

## weather report

53°  
at noon



### 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°
Low	21°
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 near 24.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.  
\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets

### 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.)

## afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

## United faces bankruptcy

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 plans.



## 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

# 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 is due to be made on Tuesday, but a message from the counties association said that payment would not be made.

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

Local Ad Valorem 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 for next year.

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 to approve the resolution. It was seconded by Commissioner Mitch Tiede and passed unanimously with Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld voting in favor.

# 1970 murderer up for parole

## Schlicher could be released

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

William Schlicher, a Hoxie native sentenced to life for murdering a Sherman County gas station attendant in 1970, is up for a parole hearing in January and people will have a chance to comment on the case and crime this month.

Schlicher was convicted in 1980 of shooting Wallace Patton to death in a 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 immunity for confessing 10 years after 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 anniversary 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. Thursday, Dec. 19, at the Finney State 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 North Seventh St., One McDowell Plaza.

Comments also can be sent to the Kansas Parole Board, Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Room 452 S, Topeka 66612-1220, or faxed to 785-296-7949. Include the prisoner's name and inmate number if you have it. Schlicher's inmate number is 24626.

The clerk said letters can be sent at any time, but it's best if comments arrive by Tuesday, Jan. 7, to make it into Schlicher's file before the hearing.

Colene Seidel, parole board administrator, said the board considers seven areas when deciding whether to grant parole including the crime, criminal history, program participation in prison, the 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 only one year doesn't mean he has a better chance of receiving parole, she said.

"Nobody should read anything into the length of the pass," she said. "It means nothing."



Schlicher

# Trash collection transfer hits snag

City Commissioner Rick Billinger told the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday he hoped the county would take over the trash pickup operation, but meantime the proposed transfer hit a possible snag with insurance.

The county commissioners said they had not made a decision, but were looking at several issues.

Billinger told them he is worried that

if the county does not take over, the City Commission will vote to sell it to U.S. Waste Industries of Colorado Springs and that, in the long run, it will cost everyone more.

After Billinger left, Royal Reid and John Garcia of the Sherman County Economic Development Council ar-

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## 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.

# Livestock association 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.

Members spent most of the opening day listening as speaker from a think

tank, a cattle futures task force, a four-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 government regulation. Members voted to pass the issue on to a rules committee

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.

Livestock producers have called the past year "the perfect storm" in the

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 higher-priced beef cuts, and unfounded market rumors of a foot-and-mouth outbreak in Kansas devastated cattle prices even after it was proven false.

## 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.