

Construction begins



Northwest Technical College carpentry students work on the latest building project for the school. Getting to work on an actual construction gives the college's students real world experience. The project is located across the street east from

the playground at Central Elementary School on Broadway Avenue.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Painter to visit, inspect

The Canadian painter of the reproduction of the VanGogh Three Sunflowers in a Vase hanging on The Big Easel will be in Goodland on Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 3 for a special program at the High Plains Museum.

Karen Anderson, museum curator and Michael Solomon, economic development director have been working with Canadian artist Cameron Cross for him to visit Goodland to inspect the VanGogh painting and help raise money to repair the painting and help raise money for an electronic kiosk at the VanGogh Park for visitors.

Cross will arrive on Thursday, Dec. 1, and hopes to inspect the VanGogh painting that afternoon. The city electrical department will put him in a lift to see what needs to be done to repair the painting.

Cross will spend all day on Friday working with Goodland High School art students on a small easel project. Cross has an idea for a small easel painting similar to those erected at Gulick Park and Steever Park.

Saturday Cross will be the speaker at a dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday to be held at the High Plains Museum. Cross will talk about The Big Easel Project, his travels and his life as an artist.

Goodland Girl Scout Brooke Lockhart, a junior at Goodland High School, will give a short presentation about her Gold Award project to establish an electronic kiosk at the VanGogh Park for visitors that would include a historic tour of Goodland.

Tickets for the dinner are \$25 and are available at the museum.

Symposium focuses on Kansas' future

By Annie Calovich

The Wichita Eagle

Has small-town Kansas outlived its role?

Are Kansans eating themselves to death?

Can we afford public education? Is the free market enough?

These are some of the questions that will be considered at a symposium wrapping up the Kansas Sesquicentennial by looking at the state's future.

The Kansas in Question Symposium will be Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 5 and Dec. 6 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita.

People in leadership positions from around Kansas are expected to attend, and anyone who cares about Kansas should participate, said Ted Ayres, vice president and general counsel at Wichita State University and one of the symposium planners.

The cost is \$50, and only 88 of the 300 spots in the symposium remained open as of late last week. The organizers and primary hosts for the event are The Wichita Eagle, the Kansas Health Foundation, the Kansas Leadership Center and Wichita State University.

"One thing that makes this unique is it's an opportunity for a broad cross section of Kansans to articulate a vision for the state," said Ed O'Malley, president of the Kansas Leadership Center. The center and the Kansas Health Foundation are among the sponsors of the symposium.

"Often we have an elected official or a key figure articulate the vision, but what's different about this is it's a cross section."

People who helped brainstorm earlier events for Kansas' 150th anniversary of statehood, including a parade and concert in October, decided that after "spending 12 months celebrating the past 150 years, wouldn't it be unique, wouldn't it be special if the concluding event would allow people, leaders who are invested and care about the state, to see what the next 150 years are going to look like?" Ayres said.

The result will be attendees breaking into groups to look at six areas: education, employment, the environment, health, rural Kansas and urban Kansas. Among the "provocative" questions and statements that will be posed to the groups:

- How can we create more than just McJobs?
- Is it time to go back to the one-room schoolhouse?
- Should teachers do more than teach?
- What if being a good place to raise a family isn't enough?
- Should small towns be allowed to die?
- Don't tell me how to lead my life — just pay my medical bills.
- On the environment, is Kansas a leader, a follower or a victim?
- Tornadoes, drought, floods and hail: Is the land trying to tell us something?

Because participants will be from

all parts of Kansas, they will get a new perspective on the situations people in different areas are facing, said Jon Rolph. He is the president of Sasnak Management, which owns Carlos O'Kelly's and Applebee's restaurants, and he will be the "conversation catalyst" leading the discussion on employment.

The other "conversation catalysts" will be Bob Moser, secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, on health; Angie Sutton, member relations director of Kansas Farm Bureau, on rural Kansas; Andy Tompkins, president and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, on education; Susan Kang, development director for the Dole Institute of Politics at the KU Endowment Association, on the environment; and Mark McCormick, director of communications for the Kansas Leadership Center, on urban Kansas.

Gov. Sam Brownback is expected to address the symposium, and James Chung, president of Reach Advisors, a strategy and research firm based in New York, will give a keynote address on Kansas demographics. Chung will examine Census data for what Kansas looks like now and for how it will look in the future, including how consumer demand and workforce dynamics will shift this decade and for how shifts in education will drive state

economics.

Attendees will get to be part of two 90-minute discussions — one in the morning and one in the afternoon on Dec. 6 — and will be asked to reflect on the future of Kansas with regard to its most crucial problems and opportunities and with regard to the public vs. the individual good, Ayres said.

When the groups come back together, summaries will be presented from each of the six areas of discussion, and then 30 minutes will be spent looking at where the discussion goes from there.

"We hope there's a lot of momentum and fire built up," Ayres said. "We are really hoping this will be a springboard" for the participants perhaps deciding to continue to meet and to perhaps create a blueprint for action.

Said O'Malley: "I think this is one of those things when you start it you can't control where it goes, and that's exciting."

"I believe it will go someplace. I believe there will be ideas and relationships that people will want to continue."

The evening of Monday, Dec. 5, will include a tribute to late Kansas historian Craig Miner by Friends University history professor Gretchen Eick and a film on Kansas civic leadership. A fun run and a walk to the Keeper of the

Plains will be optional activities for the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 6.

For more information or to register, go to the website kansasinquestion.com or call Jana Henderson at (316) 978-6493. The \$50 registration includes dinner on Monday and breakfast and lunch on Tuesday. A special rate is available for a room at the Hyatt.

Woman has wreck

A Gratiot, Ohio, woman was driving a four-door 2007 Chevrolet at mile marker 32.2 of westbound I-70 at 4 a.m. on Saturday when the left tires went into the median and the driver over corrected.

The vehicle spun out and left the right side of the west bound lane. It then entered the north ditch and rolled. It came to rest on its wheels facing southwest.

The woman was Virginia C. Lewis, 46. She was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center and released. She was wearing a seat belt.

Two passengers, Jerry Lewis and Jeff Nabb, aged 47 and 44 were also taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center and released. Lewis was wearing a seat belt but Nabb was not.

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