

Weapon linked to Obama threat has Goodland ties

By TOM BETZ
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 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. He reportedly carried a handcuff key and wore a Nazi swastika ring.

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.

Annual Firemen's Fun Day at Jennings draws many

Special to The Telegram
 The Jennings Firemen's Fun Day last Saturday was a resounding success with residents of the Jennings area spending hours in preparation for the annual event.

More than 60 people attended the health fair for lab tests, cardiac monitor strips, free blood pressure and blood sugar checks, and stayed to enjoy the kolaches and coffee. Kelly Moore was also

on hand to introduce Jennings residents to Kelly's Home Medical, a new provider of medical equipment.

The wobble trap shoot at the Heilman farm netted more than \$500 for the fire department. Winners included Larry Lively, Jerry McKenna, Bill Heilman, Rock Meier, Gary Gawith and Justin Kramer. Participants came from the Jennings, Oberlin, Menlo,

Reager, Norton, Selden, Scott City and Seneca areas.

The nearly 120 dozen kolaches were sold out before noon, said Marge Hartzog.

The parade included many entries, such as horses, bicycles, tractors, trucks, cars and floats with Bob and Neoma Tacha as grand marshals.

More than 130 visitors signed the guest book at the Heritage Museum expressing appreciation for the number and quality of the displays.

The Indian displays by Galen Carper, Larry Mizer and Tim Adrian, Colby, were a special attraction.

Winners of the Firemen's Team Barrel competition included: first place — Jennings with Eric and Jeremy Green; Oberlin's team, Matt Farr and Dan Mayberry capturing second.

Winners of the bikes and helmets donated by the Jennings Fire Department and the Jennings Ambulance were Kylie Farr, Oberlin and Mark Schippers, Hoxie.

Jasmine Wahlmeier, 6, daughter of Dan and Shelley Wahlmeier of Clayton, was named the 2008 queen. She will preside in that capacity over the 2009 Firemen's Fun Day. She was crowned by Mrs. Sappa Valley Melinda Enfield and Fire Chief Kerry Green. Carrie Buhler was emcee.

Her attendants were Ashley Vacura, Allison Hartzog, Sarah Buhler, Sarah Green and Lisa Green.

Most of the four roast hogs were enjoyed by the crowd at the lunch counter with the leftovers sold at the auction.

Winners of the items offered by the fire department included: Terri Hanke, television; Vic Rit-

ter, boom box; and Craig Ritter, DVD.

The cake walk drew many participants and the pony rides, giant slide, and dunk tank were busy most of the day. The coin tank and the train rides were also popular events.

Winners of the tractor pull were:

First place: Dylan Green, Hays; Kennedy Yeager, Norton; Brandon Vacura, Jennings; Christofer, Almena; Seth Otter, New Almelo; Matt Vacura, Norton; Andrew Wood, Oberlin; Teigan Ellegood, Oberlin; and Jamie Soderlund, Oberlin.

Second place: Nathaniel Enfield, Oberlin; Tasryn Fleckenstein, Jennings; Hanna Elizabeth Hollars, Oberlin; and Sarah Lamm, Colby.

Third place: Andrew Meitl, Selden; Anna Carter, Oberlin;

Maria Geishler, Oberlin; Ashley Vacura, Omaha; William Enfield, Oberlin; and Drake Rowh, Hoxie.

The garage sale netted in excess of \$800 for the firemen and the bake sale added \$220 to the renovation fund for the Masonic Hall.

Winner of the Heritage Museum barbecue grill was Terri Hanke, who returned the item to be auctioned off with the additional proceeds going to the museum.

The camera provided by the Historic Building Preservation Committee was won by Don LaRue of Stockton. Proceeds will be used to repair the Masonic Hall.

The auction and street dance climaxed the day's activities.

Ron Cooper of Selden was the auctioneer and Mobile Music Express provided music for the dance.

Board looking for volunteers

Special to The Telegram
 The Norton School Board has been reviewing its facilities over the last year. Some areas of concern were identified in two reviews conducted by two separate outside consultants.

Some of the areas in need identified included electrical supply, upgraded air conditioning, windows and doors, more space for early childhood education programs, improved handicap accessibility, lack of administrative space at Eisenhower Elementary, need for locker room and lobby expansion at Stull Gymnasium, more indoor physical education space at Eisenhower Elementary, and the need for "storm proof" spaces at each of the schools.

The Board of Education believes that the areas identified have significance and more consideration of these and possibly other areas of need are warranted. Accordingly,

the board has approved a plan for further review of the identified areas of need.

The first step is to form a study group which will have the major responsibility of communicating to the board if they believe the identified areas and needs are significant and in need of being addressed. If so, the group will also be asked to give the board a prioritized list of those needs and communicate to the board whether or not they think a bond issue should be pursued to address those needs. It is planned that the group will be made up of site council members, community members and school personnel.

The first meeting of this group will be held before the end of September. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on this very important committee please contact Superintendent Greg Mann at 877-3386.

Logan: Warnocks entertain

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ing of the Warnock Family from Branson, Mo. The Warnocks are a family of five members, Mom Sandi, Dad Jamie, and daughters Ashlee, 19; Anna, 17; Rhonda, 16 and Emilee, 13.

The Warnocks' unique style has been enjoyed by all ages throughout the country. They sing and dance to an eclectic array of music from the 1920s to the present day and their musical format moves quickly from Oldies to Rock 'n Roll, Gospel to Pop, then Country and even some of their own original music.

Most recently, the Warnocks have performed with Andy Williams at the Moon River Theater in Branson.

The McLemore Family from Colby is becoming a favorite bluegrass band and will begin performing at 7:30 p.m. Noted especially for their tight a cappella harmony and good family fun, the group puts on a professional but relaxed

stage show with a flair that pleases audiences and also incorporates some off-the-wall "fun" stuff.

Traditional bluegrass lovers, too, find the high lonesome harmonies and pickin' done "just right" on the older style tunes.

Twenty-one-year-old twin brothers Blake and Brandon charm audiences with their heart-warming smiles and genuine personalities.

Other members of the group are the driver and funny-man Bob (Dad), who is a solid rhythm guitar player and Sue (Mom), who plays a 1930s Gibson Mastertone banjo. All members share in the lead and harmony vocals, which allows them to do quite a variety of tunes.

The grand finale will come after sunset when Rainbow Fireworks of Inman lights up the sky with a fabulous display of fireworks that can be seen for miles.

As always, there is no admission fee for this full day of fun for family and friends!

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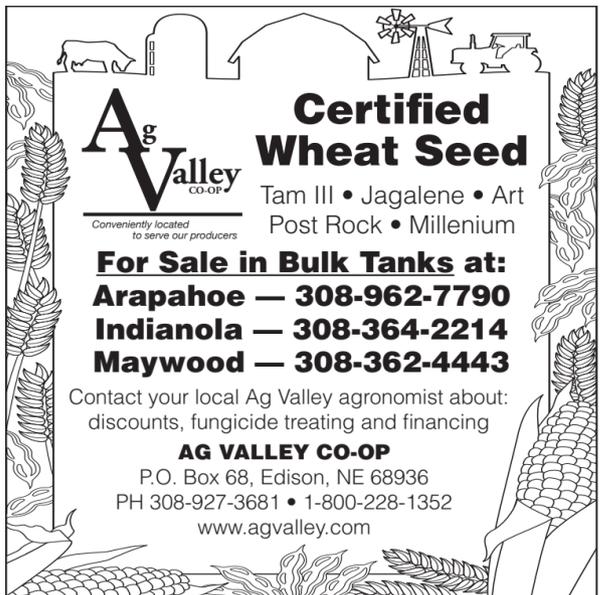
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