

Two drivers die in accident

The drivers of two vehicles were killed at 7:05 p.m. on Friday at the junction of U.S. 36 and K27 at Wheeler. A 1989 Oldsmobile driven by Shirley Amack, 72, of St. Francis was going north on K27 when William Roth, 25, of Denver driving a 1994 GMC pickup going east on U.S. 36 struck Amack's car on the driver's side. Both vehicles ended up in the north ditch.

Amack was taken to Cheyenne County Hospital of St. Francis and died. Roth was also taken to the Cheyenne County Hospital where he died.

The two passengers in the pickup were injured and taken to the Cheyenne County Hospital. They were

Steven Headley, 28 of Sterling, Colo., and Thomas Yim, 30, of Aurora, Colo.

None of the accident victims were wearing seat belts.

Cheyenne County Deputy Cody Beeson handled the accident. The vehicles were towed by Troys Transformation Auto Body of St. Francis.

Services for Amack will be at 9:30 a.m. (Mountain Time) today at St. Francis Community Church, 204 N. Quincy, St. Francis. Visitation was Monday from 3 to 7 p.m. (Mountain Time) at Knodel Funeral Home, 202 S. Benton, St. Francis.

Amack's obituary is on page 2.

Ice causes truck to hit undersheriff

Temperatures were cold on Friday morning, Dec. 19, and reports were the highways east of Goodland were coated in ice when the Sherman County Undersheriff was sent to investigate a rollover near the Sherman and Thomas County line with him being involved in a second accident.

Undersheriff Roger Studer was driving east on I-70 in the left lane about 10:30 a.m. looking for a reported rollover accident about 15 miles east of town. He spotted a pickup sitting out in a field on the other side of the highway.

"I slowed down, and was using the rough side of the road to help slow me down on the slick ice," he said, "when suddenly my pickup was hit in the back by another pickup. The pickup spun around my truck and then hit the front before it stopped."

Studer said he was pushed into the median, and he checked to see that the two girls in the other pickup were uninjured. He called for a state trooper to investigate his accident and then walked back down the highway to investigate the other accident.

He said the 2008 Chevy pickup he was driving was one the county had gotten earlier in the year and had 3,400 miles on it.

The pickup that hit Studer was a

2001 Ford driven by Amy L. Ward, 18, of Easton who was driving east in the right lane, and when she saw the county pickup slow down. She told state trooper Joe Greene she lost control when she tried to slow down and slid into the back of the sheriff's truck spun around and hit the front before coming to a stop.

Her passenger Lisa Ward, 20, of Easton was uninjured. Both girls were wearing seat belts.

Undersheriff Studer investigated the accident he was trying to get to when his truck was hit.

The other accident, which happened about 9:40 a.m. 15 miles east of town involved a 2001 Chevrolet truck driven by Kimberly R. Wright, 22 of Kelleen, Texas. She was driving east when she lost control crossed I-70 slid off the north side of the highway rolled two times, went through the state fence and the pickup came to rest on its wheels about 70 feet out in a field.

Passengers in the pickup were Dylan C. Sandrey, 23, of Kelleen and 30-day old Samantha L. Sandrey. The driver and passenger were using seat belts and the baby was in an infant seat.

The three were transported to Goodland Regional Medical Center where they were treated and released said hospital spokesperson Tina Goodwin.

Sunflower association honors Goodland man

Lynn Hoelting was recognized by the National Sunflower Association at their winter meeting Thursday, Dec. 11, in Loveland, Colo., for his years of service and for being a part of the sunflower industry in the High Plains region.

Hoelting started working with sunflowers at the confection plant in Goodland and later when he moved to management at Mueller Grain. Mueller was a key elevator that helped to develop sunflower markets in the tri-state area of Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska.

In 1998, Hoelting was elected to chair the High Plains Committee of the National Sunflower Association. This is a committee of industry

representatives who's activities are funded by industry check-offs. He left the position recently when he took a new job at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Much at the research that has gone into sunflower production in the region has come about because of the committee. The committee had been an active force in research development and education.

Hoelting received a plaque and a gift and was given a standing ovation for his work. Hoelting was accompanied by his wife, Cathy and daughter, Braelyn.



Hoelting

corrections

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.

Church gains side door



Ralph Brighton (left) and Darrel Schrader (right) framed out a new side door installed in the wall on the south side of the First Baptist Church on the corner of Main Ave. and 12th Street. Schrader said the church is moving forward and working on finishing the inside installing carpet and tiles.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Farm payment changes open for comment

The Department of Agriculture has announced changes in the income levels for direct farm payments in an interim final regulation open for public comment for 30 days.

Publication of the interim regulation was expected in the Federal Register this week. The regulation includes changes to the adjusted gross income qualifications, payment limitations and Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Services programs.

"Changes to program participation rules and qualifying income requirements will make farm program payments more defensible to America's taxpayers," Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer said. "This is a step in the right direction to ensuring that program benefits are targeted to active qualifying farmers and ranchers."

Dennis Mote, director of the Sherman County Farm Service Agency said the changes are part of the 2008 Farm Bill. He said comments on the changes can be sent to the United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

The regulation changes the adjusted gross income limitation for commodity and disaster programs and reduces the limit from \$2.5 million to a three-year average non-farm adjusted income of \$500,000.

This would make a person or entity (corporation, trust or estate) ineligible for such programs if the non-farm adjusted income exceeds \$500,000 Mote said.

Under the regulation an individual or entity must have a three-year average adjusted income less than or equal to \$750,000 per year from farm income to qualify for direct payments under the direct and counter-cyclical program.

The definition of farming, ranching and forestry income was expanded to include the packing, storing and transporting of agricultural commodities; production of livestock products; farm-based production of renewable bio-energy; and in some instances, the providing of operational inputs to farmers, ranchers and foresters.

For conservation programs, the average non-farm adjusted income limitation is \$1 million or less for eligibility. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm adjusted income in excess of \$1 million remains eligible for conservation programs only if two-thirds (66.66 percent) or more of the total income is from farming, ranching and forestry operations.

The adjusted income limitation for conservation programs may be waived on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that environmentally sensitive land of special signifi-

cance would be protected.

Program payments are limited by direct attribution to individuals or legal entities created under federal or state law that owns land or an agricultural commodity, product or livestock. Payment limitation is based on the total payments received by the individual, both directly and indirectly. Qualifying spouses are eligible to be considered separate persons for payment limitation purposes, rather than being automatically combined under one limitation.

Individuals and entities must be "actively engaged in farming" in order to be eligible for specified payments and benefits. To be actively

engaged in farming, the individual or entity must make significant contributions to the farming operation of: capital, equipment, land, or a combination; and personal labor or active personal management, or a combination.

Under existing rules, in effect since 1988, not every member of an entity had to contribute active personal labor or management. The proposed rule requires each partner, stockholder, or member with an ownership interest to make a contribution of active personal labor or active personal management. The rule limits the ability of passive stockholders to continue to receive benefits from the farm payments.

student of the week



Name: Clay Schilling
Parents: Ron and Marsha Schilling
Grade: 12
Age: 18
We've nominated this student because: Clay has a great work ethic. His attitude is awesome and is very willing to do what is asked of him. Clay will be successful in life.
Student Comment: Hanging out with my friends during class,

weight lifting, all the good times with my friends and the good times playing football.
Activities involved in at school: football, G-Club, National Honor Society
My choice of movies, books, and games: Role Models, Step Brothers, Country and Hard Rock, Madden
After I leave Goodland High School I intend to ...: Attend college, further my education and have fun.
And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...: Happy and enjoying life.
Favorite Quote: "Don't let good become the enemy of GREAT."
-Coach Brad Bergsma

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from All of Us to All of You!

To all our patients and friends - On behalf of all of us at VisionSource of Colby, Goodland, & Burlington we wish you God's richest blessings this Christmas season and peace, love & health in the new year.

Vision Source!

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