

Artist restores theater's mural

By Pat Schiefen
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A mural on the wall behind the seats in the Sherman Theatre has been given a facelift by Laurie Albin of WaKeeney.

Theater owner Dave Branda said he met Albin when she was working on the outside mural at the Goodland Grind and Gallery last summer.

Albin has been a freelance artist for 26 years and does portraits, landscapes, architectural and commissioned paintings.

She said she started first by cleaning the theater's mural and its ornate plaster frame. The mural was finished around April 22, 1928, by Angelo D'ella Maggiara, assisted by T.C. Herran of Denver, Mr. Branda said.

"I filled some nail holes when the mural was covered and then will brighten up the colors," Albin said. "I try to use common sense to figure out what I need to do."

She is using small amounts of regular wall paint that she got at Rasure Do-It Center and matching the colors. On the ornate frame, she said she was going to add highlights and some gold leaf.

The mural has boats reminiscent of a scene in Venice, she said.

The work was part of a complete remodeling of the theater as a result of a fire on Jan. 2, 1928, that destroyed the east wall and part of the two adjoining walls. It was thought that the fire started in the heating plant, Mr. Branda said.

E.E. Sprague built the original theater building at 12th and Main, according to the *The Goodland Republic* on Jan. 28, 1926.

"The new building will be built for a strictly modern theatre with a seating capacity of over 700. It will be equipped with ladies' rest room, men's smoking room and everything modern for the comfort and convenience of the patrons," said the article. "At either side of the entrance to the new theatre will be store rooms, one of which will be occupied by a confectionery store, under the management of Walter Kelly."



Artist Laurie Albin touched up the ornate plaster frame around the mural on the wall behind the seats at The Sherman Theatre. Theater owner Dave Branda wanted to restore the art work. Albin added a

lighter color leaving the original darker paint for contrast. Also added was some red and gold leaf.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

The building was to cost about \$25,000 and the contractor was Jens Jensen. The opening date was Aug. 2, 1926.

After the fire, the paper reported on Thursday, Feb. 9, 1928, "When the rebuilding is completed, the

building will be an almost exact duplicate of the original."

The theater reopened on April 23 with performances by high school musicians, a comedy "The Old Maids' Convention" and the main feature, Bebe Daniels in "Feel My Pulse."

The walls were painted a light pink and woodland scenes were replaced by twin peacocks and roses. Seats were to be oak instead of mahogany. The heating plant was to be underneath the stage instead of in the wings. The pipe organ was re-

placed with a new electric Columbia Kolster phonograph.

Albin, a former teacher, also did a mural, "The North Pole," in downtown WaKeeney and "The Trego Eagle" in the high school there. Branda has owned the theater since 1990.

Hospital plans women's health conference April 26

By Sharon Corcoran
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Women will have an opportunity to learn how to reduce their cancer risk by life-style changes from specialists from the University of Kansas Medical Center's Area Health Education Centers at this year's Home and Garden Show.

Goodland Regional Medical Center and the education center are holding a women's health conference Saturday, April 26, said Director of Marketing and Volunteer Services Tina Goodwin at the hospital board's meeting Monday. The hospital and education center in partnership were chosen to receive a grant, she said, but the challenge

was that the event should try to reach about 150 women.

The hospital is partnering with KLOE Radio, which is holding the show on April 26 and 27, Goodwin said; the education center will have a booth at the show to give out information and funnel people into the conference.

They will have booklets titled "Protect and Detect: What Women Should Know about Cancer," she said, produced by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as well as local resource information.

Six 30-minute sessions covering uterine, ovarian, lung, colorectal, cervical and breast cancer will be

scheduled between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., she said; exact times of the sessions will be announced later, and they will not conflict with other programs scheduled at the show.

Though the home show will be Saturday and Sunday, she said, the health conference will only be on Saturday.

"I think it's going to be great," Goodwin said. "If it's a success, and we get good feedback, we could look to do it every other year."

The hospital's membership with the Midwest Cancer Alliance opened the door for this, she said.

The goal of the conference, Goodwin said, is to provide education for women and girls to help them take

charge of their health and improve their understanding of their risk of developing cancer and the lifestyle changes they can make to reduce their risks.

Women have misconceptions regarding cancer, she said; for example, a survey conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, showed 63 percent of women believe that if a typical woman has no family history of cancer, then she is at low risk for developing the disease.

In fact, she said, most cancers occur in people with no family history of the disease.

Another reason the conference is

needed here, she said, is the northwest region of Kansas has a higher cancer rate for women than the state as a whole and for two types in particular, colorectal and breast cancer, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The grant for the event came from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, she said, with the purpose to pay for a community education initiative for prevention and early detection of cancer in women.

More information about the Home and Garden show will be announced on KLOE and KKCI. For more about the health conference, call Goodwin at (785) 890-6036.

Economic development interim director resigns after three weeks

By Sharon Corcoran
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Less than a month after its director resigned, the Sherman County Economic Development Council finds itself with an empty office again, as the interim director has quit.

Director Jeremy Jennings resigned Tuesday, March 4, citing personal and professional reasons. Board member Darwin McClung was named as interim director after a special board meeting the following Tuesday,

but after three weeks on the job, he has resigned to accept a job out of town.

"As of Friday," McClung said Monday, "I am no longer the interim director."

McClung said he had been offered two jobs, would be moving and didn't want to delay in vacating the position.

"I didn't want to waste any more taxpayers' dollars," he said.

McClung worked for Rhoads Construction until the business closed in February. Board President

Chuck Wilkens said McClung was hired as contract labor at \$3,000 per month. He took a leave of absence from the council.

Wilkens said he knew McClung had sent out resumes before he became interim director and that if he was offered a job, he would have to take it.

"We're sad to see him and his

wife leave the community," he said.

The council is taking applications, he said, and when they feel they have someone worthy of an interview, they will hire a permanent director.

Jennings had held the post only since October, replacing former director Tiffany McMinn, who had

taken a 90-day leave of absence and gone to Texas to help her mother recover from surgery.

City to hear museum plans

The city commission meets at 5 p.m. on Monday and representatives from the High Plains Museum are expected to talk about an option to purchase the Antique Warehouse building at 17th and Main Ave. rather than trying to build a new \$3 million building south of I-70 near the Holiday Inn Express.

Linda Holton, museum curator, and board members Jerry Fairbanks and Larry Keirns presented the information to the Sherman County Commissioners at their meeting on March 18.

The option would be to purchase the Antique Warehouse building and renovate it to be a museum rather than spending \$3 million for a new building. The county commissioners were asked for their support of the alternative and the city was going to be asked by the museum board to consider the option.

Other items on the agenda include:

- Two Resolutions for hearings on unsafe or dangerous structures to be set for later in April or May.

- Bids on demolition and removal of structures, trees and debris for 1608 Montana Ave., and 510 W. 15th.

- Discuss a resolution to rescind the employee pay plan that was passed in December. The city administration is looking at a different way to do a city wage plan, and wants to discuss the options with the commission.

- Issue a proclamation for Fair Housing Month.

- Hold a closed session to discuss personnel matters dealing with non-elected personnel.

- Handle payments to the Federal Aviation Administration for the airport entrance project.

The city commission meets in the commission room on the second floor of the City Administration Building 204 W. 11th.

corrections

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