

weather report

45°
at noon



Today

- Sunset, 4:37 p.m.
- Tomorrow**
- Sunrise, 7:07 a.m.
- Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 28 degrees
- Humidity 45 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds north 17 m.p.h.
- Barometer 29.94 inches and falling
- Record High 70° (2001)
- Record Low -19° (1959)

Last 24 Hours*

- High 52°
- Low 5°
- Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: cloudy, 30 percent chance of snow, low 20s, winds northwest 10-20 m.p.h. Tomorrow: cloudy becoming partly sunny, high 35-40, low 20-25, wind northwest 15-20 m.p.h.

Extended Forecast

Sunday and Monday: mostly sunny, high 40s, low 20s.

(National Weather Service)

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

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.66 bushel
- Posted county price — \$2.54
- Corn — \$1.96 bushel
- Posted county price — \$1.85
- Loan deficiency payment — 14¢
- Milo — \$1.68 bushel
- Soybeans — \$3.65 bushel
- Posted county price — \$3.66
- Loan deficiency payment — \$1.26
- Millet — \$3.50 hundredweight
- Sunflowers
- Oil current crop — \$8.95 cwt.
- Loan deficiency pmt. — 78¢
- Confection current — inquire
- Pinto beans — \$20 (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.

First soldier killed in war

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Army Special Forces soldier was killed by small-arms fire in eastern Afghanistan today, the first member of the American military to die in the three-month-old campaign.

Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command, announced the death at a news conference in Tampa, Fla. He said the soldier's name was being withheld until family members were notified.

Franks said the soldier was part of a U.S. military team that was working with "local tribal elements" near the town of Khost. He offered no details.

The four-star general said the death underscored the dangers faced by U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan, where there are pockets of resistance from al-Qaida and Taliban fighters.

Prison life

Killer with 'pretty good record' could soon go free

This is the last 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 but is up for parole this month.

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

After spending the day talking, William Schlicher, Charles Kauffman and Marvin Dale Seigris loaded Schlicher's car with rifles and a pistol on Nov. 7, 1970 and headed out to rob a gas station.

Wallace Patton, the attendant at the station near the east I-70 exit, gave the boys the money in the cash register—less than \$100—but told them he knew who they were. He told them he wouldn't turn them in if they put it back, but they apparently didn't buy that.

The trio drove around for most of the night, with Patton on his hands and knees in the back seat while they figured out how to get rid of him.

Seigris, who gave authorities the key to the case 10 years later, testified that he watched as Schlicher and Kauffman walked Patton into a field and each shot him twice.

A fierce storm erased evidence at the scene and the murder went unsolved until Seigris finally cracked in 1980, fearing that Schlicher would make good on his threat to kill him.

Sherman County authorities used an old parole violation warrant to have Schlicher arrested in Louisiana, where he had started a family and was working on an oil rig. Schlicher had broken parole for burglary in the mid-1970s to move out of state.

Seigris received immunity for his testimony, and Schlicher and Kauffman were charged with first-degree murder on June 2, 1980. Doctors declared Kauffman not sane enough to defend himself, but after a week-long trial, a jury put Schlicher away for life.

At that time in Kansas, "life" meant 15 years until a criminal is eligible for parole. Schlicher has been turned down three times, but will see the parole board once again this month.

Because a murder weapon was never found, Seigris's testimony was a key piece of evidence. But Perry Warren, the county attorney in 1980, said he wasn't the most credible witness.

Court records say Seigris himself had a long history of commitments for mental illness and gave police conflicting stories about the murder until he was promised immunity.

At the trial, jurors heard testimony from KBI agents who investigated the



The building that used to house the Mobil Service Station, where William Schlicher and two of his friends abducted Wallace Patton in November 1970, sits cold and quiet by I-70 today. The crime took 10 years to solve. The building was remodeled as a Conoco station, but the business closed last year.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News



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.

murder and took Seigris's confession, the coroner who examined Patton's body, the Louisiana officers who arrested Schlicher, Armstrong and people who committed crimes or served time with Schlicher. Warren said Schlicher didn't testify.

The jury also heard Seigris's recollection of the crime.

Under cross-examination by Michael Foust, Schlicher's lawyer, who still practices in Goodland, Seigris admitted that he had changed his story many times before receiving immunity.

Contacted last month, Foust said he didn't want to comment on the trial or Schlicher.

A news article on Sept. 18, 1980 said Seigris replied that he had been "scared of going to prison," and "didn't trust police."

In his closing remarks, Jerry Fairbanks, deputy county attorney, said Seigris didn't want to be charged with murder, but told the truth once he knew he wasn't going to prison. The lawyer reminded the jury that Seigris knew details only someone who had been there could know.

In his summation, Foust claimed that Seigris's testimony proved he was there for the murder, but didn't necessarily prove Schlicher was there. He reviewed testimony that Schlicher may have worked until 12:30 a.m. at Steiner's Drive-In, which is now closed, on the night before Patton was shot. The murder took place on a Sunday morning.

An article on Sept. 19 said Francis Steiner, who owned the drive-in, testified that Schlicher worked as a night dishwasher and that he had paid him

for a full week, which showed that he likely worked on Saturday night. Under cross examination, though, Steiner said Schlicher may have gotten a classmate to cover his shift.

A ruling from the Supreme Court of Kansas on Schlicher's later appeal said it didn't matter if he had worked until 12:30 a.m., because the attempted robbery and murder took place later. The ruling said Schlicher couldn't prove where he was after 12:30.

After deliberating for three hours, the jury found Schlicher guilty on Sept. 22. He was sentenced to life in prison on Dec. 15.

A juror, who didn't want her name used because she still fears Schlicher, said his expression didn't change

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Goodland stores didn't see 'doom, gloom'

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

Visions of a black Christmas, for retailers anyway, seem not to have been prophetic. Businesses are still open, merchants are not bankrupt, and the world did not end.

"The doom and gloom never really came," said Pete Smith, manager of J.C. Penney's here.

That seemed to be the assessment of many Goodland businesses.

Alco Discount Store manager Tom Roesch said his store matched last year's sales, and may have even been up half of 1 percent or so.

"Of course, I always hope for an increase over the prior year," Roesch said. "It would have been nice if it had been a little better."

Jim Lunsway, owner of Mr. Jim's His Shop, said his sales increased modestly this December over last, and that his fourth quarter sales were very good, driven mostly by leather jacket sales. Smith said he could not give any numbers, but he did say his store did



A customer at Alco Discount Store made a purchase Thursday evening. Nationally, sales at retail stores this past holiday season were higher than many experts had predicted. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

well and that it met sales projections. He said the J.C. Penney's in McCook, Neb., which he also manages, did extremely well.

Brad Koza, manager of Wal-Mart,

said holiday sales were up from last year, and that the clearance items after the holidays went like hotcakes.

These retail managers did not seem overly concerned about the national

recession. Roesch said he has high hopes for the new year.

"It's too early to tell. You never know what the economy is going to do," he said, "but it is a brand new year. I think it'll be okay."

Smith also doesn't appear to be worrying. He said the media had predicted a horrible holiday season for retailers, but J.C. Penney met its company sales plan. He doesn't think the new year will be any different.

"We have a good, loyal, customer base," he said.

Lunsway said he is no more concerned about the economy this year than he normally is. He said he is always a little concerned about the economic situation in northwest Kansas.

"Though, it could get worse if people keep up a recession mindset," he said. "A recessionary attitude can be as bad, if not worse, than actual recessionary economic conditions."

Lunsway said a long recession might

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Father shot after car chase

Man holds baby, aims gun at police

A Kit Carson County man was shot fatally in a Burlington parking lot early New Year's Day after allegedly assaulting his mother and her boyfriend, taking his baby son and younger brother hostage and threatening officers with a shotgun.

According to *The Burlington Record*, a woman reportedly called Kit Carson County dispatch at 12:18 a.m. on Tuesday, saying her son, Michael Clower, 22, had hit her boyfriend and pulled her hair.

The woman said she was calling from a shop building on a farm 8 miles southeast of Burlington because Clower was holding his 1-year-old son and 9-year-old brother hostage in the farm house.

A sheriff's deputy and other officers headed for the farm and about 20 minutes later, the woman told dispatchers her son had fired shots from the house. After officers arrived, Clower called the dispatch office to say if they came too close to the house, he would shoot.

The sheriff's department called Burlington police and Colorado Highway Patrol troopers for help about 1:30 a.m. Officers and dispatchers negotiated with Clower for almost two hours

See SHOOTING, Page 4

Attorney to decide charges

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

In the aftermath of the New Year's Eve shooting and aborted robbery attempt at Kamper Retail Liquor, the Sherman County attorney will decide what charges, if any, will be brought against the alleged robber and the store owner.

The alleged stickup man, 20-year-old Del Ray Dreiling of Sharon Springs, was shot by store owner Jack Kamper on Monday night after trying to hold up clerk Marvin Thomas with a loaded .22-caliber handgun.

Police Chief Ray Smeed said the reports of the investigating officers were to be sent to County Attorney Bonnie Selby late Thursday.

Selby said the reports will probably include a diagram of the crime scene, indicating what the officers think happened. She said she will use this information to determine whether to press charges in the case.

Selby says the county attorney has final say on charges.

When asked about the case Thursday, she said she had not received any information yet, but from what she has heard, it is possible Dreiling will be charged with aggravated assault, a felony.

For Kamper to be charged in the case, Selby would have to determine if he used unjust force against the alleged robber. She said under Kansas law, a person is free to defend himself, another person, or his property, as long as he does not engage in excessive force.

"It's easy to talk about what is and what isn't unjust force," she said. "It's harder when you actually are faced with the decision. I'm glad I've never had to go through it."

Dreiling was still at St. Anthony's Central Hospital in intensive care, recovering from surgery to remove the bullet Thursday, but his condition had been upgraded from critical to serious. That means that while he is still gravely ill, doctors do not think he will die.