

Art event on Feb. 18 in Toledo

BY RICK BEASLEY *Of the News-Times*

TOLEDO Innovative artist Sal Strom will orchestrate a free art project marking U.S. Highway 20, the nation's longest interstate road, on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Toledo Public Library.

The creative event is part of a series of public art sessions to underscore "human connections" along the 3,365-mile highway. Using elements such as dyed cheesecloth, colored safety pins and books written by local authors, Strom said the event will symbolically link people and their Hwy. 20 communities through art. The Toledo Library is one of 16 libraries in 12 states from Massachusetts to Oregon hosting Strom's art imaginative art project, which honors her mother, the late restaurateur Gracie Strom of Depoe Bay.

"The goal is to have fun, laugh and remember that our connections through art and play make us stronger as a group," said Strom, who earned her master's degree in art in Boston and launched her art career in Newport, bookend cities of Highway 20.

Strom promises fun for all comers.

"This always gets everyone laughing," she said of the project. "I'm a strong believer in the healing effects of laughter."