

Insight - Kansas Farm Bureau (opinion)
The legacy of round barns

Greg Doering
Kansas Farm Bureau

The ubiquitous image of a farm includes a red barn, which historically took that shade because iron oxide, or rust, was added to the linseed oil to prevent mold and fungus. It also added the red hue that became synonymous with barns. Despite a wide variety of pigments to choose from today, tradition still means there's plenty of red barns across the countryside.

Aside from color, a barn also conjures up specific shapes. A sturdy, square structure with a gable or gambrel roofline. That's what the barn on my grandparents' ranch looked like growing up. It wasn't red because it was built during World War II and a lack of material meant the plentiful limestone rock was used for the walls.

Inside there was an alleyway down the middle lined with stalls on either side with a grainery in one corner. Hay storage was on the second floor with cutouts above the stalls below for feeding. Aside from housing horses or the occasional bottle calf, the barn became outdated shortly after it was completed. A low ceiling on the first floor meant nothing larger than the Ford 8N tractor could fit inside.

For a brief period in the early 20th century, a subset of barns were not traditional in any sense, rather they were round or nearly so. The technical term for these structures is nonorthogonal, which is fancy for not orthogonal. That's fancy for lack of perpendicularity.

Fewer than 1,400 round barns are estimated to have been built around the turn of the last century, mostly in the Midwest. George Washington has a 16-sided structure on his Mount Vernon estate, but it was New Yorker Elliot W. Stewart's octagonal barn built in 1874 that really started the wheels turning on round barns.

Stewart touted the structure's geometric advantages relating to cost of construction since a cylinder's exterior surface allows for a larger interior volume than a rectangle.

According to an article from University of Kansas geography professor James R. Shortridge, Stewart's ideas spread westward and reached Kansas in the early 1880s when two octagonal barns were built in Shawnee County. The next record of a nonorthogonal barn was a 12-sided structure

See 'Insight' page 7

HANSEN MUSEUM NEWS BY SHARI BUSS

The Hansen Museum continues to buzz with creativity and community spirit, offering an exciting lineup of classes, exhibitions, and cultural events that keep the spirit of art alive in northwest Kansas. The latest happenings brought together makers and art enthusiasts for a joyful, hands-on experience that was as inspiring as it was fun.

On Saturday, April 13, the Museum hosted a lively Fabric Wrapped Rope Basket Class led by the talented Monica Sellens. The classroom brimmed with laughter, color, and creativity as participants transformed humble materials—scrap fabric, clothesline rope, glue, and a zigzag stitch—into charming, functional baskets.

Monica's upbeat and engaging teaching style made the workshop a standout event. Her step-by-step guidance, encouragement, and artistic flair helped attendees dive into the process with confidence and creativity. The end results? Beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces that reflected the personality and style of each maker.

"Monica really made it easy and fun," one participant shared. "I

never thought I could make something like this, but now I want to make more!"

The Museum extends its sincere thanks to Monica Sellens for sharing her talents, and to all the wonderful participants who brought their great energy to the day. Events like this are at the heart of the Hansen Museum's mission—to foster artistic expression and build community through shared creative experiences.

Next up on the calendar are the Magic of Painting classes with certified Bob Ross instructor Hope Blakely, scheduled for Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27. Each day, participants will learn the signature "wet-on-wet" oil painting technique made famous by Bob Ross and leave with a finished painting ready to frame. Whether you're an experienced painter or picking up a brush for the first time, this class offers a wonderful opportunity to tap into your inner artist and enjoy the soothing joy of painting. To register, call 785-689-4846 or sign up online at hansenmuseum.org/schedule-of-classes.

In addition to hands-on classes, the

Museum is currently featuring the engaging exhibition A Place to Call Home, which is drawing visitors of all ages. This thoughtfully curated exhibit explores why pioneers traveling westward in the 19th century chose to settle in central Kansas between 1850 and 1900. With rich storytelling and historical context, it offers a compelling look at the hopes, hardships, and decisions that helped shape the heartland. It's a must-see for history lovers and curious minds alike.

Stay tuned to the Hansen Museum's calendar for more exciting classes, exhibitions, and cultural opportunities in the coming weeks—creativity is always in season here!

The Hansen 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. 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 call 785-689-4846. We hope to see you at the Museum soon!



A Journey Through Time—Suzi Taylor of Fontanelle, NE, and friend Cara Veh Hubbard of McPherson, KS, explore the Hansen Museum's current exhibition A Place to Call Home. (courtesy photo)



Creative Energy Blooms at the Hansen Museum—Instructor Monica Sellens guides participants through the first steps of creating a fabric-wrapped rope basket at the Hansen Museum on April 13. (courtesy photo)

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, April 9, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRAHAM COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Allen J. Worcester, Deceased CASE NO. 2025-PR-000008

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on April 2, 2025, a Petition was filed in this Court by Amy Karst, an heir, devisee and legatee, and Co-Executor named in the "Last Will and Testament of Allen J. Worcester," deceased, dated March 29, 2021, requesting that the instrument attached thereto be admitted to probate and record as the Last Will and Testament of the decedent; Letters Testamentary under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act be issued to Executor to serve without bond.

You are further advised under the provisions of the Kansas Simplified Estates Act the Court need not supervise administration of the Estate, and no notice of any action of the Executor or other proceedings in the administration will be given, except for notice of final settlement of decedent's estate.

You are further advised if written objections to simplified administration are filed with the Court, the Court may order that supervised administration ensue.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before May 8, 2025 at 9:30 am in the District Court, in Hill City, Graham County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the later of four months from the date of the first publication of this notice, as provided by law, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Amy Karst
Petitioner

SUBMITTED BY:

Jill A. Elliott #21719
Elliott Law Office, PA
301 N. Pomeroy Ave.
P.O. Box 128
Hill City, Kansas 67642
(785) 421-2288: Telephone
jillelliottlaw@gmail.com
Attorney for Petitioner

Legal Notice

(First Published in The Hill City Times on Wednesday, April 16, 2025)

Quarterly Claims Report

	BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	RECEIPTS & TRANSFERS	TRANSFERS & DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING CASH BALANCE
STATE FUNDS	0	62,059.26	62,059.26	0
COUNTY BUDGETED FUNDS	5,422,276.93	4,326,519.33	2,489,669.24	7,259,127.02
NON-BUDGETED FUNDS	2,584,402.75	307,617.76	147,669.25	2,744,351.26
TAX FUNDS	41,838.22	17,654.02	800	58,692.24
TAX HOLDING FUNDS	2,815,319.34	4,226,973.61	6,776,419.92	265,873.03
CITY FUNDS	0	419,172.76	419,172.76	0
TOWNSHIP FUNDS	0	49,171.77	49,171.77	0
FIRE DISTRICT	84,683.28	103,345.32	34,181.18	153,847.42
SCHOOL FUNDS	69.64	2,325,320.76	2,325,320.76	69.64
CEMETARY FUNDS	0	5,876.02	5,876.02	0
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FUNDS	15,076.11	11,593.74	11,593.74	15,076.11
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	10,963,666.27	11,855,304.35	12,321,933.9	10,497,036.72

WOW.....the wheat around northcentral Kansas is looking pretty good considering our growing conditions. Some places have been fortunate to receive the needed moisture at the right time, while others still continue to have limited moisture and the wheat is showing some concerning conditions.

So, if your wheat fields are turning yellow, just wait some of the causes?

Cold weather injury at the tillering stage. A sudden drop in temperatures after the wheat has greened up, but before it reaches the jointing stage, will burn back the top-growth, often giving the field a yellowish cast but not necessarily reducing yield potential. This injury is likely cosmetic, provided the growing point is still healthy. I have dug up wheat around northcentral Kansas and split the stems to find the developing head and haven't found any damage

yet. Variety release from winter dormancy can also affect the extent of the symptoms, as early varieties would have been less cold-hardy and thus likely sustain more injury.

According to our Mesonet Weather Data Library stations in Jewell, Mitchell and Osborne and Smith counties, the average minimum temperatures ranged from 19°F to 28°F from April 6-7, 2025. So, depending on your wheat growth stage, there could have been some damage.

A disease that can also start showing up is the Wheat streak mosaic complex. This viral disease is vectored by the wheat curl mite. Yellow areas in the field will appear in the spring around the jointing stages of growth; usually on field edges adjacent to volunteer wheat either last fall or this spring. If you remember, we had many fields last year that were infected with this virus primarily because of the uncontrolled volunteer wheat. Leaves will have a mosaic of yellow streaks, stripes, or mottling. Plants infected with wheat streak mosaic are often smaller than healthy plants. There are two additional viruses, Triticum mosaic virus and High plains mosaic virus, that also result in similar symptoms.

Drought conditions can also be showing a yellowing of the lowering leaves which is just mother nature's way of survivability of the plant. Some areas may also be showing these conditions.

What about fertility concerns in the wheat crop? Nitrogen deficiency could also be a problem out in the wheat. As the crop starts to grow in the spring, its nitrogen (N) demand increases and it is common to see N deficiency, especially while the temperatures are lower and not much N is mineralized from the soil organic matter. Nitrogen deficiency causes an overall yellowing of the plant, with the lower leaves yellowing and dying from the leaf tips inward. Nitrogen deficiency also results in reduced tillering, top growth, and root growth. The primary causes of N deficiency are limited root growth to uptake nutrients, insufficient fertilizer rates, application problems, applying the nitrogen too late, and the presence of heavy amounts of crop residue, which immobilizes nitrogen.

Similar to nitrogen, the crop's sulfur requirement increases in the spring as it takes off on reproductive growth. Due to a decrease in sulfur deposition in the

rainfall, there has been an increasing number of fields with sulfur deficiency symptoms in Kansas in recent years. Sulfur deficiency can also occur where soils are cold in the spring due to a reduced rate of release of sulfur from organic matter. The symptoms of sulfur deficiency are very similar to nitrogen deficiency. However, sulfur deficiency differs from N deficiency in that the whole plant is pale, with a greater degree of chlorosis (yellowing of plant tissue) in the younger/upper leaves.

Please contact me if you have any questions on your wheat crop and I would be glad to visit with you and come and take a look at your wheat fields.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Sandra may be contacted at swick@ksu.edu or by calling Smith Center, 282-6823, Beloit 738-3597, Lincoln 524-4432, Mankato 378-3174, or Osborne 346-2521. Join us on Facebook at "Post Rock Extension" along with our "Ag News Roundup" every Friday. Also remember our website is www.postrock.ksu.edu and my twitter account is @PRDcrops.

ADVERTISE WITH THE HILL CITY TIMES!

EMAIL THEHILLCITYTIMES@GMAIL.COM

OR CALL 785-524-4200

Kansas Press Association, Inc.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Single Copy.....\$1.00
Combo Print/Digital.....\$65.00
Digital Only.....\$30.00
(tax is included in all prices)
Periodicals Postage Paid at Hill City, KS 67642

THE HILL CITY TIMES
TO SUBMIT NEWS: The Hill City Times welcomes news and will print it as it fits our guidelines. The best way to submit news is to e-mail it to thehillcitytimes@gmail.com.
TO ADVERTISE: The Hill City Times offers retail and classified advertising. We can build an ad campaign to fit your budget and reach our loyal readership. Please email thehillcitytimes@gmail.com, call the Hill City office, 785-524-4200, for your advertising needs.
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Questions and updates regarding subscriptions should be sent to thehillcitytimes@gmail.com
ADVERTISING AND NEWS DEADLINE - FRIDAYS AT NOON

POSTMASTER
Send change of address to:
The Hill City Times
110 N Pomeroy, Hill City, KS 67642

JLS GROUP LLC
- THE HILL CITY TIMES -
Dale Worley - Owner - JLS Group
LAUREN HOUCHEMS
PUBLISHER
PAGINATION
ALLIE PITTMAN
COPY EDITOR
OFFICE MANAGER
BRANDY SENSMEIER
SUBSCRIPTIONS
ANNA KRISTEK
GRAPHIC DESIGN
KESSID CAVANAUGH
ADMIN