

SV firefighters sign banner honoring Sept. 11 victims

By CAROL ROBERTS
Staff writer

KELLOGG — A patriotic journey made its way through the Silver Valley recently.

The journey's mission is to invite people to join together, and write a message of peace and love in memory of Sept. 11 on the "We the People" banner.

Michael Joseph, an award winning international artist and photographer from Florida, and a friend, Paige Obrig, stopped at the Kellogg Fire Department in mid-August to let the local fire department and police department be a part of this historic banner.

On Aug. 12, the photographer showed up at the fire department, and asked local firemen and policemen to sign the banner. The Kellogg Police Department and Shoshone Fire District No. 2 also gave Joseph patches from their departments. Patches from departments all across the

country have been added to the banner.

By the time the banner completes its journey across the country, it is expected that the entire surface will be covered in colorful and diverse expressions of personal American culture. Joseph anticipates donating the historical artifact to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., "for preservation and for all future generations to behold ... and may we never forget."

The couple is targeting firefighters and policemen, because they want people to remember what these people do for us each day.

The banner began with a 4-foot by 16-foot section imprinted with a black and white photograph by Joseph of the World Trade Center, with the cross of Saint Peters Church in the middle, which was taken Oct. 9, 2000.

See BANNER, Page 3



—Photo by CAROL ROBERTS

Kellogg Police Department Chief Larry Irvine signs a banner that is traveling across the United States remembering September 11. Also pictured are Dave Wuolle, Darrell Knoll, Michael Joseph, Kevin Sevy and Paige Obrig.

BANNER

Continued from Page 1

Additional sections will be added as designated, making one large banner measuring about 40-feet by 60-feet.

"The idea is to create a giant love letter postcard from America," said Joseph. "The in-

scale image of my photograph will sit in the upper right corner like a postage stamp."

Subsequently, as part of the mission, he is asking citizens for their support by signing a petition to elect the photograph, entitled "In God We Trust," as a United States postage stamp.

The signing events began in

Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., on July 4. The visit to Kellogg was between visits to Seattle and Missoula. In tribute, the banner project will commence at Shanksville, Penn., on Sept. 9, Washington D.C. on Sept. 10, and New York City on Sept. 11.

"This is a humanitarian and historical effort to unite the country at this sensitive and

significant time," said Joseph.

The banner project is being funded by private and public donations. For more information, visit Joseph's Web site at www.michaeljoseph.com.