

The Goodland Daily News

Volume 70, Number 1

Eight Pages

Goodland, Kansas 67735

weather report

25°
at noon



Today

• Sunset, 4:35 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 28 degrees
• Humidity 42 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds northwest 12 m.p.h.
• Barometer 30.03 inches and falling
• Record High 71° (1997)
• Record Low -12° (1948)

Last 24 Hours*

High 27°
Low 2°
Precipitation trace

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: clear, low 10s, wind south 10 m.p.h. Tomorrow: cloudy, high 49-54, low 20s, wind southwest 5-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Friday and Saturday: partly cloudy, high 40s, low 15, 30 percent chance of rain and snow showers

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.59 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.49
Corn — \$1.93 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.83
Loan deficiency payment — 16¢
Milo — \$1.65 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.57 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.61
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.31
Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.75 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 67¢
Confection current — inquire
Pinto beans — \$19 (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.

Taliban head not in deal

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department said today that it doubts negotiations under way for the surrender of Taliban forces include their leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

An estimated 1,000 to 1,500 Taliban fighters who have been holding out near the city of Baghran were negotiating with anti-Taliban forces, said Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem.

"But I think its a leap of faith if we believe that that is on the behalf of Mullah Omar himself," Stufflebeem said. "These are Taliban forces looking to negotiate themselves out of a predicament."

A commander of the anti-Taliban forces, Jamal Khan, said his officials had confirmed that Omar was in hiding somewhere in Baghran, a mountainous region.

Store owner shoots robber

20-year-old in hospital for surgery

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

A Goodland liquor store owner shot a would-be robber Monday night, sending the 20-year-old Sharon Springs man to a Denver hospital for surgery.

Goodland Police said Jack Kamper of Kamper Retail Liquor shot the youth, identified as Del Ray Dreiling, while he allegedly was attempting to rob the store on New Year's Eve.

A statement issued through Sherman County Communications said the man entered the store at 426 West U.S. 24 with a loaded .22 caliber handgun and started to rob clerk Marvin Thomas of Kanorado. When Dreiling went around a corner of the counter, the owner came

out of his office with a handgun and shot him once on the right side of his chest.

Police Chief Ray Smee said he did not know if the robber knew anyone was in the store besides the clerk.

Smee said that Dreiling was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center by ambulance, and was flown from there to St. Anthony Central Hospital in Denver, where he had surgery Tuesday morning.

Sharon Springs residents said the bullet lodged in Dreiling's spine after passing through several vital organs and that the bullet was removed during the surgery. As of 9 a.m. today, he was still listed as being under critical condition and is in intensive care. A hospital spokesperson said she was not free to release any more information.

Smee said authorities are reviewing a videotape from security cameras in the store. He said Goodland Police are handling the investigation, with the help of the Sherman County Sheriff's Office, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Kamper said he had been advised not to comment on the situation.



A Kansas Highway Patrol trooper went into Kamper Retail Liquor this morning, while helping investigate an attempted robbery and shooting which occurred Monday night at the store.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Life sentence?

A jury sent William Schlicher to jail for life in 1980 for a 1970 killing, but will the state let him go?

This is the first of three articles that tell how William Schlicher and two of his friends killed Wallace Newton Patton, a Goodland gas station attendant, in 1970, got away with the crime for 10 years and how officers finally caught them. Schlicher, the leader of the group and the only one to go to prison, is up for parole this month.

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Wallace Patton, face and hands lined from years of hard work, shuffled under the bright lights, checking merchandise, wiping the counter, going out into the dark November night to help the occasional customer.

He picked up the phone at 12:30 a.m., knowing it was Helen. They'd never had children, just the two of them. She must have worried when he worked late, alone at the station out on I-70, away from other businesses and homes. A police car drove by, checking the station.

It seemed like any other Saturday night until two nervous young men walked through the station's door. When he turned to greet the customers, he recognized the young, stern faces and knew what they had come for.

One of them brandished a pistol, but Patton had never been a pushover.

Shoving the pistol in his face, the boys snatched the few bills in the cash register, less

than \$100. Patton told them he knew who they were. He said he'd turn them in if they didn't put the money back. He didn't realize that his life meant less to these two than the small wad of cash.

They shoved him out of the station into the night. With a gun pointed at his head, Patton stumbled to their car and was told to kneel on the floor in the back seat.

A light-haired youth told him to bend over and put his face in his hands. He would be there for the next four hours, listening as they drove around talking about how they were going to get rid of him.

“It was amazing everyone was still around and their memories were still good.”

— Perry Warren
County attorney in 1980

As the sky turned from black to gray, the car stopped on a gravel road barely two miles from the station. Wallace Patton's long night of horror was over.

After hearing testimony from one of his partners and about his other crimes, a jury sentenced William Schlicher to life behind bars in 1980 for the shooting.

Now 50, Schlicher is being held under medium security at the Norton Correctional Facility, and while he may still have a lot of his life to live, the Kansas Parole Board could set him free next month.

On that chilly night in November 1970, Schlicher and two of his friends, Charles Kauffman and Marvin Dale Seigris, had loaded

Schlicher's car with rifles, stuck a pistol under the front seat and headed for trouble.

The three — all of them attended the technical school in Goodland and all had a history of mental problems — pulled up to a gas station on the east freeway exit after 1 a.m. Schlicher shoved the pistol in his pants and went in, but the heist didn't go as planned.

Patton, who was in his early 60s, told the boys that he knew who they were. He said he wouldn't turn them in if they put the money back. They must not have believed him.

Schlicher and Kauffman — Seigris testified that he had stayed in the car — dragged Patton out of the station and forced him onto his hands and knees in the back seat of the car.

They decided that they had to get rid of him, but they didn't know how.

They drove around the county with Patton on the floor for three to four hours. Finally, Schlicher and Kauffman pulled the attendant out of the car at the intersection of two gravel roads, marched him into a field and shot him four times.

Schlicher then turned the gun on Seigris — who



Charles Kauffman in 1972



William Schlicher in 1971

testified that he didn't participate in the killing — and threatened to put a bullet in him if he ever talked. The killer said he didn't want to shoot his friend because people had seen them together many times and police might come looking for him.

Schlicher was questioned in the murder, but Sherman County officers couldn't gather enough evidence to build a case against him. Seigris took Schlicher's threat seriously, though, and lived in fear for 10 years after the killing. Schlicher continued to commit crimes in and around Goodland, going to prison in 1972 for burglary.

The murder remained unsolved until Seigris asked for protection after he thought Schlicher had tracked him down. Officers finally had enough evidence to arrest the two gunmen.

Kauffman never stood trial because doctors ruled he wasn't sane enough to understand the crime or defend himself. Lawyers involved in the case said Kauffman was released and now lives east of Tribune.

Schlicher wasn't chasing Seigris — he had

See MURDER, Page 4

Innocent plea entered for attacks defendant

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Zacarias Moussaoui, the first person indicted in the Sept. 11 attacks, invoked the name of Allah and declared to a court today "I do not have anything to plead." A judge entered a plea of innocent on his behalf.

Wearing a dark green jumpsuit with the word "prisoner" on the back, the bearded, balding Moussaoui appeared in a courthouse a few miles from where a jetliner crashed into the Pentagon to face charges he conspired to murder thousands.

"In the name of Allah, I do not have anything to plead. I enter no plea. Thank you very much," Moussaoui told U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema.

Brinkema said she took that to mean he was pleading innocent to the charges, some of which carry the death penalty. Moussaoui stood silent and the plea was entered into the record.

vance their client would plead innocent. Brinkema set a trial date of Oct. 14, with jury selection to begin Sept. 30. She rejected defense arguments that the date would be too close to the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks and the vast amount of publicity that could be expected at that time.

Brinkema said she was confident both sides could find an excellent jury in northern Virginia even though the courthouse is just a few miles from where one of the jetliners crashed into the Pentagon Sept. 11.

Defense lawyer Gerald Zerkin told Brinkema that "the need to be further away from Sept. 11 is obvious."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Spencer said publicity about the attacks "is going to have to be dealt with by the court no matter when" the trial begins.

Zerkin said the three defense attorneys are facing a vast indictment that is international in scope.

Dancing in a new year



A couple danced to 1950s rock 'n' roll at the Veterans of Foreign Wars' annual New Year's Eve dance and dinner Monday night.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News