

HANSEN MUSEUM NEWS BY SHARI BUSS

Traditionally, February is the month we showcase the annual High School Art Show, a time-honored tradition we eagerly anticipate each year. Since 1976, the Hansen Museum has proudly collaborated with art instructors to provide high school students with a professional gallery experience. By displaying their artwork in the Museum, we strive to inspire young artists, ignite their passion for creativity, and encourage them to continue their artistic journey beyond high school.

To celebrate these talented young creatives, we hosted a special preview on Sunday, February 2nd, honoring students participating in the 48th Annual High School Art Show. Throughout the afternoon, approximately 45 visitors enjoyed the impressive collection of student artwork while savoring delicious refreshments. At 3:00 p.m., we recognized the instructors and students in attendance. Guests also had the privilege of hearing from Ashley Breshears, an instructor from Smith Center, who spoke about her program and students. The students graciously engaged with Museum patrons, discussing their works on display.

Throughout February, we will feature videos of student artists on our Facebook page. Each student introduces themselves and shares insights into their artwork. Some discuss their creative process, while others reveal the deeper meaning behind their pieces. These videos offer a unique perspective and foster a greater appreciation for the students' talent and dedication.

The schools participating in this year's High School Art Show include Cornerstone Classical, Hill City, Phillipsburg, Pike Valley, Norton Community, Republic County, Smith Center, Stockton, and Trego. As always, the exhibition showcases many impressive works, reflecting the remarkable talent and vision of these students. The High School Art Show will be on display through Sunday, February 23rd. We encourage you to visit and experience the incredible work of these young artists.

February's Artist of the Month is Ruth Goddard, a local artist and owner of Prairie Moon Bags. Ruth is an exceptionally talented handbag designer, and her display features a stunning

variety of purses and bags. Each piece is meticulously crafted, with high-quality construction and beautiful, durable hardware. With a wide range of textiles, shapes, and sizes, her creations are both stylish and functional. Best of all, her prices are very affordable—what more could one ask for? Looking for the perfect Valentine's gift? Come browse Ruth's Prairie Moon Bags—you're sure to find something special!

We invite you to visit the 48th Annual High School Art Show. Your presence provides invaluable support and encouragement to these young artists.

The museum is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday and holidays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. We are closed on New Year's Day. The museum is handicap accessible, and admission is always free, thanks to the generous support of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. For more information, please contact us at 785-689-4846. We look forward to seeing you at the museum!



Handbag designer extraordinaire Ruth Goddard showcases her stunning collection, available for purchase at the Hansen Museum throughout February. (courtesy photo)



Smith Center instructor Ashley Breshears beams with pride alongside students Kaydyne Annknecht, Nevaeh Rohan, Serrena Armknecht, and Gannon McCoy as they proudly display their certificates in front of their school's exhibit at the Hansen Museum's 48th Annual High School Art Show. (courtesy photo)

VAN YANDELL

Crush the old, embrace the new

John 3: 5-6 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

There probably aren't many of us that haven't wished we could start our lives or careers all over again. We could wipe our slates clean and have a new beginning. At times those thoughts are accompanied with the wish that "and know what I know now."

New Year's Day is a day in which many make resolutions to change something meaningful in their lives. The examples are many.

A mistake that many of us make is assuming that one particular day is the only day in the year we can have a new beginning.

Why can't any day be considered "My New Year's Day?" The only reason for the January first designation is because of the development of the calendar.

The Gregorian calendar is the calendar used in most of the world. It went into effect in October 1582. Named for Pope Gregory the Eighth, the Gregorian calendar replaced the Julian calendar. Among the reasons was to establish a more accurate and consistent date for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ.

The crucifixion and resurrection of Christ coincides with the Passover (exodus of the Jews from Egypt).

Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox (first day of spring in the northern hemisphere). Other than that one date yearly, all other dates are up-for-grabs and for the most part unimportant. That of course doesn't include your birthday.

These things considered, you and I can begin our new lives (if we choose) any day of the year.

2 Corinthians 5: 17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new

creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

To consider "all things become new" seems a little scary at first. We humans attempt to avoid change. This may be intentional or unintentional but none the less, that's the way most of us are.

Changes in our lives are constantly occurring. However, in many cases those changes are not noticed because they are gradual. Changes in our government, educational priorities, attitudes about personal appearance, eating preferences and many other aspects of our lives are very different from what they were a few short years ago.

Many changes are intentional because of the selling of products. Clothing styles must change occasionally so people will continue to spend their hard earned money.

From a practical and earth bound point of view, many things in our lives and surroundings do change. I can't help but think of the clothing styles from my generation and the current styles we see.

Our news sources have also changed. Huntley and Brinkley or Walter Cronkite of yesteryear apparently are gone forever. Trust and honor has been tried, tested and miserably failed.

In the 60's and 70's we heard about Russian propaganda in their newspapers, now we realize the same is happening in America. Credibility has suffered a slow death.

We do however find that new networks are emerging and the old ones imploding. A few appear at this time to extrapolate honest and unbiased news. The point is to report the news as it is and allow the listener to form his/her own opinion.

To report the news without bias may be next to impossible in today's geopolitical environment. Polarization has found a new extreme.

Education priorities are changing.

Whereas society taught all children should go to college, now we know there is a much higher demand in many areas for tradesmen than college graduates. Vocational technical schools offer training in skills in construction, manufacturing, health careers and other hands-on professions. Jobs are plentiful and the training time required is usually much less than a four year degree.

There is an area of change in which we do not have to go it alone. That area is in the spiritual realm. Matthew 28: 20 "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Christ Jesus promises not to ever leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13: 5).

Acts 3: 19 "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

A life not changed however, is a life not saved by the definition of many Christians. John 3: 16 clearly states, belief is the only absolute requirement for eternal salvation. With belief comes repentance.

Most in the area of evangelism would agree that the finding of Christ Jesus and the subsequent Bible study would induce change. Genuine repentance is the result of belief and would be the ultimate "crush the old, embrace the new."

God not only offers us the opportunity to begin again in this life but He also offers us eternity. We should never hesitate to begin our lives all over again. I love the saying, "Today is the first day of the rest of your life." The God of the Bible is the God of second chances.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email: vmy2121@outlook.com

Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau It could've been ...

by Kim Baldwin

McPherson County farmer and rancher

My sister called me out of the blue last week. As her name and face appeared on my cell phone screen, I immediately wondered what was wrong. She's a busy mom shuttling three boys around to practices after school on most weeknights. I was making sure my kids had their homework done, the TV had been turned off and I was getting everyone ready for bed.

My sister and I don't normally call one another unless it's the weekend. If it's a weekday conversation, it's mostly through text.

I answered. She just wanted to make sure I was home. She couldn't remember if I was traveling that week. My schedule increases during the winter months to attend in-person meetings. Sometimes within driving distance, but mostly beyond.

And that's when she told me. A news alert about a plane originating from Wichita had come across her phone.

A passenger jet. A helicopter. Washington, D.C. A collision.

She was checking on me.

The next morning, I briefly turned on the news. It was all too much. Too close.

I wondered who was on that flight from Wichita and if I knew any of the passengers. Winter meeting season is in full force, and a lot of people I know fly from Wichita to our nation's capital during this time of the year.

Perhaps those on that plane had walked similar steps to mine when routinely entering the airport in Wichita. Riding the escalator up to go through security. Contemplating grabbing a chicken sandwich or filling up a water bottle before heading to the gate. Hearing "Welcome to Wichita" over the intercom. Gate agents asking passengers to tag their bags. Receiving a welcoming smile from the flight crew while boarding. Texting a loved one with a "See you soon".

It was all too much. An incredible, incomprehensible sadness nobody should have to face. Yet so many are. A terribly sad accident.

Over the course of the next 24 hours, I turned off the TV. I turned off the radio. I stayed off social media. I couldn't bear the noise. So much noise. The finger pointing. The blaming. The complete lack of decency. The disregard for so many hurting.

It's all so much. So much chatter. So much noise. So much.

And so I sit. And I pray. I pray for those now facing the unthinkable. And I pray in silence. Avoiding all of the noise. Not adding to the noise. Because that's what I'd want for my family if it had been me.

It wasn't, but it could have been me.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

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