

## HANSEN MUSEUM NEWS BY SHARI BUSS

One of the most endearing qualities of fiber artist and instructor Marsha Jensen, beyond her incredible talent, is her deep love for the plains. Growing up in Nebraska, she is a proud product of the Great Plains, and as a fiber artist, she actively incorporates natural fibers such as native grasses from this region into her work.

Since 2022, the Hansen Museum has employed Marsha to teach basket weaving, and more recently, a needle felting class. Marsha resides in Manhattan, Kansas, which is technically still part of the Great Plains region, but she dearly loves coming to Logan because it reminds her of her childhood stomping grounds. When speaking to her friends in Eastern Kansas about her trips to the Hansen Museum, she enthusiastically shares that great things are happening out here on the “prairie.” Her description of the Museum as being out on the prairie feels like a warm embrace—quaint and inviting, like a comforting hug.

Last Saturday, Marsha introduced eleven participants to the art of needle felting, a fiber art technique that involves using a barbed needle to

interlock and compress wool fibers into a solid, sculpted form. Unlike traditional wet felting, which relies on water and agitation, needle felting is a dry process that allows for precise control and intricate detail. The technique can be used to create various items, including small animal sculptures, decorative figures, and even jewelry. During the class, participants started with simple shapes before progressing to a landscape piece.

One of the most appealing aspects of needle felting is its accessibility to beginners while offering opportunities for growth and creativity. Each participant received a basic supply kit containing wool roving, felting needles, and a foam pad to use as a work surface. Photos from the class, showcasing the beautiful works created under Marsha’s guidance, can be found on the Hansen Museum Facebook page. Keep an eye out, as Marsha will be returning to the prairie to teach again.

It was especially fitting that Marsha, with her love for the prairie, taught this class on the opening weekend of the Museum’s current exhibition, A Place to Call Home.

This remarkable exhibition, created by the Smoky Hill Museum in Salina, Kansas, explores why pioneers chose central Kansas as their home. With limited land-owning opportunities in the East, many pioneers looked westward for land, adventure, or a fresh start. While different factors drew settlers west, thousands ultimately chose to stake their claim in Central Kansas. The exhibition features firsthand accounts, including diary entries and newspaper articles, providing insight into their decisions. A Place to Call Home will be on view in the Hansen Museum gallery through June 17.

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 fully 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 welcoming you to the Museum!



Pam Jakoplic of Logan focuses intently as she needle felts the foreground of her landscape piece during Marsha Jensen’s Needle Felting Class at the Hansen Museum, adding texture and depth to her creation.. (courtesy photo)



Pat Van Dolah (Garden City) carefully adds the night sky to her needle-felted landscape during a class at the Hansen Museum, creating a stunning backdrop for her artwork. (courtesy photo)

## Popular Walk Kansas program nears 25th year

By Pat Melgares, K-State Research and Extension news service

In the midst of thousands of Kansans rallying around a challenge to walk or roll a distance equivalent to the length of the state, Sharolyn Jackson believes one goal should always be kept in mind.

Jackson is also coordinator of the popular Walk Kansas program, which turns 25 this year. “Fun,” she says, has been a cornerstone of the health and fitness program since its beginning more than a quarter-century ago.

“The best physical activity is one you will actually do. There are so many spillover effects from physical activity that include being more productive at work, being more satisfied in your life, improving your mood and improving your outlook on life,” Jackson said.

Walk Kansas is a team-based challenge that encourages people to walk, jog, run, roll, bike, swim or do whatever they enjoy doing to live more healthfully. The program routinely draws more than 5,000 participants.

Online registration for the 2025 Walk Kansas program opens on March 4. Each team must assign a captain, in addition to a team name. The cost per team member is \$10, which must be paid at the time the captain registers the team.

Each team of friends, family members or others is made of six members who set a goal to engage in moderate exercise for a minimum 150 minutes per week, for eight weeks. Each team members’ exercise minutes translate to miles and the team’s total over eight weeks is roughly equivalent to 423 miles, or the distance across Kansas – east to west.

If team members decide they want to do more, they can sign up for various challenges outlined on the Walk Kansas website.

If you don’t have a team, or just prefer to take on the challenge yourself, there is a solo participant option. You do not need to live in Kansas to be on a team or to do the solo challenge.

“The minimum guideline for health is 150 minutes per week at moderate intensity (set by the

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), or you can go at a more vigorous pace and get the same benefit with less time,” Jackson said. “It’s up to each team and team member as to how they want to structure their exercise, and we’ll explore a lot of the benefits, how-to’s and more in our weekly newsletter and webinars.”

Walk Kansas began on a local level more than 25 years ago, then grew to a statewide program in 2001, according to Jackson. It remains an eight-week program, which she notes, “is long enough to help people get into a routine.”

“There is varying research about how long it takes to form a habit, but eight weeks is a pretty solid timeframe,” she said. “It’s long enough to have developed a routine and it’s something that if you stop, you feel like you’re missing something.”

The online reporting system will again help participants track their fruit, vegetable and water consumption, in addition to daily exercise minutes. Jackson said the program

will also highlight prevention and maintenance of diabetes and other chronic conditions, and there will be information on walking, biking and driving safety, in partnership with the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office.

“Walk Kansas aims to help you make improvements in your lifestyle habits, and to surround yourself with supportive people,” Jackson said. “It really helps to empower you to make good decisions about your health in terms of healthcare and monitoring and just staying on top of your health.”

More information about Walk Kansas also is available by emailing Karen Shepard at [kshepard@ksu.edu](mailto:kshepard@ksu.edu) or calling 785-421-3411.

## NEWSLETTER - SENATOR RICK BILLINGER

In the past several years the legislature has focused on adding additional funding to our water agencies. Over 270 communities applied for the 2024 funding period, requesting a total of \$237 million. Thirty-nine technical assistance grants and 24 water projects grants were awarded to 70 communities and special districts related to water. A total of \$26,287,103 was awarded for Technical Assistance Grant Funds, Water Project Grant Funds and Loan Assistance. The communities awarded funding in the 40th Senate District and Western Kansas in this round of grants; Technical Assistance Grants: Wallace, Ellis, Bunker Hill, Norcatur, Quinter-Loan Assistance Grants; Liebenthal, Gorham, Hill City, Gove, Plainville, Ellis County-Water Projects: Palco, Collyer.

Additional bills passed by the Senate which have been sent to the House include: Greeley County contacted the Kansas Attorney General after local voters passed a bond proposal for specified improvements for Tribune school district USD200. The county did not meet compliance verification, and the Attorney General refused to approve the funds. SB2 will remedy the situation and will allow Greeley County to proceed with their improvements.

SB64 would amend Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) statutes. The bill would extend the timeline for a KPERS member to request an administrative hearing to appeal a decision made by the KPERS Board of Trustees without a hearing. The bill would also update KPERS statutes to align with federal Internal Revenue Code regulations relating to the applicable age for required minimum distribution of pension benefits, recalculation of life expectancy for determining benefits distributions from a defined contribution or deferred contribution plan, and the addition of a SIMPLE IRA that meets specific rollover requirements to the list of eligible retirement plans. Last year KPERS return on investments returned \$1.6B.

SB126 would enact the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact. The Compact’s would facilitate the interstate practice of physician assistants (PAs) with the goal of improving public access to medical services and achieve several objectives that reduce administrative burden while increasing availability of licensed PAs as well as cooperation among member state licensing bodies.

I am honored and grateful to represent the 40th Senate District in Kansas. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email: [rick.billinger@senate.ks.gov](mailto:rick.billinger@senate.ks.gov) or call me with your questions or concerns. My office number is 785 296-7399 or my cell number is 785 899-4700. If you are in Topeka, stop by my office at 545-S.

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### Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, February 26, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS  
PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of  
ELLA ROSE ZERR, Deceased

Case No: GH-2024-PR-000028

#### NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said court by Karen M. Berland and Lisa M. Hammersley, co-executors of the estate of Ella Rose Zerr, deceased, praying for a final settlement of said estate, approval of the acts, proceedings and accounts of the executors, allowance for the services of the executors and attorney’s fees and expenses; and also praying that the court determine the heirs entitled to the estate and the proportion or part thereof to which each is entitled, and distribute and assign the same to them in accordance with the provisions of decedent’s will; that the administration of the estate be closed; that the executors be discharged and released from further liability.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before **the 26th of March 2025, at 9:30 a.m.** of said day, in said court, in the city of Hill City, Graham County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard.

/s/ Karen M. Berland  
Karen M. Berland, Co-Executor

/s/ Lisa A. Hammersley  
Lisa A. Hammersley, Co-Executor

/S/ Steven W. Hirsch  
Steven W. Hirsch #12789  
HIRSCH & ABBOTT LAW OFFICE  
104 So Penn, PO Box 296  
Oberlin, KS 67749  
PH: 785-475-2296  
Attorney for Estate

## Dairy Marketing Workshop March 27-28

The Colby Community College Division of Agriculture will host a dairy marketing workshop on March 27 and 28 at the Lon R. Frahm Agricultural Center, Room 631, on the college campus.

The two-day event will cover key topics related to the dairy industry, including market updates, pricing strategies, and regulatory frameworks. Registration is \$100.

The workshop begins on March 27 at 1 p.m. with a welcome session and an overview of the dairy industry. Other sessions include updates from market administrators, discussions on animal care, and an evening tour and dinner at McCarty Dairy in Rexford.

Friday’s agenda features discussions on classified pricing, federal order systems, and dairy accounting. Attendees will also have opportunities to network and enjoy a catered lunch. The event concludes at 3:30 p.m. with a wrap-up and Q&A session.

Online registration is open. For more information, contact Chris Appleby at [christopher.appleby@colbycc.edu](mailto:christopher.appleby@colbycc.edu) or (785) 460-5461.

*Have a great week!*