

weather report

99°

noon Monday

Today

• Sunset, 7:35 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:06 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:34 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 85 degrees
- Humidity 16 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds North 16-24 mph
- Barometer 29.71 inches and rising
- Record High today 102° (1943)
- Record Low today 46° (1964)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	96°
Low Monday	69°
Precipitation	none
This month	1.95
Year to date	10.47
Below Normal	5.12 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny and hot. High near 97. Low near 65. Winds variable at 10 mph.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. High near 92. Low near 63. Winds north 10-15 mph. Thursday: Partly cloudy with 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. High near 91. Low near 63. Friday: Partly cloudy with 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. High near 87.

(National Weather Service)
 Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
 * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$5.74 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$5.90
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Corn — \$3.21 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$3.04
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Milo — \$2.91 bushel
 - Soybeans — \$7.09 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$6.99
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
 - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - NuSun crop — \$17.90
 - Confection — Call
 - Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Five return for Cowgirls

Senior Sammie Raymer practiced putting Friday at Sugar Hills Golf Club. She finished 19th in the state tournament last year and is one of five returning members of the Cowgirls' team. See story, photo on Page 12.

Private road issue for city

By Tom Betz

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City commissioners are trying to find some way to get the street in front of the Conoco Travel Shoppe near the west exit from I-70 fixed.

The half block or so of frontage road was never dedicated to public use, so it's private property and the landowner is responsible for repairs. Nonetheless, when it needs work — and it usually needs work — the city gets complaints. The pothole-filled stretch is at the south of Enterprise Road, the east frontage road on K-27 north of I-70.

Commissioner John Garcia said he has been getting complaints because the Travel Shoppe has put up barricades preventing people from driving north, and has posted signs prohibiting truck traffic or parking.

"We are willing to sit down and talk about this," said Tom Waldschmidt, president of Service Oil, which owns the Travel Shoppe on Monday. "We have poured more than \$25,000 into that section over the past five years.

"We don't make a nickel's worth of business from the trucks, and they have totally destroyed our property. We are willing to give the street to the city, but do not feel we should have to stand all the cost.

"We should be able to sit down and work out an equitable solution.



A small "private road" sign is posted on a pole south of the Conoco Travel Shopper on Enterprise where barricades are set up to stop truck traffic. The city commission is trying to find a solution to problems with the stretch of frontage road.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

I have had several calls from people who want to find a solution. I hope we can find an answer. It is private property at this time, and about the only thing I can see by having it be a

city street is we would get the snow plowed off in the winter."

The problem facing the city is the road was not dedicated to the city when the Travel Shoppe was built in 1998,

as most of the frontage roads were. Waldschmidt was asked about dedicating the street to the city back

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Classes to open in heat

With the hot weather and temperatures in the 90s, Goodland schools will be on a heat schedule when classes begin Wednesday, said Superintendent Shelly Angelos.

Classes Wednesday and Thursday will end at 12:30 p.m. and buses will take students home then, she said Monday. A decision about Friday will be made later in the week.

Goodland High School classes will start at 7:50 a.m., Grant Junior High at 8 a.m. and North, Central and West Elementary at 7:50 a.m.

Classes normally end at 3:20 p.m. for the elementary schools and the high school and 3:25 p.m. for the junior high.

West Elementary School is the only building that is completely air conditioned, the superintendent said, while the high school has air conditioning in some areas.

Gas company leases land near cemetery

By Tom Betz

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The Goodland City Commission agreed to a gas lease with Lobo Production for about 42.6 acres of land near the cemetery, but prodding from the mayor got the price kicked up a little to \$25 per acre, or \$1,065.

Richard Miller of Lobo and City Attorney Jeff Mason presented the lease to the commission last Monday. Mason said he had researched the legal descriptions and thought the city owns about 42.6 acres around the cemetery, with the mineral rights.

Mason said the offer was \$20 per acre (\$853) and that there would not be any drilling or building in the cemetery. Mason said the payment is one time for the life of the lease.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked Miller if the city could use the gas for its power plant, adding that he felt the lease price was lower than most leases he knew about.

"I am wondering that we should ask about the gas and get the use of our gas," Billinger said. "I do not think this is substantial, and is not the going rate."

"As far as straight-down drilling no \$20 is

not the going rate," Mason replied. "I am told this will be horizontal drilling and is more expensive."

"All the drilling will be on the farm ground outside the cemetery," Miller said.

"I have been told they are getting better gas with the horizontal drilling," Billinger said. "I don't think it is the right price to be in the lease. That is my opinion."

City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked where the land was and Miller showed him a map. On the map, he said, the lease appeared to include the county fairgrounds, and Dechant took Miller to a big aerial photo in the commission chamber to show him where the cemetery is.

Miller said he thought the city owns mineral rights for the 42 acres, but that his company will have to do a title search. He said the city has a producing gas well with Lobo on the east side of Caldwell Avenue, over by the gun range he said.

Mason said he researched the old information and feel the mineral rights were conveyed to the city when Sherman County Development decided the cemetery to the city.

"The only reservation I have is where we can use the gas," Billinger said.

"Your portion of the gas is not going to be enough to run the city," Miller said. "I wish it was."

City Manager Wayne Hill asked what the well by the gun range produces.

"It is producing about 4 to 5 mcf a day," Miller said. "It is about 30 years old."

Billinger asked what the city's portion of the rights would be if wells are drilled near the cemetery.

Mason said the lease provides for the city to get a one-eighth of all oil and gas produced. He said he has seen leases with as high as three-sixteenths a share.

Dechant asked Miller if he would entertain a higher rate.

"We would go a bit more," he said, adding that the city land would be part of 640 acres including the Baldwin and Hendrich land to the north.

"If you don't hit it in five years, it is over?" Hill asked. "If you hit something, the one-eighth continues?"

Dechant asked about giving the city the

right to use the gas. Miller said that provision was designed for people who have a home on the leased ground, and not to pipe it to the power plant.

"It is not worth it," he said, "so no on that."

Billinger asked when the company anticipates drilling.

"Is there anything in the contact that says you will drill?" he added.

"No," Miller said, "but we anticipate drilling next year."

Dechant said he had seen oil and gas leases from \$30 to \$60 per acre, and it appeared the city had the last piece of the puzzle.

"I like the comment the mayor made that he would not do anything less for the city than he would do for himself," he said.

"What would you suggest?" City Commissioner John Garcia asked.

"We could go up to \$25 per acre and cut it to three years," Miller said.

Billinger said that was better. Garcia made a motion to approve the lease and Commissioner Annette Fairbanks seconded. It passed 4-0 with Commissioner Dave Daniels absent.

Street sealing project delayed until next week



City crews washed 10th Street on Friday in anticipation of a sealing project which was to begin this week. Phil Erickson, street department superintendent, said Monday the contractor had been delayed, but the sealing should begin next Monday and take about three days.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

The city's annual street sealing project was planned to start this week, Phil Erickson, street department superintendent, said Thursday, but has been delayed a week because the contractor is running behind.

Erickson said if the weather cooperates, the work would begin next Monday and be done by Wednesday. There's a chance, he added, that it may not start until later, but it should be done by the end of the week either way.

People who live along streets to be sealed will be told to get their vehicles off the street by city crew members knocking on doors, Erickson said, adding the schedule could be affected by the weather.

Erickson said if a car is in the way and the owner can't be found, the city will have the vehicle towed. He said the program will be similar to what was done last year, with the work in two phases. The first is a chip seal, where a layer of asphalt is covered with crushed rock. Later, a "fog seal," a light overcoat, is sprayed over the chips.

The city has been doing some chip seal every summer, he said. This year the program will cover about one-fifth of the streets.

Rich Simon, public works manager, said the city has been pleased with how well the streets have held up that were sealed over the last two year, then cov-

ered with the fog seal.

He said the process seems to be helping the streets last longer, and the city may be able to stretch its traditional three-year cycle out to six years before redoing a street. He told the City Commission in July the city will not be able to do as many streets this year as planned, but he hopes to catch up next year with some of the money from the special bond issue the commission was expected to approve Monday.

Simon said the new process is more expensive, but the better quality means the streets will last longer. The estimated cost is \$100,000 for the 96,297 square yards.

About a month after the chip sealing, the same streets will be fog sealed to hold the surface better and extend the life of the chip seal, Simon said.

Street to be sealed include: Ninth from Main west to Cattle Trail; 11th east from Broadway to Eastridge; Seventh east from Main east to Eustis; Sixth east from Caldwell to Eustis; Third west from Caldwell to Broadway; Walnut Ave. south from 13th to 16th; College south from 13th to 16th; 15th east from Main to Arcade; Clark Ave. south from Toelkes to Eighth; Fifteenth east from Caldwell to Kansas; Montana Ave. south from Eighth to 10th; and Grand Ave. between Second and Third.