

weather
report

72°

noon Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 7:17 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:18 a.m.

• Sunset, 7:18 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 56 degrees
- Humidity 41 percent
- Sky partly cloudy
- Winds southeast 11 mph
- Barometer 30.03 inches and falling

- Record High today 90° (1930)
- Record Low today 8° (1989)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday	72°
Low Wednesday	37°
Precipitation	trace
This month	.11
Year to date	1.48

The Topside Forecast

Today: cloudy and breezy with a 70 percent precipitation, high around 44, low near 28, winds south southeast 13-32 mph. Saturday: mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain, high around 41, low around 22, winds north northwest 8 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: partly cloudy, high near 45, low around 24. Monday: partly cloudy, high around 57, low near 32. Tuesday: partly cloudy. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local
markets



Noon

Wheat — \$3.86 bushel
New Crop — \$3.87 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.77
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$3.15 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.05
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Milo — \$2.97 bushel
Soybeans — \$9.42 bushel
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Millet — \$2.97 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$12.75 cwt.
NuSun — \$13 cwt.
Confection — \$16/\$9 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$15
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside
today

More local
news and
views from
your
Goodland
Star-News



Businessmen
defeat faculty

Steve Jimenez of the businessmen and Tremon Kizer of the faculty displayed their rebounding talents at Tuesday's Music Boosters Basketball Madness game. See story and photos on Page 10.

Murderer to have sixth hearing

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

There is one man in custody who has been convicted of a murder in Sherman County, and he is coming up for his sixth parole hearing on Tuesday, May 25.

William Frank Schlicher, 53, is being held at the medium security Norton Correctional Facility. He will have another parole hearing in May, and could be released in June at the earliest. Schlicher has been turned down for parole every time since 1995.

Schlicher, a former technical school student, was convicted of killing service station attendant Wallace Patton in Nov. 1970. He is trying to win his parole after 23 years in prison.

Patton was working at a gas station near the east I-70 exit in Goodland when he was robbed at gunpoint by Schlicher, Charles Kauffman and Marvin Dale Seigrist. They loaded Patton into Schlicher's car and drove around with him for most of the night before taking him out to a field and shooting him four times.

Seigrist turned himself in 1980 because he was afraid Schlicher would kill him. He received immunity for his testimony and Schlicher and Kauffman were charged with first-degree murder. Doctors decided, how-

ever, that Kauffman was not sane enough to stand trial.

Schlicher was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. In 1980, "life" in Kansas meant 15 years before a murderer was eligible for parole. Schlicher He was sent to prison on Dec. 18, 1980.

The Kansas Parole Board will hold three public sessions this month to take comments from citizens on possible paroles. If parole is granted, the release could be in June.

Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she has not received a notice from the parole board about Schlicher, but she has forwarded letters in the past asking that parole be denied. She said she does not see any reason to change her mind, and will submit another letter as soon as she gets the notice from the state.

The public meetings will be on April 22 in Wichita, April 23 in Topeka and April 26 in Kansas City. The meeting in Wichita will be in the Finney State Office Bldg., Third floor, room 3080, 230 William Street. In Topeka, the meeting will be on the first floor, room 106A of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson Street. In Kansas City, it will be at City Hall, One McDowell Plaza, 701 North Seventh Street.

Citizens can write to the Kansas Parole Board, Landon State Office Building, 900 SW



Schlicher

Preliminary hearing next week in Brewster case

A preliminary hearing for Lanny Bevington, 33, charged with the shooting death of his wife Kerrie last year, is set for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 14, in Sherman County District Court.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said the hearing is scheduled to take two days, but does not expect it to go into the second day.

Bevington was charged with first-degree murder Dec. 29. Kerrie Bevington, 27, was found dead of an apparent shotgun

wound in the head about 7 a.m. Dec. 28. Her father Tom Aschenbrenner, the retired Brewster fire chief, found her in the cab of a pickup outside the her home about 3 1/2 miles south of Brewster on the county line road 37. The time of death was estimated at between 3 and 4 a.m. Dec. 28. The couple had been married less than six months.

Bevington remains in the Sherman County Bastille, apparently unable to post a \$1 million bond.

Jackson Street, Room 425 S, Topeka, Kan. 66612-1220, or fax a letter to 785-296-7949. Messages may be e-mailed to <kpb@kdoc.dc.state.ks.us>.

Include the prisoner's name and inmate number if you have it. Schlicher's inmate number is 24626.

Letters can be sent at any time, but it's best if comments arrive by May 14 to make it into Schlicher's file before the hearing, said Colene Fischli, parole board administrator.

"We gather all the comments from the public session, letters and e-mails before the hearings to give the parole board members a chance to review them before the hearing," Fischli said.

She said the board considers seven areas when deciding whether to grant parole including the inmate's crime, criminal history, program participation in prison, parole plan and disciplinary record, comments from victims, the public and prison capacity.

New owner at Howard Johnson doing facelift

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A Goodland hotel soon will be a "new" place that brings back memories.

The Howard Johnson Hotel on K-27 has a new owner and a new general manager and is getting a major facelift. The owner and manager say it will soon be back to what it used to be, a place that many in Sherman County have fond memories of going to for Sunday brunch.

The lounge is open, but no rooms are available, as they are in various stages of disrepair, the proverbial, "things must get worse before they can get better."

The roof is being redone. Construction workers have ripped out the old carpets, removed toilets and sinks and torn out parts of the walls. Mattresses and furniture are piled up around the pool, and a lot of refuse has been hauled out back.

When all the work is done, General Manager Drew Rohlman said, the hotel is going to look brand new.

"It'll be the same frame," he said, "but it's gonna be beautiful."

In some places, Rohlman said, the hotel is just being gutted. There will be new wallpaper, he said, a new roof, new tile, faucets, toilets, carpet, windows, front doors, a lot of new beds and new furniture.

There will be new heating and air conditioning, he said, and new doors here and there to make the hotel more accommodating to the handicapped.

It's going to be exciting, he said; it's going to look brand new. The hotel is getting a complete overhaul, and there's not much that isn't getting some work.

Anything that isn't replaced, Rohlman said, will be cleaned to look like it's new.

New owner Lincoln Wilson estimated they're replacing 95 percent of the stuff.

The manager estimates the hotel will need four to eight weeks of work before it's ready to open, but everything would have to go perfectly for it to open in four.

"It's going to be fantastic for the



Darol Peter (right), working for Townsend Construction, used putty to fill holes in the wall in a room at the Howard Johnson Hotel, and his nephew's wife, Crystal Peter (above), smoothed things over on another wall.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

community," Rohlman said, "another business in town that's gonna help the growth forward."

There's a need here for an upscale facility, Wilson said; a hotel that will bring a different flair to the lodging business in Goodland.

"I want this facility to attract conventions like are held in larger cities like Wichita or Topeka," he said, "a facility that is both attractive and functional for those types of events."

The owner said he has plans to add a 300-seat convention center with room for people and displays.

"I want a facility people are proud to recommend to their family and friends," Wilson said. "We're gonna return it to that."

People remember going to the hotel for Sunday dinners after church, he said, and that will happen again.

Wilson said he plans to make the hotel more community-oriented. It will be a place to hold Bingo sessions, he said, and where the Girl Scouts can come to swim.

The owner said he knows professional wine producers and plans to

one asked him to come talk to the owner, and he did.

"We talked for 15 or 20 minutes," Wilson said, "and worked out a deal. I've been fixing (the deal) ever since."

Wilson said he saw the hotel as an economic opportunity as well as a need in the community. He said he remembered the place from way back, but he didn't realize how much work it needed.

"When I came in," Wilson said, "I looked at it from the potential. My eye wasn't trained from a construc-



Wilson



Rohlman

ing and a business with potential.

He said he knew former owner Bruce Hill's ex-wife Nicole and her mother Phyllis Long for many years, and had heard that the hotel might be for sale. Wilson said some-



hold wine- and cheese-tasting events. He said he wants to help provide culture and address people's

needs, not just take their money.

"I want to be something other than just another hotel," he said.

You're all invited to the Taste of Home show

Calling all cooks!

If you haven't got your tickets for the Taste of Home Cooking School next Tuesday, don't wait. Tickets go quickly, and they just might be sold out by the night of the show, and you'll save money if you buy now.

The Goodland Star-News is sponsoring the Cooking School at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Tickets are on sale at The Star-News for \$7 in advance. If any remain, they will be \$8 at the door. The doors will open at 4 p.m. to allow those attending to visit the booths and vendors who are participating.

Traditionally, women have made this a "girls night out" event, but guys, you are welcome as well. We know men love to cook. The

Taste of Home magazine has a feature, "Men Who Run the Range," in each issue and like their female counterparts, these family chefs take pride in their kitchen creations, from casseroles to cakes.

The event will be held at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Your ticket will be collected in exchange for a gift bag filled with recipe brochures, cents-off coupons, product samples and the latest Taste of Home Cooking School Recipe Collection. Follow along in the cookbook as home economist Margaret McCutcheon, a member of the cooking school staff, prepares eight delectable dishes.

"The cooking school is a community event," said Sheila Smith, office manager at the newspaper. "Many area people are involved in making this program a success."