14-foot mosaic "lid" is always up. Inside the giant "tank" are sanitary facilities for men and women. A mock concrete giant toilet paper roll sits nearby and unfurls into the sidewalk. There's a giant hubcap handle created by Bob Mix, Great Bend grassroots artist. Maybe you can jiggle it to stop the imaginary water running.

The entire facility is a monument to mosaic grassroots art. Murals made with recycled materials are incorporated throughout the bowl plaza. The ladies' room is highlighted by a woman's tresses cascading on the walls, decorated with a refined feminine mosaic motif. The men's room is decorated with miniature cars, trucks, tractors, fishing, toys, game pieces, and more.

The fun didn't stop there. For the grand opening, and as a way to help defray the costs, the group auctioned off the opportunity to be the first person to flush the new toilet. The winning bid was \$430, and that person got the honor of the first

official flush. In fact, the top bidders were treated like royalty - literally.

"We crowned 'em," Rosslyn said. Paper crowns and flowing capes were given to the top bidders who walked to the bowl plaza in a formal procession. Of course, that makes this activity a, um, royal flush.

"It was kind of like a military wedding where the bride and groom walk under a line of drawn sabers," Rosslyn said. "Only we were holding up plungers and toilet bowl brushes," she said with a smile.

As was hoped, all this fun generated lots of attention. The guest register at the Bowl Plaza shows that visitors have come to this art attraction from 50 states and 47 countries -- very impressive for a community of 427 people. Now, that's rural.

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

Have you ever seen a community flushed with pride? Lucas, Kansas should be proud of its role as a grassroots art center. We salute Rosslyn Schultz and the people of Lucas for making a difference with offbeat creativity and fun, even in providing a public restroom. Some comments left by visitors are: "Bowled me over," "Going in style," and "Super duper poop-er!"

And there's more. One artist in Lucas has made a big success out of tiny things. We'll learn about that in the conclusion of our three-part series next week.

Norton Community High School April/May Students of the Month



Student : Miah Melvin
Parents : Lucas and Angela Melvin
Grade: Freshman
Nominating Staff Member: Mr. Steve Vance
Comment from nominating Staff Member:
"Miah has worked extremely hard in Algebra I. She works to do her best and really understand the material. She is very self-motivated and is always engaged. She is also very involved in school activities."
Factoids about Miah

Favorite Class : Math and English
Favorite Drink : Dr. Pepper
Favorite Color : Pink
Favorite Food : Pizza
Favorite Movie : Divergent
Favorite Saying : "Or nah"
Favorite Song : I Lived by One Republic
Favorite Hangout: My basement.
Personal Hero : My grandmother.
Future Plans : Become a sophomore.



Student: Ty Burns
Parents: Trevor and Amanda Burns
Grade: Senior
Nominating Staff Member: Mr. Don Mordecai
Comment from nominating Staff Member:
"Ty has done excellent work this year in class and has been a good leader."
Factoids about Ty
Favorite Class : Band
Favorite Drink : Coffee

Favorite Color : Blue
Favorite Food : Hot wings
Favorite Movie : Hot Rod
Favorite Saying : "Have fun being married to Satan" - Rod Kimble
Favorite Song : Any Other Heart by Go Radd
Favorite Hang out : Coffee shop
Personal Hero : My dad.
Future Plans : Go to Ozark Christian College and major in Youth Ministry

COLLEGE NOTES

Kansas Wesleyan University has released its President's Honor Roll and its Dean's Honor Roll for Spring 2014 semester.

President's Honor Roll includes all full-time students who have no incompletes

and a semester grade point average of 3.75 or higher for the semester.

Deans's Honor Roll includes all full-time students who have no incompletes and a semester grade point average of 3.25-3.74 for the

semester. For Spring 2014, the student or students from your area named to the KWU Dean's Honor Roll are:

Jordon Wahlmeier (Norton)

Otter-Bruggeman Family Reunion

The Otter-Bruggeman reunion was held June 14 in the Parish Hall at New Almelo. Persons began signing the guest book at nine. There were fourteen states represented including: Kan., Colo., Mo., Neb., S.C., Ariz., Ill., and Ala. At the front of the room was a large display of Otter-Bruggeman paraphernalia, which would be a give away in the afternoon. Each item had a tub beside it where tickets were placed. The tables were decorated with lines of small sea shells, some from the shores of Ala., with otters and angels among them. Nicole Schiltz Photography, Selden, took photos of individuals, couples and families during the day. Father Daniel Scheetz said Mass at five o'clock after which the evening meal and clean up took place. The oldest person attending was Cecelia Otter, 92, from Nevada, Mo. The youngest person was Ryder Hynek, three months, Western, Neb. The person coming the greatest distance was Delbert Otter, Sterling, Ala. Albert and Julianna Otter family migrated to the United States in 1879. Their son's Frank, Albert, Constant, and Joseph's descendants attended. Frank and Mary (Schanbel) Otter.

Albert and Sophia (Bruggeman) Otter descendants, Mary Schamberger, Hoxie, Kan.; Rick and Jeanne Shipley, Hoxie; Conrad and Charlotte Otter, McPherson, Kan.; Dianne and James Wilson, Gregg and Amy Barrow, Adelyn, Kolson, all from McPherson; Jim Otter, Jill, Pittsburg; Alfred and Betty Otter, New Almelo; Tom Otter, DeSoto; Mark and Sheila Otter, Marshall, Ulysses, Kan.; Ashley and Travis Redeker, Kasch, Kearney, Neb.; Jolene and Jim Moss, Courtney, Aaron, Cheyenne, Ben and David Shelton all of Smith Center, Kan.; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Charles Otter, Saige, Cury, Salina; Francis and Phyllis Otter, Lenora; Judy and Kirby Garrison, Sophia, Lily, Scott City; Joan and Vic Winter, Sydney, Cassidy, Gannon, Ellis, Kan.; Pat Otter, Norton; Patricia and Rosa Hernandez, Garden City, Kan.; Gilbert and Carol Otter, Jeff and Theola Otter, Josephine, Jefferson, Jamison, Jillian, Jonathan all of Norton; Heidi and Jim Briery, Andrew, Eudora; Jan and Steve Richards, Sandia Park, N.M.; Matthew Richards, Albuquerque, N.M.; Jennifer and Mike Werner, Hannah, Alorah, Edgewood, N.M.

Frank and Margaret (Bates) Otter descendants, Alvin Otter, Wichita; Marion and Marilyn

Otter, New Almelo; Frank Otter, New Almelo; Josh and Kate Otter, New Almelo; Gabrielle Otter, Hays, Kan.; Greg Otter, Alissa, Seth, New Almelo; Steve Otter, Wichita, Kan.; Joanie and Darin Winkel, New Almelo; JoAnn Long, New Almelo.

Marie (Otter) and Leonard Scheetz descendants, Mary Lee Brooks, Norton; Mary Jane and Richard Schroeder, Colby, Kan.; Eloise Long, Hays, Kan.; Paula Flecher, Hays; Joan Long, Logan; Father Daniel Scheetz, Russell, Kan.; Jared and Stacy Scheetz, Hailee, Braydon, Sydney, New Almelo.

Leo and Agnew (Bruggeman) Otter descendants, (all 12 were there) Eulalia and Bill Sughroue, Indianola, Neb.; Sam Sughroue, Lina, Bella, Lincoln, Neb.; Sister Rebecca Otter, O.P., Larned, Kan.; Cecilia Knepper, McCook, Neb.; Julie Patterson, Condi, S.D.; Patricia Knepper and Joel, Eaton, Colo.; Linda Gerih, C.J., Alex, Minden, Neb.; Peg and Emily Harders, Grand Island, Neb.; Angela and Mike Mason, Sophia, Riley, Doniphan, Neb.; Lawrence Otter, McCall, S.C.; Debra Johnson, Noelle, Megan, Bennettsville, S.C.; Nobert and Jeanette Otter, Perry; Nick and Kathy Otter, Hoxie, Kan.; D'Ann and Rick Gardner, Mankato; Sean Otter, Hoxie; Pam Diekman, Parker, Mason, Woodbine, Kan.; Allan and Jody Otter, McCook, Neb.; Brandon and Lindsay Otter, Kaiden, Jaxyn, McCook, Neb.; Jerome Otter, Phoenix, Ariz.; Rita and Joe Martin, Mt. Home, Idaho; Judy Schuler, Ellis, Kan.; Loretta and Norbert Flax, Ransom, Kan.; Tyson Flax, Leila, Sebastian, Cyprian, Overland Park, Kan.; Kyleigh and Dustin Cole, Asa, Abram, Dodge City, Kan.; Teresa and Jim Bird, Leoville, Kan.; Shannon and Rebecca Bird, Lily, Colby, Kan.

Alphonse and Dorothy (Mindrup) Otter descendants, Delbert Otter, Sterling, Ala.; DeChantal Lucas, Greeley, Colo.; Deanne Crow, Yakima, Wash.

Albert A. and Wilhelmina (Spannon) Otter.

Regina (Otter) and Andrew Long descendants, Donald and Beatrice Long, Arvada, Colo.; Carl and Joan Long, Bella Vista, Ariz.

Constant and Lenna (Judson) Otter descendants, Gene Otter, Lina Hopkins, Gennine Hansen, all of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Joseph and Anna Marie (McDermont) Otter.

Arthur and Cecelia (Moos) Otter descendants, Cecelia Otter, Nevada, Mo.; Anne and

Dean Horst, Amsterdam, Mo.; Leonard and Carolyn Otter, Nevada, Mo.; Mark and Donna Otter, Warrenburg, Mo.; Rose Otter, Nevada, Mo.

Marie Catherine (Otter) and Leonard Dickman descendants, Mary LaPalio, Hinsdale, Ill.; Anna Marie Gay, LaGrange, Ill. Bernard and Anna Maria (Oshtoff) Bruggeman.

Anthony and Margaret (Wolf) Bruggeman descendants, Darrel and Carlene Bruggeman, Selden.

Gerhard and Mary (Dittlinger) Bruggeman.

Leo and Lois (Walter) Bruggeman descendants, Pat and Ernie Hake, Littleton, Colo.; Mary Ann Shelton, Mesa, Ariz.

Louise (Bruggeman) and Leo Nible descendants, Doris and Gene Mooneyham, Littleton, Colo.; Betty and Leu Sforzini, Eloy, Ariz.

Ambrose and Virginia (Wahlmeier) Bruggeman descendants, Paul and Karla Bruggeman, Rexford; Jeremy and Nicole Schiltz, Gabrielle, Ashton, Selden; Jenna Hynek, Ryder, Western, Neb.; Curt and Norma Archibald, Norton.

Regina (Bruggeman) and Wendelline Riedel descendants, Irene Hermreck, Wichita, Kan.; Gerald and Debbie Riedel, Taylor, Colton, WaKeeney, Kan.; Regina Riedel, Morland, Kan.



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Exchange students seeking host families

Visiting students, ages 15-18, from around the world including Germany, Spain, Switzerland, and Thailand are seeking host families in and around Norton for the upcoming 2014-2015 academic school year. Host families are needed for the fall semester and full school year.

Host families (traditional families, singles, empty nesters, etc.) serve as mentors and a home base for their student. Visiting students participate as active members of the family and integrate into their host's daily routines and traditions just like any other family member. Hosting an international student is a great way to explore a new culture and promote a sense of lifelong learning and adventure.

"Every year the state of Kansas plays host to talented, top-of-their-class students with the lifelong dream of studying in America," reports Darlene Benjamin, iE-USA's Area Director. Darlene adds, "Kansas's spirit of hometown hospitality and focus on academic enrichment makes it an ideal environment to develop cultural exchange and promote international diplomacy on a local level."

iE-USA, the sponsoring program, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting education and understanding through intercultural and academic exchange. iE-USA is certified by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel and strictly adheres to all U.S. Department of State Student Exchange Program regulations and guidelines.

Exchange student participants undergo an extensive application and orientation process in their home country prior to being accepted into iE-USA's program. Each student is responsible for his/her own spending money and full health insurance coverage.

To learn more about how to make the dream come true for an international high school exchange student, contact Norton

representative, Katie Robinson at: k.robinson@international-experience.net or 512-538-8080. Host families may review

prospective student profiles online at iE-USA.org. Families interested in hosting this year must apply by Aug. 15, 2014.

HaysMed Speciality Clinics in Norton

Norton Outreach Clinic Schedule

Norton County Hospital 102 E. Holme - Norton

CARDIOLOGY

Dr. Jose Dimen ~ Dr. Christine Fisher

ONCOLOGY/HEMATOLOGY

Dr. Anne O'Dea

ORTHOPEDIC

Dr. Alex DeCarvalho

SURGERY

Dr. Brandon Cunningham
Dr. Paul Teget ~ Dr. Zurab Tsereteli

UROLOGY

Dr. Faris Azzouni

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Mobile Echocardiography

785-877-3351

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