By Jan Schultz
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After his pickup flew an estimated 50 feet before hitting the ground, the driver of a 1988 Ford pickup miraculously escaped with minimal injuries.

Rodney Brown, 27, of Imperial crawled out of the crumpled pickup on his own following the late Saturday morning accident at the south end of Broadway on State Spur 15A.

Brown was traveling north on the highway spur, when he lost control of the pickup on the shoulder of the road. The pickup slid, catching an embankment on the east side of the road near Peavey Grain, which sent the vehicle airborne, according to Police Sgt. Rob Browning. It flew about 50 feet before coming to rest on its top.

Brown was crawling out of the pickup when Sgt. Browning arrived on the scene. He was summoned after a passerby who witnessed the accident called 911.

Both the Imperial EMS and Imperial Volunteer Fire Department were summoned to the scene. Brown was transferred by ambulance from the scene to Chase County Community Hospital.

Sgt. Browning indicated alcohol was a factor in the crash. After his treatment at the hospital for scraped hands and a knee, Brown was arrested and transported to the Chase County Jail.

He was charged with fourth offense driving under suspension (DUS), second offense driving under the influence (DUI) and operating a vehicle with no valid registration. Browning said he also did not have a valid driver's license.

A $5,000 bond was set. Brown was released on Tuesday this week after posting the required 10%, or $500. He is scheduled for arraignment in Chase County Court on Jan. 7.