

# Goodland family relieved to have son back alive

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
A Goodland family is relieved to have their son back alive, but they still don't have all the answers they would like.

The young man suffered a severe beating, his family says, and is lucky to be alive.

Marco Ault Sr. and Yvonne Ornelas have Ault's son, Marco Jr., home, but they still don't know why he left. The younger Ault had been missing since Saturday, Feb. 26, but is now in Goodland.

Ornelas said they got a call Wednesday, May 18, from his mother, saying she would be bringing him to Goodland the next day. Ault Jr. had been in the hospital in Denver, his step-mother said, and then was staying with his mother, but she didn't call and tell them.

The young man is a bit worse for the wear and will need some time to recover, Ornelas said, but the family is just glad he is alive. He was jumped and beaten up badly in Denver, she said, and doesn't remember much.

The Arapahoe County, Colo., district attorney's office said they expect to file a case this week on the assault.

Ault Jr. doesn't remember why he left Goodland, Ornelas said, and he has been relearning to walk and some other things. He knows who beat him up, she said, from his friends in Denver and will be going back to testify against him.

The guy was wearing steel-toed boots, she said, and Ault Jr. has prints from them on his body. He was in the hospital at least a

month, Ornelas said, as a "John Doe" for at least three days and was "a vegetable" part of the time. His sister finally went looking for him, Ornelas said.

He knows his dad can take care of him, she said, since he has been a certified nurse aide for 20 years. But his dad can sense he is afraid, she said, and he's lucky to be alive.

Ornelas said Ault Jr. is only going out if she, his dad or his brother David can go with him, and they are keeping people away who will upset him. Ault Jr. is on disability, Ornelas

said, and is going to need at least a year to recuperate.

He was in University Hospital, she said, which was one of those his roommate, Monica Ford, called this spring, but he may not have been hurt until after those calls.

The family was puzzled when he disappeared because they were sure he wanted to get his life together and had plans for the future. Rumors put him in Mexico, in Denver and in jail, but they were not able to find any reliable information about where he was.

Ornelas said it was strange that he just left because he always told his roommate where he was going. He had \$800 cash on him, she said, but didn't take any of his things. He didn't show up for work, didn't call home, Ornelas said, and didn't get in touch with his probation officer.

She said he was also looking forward to graduation after earning his high school diploma from the Goodland Learning Center. He needs seven more credits to graduate, she said, and he plans to go back after he has recovered.

## Sentencing in fatality delayed

A Colorado woman's fate is still up in the air, as her sentencing in a deadly car accident on I-70 last summer has been pushed back to later this month.

After pleading no contest to three counts of involuntary manslaughter in Sherman County District Court last month, Jennifer Adams, 28, was scheduled for sentencing on Wednesday, May 25. The new court date is 9 a.m. on Friday, June 24.

Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby said Adams' attorney, Christopher McHugh, filed a motion for a continuance to delay the sentencing.

"He said he needed more time to prepare," she said Monday.

Judge Jack Burr found Adams guilty on all six charges against her including one aggravated battery, a level 5 person felony, driving under the influence of alcohol, and transporting an open container, both misdemeanors.

Adams is facing anywhere from 38 to 172 months in prison depending on her criminal history. Burr said she could be facing a fine along with the jail time.

Court records show that Adams'

blood alcohol tested more than three times over the legal limit when her car struck a Ford Explorer from behind on June 11, knocking it out of control and killing three Goodland women.

The accident on I-70, east of mile marker 33 between Brewster and Edson, killed Christine Williams, her mother, Mary Wyatt, and her grandmother, Aline Becker, and injured two of Williams' children, Garrett, 8, and Caylee, 6.

Williams was a science teacher at Goodland High School, and Wyatt was an aide at West Elementary.

Judge Jack Burr signed a motion ordering Adams to pay \$5,000 for Becker's funeral.

At a preliminary hearing in October, testimony revealed that Adams has been stopped and ticketed twice that day for speeding on I-70 west of WaKeeney, and that her car was moving fast and nearly out of control just before the wreck.

Master Trooper Terry Stithem of WaKeeney, an 18-year veteran of the Kansas Highway Patrol, said that he stopped Adams twice for speeding within a 30-minute period

along the same stretch of the Interstate, between mile-markers 124 and 118 a few miles west of WaKeeney. After she was stopped the first time, he said, she went back to town to get gas and then headed west again.

Stithem said the first time he stopped Adams, he clocked her at 96 mph, and the second time it was 104. He said he wrote her tickets both times and asked the dispatcher to notify officers to the west to watch for her.

Trooper Troy Smith of Goodland testified that Adams consented to a search of her car. He found an opened bottle of Smirnoff Vodka in front of the passenger seat and an unopened bottle of beer in a cooler behind the driver's seat.

Trooper Joe Greene of Goodland administered a breath alcohol field test, which Adams failed. She was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence.

She was taken to the Sherman County Bastille, Greene said, where breath tests pegged her blood alcohol content at .265 percent, more than three times the legal limit of .08.

## Archaeological dig to begin Saturday

**DIG, from Page 1**

The field school is a joint program of the state Historical Society and the Kansas Anthropological Association in cooperation with the Geological Survey, the KU department of anthropology and the Denver museum.

Goodland High School will be headquarters for a training program during the two weeks beginning at 7 a.m. Saturday, when the registration desk opens.

Volunteers may work from one day or the entire 16 days. Each day is broken into two four-hour segments, with the morning beginning

at 8 a.m. and the afternoon at 1 p.m.

Workers will be shuttled by bus from the high school to the site. A bus will leave the high school at 8 a.m., make a shift run at 12:30 p.m. and return the workers to the school at 5 p.m.

All participants must attend an orientation session, offered daily from 8 to 9 a.m. For new volunteers, there is a two-hour Principles of Archeology course, which will follow the orientation course each day.

Depending on the number of people and the weather each day, some volunteers may be assigned to the field lab at the high school. The lab will be open from 8 a.m. to noon, and from 1 to 5 p.m.

A special collectors night is planned for Wednesday, June 8, when people are invited to bring fossil artifacts to the high school for display and expert identification. A silent auction will be held on Saturday, June 18, as part of the final night of the school.

Participants must be at least 10, and those younger than 14 must plan to work with a parent or other sponsoring adult at all times. An adult must accompany participants between 14 and 18. Registration will be accepted during the two-week program with a participation fee \$30 for association and society members and \$90 for nonmembers.

## matters of record

### District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

**April 18**—Tracie L. Blanchard, 18, Kiowa, Colo., \$186 for speeding.

Daisy M. Ferguson, 31, Hillsboro, Ill., \$108 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Douhnn G. Gbehan, 33, Colo-

rado Springs, \$126 for speeding.

Carol S. Goguts, 59, Robersonia, Pa., \$186 for speeding.

Ryan C. Marks, 19, Conifer, Colo., \$150 for speeding.

Evonne K. Kemper, 26, Kansas City, Mo., \$138 for speeding.

Carlos V. Bravo, 41, Houston, Texas, \$138 for speeding.

Edmond H. Evans Jr., 54, San Jacinto, Calif., \$210 for tractor

trailer violations.

Ashley R. Hardman, 22, Henderson, Colo., \$132 for speeding.

**April 19**—Teddy D. Glause, 44, Saint Libory, Neb., \$132 for speeding.

Kristin L. Goldman, 20, Pine Bluff, Ark., \$138 for speeding.

Kent P. Dethample, 48, Wichita, \$177 for speeding and \$120 for no seat belt.

## Personal Property Auction

**For Maurine and the late Paul Skoda, Wilber and Virginia Leebrick, the late Dick and Donna Hurd, the Faye Wolf Estate and Margaret Bohme**

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### HOUSEHOLD

1950s Blond Oak Duncan Phyfe Drop Leaf Table and 4 Chairs; Dark Oak Lighted China hutch; 3 Piece Sectional sofa; Citation Refrigerator 18cu. Ft; Maytag Washer and Dryer; 12 piece place setting Oneida craft "Rose" Silverware; Antique Pie Cupboard; 2 - Brass Display Easels; LP Records and Turntable; King Size Eagle Quilt; Steamer Trunks; Assorted Braided Rugs

### SHOP & GARDEN

Aluminum Step Ladder; Fishing Equipment; Lawn & Garden Tools; Garden Mark Mower; Snapper 5 hp Self propelled lawn mower; 20 ft Aluminum Extension Ladder; Assorted Shop tools; Gas Weed Eater; 2 Ton Floor Jack



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