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Goodland native follows modeling dream

By Kathryn Gurfinkel
The Goodland Star-News

At first glance, 17-year-old Bailee Guyer looks like an average teen-ager in jeans and an oversized T-shirt.

Look past that, though, and she starts to look like a model. Her tall, thin frame, 5-10, 117 pounds, is topped off with short straight blonde hair.

Her face is clear, young and open. She is made-up with light pink lipstick and natural eye-shadow, black mascara and eyeliner.

Although she looks the part, Guyer's attitude is lighthearted and humble. She shrugs off the compliments that might make her career.

And making a career in modeling is what she is passionate about.

"It's my dream," she said. "Just walking on the runway, I get such a rush."

She said her modeling career started a year ago when the Guyer family was vacationing at Worlds of Fun in Kansas City.

Bailee said as the family was eating, a woman approached her and asked if she modeled. The woman gave her a card for John Robert Powers, an international modeling school.

Guyer said she went to an open call in Denver and was accepted into the school.

"It's always been my dream," she

said, "and I got the opportunity."

She went through training every Saturday for 10 weeks to learn how to walk on a runway, apply makeup and work with a camera.

Although she was self conscious at first, she said her confidence has been building and posing for the camera is easy now.

"When I go to a shoot I have them put on music," she said. "It's natural. It's easy."

She said a lot of confidence is good, because there are some people in the modeling industry with negative attitudes.

"You're going to have your feeling hurt," she said. "It just makes me more motivated."

After she completed the courses, she traveled to New York this June to compete against over 6,000 models and actors in the International Model and Talent Association contest. She said she took home a fifth place medal for theatrical headshot.

Guyer said at the end of the competition, all of the models got to walk in front of 500 agents from all over the world.

The next day, she had 12 callbacks, including one coming from Model Management Group, her new agent in New York.

Modeling, she said, gets expensive, so she has done a lot of the leg work for her career herself. Now with the management group, she



Bailee Guyer posed in pictures taken at the John Robert Powers modeling school. She said photo shoots aren't all fun; with set up and make-up, they turn into long, hard days. For her classes in Denver, shoots would sometimes take all day, she said, but the ones in New York only took four or five hours.

Photo from Guyer's portfolio

visited New York last month to shoot another round of pictures to put on a "comp card," a card featuring her picture, height and weight to give to agents.

Guyer said the community has supported her modeling.

Her friends, Amy Cebula and Sammie Raymer, are proud of her achievements.

"She's great," says Raymer. "She's cute."

Guyer also has gotten a lot of support from her mother, Joni, former owner of Cobblestone Floral, stay-at-home mother and occasional substitute teacher for Goodland Schools; her father, Barry, a dryland and irrigation farmer; and 12-year-old brother Bryan.

"I couldn't have done it without them," she said. "They do so much behind the scenes."

Her support system extends to her proud grandparents Darrel and Sharon Mann and Lowell and Carol Guyer and her great grandmother Anne Mann.

A senior this year at Goodland High School, she said keeping up with schoolwork hasn't been easy.

Her teachers have helped her get homework in advance and she sneaks study sessions between photo shoots and on the airplane.

With the help of her agent, Guyer said, she doesn't have much to do. She sends out pictures

to agents and she tries to watch her weight.

"I have to lose 10 pounds," she added.

No matter what, though, she said, she won't jeopardize her health for her modeling career.

"I'm not going to put my health on the line," she said. "It's not worth it to me."

Guyer said she looks forward to life after graduation, when she hopes to move out to New York to continue modeling. She said she loves the city, and although it will be tough, she thinks she can make it.

"I love the pace of a city," she said. "I love New York."

She plans to attend college when she is done modeling, and she thinks she might follow her mother's footsteps and get into flowers.

In her spare time, Guyer said, she likes to hang out with her friends and her boyfriend, Ryan Luckert of Brewster. She plays golf on the high school team and is in Family Career Community Leaders of America and the Girls Athletic Association.

Her sudden launch into the world of modeling, she said, has been exciting and she looks forward to magazine covers, runway shows and a long career.

"It's been overwhelming," she said. "It's like a dream come true."

Thrift store builds new shelves, makes changes

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Hammers pounding, saws buzzing, screwdrivers turning — all to make more room to store "twice-loved treasures."

The Goodland Churches Thrift Store has had some help building shelves in the hallway between its storage room and warehouse, and hopes to get more shelves in the back of the shop.

B&B Electric has added florescent lights, and a new cabinet and new rack are helping to organize children's clothes in the front of the store.

And the shop will soon have a place to display furniture, nursery items, exercise equipment and luggage.

The store has been making a lot of changes in the last two months, said manager Jo Simmons, and will have a grand opening when it is ready to show off the new display area.

Simmons said she started asking around this summer about how to get help adding shelves.

She said Jim Wedermeyer, who had helped the thrift store with projects before, suggested she talk to the United Methodist Men's Breakfast Group and to the Kiwanis Club, groups that he belongs to.

Both have donated money for the shelves, she said, and for the "Kids' Christmas Shoppe," an event to help youngsters afford gifts for their families.



Jim Wedermeyer steadied the shelves while the Rev. Gene Tromble hammered in the final nails at the Goodland Churches Thrift Shop Wednesday.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Simmons said \$970 has been raised so far, but she is still talking to groups to raise more.

The particle-board shelves now line two walls in the hallway, but more shelves will be added to a room just for Christmas items, to the warehouse and possibly the storage room.

"We'll see how far our money goes," Simmons said.

She said the store will be getting metal shelves from Miller's Electronics, and she will talk to the Rotary Club, Lions and the Knights of

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