

Artist gets to start project

PAINTING, from Page 1

down the work. "We wanted to get the grant money spent before winter got here or it might have been too late," she said.

But, she said, it looks like there should be no problems in spending the money now.

The association, which aims to bring both art and business to Sherman County, joins businessmen with farmers and ranchers.

The group has worked to bring Cross here, and get the grants and donations for the project.

The artist will be here for five or six weeks, Golden said, to complete the painting, and then he will return when it has been mounted to fill in the seams and paint the cracks.

Once the painting is completed, it will be erected at the old wye on Business U.S. 24, Cross said when he visited Goodland during the last week in August, so that it can be seen when people drive by on I-70.

The first step when Cross gets here will be to set up the panels in the large building at the Sherman County Fairgrounds, said Golden, and start by sanding and priming the canvases.

Then the artist can get started on the painting.

The big shuffle



First and second grade students at West Elementary School in Goodland headed for shuttle buses after school was dismissed on Tuesday afternoon. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Kansans vote with Senate to usher in U.S.-China relations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Moments after the Senate voted for the landmark China trade bill, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., cautioned, "The job has only begun."

The Senate approved a measure to permanently normalize trade with China, sending it to President Clinton on Tuesday on a vote of 83 to 15. Roberts and Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., were among the supporters.

"Now is when the appropriate members in Congress roll up their sleeves and make sure the Chinese really fulfill their obligations; this is very difficult, hard-slogging work," said Roberts, an Agriculture Committee member and longtime supporter of expanding trade with China.

"You're not going to get on Page One with this," the former newspaperman added.

Along with an end to the annual de-

bate over trade relations with the communist nation, the legislation calls for the creation of a human rights monitoring commission and sets up a "surge" mechanism to help American industries and workers hurt by an increase in imports from China.

The provision helped offset critics who don't want to give up trade as a policy tool for forcing China toward more responsible behavior.

Backed by farm and business interests, supporters prevailed with the argument that China must be brought into the international community.

"We're far better off being aggressively engaged than in trying to be punitive or isolate China," Brownback said. "I've seen evidence of that in my travels to China. Each time, the place has opened up that much more."

Over the past 15 years, Brownback

has visited the world's most populous nation three times, most recently when he and his wife, Mary, adopted a Chinese daughter in 1995.

But he cautioned that openness isn't everywhere. As a Foreign Relations Committee member, Brownback met with Tibetan refugees during a visit to Nepal last January, noting that "They certainly hadn't seen much of this liberty."

To Roberts and Brownback, the benefits are the meat and potatoes of the economy in Kansas, where Roberts noted that one-fifth of jobs depend on trade.

China's tariffs on U.S.-made manufactured goods would fall from an overall average of 25 percent to 9 percent by 2005. Agriculture exports alone could grow by some \$2 billion a year, helping reduce China's current \$68 billion trade surplus with the

United States.

On beef, tariffs would fall from 45 percent to an estimated 12 percent, which Brownback said "is like taking 33 cents right off the sticker price per dollar's worth of beef."

Leading the lobbying effort on behalf of the measure were such Kansas-linked businesses as Boeing Co., whose Wichita plant builds commercial airplanes — portions of every Boeing jetliner and the entire fuselage of the 737.

China, the company's biggest market outside the United States, will purchase about \$120 billion worth of airplanes over the next two decades, according to Boeing.

Kansas-based companies including Sprint Corp., Payless Shoe Source, Black and Veatch, and Farmland Industries Inc., make millions of dollars each year in China.

Judge rules Kansas subject to federal oversight on lawsuit

WICHITA (AP) — A lawsuit claiming the Kansas school finance law denies minority and disabled students their fair share of funds belongs in federal court because school districts accept federal education money, a federal judge has ruled.

U.S. District Judge Monti Belot refused to dismiss the lawsuit brought by mid-size school districts, clearing the way for the lawsuit to proceed in federal court. A similar lawsuit is also working its way through state courts.

The ruling, issued last week but not made public until Tuesday, did not address whether the school funding formula itself was discriminatory. It turned aside the technical arguments

for dismissing the case.

"It is a victory for all those kids in mid-size and large districts that don't have the same educational opportunities that the suburban crowd has," Alan Rupe, attorney for the school districts that filed suit, said Tuesday.

Dan Biles, attorney for the State Board of Education, said Tuesday that the judge ruled against the state, but there is little legal precedent for such cases at the federal level.

"It is a fairly new area of school finance litigation to try to bring these areas to federal court," Biles said. "It's an area of the law that courts are in disagreement on."

The lawsuit was filed in May by the

Salina and Dodge City school districts and is supported by 12 others: Arkansas City, Augusta, Derby, El Dorado,

Emporia, Fort Scott, Great Bend, Hays, Independence, Leavenworth, Newton and Winfield.

Bountiful crops harvested

DODGE CITY (AP) — In spite of drought conditions in some areas, Kansas farmers are still harvesting bountiful fall crops, as growing grain piles rise beside overstuffed grain elevators across the countryside.

Operators of Kansas elevators say there is little room for the milo and soybeans now being cut because they are full of unsold wheat and a good fall crop of corn.

Space is so tight that state-licensed

grain elevators have asked permission to dump 18.6 million bushels of crops on the ground and want to put another 2.4 million bushels in odd storage spaces like bunkers.

Meanwhile, federally licensed elevators in the state have asked permission to store 12 million bushels on the ground.

If realized, that would amount to 33 million bushels dumped across Kansas.

County will hire new administrator to oversee day-to-day activities

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all departments and make recommendations with the department heads for employment.

- Coordinate the work and supervise the departments, agencies, districts and any other operation funded or under direct control of the commissioners.

- Hold regular meetings with the department heads, and annually coordinate and present the budget for all units of the county.

- Monitors spending for all departments, and control and be responsible for all county property.

- Acts as purchasing agenda for the county and approve all purchases of the departments.

- Prepare the annual capital improvement and equipment replacement plans.

- Prepare plans, policy statements, manuals, contracts and other documents for approval by the commissioners.

- Prepare an annual administrator's budget message.

- Write grant applications to get money for county programs.

- Serve as a liaison between the commissioners and other agencies.

- Perform all other duties delegated by the commissioners.

Proposed qualifications for the position include a degree in public administration or related discipline, plus at least five years' experience in administrative positions. The applicant must have experience in budgeting, personnel management and supervision of departments, and should be familiar with economic development and able to work with intergovernment partnerships.

Skills expected include excellent communication, writing and verbal skills. Applicant must be able to interpret trends to develop and manage the budget, and provide direction to professional staff and elected officials. The administrator will be expected to take a leadership role and emphasize a team concept. He or she should be able to use a personal computer, work with spreadsheets and word processing.

Commissioner Kenny Davis said today in a phone interview that the new position, secretary and remodeling of an office should cost about \$85,000 a year.

"I believe Randy Allen said we could probably find a qualified person with a salary range of about \$50,000," Davis said. "We will negotiate the details and salary with the

final candidate, but that is our starting point."

A decision on the resolution and job description may be approved at the commission meeting Friday, Sept. 29, or possibly delayed until Monday, Oct. 2, in conjunction with the annual budget hearing.

In other business Tuesday, commissioners:

- Approved raising the county mileage rate to 32.5¢ per mile to match the state rate, which increased in July.

- Held a closed session on a personnel matter, and after the session Commissioner Kevin Rasure made a motion to approve a 4 percent raise for a new employee in the Communications Department. Frankenfeld said the employee had been evaluated after six months on the job.

- Discussed the need for special equipment for county employee Irma Benavides to be able to work full time. Benavides said she had surgery several months ago, but has not been able to return to work full time because of pain in her neck. She said she had applied to the vocational rehabilitation program for assistance in purchasing equipment to help her return to the job full time.

Judy Dankenbring, the rehabilitation counselor for northwest Kansas, said her office has received the application and done a preliminary interview.

She told the commissioners the process could take 60 days, and asked if the county might be able to help provide the equipment.

Benavides is seeking a headset for the phone, a drafting table to lift the work so she doesn't have to bend down and also a voice activation program for handling computer work.

Frankenfeld said he would like to have County Attorney Bonnie Selby discuss the details, and Rasure said he would like to have some additional information on the equipment and estimates of costs.

The matter will be put on the next agenda.

- The commissioners approved Terry Ballard's recommendation to hire Janice Calkins as the new assistant in the appraiser's office.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting will be 8 a.m. Friday, Sept. 29, and the commissioners will hold their budget hearing and the first meeting of October at 8 a.m. Monday, Oct. 2, in the commission room on the main floor of the county courthouse, Eighth Street and Broadway.

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Priced in the \$90's: 301 Willow, 804 E. 15th

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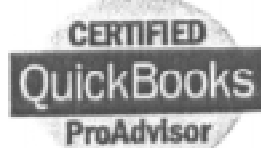
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Workshop Schedule		
October 2, 2000	Library Mtg. Room 515 Broadway Tribune, Kan.	6:30 PM-9:00 PM (MT) Registration Required By: September 25, 2000
October 4, 2000	Howard Johnson Hotel I-70 & Hwy. 27 Goodland, Kan.	6:30 PM-9:00 PM (MT) Registration Required By: September 27, 2000
October 9, 2000	Ramada Inn 1950 S. Range Colby, Kan.	6:30 PM-9:00 PM (CT) Registration Required By: October 2, 2000
October 10, 2000	NW Ks. Educational Service Center 703 W. 2nd Oakley, Kan.	6:30 PM-9:00 PM (CT) Registration Required By: October 3, 2000

Registration

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