

The Community Page



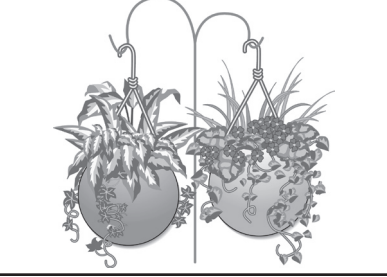

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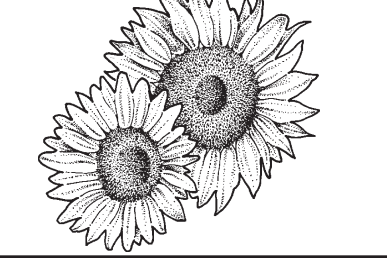
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Chief artist Elwyn Vatcher paused a moment while working on the next window for the mural on the side of the Goodland Churches Thrift Store. If you look closely you can see the some of the plans for the store fronts part of the mural on the underside of a board used to hold Vatcher's paint box.
Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Mural a work in progress

By Pat Schiefen
pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

The mural being painted on the side of a building owned by Rod Cooper at 10th and Main is coming to life through the work of the main artist Elwyn Vatcher.

Vatcher 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.

The window I'm working on will have

Van Gogh working on a painting and looking out at the street, said Vatcher. He said he thought he would put Cooper in the window above cooking hamburgers. Vatcher said he asked Cooper if that would be okay and he said it would be alright.

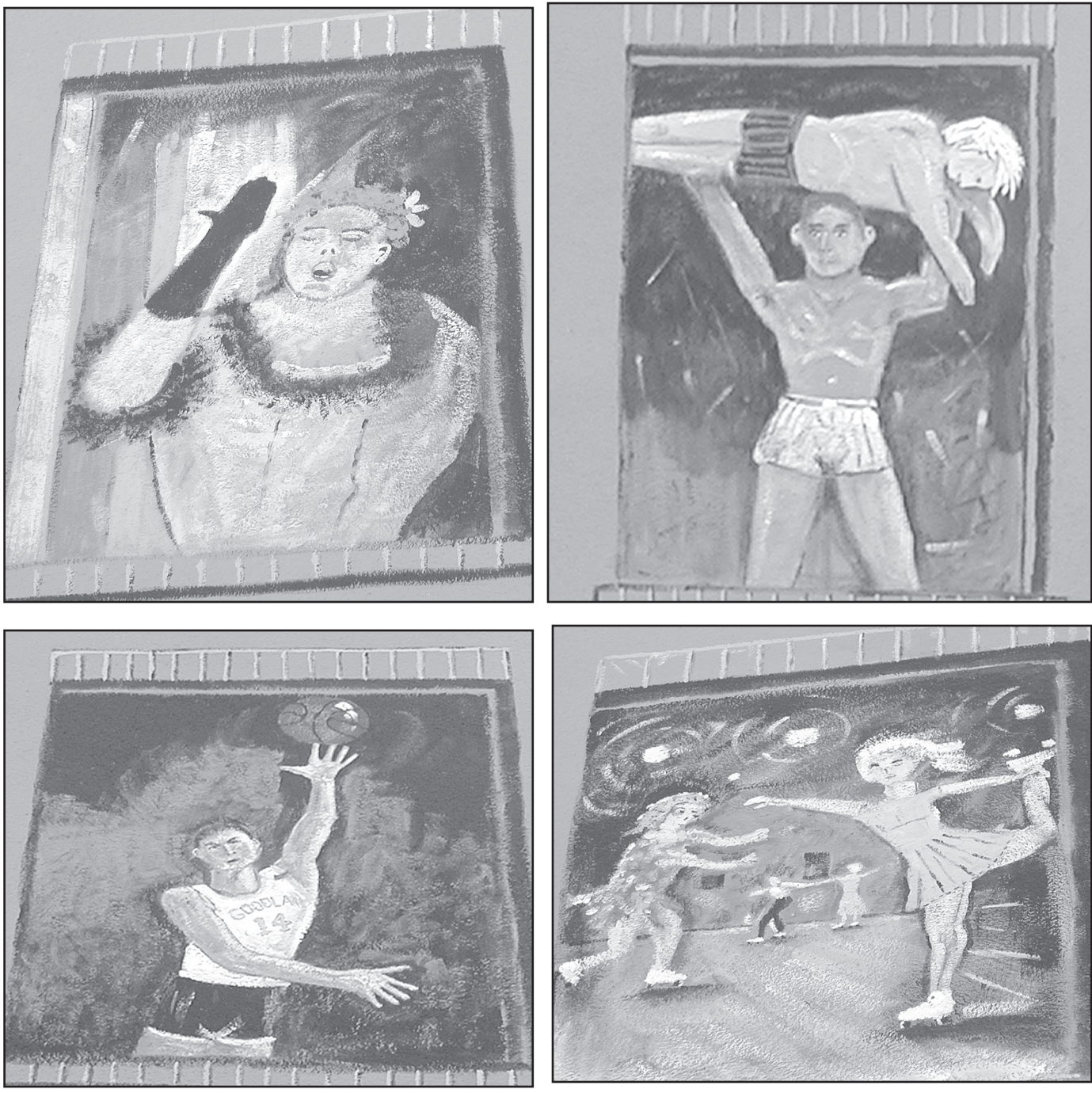
The windows show that the building had been the place for dances, plays, musical productions, wrestling, basketball and roller skating.

Vatcher has done the windows from a hydraulic scaffolding. He said it would have been very hard to do from a ladder.

The bottom where the white paint is

now will be store fronts depicting various businesses that had been in the building including a millinery shop, furniture store, grocery store and hardware store. Vatcher said he expects to have help with the bottom painting. The store front part of the mural is about 20 feet tall and 100 feet long.

The Carnegie Arts Center had applied for a grant to pay for the mural and when they did not get the grant Center Director Kay Younger said they thought the project would not happen. The building owner asked how much money they were talking about and he said he would finance the project.



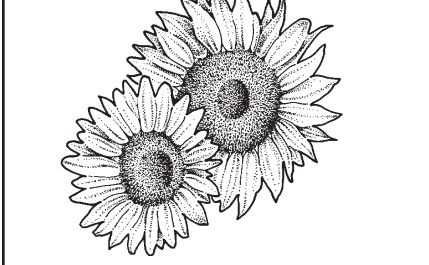


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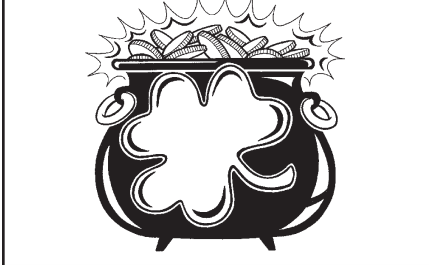



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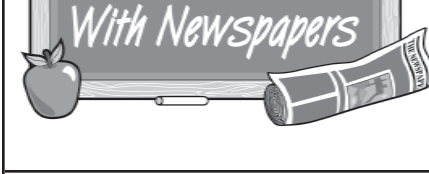
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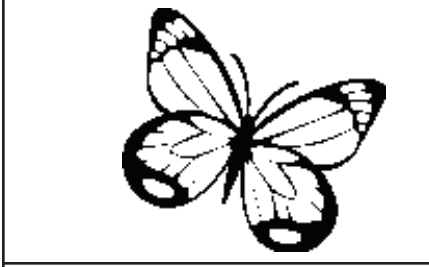
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