

Douglas Budget

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\$1⁰⁰

City now owns 64 more lots in Meadow Acres

By Cinthia Stimson
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The City of Douglas now holds clear title to several dozen lots across from West Richards – which will allow them to completely connect S. Windriver Drive and S. Pearson Street to the thoroughfare in front of Douglas

Middle School.

Meadow Acres 1234, LLC out of Ft. Collins, Colorado has donated several parcels of land to the city in a charitable move. The catch? The city has paid the back taxes on the parcels to the tune of \$13,828.

City Administrator Jonathan Teichert said the city had been in talks with the

South Windriver Drive extension to start 'soon'

company for awhile regarding the donation of the property to the city.

The deal was completed

last week when a special warranty deed for the property was received from Meadow Acres 1234, LLC. With the

back taxes on the lots paid, Teichert said he recorded the deed on Sept. 1 and the property now belongs to the city.

"The owners (were) seeking the donation as a charitable contribution. The city is seeking the donation in order to extend S. Wind River Drive across this portion. This is a similar situation to the land

donation with Douglas Holdings that the city had entered into previously," Teichert stated.

The legal description of the property in the transaction

Please see
LAND DONATION,
page A-3

A life 'hangs in the balance'

By Zach Miners
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Laurie Bartling, 14, was not feeling very well on the morning of Dec. 7, 1975. Her mother encouraged her to consider staying home from school, but Laurie decided to tough it out and go anyway.

She was a freshman at Sidney High School in Sidney, Nebraska.

Her school bus arrived, and as she crossed the street to get on, a driver on the street struck Laurie. He did not stop for the bus.

Laurie died two days later.

"It's hard to talk about," Douglas schools Transportation Director John Bartling said, who was Laurie's double first cousin. The two of them were very close.

"I don't know if the pain ever eases," he said.

That pain, however, may also have a positive side, as it appears to be fueling a passion in Bartling, 45 years later, to ensure that today's children are safe and do not get hurt traveling to and from school.

Unfortunately, many motorists still do not stop when the stop signs swing out on school buses. And as National School Bus Safety Week

Please see
SCHOOL BUS STOPS,
page A-2



A school bus in Douglas stops and drops off Traeton Paquette, Jayton Terwilliger and Kagen Bergman after school on Sept. 3.



Zach Miners photo

Ranchers Derek and Kristi Bohlander walk on the state-owned school section of land which they lease for grazing. The parcel is landlocked within the boundaries of the Bohlander Ranch. EOG Resources seeks to acquire this parcel and seven others in Converse and Campbell Counties in a land swap arrangement with the state.

Ranchers fight EOG land swap plan

By Cinthia Stimson
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Landowners straddling the Converse and Campbell county line are opposing an EOG Resources plan to swap out state school lands in that part of the state for company-owned land in Laramie County.

The lands EOG wants in northern Converse and southern Campbell counties are primarily landlocked by the private ranches surrounding them, and most parcels are leased by the ranchers – but if EOG is successful in swapping those lands, the landowners claim, the company intends to no longer negotiate for trespass fees and will impede on their private property

rights.

The eight school parcels with a total of 5,120 acres fall within ranches owned by Kristi and Derek Bohlander, Jenne and Jason Miller, Lee Isenberger, Floyd Bulkley, Pete Reno and possibly others.

EOG recently submitted an application to the Office of State Lands and Investments hoping to trade 5,300 acres of

property EOG owns in Laramie County for the school sections, one of which is leased by the Bohlanders for grazing. That 640 acres is located just south

of Antelope Creek and is accessed by crossing nearly 10 miles of land owned by the Millers.

EOG representatives attended commissioners' meetings and workshops this summer in Converse and Campbell counties requesting support for their land exchange proposal.

EOG, in a release Tuesday morning, stated its proposal would pay the state \$300,000 a year for up to 10 years and pledged to drill 10 wells during that time, however, if the company drills enough wells that the tax base is enough to cover the annual payment, then that payment would cease.

The Texas-based international energy company also said it would continue the grazing leases at the same

rate as the state "and even consider letting the grazing lessee graze for free."

The proposal for the land exchange includes two special provisions: first, that the state maintains the mineral rights and EOG would only get the surface rights; and second, that the state could have right of first refusal to buy back the properties at 10% less than the appraised value at the time once the production ceases and reclamation is completed.

While EOG offered a synopsis of the proposal, the details were not released by the company or the State Lands and

Please see
EOG LAND SWAP,
page A-7

Apartment fire forces evacuation at Irwin Towers



Zach Miners photo

Evacuated Irwin Towers' residents sit behind the fire hose as Douglas Volunteer Fire Department crews battle a small fire in the apartment complex Sept. 6.

By Zach Miners
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Members of the Douglas Fire Department, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Memorial Hospital of Converse County and other emergency first responders worked to extinguish a small fire at the Irwin Towers apartment building on 120 S. 5th Street in Douglas on Sunday afternoon.

The fire was contained to a single apartment on the fourth floor and was caused by an air fryer appliance in the tenant's kitchen that had short-circuited, Irwin Towers Executive Director Kathy Johnson said.

No one was injured in the fire and residents of the building were safely evacuated, she said, although the tenant's cat died in the blaze.

The tenant was not home when the fire broke out, she said.

Authorities were first alerted to the fire around 2:00 p.m. Residents of the 50-unit building were evacuated by members of the Douglas Fire Department shortly thereafter.

A section of S. 4th Street, which borders the west side of the apartment building, was closed to traffic on Sunday afternoon as authorities battled the blaze and rescued residents.

This week's weather

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
High	43	52	65	73	80
Low	28	36	43	41	47

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