



Rescue workers crowded around three injured motorcyclists after an accident led to another accident on I-70 Tuesday.  
Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

# One accident causes another

One accident led to another creating a pile-up eight miles west of Goodland on I-70 Thursday and sending four to the hospital.

Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Bryon Wilson reported that at 9:30 a.m. a 1999 GMC Van driven by Lloyd Studer, 40, Goodland, was heading west when it went into the median and crossed over both east-bound lanes of traffic.

The vehicle came to rest on its wheels in the south ditch against a fence.

Studer was taken to the Goodland Regional Medical Center and later transferred to St. Anthony Hospital in Denver. Studer was listed in fair condition on Wednesday.

Around 11 a.m., while officers were working the accident, another occurred.

Wilson reported that Christine A. Berg, 50, Bloomington, Ill., was heading east on I-70 when she slowed her 2002 Oldsmobile for the accident. Officers at the scene suspected she was confused by troopers working in the median and the crashed van on the south side of the

road.

When Berg slowed, a line of motorcycles behind her in the passing lane crashed into each other and into her.

Donna J. Yagel, 55, Napoleon, Ohio, was driving a 2005 Harley-Davidson motorcycle was injured when her motorcycle ran into the one in front of her.

Marvin G. Yagel, 60, Napoleon, Ohio, was driving the 2003 Harley-Davidson motorcycle that she hit. Kayla L. Smith, 17, Swanton, Ohio, was a passenger on the bike.

The second motorcycle then crashed into the car driven by Berg.

Smith and Donna and Marvin Yagel were taken to the Goodland Regional Medical Center for injuries. Donna was transferred to St. Anthony where she was listed in fair condition on Wednesday.

The motorcycles were removed by Stage Stop Towing and taken to a Goodland storage lot. The van was removed by McB's Motor Company of Goodland and held in their lot.

# Wind and weather hard on welcome flags on main

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Wind and weather are making it difficult for Sherman County organizations to welcome visitors to Goodland, but the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau is determined to extend the welcome anyway.

Though "Welcome" flags added to Main Ave. just last year are so tattered and faded that about 50 of them need to be replaced, they have been such a hit that the visitors bureau is looking for help not only to replace them but also to buy more

flags to extend the welcome along 17th and Cherry streets.

The visitors bureau bought 84 flags and an advisory member to the board bought several, and they bought poles to attach to the brackets on the light poles along Main Ave.

The visitors bureau board voted at its meeting Thursday to buy up to 200 flags and the poles needed if they decide to extend the flag and to ask the Chamber of Commerce and Sherman County Economic Development Council to split the cost.

The flags come in packets of four, said Donna Price, visitors bureau director; the packets are \$27 each. If they buy 200 flags, that would be \$1,350.

Whether or not to put up flags along 17th and Cherry is still to be decided, Price said.

Price told the board last month that the flags were damaged and some would need to be replaced, and board members decided to table the discussion until this month's meeting.

To put flags up on Main from Eighth to 17th, Price said, the board

would need to buy 105 flags.

"The ones we just bought last year are no good?" asked board chair Dale Neill.

Some are about 50/50, Price said; they were damaged by the wind and sun.

The board talked about whether to get polyester flags again like last year or to look for flags in a more durable material and ended up deciding they had tried other materials with similar results.

Maybe nothing holds up with weather conditions and environment here, said Lincoln Wilson, a

board member and owner of the Howard Johnson Hotel.

Several at the meeting were in favor of extending the length of the flag-lined street, especially considering the events coming up.

The all-school reunion is coming up next year, said Linda Holton, director of the High Plains Museum; it would be nice to have the flags extended down Cherry.

When Pioneer Park is finished, said Arlo Hansen, a board member, it would be nice to have flags down there. It shows there is life in town, he said, if the flags are up for spe-

cial occasions.

A lot of times, Price said, if the flags aren't out, people don't know anything's going on.

Wilson made a motion to buy up to 200 flags and the necessary poles and seek help from the Chamber and economic development to help pay for them. Hansen seconded.

David Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre and an advisory member to the board, bought flags for the 1200 block of Main last year and flew them for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

After shopping around for the best price, the board ordered flags and poles, and the cost was split between the three entities.

# County to issue bonds for courthouse, bridge

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County approved contracting with Gilmore and Bell of Wichita to act as bond counsel for several county projects including the courthouse repairs and a new bridge on County Road 65 west of Road 16.

Kevin M. Cowan, Gilmore and Bell attorney, talked to the commissioners Wednesday about the options for issuing bonds on these projects and the joint city/county road program.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the county has the costs on the bridge and the courthouse repairs, but the commissioners have not received any estimates on the Southwestern Bell building addition and renovation or the storage building and garage to be built behind the courthouse.

Cowan said the county has authority in state law to issue bonds for public building projects of up to \$300,000 per project without having to go to a vote. He said there is a separate law for bridges, and there is no limit on the bonds for bridges.

He said the commissioners could authorize the two projects by resolution. He suggested that if the county could pay them off in four years temporary notes could be issued. He said the temporary notes are a bit faster and have are not required to go to public sale.

"On temporary notes you could work with a local bank," Cowan said, "or we have several clients around the state we work with on a regular basis."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked Rumpel if the projects would be under \$300,000 and asked how much the county would owe on the bridge project.

Rumpel said the courthouse repairs were about \$77,000 and that the county has paid \$38,000 on the bridge and was not sure if there would be additional costs.

Cowan suggested using temporary notes for these two projects and doing a separate bond issue for the storage building and the addition and renovation of the Southwestern Bell building.

A call by Rasure to Curt Way, public works director, revealed that the county portion of the bridge was the \$38,000, but the county would have to pay for any overruns in the project.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked Cowan what the interest rate would be on temporary notes.

Cowan said the interest rate would be in the high 2 percent to low 3 percent range. He said the short-term rates have been creeping up a bit over the past few months, but that the long-term rates remain very low.

"This is the lowest period of time for interest over the past 30 years,"

Cowan said. "In the last 10 years the rates have come up some, but are relatively lower than in the past."

He suggested the county do temporary notes for \$120,000 to cover the bridge and courthouse repair projects. He suggested asking the local banks for proposals on the temporary notes because they might be able to give a better rate and handle the transaction.

Rasure asked about the cost for the temporary notes and Cowan said estimated it would be one-eighth of one percent plus \$300. As a total Cowan said it would be \$1,500 to \$2,000.

"We can go to the local banks," Commissioner Mitch Tiede said, "but do have to go through the public sale process?"

Cowan said the temporary notes could be done without a public sale, but the county could request interest rate bids from local banks.

"It could give us more flexibility if we did the two together," Tiede said.

"There would be more cost if we did two issues," Rasure said

"Yes," Cowan said, "It would be about 3 percent on each issue."

"We would have the cost on both that way," Thomas said.

Rumpel said the county has extra money in the bond and interest fund that could be use to pay for the first two projects. She said using that

would give the county some time with the cash flow, and felt it was important to authorize the two projects as soon as possible.

"Makes sense," Rasure said. "That way we would only go through this once for the other project."

Rumpel said they might be looking at different bond issues with the storage building and the Southwestern Bell because one or both might be over \$300,000.

Cowan said he would get the documents ready in the next couple of weeks to authorize the first two projects, and wait for more definite costs on the other two;

The commissioners approved engaging Gilmore and Bell to handle the county bond issues.

Rasure told Cowan the county was hoping to renovate the main floor of the Southwestern Bell building to house the economic development office, visitor's bureau and the Goodland Chamber. He said the economic development is a county entity and that the visitor's bureau is tax supported and the commissioners appoint the board. He said the chamber is a non-profit organization.

Cowan said the chamber might fall under the private use definition, but if it is tax exempt the county could probably allow it under the regulations. He said the other two

would be government use.

"There is a way to work around and be able to help the chamber," Cowan said. "We can do some things to help."

Questioned about the upstairs Tiede said the idea is to allow the room to be used by the public for meetings and other functions.

Rasure said he contacted an architect out of Salina about looking at the Southwestern Bell building and helping plan the storage building.

He said the company is doing a clinic in St. Francis and working with a clinic in Sharon Springs. He said the company has done historical renovation work on the Fox Theatre in Salina.

He said the storage building and garage are the pressing need to be able to free up the Southwestern Bell building.

Mitch and Chuck agree with the idea of having an architect for the storage building.

"He will come out and talk to us on Aug. 9 to give a presentation," Rasure said. "He will give some idea of how it can be done and what it will cost on an hourly rate or percentage of the total project."

## corrections

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