



News

- Local
- State/Regional
- National/World
- Today's Headlines

Sports

- Area
- Sports Life
- College/Pro
- NASCAR

Features

- Death Notices
- Opinions
- Business
- Stocks
- Agriculture
- Health
- Weddings
- Entertainment
- Lifestyle
- Church
- Milestones
- Seniors

Entertainment

- Movie Listings
- TV Listings
- Forums
- Cooking
- Fun & Games

Web Extras

- Multimedia
- Photo Galleries
- Video Gallery
- Archives
- Submit Info

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- Feedback
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- Jobs With Us
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- Copyright
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- E-mail Edition
- Vacation Hold
- Missed Delivery
- Online Services
- Globe Express

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- Advertise in Print
- Advertise Online

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Dodge City Trail of Fame moving ahead

The Dodge City Trail of Fame is making great progress according to president, Jim Johnson. In the wake of the dinner, reception and dedication for actor/artist Buck Taylor, the Dodge City Trail of Fame has suddenly surged ahead with the installation of eight more sidewalk medallions in the downtown Historic District. The latest medallions installed, in addition to Mr. Taylor's, include "Doc" Holliday, "Big Nose" Kate, Chalkley Beeson, Charles Rath, Gen. George A. Custer, Henry Fonda, and W. B. "Bat" Masterson.

JAG Construction has donated the installation of the medallions with another 10 medallions expected to be installed by the end of this year.

"We are greatly in debt to JAG Construction, Jim Coffin and Gene Kirby," Johnson said. "Without them we would still be trying to get things together for the installations."

Recent medallion sponsors also include: the Ross family and Warehouse City, the High Plains Journal, and the Klinginsmith Family.

"Both the Rosses and the Klinginsmiths have sponsored a medallion in the name of family member," Johnson said. "We are finding more and more people wanting to remember a loved one with a medallion sponsorship. I can't think of a nicer thing to do and it's not tucked away somewhere like a church or cemetery, but right out on the historic Dodge City Trail of Fame where they can be remembered by all."

"We are really under the gun at the moment," Johnson said. "Not only do we have another batch of medallions due in from the foundry in the next few months, but we just learned that the nine foot Wyatt Earp sculpture by local artist Mary Spurgeon is due to arrive in early September. We have to be ready to get it installed on the corner of Wyatt Earp Blvd and Central Avenue. This project has really gathered a lot of steam in the past two months," he said. "I want to thank so many people for making this happen and there just isn't room enough or time enough to name everyone. In the past few months a large number of people have come to us and said, 'I want to be a part of this.' I want to help bring Wyatt back to Dodge."

Johnson indicated that there is still some money which needs to be raised. The Dodge City Trail of Fame Inc. is planning on raising the remaining funds necessary from the sale of 14-inch miniatures of the large sculpture, commemorative Wyatt Earp "Peacemaker" pistols, and through medallion sponsorships as

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well as gifts in-kind.

"I'm just amazed how many people want to get involved now," Johnson said. "Board member Pat Hamit and I were just presented with a donation of \$1,000 from our local Walmart store. It is such a treat to see a community like this put aside differences and pull together on something that they see will benefit everyone."

Anyone wishing to help with the project is encouraged to contact the Dodge City Trail of Fame, P.O. Box 1243, Dodge City, KS 67801 or call and leave a message at (620) 561-1925.

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