

Even addresses  
can water  
lawns today.

weather  
report

68°  
at noon

Today

• Sunset, 7:46 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:58 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:45 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 81 degrees

• Humidity 37 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds variable 5 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.17 inches  
and falling

• Record High 103° (1936)

• Record Low 51° (1941)

Last 24 Hours\*

High 78°

Low 55°

Precipitation .02

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low mid 50s,  
winds southwest 5-10 m.p.h. Tomorrow:  
mostly sunny, high mid 80s, low near 60,  
winds southwest 10 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: sunny, high lower 90s,  
low mid 60s. Friday: clear, high lower  
90s. Saturday: partly cloudy, high  
lower 90s, low lower 60s. Sunday:  
partly cloudy, high mid 90s, low lower  
60s. Monday: partly cloudy, high 90s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local  
markets

Noon

Wheat — \$3.70 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.55

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Corn — \$2.57 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.40

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Milo — \$2.32 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.35 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.20

Loan deficiency payment — 0¢

Millet — \$10.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil/NuSun — \$12.15 cwt.

Loan deficiency prmt. — 0¢

Confection current — inquire

Pinto beans — \$25

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco  
Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century  
Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon  
wire

Late news from  
the Associated  
Press

1 p.m.

Flood roars  
through cities

PRAGUE, Czech Republic —  
The Vltava River spilled its banks  
and threatened medieval architectural  
treasures in the Czech capital today  
as the prime minister declared a state  
of emergency and thousands of  
Prague residents fled to higher ground.  
Floods roared through many European  
cities after near-record summer rains,  
killing at least 87 people.  
About 4,000 soldiers were deployed to  
the historic capital as Mayor Igor Nemec  
ordered 40,000 residents of low-lying parts  
of the city to leave their homes because  
of Prague's worst flooding since 1954.

# Business sues city over Cherry work

**By Doug Stephens**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

The owners of Grass Roots Lawn Service are suing the City of Goodland for about \$109,500, plus an unspecified amount for future lost income, for damage to their business during the road construction on Cherry Avenue last year.

In a suit first filed in December, plus filings in March and this month, Richard and Jolene Miller claim that City Manager Ron Pickman told them access to their property wouldn't be affected.

If they had not been told that the alley east of their building, 1901 Cherry, was not going to be closed, the suit says, they would not have bought the building from Don Bennett in March 2000.

The city, in response, filed a motion on Thursday for summary judgment, asking the court to drop all charges and claiming Grass Roots does not have a case. The company made more money last year than the year before, the city said, so it has no basis for the claim that its business is damaged. If District Court Judge Jack Burr finds some merit in some of the claims, the city asks that he drop the rest.

The store's merchandise was delivered from the alley before the construction, the Millers said, and now the semi-trailer rigs have to park in front of the building and drivers have to carry items through the store. "Foot traffic" has slowed down, their suit claims, because people have a hard time getting in the parking lot when a truck is parked there.

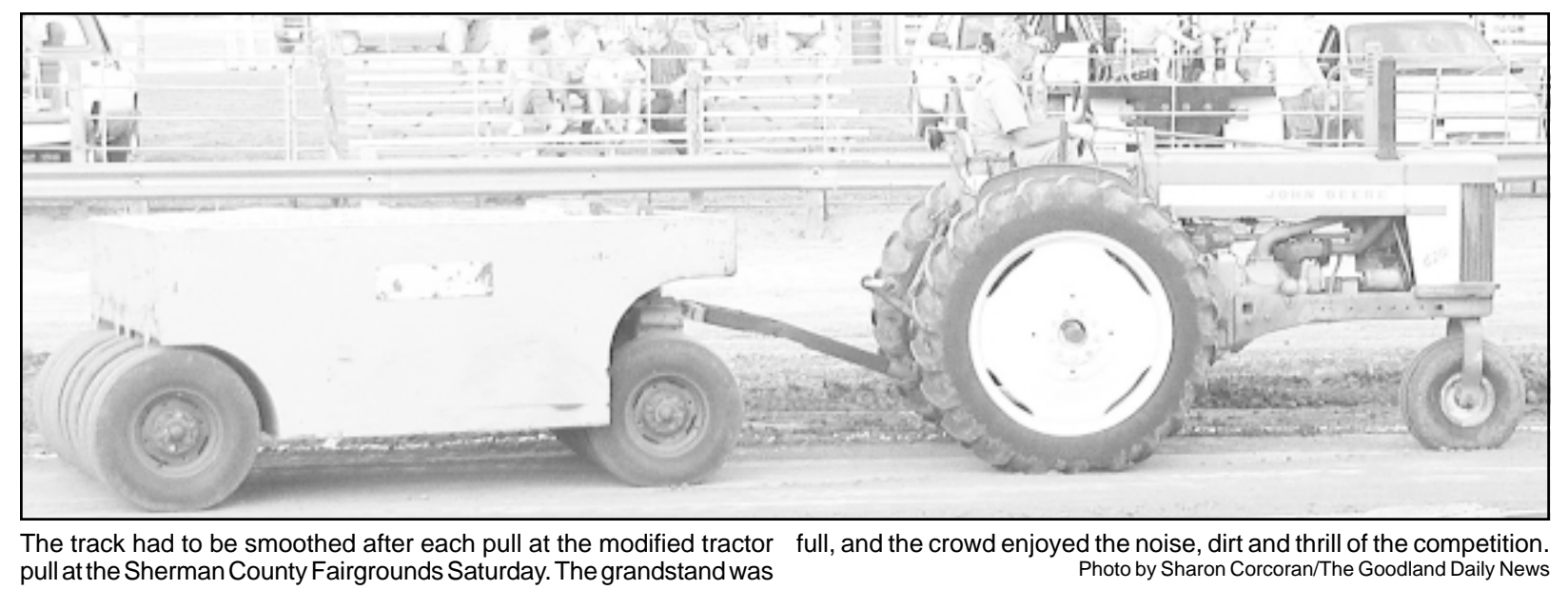
The city built a parking lot west of the Millers' business, the suit said, land which the Millers claim Pickman said would remain empty, and the city built a new road south of the building and the

new parking lot, parallel to 19th Street. The Millers said entryway into their business is inadequate for semi-trailer rigs and regular customer traffic.

"No business owner should have to endure such a humiliation and such a drastic damage to basic approaches to business property," wrote Caleb Boone of Hays, the Millers' attorney, in the suit.

Business is down about \$1,500 per month at Grass Roots, the suit said. To restore traffic, the Millers said they will have to rent a warehouse to

See LAWSUIT, Page 4



# Despite drought, county fair a success

**By Doug Stephens**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

The 6-year-old boy dragged his mother through the Sherman County Fairgrounds Friday, pulling her from booth to booth and ride to ride.

"I love this fair!" Jordan Moore of Colby said to his mother, Marilyn. "I want to come back tomorrow, and the next day, and the next day, and the next day..."

He stopped and turned in a circle, taking in all the sights at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

"Do you think they'll be open on Christmas?"

The fair, which ran last week from Monday to Saturday, might have seemed like a holiday for a lot of people, not just one wide-eyed first grader.

There was the home-owned carnival with three new rides, a kids' rodeo, demolition derby, tractor pull, livestock exhibits, animal shows, and foods and crafts.

Not to mention the fashion show, concessions, ranch rodeo, catch-it-pig contest, sunflower product bake-off, a parade down Main Avenue, pedal tractor pulls and stick races at Family Fun Night.

"Something for everyone," is how fair board members described the week-long event. Every day there was something different going on, and every day good-sized crowds were drawn to the fairgrounds.

John Dautel, fair board member, said attendance might have been up a little bit this year. The new carnival rides, the Sizzler, Bullet and La-Go-Go, stayed busy, and the Bullet had long lines most nights.

"The rides made a big difference," Dautel said. "I'm sure there were some people who came out just to try them."

LaDonna Frerichs, agent assistant at the Sherman County extension office, said the fair was a success, especially considering the slow economy and the drought.

The number of 4-H exhibits were down a little this year, Frerichs said.



Gardening exhibits were effected by the dry weather, she said, and even livestock entries were down a little bit. Foods, arts and crafts displays were about the same number as last year.

Although the numbers were down, Dautel said, he thought the quality of the livestock might have been better this year.

"The pigs, lambs and steers were really competitive," he said. "We had some good looking animals out there."

This year's theme was "Proud to be American," and there were flags prominently displayed at the fairgrounds, during the parade and incorporated into many exhibits.

In the 4-H photography exhibit there were pictures of the Freedom's Flame convoy of rubble from the World Trade Center that stopped in Goodland on July 30. On Tuesday night, a Sherman County firetruck outside the pavilion was decorated with flags.

The wide variety of events and displays brought people in, Dautel said, but the cooperative weather didn't hurt.

"We couldn't have asked for better weather during the fair," Dautel said. "We got a little shower on Thursday, which was nice, but nothing to disrupt the events."

Jan Lohr, 4-H Ambassador advisor, said the little bit of rain the town got perked up the animal exhibits, and the timing was perfect for the parade Saturday, August 3. It rained a little before the parade started, then started up again as soon as the parade was over.

Although there is no way to keep track of the number of people at the fair, Dautel said, he thinks the crowds were bigger this year.

"The stands were packed during the demolition derby and the tractor pull," he said. "There were good sized crowds at the ranch rodeo, too. We just need to work on attendance at the kids' rodeo."

When the fair board meets next month, Dautel said, members should talk about ways to draw more people to the kids' show. Otherwise, he said, he thinks things will stay pretty much the same next year.

"It went really smoothly, and it was a lot of fun," he said.

## School roundup

At a meeting Monday, the Goodland School Board:

- Passed a budget with a slight tax rate cut and extra money in case the state pays schools less money than promised. Story below.
- Decided to take bids again on the Edson gymnasium. Story to come.
- Agreed to let Peoples State Bank use part of a district parking lot for a drive-through window if the bank paves a new lot. Story to come.
- Heard reports from principals on preparing for a new school year. Story to come.
- Discussed the district's response to city restrictions on lawn watering. Story to come.

# Budget padded for safety

**By Rachel Miscal**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Without hearing any comments or complaints from citizens, the Goodland School Board on Monday passed its new budget, including a slight drop in the district's property tax rate and extra money in case the state cuts its contribution.

After the budget is printed in the newspaper, the school board holds a hearing each year to answer questions or address complaints from parents or other people. The hearings usually don't attract a big crowd, and Monday night was no exception.

During the short budget session, Superintendent Marvin Selby explained how administrators came up with the numbers and how they set aside extra money in case the state has to pay schools less than expected. He also compared this year's budget to those of previous years.

The district's total budget is about \$7.5 million, including about \$6.4 million in the general fund, where the district puts money it gets from the state, and \$1.1 million in the supplemental general fund. Money in the supplemental fund, also called the "local option budget," is raised through a property tax rate the district has the power to raise or lower.

The total property tax rate is 38.663 mills, which is .046 lower than last year's rate of 38.709, but higher than the 2000 rate of 38.049. This year's tax rate for the local option budget is 14.663 mills, down from 14.709 last year, and higher than the 2000 rate of 14.049. The total rate also includes 4 mills to raise money for the district's capital outlay fund, which is used to pay for building improvements.

Each mill the district has in its property tax rate brings in \$1 per each \$1,000 worth of property within the district's boundaries. The assessed valuation of property in the district is about \$54 million this year, so the district estimates it will bring in about \$788,000 through its local option budget rate and \$214,000 for the capital outlay fund.

Although the local option budget is expected to raise \$788,000, the district estimated it will have \$1.1 million to spend in that fund partially because of extra tax money held over from last year.

Selby said the district received

See BUDGET, Page 4

# Bush tells forum he's in control of economy

WACO, Texas (AP) — President Bush assured Americans today that his administration has a steady hand on the economy after hearing blue-collar workers and blue-chip CEOs alike voice concern about slower growth and market volatility.

"We have heard from Americans who are concerned, but not discouraged. We see problems, but we're confident in the long-term health of this economy," Bush said at the close of a half-day economic forum he convened at Baylor University. It was an effort to calm the jittery stock market and blunt the damage in this election year.

"This administration is determined to build on the long-term security of the American people," Bush pledged. With stern words for Congress, he said spending restraint is essential to economic growth and announced he will not release \$5.1 billion recently approved for combatting terrorism because Congress lumped in several unrelated projects.

"Recession and the cost of war and the cost of homeland defense have increased our deficits, yet I am determined to fund the great priorities of our government while exercising the spending restraint that will return America to the path of a balanced budget as soon as possible," Bush said, to applause from a hand-picked audience of economists, corporate executives, and small-business owners.

The president and Vice President Dick Cheney made the rounds among eight seminars, combining policy and politics, which were led by various Cabinet secretaries and other top government officials. Bush said they were there to "talk about ways to get the economy moving again." He dropped by four sessions for 15 minutes at a time.

"I can assure that even though I won't be sitting through every single moment of the seminars — nor will the vice president — we will look at the summaries," Bush told one working group.

Investment counselor Charles Schwab, whose company manages \$800 billion in assets, reported to Bush that the confidence of American investors "is at a very fragile point." While he said that the stock market's downturn will be only temporary, Schwab added: "The bear market that we're suffering right now is probably one of the worst I have ever gone through, and it's not a comfortable place to be."