



Run for the Wall bikers lined Caldwell Ave. Sunday morning as the more than 300 riders headed east out of Goodland on the next lap of their journey to Washington, D.C. for the XXIII annual Rolling Thunder procession to be held on Sunday from the Pentagon down to the Vietnam War Memorial where there

will be a special program. The riders spent Saturday night in Goodland, and said they feel this is one of their favorite stops on the cross-country trip to honor those who have served and are serving. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland turns out for motorcyclists

By Tom Betz
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Goodland citizens lined an overpass on I-70 and along Eighth St. and Caldwell Ave. on Saturday evening and on Caldwell Ave., on Sunday morning waving flags as the riders for the XXIII annual Ride for the Wall came to town for an overnight stop on their way to Washington D.C. and the Memorial Day celebration of Rolling Thunder.

About 300 cycles, plus support vehicles with about 425 people, arrived in Goodland about 6 p.m. on Saturday and after a meal at the armory spent the night in area motels and camping locations. Some camped at the armory, and all returned to the armory on Sunday morning for breakfast, a non-denominational church service and mandatory rider meeting before heading east to Oakley and then to Junction City.

The group will reach Washington Friday, and will travel to the Lincoln Memorial for a group photo on

Saturday and a visit to The Vietnam Wall, the World War II Memorial and the Korean War Memorial.

Sunday the riders will join riders from all over the country as they travel from the Pentagon to Arlington Cemetery and to The Wall as part of Rolling Thunder. The Ride For The Wall began as a way to raise awareness about those who were Missing in Action and Prisoners of War in Vietnam, but over the years it has grown as a way to salute all veterans of all wars with a special emphasis on the Missing in Action and Prisoners of War from all wars.

Large American flags placed by the Goodland Kiwanis along Eighth Street and Caldwell Ave. greeted the riders on Friday plus many put out by city citizens. American flags along Armory Road were courtesy of the American Legion Riders. The Goodland VFW Auxiliary had unfurled their large 20x30 flag on the west wall of the armory's main room.

Saturday afternoon people gathered on at least one bridge over I-70 west of town to greet the riders as they came east from Limon. The wind was blowing from the west about 30 mph with gusts up to 40 mph pushing the riders from Limon, and they ran into a little light rain before reaching town.

A couple of small groups of riders were ahead of the main pack, and when the main group arrived on I-70 they stretched for more than a mile and as the people waved flags the riders waved back, honked their horns and flashed their lights. Many of the riders said they had seen other people waving as they rode, but were happy to see the people as they arrived in Kansas. The numbers on the overpasses were down this year with all the graduation and racing activities in town on Saturday.

The bikes staged along Commerce Rd. to gas up at Presto Travel Center #13 where the bikes rolled through in quick precision to get more than 240 bikes gassed in under

20 minutes. Dave Daniels had raised \$1,614 to help pay for the fuel and said Saturday and the total bill came to \$2,128.25 for 531 gallons. He said the riders had collected money and the difference was \$521. Daniels said the money was donated back to the Run For The Wall. He said about 250 bikes went through the fuel stop and it was 67 more gallons than used last year.

JoAnn Wahrman and husband Joe, who have ridden with the group for about six years were the main organizers to bring the ride to Goodland. In the past years the ride has stopped at Limon and then moved to Burlington. Part of the change in route has been that the ride has moved away from I-25 and the congestion of the Colorado front range.

The riders and support people were treated to a barbecue dinner by local volunteers and the American Legion Riders from Colby. The main room of the armory was filled with people and the parking lots were filled with motorcycles once the whole group arrived.

Following dinner the group gave Mayor John Garcia a standing ovation after his stirring speech and reading the proclamation for Run

For The Wall Day.

Dixie Teeter sang the National Anthem as the riders stood and saluted the big flag on the wall. Demi Mitcheck sang God Bless America for the group with a great cheering reception from the riders.

The riders then began to scatter to the motels, camping areas and even some private homes for a change to wash off the road dirt and get some sleep before they had to get up on Sunday and do it all over again.

The Goodland Rotary with other volunteer help from the Goodland Boy Scouts served a sausage and pancake breakfast to the riders early Sunday morning. Keeping up with the coffee was a main efforts as nearly every rider came looking for a morning cup of coffee. The Rotary had expected to feed about 250 and start at 6 a.m. By that time more than 100 had already come through and more kept coming until after the church service.

Following the church service the riders gathered for the mandatory meeting, and the groups of bikes were being staged along Armory Road from about the Budweiser entrance to east near the National Weather Service.

Because the ride on Sunday morning was short with the gas stop and

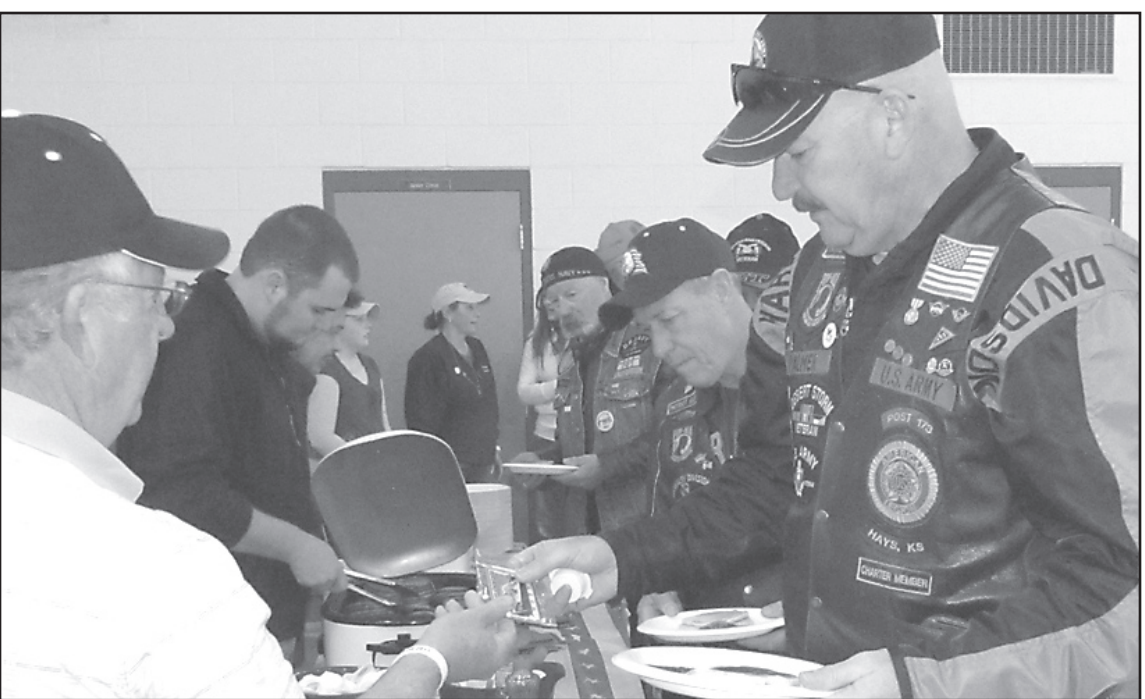
lunch planned at Oakley the departure was delayed until 8:15 a.m. People lined Caldwell Ave., waving flags as the riders headed south. One large group included some 4-Hers and several area motorcycle riders gathered at Gulick Park to cheer on the riders.

The Goodland VFW was to help with the lunch at Oakley.

The riders were escorted to the armory on Saturday by a combination of Sherman County Sheriff deputies and the Goodland Police Department. The Goodland Police escorted the riders as they left town Sunday morning.

Wahrman said she was told by the Central Route organizers they enjoy coming to Goodland and it is becoming a favorite stop on the route. He said the plans are to stop in Goodland again next year.

One rider said there would be an insurrection if the organizers tried to stop somewhere else other than Goodland. The riders gave a standing ovation for the Goodland community, and many thanked everyone for the special patches with the Van Gogh painting handed out to every rider on Sunday morning. The special patches were a special gift from the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board member Dale Neill handed out special patches to each rider on Sunday morning as they came through the breakfast line at the Derrick Lutters Armory for the XXIII Run for the Wall after they spent Saturday night in Goodland.

Man dies in wreck Sunday

Espirion Joshua "Speedy" Aguilar was killed at 3:45 a.m. (Mountain Time) Sunday morning eight miles west of Goodland at County Road 65.

The Nissan pickup was heading west on County Road 65 when it went into the south ditch, rolled twice and ejected the driver into a wheatfield. Kansas Trooper Joe Greene was the investigating officer.

Aguilar was not wearing his seatbelt and was dead at the scene. He was taken to Koons Funeral Home of Goodland.

The pickup was removed by McB's of Goodland.

A full obituary will be in Friday's paper.

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 want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

**Kansas Attorney General
Derek Schmidt
will be at the Farm Bureau office
1610 Main
at 10 a.m. on Thursday**

**Goodland Regional Medical Center
Relay For Life Team**

May BASKETS

Stop by GRMC
Central Registration

**Make a donation for opportunity to win
20 Different Baskets*Winners announced May 26**

**Goodland High School
Auditorium Benefit BBQ**



Stop by for a \$5 Grass-Fed Beef Burger at 114 W 12th in Goodland. (Home of The Buffalo Guys)

One day only - Thursday, 26 May 11:30 - 1:30

100% of the proceeds will be donated to help update the High School Auditorium to benefit our wonderful music and theater programs. **Come and help support our kids and our community!**

The Goodland Cemetery Board invites you to check out the new Kiosk at the Cemetery this Memorial Day.

It's a new way to find loved ones quickly and easily.

There will be members of Boy Scout Troop 142 on hand to help!

Brochures will be available at the cemetery with more information.

Win a beautiful knitted blanket!

All proceeds benefit Sherman County Relay for Life!

Blanket can be seen at First National Bank, Goodland, KS

TICKET PRICES:
\$1: 1 ticket
\$5: 6 tickets

CONTACTS TO BUY TICKETS:
Shelly Thompson: Bankwest
Sherida Shoff: First National Bank
Pat Schiefen or Sheila Smith: The Goodland Star-News
Ginger Chadwick and Dusti Chadwick: 785-890-2525