

Monument to be added to County Courthouse grounds

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The welcoming landscape at the Judith Basin County Courthouse will have a new look in the future. Local sculptor J.C. Dye recently met with county commissioners to offer them the gift of a monument for the courthouse. This monument, titled "On Top of the World," is one Dye created for a developer in Arizona, where it will greet visitors to a shopping mall.

The monument depicts a rider on a bucking horse and is three-quarter size, measuring 101 inches from the bottom of the work to the tip of the rider's hat.

"I have been wanting to do something like this for the county for a long time," Dye said, "but I just haven't had a monument I felt would be suitable for the courthouse. This monument fits the area because of the ranching and cattle around here.

"Art is important in our culture," Dye added. "I think it is good for children to be exposed to it. And maybe the monument will help to bring some people into town to view it."

The commissioners are excited about the prospects of the monument. They feel this gift offers a rare opportunity that cannot be passed up.

The county will be responsible for the price of casting the monument. Through discussion with Tess Brady, the Judith Basin Historical Society and other interested parties, the commissioners would like to see the monument set up on the south side of the courthouse. The horse and rider will have to be set on a base. A round base with an outer circle of flowers and shrubs would help to display the monument best. A circular walkway leading to the area and complete with benches has been discussed, as well as a need for lighting the monument.

The cost to complete the project has been set at \$20,000. The group spearheading the monument will work to bring in corporate monies to help pay the cost. Commemorative and fundraising bricks of various denominations for use in the walkway will also be sold to raise funds.

"We will try to raise the money as soon as we can," said Brady. "Can't is not in my vocabulary when it comes to beautification projects, as everyone knows!"

Mike Grady of Stanford has already offered his time for the base and walkway work. Perhaps others will be willing to donate their time in bringing this project to fruition.

For more information or to donate to this project, contact Tess Brady or Ginny Dye.