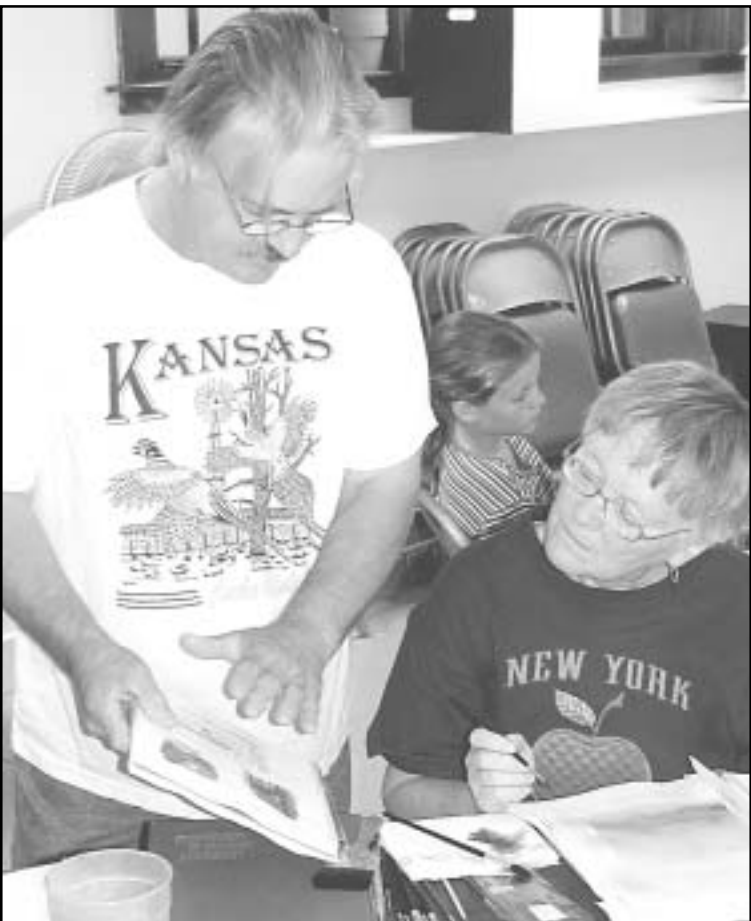


Artist finds inspiration in northwest Kansas



Elwyn Vatcher showed Marcy Carroll, a student in his painting workshop, his sketch books to help her get ideas for painting. The workshop had 10 students, and Vatcher hopes to have 10-12 more for a workshop in December.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

A New Hampshire artist traded a coastal view for wheat fields and open spaces, and he says the new surroundings have provided new inspiration.

Besides working on his own paintings, Elwyn Vatcher is teaching others, and the fruits of his labor were viewed by over 200 people in August at the Carnegie Arts Center.

For Vatcher and his wife Rosealee, it was the perfect house with an art studio already set up that drew them to Goodland, and he has found plenty of subjects for his paintings.

"I like doing pictures of farm scenes," Vatcher said, "and it's close to the Rocky Mountains."

Vatcher said he gets some ideas while traveling; others just come to him when he's on his way home from work.

"If something catches your eye," he said, "you stop."

Vatcher said he sees sunsets on the way home and later paints them from memory. And he takes pictures during his travels and paints from them, too.

He has been painting since junior high and became serious about it in high school. Vatcher said he worked mostly with oils in junior high; wa-

tercolors came later. He said he took art classes his freshman year and then worked up to advanced art.

He said he won at a state competition, and his work went to national competition at New Orleans. An organization gave him a \$100 scholarship.

Much of his inspiration in those years came from the Atlantic coast. Vatcher said he went from his hometown of Hampton Falls, N.H., to Rockport, Mass., about every weekend with his paint and supplies. One time, he even camped out under a tree for about a week.

"Mom took me down there," Vatcher said, "and the guy I was supposed to stay with wasn't home, but Mom didn't know that."

After high school, Vatcher served in Vietnam from 1968-69. He said he filled four or five sketch books with drawings and watercolors. The mountains there are beautiful, he said. After returning from Vietnam, he got back into painting as a career.

"My father said, 'You have to have a real job,'" Vatcher recalled.

Nonetheless, Vatcher went to the Art Institute of Boston for three years and earned an Associate of Fine Arts degree.

"People said I didn't need any more training," Vatcher said, "but I decided to go, and I'm glad I did."

But he has also had some "real



"Two Boats" was one of Vatcher's oil paintings shown at the Carnegie Arts Center in August. It is one of the artist's seaside scenes from Rockport, Mass.

jobs." In fact, his love of art was fueled by one of those. As a boy, Vatcher said he worked on a dairy farm, where he was inspired by watching the farmer's wife paint sea scenes with oils while he was on break.

Vatcher installs heating and air conditioning units for McClure Plumbing and Heating Inc. and previously worked for Goodland Sheet Metal and a company in Colby.

"I keep a job on the side," Vatcher said. "I would like to get away from that, but it's what's keeping me going."

Vatcher said he has shown his work in Rockport and galleries in other Atlantic coast towns and would like to show it in more galleries.

Vatcher said his show at Carnegie is a progression of his work from the last four years. He conducted a four-day workshop in the basement of the center, teaching watercolor techniques. He said he had a good class, 10 students.

If there is enough interest, Arts Center Director Tina Goodwin said, Vatcher will have another workshop in December. We like to have 10-12 planning on it before scheduling one, she said.

He said he would also like to show in galleries in Denver and Colorado Springs, and he is working on his techniques.

"I'm working on stuff I can call my own and trying to improve it," he said. "It's hard work."

The Vatchers moved to Goodland in 1989. He said his wife's parents moved here in 1985 after her father retired from the Air Force. He was originally from this area, Vatcher said; his father had had a farm here.

Vatcher said his in-laws wanted to be centrally located for visiting there children, who were living on the East and West coasts as well as Illinois.

Vatcher said he and Rosealee came here to visit and found a house they fell in love with. He said the decision took a few years of thought and planning, but they made the move.

Chamber of Commerce wants more participation in Flatlanders

By Kathryn Gurfinkel
The Goodland Star-News

As the 24th Annual Flatlander Fall Festival is fast approaching, members of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce business promotions committee are looking to get more organizations involved and add more booths to the event.

"It's a great opportunity for fund raising," said Chamber Chairman Donna Swager.

She said the Chamber first got involved in the festival, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24 and 25, as a way for organizations to earn money instead of constantly asking businesses for donations.

Swager said she talked to the Girl Scouts, but since there will be a volleyball tournament on Saturday, they probably won't run a booth. The Boy Scouts rely on their annual chili feed and popcorn sales for fund raising, she said.

Although some groups will not be available, the board agreed that manning a booth would be ideal for high school groups.

Since Goodland High is a Chamber member, the booths for clubs or groups would be only \$25 each. Other non-profit organizations would only pay \$60 for a booth.

Swager asked Courtney Warden, Chamber manager, to send a letter to Goodland schools and neighboring schools to give everyone a chance to participate.

Board members plan to ask Madd Hatter's Music Emporium to help with equipment to get a soundstage and some entertainment lined up for the festival. They also will try to enlist the high school X-Presso singers, tumblers and musical groups to perform.

form.

"I think that will be fun," said Swager.

"Kids love doing that," said Linda Knott, "and it brings their families down."

The entertainment will be set up on 11th Street downtown, and the board wants to set up bleachers.

Board members says they plan to be well organized for booth set up and power supplies this year.

"We had to kind of work the bugs out last year with the electricity," said Swager.

To supply power, booths are hooked up to a temporary power pole sponsored by businesses. The board considered adding another one of the \$300 power poles to avoid the tangled wires they encountered last year.

Warden said the booth set-up will be made easier this year, with larger maps handed out earlier. She said they also will make sure to clearly mark the numbers on the street that coordinate with numbers on the maps.

Information booths will be set up in front of the Chamber office on Main and near the Economic Development office south of 12th Street. Warden said they have canopies to top the booths printed with the word 'information' and the Chamber logo.

Volunteers manning the booths will give away maps and directions and sell bottles of water and "Support our Troops" magnets.

The magnets are in the shape of yellow ribbons, and the Chamber decided to stick with them instead of working on a new promotion for a refillable mug.

The Chamber is looking for volunteers to run the information booth during the festival and Warden said she has special "event staff" T-shirts for helpers.

corrections

The article "Family Shelter Offers Safety, Help, Counsel" on the front page of the Friday, Aug. 27, issue of *The Goodland Star-News* said the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter pays for medical care for domestic violence victims. The shelter pays for transportation to receive medical care.

The same article said the shelter worked to establish the SANE/SART program in its 18-county area.

The shelter has been an advocate of the program that ViaChristi Regional Medical Center worked to

establish in the area. These were reporting errors.

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An article in that same edition about Joseph Smith reporting to the U.S. Coast Guard's officer candidate school said Smith is the son of Jackie Baumfalk. He is the son of Virgil and Jackie Baumfalk.

This was a reporting error.

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The Northwest Kansas District Free Fair special section should have said that Dawson Ensign was the winner of the 4-5 year-old Goat Tail Untie event at the Howdy

Rowdy Rodeo held on Tuesday, Aug. 3. The results said that Demi Mitchek was the first place winner. This was due to incorrect information given to the newspaper.

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Entrances to Goodland part of Chamber's cleanup

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

People wearing orange vests will be bending over to pickup trash along the entrances to the city the next two weeks as part of an effort to clean the town up before the Flatlander Fall Festival.

Rhonda Sieck of the Goodland Chamber of Commerce's Beautification Committee asked Sherman County commissioners Tuesday for permission to have groups clean the road ditches along old U.S. 24 and Eighth Street for three miles west from K-27.

She said the Chamber hopes is to clean up the city entrances twice a year, once in April before graduations and again in September before the Flatlander Festival.

"We have received an OK from the Kansas Department of Transportation and the City of Goodland," Sieck said. "We are here to ask you to join the effort with your roads that lead out to Sugar Hills."

The commissioners agreed it was a good idea, and asked who would be doing the cleanup.

Sieck said the Lions Club has agreed to do the three miles along Old 24, and the Kiwanis has agreed to do the three miles along Eighth Street.

She said the transportation department will provide orange vests, gloves and signs for the safety of the workers, and that everyone will have to watch a safety video about collecting trash and how to protect



Managers at WalMart unleashed roughly 20 blue-vested employees Tuesday to clean up trash in front of the business. Mary Lou Hansen, wife of clean-up organizer Arlo Hansen, picked up a large piece of cardboard as she joined the employees who fanned out along the K-27 highway right of way to pick up bits of trash.

Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland Star-News

themselves.

"With the crackdown on drinking, there are less beer bottles in the ditches," she said, "but there are other things to look for, such as things that might have been used in a meth lab or may be a bio or medical hazard. Picking up trash is much different today."

She asked the commissioners to put up signs crediting the organiza-

tions with cleaning those areas, and said she had arranged signs for the other areas from the state and the city. She said each organization has signed up for a minimum of two years of cleaning their sections to have their names on the signs.

The commissioners said they would provide the signs, and asked her to see if the state might have a few extra they could buy.

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Saturday, September 11, 2004

7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mountain time

HHW Facility

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Goodland, Kansas

For more information please contact Kenny Griffith at 821-1024.

No early drop off or no drop offs without personnel present.

There will be no Used Oil collected at this time.

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Complete Dine-In Menu!

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