**50**¢

Volume 70, Number 239

**Eight Pages** 

Goodland, Kansas 67735



#### Today

Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

- **Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 6:53 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:23 p.m.

### **Midday Conditions**

- Soil Temperature 38 degrees
- Humidity 36 percent
- Sky sunny and clear
- Winds northwest 8 m.p.h. • Barometer 30.08 inches
  - and falling
- Record High 78° (1939) • Record Low -14° (1950)

#### Last 24 Hours\*

High 47° 21° Low Precipitation none

#### **Northwest Kansas Forecast**

Tonight: clear with areas of fog developing late, low near 20, winds northwest 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: sunny with areas of fog early, high near 51, low near 19, winds northwest 5-10 m.p.h.

#### **Extended Forecast**

Sunday: cloudy with scattered flurries, high near 39, low near 19. Monday: mostly clear, high near 47. Tuesday: mostly clear, high near 46, low

(National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. \* Readings taken at 7 a.m



### Noon

Wheat — \$3.73 bushel Posted county price — \$3.75 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢ Corn — \$2.43 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.19 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢ Milo — \$2.20 bushel

Soybeans — \$5.15 bushel Posted county price — \$5.03 Loan deficiency payment — 0¢ Millet — \$14.00 hundredweight Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$12.00 cwt. Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢ Confection current — \$17/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$16 (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)



from the Associated Press



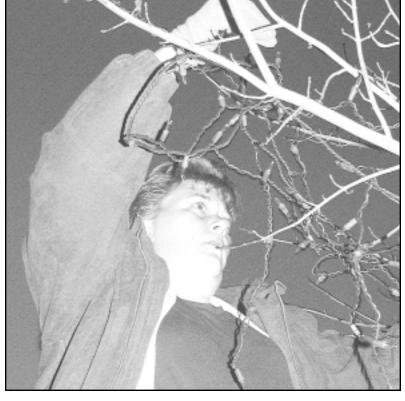
CHICAGO—United Airlines' stock dove under a dollar share this morning as investors anticipated a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing by

the nation's No. 2 airline. Shares in parent UAL Corp. fell 12 cents to 88 cents a share in morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange—the second day of a huge selloff following the rejection of the firm's request for a

\$1.8 billion loan guarantee. Sources familiar with the process said United was preparing to file for bankruptcy Sunday. The carrier was finalizing the terms of a \$1.5 billion loan that would enable the airline to keep flying in

bankruptcy, the sources said. United spokesman Rich Nelson confirmed Friday that the UAL board plans to meet on Saturday, but he otherwise declined comment on the airline's financial





### Family joins holiday fun

Decorating the front yard for the holidays is a family affair at Connie Cole's house at 1120 Arcade. Cole's grandson (above), Robbie Lawson, almost 2, held a big plastic candy cane while his grandmother hammered a stake into the ground Thursday evening to make a hole for the yard decoration. She was placing candy canes along the sidewalk leading up to the house. Kim Lawson (left), Robbie's mother, showed up and helped string Christmas lights in a tree. Cole had already strung lights on the bushes and put up other wooden yard decorations and said she planned to erect two fake reindeer.

Photos by Rachel Hixson The Goodland Daily News

## Trash collection transfer hits snag

City Commissioner Rick Billinger if the county does not take over, the City ers Tuesday he hoped the county would Waste Industries of Colorado Springs take over the trash pickup operation, and that, in the long run, it will cost but meantime the proposed transfer hit everyone more. a possible snag with insurance.

ing at several issues.

Billinger told them he is worried that

told the Sherman County commission Commission will vote to sell it to U.S.

After Billinger left, Royal Reid and The county commissioners said they 
John Garcia of the Sherman County had not made a decision, but were look- Economic Development Council ar-

See TRASH, Page 4

### County roundup

At their meeting Tuesday, Sherman County commissioners:

 Approved a resolution to join other counties in a lawsuit. Story at top.

 Discussed the trash collection system. Story to left.

 Approved a two-year contract for weed mowing with Daryl Schrader under the present terms with a review after the first year, and discussed unpaid noxious weed bills. Story to come.

# County to join budget lawsuit

### Suit will oppose Graves' cuts

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News Sherman County commissioners voted Tuesday to join a lawsuit protesting budget cuts made by Gov. Bill Graves which shift costs from the state to the cities and counties.

The commissioners talked to Randy Allen, executive director of the Kansas Association of Counties, who had sent the county a fax about the impact of the budget cuts and asked the county to join the lawsuit.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the announced cuts could cost the county \$258,121 this year. She said the state has announced they will not make the December payment of the city/county revenue sharing, which is about \$20,000 for the county. That payment said that payment would not be made.

The other announced cuts Rumpel said would be a 50 percent cut of the favor.

Local Ad Valorum Tax Reduction of \$46,521,50 percent of the city/county highway assistance of \$167,500, 50 percent of the county equalization of \$3,850, and a cut of another \$20,250 from the city/county revenue sharing

The county association believes that the cuts made by Graves are not legal because they come after the counties have set their budgets for the next year, and are have no way to make the changes or to increase property taxes to cover the cuts.

Rumpel said it would take a four-mill increase in property tax to cover the shortfall. She said with the valuation in the county, each mill of property tax raises \$57,285.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure moved is due to be made on Tuesday, but a to approve the resolution. It was secmessage from the counties association onded by Commissioner Mitch Tiede and passed unanimously with Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld voting in

# 1970 murderer up for parole

### Schlicher could be released

**Schlicher** 

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News sentenced to life for murdering a Plaza. Sherman County gas station attendant

Schlicher was convicted in 1980 of prisoner's name and inmate number if

to comment on the case and crime this

field after taking him at gunpoint from the gas station near I-70 where he worked and forcing him to kneel in the back seat of a car for hours.

Marvin Dale Seigrist and Charles Kauffman, Schlicher's classmates at the technical school in Goodland, were involved in the shooting, but neither went to jail. Seigrist received im-

munity for confessing 10 years after the gram participation in prison, the crime, leading to Schlicher's conviction, and doctors found Kauffman wasn't sane enough to stand trial.

A clerk for the Kansas Parole Board said Schlicher's hearing is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 16, and if he is granted parole he will be released on Feb. 28, the anniverary of the date his sentence began. He is being held under medium security at the Norton Correctional Facility.

Public comment sessions for prisoners eligible for a parole hearing in January take place this month.

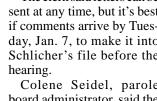
The sessions are held to give people a chance to tell parole board members what they think about the criminal or the crime.

The sessions are set for 11 a.m. Office Building in Wichita, 230 William St., Third floor, Room 3080; 8:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at the Landon State Office Building in Topeka, 900 SW Jackson St., First floor, Room

106A; and 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 30, at City Hall in Kansas City, Kan., 701 William Schlicher, a Hoxie native North Seventh St., One McDowell Comments also can be sent to the

in 1970, is up for a parole hearing in Kansas Parole Board, Landon State January and people will have a chance Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Room 452 S, Topeka 66612-1220, or faxed to 785-296-7949. Include the shooting Wallace Patton to death in a you have it. Schlicher's inmate number is 24626.

The clerk said letters can be



board administrator, said the board considers seven areas when deciding whether to grant parole including the crime, criminal history, pro-

inmate's parole plan and disciplinary record, comments from victims and the public and prison capacity.

Bill Miskell, spokesman for the state Department of Corrections in Topeka. said Schlicher first saw the board in 1995 and has been denied parole four times, the last time in June. Schlicher's last parole hearing was in January, but the parole board put off making a decision on whether to release him for about five months, waiting for a report from the department on the convicted killer's psychological condition.

Seidel said the board could have set Schlicher's next parole hearing up to 10 years in the future, but decided to see him again in January.

The fact the board passed him for Thursday, Dec. 19, at the Finney State only one year doesn't mean he has a better chance of receiving parole, she

"Nobody should read anything into the length of the pass," she said. "It

means nothing."

## Livestock assocation considers changing policy

By Roxana Hegeman Associated Press Writer

WICHITA — Battered by dismal cattle prices, the Kansas Livestock Association began its annual meeting Thursday by talking about possible changes to its long-standing policy supporting a marketing system free from government interference.

state working group and a market price expert talked about efforts to improve the cattle market. Many of the suggestions were mostly

semantic changes to the association's official policy statements and did not recommend a fundamental shift in the association's stance against govern-Members spent most of the opening ment regulation. Members voted to

tank, a cattle futures task force, a four- and have the general membership hold a final vote on Friday.

Members did, however, give more latitude to the association's staff to consider government help by striking language in a policy that opposed political solutions of economic problems. That change must also be approved by the general membership.

day listening as speaker from a think pass the issue on to a rules committee past year "the perfect storm" in the even after it was proven false.

cattle industry. Cattlemen weathered heavy reduction in demand from their biggest export market, Japan, after mad cow disease was discovered in that country. The aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks also slashed tourism and restaurant demand for higherpriced beef cuts, and unfounded market rumors of a foot-and-mouth out-Livestock producers have called the break in Kansas devastated cattle prices

### Hospital meeting

When the Goodland Regional Medical Center board meets Monday, members plan to:

 Review October's financial report. Look over the 2003 budget report. The board will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the hospital's conference room.