

local businesses close



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A patron pumps gas at the Sinclair service station at the intersection of Drake Road and College Avenue in this file photo. The gas station, which was

the only Sinclair station in Fort Collins, opened in 1978 and closed Monday. Before closing, the station reduced gasoline prices to empty the tanks.

Unknown buyer has contract for Sinclair property

By MARGARET JACKSON

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Connie Bunch worked the last shift at the Sinclair Oil Co. gas station on Monday.

The Salt Lake City-based company notified employees Monday that it would shut off the pumps at its store at the southeast corner of Drake Road and College Avenue. Then it reduced prices to get rid of the gasoline in its tanks.

"It ran out Monday when I was working," said Bunch, who worked at the station for a year. "Sales just weren't up to par."

The station offered gasoline and a small convenience store. Low cigarette prices attracted many customers, Bunch said.

"Back in the day, it had service bays," said Todd Reingardt, Sinclair's retail supervisor for the region.

Sinclair wanted to redevelop the property with a new store, but decided against it when the city refused to allow access onto the site from College, Reingardt said.

Ted Shepard, chief city planner who was in charge of the project, was unavailable for comment.

Now, the company is working on selling the property, said Lee Pearce, district manager in Sinclair's Denver office.

The property is under contract to a buyer Pearce declined to identify. The deal is expected to close after an environmental assessment has been completed within the next 90 days.

Founded in 1916, privately held Sinclair has about 2,600 stations in 22 Western and Midwestern states. It acquired the Fort Collins station in 1978. It has no other company-owned stores in Fort Collins.