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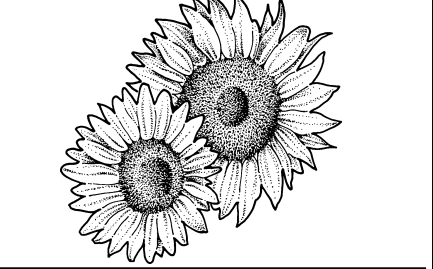
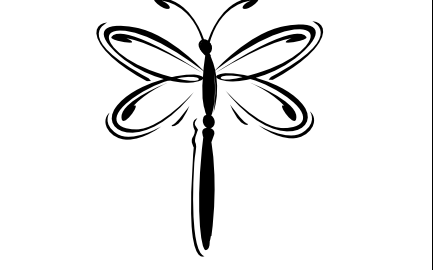
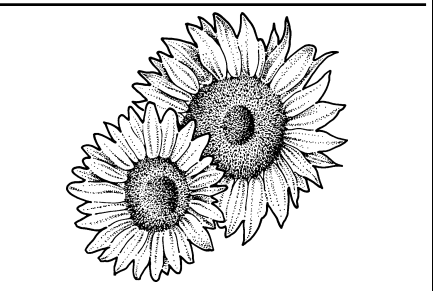
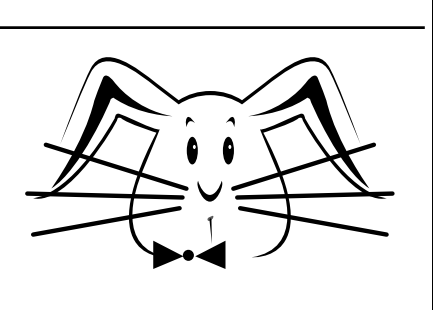
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Tina Goodwin hung T.J. Freeman's winning photo, "Peek-a-boo," the first week of September. The Flatlander Photo Contest drew entries from several area photographers and over 200 people to vote for the People's Choice awards.
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

People's Choice winners chosen in photo contest

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

More than 200 people saw the entries. Many voted, and they chose the winners of the People's Choice Awards in the Flatlander Photography Contest.

The photos include a dog, a cat, a bicycle and the giant Van Gogh painting at sunrise. Some of the photographers used 35mm film cameras, but digital technology is making its mark. Entrants have a variety of photography experiences, and there are stories behind all their photos.

About 200 people signed the guest book at the Carnegie Arts Center during September when the photos were up, said Director Tina Goodwin, including more than 60 during the opening reception Saturday, Sept. 23. There were more visitors during the month, she added, but not everyone signed in.

The rules for the contest are relaxed, Goodwin said, allowing everyone to participate and drawing a variety of entries. Photos can be black and white or color; they can be taken anywhere, not just in Sherman County; and they don't have to be just from the last year.

The pictures have to be ready to hang, she said, but they can be matted or framed.

Julie Crow received the top adult award for "Mickey Mouse," a picture of her son's beagle. Cary Amos was second with "VanGogh at Sunrise." The top youth award went to T.J. Freeman for "Peek-a-Boo," a picture of a cat, and the second-place award went to Chloe Goodwin, daughter of the center's director and Curtis Goodwin, a teacher in the automotive department at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, for "Bicycle."

Julie Crow's story
Crow said her photography started with a class at Liberty High School, between Joes and Kirk, Colo.

"I had a fascination with taking photographs," she said, "with taking different angles and seeing it when developed, and I enjoyed working in the dark room."

When you can't draw, Crow said, you can express your artistic side with photography. She said she enjoys taking pictures of nature and started with that, but also enjoys taking pictures of kids and capturing people's smiles.

She said she has plenty of opportunities to photograph dogs. Her husband Melvin trains hunting dogs, and she has taken a lot of pictures of them. And then there is "Mickey Mouse."

"He's my son's beagle that Santa Claus delivered last Christmas," Crow said. "He was 9 to 12 weeks old in the picture."

The photo was grand champion in open class at the county fair, she said; it was taken on color film and then digitally changed to black and white. Crow said she is still shooting with 35mm film but wants to get a digital camera. She has a lot of lenses and equip-



ment for the 35mm, she said, and it's hard to give that up and buy all new gear.

"I use a cheap digital for quick shots," Crow said, "and I'm getting spoiled. With 35mm, you have to wait and see it when it's developed."

Crow has been administrative assistant at LoBo Production Inc., a natural gas company north of Goodland, for 11 years. She and her husband have two sons, Manten, 4 1/2, and Jerek, who will be 2 in November.

Cary Amos' experience

Amos, an officer with the Goodland Police Department, said he got his start in photography with a continuing education class on collecting evidence, which the department uses digital cameras for.

"Shortly after that," he said, "a friend bought me a camera for my birthday."

That was about four years ago, he said, and it has turned into a fun hobby.

"There have been a lot of good sunrises," he said, "and I work strange hours. I'm up at odd hours."

Photography has been a lot of fun, he said, a good way to relax. His work has grown in the last year and a half, he said, and he took a friend's senior pictures. Amos said his photography has gotten a lot of attention from people who know him.

"People have been bugging me to enter that contest," he said.

Amos works with a digital camera for his personal photography as well as at work.

"I had a 35mm years ago," he said, "but I didn't use it much."

Digital is cheaper in the long run, he said; you can take a lot of pictures and only print the good ones. His skill has been a benefit at work, too, he said. You can save pictures on the hard drive of a computer, he said, and not develop them if they're not needed for a case. He has been with the police department since July 2000 and worked at the Sherman County sheriff's office for a few years before that.

T.J. Freeman's photos

The winning youth photographer is 15 and a sophomore at Goodland High School. The son of Adam and Tammy Freeman, he said he has been a photographer since he was 7.

"The arts center had a beginner's class," Freeman said, "and I took it. I used a disposable camera and took pictures at the park."

"The teacher said I should enter my photos at the fair in open class. I got a blue ribbon and decided I wanted to join 4-H."

Freeman said his mom wouldn't let him join until his brother Mikail won a pig in the "catch a pig" contest about three years ago.

Now he raises pigs for 4-H and enters projects in Legos, is a 4-H Ambassador and a parliamentarian in his club. He even tried cooking one year, he said, but that was a disaster.

Freeman is in the Boy Scouts and chief for the Order of the Arrow, and participates in baseball, football and wrestling. Scholars' Bowl, DECA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and Art Club at school.

He said he enjoys taking still-life photos of flowers and statues and wants to do photos of people. "Peek-a-Boo" was a photo that just happened, he said.

"A friend of my mom's said I could go to their farm and take pictures," he said. "The cat just looked up at me and meowed, and I took the picture."

Freeman said he thought the print would do well at the fair, but it got a red ribbon. His mother really liked the picture, though, and encouraged him to enter it in the Flatlander contest. He said he takes pictures on 35mm film but sometimes gets a chance to play around with his mom's digital camera.

Chloe Goodwin's story

Goodwin, 11, a sixth grader at North Elementary School, said she borrows her mom's Christmas present, a digital camera, to take her photos. She's hoping someone will give her a camera this year.

"I like digital," she said. "You can look at it right away and do it a different way if you want."

Goodwin said she went outside one day and started taking pictures, and her dad said they should enter them in the fair. A member of Prairie Dale 4-H Club, Goodwin also entered sewing projects, a skirt, a pillow and a book cover, and a rabbit, Noel.

She's a student in the Right Combination Dance Studio and likes to sketch. She enjoys the gallery at the arts center and benefits from her mom's experience with art.

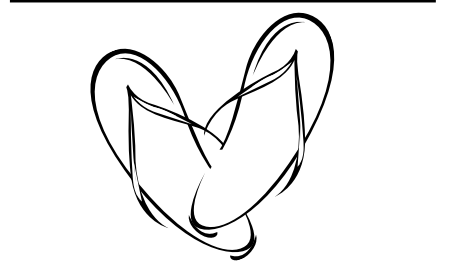
"I'll ask her how to do something," Chloe said, "and she'll say you could do it this way or it'll look good if you do it that way."

Goodwin said she likes a variety of pictures. She enjoys taking still lifes, but says she doesn't really have a favorite subjects.

When her class went on a field trip to the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby, she kept telling classmates to smile, she said, then she'd take their pictures.

"They were like, 'No!'" she said, holding her hand up in front of her face.

Goodwin said when she was younger, she took a picture of a building, looking up at it, and thought it was cool, so she took more.




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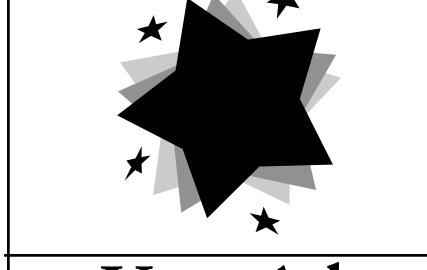


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