

Police standoff near Bird City ends peacefully

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A standoff at the Country Trader Gun and Pawn Shop south of Bird City ended after seven hours Monday afternoon with state troopers and sheriff's deputies arresting the owner on a felony warrant.

Teams of specially trained troopers backed up by Cheyenne and Sherman County sheriff's deputies and a Highway Patrol helicopter surrounded the house and arrested Vertie Earl Bolyard, 69, as he was walking along a tree line east of the house about nine miles south of Bird City.

About two dozen officers were involved, and members of the Highway Patrol's Special Response Team had been rushed in to handle the situation.

Once the team members arrived, a squad of four to six officers was dropped behind a tree line on the north side of the property about 4 p.m. Mountain Time. They moved into position to be able to see the house and surrounding buildings.

An hour later, a second group was taken to the house, followed by sheriff's deputies from both counties and more troopers.

The officers could see Bolyard outside his house, and he went out by a shed to the west of the house. About 30 minutes after the second team and officers went down Country Road 28, officers reported the team had arrested Bolyard near the tree line.

After the arrest, Bolyard was being taken to the Sherman County Batille in Goodland when he complained of chest pains. He has a history of heart problems and has a pacemaker. The Cheyenne County, Sherman County and State Patrol vehicles pulled over on County Road D and asked for a Cheyenne County ambulance.

The ambulance took him to Goodland Regional Medical Center about 5 p.m.

Earlier, State Trooper Troy Gardner said they were being careful and taking things very slowly to keep anyone from being hurt. Gardner and the other officers were gathered at a command center at an abandoned house on a hill about half a mile northwest of the gun shop.

"We are not trying to escalate this," he said. "He is the one who escalated it. We hope to end this peacefully."

Highway Patrol officers remained at Bolyard's home to secure and search the house, gun shop and outbuildings.

St. Francis Police Officer Norvin Anderson said the incident

began when he tried to stop Bolyard outside of St. Francis about 8:30 a.m. Mountain Time to serve a felony warrant.

Anderson said Bolyard took off, but then stopped when Anderson turned on his siren and lights.

"I thought this was going to be easier than expected," Anderson said. "When I got out to serve the warrant, he took off in a white Chevy pickup."

Anderson said he and a state trooper gave chase and the speed was up to 85 mph at times on the county roads.

Shortly after 9 a.m., there was a report that Bolyard was headed back to his home.

The trooper asked the Sherman County sheriff's office for assistance about 8:50 a.m., and a deputy was sent to block Sherman County Road 28 at the county line.

The house is about four miles north of the Sherman county line and nine miles south of U.S. 36 on the main Bird City-Edson road, known as Road 28 in Sherman County. It is nine miles east of K-27.

Troopers at the scene asked for the Special Response Team, and the squad was organized and officers were on the scene by mid-afternoon. Some had to be flown in; others came by car and special vehicles.

Troopers and sheriff's deputies blocked the roads around the house and were watching through binoculars. Bolyard was seen moving around in the yard, but there were no reports of whether he was armed.

Officers were told to keep their distance because Bolyard reportedly had a 50-caliber gun.

A Cheyenne County deputy, Mark Davidson, said they blocked the area and waited for the arrival of the special response team before any decisions were made.

At the courthouse in St. Francis, officials said there was a warrant for Bolyard, but it wouldn't be in the public file until it is served. That is standard procedure.

About noon it was reported Bolyard's phone had been turned off, and his daughter, Cindie Yarger of Goodland, had been turned back at the roadblock.

There was a question about the whereabouts of his estranged wife, Rose, and son Clyde, 12, but it was confirmed later that they were safe. She works at the Bird City Post Office.

Bolyard's gun shop, north of his house, is stocked with rifles, shotguns and pistols of every size and caliber, plus ammunition for most of the guns.



Ryan Blecha kicks up the dust and the base as he makes a sliding steal in a game with Hoxie.

— Telegram photo by Charlotte Stephenson

Top girls team ends at 7-1

First Choice Insurance ended the Division I girls softball season on top with a 7-1 record. NCK Contractors was next, 6-2; followed by Logan Lions Club, 4-4; Bug Busters, 3-5; and All Clean Carpets, 0-8.

First Choice Insurance 15, NCK Contractors 3

On June 20, First Choice took the lead in the bottom of the first with runs from Katelyn Engelbert, Nicole Tacha, Darcy Bainter, Marisa Maddy, Adrienne Hager and Kortney Cunningham.

NCK made it on the board in the second with Shayna Vincent and Skylar Davis rounding the bases. First Choice upped their lead with five more from Engelbert, Tacha, Bainter, Maddy and Hager.

Engelbert, Tacha, Bainter and Maddy each crossed home base for First Choice in the third.

Brooke Baird made NCK's final run in the fourth.

Bug Busters 12, All Clean Carpets 9

All Clean Carpets took the lead in the first on June 20 with Katera Johnson, Hanna Brooks and Ashley Hildebrand coming in.

Bug Busters made two in the first with Makayla Cadwalader and Lexi Voss crossing home base.

Bug Busters jumped ahead in the second with runs from Cristine Nelson, Hannah Pollock, Cadwalader, Voss, Riekele Green and Audrey Morel. The team added another three in the fourth with Voss, Green and Morel rounding the bases.

All Clean tried to catch up in the fifth with six from Morgan Olliff, Johnson, Brooks, Hildebrand, Johnnye Ruder and Shelby Mulford, but it wasn't enough for the win.

First Choice Insurance 14, Logan Lions Club 2

On June 21, First Choice's Engelbert scored one in the top of the first.

In the second, Cunningham, Molly Maddy, Engelbert and Kayla Coffey each rounded the bases for First Choice.

First Choice widened the gap further in the third with Hager, Cunningham, Peyton Renner, Morgan Griffey, Engelbert, Coffey, Tacha, Bainter and Marisa Maddy each scoring.

Logan made it on the board in

the fourth with their only two runs made by Michaela Girard and Libby Schneider.

NCK Contractors 15, Bug Busters 6

On June 23, Cadwalader and Voss started the first with two for Bug Busters, but NCK took a six-run lead with K. VanPatten, T. VanPatten, Baird, Brooke Hammond, Makayla Smith and Davis coming in.

Bug Busters added one more to its tally from Cadwalader in the second and one in the third from Desiray Skrdlandt.

T. VanPatten, Hammond, Smith and Davis crossed home base for NCK in the third.

The fourth brought two for Bug Busters from Cadwalader and Voss, and five for NCK from Sarah Baird, K. VanPatten, B. Baird, Hammond and Smith.

Logan Lions Club 13, All Clean Carpets 8

Logan took the lead in the first with three from Morgan Goble, Girard and Kodi Van Laeys on June 27. All Clean made it on the board in the bottom with one from Ruder.

Bohl scored one for All Clean in the second.

The third brought three to Logan from Goble, Girard and Van Laeys, and two to All Clean from Ruder and Hildebrand.

Logan widened the gap in the fourth with Goble, Girard, Van Laeys, Schneider, Christen Greving, Katie Babcock and Elizabeth Johnson coming in. All Clean made a last ditch effort to catch up with Ruder, Sylvia Estes, Hildebrand and Mulford rounding the bases, but it wasn't enough for the win.

First Choice 11, All Clean Carpets 4

On June 27, First Choice ended the first with one from Tacha.

All Clean made it on the board in the third with two from Brooks and Ruder. First Choice maintained its lead when Coffey, Bainter, Marisa Maddy and Hager crossed home base.

In the fourth, All Clean brought in two more from Jessica White and Johnson, but First Choice added six more to its tally with Engelbert, Coffey, Bainter, Marisa Maddy, Cunningham and Molly Maddy coming in.

NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Winners of the pool tournament held July 18 at the Cardinal Bar and Grill were Darrel Canfield, Norton, first place; Larry Lively, Oberlin, second; and Kevin Buffington, Norton, third place. The next tournament will be held Aug. 15.

Donnece Selvage and boys and Goldie Brewer of Colorado Springs were July 23 weekend guests at Troy and Deb Marshall's. They came especially to attend the wedding of Andrea Marshall and Adam Spanier on Saturday, July 23, in Oberlin.

Goldie Brewer, Colorado Springs, was a Friday afternoon visitor of Oran and Laverne Milner.

Nan Cook and Bee Nelson accompanied Ruby Cook of Clayton to Olathe on July 22 to the home of Chris, Shannon, Koby and Dayton Wermer. In the afternoon, Bee spent time with her daughter, Tara Nelson, and Anita Volskay. The girls went shopping but that was interrupted with a visit to the ice cream shop. Bee, Tara and Anita went to visit Bee's brother, Don Ward. On Sunday, Nan, Bee, Ruby and Ruby's grandsons returned home.

Lunch company of Rea and Dee Magers on Thursday, July 21, were Joy Luoto, Cedar Bluffs; Joy's sister-in-law, Heika Werlinger, and children, Kaleigh, and a friend, Stephanie, Tobin, and Brandee, Renton, Wash.; and Joy and Heika's nephew, Shiloh, from Sioux Falls, S.D.

Birthdays: Doris Auker - July 27; Kaitlyn Stapp - July 28; Fern Mapes - July 30; Carolyn Kelley-Plotts - Aug. 1; Claire Leslie - Aug. 2.

Gary and Linda Matson of Norton met Rea and Dee Magers at the Cardinal Café in Norcatour on Friday evening. They had a nice visit.

There will be a 3 on 3 basketball tourney in Norcatour on Aug. 13 for 5th grade and up. To register your team, call Dave Stapp at (785) 693-4509. Registration fee is \$21 per team.

Mr. and Mrs. Oran Milner went

to Denver Monday, July 18, where they celebrated a belated 97th birthday dinner with Vera Bishop. Also attending were Bruce Bishop, George and Wilma Bishop, Minnie Ruth Bailey. Oran also celebrated his birthday, on July 20. They came home Thursday, Jean and Ted Lee, Louisville, were in Norton so they went to the Brooks Motel for a visit. While in Denver the Milners visited a short time with Mike Bishop and Kim Bishop who were on vacation at Fort Collins, Colo. Kim left Aug. 1 for Costa Rica where she will be

teaching this year.

Guests of Lowell Sebaugh from July 18 to July 21 were Terry and Mark Cross of Olathe. They came to visit for a few days and take Lowell for a re-check at the doctor's in McCook on Thursday. Thursday evening they were joined by Janice and Rodney O'Hare, and Linda and Monty Hunt, for dinner at the Cardinal Bar and Grill.

MUSEUM UPDATE

Bee Nelson brought in pictures Lee Eckhart drew of sites while he was in Guam in 1945, which we

have photocopied. If anyone has good pictures of St. Mark's Lutheran Church being moved, please bring them in so they can be scanned and put in the city scrapbook. Bob Anderson, Class of 1943, brought pictures he took of the alumni reunion, Memorial Day march, etc. We would love to have more pictures of Norcatour happenings, recent and old, and any Norcatour high school pictures. Drop them off with Chris Dempewolf at the city office, or they may be sent to her c/o City of Norcatour, Box 89, Norcatour, Kan., 67653.

ELMWOOD PARK SPEEDWAY

MOTORCYCLE RACING

Norton, KS

Gates Open 4:30 p.m.
Races Start 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 14th

National Flat Track Racing Association • www.NFTRA.com 316-943-6929