

# Followers show support for painting

PAINTING, from Page 1

up job, using paint and a clear, fiberglass material to cover scratches, nicks and screws holding the fiberglass-and-wood “canvas” together.

Samantha Raymer, a sixth grader at North Elementary School, painted over an area on the replica’s right edge where a forklift accident tore off a small portion. Neufeld said the nick won’t be visible from the ground.

Marcia Golden, vice-president of Sunflowers U.S.A., said the group has liability and personal property insurance on the replica in case it’s damaged or it causes harm to anyone.

Raymer and a few of her friends were on the site to represent their class, which has spent the past year following the painting’s progress and learning about the sunflower industry that helps fuel Sherman County’s economy.

Golden said when Cross, a former high school art teacher, was in Goodland finishing the reproduction, he let the students do a little of the preliminary painting and video tape him working.

“I wish Cameron could be here,” she said.

Jo Simmons, office manager at the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, said the artist called from his home in Winnipeg, Manitoba, this morning to check on the progress.

At noon, there was still a ways to go, as organizers were waiting for the wind to die down before lifting the sculpture into the air.

Reporters and photographers from the *Hays Daily News*, *Wichita Eagle* and western Kansas television stations stood by recording the different phases, talking to Sunflowers U.S.A. members and waiting to see the sculpture mounted.

Golden said she might cry when the replica is finally placed. “This is a really thrilling day,” she said. “It’s going to be a real dream come true.”

Group members have run into more than a few delays since they started working to bring the painting here in 1999.

Work visa problems for Cross, cold weather and other delays have set back the project’s completion by months.

Aten said the sculpture, which is near where the city is building a new entrance to Goodland, is bound to attract thousands of people to Goodland every year.

Sunflower U.S.A. members say it should be around 89,000 annually.

“When it’s all done, it will be beautiful,” she said, “and it’ll put Goodland on the map.”

Cross has already erected two paintings in the series in Canada and Australia and plans to put the rest in Holland, Argentina, Japan and South Africa, in cities where sunflowers or Van Gogh are important.

Golden said Bankwest has volunteered to buy a 80- by- 140 foot piece of land south of the painting for a parking and viewing area.

Pete Whalen, president of Sunflowers U.S.A., said an exhibition hall will follow, where the history of the sunflower industry will be told and gifts and souvenirs will be sold.

Aten said someday the painting could attract people to live in Goodland.

“When they see what a great place Goodland is,” she said, “they might decide they want to live here.”

# Citizens want more development

ECONOMY, from Page 1

bringing a fertilizer plant to town and had put a sunflower plant in the abandoned sugar beet plant at Caruso.

Blume said they were working on two major projects, which included bringing another grocery and air service to Goodland.

City Manager Ron Pickman said he felt there was a misunderstanding about the fiscal year.

The city year runs as a regular calendar year, while the committee’s year runs from July 1 to June 30, and that the commission is only now starting the process for next year’s budget.

Marty Melia, owner of KLOE/KKCI/KWGB Radio, said Goodland had lost six or seven businesses in the last year and that the committee was trying to promote the community and recruit new businesses.

Donna Swager, co-owner of Pied Piper Video, said she and her family had been living in Goodland for six years after she had been away for

25 and felt that not much had happened.

She said she had been involved with economic development in other communities, and they were doing what this committee was trying to do, but on a bigger budget.

Hurd noted that in Thomas County, the city and county both gave \$100,000 for economic development.

Reports and accountability are a stumbling block, Billinger said.

Don Newell, sales manager at KBSL-TV in Goodland, said he loved what the city is doing to improve the community with the new water park and what was being done at the old wye at Cherry Street, but asked that the commissioners give the committee the means to work on drawing more businesses.

City Manager Ron Pickman said for the past five years, the commission has kept the property tax levy at the same place because people don’t want an increase.

John Garcia, co-owner of Garcia’s Home Furnishings, said he believed

that the commissioners were doing a “fantastic” job.

He said that was no guarantee that the Chamber group would be able to bring new businesses to Goodland, but asked for an opportunity for the committee to prove themselves.

“The venture that is before you is a worthy cause,” he said.

Barbara Aten, co-owner of Aten Department Store, said she was proud to be in Goodland and a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

“We just need some help to get some new businesses and move ahead,” she said.

Ron Harding, Chamber executive director, said economic development was shut down for a time and that there were only two quarters to report on.

“We’re not trying to hide anything,” West said. “We’re trying to promote our community.”

He said the committee would give the commission a report in September.

# Interstate travelers taken to jail

METH, from Page 1

icers searched the car, finding drugs, drug paraphernalia and a stolen gun. The three men were arrested and charged with a total of 19 felonies and five misdemeanors.

Court records say officers found equipment and ingredients used to make methamphetamine, such as hoses, salt, starting fluid, sulfuric acid, close to a half pound of pseudoephedrine tablets and anhydrous ammonia.

Sheriff Whitson said the KBI tested the chemicals, determining there was a meth lab in the car. A Garden City hazardous material team

removed and disposed of the chemicals.

Diehm was charged with possessing pseudoephedrine tablets, possessing anhydrous ammonia, possessing drug paraphernalia, possession of a narcotic drug, possession of a hallucinogenic drug with intent to sell, criminal possession of a firearm, no drug tax stamp, misdemeanor possession of a hallucinogenic drug, misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and sexual battery.

His preliminary hearing is scheduled for Monday at 10 a.m.

Danny Sammons, 30, Walnut, and Thomas Harrell, 30, Pittsburg, were charged with the same, except the

sexual battery, narcotic drug and misdemeanor hallucinogenic drug possession charges.

Harrell was charged with criminal possession of a firearm for the Ruger II .22-caliber handgun found next to the driver’s seat. Sammons was charged with misdemeanor possession of stolen property for knowing the gun had been stolen from a Chanute pawnshop.

Harrell’s preliminary hearing is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Friday, and Sammons’ is set for 1:30 p.m. on Monday.

All were given a \$75,000 bond, and Whitson said Sammons had been released on bond.

# Vehicle accidents still among top killers

TOPEKA (AP) — A small shrine near Lake Sherwood southwest of Topeka marks the spot where a traffic accident killed 15-year-old Kristi Leiker last year. It includes flowers, a cross and concrete marker.

In central Topeka, flowers remain wrapped around a bus stop sign. The garland honors 16-year-old Ashley Page, killed in a car-pedestrian accident in December 1999.

Those and other memorials to young-

sters killed in traffic crashes serve as reminders that, while school violence has grabbed national attention, traffic accidents still kill more children in Kansas.

Traffic accidents were the second leading cause of death for children in Kansas between 1994 and 1998, the most recent years for which data is available, according to the state Child Death Review Board.

The board reviews all child deaths in Kansas. Its statistics, which included

infant deaths, listed natural causes as the biggest reason.

About 55 percent of the children dying in Kansas in those years were less than a year old. Most of them died of natural causes or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, for which there is no known cause.

Traffic accidents killed 334 children. Carolyn Ward, the board’s executive director, said many of those deaths could have been prevented if the child had been properly restrained.

## GOLDEN WHEAT RANCH

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Thanks for the opportunity to complete the steel work, bolting & structural painting for the GIANT SUNFLOWER.



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(785) 899-2634

# WELCOME GIANT VAN GOGH SUNFLOWER



Gary Farris of Farris Manufacturing prepared structural work for the giant replica of a Van Gogh painting last week. The painting was expected to be erected later today near Cherry Street and Business U.S. 24.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

## NORTHWEST KANSAS ABSTRACT & TITLE CO., INC.

welcomes the giant Van Gogh sunflower to Sherman County.

Sharon K. Jensen  
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## Aten Department Store

is proud to have “the giant Sunflower painting” in our community!

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## John & Marcia Golden

thank the sunflower producers and all contributors who have made this painting possible. This project came to Goodland as a result of the successful production of sunflowers in Sherman County.