

### weather report

84°

noon  
Thursday

Today

• Sunset, 7:10 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:21 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:08 p.m.

#### Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 77 degrees
- Humidity 39 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds northwest at 6 mph
- Barometer 29.87 inches and falling

• Record High today 102° (1971)

• Record Low today 39° (1956)

#### Last 24 Hours\*

High Wednesday 93°

Low Thursday 61°

Precipitation none

This month none

Year to date 12.15

Below normal 4.47 inch

#### The Topside Forecast

Today: Sunny with highs in the lower 80s, winds 10 to 20 mph out of the northeast switching to the southeast in the evening. Lows in the 50s.

#### Extended Forecast

Saturday: Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 80s and lows in the lower 50s with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms at night. Winds 10 to 15 mph out of the south. Sunday to Tuesday: Highs around 80 with a chance of rain.

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

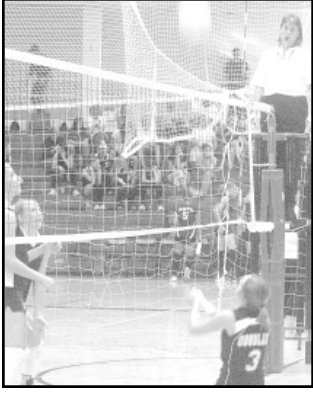
### local markets

#### Noon

- Wheat — \$7.08 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$6.93
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
  - Corn — \$3.16 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$3.05
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
  - Milo — \$2.81 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$7.86 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$7.73
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — 0c
  - Millet — \$7 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - NuSun crop — \$17.90
  - Confection — Call
  - Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)
- (Markets by Scoular, Sigco Sun, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

### inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



## Cowgirls season begins

Whitney Schields dug out a shot to get it back over the net to Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays Tuesday afternoon at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Cowgirls got their season off to a tough start. See story, photo on Page 11.

# Dialogue opened to fix street

By Tom Betz

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The barriers remain up at the Conoco convenience store on South Enterprise Road, north of I-70 and east of K-27, but a representative from the landowner said Tuesday he wants to work to solve the problem.

Members of the Goodland City Commission listened Tuesday, saying they would like to see some updated figures at the next meeting on Monday, Sept. 17, before making a decision.

People who drive into the city and pull into the service station entrance are surprised to find the private road blocked, preventing them from driving north, said City Manager Wayne Hill. A sign says "no trucks" and "no truck parking."

The barricades have been up for more than a month, Hill said, and people have been calling the city to see why the street is closed.

Warren Sweat, who lives in southeast Sherman County, came to the meeting, saying he is on the board of Service Oil, the company that owns the Conoco station and a vacant lot to the north.

"We have owned that land since 1977," Sweat said, "and we upgraded the facility in 1998 with the current store."

"In 1998, the city said they wanted us to donate the road frontage, but at that time we were not willing to do that."

"Since then, we have managed to get by, but this winter there was a lot of damage done to the road by the semi trucks turning and driving north to the fast food places."

"To try and stop the truck traffic, we put up the concrete barriers. We have filled in the pot holes and used some asphalt millings to repair the road."

"We are not happy with the way things are, and we want to get this straightened out. We are not happy with how it looks."



City Manager Wayne Hill (left) and Rich Simon, public works director, measured the width and length of the private road in front of the Service Oil Conoco convenience store Wednesday after-

noon to see what may need to be done to bring the road into the city if an agreement can be reached.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

"We have put about \$24,000 into the repairs and feel the city should eventually have the ground, and we are willing to donate the ground to the city."

City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked Sweat what has changed the Service Oil board's minds about the land.

"We feel we are getting a bad reputation from the city," Sweat said, "and we do not want this to continue. We want to find a solution."

City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the company has looked at doing anything with the road.

Sweat said they had received two bids from companies to rebuild the road from the edge of their property to the north where it would meet the

existing city street but have not taken a vote.

He said both bids are about \$60,000 and that would replace the asphalt with seven inches of concrete. He said one bid came in December and one was in May.

City Commissioner John Garcia asked if any of the bids were from a local contractor.

Sweat said the one in December was from Miller Construction of Goodland and the one in May was from Stephens Construction of Colby.

Dechant said the bids were lower than what the city was told previously.

"Yes," Sweat said, "I read the number in *The Goodland Star-News* and thought that was a bit high."

City Manager Wayne Hill said it would work if the company donated and did the concrete.

"We do not feel we should donate the land and do 100 percent of the concrete," Sweat said. "Our road has been damaged (by truck traffic) and we do not even sell diesel."

Former Goodland mayor Wade Barnett interrupted the discussion to give a history on the street:

"I was mayor when we decided to do Commerce and Enterprise," Barnett said. "We had it set up to pave the street in front of the Conoco store, but we were told by the president of Service Oil that it was their street and they would take care of their property."

"We reached an agreement to have them bring the street up to the

standards we were doing, but as far as I know Service Oil has never lived up to that standard."

"I think it would be a mistake for the city to take the land as it is today. They should have to live up to the agreement."

When Barnett had finished, Sweat continued.

"I do not think a hostile attitude will get this solved," Sweat said. "I think it was the old president who said we should never give that land to the city of Goodland. We have had a change in managers, and we do not feel the same as the former president did."

"I do not feel it is fair for us to be building a city street for traffic that

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## Paving nearly finished on K-27

Paving on nearly all of the 17 miles of the new section of K-27 south of town has been completed. Graders were smoothing the shoulders south of the Smoky Hill River bridge, and cleanup crews were sweeping dirt off the road further south to get ready for the final touches. Equipment is lined upon the south edge of the town for paving of the final section of the new road.

Photo by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News



# Adronics request lease, purchase options

By Tom Betz

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Adronics Elrob Manufacturing arrived in Goodland more than two years ago, and today the automobile antenna company has nearly 90 employees working in the Wolak Building it leased for two years from the city.

The lease ran out in April, and the city commissioners and Karen Robinson Murphy and Troy Robinson, company vice-presidents, have been looking at options to keep the company in the former grocery.

At their meeting Tuesday, city commissioners discussed three options to be presented to Adronics: a lease-purchase for four years at \$2,400 per month, a lease for three (\$1,500 a month) or five years (\$1,200 a month) and an outright purchase price of \$275,000.

The commissioners asked City Attorney Jeff Mason to draft documents for the three

and to check to see if the city can do a lease-purchase.

The firm began production in the city-owned plant in 2005 after Aircraft Seal and Gasket, an aircraft parts firm, folded its operation here. For the last two years, the company has had the use of the building rent free.

Commissioner John Garcia, who worked with Adronics when they were looking for a place to locate more than two years ago, said he had talked to the Robinsons and felt they really were pleased with how things are going in Goodland. He said they hope to keep expanding their employment up to about 120; the firm started with just 20 people on the production line.

"They are telling me they are plenty busy," Garcia said, "and there is more business coming in the door."

Karen Robinson sent the city a letter in August asking the city for some kind of writ-

ten direction on the lease so the firm can decide whether to buy the building, extend its lease or — in the extreme — close the plant.

"Please accept our sincere thanks for all that you have done to support us in Goodland," the letter said. "I believe Adronics opening a facility in Goodland has been a benefit to all involved."

"Adronics now employs more than 80 people with a weekly payroll in excess of \$32,000. Our two-year lease with the city is now up and the time has come to negotiate the next step."

Her letter said the city had provided an appraisal of the property (\$350,000), the amount the city has in the building (\$655,000) and an asking price.

"Both Troy and I have been very specific in our request to see a written proposal from the city, to include lease and sale options."

"At this point we are waiting for the city to

provide us some kind of written documents, either a lease option or a firm decision to sell the building, and of course an exit strategy from Goodland given that plan," the letter said.

Mayor Rick Billinger said he had talked to Karen Robinson, and she would like to see if the city could do something where the city sets a purchase price — even under the appraised value — and the lease payments are part of a purchase plan that makes the building an investment, and it gives them more of an incentive to stay in Goodland.

"Even on a straight lease, it would not bother me," Billinger said. "I believe they would be willing to pay a monthly rental lease payment."

City Commissioner Josh Dechant said one of the things holding Adronics back a bit is

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