

Pop art dresses fill Aten's window



Tranda Ihrig, summer art teacher at the Carnegie Arts Center, used clothes-pins to hang up the pop art dresses in Aten's window on Tuesday. Tina Goodwin, center director, assisted by hanging up the dresses. Ihrig said the paper dresses would be on display through the first week of July. She said the kids wanted

to know when they could wear their creations. Students in the Pop Art Clothes class include Amy Floyd, Elizabeth Wellman, Carlee Cooper, T.C. Ruhs, Ryleigh Paxton, Jade Petrach, Grace Cole, Chloe Goodwin and Shelby Johnson.
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Man sings way to Wild West stage

A Goodland man won the right to be the opening singing act at the Wild West Festival on Thursday in Hays.

Charlie Baker said he was pleased to win the finals of the Hays America competition over the past five weeks to be the warm up singer for Country stars Chris Young and Keith Anderson. Young was the winner of Nashville Stars last year Baker said.

The Wild West Festival will be held in Hays July 4 to 7, and he will sing on Thursday evening at the fairgrounds.

Baker said the contest started with 125 singers, and he won his way into the semi-finals and finals held at Judges Bar and Grill in Hays. He said the first round cut the number down to 10 and the finals were the top five singers.

As the winner Baker won \$250 plus 10 hours in a recording studio and gets to be the opening act on Thursday.

He said when he went down for the first night he knew that the Wild West Festival was basically a country show and he selected country songs. He said the group he was in only had one try to sing a rock song, but when he got to the semi-finals and finals they were all country singers.

"There were some good singers, and I did not know where I was going to land," he said. "I was quite happy to win."

Asked what he would be singing on Thursday he said the organizers told him he would have three songs.

"They told us three at the time and I have three ready," he said. "I am waiting to hear for sure."

He sang "The Drinkin' Bone" Tracy Byrd on the first night of competition. He sang "The Dance" by Garth Brooks to get into the semi-finals. He sang "What was I thinkin'" by Dierks Bentley in the semi-finals.

For the finals he sang "A little less talk" by Toby Keith, and then "How 'bout you" by Erick Church and then "Yehaw" by Jake Owen. He said the judges were to make their decision based on two of the songs, and the first was to be a warm up.

Baker has won the contest in Burlington to sing at their fair and was first place last year and second two years ago. He said he is looking forward to going back to defend his title this year.

"I have gotten better and learned how to work and entertain the crowd," he said. "I think that is what I am doing better. I think that was my edge down at Hays. The others could sing, but I had the crowd going and enjoying the moment."

Baker said he hopes he can do more singing around the area, and wants people to know he is available.

"I hope people in Sherman County who are looking for entertainment look me up," he said. "I am willing to do whatever and have done a benefit for a girl earlier this year. I would be willing to get out and entertain anytime."

He said he has been doing some singing down at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall on Fridays, and may do more of that on a regular schedule.

For information about the Wild West Festival at www.wildwestfestival.com.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

June 4 — Caitlynn M. McGee, \$165 for speeding.

June 5 — Samuel P. Lazarus, \$80 for unlawful use of driver's license and \$321 for speeding.

Gabriel A. Peixoto, \$146 for unlawful use of driver's license.

Yoon K. Pyo, \$138 for speeding.

Accidents

The following accidents were investigated by the Goodland Police Department.

June 11 — 12:01 a.m., 100 Willow Road, a 1995 Ford owned by Roberta Rehor was parked on the street and hit at an unknown time by an unknown vehicle or object.

June 12 — 7:40 p.m., 320 E.

Eighth, a 2006 Ford driven by Tyler J. Miller was backing from a parking stall and hit a 1989 Pontiac owned by Kendall Gittinger in the right front fender. Gittinger was getting fuel when the Ford hit his car.

corrections

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.

Visitors bureau plans to raise budget about 3 percent

By Tom Betz
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The tourist season is heating up, members of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau told county commissioners Tuesday, and they plan to raise their budget for next year about 3 percent.

Dale Neill, bureau board chair, said guest tax numbers look good this year, and the board hopes to raise the budget for next year to \$108,000.

He said the board had set the bureau budget for this year at \$105,000, but somehow when it was published in the county budget it was listed at \$95,000. He said that caused the bureau to republish the budget.

Neill and Bill Stoick, a board member and owner of Super 8 Motel, talked about the budget and a how the tourist season is going.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the county would be setting budgets in August, and if the picture is different to let the commissioners know.

Stoick said the figures for the first four months were good and the guest tax had already produced 48 percent of the estimated total for the year.

Neill said he thought the new Holiday Inn Express would boost the numbers out more.

"I have watched over the past two weeks," Stoick said, "and it appears we lose about half a room It doesn't drop one for one, and overall the new hotel will do good things for us."

"We could not ask for a better brand and it will help us all. It brings attention to us, and as a community we should be proud to have them here."

"I have been in the business since 1980, and from what I have seen, it will help us all."

Rasure asked bureau Director Donna Price if the monthly figures were for the month listed or if they were delayed by the state.

Price said the figures are for the month, but the checks arrive once a quarter. She said she usually gets the figures by the middle of the next month, but has not seen May's yet.

She said one problem is that the state figures do not show who is paying the guest tax, and there have been questions in the past about whether all the places that should be paying are collecting the tax.

Neill said the board has asked the

state, were told that information has to be requested by the county. He said the board had asked the county to request this information to find out how many businesses actually pay guest tax.

Rasure said he would ask the staff to get it.

The commissioners asked Stoick about his business this year.

He said April was slow, but that everything else has been pretty good.

"Most of the newer-built motels have been doing well," he said. "We get lots of repeat business from truckers and those who come to do work in the area. We have built a good relationship."

"We are seeing some changing needs, with some of the customers asking for a room with three beds. This is especially true for those who

are traveling on per diem and want to stretch it a bit."

Rasure said that was a good point, and told Deputy Clerk Mary Ann Sneath the commissioners should review the county travel policy at the next meeting on Friday, June 29.

Stoick said he is a member of the Flatlander Fall Festival committee, and that planning is going along well. He said he hopes the committee can count on some help from the county.

The commissioners said they would look at what was done last year, but felt they should support the festival.

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\$20,000 to \$40,000: 313 W 12 - 1 bedroom, garage 1504 Grand - 2 bedrooms, corner lot 1509 Cherry - 3 bedrooms, garage 804 Walnut - 3 bedrooms, garage 609 Washington - 2 bedrooms, remodeled	\$80,000 to \$90,000: 2451 Rd. 2, Brewster - 5 bed, 4 acres 715 E. 4th - 3 bedrooms, brick 823 Cattletrail - 3 bedrooms, tri-level 416 E. 8th - 6 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths
\$40,000 to \$60,000: 416 W. 7th - 3 bedrooms, corner lot 809 Harrison - 3 bedrooms, remodeled	Over \$100,000: 618 Center - 3 bedrooms, 2+car garage 711 Clark - 4 bedrooms, master suite 915 Arcade - 4 bedrooms, 4+car garage 6965 Rd. 20 - 3 bedrooms 10 acres 1104 Center - House plus apartments 302 Spruce - 4 bedroom, garage + workshop
\$60,000 to \$70,000: 119 Walnut - 4 bedrooms, basement 222 E. 5th - 3 bedrooms, double garage 1522 Caldwell - 3 bedrooms, oversized garage 809 Eastridge - 4 bedrooms, 2 baths	

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