

# Postmaster honored for customer service efforts

The Sharon Springs postmaster has been honored by the U.S. Postal Service and the National Newspaper Association for her customer service efforts as the Kansas winner of the Ben Franklin Award.

Connie Harrison received the Benjamin Franklin Community Newspaper and Postal Partnership Award for Excellence for her customer relations and service efforts.

"I was surprised and honored when I found out about the award," Harrison said. "When I received the phone call I thought it was someone

playing a joke on me. "I love my job, the customers, and the people I work with. I always look at areas I need to improve in, so when I received the award, it was unbelievable. For sure, it was something I never thought would happen to me.

"Working with people like *The Goodland Star-News* on the periodical audits makes my job so enjoyable. I appreciate people who take change as a challenge we are going to overcome. God has really blessed me in being able to serve this community and the area around it."



Harrison

The national Ben Franklin Award is presented each year to a postal employee nominated by a newspaper for commitment to service. The award is named for the first postmaster general, who also was a newspaper publisher. Nominees were submitted from 18 states. Winners were chosen by the association's Postal Committee.

Harrison was nominated by *The Star-News* and *The Western Times* of Sharon Springs for the sixth annual award.

"She has always been a great asset to western Kansas and has shown outstanding customer service," said her boss, Mark Kerschen, manager of post office opera-

tions in Hutchinson. "She was recognized by several of her customers for her service. She always goes the extra mile for her customers, and for those efforts she deserves this recognition."

In his nomination letter, Steve Haynes, president of Haynes Publishing Co., said, "We believe Harrison exemplifies the spirit of our first Postmaster General and sets an example for postal employees in customer relations and service."

"We know Harrison because she has done our Periodicals Class audits for several years. Many publishers and circulation managers would rather avoid this task, but she

always approaches it with such energy, competence and goodwill that we rather look forward to her visits.

"She is thorough and knowledgeable about postal regulations and mailing in general. She always goes over the list and reports carefully. When she leaves our plant, we have a better mailing list and we know we have a good resource for postal problems and questions as well."

"In her hometown of Sharon Springs, she is well liked by her customers and mailers. She has been known to come back on her own time to find a problem in a mailing and help the customer understand and fix it."

Harrison is a leader of her church, the Community Church of Oakley, chairman of the design team for refurbishing the building, a Sunday school teacher, head of the "Meet Me at the Pole" prayer meeting and a member of the "Choir of Fire." She has been a youth baseball coach, a precinct committee member and a member of the Wallace County Conservation District board.

The postmaster was a finalist for the national Benjamin Franklin Award, one of the top three nominees. Kerschen presented her award at the Kansas Press Association convention in Overland Park in April.

# Two killed, one injured in dust storm accidents Saturday

BROWNOUT, from Page 1

sedan, was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center. Pauline Stewart, Herbert's wife, was not injured. Neither Brown nor a passenger, Dianna Ward, also of Commerce City, was injured. All five people were wearing their seat belts.

Tod Hileman, public resources officer for Troop D in northwest Kansas, said there were two other accidents caused by the winds and dust. The other two were one vehicle accidents with no injuries. The Interstate was closed from Wa-Keeney to the state line for about two hours, Hileman said. The Colorado State Patrol closed I-70 east of Burlington.

Blowing dust caused a three-car accident about 4:55 p.m. a mile south of Goodland on K-27. Deputy Sheriff Burton Pianalto worked the accident; the highway was closed because of the blowing dust and poor visibility.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said Tuesday the accident occurred at mile post 169, when a

1997 Ford pickup drive by Rivera Ornelas, 28, of Aurora, Colo., slowed and was struck in the rear by a 1985 Chevy driven by Cathy Eddleman, 39, of Goodland.

The pickup had three passengers, Anelia Ponce, 33; the driver's daughter, Yahazra Ornelas, 7; and son, Noel Ornelas, 1, all of Aurora. All were taken to the hospital, where they were checked and released.

The Chevy had four passengers, Paul Eddleman, 44, and the couple's three children, son, Doug, 15; daughter, Johana, 18; and son, Joseph, 11. Johana Eddleman was injured and was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center.

The Chevy spun off into the ditch after hitting the pickup, and then a 1999 Chevy pickup driven by Brian Grilliot, of Syracuse, struck the pickup in the rear.

A passenger in the 1999 Chevy was Jaden Grilliot.

Sheriff Whitson said there was a two-car accident on I-70 at Milepost 25 at 6:03 p.m., near where the Denver man was killed. A 2004

## Winds whip up dust, tornadoes, fell trees

Thunderstorms in eastern Colorado spilled out a downburst of cold air that swept dust and debris across northwest Kansas on Saturday, darkening the sky for at least 90 to 100 miles and causing two fatal accidents.

Jerry Killingsworth, a meteorologist with the Goodland office of the National Weather Service, said a system of severe thunderstorms which formed in northeast Colorado created an "outflow boundary" of cold air. That sent high winds south through Sherman County and as far east as Norton.

Killingsworth said the wind had been between 10 and 15 miles per hour from the south. About 4:30 p.m., winds around 40 miles per

hour, gusting to 50, started coming from the northwest. He said at that time, visibility was about 10 miles, but eight minutes later it was down to three miles.

About 15 minutes later, the wind increased to 50 miles per hour, gusting to 62, and the official visibility was down to three quarters of a mile at the Goodland airport. Conditions were worse on I-70, where people could not see beyond their car's hood. One law enforcement officer reported, "We cannot see our hands in front of our faces."

Killingsworth, who was off duty during the storm, said visibility outside his home in Goodland was "no more than a block."

He said for the most part, the dust had blown through Goodland by 5:05 and visibility was back to 10 miles, although the winds were still around 50 miles per hour. He said the peak wind recorded at the airport was 67, but a storm spotter eight miles northeast of Goodland reported a gust of 85. A report from south of St. Francis pegged the top gust at 90 miles per hour.

A Norcatour couple said they raced ahead of the front from Oberlin to their home 18 miles to the east. The dust kept pace and overtook them as they got home.

All over the area, trees were down and limbs broken. Goodland city crewmen spend much of the day Tuesday hauling off limbs and

whole trees left in the streets by the storm.

Killingsworth said the storms left three-quarter-inch hail in western Kit Carson County in Colorado and one-inch hail about five miles north of Burlington. The closest tornadoes were five in eastern Lincoln County, Neb., about 100 miles north of Sherman County. As the storms moved east, they spawned tornadoes and damaging winds in central Kansas.

There was just enough moisture in the wind for the dust to stick to almost every exposed surface in town. The wind toppled one of the large old elm trees in front of the school district office, partly blocking Main for a short time.

Dodge van driven by Guadalupe V. Underkofler, 60, of Evanston, Wyo., was stopped on the highway because of the accident in front of

it when it was struck in the rear by a 1999 Ford utility vehicle driven by Bruce Ferguson, 46, of Ransom.

There were three passengers in

the 2004 Dodge, a daughter, Tierney Underkofler, 12; son, Izok, 11; and daughter, Bryanne, 11.

There were two passengers in the

Ford, Donald Wickman, 23, and Debra Wickman, 23 both of Greenville, S.C. There were no injuries.

## The Goodland Star News Service Directory 785-899-2338

### Your KEY to business success.

Have your name up front when a customer needs you.

Repetitive advertising is the key to opening the door to new customers.

Combined rates are available to feature your services in the Star-News and The Country Advocate.

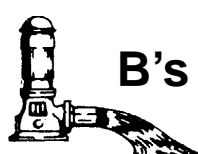
#### SNIDER'S MOBILE GLASS

##### Auto Glass Replacement

Serving Northwest Kansas for 15 years  
No Extra charge for mobile service to your home, farm or business up to 80 miles of Goodland  
Insurance Claims handled

Call for Special Spring savings on windshields

785-899-2753



#### B's Pump and Well Service

Rex Smith, owner

- Irrigation or domestic drilling or pump service
- Pressure tanks
- Irrigation well acid
- Gearhead (new or used)

785-899-6302

Madd Hatters Music Emporium  
Custom Tailoring by Marie



Open Mon. - Fri. 10 - 6  
120 W. 11th Goodland, Kan.  
785-890-3510

#### D & D Builders

Michael Downing  
General Contractor

- Concrete Work • Patios & Decks
- Garages & Etc. •
- Remodels & Additions •

785-626-3529 or 785-626-0060

#### PRO FLOOR CARE

Save \$\$\$\$

Spring Carpet Cleaning Discounts  
Steam Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Specialists • Commercial/Residential • Advanced Power Cleaning Methods • Truck Mount Power • Fast Drying Time

We don't cut corners we clean them!

Free estimates

Office 785-462-8313  
Mobile 785-443-1091  
Toll Free 1-800-473-4138

Spring discounts not valid with any other offers



#### Truck Lettering

800-886-2423

AWARD WINNING SIGNS AND PINSTRIPING SINCE 1974

Hot Brush 204 W. 4th Box 309  
Bird City, Kan. 67731



nwkansas.com

With monthly costs as low as \$14.95 per month!

Call (785) 899-2338 for information.

#### J & K Radiator

19th & Cherry (enter on 19th)  
Radiator Repair: Auto to Farm Equipment  
Goodland, Kan.

785-890-8237

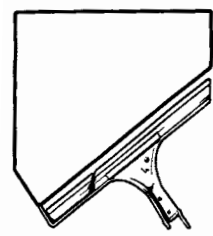
### Schedule your Spring Cleaning Now!

Commercial - Residential  
Free Estimates

#### NEW SYSTEM Professional WINDOW CLEANING

Chris & Beth Lewon

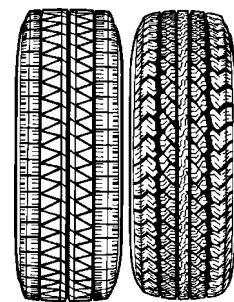
650 N. Grant Colby, Kan.  
785-462-6995 or 1-800-611-6735



## Your ad could be here!

Call Doug, Jennifer or Anne at 899-2338

#### Moore Tire Service



24 hour mobile tire service  
Farm - Truck - Passenger  
Complete farm service

Garry Moore

Kanorado, Kan. 67741  
Telephone: 785-399-2924  
Cell Phone: 785-821-0039

"Seek Shelter Today!"

LIFE • HOME • CAR • FARM • BUSINESS



Jim Alcorn, Agent  
1624 S. Main Street  
Goodland, KS 67735-0727  
Business: (785) 899-2553  
Home: (785) 899-3974

www.shelterinsurance.com

