

Rifle in plot stolen from home in Goodland

By Pat Schiefen
pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

Federal agents were in Goodland on Monday, looking for information on a rifle reported stolen here in 2005 and three men from the nearby Burlington area who allegedly plotted to kill presidential candidate Barack Obama.

The curious turn came in an investigation into a supposed plot to assassinate the Democratic candidate on the day of his nomination this week.

A .22-250 Ruger Model M77 Mark II rifle found in a truck rented by one of the suspects had been reported stolen three years ago from the home of a Goodland man. The three men held in the alleged plot apparently were from the Burlington area.

The case unfolded early Sunday when Aurora police stopped a Centennial, Colo., man, Tharin Gartrell, 28, for driving under the influence. In the pickup he was driving, they found two rifles, ammunition, walkie-talkies, a bullet-proof vest and a small bag of methamphetamine.

Sheriff Kevin Butts confirmed Monday that federal agents had

been to see him about the stolen rifle. He said they wanted to see the case file.

The Ruger had disappeared in May or June 2005 from the home of Floyd Studer, 1020 W. 36th St., Butts said. He said the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents came to his office on Monday afternoon to look at the case file. The theft was reported July 5, 2005, he said, adding that the exact date of the robbery was not known.

Another man being held in Denver was 32-year-old Nathan Dwaine Johnson, listed as an unemployed truck driver and meth user. Johnson identified a third man, Shawn Adolf, 33, Burlington, who allegedly said a black man should not be allowed to live in the White House.

At his home Tuesday, Floyd Studer said Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents had been to see him Monday afternoon and told him not to say anything about the theft or the case.

"I am not talking to anyone," he said, adding that he didn't want his picture taken.

Tuesday, U.S. Attorney Troy Eid of Denver said Adolf had been



Security at the Democratic National Convention in Denver was even tighter Tuesday following an alleged plot to kill presidential

hopeful Barack Obama.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

transferred to the Kit Carson County Jail on Monday night because there were outstanding warrants for him there. The sheriff's secretary, who said her name was Gina, said that Adolf had been in the Burlington jail throughout the day. She said he might not have been booked into the jail, but was still in the building.

Kit Carson County Sheriff Ed

Raps had left for the day, she said. When asked who to ask about the charges, she said she had been told to refer questions to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Denver. The sheriff would be back in the morning, she said.

Earlier, a jailer had said that there was no Shawn Adolf in the jail.

Sheriff Butts of Sherman County

said Tuesday that Adolf had not been in trouble in Sherman County.

"I've heard his name a bunch over the years connected with the Burlington area," the sheriff said. "We don't have anything here on him, but he's one of those I'm not surprised at."

Butts thought the warrants were from the City of Burlington. Burl-

ington Police Chief Randy Milburn could not be reached Tuesday night to confirm that.

In Denver, federal agents reported that Gartrell and Adolf were cousins. While Johnson was being advised of federal charges Tuesday, his family gathered for the funeral in Burlington of his father, Dwaine.

Plot to kill Obama not credible, suspects from Burlington

By Tom Betz
tmbetz@nwkansas.com

DENVER — At least four people, including three men from the Burlington area just west of Goodland, were being held by federal authorities Tuesday in an alleged plot to kill Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Agents learned of the hazy plot when Aurora, Colo., police stopped a pickup early Sunday that was driving erratically. The officer, a Sgt. Holt, found a rifle and scope reported stolen two years ago from a home in the Paxton Addition south of Goodland.

At a press conference Tuesday, U.S. Attorney Troy Eid said he did not think the plot could have succeeded because the group was using so much meth.

"We do not consider this a credible threat," he said "We make a distinction between a real threat and an aspiration threat. We believe this is

more of an aspiration-type threat.

"It is a very serious federal crime to threaten a presidential candidate. In this case, however, there is insufficient evidence at this time to indicate a true threat, plot or conspiracy against Sen. Obama.

"The reported threats, hateful and bigoted though they were, involved a group of meth heads."

Federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms traced one of the rifles and a scope taken in the arrest to guns taken from Floyd Studer's home in the Paxton Addition south of Goodland.

Sheriff Kevin Butts confirmed Monday that ATF agents had called him about the case and had come to his office to see the files.

The driver of the pickup, 28-year-old Tharin Gartrell of Centennial, Colo., but originally from the Burlington area, was arrested about 1:37 a.m. Sunday in the traffic stop. Aurora Police Lt. Bob Stef said.

Officers found two rifles, boxes of ammunition, one rifle scope, a bulletproof vest, walkie-talkies, two wigs, camouflage clothing, several fake IDs, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia in the rented truck. Also in the back of the truck was a "mobile methamphetamine lab."

Gartrell, who was being held in the Arapahoe County Jail on \$50,000 bond, has a felony record, officials said.

NBC News reported Tuesday morning that federal officials had downgraded the threat, saying one of the men had made a threat against Obama when he was arrested, but they do not believe it was based on any kind of plan or actual intent. However, a sworn affidavit filed by an ATF agent indicated that the group had gathered in Denver, brought weapons and body armor, rented two vehicles and taken a room in the Hyatt Hotel

in the Denver Tech Center, where they believed the candidate would stay. Obama had not yet arrived in Denver, however.

Agents arrested a second man, 32-year-old Nathan Johnson, at 4:30 a.m. on Sunday at the Hyatt, near I-25 and Belleview Ave. in Denver. Johnson was being held by Denver Police.

A third man, 33-year-old Shawn Adolf of Greeley, formerly from the Bethune area west of Burlington, was arrested at the Cherry Creek Hotel in Glendale, Colo., on Colorado Boulevard about 5 a.m. Sunday. The ATF affidavit reported that when police knocked on his hotel door, Adolf said his wife needed time to get her clothes on.

Agents upon hearing glass breaking and a woman scream, broke the

door down. They found a woman, who told them Adolf had jumped out the sixth-floor window, saying he didn't want to go to jail.

The fugitive landed on a ballroom roof, injuring himself, then jumped again. He landed on an awning, fell to the ground and ran into nearby bushes, where waiting Glendale officers wrestled him down.

He was taken to Denver Health Medical Center, where he was treated. Officials said Adolf was wanted on seven outstanding warrants totaling "more than \$1 million in bond." Officials in Burlington would not discuss the charges Tuesday night.

In the Glendale hotel room, as at the Hyatt and in the pickup, the affidavit said, officers found bags of meth, and the group all admitted

they had been using the drug.

Gartrell, when stopped by Aurora police, said he had no idea about the guns and drugs. He told officers he borrowed the truck from his cousin, Adolf, and told them they could find him at the Hyatt, the agent, Shane Abraham, wrote.

At the Hyatt, however, agents found Johnson and an unnamed woman, who had been doing drugs. They told officers Adolf had gone to the Glendale hotel.

The allegations of a plot to kill Obama apparently came up Monday after a woman who had been at the Hyatt and the Glendale hotel told a Secret Service agent the men had talked about killing the candidate because he is black, and no "n*****" should ever live in the White House.

public notice

TO: Noe Musquiz
Center Street Storage
Unit #1

FROM: Center Street Storage

Your personal belongings in storage will be sold if restitution is not made. The sale of your belongings will be on September 5, 2008 at 1618 Main, Goodland, Kansas at 10:00 a.m.

Center Street Storage

Published in The Goodland Star-News, Friday, August 29, 2008.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KENNETH D. AUSTIN, DECEASED

CASE NO. 08 PR 27

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on August 21, 2008 a petition for admission of will and codicil to probate and appointment of an executor under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act was filed on this court by Lori Phillips, heir and devisee of Kenneth D. Austin, deceased, and as executrix in the will and codicil of the deceased.

All creditors of the above named decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Lori Phillips
416 Walnut Ave.
Goodland, KS 67735

Michael V. Foust #07507
126 W. 11th Street
Goodland, KS 67735
(785) 899-5687
Attorney for Petitioner

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Estate Farm, Antique and Household

Sale Time
10:00 AM CT
9:00 AM CT

AUCTION

LOCATION:
From Tribune, KS,
5 miles North to
County Road L, 2
miles East

Saturday,
September 6, 2008

ANTIQUES/COLLECTIBLES

Wooden butter mold
3 Kerosene lamps
Crock bowl
10 gal. Red Wing crock
10 gal. Brown rim crock
2) 5 gal. crocks
Camel back trunk
Wash boilers
Wash boards
Milk bottles
Sad irons
Delaval hand crank cream separator
Old chamber pots
Wooden 50 gal. barrel
Old wood burning stove
Barn lanterns
Pitcher pump
Cream cans
Old porcelain cook stove
Kerosene jugs
Old pictures and frames
Furniture pieces
Some old horse tack and branding irons
Few old toys
Maytag washing machine motor
Iron wheels
Pickle jar
Old radio
Cast Iron shaving mirror
Few Arrow heads
Old rocks and minerals
Mantle clock
Old kitchen utensils
Smoking pipes
Old crock blue milk pitcher
Old portable double cell battery in oak case
Small oak display
Pettie Soprano accordion
Old coronet
pocket watch
Battery jars

TRACTORS

1964 JD 4020 tractor, diesel, 3,079 hrs., pto, 3 pt.
Ford 8N tractor, 3 pt. pto.
Farmall M tractor, tricycle front, propane
(2) MM G VI tractors, wheat-land, propane, non running
MM GB tractor, propane, non running

GLASSWARE/CHINA

Green glass canister jar
old spice jars
Glass coffee jar
Medicine bottles
Glass rolling pin
Fire King jadeite cups and saucers
Ruby glass cups
Old pottery
Mixing bowls
German chicken figurine
Small porcelain dolls
Figurines
Some depression glass
McCoy pottery
Old dishes
other items

FARM EQUIPMENT

2) JD LZ 8 x 12 hoe drills
18 ft. Shafer disk
18 ft. Shafer oneway
Small disk for Ford tractor
2) BMB 5 ft. mowers, 3 pt.
MM 5 ft. mower, 3pt.
Several pieces of older farm equipment
Some scrap

SHOP ITEMS

Shovels, rakes, hoe ect.
Campbell Hausfield air compressor
Lawn Chief 11 hp. riding mower, 36" cut
Small cement mixer w/ electric motor
FMCO yard sprayer on trailer, 20 gal. tank, 12 volt pump
Saw horses
Marquette battery charger
Alton 11 gal. 3 hp. air compressor
Window water cooler
Pallets of sand stone rock
Small electrical tools
Silver Eagle gas chain saw
20 gal. propane bottle
124 gal. propane tank
jack stands
wash tubs
chicken waters
(2) Pellet rifles
Some hand tools

Terry Lee Estate, Owner

www.berningauction.com

See Terms of Sale & more items on our website!

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!

ANTIQUE FURNITURE

Oak dinning table with 4 chairs
Oak 4 drawer dresser with mirror
Old settee, nice shape
Oak office chair
Oak straight chairs
Old entry table

FURNITURE/APPLIANCES

Coronado chest type deep freeze, small
Singer sewing machine in cabinet
Kenmore washing machine
American gas cook stove
Hot Point Refrigerator with top freezer
Brown lazyboy loveseat, hide a bed
Tan glider rocker
Yamaha Organ model C-60
Brown Lazyboy rocker recliner
Single bed
Regular size bed with matching 4 drawer chest and vanity with mirror
End tables
2) Arm chairs
Divan
Regular size bed

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Large farm items to sell at approximately 1:00 p.m., followed by furniture. We may run two rings at a time.

A New Star on the Horizon



The Goodland Star-News