

# Police investigate shooting death

## Robbery, suicide both ruled out in death in Sandelwood area

By Steven Walcott  
The Examiner

BLUE SPRINGS — Police are investigating the shooting death of a 45-year-old woman Monday afternoon.

The body of Katherine Middleton was found in the dining room of her home in the 1400 block of North 48th Street in the Sandelwood subdivision at approximately 2 p.m. Monday. A man identified by neighbors as the woman's husband, Ken Middleton, was escorted from the house by police. The man was visibly upset as he left the house, and he collapsed on the driveway, sobbing hysterically.

Sgt. Jeff Rogers said police believe they have the weapon that was involved in the shooting.

Rogers said it didn't appear that the shooting was the result of a robbery or suicide.

An autopsy was scheduled for this morning. Police said the autopsy results, expected this afternoon, would provide key information about what happened.

Neighbors said they didn't know much

about the couple. They said the Middletons generally kept to themselves.

Mark Engstrom, who lives in the house south of the Middletons, said today that Middleton is a truck driver and hadn't been around very much.

"It was a real surprise to me," Engstrom said. "Nothing like that has ever happened in our neighborhood before."

Terry Kratz, who lives across the street, said the Middletons owned a farm near Nevada, Mo.

Neighbors said a young niece or grandniece has been staying with the Middletons and was in school at the time of the shooting. A school bus dropped off the girl at the corner of 48th Street and Valley View Road at 3:10 p.m. Wednesday.

Kratz, his wife and other neighbors met the girl at the street corner, where police told her there had been an accident. She stayed at the Kratz home until relatives came and picked her up later Wednesday afternoon.

Kratz said when the little girl got off the bus she was surprised that Middleton was home.



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From left, a paramedic student and paramedics Steve Keebaugh and Scott Wedlock comfort Ken Middleton as he sobs outside his home. Middleton's wife, Katherine, died of a gunshot wound Monday afternoon at their house in the 1400 block of North 48th Street.

Exhibit "15"