

**weather report**

**45°  
at noon**



**Today**

- Sunset, 5:37 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:20 a.m.
- Sunset, 5:38 p.m.

**Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 30 degrees
- Humidity 23 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds southwest 30-36 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.76 inches and falling
- Record High 80° (1932)
- Record Low -16° (1960)

**Last 24 Hours\***

- High 39°
- Low 8°
- Precipitation none

**Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: mostly cloudy with snow likely after midnight, lows near 10, winds north 15-25 m.p.h., 70 percent chance of snow. Tomorrow: periods of snow, areas of blowing and drifting snow, high upper teens, lows near 0, winds north 20-30 m.p.h., 80 percent chance of snow.

**Extended Forecast**

Saturday: mostly sunny, high mid 20s.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local markets**

**Noon**

- Wheat — \$2.57 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$2.46
  - Corn — \$1.87 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$1.79
  - Loan deficiency payment — 20¢
  - Milo — \$1.60 bushel
  - Soybeans — \$3.78 bushel
  - Posted county price — \$3.82
  - Loan deficiency payment — \$1.10
  - Millet — \$3.25 hundredweight
  - Sunflowers
  - Oil current crop — \$9.25 cwt.
  - NuSun — \$9.50 cwt.
  - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$0.00
  - Confection current — \$15/\$7 cwt.
  - Pinto beans — \$26
- (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.**

**U.S. hunting terror groups**

WASHINGTON — American forces are hunting terrorists in Afghanistan, dispensing advice in the Philippines and pondering counterterror programs in Yemen, Indonesia, Georgia and beyond. What country is next? And where will it end? "So long as there's al-Qaida anywhere, we will help the host countries root them out," President Bush said Wednesday. There probably will not be one place tackled next, but rather a number of them, said Gen. Tommy Franks, war commander in Afghanistan. Franks said he expects to recommend the U.S. help train Yemeni forces to pursue terrorists. Simultaneous battles against terrorists are likely at various places around the globe, with different approaches tailored to different nations, he told a House committee.

## Parole board waiting for evaluation

By Rachel Miscall  
The Goodland Daily News

The Kansas Parole Board wants to have a peek inside convicted killer William Schlicher's mind before deciding whether to let him go. That could take three months or more.

Schlicher could have gone free today, the anniversary of his life sentence, but the parole board is waiting for results of a psychological evaluation before deciding his fate.

Marilyn Scafe, parole board chairman, said today that Schlicher's case has been continued until doctors with the state Department of Corrections have a chance to meet with him. She said it could be 90 days or longer. "It could take them forever," Scafe

said, noting that there is a long list of inmates to evaluate and at times it has been six months before the board gets the results.

A jury sentenced Schlicher to life behind bars in 1980 for killing a Sherman County gas station attendant in 1970. Witnesses and law officers testified that Schlicher and two technical school classmates abducted Wallace Patton after robbing a Mobil service station near the east Goodland I-70 exit.

Marvin Dale Seigrist, one of the classmates, confessed to the crime 10 years later because he said he wanted

protection from Schlicher, who had broken parole for another crime and moved to Louisiana. Seigrist testified that Schlicher and Charles Kauffman, the third student, shot Patton four times in a field south of the station.

Schlicher, a Hoxie native, was the only one to go to prison. Seigrist received immunity and doctors decided that Kauffman was not sane enough to stand trial. Lawyers and officers involved in the case said all three had a history of mental problems and had spent time in Larned State Hospital, where Kansas houses criminals in need of psychiatric care.



Schlicher

Schlicher, now 50, was first up for parole in 1995, and has been turned down three times. The parole board met with him on Jan. 16, and could have decided to release him today, the same date his sentence began 22 years ago.

Scafe said the psychological evaluation will help "update the board on who Schlicher is and how he is doing." She said it has been many years since he was evaluated.

"We feel like we need to know more," she said, noting Schlicher has always denied his participation in the crime.

Scafe said the board won't discuss whether to grant the parole until after reviewing the evaluation.

"We're not even close to making a

decision," she said.

Bill Miskell, Department of Corrections spokesman, said Schlicher, who was being held under medium security at Norton Correctional Facility, was transferred to the old maximum security prison in Lansing on Tuesday. He said he is being held inside the maximum and medium security compound, but is still classified as a medium security inmate.

While Miskell couldn't say why Schlicher was transferred, Scafe said it may have been because he will be evaluated at Lansing. Miskell said many inmates are moved for that reason, or for disciplinary problems. He noted Schlicher has not violated any prison rules lately.

## City may hike cost of power

Officials to discuss uping electric rates

By Doug Stephens  
The Goodland Daily News

The city commission will be considering a hike in electric rates up to 16 percent when it meets Monday.

At a utility workshop Tuesday, City Manager Ron Pickman read from a proposal the city staff put together which would raise electric rates, and was given the go-ahead to work on a solid waste ordinance.

The proposal would raise residential rates 1.2 cents per kilowatt hour to 8.5 cents; low-income residential rate .3 of 1 cent to 6.5 cents; the city itself 1 cent to 6.5 cents and commercial rates half a cent to 7.5 cents. Industrial rates at 6.5 cents wouldn't change.

The increases would cost the average household about \$7 a month, a little more than the cost of a case of soda, or \$84 a year, Pickman said. Low income rates, available for households with less than \$9,000 a year income, would go up about \$1.80 a month, commercial rates about \$10, and the city would have to pay about \$50 more a month.

The residential increase would amount to about 16 percent, but Pickman noted that the rate hadn't been increased in nine years.

The plan calls for getting rid of government classifications and charging government offices commercial rates.

Under the rate plan now, the city is only recovering about 92 percent of its costs, the manager said, and about 85 percent from residential accounts. With the proposed new rates, the city would recover about 101 percent. Residential accounts will still only recover 93 percent, but would be made up by the city recovering from itself 105-106 percent. Last year, the industrial category was the only rate which paid for itself, and the city was short \$307,000 in electrical costs, Pickman said.

The city has had to use reserve funds the last two years to pay electric costs, Pickman said. There is a little over \$1 million in the fund now, he said, and it should have \$2.5 to 5 million in it to cover unexpected expenses for the power plant.

Last year, the city got \$100,000 from the state, Pickman said, which was part of the city's share of gas and fuel taxes. With the budget problems in the state this year, he said, the city may not get any of that money.

"The state's philosophy is," Pickman said, "locals should worry about their own problems and the state should get the funds."

"If we could forecast three years ago what economic conditions were going to be now, there probably would be a lot of thing we wouldn't have done."

Pickman said their hasn't been an electric rate increase since 1993.

"Costs have skyrocketed in the past nine years," he said. "Rates should have been increased gradually each year, instead of all of it now."

The city had budgeted this year to transfer \$450,000 from the electric fund to the general fund as it has for the

## Planning a victory



The Cowgirls watched and listened as Coach Connie Livengood set up a strategy to win during the team's last time-out in a home sub-state basketball game against Norton on Wednesday. Goodland won 49-48

in the final seconds of overtime, advancing the Cowgirls to the semi-finals against Colby today in Pratt. See story and more pictures on Page 8.  
Photo by Skilar Boland/The Goodland Daily News

## Jobless rate jump signals softer economy

TOPEKA (AP) — The state is seeing what one official says are the inevitable results of a softening economy in Kansas.

The state's unemployment rate jumped to 4.9 percent in January, up from 4.1 percent in December.

The Department of Human Resources reported Wednesday that number of non-farm jobs declined in January by 27,600, dropping by more than 9 percent to about 1.34 million.

Nearly 70,000 Kansans were actively seeking work.

"This is the inevitable result of a softening economy and the Sept. 11 attacks," Human Resources Secretary Richard Beyer said.

The department normally expects an increase in January of each year, and usually, its rate is the highest of the year, said Bill Layes, the department's director of labor market information.

But Layes said only about half of this year's increase for January can be attributed to seasonal factors. The rest is a result of manufacturing and telecommunications layoffs, he said.

**"This is the inevitable result of a softening economy and the Sept. 11 attacks."**

— Richard Beyer  
Human Resources secretary

Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, aircraft companies announced plans for about 7,600 layoffs in the Wichita area. In the Kansas City metropolitan area, Sprint has announced layoffs of about 3,500 in the greater Kansas City area and Lawrence.

The unemployment rate in the state's portion of the Kansas City metropolitan area, defined by the federal government as Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Linn counties, increased to 5.8 percent in January from 4.5 percent in December.

It was the highest jobless rate for the metro area since January 1994, when it reached 5.9 percent.

The jobless rate in the Wichita area climbed to 5.1 percent in January from 4.4 percent in December.

There were other signs from the aircraft and telecommunications layoffs. The department reported that the number of people receiving unemployment benefits increased to nearly 40,000 in January, up from about 28,000 in December. The claims cost the state about \$11 million in January.

Even with the aircraft and telecommunications layoffs, the department expects the jobless rate to stabilize and even decline as the year continues.

First, the January figures include temporary declines in government employment reflecting public school and university staff who weren't working because of winter breaks, the agency said.

Secondly, retail trade typically rises during the summer, drops again in the

fall and increases during the winter holiday season.

Finally, construction employment usually increases in the spring, as does employment in parks and recreation programs.

"You'll see a resumption of outdoor activities," Layes said. "That's largely dependent on the weather."

The unemployment rates in the Topeka and Lawrence areas did not increase as much as the state's figure did.

In the Topeka area, defined as Shawnee County, joblessness increased to 4 percent in January from 3.7 percent in December. In the Lawrence area, defined as Douglas County, the rate rose to 4.4 percent from 3.9 percent.

Doniphan and Wyandotte counties have been hit hard by manufacturing layoffs and recorded the highest unemployment rates for January — 14.8 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively.

The rate in Linn County was 11 percent, but Layes said many of its residents are construction workers who face winter layoffs.

## U.S. tracking American extremists contacts

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. authorities are monitoring a growing number of contacts between American extremists and foreign terrorist groups to make sure the two don't begin working together on attacks.

Government officials say there is no evidence to date that American extremists have been collaborating on any specific operations with European, Middle East or Asian terrorists.

But they said they have evidence that neo-Nazis, white supremacists and Black Muslim factions have reached

out to foreign terrorists whose similar hatred for Israel and the U.S. government might make them allies.

"On the international terrorism front, we see people here and overseas communicating mainly via the Internet and talking back and forth and communi-

cating that way," Dale Watson, the FBI's assistant director for counterterrorism, said recently.

U.S. concerns about collaboration follows evidence from Europe detail-