

# State officials offer aid to winter-storm victims

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

State officials rushed to help area residents after parts of northwest Kansas were crippled by a winter storm over the weekend.

The storm began Thursday, bringing snow, drifting and ice in some areas.

Sharon Watson, spokesman for the Kansas National Guard, said as much as 32 inches of snow was reported in some areas of Wallace County, with drifts up to 13 feet. She said the Kansas National Guard armory in Norton opened its doors Sunday as a shelter for residents hit by the storm. The armory in Colby opened Saturday.

Watson said a weather-related death is under investigation in Wallace County. The sheriff's office is investigating the death of 48-

year-old man found in a home in a rural part of the county. Initial reports indicate a generator was in use at the home, but the cause of death has not yet been determined. The victim has been identified as Dale Anderson, formerly of Goodland.

Snow and ice left more than 50,000 residents without power, mostly in rural areas. Ice in Norton, Phillips and Graham counties was especially hard on power lines. The American Red Cross and community organizations opened shelters in across northwest Kansas, including Oakley. The Kansas National Guard brought generators to Winona, Grainfield, Gove, Quinter and Park to help restore water and power.

"The Kansas Highway Patrol flew an airplane through portions of northwest and southwest Kansas to

search for stranded motorists and look for any significant damage not yet reported to officials," said Sharon Watson, public affairs director for the adjutant general.

Another agency which helped residents was the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Watson said hospitals and nursing home staff were asked for the status of available beds and power and to work with their local emergency managers to determine if any help was needed.

"Local resources quickly become severely hampered in a storm of this size, so the Kansas National Guard is ready to help as needed, as are other Kansas state agencies," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the Kansas adjutant general.

On Saturday, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius declared a state of disaster

emergency for 39 counties in western Kansas, all west of U.S. 183: Sherman, Thomas, Wallace, Cheyenne, Clark, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Ellis, Finney, Ford, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Gove, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Kiowa, Lane, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Norton, Pawnee, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Scott, Seward, Sheridan, Stanton, Stevens, Trego and Wichita.

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management activated the State Emergency Operations Center on Thursday to coordinate the response and recovery needed by local governments affected by the storm.

"The governor's declaration is in anticipation of the need for additional state resources to be provided to counties responding to the

storm," Watson said. "It also expedites the restoration of electrical power by resolving issues related to additional hours of service needed by employees serving in response roles."

All labor and equipment costs must be tracked by counties and state agencies during the first 48 hours for emergency work eligibility, she said.

Officials in Logan and Sheridan counties were optimistic about the recovery from the storm.

"The streets have been clear all the time," Oakley City Clerk Rose Wessell said. "The guys have kept after it all the time."

Wessell said Oakley was without power four to five hours late Friday and early Saturday. Rural lines in southern Logan County were down, she said, but here were

no reports of stranded motorists.

Streets in Hoxie were a different story. Although city workers moved snow throughout Saturday and Sunday, all the streets, including U.S. 24 and K-23 remained snow packed and icy as of Tuesday.

City Clerk Jessica Spreser said city workers continue to clear streets. Power inside Hoxie was off intermittently, but has been restored.

Spreser said power in rural Sheridan County continues to be out in many areas.

A dispatcher for the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office said most county roads are open, but remain snow packed and icy in spots.

There was no report of stranded motorists as of Tuesday morning.



A Colby Fire Department fire truck held up the collapsed roof at the firehouse Sunday after the roof buckled under the weight of snow. Photo by Randy Decker/Colby Free Press

## Wallace County rancher dies in apparent accident

A Wallace County ranch manager and deputy sheriff died, apparently in an accident, during the weekend's snowstorm, but the cause of death has not been released.

Dale L. Anderson, 48, formerly of Goodland, was a former president of the Wallace County School Board and a professional rodeo cowboy. He died Saturday, Dec. 30, 2006, at his home in rural Wallace County. The death is being listed as weather related, Sheriff Larry Townsend said on Sunday. He said the death appeared to be an accident related to the use of a generator at the home northeast of Sharon Springs.

Anderson was born July 10, 1958, at Burlington, the son of Gerald A. and Shirley J. (Hayden) Anderson. He attended Ruleton Grade School, graduated from Goodland High School in 1976 and earned an associate degree at Colby Community College.

On July 15, 1978, he married Diana L. Gulick at Reece, Kan. He was manager for the Zanzibar Ranch in Wallace County.

Anderson and his family lived in the Wallace area for 25 years. He was an emergency medical technician and served on the Wallace Fire Board, Extension Board and School Board, where he had been president and a member of the site council.

He became involved with Wallace County Big Brothers Big Sisters, was a member of the Kansas Livestock Association and was on the Wallace County Kansas Livestock Association committee.

Anderson was a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association as a steer roper. He joined the Single Action Shooting Society and entered many shooting contests.

Preceding him in death were his paternal grandparents, Archie and Juanita Anderson, and his maternal

grandmother, Josephine Hayden.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Jacki (Adam) Waters of Eureka; his parents of Goodland; two brothers, Jay (Cindy) Anderson of Amarillo, and Jon (Tina) Anderson of Goodland; his maternal grandfather, Ed Hayden of Goodland; and two grandsons.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at the Wallace County Community High School gymnasium in Sharon Springs with Pastor Gary Simon officiating, and burial in the Wallace Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 3 to 7 p.m. today at Koons Funeral Home in Sharon Springs.

Memorials may be made to his grandsons, Blayn and Brysun Waters, or to Wallace County Big Brothers Big Sisters in care of the funeral home in Sharon Springs or mailed to 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.

## Heavy snow collapses roof of Colby fire station Sunday

By John Van Nostrand  
Colby Free Press

Heavy snow from last weekend's winter storm collapsed part of the roof at the Colby fire station about 2:30 p.m. Sunday. There were no injuries, though the fire department is manned 24 hours a day.

Two trucks, still stuck in the building Tuesday, suffered cosmetic damage, firemen said. Firefighters removed the other five trucks to prevent additional damage.

"It's still settling," Fire Chief Robert McLemore said Tuesday. "The cracks are getting wider."

The roof over the north bays collapsed and landed on top of the rescue truck and rural pumper truck. The chief said he expected to know more about the trucks' condition after the snow and roof have been removed.

"We can't do anything until the snow has been removed," he said.

Firemen relocated the five other trucks to the National Guard Armory at 470 S. Range Ave.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said officials were talking with two construction companies about how the roof and building can be shored up to remove the two trucks. An architect has declared the entire

building unsafe, she said.

McLemore said the firehouse, at 585 N. Franklin Ave., was built in the 1940s after construction of the adjacent city hall. The firehouse has had several additions since, he said, and the section with the collapsed roof was built about 30 years ago.

Armstrong said the city and armory officials have had a long, cooperative relationship.

No one could say how long the fire trucks will be at the armory. Both Armstrong and McLemore said it will be temporary.

McLemore said the fire department responded to two auto accidents during the weekend, one before the collapse and one after. He said having equipment and fire trucks at the armory did not change the department's procedures.

Armstrong said she expects the future of the fire station to be on a City Council agenda soon. The manager said it is too early to tell if the city will fix the current building or build a new one. The city owns land near Country Club Drive and Hill Street on the east side of Colby, Armstrong said, and that land has always been thought of as the site of a new firehouse.

"I do expect this to be a discussion item," she said.

## New Year's party cancelled by storm

The weekend storm forced cancellation of the Rappin' and Rockin' New Year's Eve Party in Colby, expected to draw about 1,000 youths for concerts, food, games and activities, but ticket holders won't be left out in the cold.

Party organizers are negotiating

with John Reuben, who was to have put on one of the two concerts, to come back to Colby soon. People can use their party tickets for the rescheduled concert.

"We are negotiating with Reuben for a concert date in the next 90 days or so," said Rich Epp, one of the

organizers. "It is unknown if Three Cord Wonder will want to play."

Epp said organizers are considering asking other bands.

For information, call (785) 443-1994.

## Wet spring-type snow storm not normal for this time of year

Snow shovels, plows, snow blowers, heavy coats, boots and gloves may have been the norm the last few weeks, but the recent storms aren't normal weather for this time of year.

Jeremy Martin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Goodland, said the kind of storms that have dropped one to three feet of snow in northwest Kansas is more typical of fall or spring. Martin said the storm that hit the area last week left 17.7 inches of snow in Goodland, making it the second-snowiest December on record. The snowiest was in 1924 when 29 inches fell in December, while only 25 inches fell last month.

Martin said the only reason for getting this kind of wet, spring-type snow was because there was a lot of moisture in the atmosphere and the storm moved slowly.

Even though the storm last week followed a coat of ice and snow before Christmas, he said, it doesn't necessarily mean the rest of the winter is going to be the same. Indicators do show a favorable weather pattern for storms in the near future, he said, and a smaller storm is expected today.

### 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.

The storm last week, with snow starting on Friday and ending early Saturday, was a slow-moving low pressure system that drifted across the area from the southern Four Corners area. There was plenty of moisture, and since the storm took two days to move across the plains, he said, it left a lot of snow.

In Goodland on Friday, he said, it was thundering and snowing lightly. Normally if it thunders during a storm like the one that hit the area, he said, it means heavy snow.

The heaviest snow accumulation

in the area was on Friday, said Martin. Some areas got freezing rain first. Hill City got over an inch of ice first and then just two inches of snow on top of it.

The Weather Service, said Martin, received pictures from Sharon Springs showing drifts that covered houses. That area reported 32 inches of snow.

To the west, he said, the storm brought blizzard conditions with wind gusts of 40 miles an hour. Most of that was near the Kansas-Colorado border.

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

#### Caldwell Avenue Improvements

The City of Goodland will receive sealed bids for the **CALDWELL AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS** at the **SHERMAN COUNTY COMMISSION ROOM, 813 BROADWAY, GOODLAND, KS 67735 until 9:00 p.m. MST (10am CST), Wednesday, January 24, 2007.** Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately after the specified closing time.

**Major items of work include:** 13,900 square yards of 8% Asphalt Pavement with Milling & 10% Subgrade Modification including 866 tons of Fly Ash, 15,000 2% Mill & Overlay, 3,500 cubic yards of Common Excavation, 160 feet of 18% CPP Entrance Pipe with RC End Sections, 430 feet of 24% CPP Entrance Pipe with RC End Sections, and various other appurtenant work.

**Add-Alternate items of work include:** 3,000 square yards of 8% Asphalt Pavement with Milling & 10% Subgrade Modification including 169 tons of Fly Ash, 540 cubic yards of Common Excavation, 850 feet of Remove/Replace Curb & Gutter, 200 feet of 4%-8% Water Mains, 4 Water Valves, 1 Fire Hydrant, and various other appurtenant work.

**Bidding Documents** may be examined at City Hall and at the Engineer's office.

**Bidding Documents** may be obtained at the Engineer's office upon depositing \$150.00 for each set of full-size drawings, \$50.00 for each set of 11x17 half size drawings, \$50.00 for each paper copy of specifications and \$30.00 for each electronic set of drawings and specifications. No refunds will be made.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the bid shall accompany each bid in accordance with Instructions to Bidders.

Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject bids.

**~ NOTICE ~**

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When: 5 p.m. Social Hour - 6 p.m. Dinner & Auction  
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For More Information Contact:  
Gary Coon 785-890-5405 or Steve Duell 785-899-5888

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