

# Ice, blowing snow close schools, highways, offices

STORM, from Page 1

ries in that accident.

There were reports of other vehicles sliding into the median, and a semitrailer rig slid off at the entrance to the westbound rest area near mile post 8.

After the highways closed down on Wednesday, there were no more accidents or reports of cars sliding off through Thursday morning.

The Goodland city crews were out early on Wednesday and again Thursday morning plowing and hauling snow from the main streets, which were in better driving condition than the surrounding highways.

A check of the major hotels in Goodland at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday showed there were about 50 rooms left. Kathy Cochran at Howard Johnson Hotel said they had about 20 rooms left, adding that she had heard there were quite a few people stranded.

Best Western Buffalo Inn reported having five rooms. Sheryl Millam at the Super 8 reported Thursday they had six.

Scott McGillivray at Comfort Inn said Wednesday there were some rooms left. He said there was a huge rush early in the morning. Thursday Comfort Inn was full, manager Judy Siruta said. Economy 9 reported having 10 rooms left on Wednesday.

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts said his deputies took their new six-wheel-drive army surplus emergency truck out to the rest areas on I-70 and picked up 12 people.

"We brought them to town and to Wal-Mart so they could buy food and supplies," Butts said. "We took them back to the rest area, and they were prepared to stay there for at least two days."

"The truck worked perfectly."

Trucks filled the lots at Valero truck stop south of I-70, behind Presto and Howard Johnson. There were about 20 trucks parked at Wal-Mart.

Kim Conner, one of the truck drivers sitting out the storm at Valero, said she was trying to get a load to Denver and then get to the Los Angeles area where her family

was planning to celebrate Christmas on Saturday.

"I am upset," Conner said, "and disgusted with my dispatcher, who won't talk to me. I have puzzles and things to keep myself busy until the road opens."

At the other end of the parking lot, Odis Partin's dog Maggie was nosing around in the snow while Partin talked to his dispatcher in Tennessee.

"I was heading to Denver," Partin said, "but because of the weather we are headed back to Tennessee."

Partin said his dispatcher had called and said to bring the load back.

"He told me the company in Denver was not going to be open on Thursday, and would be closed on Friday for Christmas, so to bring it back."

As soon as Partin pulled out of the space, another semi backed in.

The weather caused some scattered power outages in town, but most were only out for about 10 to 20 minutes.

# Winter storm halts shoppers

ROADS, from Page 1

areas of blowing snow during the day. The service expected a chance of blizzard conditions with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph, but additional snow accumulation was expected to be less than an inch.

Overnight it was expected to gradually become partly cloudy, with a low around 12. The sun should come out today, with a high near 33, and a northwest wind around 10 mph.

The Weather Service reported that the storm had dropped seven inches of snow in Goodland, with accumulations deeper going west, about 10 inches in Kanorado, 8-10 inches in Burlington and 10-12 inches in Idalia.

As the storm slowly began to move out on Thursday, Kansas Department of Transportation maintenance crews were working to clear the highways as quickly as possible.

"We are plowing both east and west on I-70 right now," said Greg Wicker, maintenance superintendent in Norton. "We are trying to keep up with the storm and blowing conditions."

"It is blowing right back in behind us. When the wind dies, we still

have to go out there and make sure the roads are safe. You don't automatically open them up."

Wicker added that they are at the mercy of Colorado officials as to when the roads to the west are cleared and opened.

Jerry Moritz, district maintenance engineer for the Department of Transportation in Norton, who is in charge of deciding when to close the highways, said Thursday he kept backing the closure on the westbound lanes of I-70 to the east based on hotel accommodations. The idea is to avoid having people stranded in makeshift shelters.

Westbound I-70 was closed at Goodland at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, and closed at Colby by 9:30 a.m. The highway was closed back at Oakley by 1 p.m., and backed up to WaKeeney by 3:30 p.m. Thursday morning I-70 westbound was being closed at Hays. The eastbound lanes were open from Burlington east into Kansas. I-70 remained closed both directions from Burlington to Limon early Thursday morning.

"We talk to emergency preparedness people in each town," he said, "and when we get down to about 50 rooms, we make a call based on what we are seeing in the traffic."

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Skyler Williams, son of Buddy Williams, took the opportunity to go sledding on his plastic disc on the hillside between the overpass for K-27 and Cattletrail Avenue on the west edge of Goodland Wednesday. There were other sledding and riding snowmobiles there also.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# Man arrested, in Bastille after damaging store front

STORE, from Page 1

as much as possible, minus the damaged products."

She said they'd had shelves with pots, chips and stacks of Pepsi products in the windows. She said some of the track phones and games were thrown way past the registers down the main isles.

"When the police towed his car," Siruta said, "they told us there was a Mountain Dew can stuck in the front grill."

She said the district manager was in town on Tuesday, but went home because of the weather, and will be back later in the week to assess the damage.

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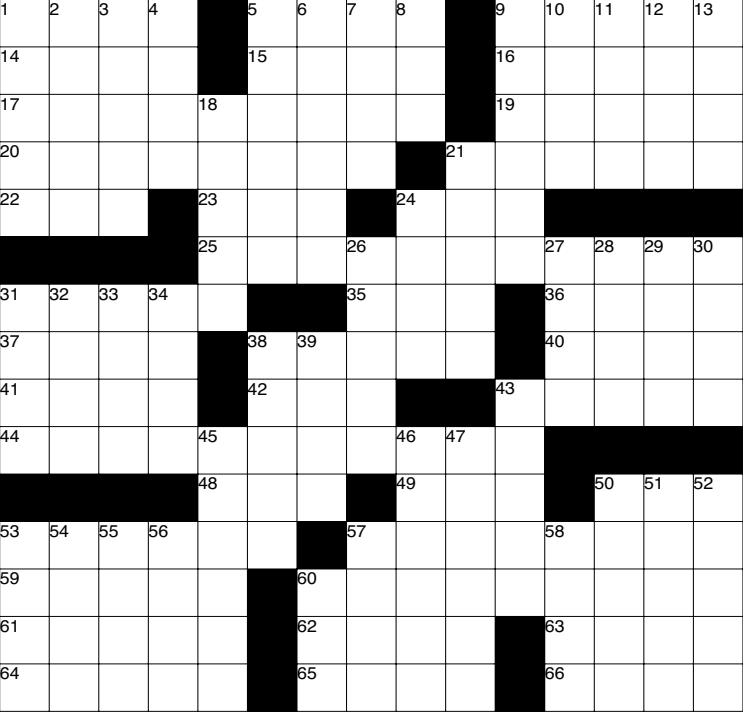
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# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

1. Bumped off
5. Guitar legend Hendrix
9. Ghost costume, basically
14. Place to moor
15. Cooperstown's Slaughter
16. D.C. Subway
17. Structure that forms Lake Mead
19. Give a keynote, say
20. Invited to dinner, perhaps
21. Iced down
22. Churchillian gesture
23. Gremlin automaker
24. Sculptures and oils
25. 1941 Gary Cooper movie
31. 36-Across parts
35. \_\_\_ Solo of "Star Wars"
36. They may be lent or bent
37. Surface figure
38. The authority to act for another
40. Like \_\_\_ out of hell
41. Cause of cold sweat
42. Suffix with chariot
43. Spiral-horned antelope
44. Writer with a nib
48. Caterer's vessel
49. Purge
50. Indy 500 advertiser
53. Old phone company nickname
57. In one's right mind
59. Illinois senator Barack
60. Sleep interrupter, maybe
61. Nigeria neighbor

## Female Fauna



American Profile Hometown Content

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62. Malaria symptom
63. Swedish furnishings chain
64. Roofing material
65. Max, Buddy or Bugs
66. "Guarding \_\_\_" (1994 MacLaine movie)

## DOWN

1. Chilled soup served with sour cream
2. On the lam
3. Summon forth
4. "\_\_\_ Only Just Begun" (Carpenters hit)
5. Composer Kern
6. Bring about
7. Castle protector
8. Doctrine suffix
9. Not at all bumpy
10. Long sandwich
11. List-ending abbr.

12. Art Deco master
13. Two-\_\_\_ sloth
18. Wax-coated cheeses
21. Old buddy
24. Classic cleanser
26. Androcles' extraction
27. "Hud" Oscar winner Patricia
28. "Aba \_\_\_ Honeymoon"
29. Algerian port
30. Business sign abbr.
31. Gag response, a la "Variety"
32. Three-tiered cookie
33. Belle's man
34. Bring home
38. Necklace unit
39. Trotter stopper
43. Break up, informally

45. New Orleans campus
46. Czech capital
47. One or the other
50. Plumber's tool
51. Deductions from gross weight
52. "No lo contendere" and others
53. Unruly bunches
54. Genesis son
55. Eric of "Munich"
56. Give off
57. Latvia's capital
58. Leave out
60. Catch red-handed

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

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