

children missing after their father, who has joint custody, apparently kidnapped them this weekend. "Missing" posters hanging in busi-

Jacob Jaeger nesses around town say the children were last seen with their father on Fri-

Job day, Jan. 11. Thonna Thompson said her sons,

Johan Thonna said. "I just want my kids back." Mark picked up the boys at 7 a.m. Friday, Thonna said, and was legall-

Pickup fire threatens horse

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

A pickup hauling a trailer with a horse in it destined for Tampa, Fla. burst into flames about 11 p.m. Thursday at Total gas station, south of I-70 on K-27, shooting fire 20 feet in the air and exploding shotgun shells in the cab.

"It was a pretty good fire," said Dean Jensen, city fire chief. He said it took fire fighters about an hour to douse the blaze.

Virgil and Jackie Baumfalk, owners of McB's Motor and Radiator Repair, towed away the remains of the 1997 Ford F350 and trailer this morning. Virgil Baumfalk said the truck was totaled, but they may be able to repair the trailer, which was about 30 feet long.

Monroe Robinson of Ratcliff, Ark., who was hauling a horse in Florida, said he was sleeping in his truck in Total's parking lot when the smell of smoke woke him up. He said he discovered fire had broken out underneath the cab and tried to put it out with a few gallons of water he had with him, but it didn't work.

Robinson said he jumped out, woke the drivers of the trucks parked next to him, and then pulled the horse out of the trailer. The horse's name was Max Gray, an eight-year-old pony that Robinson said he was transporting from Carbondale, Colo. to Tampa.

One of the truckers Robinson had warned ran into the station to have the clerk, Kermit Morris, call the fire department. Morris' wife Aletha was at the station with him.

"We kind of overreacted," Aletha said. "We called 911 three times. Kermit twice and me once to tell them this thing was really burning good."

Between the tires popping and shot-

gun shells in the cab exploding, Robinson said he was sure the whole town would wake up. A few people stood around watching the commotion.

Robinson said he doesn't know how the fire started.

Chief Jensen said it may have been an electrical short in the truck, but it's hard to tell because the damage was so extensive.

Many Goodland business are helping.

Pettijohn said McClure Plumbing and Heating will do the plumbing work, B&B Electric Service will handle the electrical work and Barnett Construction laid the concrete foundation.



Jackie Baumfalk, co-owner of McB's Motor and Radiator Repair, prepared to tow away a truck Friday morning that caught fire in Total's parking lot Thursday night. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Max seemed to be okay, Robinson said, just a little cold. He said he had just had most of the horse's hair cut off, and he couldn't be left outside for long.

Robinson said he didn't know where he was going to sleep, or how he was going to get out of town.

"I'll worry about the horse first, then I'll worry about me," he said. George Phillips of Caruso, five

miles west of Goodland, offered to put Max Gray up in his barn.

This morning, Robinson said Phillips was going to help him get to Arkansas, where he would pick up his other truck. He said he would then take Max to Tampa.

Robinson said he appreciates everyone's help.

"People here have really been wonderful," he said.

Grant helps church install elevator, bathroom

By Skilar Boland

The Goodland Daily News

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 121 W. 3th, is under construction, as workers are building a new addition onto the southwest corner to make room for an elevator and bathroom.

