


weather report

79° at noon



**Today**  
• Sunset, 7:56 p.m.

**Tomorrow**  
• Sunrise, 5:29 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:57 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**  
• Soil Temperature 60 degrees  
• Humidity 34 percent  
• Sky mostly sunny  
• Winds south at 20-30 mph  
• Barometer 29.87 inches and falling

• Record High 98° (1934)  
• Record Low 30° (1931)

Last 24 Hours*	
High	78°
Low	45°
Precipitation	none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**  
Tonight: mostly cloudy, low 40, 40 percent chance of precipitation, winds southeast 10-20 mph. Tomorrow: partly sunny, highs 70-75, 30 percent chance of precipitation, winds east at 10-20 mph.

**Extended Forecast**  
Friday through Sunday. Chance of thunderstorms, highs 75-80, lows near 50  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



**Noon**  
Wheat — \$2.25 bushel  
Posted county price — \$2.21  
Loan deficiency payment — 24¢  
Corn — \$1.72 bushel  
Posted county price — \$1.86  
Loan deficiency pmt. — 13¢  
Milo — \$2.60 hundredweight  
Soybeans — \$4.07 bushel  
Posted county price — \$4.02  
Loan deficiency payment — 87¢  
Millet — \$0.00 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$7.85 cwt.  
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.31  
Oil new crop — \$8.10 cwt.  
Confection current — \$17/\$10 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)  
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

afternoon wire



Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

## Envoys work to end battles

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — NATO missiles caused “great” damage and the deaths of six people in Serbia today, state media reported. Russian envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin called on both NATO and the Yugoslav army to stop the hostilities.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, spearheading Europe’s quest for a diplomatic solution to the nearly 2-month-old allied bombing campaign, visited military and civilians leaders at NATO headquarters. The G-8 group, meanwhile, met in Germany.

Chernomyrdin, Russia’s special Balkans envoy, flew into Belgrade — likely carrying details of the latest peace proposal meant to end the Kosovo conflict and NATO’s airstrikes — and went into talks with President Slobodan Milosevic.

# City, county agree to plan to fix all of 24

By Tom Betz  
*Goodland Daily News*

City and county officials agreed Tuesday to a trade which would put the two sections of old U.S. 24 in the hands of the county, which then would include them in its repaving project.

In return, the city would get a stretch of Caldwell Avenue that runs from Armory Road north to just past the airport.

Members of the Goodland City Commission attended the Sherman County Commission meeting Tuesday to negotiate the deal. Under the tentative agreement, the city commission would agree to trade the two sections of old U.S. 24 for a section of North Caldwell, which is currently owned and maintained by the county.

With the trade, the county would be responsible for repairing the old U.S. 24 sections.

The city is expected to discuss the swapping plan at their June 7 meeting and the county commissioners would consider the final plan at their meeting June 8.

While the transfer would solve an impasse over repairs to the two pieces of road, there would not be any work done on the east section this year. The first phase of the county’s Old 24 project has already been locked in for this summer, said Curt Way, county road and bridge superintendent, and County Attorney Mike Irvin.

Newly elected City Commissioner Curtis Hurd said the county should be able to use the special quarter-cent sales tax passed by voters to finance Old 24 repaving for the two sections.

“It could be added on to the end of the project,” he said, “even if we need

an additional year to get the revenue to fix this section.”

Irvin said the sunset clause in the sales tax will take effect when the project is completed, and the project was estimated to take three to four years under the original program.

“I think the people need to know it will take longer to pay it off,” Commissioner Kenny Davis said.

“One way or another, it has to be paid for, and this just makes sense,” said City Manager Ron Pickman.

Former City Commissioner John Golden opened the discussion by asking both boards to work together in a “spirit of cooperation.” He said the county and city have cooperated on many projects in the past years which were of benefit to all the citizens of Sherman County, and that this was another project which needed the same effort.

“When we met with the county (last year), we agreed the road needed to be done,” Golden said. “We felt it was better that we not take the city share of the proposed sales tax and believed this meant the whole road would be included in the project.

“It is important that these two bodies continue to work together, and it is better for the community and the citizens.”

“From where I stand we don’t have a problem chip sealing the west portion, but feel the east portion would be a waste where the base is in bad shape,” Commissioner Gary Townsend said.

Estimates to fix the eastern portion were presented by Way. He explained

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## Tech school to graduate largest class in history

Graduation for the largest class in the history of the Northwest Kansas Technical School will begin at 7 p.m. this evening at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Director Larry Keirns said there are 275 students in the Class of 1999. The commencement speaker will be Jerry Martin of Amarillo, Texas, who has had three successful careers.

He retired as a colonel from the U.S. Army, later was a senior official with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and most recently sold his own business, Martin’s Autoworks in Lakewood, Colo., an auto body repair shop.

Martin moved back to his hometown of Amarillo last year, but remains as a consultant for the new owners.

Martin will talk about “The Seven Attributes of a Successful Person.”

“Jerry is an individual who has succeeded in technical education,” Keirns said “He is down-to-earth and has been quite a successful businessman.”

During the ceremonies, the school will be honoring people who have contributed to technical education. Paul Chaffin, vocational counselor, will be honoring the 13 departmental Students of the Year and will be announcing the name of the all-school 1999 Student of the Year.

Board member Louise Berning, from the Scott City Schools, will introduce the commencement speaker. Board members Tony Bremerkamp, Brewster, and Dr. Boyd Walker, Colby, will

be present diplomas and credentials to the graduating students.

State officials who are to be present include Sen. Stan Clark, Rep. Jim Morrison, Rep. John Faber and I.B. “Sonny” Rundell, representing the state Board of Education.

Students from Goodland who will be graduating are:

Automotive — Marshal Hoppe and T.J. Yarger; Business — Michele Hartman; Carpentry — Jerod Phillips; Communications — Josh Burk, Sasha Bauman, Ashley Cook, Eric Corke, Frank Hernandez, Zach Hill, Justin Marrs, Brian Pfannenstiel, John Stroyek, and Nick Wolf; Cosmetology — Billie Knitig, Colleen Kellett, and Danyale Nothdurft; Electronics — Trent Felzien, Dan Phifer, and Nathan Reitchcheck; Engineering — Kristi Shoff; Medical Assistant — Jessica Dorn, Gloria Garcia and Jenny McCurry; and Communications Network — Sean Davis.

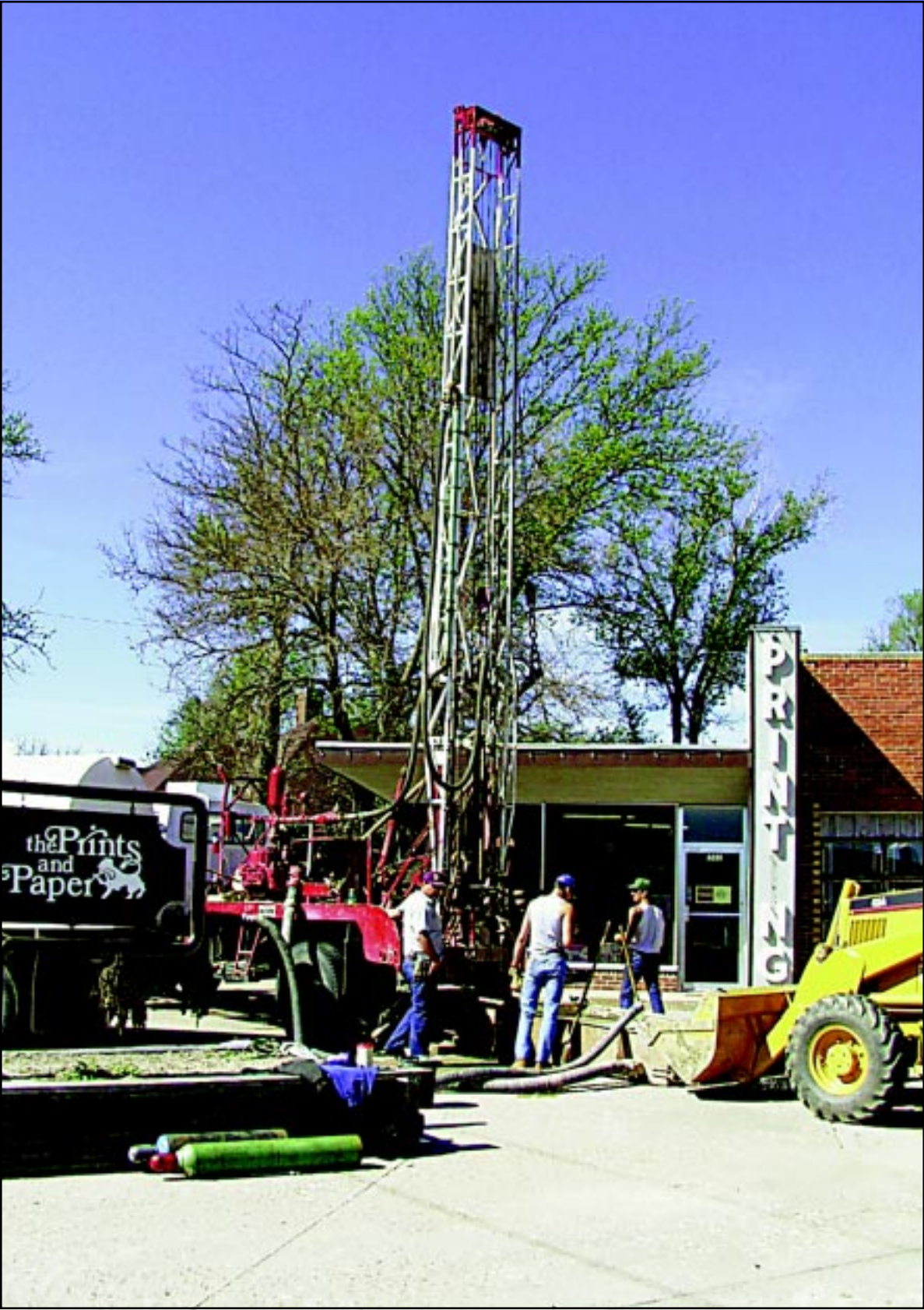
By Tom Betz  
*Goodland Daily News*

While review efforts continue on the new Sherman County landfill site south of Goodland, the county commissioners approved a plan to spend \$45,900 to drill three additional monitoring wells at the old landfill site at their meeting Tuesday.

The bad news is that may be only the beginning if more contamination is found.

The work plan developed by Terranext, a Lakewood, Colo., engineering firm, is being submitted to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for review and approval.

Drilling the additional wells was recommended by Elizabeth Gamber, environmental geologist with the state, to help determine the extent of the contamination at the old landfill site. This



A crew from Woofter Drilling is sinking a pilot well at the corner of Main and 11th Streets to determine if there is contamination from old fuel tanks seeping into the Goodland ground water.

Photo by Charlie Baker/Goodland Daily News

## State drill crews searching for source of contamination

By Charlie Baker  
*Goodland Daily News*

Drilling crews hired by the state are searching under downtown Goodland for the source of a fuel spill which has contaminated groundwater.

Scott O’Neal, an environmental geologist with the state Department of Health and Environment, said the level is not dangerous, but high enough that something needs to be done.

The hydrocarbon contamination mostly likely came from leaks in old underground tanks, he said, but groundwater may have carried it into the area from some distance away.

Woofter Drilling out of Hoxie is drilling several pilot wells near the corner of Main and 11th streets, in the parking lot of a print shop, the Prints and the Paper, which is in a former service station. The wells are sunk about 210 feet, 20 feet below the water level. Samples of the soil are taken at intervals and sent to a state lab for analysis.

The soil would show signs of contamination if there had been leaky fuel tanks at the site. Records show the last tanks were removed from the corner in 1997, O’Neal said, but there were also tanks removed about 20 years ago.

Keith Reavis, an independent consultant hired by the state to monitor the drilling, said he has seen instances

where an old street such as Main in Goodland has so many areas of contamination that it is difficult to determine one source.

If each of the old filling stations leaked just a little bit, together they could contribute to the level that is seen today, he said. He also said ground water could be carrying contaminants into this area.

Once the source is determined, there are a few solutions available to correct the situation, O’Neal said. One way is air sparge, that is drilling a well deep into the soil and pumping oxygen into the ground. The oxygen rises, carrying the petroleum vapors with it, the oxygen also invigorates the bacteria that feed on the petroleum.

Another solution is soil vapor extraction, that is drilling a well and putting a vacuum pump. The petroleum is vaporized and oxygen is sucked into the soil, enhancing the decomposing of the contamination.

O’Neal said it is very unlikely any soil will have to be removed, because the aeration processes are very effective in situations like the one in Goodland.

There may need to be more wells drilled, said O’Neal, depending on the results of the wells at Main and 11th. Woofter has already drilled seven wells in Goodland, they could drill as many as six more pilot wells, and four monitoring wells, if needed.

## County agrees to drill more wells at old landfill

is the next step in determining what efforts may be required to clean up the contamination.

The new monitoring wells are to be to the west and north of the original City of Goodland landfill to determine whether there is any contamination coming from that area, and to see if there is any movement of contamination toward nearby city water wells.

According to the Terranext report, concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) were found in two of the current monitoring wells which exceeded the maximum concentration limit during tests in April. There was no detection of PCE in the city well No. 11 (west of the old city landfill site), or monitoring well No. 3 (located southeast of the old county portion of the landfill site).

The contamination was found in the landfill supply well, just to the east of

the old city landfill, and the west monitoring well on the north edge of the old city landfill. Monitoring well No. 4 has exceeded the maximum content level during all but one sampling even conducted since September 1987, according to the report, but this is the first instance of exceeding the maximum content level in the landfill supply well.

James Rogers, geologist for Terranext, said in the work plan that the new monitoring wells are the initial phase of site investigation.

“It is likely additional work will be required to fully delineate affected groundwater,” he said.

The commissioners approved the submission of the Terranext plan to the state. Once approval is received, the new wells will be drilled.

In other business, the board:  
• Approved a motion to pay Lucy

Ackerman her full vacation days.

• Discussed the hospital audit with Jim Chaddic and Andy Laue. Based on comparative data from five hospitals of similar size, Goodland Regional Medical Center is doing pretty well, and is typical of small hospitals, Laue told the commissioners.

• Delayed action on a computer network request from Sheriff Doug Whitson until the other department heads have been contacted about computer needs. The commissioners put \$75,000 in the budget for computer improvements this year, but are concerned that they might need to deal later with the Year 2000 problem. Whitson’s network proposal would cost \$14,500.

The next commission meeting will be 8 a.m., Friday, May 28, in the commissioners’ room on the first floor of the Sherman County Courthouse.