



Diann Ross of J-D Stonecutters spread glue on a rock to hold a stencil in place.
Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Stonecutters finds niche in market

STONE, from Page 1

grinds it smooth for them. Or if they have a lot of details in their design, then they would have to grind the stone smooth because they wouldn't be able to do the design in rough rock, he said.

Ross said she does the designs and the work that goes with that, while Bateman does the physical labor like lifting and moving stones, grinding and the majority of the sandblasting.

She draws the designs on paper, then glues the design to a rubber stencil. After gluing the stencil to the stone, she will cut away the parts to be sandblasted. The exposed area where there is no design is what gets sandblasted.

Ross said between the copier and the overhead projector, she can do just about any design. She said she finds photos from designs that have already been made or from a magazine.

A couple of the more difficult designs she has done include a homestead and a semi tractor-trailer rig, which she

drew from photos.

People can either have their design raised or indented, but the majority have their design indented.

Many of the stones stay in the area, she said, but some have gone to Texas, Arizona, Mississippi, Idaho, Washington, Utah and the Virgin Islands. She said the stones are all over in Colorado and several places in Kansas and Nebraska.

The first step after the rock is unloaded is to wash it, so there's no dirt. Then it has to dry for 24 hours. The stones are kept in a heated room at the funeral home. The design is made, then glued on and cut out. After that, the rock is sandblasted and a stain is put on. Then the rock gets washed again and any touch up that might be needed is done before the rock is ready to be picked up or delivered.

She said the rock has to be warm before they work with it is because it is fragile when it's cold. They try to

have people preview the designs before any sandblasting is done.

"That way there are no mistakes made," Ross said.

Each rock is personalized however a person wants it done, Ross said.

Ross said they buy their limestone from a man at Victoria. They can haul about 43 big pieces of rock with a flatbed truck and trailer.

It takes the pair about half a day to set the rocks in place, especially one that is on legs.

"John is a stickler about having things straight and level," Ross said, "but I'm glad he's that way."

She said as far as she knows, there are only two or three other people in this area that do the same type of work.

The pair have had shown their work at the Home and Garden Show, the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair and Nu Phi Mu Craft Fair in Goodland, along with the Rattlesnake Roundup and the Last Chance Craft Fair in Sharon Springs.

If you are interested in a stone, call the funeral home at (785) 899-6600 and ask for either John or Diann.

Officials say shooting rampage was started by money dispute

WAKEFIELD, Mass. (AP) — A software engineer accused of targeting seven co-workers at their Internet consulting company for methodical slaughter was denied bail Wednesday after pleading innocent to seven counts of murder.

Michael McDermott, 42, stood impassive as a prosecutor described how the shooter blasted through the offices of Edgewater Technology with 37 rounds from a semiautomatic rifle and several from a shotgun, striking co-workers in their heads and backs as they tried to flee.

"There was very little, if any, missed shots. Most of the wounds went through and through the bodies," said Tom O'Reilly, an assistant district attorney.

"One of (the victims) was underneath his desk. He had been shot numerous times. Another was a young lady slumped over her keyboard of her computer," O'Reilly said.

Some of the four women and three men killed worked in the accounting department, which was recently served with an order from the Internal Revenue Service to begin to garnish McDermott's wages. Last week, he had an angry outburst over the dispute, said one employee.

"Everything appears to be targeted at the individuals, rather than indiscriminate spraying of gunfire," said Middlesex County District Attorney Martha Coakley said Tuesday.

Edgewater had recently agreed to the IRS order but was going to wait until after the holidays to start taking out what McDermott owed in back taxes, plus interest, Coakley said. The amount owed was "a couple thousand" dollars, said a person familiar with the IRS order.

In a statement, the company said McDermott's actions "apparently stem from occurrences in his personal life."

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the goodland gazette

Well, it will be just a few days before 2001 for us all. One gift we all got at Christmas was the settling of the presidential mess. May his four years in the White House be less garbled than the past month and a half have been. May these years be what he thought they'd be and may God keep His hand over him as he works with the nation as a whole to make decisions that will effect us all.

Hope you all had a good Christmas and that it was one where family and friends who traveled got wherever they were heading and safely back home.

One family's Christmas that was a little low keyed is the one my kids, the McClungs, next door had with the burial of their beloved grandpa Mac on Dec. 18.

It was just plain miserable out at the cemetery for the final good-byes. Little Jonah told me at the grave that "his grandpa was died and those were his flowers." Believe me that brought the tears running at fast speed. That little boy has spent most of his three years with Mac and Nila Been and will miss "Grandpa" very, very much.

Believe it or not, I got my letter ready for mailing and did it on the evening of Dec. 18. My next chore will be to get the two packages sent off that I've put



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off doing, but why I don't know.

I will save this and get with the next job which is to remind Dr. Beynon's dental patients of their appointments on Dec. 19. More later as I've got some notes to work with.

Walter and Leta Rippe, former residents of Goodland when Walter was an instructor at the technical school, celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on Dec. 19. Happy anniversary wishes to them this holiday season. Another anniversary is that of Gennifer and Andy House on Dec. 31. Best wishes to them, also.

Several birthdays have been brought to my attention. They are Sally Farr on Dec. 25, Jaymes Caldwell on Dec. 28, Ray Fixsen's 80th birthday on Dec. 28, and Terry (Caldwell) Lucas on Dec. 29.

Florence Farris has a few items to share with you readers. She went shopping on Dec. 4 and had a visit with Barbara Caldwell.

She hosted the Dec. 14 meeting of

the Edson Social Club. There were nine members in attendance. As usual they had a good time visiting and exchanging gifts among themselves.

Florence's visitor on Dec. 15 was Doris Craft. The Gary Farris family visited her on Dec. 17. She has had numerous visits from her sons, Gary and Rick; grandsons, Patrick and J.J.; and granddaughter, Laramie. She wishes to extend holiday greetings to all of her friends. She was telling me how many cards she mails out. Boy, I got tired just hearing the number. Happy holidays, Florence.

I mentored on Monday, Dec. 18, and will be on vacation until Jan. 8. Hard to believe the school year is almost half over. I had to get this finished Thursday evening as I still had a few other things to do that night or they would not get done until after Christmas.

On that note, have a safe entrance into the new year. 'Till then, take care of all. Hope the weather wasn't as nasty as I've been told by the Goodland weather bureau that it could be starting Dec. 24 and 25.

I hope all had a good time and remember to have a safe start of 2001.

2000 harvest a disappointment

BUSINESS, from Page 1

Hog producers also have seen some "reasonable profits" this year, he said.

But the 2000 harvest was a disappointment for many farmers. Only corn did well before the late summer drought shriveled other fall crops. The state's soybeans and grain sorghum crops sustained heavy losses.

The latest government estimates put the Kansas soybean crop at 56.7 million bushels — 30 percent below last year's crop, Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service said. The sorghum harvest was down 32 percent at 176.7 million bushels.

About the only Kansas crop that seemed to hold its own this summer was corn, down just one percent at 416 million bushels.

More bushels of corn were still harvested in Kansas this year than wheat — but only because the earlier wheat crop did so poorly. Kansas wheat production totaled 347.8 million bushels, down 20 percent from a year ago.

Fall rains and winter snows so far have not replenished depleted moisture supplies, fueling concern from farmers about the wheat crop now in the ground and the prospects for next year's spring-planted crops.

Parts of north central Kansas are still in a drought, said State climatologist Mary Knapp.

In its last weekly report of the year, KASS reported on Nov. 26 that Kansas pasture conditions were 46 percent poor to very poor. Water levels in stock

ponds remained short, forcing producers to move their stock or haul in water for them, the agency said.

In the midst of an already dismal year, hundreds of northeast Kansas farmers were dealt another blow in September when the state's largest elevator co-op, Farmers Cooperative Association, filed for bankruptcy protection.

The cooperative, with 19 locations across northwest Kansas, listed debts of \$20 million — about half of it owed to a cooperative bank and much of it held by hundreds of unsecured farmers already been struggling with their own farms.

In the state's oil patch, sharply higher oil and gas prices this year have helped the industry rebound somewhat.

But years of fluctuating prices have taken their toll on that industry's infrastructure in Kansas.

In 1999, about six rigs in the state were drilling for oil or deepening existing wells, said Tim Carr, chief petroleum researcher for the Kansas

Geological Survey, and there were 25-30 rigs working in the state on any given week in 2000. That compares to 200 deep rigs working in Kansas in 1982.

"That is one of the measures of how the infrastructure has been decimated in the last 20 years," Carr said.

Kansas oil production was expected to reach 34.5 million barrels of oil — compared to 33.9 million barrels a year ago.

Even with the somewhat modest increase in production, higher energy prices have dramatically boosted the value of that industry in the state.

Carr estimated the state's oil and gas industries together will top \$2.8 billion dollars this year, compared to \$1.7 billion in 1999. That is more than the \$2.6 billion value placed on all the wheat and other crops grown in Kansas, he said.

"The biggest problem is if this cold weather keeps up, we are going to be short of natural gas come springtime," he said.

"Storage runs in cycles ... in March or April, we may be sucking dry."

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Allergy			
Dr. Rumblyrt	Jan. 18	8:30-2:00	
Anesthesiology			
Dr. Martin	Jan. 10	8:30-12:00	
	Jan. 24	8:30-2:00	
Audiology			
L. Young, MA, CFY-A	Jan. 10	8:30-12:00	
Cardiology			
Dr. Godfrey	Jan. 3	8:30-4:30	
	Jan. 18	2:00-4:30	
Ear/Nose/Throat			
Dr. Barron	Jan. 10	8:30-12:00	
Gastroenterology			
Dr. Jain	Jan. 4	8:30-4:00	
Dr. Jones	Jan. 18	8:45-4:00	
General Surgery			
Dr. Winter	Jan. 10	8:30-12:00	
Dr. Rogness	Jan. 24	8:30-2:00	
Neurology			
Dr. Mazowiecki	Jan. 17	9:00-4:00	
	Jan. 31	9:00-4:00	
Dr. Miller	Jan. 25	8:30-2:00	
OB/GYN			
Dr. McMillan	Jan. 11	8:30-12:00	
Dr. Womack	Jan. 24	8:30-2:00	
Oncology			
Dr. Rubinowitz	Jan. 9	12:30-5:00	
Orthopedic			
Dr. Oster	Jan. 8	8:30-12:00	
Dr. Leo/Bob Allen	Jan. 10	8:30-12:00	
Dr. Reiss	Jan. 18	1:00-4:30	
Dr. Wong	Jan. 24	8:30-2:00	
Pathologist			
monthly			
Podiatry			
Dr. Ouderkirk	Jan. 25	8:30-2:00	
Pulmonary Medicine			
Dr. Weisiger	Jan. 4	8:30-4:00	
	Jan. 11	8:30-4:00	
	Jan. 25	8:30-2:00	
Radiologist			
weekly			
Urology			
Dr. Abernathy	Jan. 10	8:30-12:00	
	Jan. 25	8:30-2:00	

ACTIVE MEDICAL STAFF

Dr. Wayne Hoppe	(719) 346-5301
Dr. David G. Younger	(719) 346-8926
Dr. Zach Pimentel	(719) 346-9481
Dr. James Perez	(719) 346-9481

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