



Whitney Dautel, 17, got checked out by Emergency Medical Technician Bruce Gleason (left) for a possible neck injury after she was in a car accident Thursday morning. Her father, John, watched to make sure Whitney was OK.
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Seatbelt protects teen from injury in roll over

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Whitney Dautel was on her way to school Thursday morning. Marilyn Hefner was taking the scenic route to work.

That changed when their pickups collided at 13th and Sherman, in front of the Cathoic church, flipping Dautel's vehicle and sending it rolling down 13th.

Just before 8 a.m. Thursday, police said, Dautel, 17, was heading east on 13th toward school when Hefner's truck hit the passenger side of her 1987 Ford Ranger. Dautel was tossed around the cab when it rolled one and a half times, landing on it's side.

After a checkover by emergency medical technicians, she refused medical care and was standing at the scene.

Hefner, 46, said she was headed north on Sherman in her 1999 Ford F150 to work at High Plains Mental Health. She said the small, blue truck "came out of nowhere."

"I didn't see it at all," she said, "until my pickup was hitting hers."

Hefner said when she got out of her pickup, she saw the other driver wasn't moving.

Debra Raymer said she saw the truck roll from down the street.

When she made it to the scene, she said, Dautel was still in the truck and looked hurt.

"She was just as pale as pale could be," Raymer said.

She said at first, she wasn't sure what was happening, but she knew something was wrong when it landed with the tires were facing west.

"I thought, 'Those tires are facing me, and that's not right,'" she said.

Kansas Highway Patrol Lt. Kevin Winston explained the accident to Hefner, saying when a truck is hit where it was, the chances of a rollover are high. He said hitting a truck right at the back tire lifts the back axle and sides it over.

"Then it's just physics," he said; the truck just naturally rolls. "If you were trying to roll it, you couldn't have hit a better spot."

The truck's top was crushed, breaking the windows and windshield.

"You can fix iron," Winston said, adding that it's harder to fix someone who has been hurt.

He said Dautel must have been wearing a seat belt, and witnesses agreed.

"It would have been a different kind of accident (otherwise)," he

said.

"I just thank God that she had her seat belt on," Hefner said.

Coleen Dautel, Whitney's mother, said when she heard ambulances, she just knew her daughter was in trouble.

"I already knew it was her when they called," she said.

Hefner asked if Coleen was OK.

"I'm fine as long as you are," she said, and the two embraced.

"She scared 10 years off my life," Hefner said.

Hefner's car escaped with only minor damaged, some scratches on the grill of her truck. She said her airbag didn't even deploy.

"I'm fine, physically," she said, adding things might change when the shock wears off. "It could have been a lot worse."

Hefner said being in the accident was unreal, like a movie.

The intersection doesn't have any stop signs.

"That's why I don't like a lot of these streets that don't have stop signs," said Raymer.

Hefner said she prefers to stay away from the uncontrolled intersections, too, but had extra time this morning and took a "scenic route."

"I never come down this street," she said.

Denver man sentenced after high-speed car chase

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

What do you get when you try to run down three police officers and lead them on a high-speed chase on I-70?

Caught.

In jail.

Facing up to 30 months in prison.

Anthony Jose Martinez, 19, Denver, pleaded guilty in Sherman County District Court last week to aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, a level 6 person felony, after an attempt to evade police in March landed him in jail.

Master Trooper Richard Hageman of the Kansas Highway Patrol said the pursuit started when he clocked a 2003 Ford pickup driving 83 mph on I-70 eastbound near milepost 6 about 11:40 a.m. Tuesday, March 29.

Martinez, who was behind the wheel of the pickup, later found to be stolen, started to flee as soon as he saw the patrol car, Hageman said. "We knew it was stolen about two miles into the chase," he said, adding that the pickup had been stolen in Colorado.

Since the patrolman was heading west, he had to turn his car around. As he turned, he said, he noticed Martinez speed up and he started after him.

The chase led to Caruso, where Martinez left the freeway. Hageman said he passed the stop sign at the bottom of the exit ramp and re-entered the highway heading east.

"He blew right through the stop sign," he said.

The chase continued to the west Goodland exit, where Hageman had radioed ahead for Trooper

Officers use road spikes to stop chases

In a high-speed chase, officers commonly use road spikes, says Master Trooper Richard Hageman of the Kansas Highway Patrol.

The device, about 9 feet long, is set up with a rope which troopers use to throw it out into the road. The spikes land in the opposite ditch, waiting to be jerked out in front of the suspect.

"We try to surprise them," Hageman said.

Troopers normally wait until the road is clear so no other vehicles run over the spikes, he said.

"We've got to keep our eyes open," he said.

The spikes are made with a backing material holding the small pointy stakes.

Hageman said each spike is a small hollow spear roughly an inch long, long enough to get into the tire tread. He said the spike pushes up into the tire like a nail and then breaks off of the backing.

"It doesn't pop them," he said. "The tire slowly lets out."

He said each spike is wrapped in a cardboard container that looks like a triangle. The spikes aren't visible until someone runs over them.

Each highway patrol vehicle has a set of the spikes stored on the underside of the trunk lid. He said they are stored in a sock in three pieces and troopers just pull on two cords to get them.

The spikes usually work, he said, but sometimes people try to evade them. When that happens, troopers — who have to stay nearby — can get hit, but they try to be prepared.

"We're trained to position ourselves in a place where we can't be hit," he said, such as behind a guardrail.

The spikes are one of the best tools for stopping a speeding vehicle safely, he said, but they aren't an every-day item.

"We don't use them a lot," said Hageman. "It's just in a pursuit."

Bryon Wilson to set up road spikes at the bottom of the ramp.

"You can't outrun the radio," he said.

Wilson had closed down K-27, so there weren't any other drivers in danger, not that there were many drivers on the highway.

"Traffic was really pretty light," he said.

When Martinez saw the spikes, he said, he swerved left to avoid them.

When he turned, Hageman said, Martinez tried to hit Wilson, who was standing outside of his patrol car.

Martinez lost control of the stolen pickup, he said, and spun around, coming to a rest facing south on K-27.

"We thought it was going to end right there," Hageman said.

When the pickup stopped, Martinez turned towards Hageman, but swerved at the last minute, missing the patrol car.

Hageman said Martinez went into the ditch and then headed back onto I-70 eastbound.

"I continued pursuit with Trooper Wilson and (Sherman County Sheriff's) Deputy Burton Pianalto," he said.

Again the radio trapped Martinez, as Lt. Kevin Winston set up spikes at the east Goodland exit. Hageman said these spikes were set across the eastbound lanes in an attempt to prevent Martinez from getting away.

As the pickup approached the sticks, he said, instead of giving up the chase, Martinez took the shoul-

der and attempted to hit Winston.

Hageman said, luckily, Winston was on the other side of the guard rail, but the pickup came very close.

"He was able to squeeze by and keep going," he said. "He did not hurt the vehicle."

As the pickup sped away from town, Hageman said, he passed another vehicle on the right side.

"He clipped the other car's mirror," he said.

At Edson, Martinez left the highway for the third time and then re-entered on the other side.

Hageman said Trooper Andrew Schippers used the construction on a bridge at milepost 31 to set up more spikes. He said since one lane is closed for the bridge construction, Martinez didn't have anywhere to go.

"As soon as he saw the orange

signs," Hageman said, "he hit the brakes."

Martinez had already reduced his speed, but hitting the brakes forced the pickup to roll.

Hageman said the truck rolled once into the median.

"It was a slow-speed roll," he said.

Martinez was trying to get out of the truck, Hageman said, but he was pinned by the crushed metal and surrounded by officers.

The pickup was totaled, he said, but all five officers escaped the chase unharmed with no damage to any vehicles.

Hageman said he had never seen any pursuit quite like this one.

"He kind of took the cake," the trooper said. "He was talking on a cell phone the entire time."

The man was taken to the Goodland hospital, then flown to Wichita, where he was treated and released. By Thursday, March 31, he was back in the Sherman County Bastille.

Martinez originally was facing eleven charges: fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer a level 9 felony, three counts of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer a level 6 felony, aggravated battery an unclassified

felony, obstruction of legal process or official duty, possession of stolen property valued over \$500 a level 9 felony, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs a class B misdemeanor, reckless driving a class C misdemeanor, driving without a license a class B misdemeanor and possession of a simulated controlled substance or drug paraphernalia a class A misdemeanor.

Under a plea agreement, Martinez and his attorney Scott Showalter entered a plea of guilty to one of the aggravated assault charges in Sherman County District Court on Monday, May 16.

District Judge Jack Burr asked if Martinez was aware of the rights he was giving up with the plea.

"Yes," he said.

Burr said Martinez is facing from 17 to 46 months; jail time and a fine of anywhere from \$100,000 to \$300,000 depending on his criminal history.

Showalter said Martinez has an extensive criminal history, and he would like the sentence capped at 30 months. Burr accepted the guilty plea.

Hageman said he suspects Martinez ran from the police because the vehicle was stolen and he didn't have a driver's license.

Kansas Lottery warns of bogus e-mail scam

E-mails saying you have won \$2.5 million from the Kansas Lottery are turning up across the state, but don't get too excited if you get one.

Officials say it's just a scam.

There is no "e-mail lottery" in Kansas.

And if you send money to "claim" your prize, you'll likely never see it again.

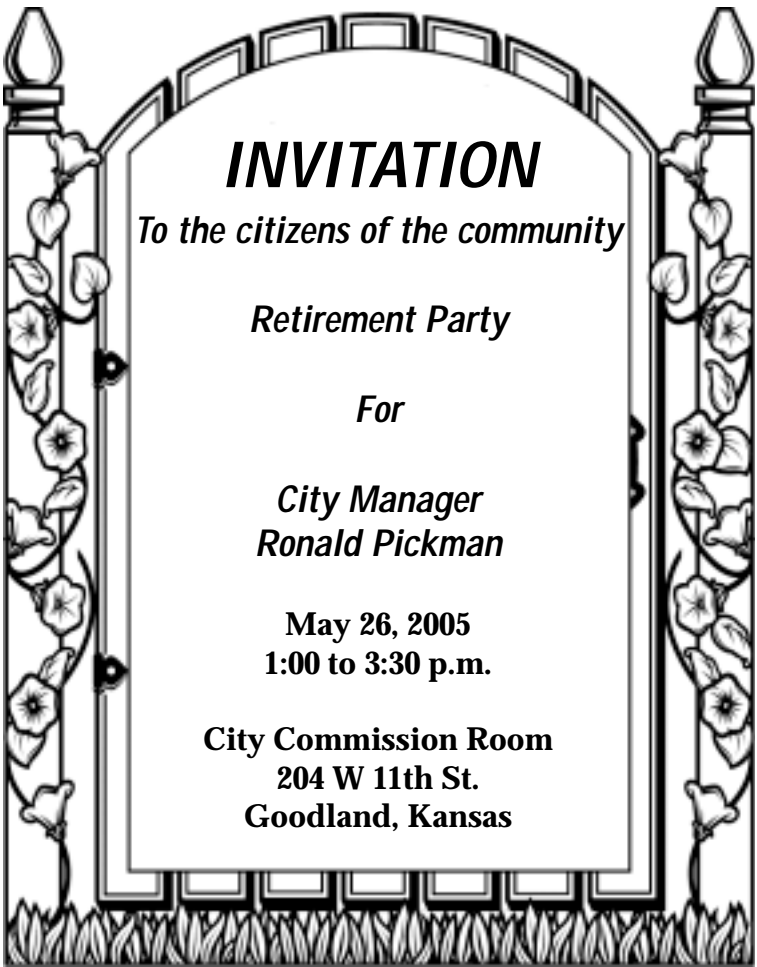
The Kansas Lottery is warning people to beware of this e-mail scam, where the recipient is told he or she "has won the sum of \$2.5 million in an e-mail lottery draw,

organized by the Kansas Lottery."

"The Kansas Lottery has received inquiries from people who have received this same e-mail," said Keith Kocher, an assistant attorney general, "wondering if they have really won something. The answer, unfortunately, is 'no.' This is definitely a scam. There is no such thing as an e-mail lottery draw in Kansas. In fact, it would be illegal." The bogus e-mail urges the recipient to start an account so the "prize money" can be deposited. Deposits go into the scammer's pocket.

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This neat 2 bedroom, brick ranch home has newer oak cabinets, refinished hardwood floors in living-dining rooms and both bedrooms, newer floor coverings in the bath and kitchen. Has central air and heat and includes the kitchen appliances. Outside you will find newer storm doors and windows and gutters. The property includes a 20x26' detached garage. All situated on a corner lot and reasonably priced at \$55,000. Call Rose Koggie to make your appointment at 899-3060 or 899-7464.



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