

City adopts texting bans, seat belt codes

By Tom Betz
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City police will be able to ticket people for texting while driving, violating the no smoking ban and for people in the front seats of a car who are not wearing the seat belts with approval of the updated traffic and offense codes.

City commissioners approved ordinances adopting the updated traffic code including the ban on texting and making wearing a seat belt in the

front seat a primary offense.

An additional change is that motorcycle riders under 18 must wear eye protection. Those over 18 have been required to wear eye protection, and the new law extends it to those under 18.

The texting law prohibits the use of a wireless device to write, send or read a written communication. There are exceptions for emergency situations. Warnings are to be given until Jan. 1, with regular tickets to

be issued after that date.

In the past the seat belt law has been a secondary ticket, but the new law makes it a primary reason for an officer to stop a car. The new law requires those in the front seat and those in the back seat to be wearing seat belts. However, if the front seat passengers are wearing a seat belt those in the back seat are back to the secondary ticket level.

The fine for not wearing a seat belt as a front seat passenger is \$5

until July 1, and will increase to \$10 on that date.

The updated offense code includes the smoking ban and requires business to post no smoking signs. Violations of the smoking ban can be judged in municipal court.

A change in the domestic violence provisions limits the number of diversions to two in a five year period.

Under a provision in the weapons section a pocket knife that snaps

open and shut has been taken out of the definition of the type of spring loaded knives that are illegal.

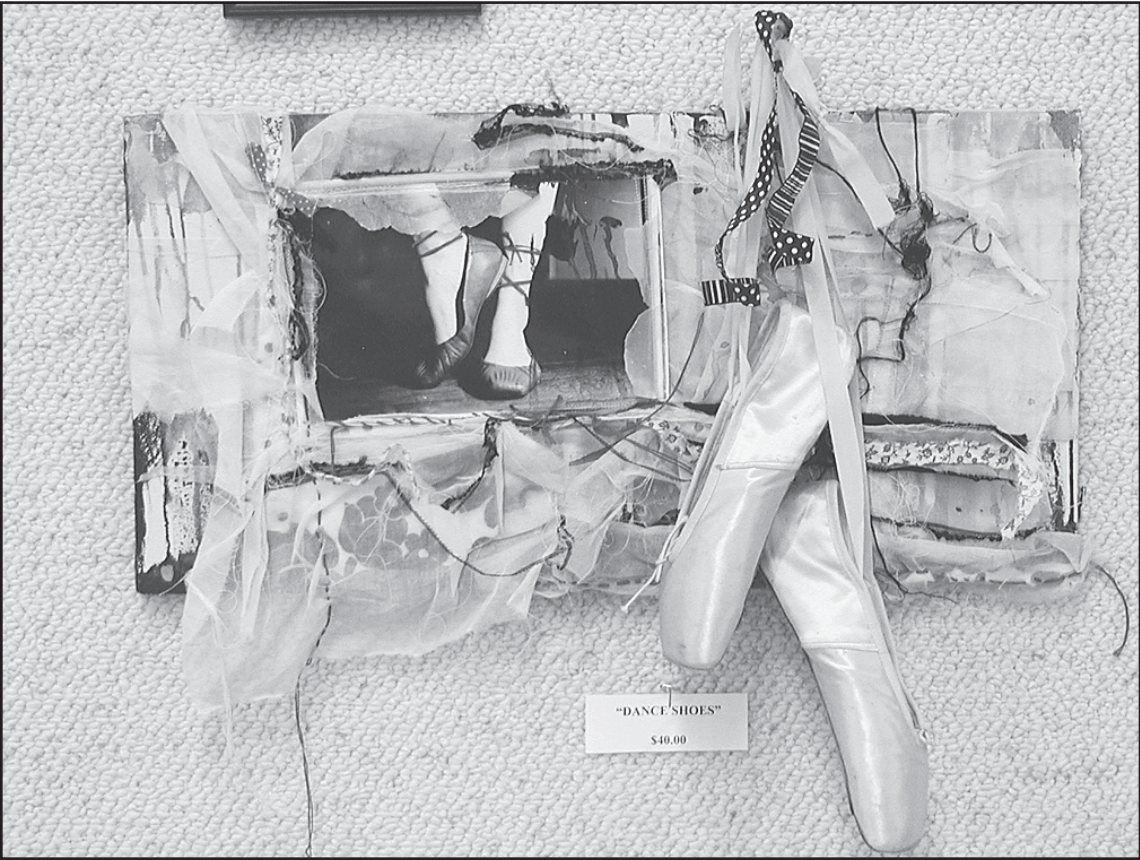
In other action the commission approved a zoning change a portion of the land south of Business U.S. 24 and north of 22nd Street from residential to general business.

The zoning change had been recommended by the city planning and zoning board.

The commissioners approved a resolution to waive the general ac-

counting practice requirement for the city. City Manager Doug Gerber said this is the same as in past years and makes the regular audit cheaper and easier to do.

The next city commission meeting will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 7. The meeting was moved because the city offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6, for Labor Day.



One of Tranda Ihrig's pieces of art (above) on display at the Carnegie Arts Center through the month of August. A portrait of a horse's eye (right) done by Bonnie Stasser also on display.
Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Paintings, collages on display at art center

The exhibit at the Carnegie Arts Center that runs until Tuesday, Aug. 31, is the works by Tranda Ihrig and Bonnie Stasser.

Ihrig is currently a student at Fort Hays State University working on her Masters in education. She is a certified art instructor for students from kindergarten through 12th. Ihrig graduated in 2002 from Goodland High School and in December of 2008 she got her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Emporia State.

She has been an artist for eight years and remembers sneaking into her mother's paints and craft

supplies to make "masterpieces" on the walls at home. Ihrig uses a lot of acrylics and pastels in her work but also likes working in photography, watercolor, clay and metals.

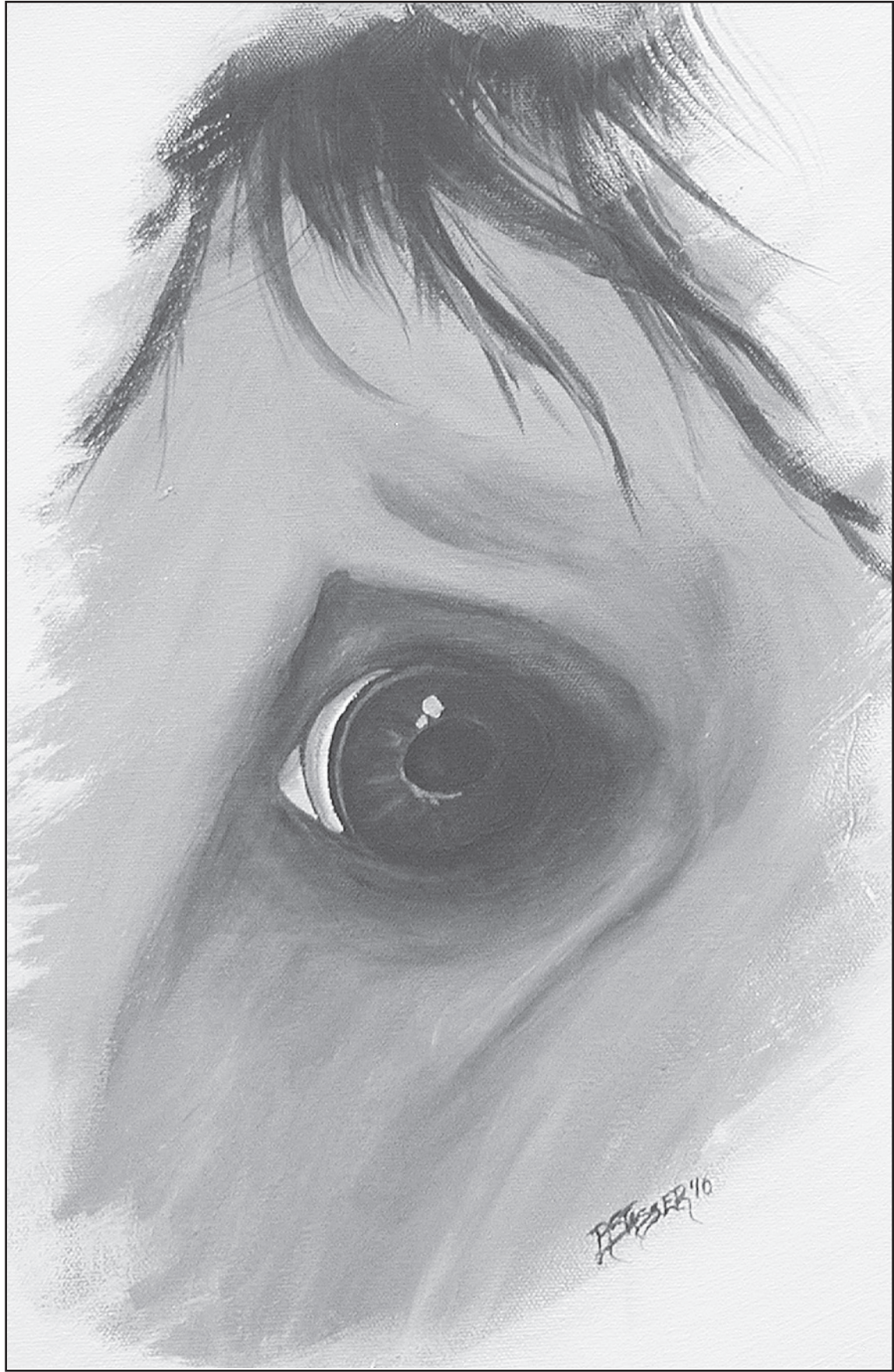
The second artist with works are on display is Bonnie Stasser. Stasser grew up on a small hobby farm and then on the shores of Lake Superior. She took art classes in high school and then additional weekend classes. Her work reflects the variety of places that she has lived and her love of horses.

"It is the beauty and feel of each location that I attempt to bring to life

on canvas," said Stasser.

She started riding horses at age three and has taken dressage and hunt seat lessons.

"In 2004 my husband and I welcomed our first foal born on our ranch. There is nothing that can compare to the sweetness of a foal's soft whiskers and gentle nicker when she is brand new. The curiosity of these sweet 'little treasures' as they get to know you is a priceless gift that everyone should experience," she said.



Denver library foundation selects Wallace man

The Denver Public Library Friends Foundation has selected Virgil Scott to be the Executive Director.

"Virgil was chosen from a large and impressive pool of applicants to provide leadership and overall management for the Friends Foundation," said Michelle Onoda, president of the board of trustees. "He will be leading all of the fundraising efforts of the foundation



Scott

with the goal of increasing private financial support for the Denver Public Library."

Scott has served in a leadership role with higher education foundations for the past 15 years and

has a track record in fundraising. He has been the president and chief executive officer of the University of Northern Colorado Foundation. Prior he was president and chief executive officer of the Fort Hays State University Foundation. He guided both organizations' development activities, including annual giving, planned giving and major gifts.

Scott has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from Fort

Hays State University and an Associate of Arts degree from Dodge City Community College. He is the son of Allen and Berna Scott of Wallace.

The mission of the Friends Foundation is to assist and support the Denver Public Library in accomplishing its goals and objectives. Since 1941, the foundation has worked to enhance the services of the library through advocacy, activi-

ties and programs, fundraising and the management of private monies raised by or donated to the library or to the foundation.

Founded in 1889, the Denver Public Library is the city's greatest source of free information and entertainment. Last year customers made over 4 million visits to the Library's 23 locations and borrowed more than 9 million items. The library is consistently ranked one of the nation's top-10.

corrections

In the story "Dance studio moves, celebrates" on Page 6a on Friday, Aug. 20, edition of The Goodland Star-News the phone number of the Right Combination Dance Studio should have been (785) 890-3285 instead of (785) 899-3285. This was due to a reporting error.

☆☆☆☆

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual.



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