

Thresher show steamed up for 50th year

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show will mark its 50th year when the show begins Thursday at the grounds at the northeast corner of Bird City.

A book being written about the first 50 years of the show will be available next year. It will include pictures of this year's show.

The show began in the early 1950s, when a group of farmers and businessmen from the Tri-State area of Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas decided that the heritage of

farming in the High Plains should be preserved. Gasoline-powered tractors had replaced steam engines, and combines had eliminated the need for threshing machines and separators.

These preservationists formed the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association headquartered in Bird City.

After several years of restoration, cleaning and painting, this group held its first show in 1953 at the Roy Kite farm 2 1/2 miles northeast of

Bird City.

The premier show in 1953 offered only a tent for protection from the elements. Old outhouses served as bathrooms. Ladies and children were admitted free and the men were charged 50 cents a day.

The show continued to be held at the Kite farm through 1974. Then the association purchased 20 acres from Ralph and Ruth Leach at the northeast corner of Bird City, and buildings were soon erected.

The show's queen is selected

from the tri-state area. This year, the association will be recognizing past queens.

Last year, the show features 12 operational steam engines, all available for rides.

They are inspected and registered safe by a certified boiler inspector. There are close to 200 classic tractors at the show, which are in the daily parade. Also in the parade are the classic cars of the Tri-State Antique Auto Club, operated closely with the association.

The Thursday evening literary will be held at the Highland Country School on the grounds.

A cool spot during the show is the quilt building. This air conditioned facility displays 30 plus quilts.

The printing press building also is air-conditioned. The printers always come up with some interesting giveaways.

The Eggers building, built with money from Walt Eggers, houses the museum.

Friday evening is the popular an-

tique tractor pull. Saturday after a full day, take in the barbecue on the grounds. The McDonald Lions have been preparing the meal for years. They always have sweet corn that is cooked with heated water from the boiler on a steam engine.

The Saturday evening entertainment is the 4th Artillery Regimental Brass Band from Denver, dressed in Civil War attire. They will be teaching the Virginia reel and other folk dances in addition to their concert.

Classic car greets customers of auto business



By Shannon Davidson
The Goodland Star-News

Don's Truck and Auto, on the corner of Main and Eighth, is a pleasant business.

The big picture windows allow you to get a look at a classic car, then when you walk in, you're greeted with a smile.

Don Ayers started his truck and auto business in February and knows it takes a lot of hard work to keep a good business running.

"I can see why people don't just jump into running a business," he said. "It is hard work."

Don and his sister, Venessa Ayers, keep the business going. They have lived in Goodland most of their lives and remember the livelihood of the town when they were growing up.

"It was nice to have grocery stores here in town," he says, "making it a lot more convenient then going up to the highway."

Don says he knows it is important to keep local businesses running and the community strong.

He offers affordable car maintenance, including oil changes, brakes, transmission, tire repair, shocks, heating and cooling, auto



Don Ayers (above), owner of Don's Truck and Auto, walked through his shop to get a tool to work on the starter of a customer's car. Ayers (left) worked on the starter during a hot July day. Ayers and his sister Venessa keep the shop going.

Photo By Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News

detailing and tune-ups.

"We want to be able to offer affordable, quality service to make sure people get their cars fixed," he said.

"The little extras we do with our

service show the dedication we have to getting the job done right. We take the extra steps to wash your windows and vacuum out the inside."

City budget may include higher sewer rates

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economic development by reducing costs of connections to the customer and having the city absorb the majority of costs.

Even though we have reduced the cost to the developer, our costs have increased. This means the city at large will pick up the tab for the difference.

"It may be necessary to increase rates to address this decrease in revenue. A small increase in rates on a regular basis is easier to swallow than a large increase in rates every few years. We can't give unless we

receive, and if we break the bank, no amount of economic development will help."

Turning to the sewer fund as a prime example, Pickman said the commission would be reviewing a revision of the sewer rates.

"Sewer rates have not been increased since the mid 1980s," he said. "The result will be an increase in rates to reach a break even point. The necessity to address sewage treatment will further increase the cost of funding this utility."

"Whatever treatment method is finally selected, the cost will be in excess of \$2.5 million to get the fa-

cility on-line."

Pickman said the city is attempting to acquire additional water rights because they have exhausted the ability to drill more wells due to spacing limitations.

The city has been trying to replace two wells, and under state water regulations, they have a certain area in which the replacement wells could be drilled, but every attempt to find a suitable location has met with limited success.

There are also problems developing with nitrate levels at well 5, and there is concern with the contamination from the old city dump which

is near well 11.

He said the city has done quite a bit to improve the water system with new lines and a new water tower in the southwest zone.

However, he said, that leaves about two-thirds of the system in need of improvements.

Recent water leaks and inadequate pressure in some locations are due to the age of the lines, he said.

Pickman said the city continues to look for ways to address the need for more electrical supplies and the related increase in natural gas costs. The manger said the city is working

to negotiate a new agreement with Sunflower Co-operative Electric Co., but may have to raise rates to cover the cost of the power being purchased from Sunflower.

"Presently, we are paying over \$30 per megawatt, and our base rate is set to only cover the first \$28 of that," he said.

"Not only are we paying a higher cost for the power we purchase, we are losing money on the whole system because we are not covering our costs."

The presentation also discussed the problems with drainage, increased insurance costs and the to-

tal cut of state revenue sharing.

"I can guarantee the commission there is no 'fluff' or 'hidden funds' in the budget," Pickman said. "The departments were asked to prepare their budgets at a 'bare-bones' level and in most cases this was accomplished."

"This budget does not address any major projects. It is basically a budget that attempts to maintain the status quo and face the escalating costs we cannot control."

The city department heads each appeared to review their budgets, and to discuss how they were handling things.

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 and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Parade Marshal Nominations

The 4-H Ambassadors are accepting nomination applications for Parade Marshal for the 2003 Northwest Kansas Free Fair. If you want to nominate someone, please write a one paragraph summary as to why that person should be the Parade Marshal.

Please submit nominations to the attention of the 4-H Ambassadors at the County Extension Office, 813 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Goodland. Phone: 785-899-4880. Nomination deadline is July 25, 2003.

Classifieds work!
899-2338

Sherman
www.goodlandnet.com/movies 1203 Main - Phone 899-6103
Tonight 7:00 p.m.
Charlie's Angels II
PG-13
Starts Friday 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.
Legally Blonde II (PG-13)

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