

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Western Vistas Historic Byway Kiosk is complete

An informational kiosk which showcases the stunning views and depicts the rich history of the Western Vistas Historic Byway, located in western Kansas, is now complete.

The location of the unique kiosk is approximately 27 miles south of Oakley along the west side of U.S. 83 Highway.

Scott City artist Jerry Thomas illustrated the historic scenery which couples narratives and maps associated with the Western Vistas Historic Byway, which runs from Scott City north to Oakley on U.S. 83; and then west to Sharon Springs on U.S. 40 Highway.

The historic byway features seven National Historic sites and six museums that explore the various cultures and events that played a role in America's western expansion. It also highlights Scott State Park.

Thomas' illustrations and photographs by Marilyn See are showcased on six interpretive panels.

The idyllic location of the kiosk is on land donated by the family of **Gerold Been**.

Native limestone from the property of Gerold Been's family has also been implemented into a seating/staging area near the kiosk.

The prime contractor on the signing project is Bridges Inc., of Newton.

The total project cost is \$109,754.

The project started during the first week in October.

A ribbon-cutting is being planned for next spring, to mark the project's completion.

The Western Vistas Byway is Kansas' first historic byway and the tenth (of 11) Kansas byway. The byway program, established by the Federal Highway Administration, is a

partnership between the Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism and local grass root community groups working to engage visitors in the natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archeological and recreational qualities of Kansas.

For questions concerning this project, please contact KDOT Area Engineer Mathew Withington at (785) 672-3113 or mwithington@ksdot.org in Oakley; or Kristen Brands, KDOT Northwest Kansas Public Affairs Manager, at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton. Additional information about the Kansas Byways may be found at www.KSByways.com or contact Scottsh@ksdot.org or Sue.Stringer@TravelKS.com.



Shown above: Details of the newly constructed Western Vistas Historic Byway kiosk located along U.S. 83 in Logan County, 27 miles south of Oakley. Artist Jerry Thomas, of Scott City, and KDOT Area Engineer Mathew Withington, of Oakley, install one of the six interpretive panels at the kiosk location.

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