

Flowers come together

PAINTING, from Page 1

rectly in the cold.
As temperatures rose this weekend, the artist went to work. With help from Ron Harding, Chamber of Commerce executive director and treasurer of Sunflowers USA, he had most of the fiberglass work done by Sunday afternoon.
Harding, who let Cross stay in a rental behind his home, described the nearly finished painting as "awesome" and "overwhelming."
"As it grew," he said, "it just became more and more spectacular everyday."
Harding said he liked how Cross used fiberglass mounds to create texture and give the painting a three-dimensional appearance. He hasn't been the only one keeping his eye on progress.

Many of the state's larger newspapers have followed the project for a year, reporting on the artist's vision, his problems securing a work visa and the two-month painting process. Curiosity lured people from Goodland, along with those from other cities and state, to the fairgrounds. Cross said he had visitors every day.

Ray and Irma Chubbuck of Goodland drove up while Cross and Harding were working this weekend. They took a ride in the cherry picker bucket the artist uses to view his work from above and oohed and aahed over the colorful creation.

"I think it's gorgeous," said Mrs. Chubbuck. "I'm excited about seeing it up."

But will it fit into this farming community?

"A lot of people here are interested in art and history," she said. "Besides, this is the Sunflower Capital."

As for Cross, he says it's his best work yet.

"I think it turned out fantastic," he said, noting that he spent 50 more hours reproducing this painting than others he's finished.

Cross said the painting — a replica of the first in Van Gogh's series — is



Cameron Cross put the finishing touches on his Van Gogh replica before it was moved out to Farris Manufacturing.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

more complex than the later sunflowers because of its unique brush strokes and colors, which were difficult to reproduce.

"I wanted to make it look exact," he said, "to replicate each brush stroke as it was."

A brush stroke measuring 1/8 of an inch on the painting, Cross said, translates to 2 feet on his replica. He said this painting's color scheme is diverse, with shades of green, blue and red.

"The other paintings are basically just variations of yellow," he said. "This one is unique unto itself."

Cross is confident in his work now, but he said the feeling comes and goes. Some nights, he said, he remembers that he is thousands of miles from family and friends, doesn't have a job or regular income and doesn't have another gig lined up yet.

Cross said he's still in contract negotiations with a group that wants one of his paintings in South Africa and plans to make a presentation in Amsterdam, but nothing is sure.

Even in Goodland, where the project is nearly complete, the city commission this week put off approving a lease on land at the painting site, with members saying they didn't want the city to become responsible for maintenance.

Marcia Golden, vice-president of

Sunflowers USA, said though she's confident members will eventually grant the lease, she's not sure why the commission is hesitating.

"I'm a little puzzled about why it's not being received with open arms," she said.

Cross said such things shake him a bit, but he gets over it.

"Ah, there are moments," he said, "but what can you do?"

There are moments when he misses his life as a art teacher, he added, but said he never considers going back.

"I was in the North Elementary School classroom (where students are doing a documentary of the project) the other day," he said, "and it brought back a lot of nice memories. But I taught for 8 1/2 years and right now, this is more of a challenge."

The painter said he wants to continue creating art for the rest of his life, and has plans for other projects once the sunflower series is finished.

"I have ideas for sculptures," he said, "more big works."

Right now, Cross, who has a girlfriend but is unmarried and childless, says, nothing is holding him back. He can go where he wants, do what he wants.

"It's not like I have a wife and 10 kids," he said.

about our friends

calendar

Free Matinee — In order to allow time for parents to shop for the upcoming holidays, free movies will be shown the next five weekends in Goodland. This weekend's matinee, **Galaxy Quest**, which is rated PG, will be shown at **1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday** at The Sherman Theatre. The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the movie.

Singles Group — The Thursday Night Together Christian singles group will have a birthday party at **6:30 p.m. Thursday** at Marie Edwards' hall. All singles are invited.

activities

TOPS Meeting — Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets at **5:30 p.m. Mondays** at North School. Weigh-in is at 5 p.m.

Aerobics Classes — Morning aerobics classes are available at **5:30 a.m.** with Tina Tompkins, and at **8 a.m.** with Marilyn Imel, **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** at the Goodland Activities Center. A senior aerobics class for those who desire a less strenuous workout will be at **8 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday** with Imel. For questions, call 899-7242.

Carnegie Arts Center — Artist Wilma Wethington will have over 30 paintings on display at the Carnegie Arts Center through **Saturday, Dec. 2**. One of these is a 7 foot 3 inch painting of Kelli McCarty, the first Kansan to be crowned "Miss USA." Wethington enjoys working in watercolor, pastel, oil and acrylic. Her favorite style is realism, which gives the viewer a sense of being able to step into her paintings. Sponsors of this exhibit are Robert and Irma Silkman. The arts center is open from **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday** and from **1-4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday**.

Water Testing — A representative of the Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group will be available for a free well evaluation including testing well water for bacteria and nitrates. If you would like to schedule an evaluation or have other environmen-

tal concerns, call the Sherman County Health Department at (785) 899-4888.

photos needed

Photos are needed for a 2001 alumni reunion display to be put up next year at the High Plains Museum in Goodland. Any photos of Goodland classes or individuals will work and are needed, as soon as possible, so that work can begin on the display. For questions, stop by the museum or call 899-4595.

society donations

The Sherman County Historical Society has received positive response to the proposed purchase of the Edythe Handy house. Your continued support is critical to the award of the grant request that is currently in progress. Tax-free pledges or donations for this year or 2001 may be made to the historical society at P.O. Box 684, Goodland, Kan. 67735 or by calling 899-6773.

support group

The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group of Burlington, Colo., would like to help. The group meets at **9:30 a.m. on the second Saturday** of each month. For questions or personal support, call Della Helzer at 899-2585.

volunteers needed

The Girl Scouts of Sunflower Council, which serves 16 counties in northwest Kansas, is seeking candidates in this region for its board of directors. Candidates should possess a willingness to provide leadership, a belief in the organization's mission and purpose, and a commitment to youth. Areas of expertise needed are educational, child developmental, financial, legal and others. If interested, contact the council at (785) 625-5671.

school menu

Monday — Nacho supreme, spanish rice, lettuce salad, grapes and milk.

Tuesday — Creamed turkey over biscuits, peas, apple salad and milk.

Wednesday — Soup, sandwich, relishes, cake and milk.

Thursday — Cooks' choice.

Friday — Cooks' choice.

hospital report

Goodland Regional Medical Center
Admitted: Wednesday, Ann Aguirre, Kanorado and Lavetta Orr, Goodland. **Thursday**, Patsy Arndt and Lydia Blue both of Goodland.

Dismissed: Wednesday, Robert Wickwar of Goodland. **Thursday**, Dedra Sawyer of Goodland.

Transferred: none.

Specialists for Monday: Dr. Parks and Dr. Sabar.

Hospital weekly volunteer schedule — **Monday** — Helen Hughes, courtesy; Mildred Laughlin, p.m. **Tuesday** — Martha Gunderson, courtesy; Beulah McClung, p.m. **Wednesday** — Irene Kehlbeck, courtesy; Mildred Laughlin, p.m. **Thursday** — Loretta Hayden, a.m.

patient update

Larry Bohl, Goodland, is still receiving medical treatment in Texas. Cards can be sent to: Larry Bohl, 220 N. Point Drive, Apt. 1604, Houston, Texas 77060.

today in history

In 1887, the previous county commissioners made it clear that they intended to remain in office until a legal decision was obtained, so the election was over, but not official.

From the Sherman County Historical Society calendar

animal shelter

Have you lost a pet? Call the Goodland Police Department at 899-4570.

Are you interested in adopting a pet? Call the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter at 899-6464.

area events

Tobacco Support Group — A tobacco quitters support group will meet from **7-8 p.m., Central Time, every Wednesday** in the cafeteria of Citizens' Medical Center in Colby. Anyone who wants to quit or has quit using tobacco is urged to attend. For information, call (785) 462-8152.

Charlie's Angels

(PG-13: Action violence; innuendo; some sensuality/nudity)

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