

# Dry weather, wind cause fatal wreck

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they tried to direct traffic around the accident.

Roemer said a man who said he was a first responder checked the young man's pulse and said he was dead.

"He said, 'There's nothing we can do for him,'" he said.

Roemer said the car's motor was pushed into Hopper and the steering column was smashed against his chest. He said it looked like the air bag deployed, but may have been punctured by the steering column.

As law officers started arriving, Roemer said, Johnson asked him, "Were you the one driving behind me?" When he said "yes," he said Johnson told him to stick around to give his report to police.

With the wind blowing and dust swirling, volunteers worked frantically to free Hopper from the vehicle, which had a Kansas license plate reading, "Nevrmore." They used a hydraulic tool to cut off the doors and top of the car, smashing the windows in the process.

The front of Hopper's car was smashed and a medical volunteer held his head while others took apart his car.

Johnson said he was worried about the young man. He and others had dirt stuck between their teeth.

Trooper Troy Smith, who handled the accident, said officers worked to clean up the scene until about 9 p.m.

The first accident apparently caused a second, in which a driver was taken to the hospital here.

A highway patrol report says about 8:30 p.m. David Savage, 19, Diamond Valley, Utah, was driving east on I-70 in a 1989 Jaguar when the lights from cars at the first accident startled him.

Savage reportedly stopped abruptly and a 1998 Ford driven by Gerald Hatt, 48, New Baden, Ill., ran into the back of his car. Dale Schields, resource development director at the hospital, said Savage was treated as an outpatient and released.

The report says a passenger in Hatt's car, 17-year-old Matthew Hatt, declined to be taken to the hospital. There were three other passengers in Hatt's car who were uninjured.



There is at least a one-foot drop off where the asphalt has been removed from K-27 at U.S. 24. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

# Construction goes ahead

ROAD, from Page 1

their way south to County Road 67. They will work south to the intersection, and should be finished in 10-14 days, Binning said.

The last layer is a surface mix, Binning said. It is more porous than the current top layer, so that water can run off the road more easily. Afterwards, a striping crew will put on temporary stripes. The road will be about an inch and a half higher, Binning said, so dirt will have to be brought up to the new level and seeded with grass.

The layer is being added under traffic, Binning said, and cars might have to wait up to 15 minutes to pass, following a pilot car.

Binning said the construction seems to be going much smoother this year than last.

"It's been a lot nicer," she said.

Andy Hull, a construction superintendent for Richie Paving, the prime contractor of the work, said he appreciates the support he has gotten from Goodland businesses and residents.

"People have been very patient and cooperative," he said. "We'd like to extend a big thank you."

# County decides to buy a 'Deere' to use at fairgrounds

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sherman County decided Tuesday to take the low bid and buy a John Deere tractor to be used at the fairgrounds and the courthouse.

"Blue or green, that is the choice," said Commissioner Mitch Tiede.

"What is your favorite color?" "Actually the real question is which one will hold together better, and I lean toward the John Deere."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure agreed, saying the Deere has more horsepower, more loading capacity and cost a few dollars less.

Commission Chairman Chuck Frankenfeld said he had reviewed the bids from Yost Farm Supply and Goodland Greenline and he also felt the Deere tractor was the better choice.

The base bid from Yost was \$16,000 and the bid from Goodland Greenline was \$15,100.

Tiede made the motion to purchase the Deere and Frankenfeld seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Terry Holloway, a sales representative for Greenline, said it would take six to eight weeks for delivery.

Curt Way, county public works director, said he had received four options for installing a large trash baler from salesman David H. Lane, representing Glen L. DeHart and Son of St. Louis. Way said Lane gave him a new

price for the baler of \$314,990 for a turnkey installation. That is a cut of about \$23,000, but does not include the electrical work or a building addition to the transfer station.

Commissioner Tiede suggested he liked option 4 the best because it would put the baler inside the existing building and with an addition to the south, there would be space available to handle recycled cardboard.

Way said he believes option 4 is the best, and that with an addition of up to 40 feet to the south, there would be room to both store and handle the cardboard.

The commissioners are considering the baler as a more efficient way of handling trash for the landfill and being able to bale cardboard for recycling. They have not made a decision, and said they would like to see a baler in operation before they do.

Way talked to the commissioners about replacing the loader at the transfer station. "We will need it anyway," he said, "whether we go with the new baler or not. The existing one is in dire

need of repair or may be traded in on a new one, but we will need a loader no matter what happens on the baler."

Tiede said he favored the new loader because he felt it would cost more in the future to keep repairing the old one. Martin Tractor of Colby has offered to take the old loader as a trade in, and Tiede said he thought it was a good offer.

Way said the new loader should last longer because the operation has changed and there would be fewer hours on the new one.

Frankenfeld made a motion to purchase the loader through Martin Tractor for \$92,936. Tiede seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Randy Hrabec of Northwest Kansas Planning and Development appeared to have the commissioners sign the contracts for the new micro loan program, and a request for the state to release the money.

He told the commissioners there would be about a 15 day delay, but that the local committee could begin receiving and reviewing applications.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the applications are available from her office and from the Goodland Chamber of Commerce.

The micro loans can provide up to \$15,000 to help small business get started. A state grant provides \$90,000 to be used for helping businesses in Sherman County.

The commissioners decided to reject a lease offer from Alan Townsend for farming county land near the new landfill. They asked Rumpel to draft a letter to Townsend saying the county was terminating the farm lease, and then asked County Attorney Bonnie Selby to draft a public notice to be published saying the commissioners will be seeking a new person to farm the ground.

Appointments to the Smoky Gardens board, the Rural Fire District board and a vacancy on the High Plains Mental Health advisory board were tabled until the next meeting, to be 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 30, in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

# Venezuelan leaders plead for unity

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — At the urging of President Hugo Chavez, Venezuelans began examining the rifts that led to a flip-flop coup over the weekend and nearly ripped the nation apart. But so far, there seemed to be as much bitterness as forgiveness.

"Polarization has to give way to reconciliation and understanding," OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria said after meeting Chavez on Tuesday. His fact-finding trip was meant to help other governments in the hemisphere understand what happened as Chavez was toppled on Friday only to retake power on Sunday.

The opposition Democratic Action party announced yesterday it did not recognize Chavez as president.

Even as dozens of civilians and soldiers face possible charges stemming from the coup, Christian Democratic party leader Sergio Omar Calderon appeared to justify it yesterday, arguing that Chavez himself had imposed "permanent unconstitutionality" on the country.

The Confederation of Venezuelan Workers, which led a national strike last week that helped topple Chavez, called for a referendum on whether the government should stay.

Even so, Caracas Archbishop Cardinal Ignacio Velasco — who visited Chavez during the president's detention — said Chavez "promised me he would correct many things." He praised the president for admitting he had made errors.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The Pakistani government is failing to protect women from violence including rape, acid attacks, burning and killing, an international human rights group said Wednesday.

Violence at home, in police custody and in society at large is widespread in Pakistan, the London-based Amnesty International said in its fifth report on women's rights in the country.

Very poor women, women from religious minorities and women forced to pay off debts through indentured service are particularly vulnerable to abuse, Amnesty said.

The report acknowledged that the government of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has made numerous pledges to protect women's rights. However, Amnesty said the statements have had limited impact and little has changed in recent years.

Government officials did not immediately comment on the report. However, the government last month termed a State Department report critical of human rights here as "factually inaccurate and unwarranted."

NATIONAL

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis' astronauts completed their construction work at the international space station and then got ready for their all-too-soon departure.

Atlantis was due to undock from the station today after a weeklong visit that featured the successful installation of a \$790 million girder and railcar.

The seven shuttle astronauts wanted to stay a day longer and help their three space station friends put away their deliveries, but NASA instructed them to leave on time because of upcoming station activity.

In the fourth and final spacewalk by the shuttle crew, NASA's most experienced spacewalker and his rookie partner wrapped up work on the space station's new 44-foot girder yesterday and hung powerful floodlights outside the orbiting outpost.

"Sure beats the dollar an hour I used to get for baling hay," said Jerry Ross, an Indiana farmboy making his ninth spacewalk.

It was the second spacewalk by Ross and Lee Morin in four days.

CHICAGO (AP) — A study suggests that angioplasties can be safely done at hospitals regardless of whether they have cardiac surgery departments, a finding that could extend the lifesaving procedure to thousands of U.S. heart attack patients.

The study, which appears in today's Journal of the American Medical Association, challenges the conventional notion that angioplasties should only be performed at hospitals with a special cardiac unit.

The study involved giving three months of angioplasty training to staffers at 11 of such hospitals. Angioplasty, in which a tiny balloon is used to open a clogged artery, is considered the best treatment for heart attacks.

Following the training, researchers found that angioplasty patients fared about as well in regular hospitals as those who undergo the procedure at surgery-ready hospitals.

About two-thirds of U.S. heart attack patients each year do not get angioplasties because they are taken to hospitals without cardiac surgery units. In fact, most U.S. hospitals do not have such units.

"It should not be a matter of chance or geography that determines what kind of care a heart attack patient receives," said Dr. Thomas Aversano, a Johns Hopkins Hospital cardiologist who led the study.

ATLANTA (AP) — Three lucky people are holding winning tickets purchased for the \$325 million Big Game jackpot, lottery officials announced Wednesday.

Georgia Lottery Corp. spokesman J. B. Landroche said a winning ticket came from Dacula, Ga., a small town 32 miles northeast of Atlanta. Illinois and New Jersey sold the other Big Game winning tickets that matched all five numbers and the Big Money ball.

The cities in New Jersey and Illinois were not immediately known.

Each winning ticket is worth \$108,333,333.

The odds of winning the current jackpot were 76 million to one. The jackpot was the second-largest.



Our switch to the Southwest Bell Internet Service has been completed, and we thank our customers for their support and patience as we went through this process. As happens, there were some things that were unanticipated, such as the delay in receiving our email.

With the switch, we are hearing that some customers are enjoying better and faster service, but there may be some areas where we have not seen much change. While we expect improvement, it will depend on the existing phone lines in your home and community. If you find

your connections are slower than 19200kb please let us and your local phone company know.

We are working in partnership with Southwestern Bell Internet to provide the best possible service in Northwest Kansas.

If you continue to have trouble, please call *The Goodland Daily News* or Tom Betz or one of his helpers at 785-899-2338. We will do our best to help you troubleshoot the problems.

Better Internet service is our goal.

Oberlin, 475-2206 ★ St. Francis, 332-3162 ★ Colby, 462-3963  
Tom Betz, director of Internet services, Goodland, 785-899-2338