

weather report

48°
at noon



Today
• Sunset, 4:36 p.m.
Tomorrow
• Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
• Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil Temperature 27 degrees
• Humidity 25 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds north 6 m.p.h.
• Barometer 29.99 inches and Falling
• Record High 63° (1962)
• Record Low -26° (1959)

Last 24 Hours*
High 30°
Low 0°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast
Tonight: partly cloudy, low 20s, winds southwest 5-15 m.p.h. becoming westerly. Tomorrow: cloudy, 20 percent chance of precipitation during daytime, 40 percent chance of snow during nighttime, high 30s, low 20s, wind northwest 5-15 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast
Saturday and Sunday: partly sunny, 20 percent chance of snow, high 30s, low 10s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon
Wheat — \$2.62 bushel
Posted county price — \$2.49
Corn — \$1.95 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.83
Loan deficiency payment — 16¢
Milo — \$1.67 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.63 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.59
Loan deficiency payment — \$1.33
Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$8.80 cwt.
Loan deficiency prmt. — 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.
House blaze kills couple

OVERLAND PARK — An Overland Park couple died early Wednesday after a fire in their home, officials said.
Glenn Chapman, 74, was pronounced dead at the scene from smoke inhalation, authorities said. His body was found inside the house.
His wife, Norma Jean, 71, died later at a hospital.
Fire prevention chief Ted McIntosh said it appears the fire started as “a result of careless handling of cigarettes.”
The fire started on a couch in the same downstairs room where the husband died, McIntosh said.
Overland Park police said they received a 911 call about 12:20 a.m. from Norma Jean Chapman. The call was disconnected as she talked, and the line was busy when a dispatcher tried to call her back, said Fire Capt. Bill Metcalf.

Storm kills eight in south

Snow snarls traffic, knocks out power

ATLANTA (AP) — A hard freeze overnight left roads in the South even more treacherous today after snow and sleet caused power outages, snarled traffic and prompted South Carolina’s governor to call up the National Guard to help stranded drivers.
A winter storm stretching from Louisiana to Virginia caused hundreds of traffic accidents, killing at least eight people.
The storm had dumped 4 to 7 inches of snow in areas of North Carolina by today, and up to a foot was possible in the northeastern part of the state by the end of the day, the National Weather Service said. Nine inches fell in Virginia, and other states were expecting more.
South Carolina’s 64,000 state employees were told to stay home today. Gov. Jim Hodges activated 100 National Guard members Wednesday night to help stranded motorists, schools were closed, and police responded to more than 900 accidents across the state.
In Tallahassee, Fla., more than 170 people crammed into a homeless shelter to escape near-freezing temperatures.
“They’re on the floor, they’re in the dining room in sleeping bags, on mats,” shelter director Mel Eby said. “We’re putting them in any nook and cranny we can find.”
The blustery weather blanketed a region where people were golfing and playing tennis in 70-degree weather just last month. On Wednesday, southerners built snowmen in 20-degree temperatures and slid down hills where snow covered still-green grass.
There were spotty power outages in the region, including 30,000 South Carolina Electric & Gas customers who lost electricity because of sleet and freezing rain, spokeswoman Mary Green Brown said. Buddy Merrill, a regional manager for Georgia Power Co. in Columbus, Ga., said workers expected more headaches today.
“Ice is a much bigger problem than the snow. With snow already on the trees, it would be easy for the ice to build up, and that would be the worst-case scenario,” he said.
At Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport — the world’s busiest — thousands of passengers were stuck today.

Killer hunt

William Schlicher almost got away with murder

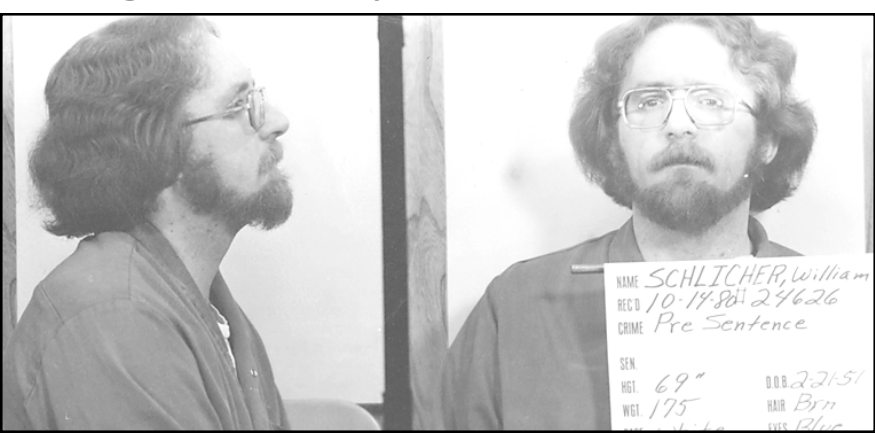
This is the second of three articles that tell how William Schlicher and two other former technical school students killed Wallace Patton, an older man who worked at a gas station in Goodland, in 1970. They got away with the murder for 10 years until one of the men finally broke down. Schlicher, the leader of the group and the only one to go to prison, received a life sentence in 1980. He is up for parole this month.

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News

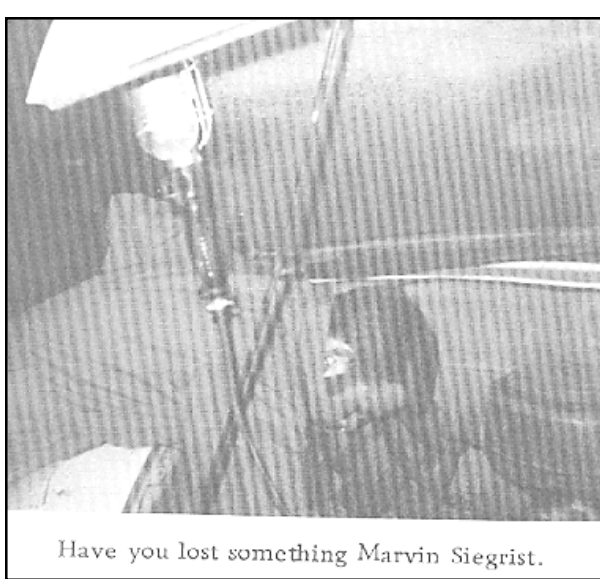
William Schlicher, Charles Kauffman and Marvin Dale Seigrist loaded Schlicher’s car with guns and went to the Mobil Service Station in east Goodland on Nov. 7, 1970, to rob the place.
Wallace Patton, the attendant, refused to let the boys take the money — less than \$100 — but told them he wouldn’t turn them in if they put it back. Instead, they kidnapped Patton, forcing him to drive around on his hands and knees in the back seat of Schlicher’s car for about four hours while they talked about how to get rid of him.
Near dawn, Schlicher and Kauffman marched Patton out to a field in Sherman County and shot him four times.
Jack Armstrong, the former Sherman County sheriff who investigated the case for 10 years, said Seigrist told him that they saw officers driving around looking for Patton during the night. Seigrist, who confessed after 10 years because he was scared Schlicher would hunt him down, said he didn’t take part in the killing and received immunity for his testimony.
“I don’t think they knew what to do with him,” said Perry Warren, who was county attorney at the time in 1980 and prosecuted the case. He noted that Patton wasn’t shot until the early morning, hours after he was kidnapped.
Between 4:30 and 5 a.m., Armstrong said, the men forced Patton out of the car on a gravel road about two miles south of the filling station.
Seigrist said Schlicher, Kauffman and Patton walked for a few feet before he saw Schlicher raise his arm and heard two shots. He said it looked like Schlicher then handed the gun to



A picture of Marvin Dale Seigrist in the 1971 technical school yearbook. There was no head shot of Seigrist, who was in a special program to help young people enter the work force.



A picture of William Schlicher (left) taken out of the 1971 Northwest Kansas Area Vocational Technical School yearbook. An older Schlicher (above) in a set of mug shots taken before he was sentenced to life in prison.



Kauffman, who fired two more.
An autopsy showed Patton had been shot four times — twice in the chest, once in the head and once in the neck. The coroner testified that damage to the left ventricle of Patton’s heart is probably what killed him.
Seigrist told officers that after the murder Schlicher made him get out of the car and kneel on the ground. He said Schlicher pointed the gun at his head, made him promise to keep his mouth shut and said he would kill him if he didn’t.
Officers found Patton’s body about 8 a.m., but Armstrong said a fierce storm that brought rain, snow and high winds ruined the crime scene. He said they never found the murder weapon.
“We couldn’t preserve evidence,” he said. “It took 10 years to find probable cause.”
The next decade
During that 10 years, Armstrong said, he questioned Schlicher, Seigrist

Schlicher threatened to kill him many times.
After he made the arrest, Armstrong said he took 37 or 38 guns out of the apartment that had been hidden in the ceiling and elsewhere. He said the young man had stolen mainly guns, knives and stereo equipment. Schlicher spent two years in the state reformatory in Hutchinson for the burglaries.
At the trial, William Howard, who said he was in the Cheyenne County Jail with Schlicher in 1972, testified that Schlicher told him he had murdered Patton.
Howard said they were discussing the murder while playing cards, and Schlicher suddenly went crazy, grabbing at the bars and yelling, “I killed him. I killed him. I killed him.”
Larry Keims, long-time president of the technical school, where the three men were students, said he remembers Schlicher breaking into the technical school, trashing a conference room and vandalizing equipment. He said the man had been caught at school one day with a knife.
When Schlicher was released on parole, Armstrong said, he heard that he was coming back to Goodland to kill him. Instead, Armstrong said, Schlicher moved to Louisiana, breaking his parole.
Court records say a parole violation warrant was issued in 1975, and officers used that warrant in 1980 to bring Schlicher back to Goodland to stand trial for the murder.
Warren said while Schlicher was in Louisiana, he married a state senator’s daughter named Linda, who had two

See MURDER, Page 7

Edson tower part of \$34-million plan

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News

An 11-year, \$34 million statewide project to improve radio service for emergency workers is nearing completion, with a 408-foot tower being installed outside of Edson.
The tower east of the Edson exit and north of I-70 is part of the Kansas Department of Transportation’s new 800 megahertz radio system for the department, the Highway Patrol and emergency medical services.
It will allow all to communicate through a central dispatch service for the state.
The central dispatch office is in Salina, and all calls to the highway patrol will soon be directed to that center. If people call the patrol for information or officers report to work or are going off-duty, Patrol Major Craig Dewell of Hays said, those calls and service calls will be routed to Salina.
Callers won’t notice a difference in service, he said, but the radio system will provide clearer transmissions, and the central dispatch should be more efficient.
The patrol has been operating on a 40-year-old low-band system, Capt. Ken Justice said, and the new radio system will not have the skips and the background noise that the old system has.

The 800 megahertz system will keep other channels from jumping in, Justice said, making it easier for officers to hear the dispatcher.
The system and towers are similar to those used for cellular phone service, he said.
The system, which has cost the state \$34 million so far, will include 76 towers, said Marty Matthews, a spokesman for the state Department of Transportation.
There will be three radio repeaters per tower.
One repeater will be for the highway department, he said, one for the patrol and one for ambulances.
The three departments can’t communicate with each other on the system, Justice said, as it is just the backbone for the 800 megahertz system, but more features may be added later.
One feature that is being looked at for the next phase, Justice said, is to make it so all emergency services that want to can communicate on it. For example, he said, the sheriff’s departments could use it.
The first phase should be completed in the spring, he said, and the next phase won’t be approved until after that.
The towers will be maintained by the Department of Transportation, Justice said, as it is responsible for the communication system.



Shon Stevens, a worker for Tower Components from Bulverde, Texas, prepared a microwave dish for installation on the radio tower outside of Edson on Wednesday. The 10-foot dish will be raised onto the tower Friday.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Businesses checking pasts more

WICHITA (AP) — Security sells.
At least that’s the idea that prompted Benjamin Franklin Plumbing to advertise on the radio that its workers entering customers’ homes have passed criminal background checks.
Owner Richard Tade said his ad has drawn customers who were impressed with the idea. Tade said he pays about \$50 to check each applicant. If an inquiry uncovers any criminal record at all, he says, he won’t hire the applicant.
“There’s no gray areas, in my opinion,” he said.
While the sales pitch may be unusual, background checks seem to have become more common, if not dramatically so, said industry observers.
The Kansas Bureau of Investigation says it has seen a gradual increase in the number of business-related requests for criminal histories. The basic cost is \$15 per KBI search. The KBI is the state’s repository for records on adult convictions, which any person or organization can obtain.
In Kansas, many service businesses — especially smaller ones with informal hiring practices — still do not inquire whether their employees have criminal records, said Don Williams,

See BACKGROUND, Page 7