

Lincolmites, travelers storm inns

LODGING from page 1

The situation is not all good, however. The hotels have suffered from understaffing, ironically, because of the same dangerous driving conditions that have made travel so difficult for their customers.

Seller said Days Inn suffered from a lack of housekeepers because some could not find baby sitters for their children on days when school was canceled, such as Monday.

Michele Kinney of the Ramada Inn, Municipal Airport Interchange and I-80, said her hotel was so short-staffed, even a few grateful guests

helped by busing tables themselves.

"It's amazing what a situation like this can bring out in people," she said.

Few of the hotels reported experiencing similar situations in the past, but Best Western owner Gil Grady said it comes with the territory.

"This is not uncommon for the industry," he said. "It's part of the seasonal changes and uniqueness of it ... just part of the ups and downs of the business."

Grady, owner of both the Best Western AAA Villager Motor Inn at 5200 O St., and the Best Western Airport Inn at the I-80 airport exit, also offered a discount in hopes of

securing future recommendations with customers. He also hoped customers would be able to afford a longer stay.

Having a sudden surge of customers could be abused, though, Kinney said.

"Some hotels could monopolize on this situation," she said. "But we lowered our rate instead of raising it. And we took care of those who needed it."

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