

weather report

31°

at noon

Today

Sunset, 4:49 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 7:04 a.m.

Sunset, 4:50 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 32 degrees

• Humidity 39 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds north 18 m.p.h.

• Barometer 30.12 inches and falling

• Record High 65° (1951)

• Record Low -11° (1930)

Last 24 Hours*

High 31°

Low 12°

Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: mostly clear, low 10-15, wind southwest 5-15 m.p.h. Tomorrow: partly sunny, high 38-43, low 15, wind southwest 15 becoming northwest.

Extended Forecast

Friday: cloudy, high 20s. Saturday: partly cloudy, high 20s, low 10s. Sunday: partly cloudy, high 30s, low 10s. Monday: partly cloudy, low 10s, high 40s.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.68 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.61

Corn — \$2.00 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.87

Loan deficiency payment — 12¢

Milo — \$1.71 bushel

Soybeans — \$3.92 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.84

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.08

Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$8.70 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — 67¢

Confection current — inquire

Pinto beans — \$25 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Fired auditor cooperating

WASHINGTON — An auditor said to have led a hurry-up effort to destroy documents in the Enron case was cooperating with congressional investigators a day after his accounting firm fired him, his attorneys said.

David Duncan, who oversaw Enron's audits from the Houston office of Arthur Andersen LLP, was to be interviewed today by staff from the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

On Tuesday, Andersen said Duncan organized a document destruction effort on Oct. 23 shortly after he learned the Securities and Exchange Commission was asking Enron for accounting information.

The effort ended Nov. 9 when Duncan's assistant e-mailed secretaries to "stop the shredding" — a day after the firm had received a federal subpoena for documents.

Man says uncle took bullets for him

Convicted killer has hearing today

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

After 30 years, Doyle Nelsen says he still has nightmares about Nov. 8, 1970, when he says his Uncle Wally took four bullets for him in a field in Sherman County.

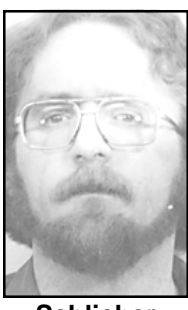
Wallace Patton was an attendant at the Mobil Service Station north of the east I-70 exit in Goodland. Nelsen, a graduate of the technical

school here, said he worked at the gas station while he was a student and his uncle Patton would sometimes cover his shift if he had to study.

On the night of Saturday, Nov. 7, he said, Uncle Wally came in two hours early so he could go home and study for a semester exam. Nelsen, who now works for Classic Cable in Norton, said he's often wondered what would have happened if his uncle hadn't come in early that night.

Nelsen said it might have been his body instead of his uncle's that officers found in the field at 8 a.m. the next morning.

Around 1 a.m., William Schlicher, Marvin Dale



Schlicher

Seigrist and Charles Kauffman — all technical school students — pulled up to the gas station. Court records say Schlicher and Kauffman robbed the station with a .22-caliber pistol and kidnapped Patton after he protested.

The three men reportedly drove around the county for about four hours with Patton kneeling face down on the floorboard in the back of the car. Near dawn, Schlicher and Kauffman forced the attendant into a field two miles south of the station and each shot him twice.

A storm made it impossible for officers to gather evidence at the scene and the murder went unsolved for 10 years until Seigrist confessed, look-

ing for protection against Schlicher. He received immunity for his testimony, doctors found Kauffman wasn't sane enough to stand trial and a jury sent Schlicher to jail for life.

After 20 years behind bars, Schlicher will have a parole hearing today and could be released in February. He is being held under medium security at the Norton Correctional Facility and has been turned down for parole three times.

Nelsen said Patton, who once ran a filling station in McDonald, has friends and relatives in that area who have written letters to parole board members asking them to keep Schlicher in prison.

"After 30 years," he wrote in a letter to the

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Smokers don't want tax load

Cigarette profits may fill budget hole

By Joshua Alers
The Associated Press

BALDWIN CITY — Perched on a stool at the Salt Mine bar, Big Jalbridge waved a pack of Marlboros in the air. He was frustrated.

"You see this? I paid \$3.50 for this pack," said the electrical worker from Baldwin City, whose size suggests how he got his name.

If Gov. Bill Graves has his way, that \$3.50 pack will cost \$4.15 a few months from now.

Graves wants to raise the state's tax on cigarettes by 271 percent, from the current 24 cents to 89 cents, to help cover an expected hole in the state budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

Legislators gasped audibly when Graves presented the proposal in his State of the State address Monday night. The state budget office estimates that even with a likely decline in cigarette sales, the higher tax would raise

about \$111 million that Graves wants to apply to social services, public schools and other programs.

For Jalbridge, the thought of any increase in the cigarette tax was too much. Besides the state's tax, each pack carries a 34-cent federal tax.

"If they're going to tax anything, they should tax it across the board," he said. "Smokers and drinkers have been carrying the load long enough."

Tony Reveles, a construction worker buying cigarettes at a discount smoke shop in Topeka, said he was tired of cigarette smokers being picked on.

"I think it's crazy. It's not right. Why do they tax cigarettes so much?" he asked. "I don't see why they can't tax things everybody uses, not just cigarettes."

After his speech Monday night, Graves said he tried to keep his pack-

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Counties get grant to help businesses

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

The State Community Development Division announced today that a group of six western Kansas counties, including Sherman County, have been approved as one of three pilot economic development programs in the state.

Sharla Krenzel, head of the Wichita County Economic Development, told the Sherman commissioners Tuesday she had heard the six-county grant application had been selected as one of the top three. She said Ned Webb, head of the community development division, told her an announcement would be made in Topeka at 1:30 p.m.

The six-county group will receive \$200,000 to start a three-year program to help people start businesses in northwest Kansas.

Krenzel said Webb hoped to have the training of the support people and selection of enterprise facilitators underway in February.

She said Webb told her the other two

selected are in the southeast and central part of the state.

Sherman joins Kearny, Wichita, Greeley, Scott and Lane Counties in receiving a \$200,000 state grant to hire an enterprise facilitator and work with a steering committee in each county to help local people develop their ideas into successful businesses.

The Sherman commissioners asked people to be support members and received letters of support from people in the community to include with the regional proposal, which was submitted in December.

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld said two of the people to be named to the Sherman County support committee will be representatives on the regional board.

All of the support members will receive some training in the program from the Sirolli Institute, and all the members are expected to introduce the person who is hired as the facilitator to 10 people in the community.



New center gets wired

Caleb Rexroat (above), 20, an electrical student at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, helped finish electrical work on Tuesday at a new daycare center soon to open in Goodland on Cattletrail. Electrical students have spent about a month wiring the building and will finish today. They did the work for free. Gary McClung, owner of McClung's Appliance, was installing a washer and dryer at the center on Tuesday. The Goodland School Board on Monday approved allowing West Elementary to cook lunches for children at the center.

Photos by Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News



Resident wants answers about landfill tipping fee

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

A Goodland resident attended the Sherman County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday to ask questions about a new \$32 tipping fee the county is charging the city to dump trash at the landfill.

Gary Ginther, 710 W. 13th, appeared to ask questions about the county landfill system.

He said he had attended the city meeting Monday evening and had some questions for the commissioners.

He asked why such a high fee (tipping fee)? Where does the money go? Can the money be spent for other things?

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld said the tipping fee was instituted because in the past the city had not been paying for dumping at the landfill. The county set a \$32-dollar tipping fee for each time the city dumps trash at the landfill.

"How can that be, I pay \$150 a year on my taxes," Ginther said, referring to the solid waste fee residents pay to the county each year.

"Yes, but that money is what the county has been using to haul the trash to Garden City since the old landfill was closed," Commissioner Mitch Tiede said. "I don't know about the past situation, but it looks like the tipping fee should have been done years ago to put the cost on the amount being brought to the landfill."

"I don't think people understand what is going on," Ginther said. "After listening to the city I wanted to find out the county side."

Ginther suggested the county let people know what should not be put in the dumpsters, and said he suggested to the city they put locks on the big dumpsters rather than replace them with roll-out containers.

"I was real disappointed to lose the yard waste dumpster," he said. "I know there had been abuse,

but I am not certain how this is going to work."

Commissioner Tiede said the county would look at doing some education on what should not be put in the trash system.

Commissioner Rasure said he hopes the people will take advantage of the new recycling system that should be in place in February to reduce the amount of trash being taken to the landfill. Rasure said the county is working on getting a grant to handle cardboard, and that the city has applied to Peoples Natural Gas for an assistance grant to help purchase a bailer.

Darrell Schrader spoke to the commissioners about the mowing contract for the upcoming season.

After some discussion about whether to stick with a mileage figure or pay a lump sum, the commissioners approved a motion to pay \$160,000 for the mowing contract for the year.

They suggested the details of start date and

completion be amended in the current contract and a new document be signed at an upcoming meeting.

Curt Way, county public works director, said he thought starting the mowing in June was the best, and that it worked well with Schrader meeting with him each Monday to determine how the mowing is going.

The commissioners held closed door sessions with Way and Mary Messamore, county communications director, to evaluate employees in their departments.

The commissioners decided to meet in special session Tuesday with all department heads to complete the employee evaluations. That will be the sole item on the commissioner's agenda.

The next regular commissioner meeting will be 8 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 31, in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse at 813 Broadway Avenue.