

## Cars, trucks slide off I-70 during snow storms

By Sharon Corcoran

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Snow the day before Thanksgiving left roads around Goodland icy, leading to an accident that injured a Longmont, Colo., woman, then snow, wind and freezing fog Friday morning left a Denver man dead in another wreck.

Authorities said the weather Friday slick conditions on I-70 and poor visibility. Vehicles slid off the Interstate throughout the day. Saturday morning, a truck rolled west of town, killing a Denver man. An Acura hit a deer Saturday afternoon, breaking out the windshield and

injuring a dog.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Robert James Valentine, 57, Denver, was driving a 1998 Toyota east on I-70 at 8:15 a.m. Saturday. The vehicle spun out and entered the south ditch about 4 1/2 miles west of Goodland, then went off a culvert and hit the other side of it. The vehicle overturned and came to rest on the passenger side, troopers reported.

Valentine was pronounced dead at the scene and taken to Bateman Funeral Home. He was wearing his seat belt, the patrol said. The car was removed by Stage Stop Towing.

In the earlier accident on the same stretch of road, the patrol said, Ryan Alan Berdinner, 26, of Longmont, was driving a 2001 Ford Ranger pickup eastbound on I-70. He was in the right lane about four miles west of Goodland at 7:50 a.m. Wednesday, when he hit an icy spot and began to fishtail. He overcorrected and struck a tree in the ditch. The vehicle rolled one time, landing upright facing south.

Amy Cherie Berdinner, 25, of Longmont, was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center. She was released from the hospital.

The vehicle was removed by

Alex's Radiator and Auto Repair. It wasn't the only accident Wednesday, said Alex West, owner of Alex's repair; McB's went to one at mile marker 19.

Reports from law enforcement said that Toyota pickup slid off a mile east of Goodland about 3:45 p.m. Friday, striking a guard rail and a tree. No one was injured. A vehicle slid off five miles east of Kanorado about 6:55 p.m. and went through a fence. No one was injured in that one, either.

West said he pulled five or six vehicles back onto the road that could be driven away and towed

vehicles from five wrecks. Besides that, he said, there were tracks along the Interstate where at least a dozen vehicles went off and come right back on.

An Acura collided with a deer Saturday afternoon, West said, injuring a dog and scaring the people in the car. The vehicle hit the deer between 4 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday, West said, and the antlers came through the windshield as the deer went over the top.

A dog had a four-inch cut from the glass, West said, and was taken to Dr. Gary Smith, who fixed it up and got the animal ready to go to

Colorado Springs for surgery. The family was from around Denver, he said.

A pickup hit the guard rail over by Brewster on Friday, West said, a trailer jackknifed, a Ford Taurus went off and hit a culvert at mile marker 12, a Lincoln Town Car hit the guardrail near the west Goodland exit and a pickup went through a fence at mile marker 5.

The pickup was driven by a man from Oklahoma, West said, and he was wearing shorts and sandals. He scuffed up the pickup but drove away once he was back on the road, he said.

## Council nominates members

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Sherman County Economic Development Council agreed to recommend one current board member and two new members for three-year board terms and approved a raise for the office executive assistant.

The board met at 5:30 p.m. last Tuesday in the basement of the Western State Bank. Chairman Don Newell told the council three three-year terms on the board are expiring. Harlan House, a farmer, and Gary Slough, sales and marketing director for S&T Communications, are leaving the board, he said, while Darwin McClung is interested in being re-elected.

Three people who weren't at the meeting are interested in filling the openings, he said, Danny Archer, co-owner of Finley Motors; Richard Johnson, owner of the Madd Hatter Music Emporium; and Willie Weems, manager of Kansasland Tire.

Dale Neill, former owner of KOA Kampground, and Walt Linthacum, a farmer and co-owner of L&W Andrist Insurance agency with his wife Linda, told the board they were interested and talked about what they could bring to the council.

Neill, chairman for the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, said he has a continuing interest in the well-being of Sherman County. He told the board he has sold his business but has made a commitment to stay here.

The county needs to diversify in business as much as possible to grow, he said.

"I have worked the past 13 years for the CVB," he said, "trying to bring money in."

Linthacum told the board he was born and raised here, and his heart is on the farm. He said he farms 13 miles northwest of Goodland, and he and Linda started their insurance business from the ground up.

As the ballots were passed out, Newell told the board members to vote for three candidates. They selected McClung, Archer and Linthacum. The third Tuesday in January will be their first meeting as board members, Newell said, pending approval by the county commissioners.

After two 15-minute closed sessions to talk about personnel, the council voted to give Executive Assistant Helen Dobbs a raise to \$11 per hour.

"We really appreciate everything you've done," said board member Steve West, president of Western State Bank.

## Chamber rocks fund-raiser with chairs

By Sharon Corcoran

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They're not your grandmothers' rocking chairs.

Painted and decouped in a variety of colors and designs, rocking chairs are popping up in businesses around town, where they can be bid on during a silent auction to be completed at the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas dinner and dance.

The Chamber is selling unassembled rocking chairs to businesses to decorate as they wish, giving people a chance to express their creativity and to bid on the chairs.

An "inspirational" chair with positive thoughts on a background of leaves, decouped by Goodland artist Shirley Houston, is on display at the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Kids in the story hour at the Goodland Public Library put their hands on a chair bought by Eagle Communications and decorated with the saying, "Our Future is in Good Hands."

A rocking chair with an American flag as a background and a silhouette of a skateboarder, decorated by the Shine On Sherman County youth committee, is on display at the Sherman County Economic Development office. The Economic Development Council voted at its meeting last Tuesday to bid on the chair.

The unfinished chairs were ordered from Rasure Lumber, said Andi Nelson, Chamber director, and all were the same before they fell into creative hands.

The Chamber sold 12 chairs, she said, adding they cleaned out the warehouse and couldn't get any more.

"I think they've been fun," she said, "and it has been neat to see the chairs."

The project has gotten a lot of people involved, she said, and it seems they are enjoying it.

Other chairs were sold to Accounting and Tax Services, where employees did a Christmas chair, Nelson said, S&T Communications, High Plains Office Supply, the Northwest Kansas Technical College, Short and Son Trucking, Rasure Lumber and the Chamber office.



Shirley Houston tied the cushion on the "inspirational chair" she decouped for Goodland Regional Medical Center. The hospital bought the chair from the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce

and asked Houston to decorate it. Bids are being accepted for the chair, with money going to Chamber programs.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Trchsel A&B bought one that was decorated by Klip 'n' Kurl Salon and is displayed at the salon, Nelson said, and Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates engineering bought one that was decorated by Teeter's Abstract and Title and is displayed at First

National Bank. Goodland High School's Art Club decorated the Chamber's chair with a Cowboys theme, she said, and also decorated the one at Short and Son.

The one at the library is pretty neat, Nelson said. But she is want-

ing to bid on Houston's creation displayed at the hospital.

"I really want that one," she said.

Bidding began last week, she said, and will close at 11 p.m. at the Chamber dance Saturday at the Goodland Elks Lodge. The cocktail

hour begins at 5:30, she said, dinner will be served from 6:30 to 8:30, and the dance begins at 9 p.m. Call the Chamber at 899-7130 no later than Wednesday to get tickets.

Tickets are \$35 for nonmembers and \$30 for members, with a choice of chicken or prime rib for dinner.

## correction

The story "Fire destroys shop, burns fields" in the Tuesday, Nov. 20, edition of *The Goodland Star-News*, said wheat stubble burned by the fire was on Charlie Nipps' land. The fire did not burn his land, Mr. Nipps said, but he helped put

it out. This error was due to incorrect information given to the newspaper.

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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.

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