

Goodland mural shows former storefronts

By Pat Schiefen

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A mural approaching completion is being painted by several artists on the side of the Goodland Churches Thrift Store on 10th and Main Avenue.

The building is owned by Rod Cooper and when a grant applied for by the Carnegie Arts Center fell through he offered to fund the project.

Elwyn Vatcher, one of the main artists, said the mural was going to depict some of the many uses the building has been put to in its long history. Originally it was known as the Grand Opera House and was three stories tall. At the present time the building is only two stories high. The third story had been removed at some point.

Shirley Houston has helped with the painting of the murals. She is also an artist in residence at the Carnegie Arts Center. Graduating senior Jacquelynn Gulley helped with the design and planning of the project.

The mural had two rows of windows painted above store fronts with the names of some of the business that called the building home. Those include a millinery shop, furniture store, grocery store and hardware store. The mural is about 20 feet tall and 100 feet long.

To prepare for the mural the building owner had to make sure the wall was in good repair. Then it was painted brown where the windows would go and white where the store fronts would go.

Vatcher did the work on the windows by himself. He would use a hydraulic scaffold to work from. First he would sketch the windows in. The mural was started in the spring of 2010 and was worked on until it was too cold outside to paint any longer. Vatcher used a set of plans to work from showing the design plan.

"It would have been very hard to do from a ladder," said Vatcher.

He said the pictures were painted with house paint and the mural would be sealed with a coating when the mural was completed.

In the two upper rows of windows are depicted different activities held at the building. One window shows a woman singing in some sort of stage production. Above is shows sev-



Artists were hard at work on portions of a mural on a building in downtown Goodland. The mural shows the storefronts of several businesses that used to occupy the space.

eral people roller skating. Another window shows people dancing. Above that window is a picture of wrestlers. There is a window showing a basketball player.

The last two windows were not historical in nature. One showed Van Gogh painting sunflowers which referred to the large sunflower painting at Cherry Avenue and old U.S. 24.

Director of the Carnegie Arts Center Kay Younger said that the artists working on the mural will start working again when the weather stays consistently warm.

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