

Spring blizzard hard on May flowers



Drivers on Cherry Ave. (above) near the giant Van Gogh replica found themselves in a "Winter Wonderland" Friday evening, as snow blanketed the same park where walkers had enjoyed 80-degree temperatures on Wednesday. Snow and ice crystals clung to tulips (right), at 418 E. 12th, Saturday morning after a snow storm on Friday dropped about three-quarters of an inch of snow on Goodland with .07 moisture. The snow began falling about 11 a.m. and quit about 10 p.m. and was accompanied by winds at 36 mph and as high as 53 mph. The highest speed recorded in Goodland was 64 mph, but gusts as high as 80 mph were reported west of town creating near zero visibility. Photos by Sharon Corcoran and Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Blowing dirt and high winds figured in an accident on old U.S. 24 west of Goodland on Friday, said Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts. Undersheriff Roger Studer took these photos while traffic was turned back on both sides of the accident scene.

Truck, car collide in dirt

A Kanorado man lost control of his car on old U.S. 24 about six miles west of Goodland in high winds and blowing dirt Friday, crossed the center and ran head on into a semitrailer truck going east. Ryan Warren, 48, was trapped in his 1996 Pontiac and had to be cut out, said Sherman County Sheriff

Kevin Butts. Sheriff's officers, state troopers and emergency medical technicians worked to free his legs. The patrol reported that the Peterbilt semi rig was being driven west by John Zicht, 46, Burlington. Warren was going east. Warren was taken to Goodland

Regional Medical Center by ambulance and flown to Swedish Medical Center in Denver. His father, Arnold Warren, said Monday he was in traction and they needed to wait until the swelling went down to do surgery on his leg.

Community applauds Shine on Sherman projects

By Tom Betz
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Volunteers who raised more than \$30,000 in the past year for a new skate park won the applause of the more than 80 people at the Shine On Sherman County "community conversation" on Thursday at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

Each of the five Shine On task forces got a chance to tell what it had been doing for the past year, giving the audience a chance to ask questions, said Jessica Cole, chairman of the steering committee.

Mike Hamilton, a worker for McGraw Hill who recently moved back to Goodland, was the moderator for the evening.

Hamilton, who's wife, Krista, graduated from Goodland High School in 1991, went to the University of Wyoming where he got a masters degree.

He said technology allows him to work from home, so he can live almost anywhere, but he wanted to be in Goodland.

Kim Bohme of Miller's Home Center, said the youth committee had about 20 kids helping raise money over the past year. She said the group has raised around \$30,000 so far, not including a \$5,000 Tony Hawks grant which just came in.

The skate park received a Finnup Heritage Trust grant of \$5,000 from Garden City last year, she said.

"The kids have done a lot of the work to raise the other \$20,000," Bohme said. "I have been happy to see the kids helping. When we

went out to cut those big weeds last fall for three nights, I thought we were going to lose them, but they have hung in there through all the money-raising projects."

Brennen Clouse, one of the students at the meeting, said he is not a skater, but was glad to be involved in helping the committee get this project going.

Bohme said the first phase, a 65-foot-by-95-foot concrete slab, should be poured in the next few weeks. She said an engineer from JMC Engineering has volunteered to work with the committee to design concrete skating features to go in the park.

Someone in the audience asked about maintenance and liability coverage for the skate park.

Bohme said the liability will be taken care of by the city through its insurance, and with the concrete equipment, the maintenance should be minimal.

Later, the crowd broke up into small groups to discuss community strengths and areas where more improvement is needed. At the end of the session, Hamilton asked people from the groups to list the strengths and areas of improvement for the group to look at.

Community pride, the location and good people were some of the strengths mentioned by more than one group. Areas needing improvement included enforcing city codes, the developing the east I-70 exit and east entrance to the city and widening the number of people involved in improvement efforts.

Hamilton said he could see that the group needs to get more people engaged and to get them involved to the point it becomes their project.

"We should not let it be acceptable to let people just complain," said Ron Vignery, a Goodland lawyer. "We should not accept a negative statement without asking them why they are complaining."

"This is a good community and we have good people. We need to challenge anyone who says that another town is better than where we live."

Spokespersons for three of the other task forces explained what their groups have been doing over the past year.

Steve Rains, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, said the first thing the beautification task force had done last year was raise money for American flags to be put out on Main for holidays and events. He said the 45 flags looked good until the winds during the Flatlander Fall Festival flattened many of the poles.

He said the group hopes to start a program to recognize people who have improved their homes with a sign saying, "Thank you for your

effort."

Lincoln Wilson of Howard Johnson's Hotel, speaking for resource development committee, and said members are working on an effort to help teach people how donations to the Sherman County Community Foundation can help the community.

Kin Huang, president of the foundation board, said the agency is handling money for several projects, but needs more endowment donations to help build its base. She said the foundation is growing slowly, and hopes that more people will consider including a donation to the foundation as part of their annual giving or in their will as bequest.

Trevor Linton said the government alliance task force had trouble getting started because it has such large topic. He said the task force has agreed to help the city and county look at how to streamline their functions.

He said several members had gone down to Tribune in Greeley County to talk to people about how they had worked over the past two years to combine their city and county governments. He said the voters approved the unification in

November and they are now in the transition period.

Linton said the task force has agreed to help educate the citizens about at-large voting issue for county commissioners if it is approved by the Legislature to be voted on in November.

Cole said the regional health task force was unable to have anyone at the meeting. She said she knows they have been meeting and have completed a community survey, and the results are being put together for

presentation later this year.

corrections

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