

# Contamination could affect city well

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Sherman County commissioners heard Tuesday that water contamination from the old city dump could threaten a city well near the airport.

Mark McMullen from American Environmental of Denver, who has been working with the county for over four years on water issues, talked about his recent conversations with officials at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

McMullen said the county has 13 monitoring wells ringed around the old dump reaching north into the field across the county road and south to the edge of the transfer station. About eight years ago, the original monitoring well showed trichloro-

ethylene, a chemical used in dry cleaning.

Over the past two years, the state has requested that additional monitoring wells be drilled, and last year stepped up the sampling to every quarter. Curt Way, county public works manager, said the most recent samples were taken this week and the results should be back in about 10 days.

McMullen said Dawit Teclehaimanot, with the landfill/dry cleaning unit of the state health department, is concerned the contamination may be moving toward the city water well No. 11, which is west of the old landfill. He said the state is saying the contamination plume represents an unacceptable threat to the city water supply, and the county may need to construct a system to treat and remove the contamination.

He said other options would include treatment of the ground water, or having the city stop using the well.

“Is the city pumping that well?” he asked. “The last water tests were even higher than the previous ones. The levels are just a little bit higher, but they are up a bit.”

The state considers the contamination to be above the limits when the level is five parts per million, Way said.

“What are we looking at to clean up the water?” Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked.

“There is nothing you can do as an interim measure,” McMullen said, “except to stop the use of the well totally.”

Way said there has been a change in the person the county has been dealing with at the state.

“Monitoring was sufficient for the former person,” Way said, “but we do not have a letter from him saying that. Now it is different with the new person.”

McMullen said the contamination is not showing up in the city well, but it is showing up in the monitoring well to the east. He said the city well is safe at this time. He said there are several steps that have to be taken before a decision is made on how to remedy the problem.

“First is to define the vertical and lateral level of the plume,” he said. “We haven’t totally defined that plume yet. Then you go into the assessment of remedial options. You rank options by cost, how likely they will work and how long it will take to solve the problem.”

# State rejects landfill cell layer design

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

State officials are questioning the design for a new cell at the Sherman County landfill south of town, commissioners heard Tuesday, and the county might have to shift back to the old design.

Mark McMullen from American Environmental of Denver told the commissioners he had talked to Sam Sunderraj, an environmental engineer with the state Bureau of Waste Management, about the plan to add a leachate layer to the new cell.

A leachate layer is designed to move liquids that seep out of the compacted trash and carry them to a collection point where they can be pumped out. Environmental designs of larger landfills require this layer, but the “small arid” landfills — such as Sherman County’s — don’t.

The new county landfill southwest of the city was approved by the state with a compacted clay liner to prevent liquids from seeping out of the cell. A collection point and sump pump were installed in the first cell opened almost five years ago. When the county notified the state there would be a new section opened, the state suggested adding the leachate layer as a way to remove any liquids from the landfill.

He said after discussions with Sunderraj, it was clear the existing design complies with the state requirements as it is operating, but there were no regulations permitting use of a leachate later in small landfill.

“We found out the county is in compliance,” McMullen said. “The question developed when we designed a leachate layer for the new cell. There are no specific criteria for such a layer in a small landfill.

“We designed the layer to be six inches thick. That is smaller than what is required in a larger landfill, but we feel it should be sufficient to meet the requirements of the state.”

McMullen said he received a letter from Sunderraj on Nov. 22, and said most of the letter dealt with how the information had been submitted.

“We will resubmit the data with the proper endorsement,” McMullen said. “The main concern in the letter was how we planned to transport the leachate from the new cell through the old cell. Sunderraj was saying the county would have to find a way to tie the old clay liner into the new leachate layer.

“I told him there was not a way to do that without moving part of the old trash. I told him the county is not going to move trash that is already in place. We could put piping in a couple of places where we could move the leachate.

“The problem is how you would get to the clay liner without having trouble moving the trash, and from a practical standpoint it is a problem to get down to the clay liner.”

“It would be a mess,” said Commissioner Chuck Thomas, “and you won’t be sure you haven’t messed up the system.”

“We are in compliance with the state regulations,” Curt Way, public works manager said of the original cell.

“We have not pumped a lot of moisture out of the existing cell,” Commissioner Mitch Tiede said.

McMullen said the option was to resubmit with the changes requested and see what the state has to say, and if there is more of a question, to withdraw this design and leave the liner the same as the first cell.

He said the second phase of the landfill has its own sump and drainage system, but that is years down the line. In the first phase, all the drainage goes to the one sump, installed in the first part of the excavation.

“The state has signed off on our plan more than once,” said Rasure. “I am frustrated that this keeps coming up. We have done everything we have been asked to do.”

“If we bow down to them this time, where will it end?” Tiede asked.

“This is not the top people at the state Health Department,” Way said. “It is the staff people who are pushing this.”



# High school choirs present winter show

By Pat Schiefen

*The Goodland Star-News*

Goodland High School music students gave a jingling, do-wap holiday program Monday evening.

Students sang traditional songs of the season as well as songs with a contemporary beat. The Black and Gold Choir men had fun with their bass leading them in a do-wap version of “Goodnight Sweetheart.” Then the women joined a few guys under the mistletoe. In “Baby, It’s Cold Outside.”

The X-Pressos show choir danced their way through “Frosty the Snow Man,” the combined choir ended the vocal part of the program with a Andrew Lloyd Webber song.

The Black and Gold Choir led off with “Holly, Jolly Christmas” by Johnny Marks, then separated into the men’s and women’s groups. The women sang “All Alone Beneath the Mistletoe” by Jay Althouse and the men sang “Goodnight Sweetheart” arranged by Kirby Shaw.

The Black and Gold Choir is mostly freshmen, including sopranos Sandra Redlin, Linsey Owens, Kaitlyn Fugleberg, Chelsea Gausman, Jessica Bauman, Taylor McLemone, Courtney Sheldon and Jessica Hatfield; altos Hannah Blake, Julica Bosnall, Michelle Smith, Tamra Sheets, Tracy Sheets, Shelbi Herl, Callee Warren, Valerie Luna and Elizabeth Ruiz; tenors Devin Mangus, Kade Sheldon, Bryan Gray, Jace Mosbarger and Chris Irvin; and basses Tanner Oharah, Brennan Clouse, Cory Yarbough, Dallas Price and Troy Harrison.

The Men’s Chorale sang two traditional carols, “O Come All Ye Faithful” and “The Holly and the Ivy.” The group includes Jon Beeson, Doug Eddleman, Cody Engel, Brandon Hatfield and Nathan Thomas.

Les Chantes sang “Holiday Sleigh Ride” by Greg Gilpin, “Santa Baby” arranged by Mac Huff with solo by Tiffany Wing, and “Who’s That Baby” by Jay Althouse with a solo by Lea Shores

The group includes sopranos Sarah Bareman, Jessica



The Goodland High School music department had its holiday program on Monday night. Members of the Black and Gold men sang “Goodnight Sweetheart.” Pictured (top picture) are Dallas Price, Bryan Gray, Kade Sheldon, Jace Mosbarger, Devin Mangus and Chris Irvin. Members of Les Chantes (bottom picture) are Lacey Ridder, Amanda Amthor, Holly Kibel, Sarah Boreman, Ashley Christians, Sami Raymer, Alicia Felver, Erin Topliff and Tiffany Wing.

Lu, Holly Kibel, Lacey Ridder, Halli Stone, Jessica Swager, Tiffanie Schlink, Briana Taylor, Hannah West, Amanda Amthor and Marisa Acuff, and altos Jennie Cole, Alicia Felver, Samantha Raymer, Melissa Schritter, Eryn Topliff, Wing, Heidi Yonkey and Ashley Christians.

The X-Pressos include sopranos Andrea Grieve, Sandy Johnson, Jillian Parker, Samantha Philbrick and Shores; altos Kerri Bellamy, Ashley Cebula, Vanessa Crotinger, Jordan Frazier and Jena McCall; tenors Nathan Linin, Beeson, Kerek Mason, Andrew Philbrick and Forrest Trachsel; and basses Josh Cech, Jake Kling, John Mosbarger, Ren Scherling and Michael Smith.

The concert band followe. Lu, Briana Taylor, Danielle Pettibone, Andrea Grieve, Kaitlin Fugleberg, Erica Fenner and Mindi Keith played flutes. The clarinets

were Shores, Parker, Lacey Ridder, Alicia Felver, Kylie Buller and Clouse.

Molly Witzel played the bass clarinet and Megan Rubio the bassoon. Cebula, Crotinger, Lauren Abernathy and Bryan Gray played alto saxophones, Sandy Johnson, BreAnna Nemecek and Nathan Brady tenor saxophones. Baritone saxophones were McCall and Andrew Philbrick.

Jared Hall, Katrina Cotter and Samantha Philbrick played French horns. The trumpets were Andrew Pettibone, Matt Rohr, Derek Fenner, Josiah Goodley, Irvin and Mangus. Josh Cech, Mason and Oharah played trombones. Brandon Zelfer played baritone/tuba. The percussion section is Tyler Anderson, Beeson and Grant Wilkens.

# Government offices, banks, schools to close for holidays

Government offices, banks and schools will close the next two Mondays to celebrate Christmas and New Year’s Day, and Tuesday editions of *The Goodland Star-News* will be published a day later each week.

Goodland city will have a long holiday weekend, as offices will be closed all day today and Monday for Christmas. The offices will close Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year’s Day and reopen for regular hours, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The regular city commission meeting for Monday, Jan. 2, has been rescheduled for 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3.

County offices will be closed Monday for Christmas. They will close at noon Friday,

Dec. 30, and will be closed Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year’s. The landfill will be closed both Mondays as well.

The post office and federal offices will close Monday for Christmas and Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year’s. There will be no mail pickup or delivery. State offices will close those days as well.

All banks will close for the holidays.

The Goodland schools closed Thursday for holiday break and will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The hospital will be open regular hours, and of course, the emergency room will be available 24 hours every day.

The Goodland Family Health Center will be open today, Monday, next Friday and

Monday, Jan. 2. It will only close on Saturdays, Dec. 24 and 31, for the holidays.

The newspaper office will be closed Monday for Christmas and Monday, Jan. 2,

for New Year’s. The holidays will delay the Tuesday paper one day; it will be printed on those Tuesdays and delivered in the mail on Wednesday.

## 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.*

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to my family and friends for all the cards, gifts  
and the phone calls in honor of my birthday.  
Your kindness will never be forgotten.  
Thanks a bunch!  
Loretta Hayden*

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