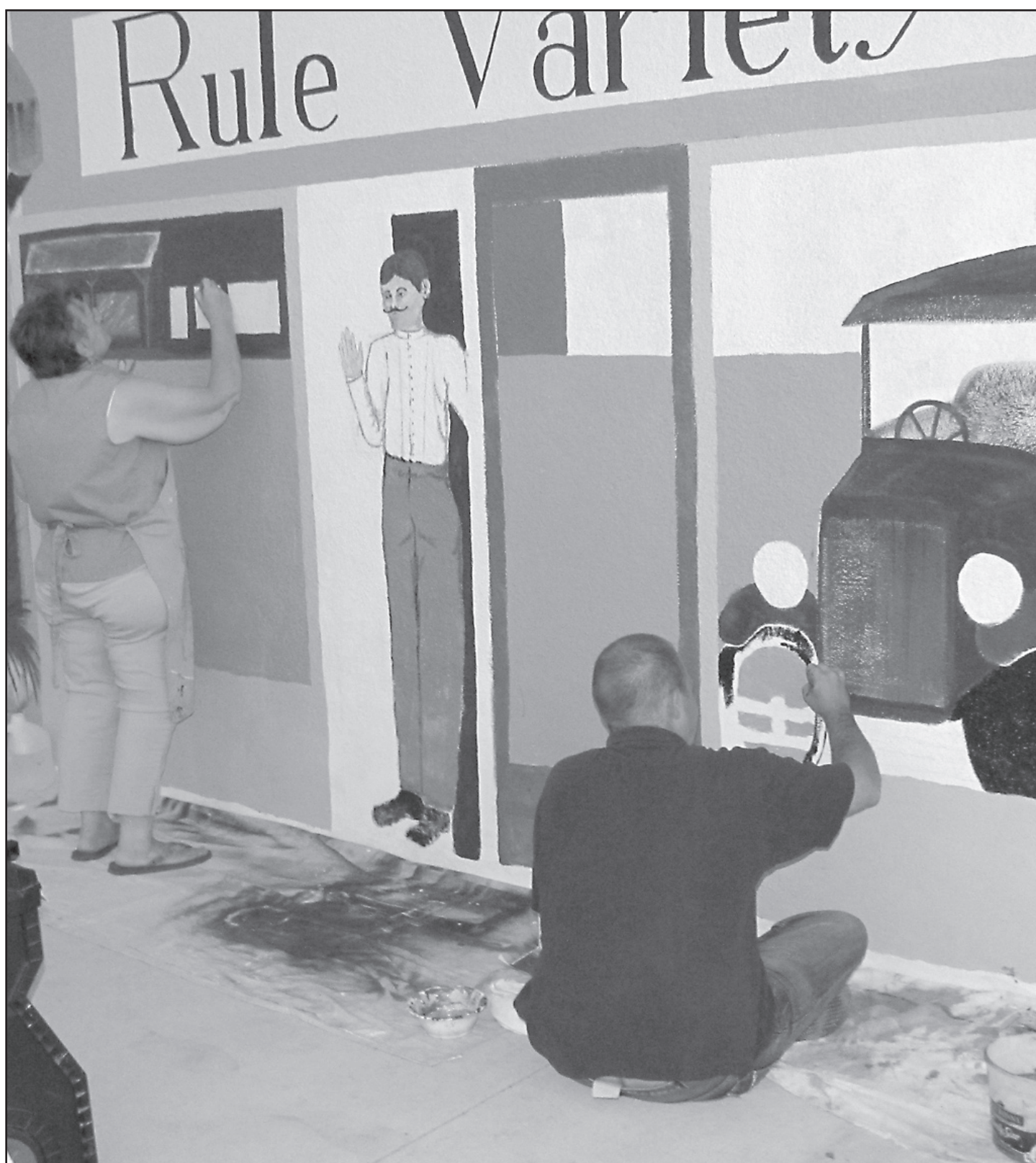


## Work resumes on downtown mural



Shirley Houston and her son Jonathan Bradley have been working on the Rule Variety section of the downtown mural on the north side of the old opera house at 10th and Main Ave. Shirley said she and Elwyn Vatcher are trying to get the mural completed before the upcoming Sherman County Alumni Re-

union to be held the second week of August. Vatcher has been working on the Gambles section. Both artists agree it is better to wait until the sun is setting before they begin working on the mural. The mural is a project of the Carnegie Arts Center.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## City manager salary raised 5.5 percent

CITY, from Page 1

She said Russell will take over ownership in six months, and what is left to do is painting the trailer and shingling and painting of the garage.

Brian James, city building inspector and fire chief said he agreed quite a bit of work has been accomplished on the property.

Commissioner Josh Dechant said as long as they are cleaning the property up he did not have a problem with giving an extension.

Hicks had asked for a one-year extension, and Russell said it may take him until the spring to get the garage shingled.

Gerber said an alternate suggestion was to take the improvements in steps and see what can be done in the next three months and then consider another extension rather than giving them a full year.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she could agree with going a step at a time.

Garcia said he would agree and said Russell would have about 90 days left of time for working to get some progress done. He suggested Brian could review the progress and report back to the commission if more time is needed.

Russell said the only problem with the 90 days is he is on a limited income, and was worried about getting the garage roof done.

Gerber said Brian can help Russell get free paint from the Sherman County Household Hazardous Waste program.

The commissioners agreed to give Russell and Hicks 90 days.

Honored Shauna Johnson and Amy Thorson as city employees of the quarter for their work on the

Take Charge Challenge program. Gerber said this is the first time for two to be nominated, but the two were nominated because of their work on the energy savings program. He said the efforts appear to be paying off because Goodland is leading in two categories with a good chance to win \$100,000 for the city to use for energy upgrades.

Gerber said an example of the efforts of Johnson and Thorson was the Easter Egg Hunt event, and the city is leading on the number of energy audits being done in town.

Johnson said 39 audits have been completed and another 15 are scheduled. She said the city gets more points when the projects are completed, she said there are several in the approval stage.

Gerber said the one area where Goodland is in fourth is the switch of light bulbs to the compact fluorescent lights. He said the Take Charge group is planning to have a booth at the upcoming Northwest Kansas District Fair, and is planning a final event around Flatlanders at the end of September.

Garcia thanked Johnson and Thorson for their hard work and commitment to the project.

Gerber reported on the police chief selection process. He said he has narrowed it down to five applicants. He said he will interview them on Aug. 8-9, and may be able to introduce a new chief at the second meeting in August.

The commission held a closed door session for 10 minutes dealing with attorney and client matter with City Attorney Jerry Fairbanks, Gerber and the five commissioners. No action was taken when the meeting resumed in open session.

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