



## Charity ride draws two from here

More than 250 motorcyclists (left) rumbled down I-70 Wednesday on the 12th annual Chick-Fil-A Kyle Petty Charity Ride. Chuck Wilkens and his son Brock (above) joined the ride at Goodland and rode to Colby with them. Lynn Eisenbart (right) got Kyle Petty's autograph at the Oasis Travel Center in Colby, where the group stopped to eat and fuel. The Petty picture was taken by Brad Schields of Goodland, who also joined the ride here.

Photos by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News



# Goodland riders join cross-country jaunt

A couple of Goodland motorcycle riders joined celebrities on a cross-country charity jaunt Wednesday and rode with them to Colby.

The Chick-fil-A Kyle Petty Charity Ride, in its 12th year, stopped at the Oasis Travel Center to allow riders to fill up and eat lunch on their cross-country journey.

Brad Schields, Chuck Wilkens and his son Brock, 14, joined the ride at the rest area west of Goodland and rode to Colby with the over 250 bikers.

Schields said he had done the same thing about five years ago when the ride came through on I-70.

Schields and Wilkens said they shook hands with the celebrities at the Oasis Travel Center, and then rode back to

Goodland.

Schields said it was a fun ride, especially since he has been a racing fan for years.

Schields said he has made an annual trip to the Daytona 500 for over 35 years.

The ride raises money for Victory Junction Gang Camp, a summer camp for children with chronic or life-threatening illnesses, and other charities.

Petty and his wife Pattie opened the camp in North Carolina in honor of their son, Adam, 19, who died in a racing accident in May 2000.

The ride passed through Goodland on I-70 about 12:15 p.m., just before the Colby stop.

The riders waved and honked as a reporter took photos from the Caldwell Ave.

overpass, but the ride didn't draw the crowd that welcomes the annual Run for the Wall when it rolls through in late May.

Petty, driver of the No. 45 car in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series and son of NASCAR legend Richard Petty, and retired NFL player Herschel Walker signed autographs for fans during the Colby stop.

Jason Woofter, manager of the Oasis, said though other rides have stopped at the center, the Petty event was the biggest yet.

"It was great," Woofter said. "We were excited they picked Colby to do it. They enjoyed the facility and what we offered."

After eating lunch, the more than 200 bikers fueled up.

The entire process took only 15-20 minutes, Woofter said, because none of the rid-

ers had to get off their bikes. Designated fuelers filled up the bikes, pumping more than 450 gallons.

The nine-day ride started Saturday in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and ended Sunday at the camp.

Jim Vap of Colby donated a Nextel Cup banner signed by Petty, Walker and everyone else on the ride. It will be auctioned later to benefit Victory Junction.

Lynn and Josh Eisenbart were two of the many fans who showed up to get pictures and autographs.

Lynn said her husband got Walker's autograph, and also a couple of other famous people.

She said she was impressed with how many people turned out for the event, and

that Petty would pick Colby for a stop.

"Kyle Petty may be known for racing in NASCAR but what he will really be remembered for is all of the ways that he has helped children in the U.S.," she said.

"I'm glad that he took the time to stop in Colby. It's not everyday that we have a touch of the rest of the world in our little town."

She said Colby should be honored to be included in this event.

"The Oasis Truck Stop is usually busy," she said, "but I have never seen so many motorcycles filling with fuel at one time."

"It is great that he has been able to get so many people interested in the cause. I hope they continue to be successful in their efforts to raise money for children's needs."

# Homeland Security money to benefit 18 counties

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Northwest Kansas has about \$408,000 in Homeland Security money that has to be spent by the end of August, but any project has to benefit all 18 counties, the regional emergency manager told Sherman County commissioners Friday.

Gary Rogers, emergency manager for Sherman, Cheyenne and Rawlins counties, said he has been

put on a subcommittee to develop a recommendation about how to spend the money. He said the paperwork has to be in by Aug. 15, and be approved by the regional council by Aug. 31.

"We will meet in Hoxie next week," Rogers said, "and look at a number of large projects and finalize these."

He said one of the options is to purchase a mobile command unit that could be taken to any of the 18

counties in case of an emergency or disaster. He said that could cost anywhere from \$150,000 to \$400,000.

Commission Chairman Kevin Rasure said a command center would be expensive and gets obsolete quickly.

"Yes," Rogers agreed, "it has to be updated frequently."

Rogers said another possibility is radio equipment. The cost for the 18 counties would be \$260,000 to \$280,000 for new radios in all counties for the same communications level.

He said the radios would benefit the fire, police, emergency, sheriff's, health and dispatch departments in all counties.

"Don't know how long the federal dollars will keep coming,"

Rogers said, "but we can maintain the equipment until that ends. Then we are on our own."

Rogers said he and Judy McKee, his Sherman County helper, were in Colby for a meeting about planning standards. He said those are pretty much in place and they will begin updating the Sherman County plan.

Rogers said Sherman County would be getting some Homeland Security money next year, about \$14,000. He said there would be \$10,000 for law enforcement and some for the city.

"This will be the last year we get money," Rogers said. "Everything will go to the regional councils after this year."

Crissy Conger, Sherman County dispatch director and emergency

management director, said the radio communications cost would be minimal for Sherman County. Conger said the police department has been getting new radios over the past year.

Rasure asked about the hand held radios used by rural firemen. Rogers said they would look at that for next year.

Rogers asked if the new radio repeater had helped with county communications. Conger said she thought it had helped some, but that there are areas such as Kanorado where there is not enough signal.

Rasure said he knew there were problems with the hand-held radios.

Rasure said there are other pieces of equipment the fire departments

could use. Rogers said the money cannot be spent on that unless the equipment has to do with homeland security. He said the city police department is developing a list.

"Where are we on the new computer system?" Rasure asked Conger, referring to a new software program that is supposed to handle all the information from the sheriff, police and dispatch so it can be shared and each have a backup in case of an emergency. The upgrade started about a year ago when Mary Messamore was in charge of central dispatch.

"They are all of a sudden getting excited to get it up and running," Conger said. "I understand the dispatch and police are ready."

## matters of record

### Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

Brian K. Somers and Carolyn R. Somers to Brian K. Somers and Carolyn R. Somers an undivided half interest in Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 9, Second Addition to the City of Goodland; E65' of Lots 1, 2, 3 and S10' of W75' of Lot 3, Block 1, Third Addition to the City of Goodland; Lots 1 and 2, Block 29, Beahms Addition to the City of Goodland; Lots 1 and 2 and N15' of

Lot 3, Block 16, Second Addition to the City of Goodland; and S15' of Lot 5 and all of Lot 6, Block 28, Beahm's Addition to the City of Goodland.

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## 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. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record.