



An 18-year-old Goodland man took this picture of an accident involving a police car early last Sunday morning as he and his friends were driving by on Main Street. Law enforcement officers didn't give him any trouble, but another young man taking pictures on the street claimed a state trooper harassed him and forced him to hand over his film.

Youth says his film was taken

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Rubio showed up and started snapping pictures.

They agree that Skyler asked for the film in Rubio's camera, but the young man refused to hand it over. And they agree that after a dispute, the photographer gave his film to the trooper, who later left with it.

Rubio, a 20-year-old who used to work for the *Sherman County Star* in Goodland and is now photo editor of his college newspaper at Butler County Community College, says he had just left his girlfriend's sister's house, where he was baby-sitting, when he drove by the accident.

He figured he could get a couple of pictures for the *Star*, he said, so he went home to get a camera. Rubio said he started taking pictures with a disposable camera, but then switched to the more-professional one he uses in college.

At first, he said, there were a lot of officers on the scene and no one paid too much attention to him. But most left after about 10 minutes, Rubio said, and Skyler walked over and started asking questions.

"He asked if I was the press," he said. "I told him that I worked for my school's newspaper. He asked if I had a press pass."

A police officer was there helping Skyler, Rubio said, but didn't say much, and stood aside when the trooper asked for the film. Rubio said he told the trooper he knew his rights, and legally he didn't have to give him the film.

"He got mad when I wouldn't give him the film," he said. "They just said 'Give me the film,' and then 15 minutes later they said they wanted it for evidence."

Rubio said Skyler wouldn't take no for an answer.

"He said I have two choices, either I give him the film or... then I interrupted him and said, 'Or what?'" he said.

Rubio said he argued with the trooper for about 35 minutes, and at one point while he was standing next to a patrol car, the police officer told him he was going to arrest him for disorderly conduct. He said he went and stood across the street.

Rubio said he left his camera on the top of his car while he was looking for his driver's license, which the trooper asked for. Skyler took his camera, he said, and tried to get the film out but couldn't figure out how to get the camera open.

Finally, Rubio said, he got tired of arguing and handed over the film. He said the trooper took his driver's license and used the information on it to fill out an evidence sheet. He said Skyler gave him a piece of paper saying he would get the film back later.

Rubio said he hasn't developed the pictures he took with the disposable camera, and he hasn't heard anything about the film the trooper took.

"They get a badge and they think they can run the town," he said.

Skyler, who moved to Goodland from Concordia in June, said he'd rather have his superior Lt. Winston, do the talking.

"Mike (Skyler) told me what hap-

pened," said Winston, "and basically Mike told Rubio he could take pictures, but not to take pictures of him."

Winston said Rubio purposely started taking pictures of the officer, and continued after the officer asked him again to stop. That's when Skyler asked for the film, he said.

"I don't know what Vince is trying to say," said Winston, "but Mike is a reliable young man and has been doing this for a while."

Winston said Skyler told him Rubio was being loud and abusive, so much so, he said, that the police officer on the scene warned Rubio he could be arrested for disorderly conduct.

At one point, Winston said, Skyler turned on the video camera in his patrol car to record Rubio's actions.

Though he hasn't seen the video, Winston said it would probably tell the true story.

"They say they did this and they say they did that," Winston said, "but then you take a look at the video and they didn't do any of it."

He said Skyler did need the film for evidence, and was right to give the young man what's called "an evidence custody receipt."

"He was doing things the right way," said Winston.

Winston said in his opinion the incident "falls about a hundred miles short of being a news story."

As for the film, Skyler said he was told to take it to the *Sherman County Star*, where it would be developed and returned to Rubio. The paper ran one of the pictures in this week's edition.

Chaffman, who plays bass guitar.

Last year, the group was selected to be featured on national radio, when "The Conman Radio Show" played their music on "Bar Bands and Basement Tapes."

"The show has helped bring the group to a national audience that otherwise hasn't had a chance to hear us," said Stony.

Since that airing, the Conman has played songs on his show from the group's debut compact disc many times and has featured them on the "Best of the Basement Tapes" show.

On April 29, the band opened in concert at Colby with "The Great Divide," recording artists with Atlantic Records, at a show hosted by the Conman. The following week, they took part in the "True Value Country Showdown," at Hays. It was a national country music competition, where the

group was chosen as the best band in the competition.

"This was our first time performing in Hays, although we have played in the surrounding area," said Sheldon.

"The showing at the competition really gained the group a new fan base that wasn't previously aware of the band's music," said Karen.

Tickets for Thursday night's show can be purchased in advance at Kickers, KLOE, and Mr. Jim's His Shop at \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. or at the door for a cost of \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12.

Opening acts for the show will include Heartland Harmony, Andra Townsend, and the Stephens Sisters.

Hospital gets money from sale

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been on any committees since he joined the board in June 1999.

Chief Financial Officer Andy Laue reported that there was a net loss of \$17,500 in June. He said gross patient revenue continues to decline.

"How are bad debts?" asked board member Larry McCants.

"It's one of those things you never know about," Laue said. "We haven't got hit with any huge amounts from bankruptcy. I think our percentage should be down."

Chaddic said the hospital was still waiting to receive a check from the county on the sale of the old Medical Arts clinic on June 13. Laue said he estimated that there would be another \$40,000 loss from the sale. Since the meeting, the check has been received.

For his report, Chaddic said the hospital had received a notice from the state which said it needed to name an in-house officer to deal with requests that come in for information in open records. Laue was unanimously appointed to the position.

"How did we come out on the deadline for external and internal newsletters?" Hoelting asked.

Penny Nemechek, administrative assistant, said the internal newsletter had gone out and that the external one was being produced.

"It should be out by Sept. 1," she said.

The newsletters are to inform the hospital staff and the public about what's going on at the medical center.

Dale Schields and Brenda McCants, board members of the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation, came to discuss the idea of hiring a Fort Worth firm, Cargill Associates, to do a fund-raising campaign and to see if the hospital board would share the cost. A tentative agreement between the foundation and the hospital board was made on splitting the cost if the company is hired, but at this point, no contract has been signed.

During board input, member Joyce Moore said that she and Schoenthaler, who are liaisons to the Rural Health

Ventures board, had attended their first meeting. She said it was a short one.

"I think they were glad to see us," Moore said.

Irvin asked if she had anything to report.

She said no, because they didn't do much.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel. After the session, a motion was approved to retain Leon Nielsen as certified registered nurse anesthetist.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29, in the hospital board room.

City may buy 'firm' power

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Waggoner.

"The operation will allow the maximum benefit to citizens and will minimize the overall cost," he said.

He said that if the city wasn't able to get power from Sunflower during a time when the open market cost is high, it could bankrupt the city.

The commissioners urged the staff to continue to look into the project, and bring back a three-year contract for them to consider.

The city could eventually save up to \$180,000 in purchasing costs in the future, Waggoner said.

Goodland resident Ron Asbury questioned the commissioners on recycling and streets.

Asbury said that he had heard rumors about the city starting a recycling plant now that two private recycling plants are closing.

City Manager Ron Pickman said that Jeremiah Wickham plans to start a curb side recycling service in September, and so the city had no plans to start a center at this time.

Asbury also wanted to know if the city was ever going to do any repaving on the streets.

"I want to know if the streets are ever going to get anything more than chipping and sealing," said Asbury, "or are we going to be stuck with the cheap stuff?"

Pickman said that many streets are paved only with chip and seal, with no asphalt base, so the work that is being done now is the best that the city can do with the current budget.

Pickman talked about the work being done on K-27. Starting Tuesday, he said, the entrances on the east side will be closed one at a time so that paving can be replaced while access to busi-

nesses is still open.

It may be another year before work on K-27 is finished, said Pickman, as the contractor is behind schedule. He said that the company has another job going.

"The other project is big enough that it is their first priority," said Pickman, "and they aren't concerned about the late fees that they will be charged if they are late on K-27."

The commission approved changes to the hedge and tree ordinance after discussion.

"I think we should take care of it if it is a safety hazard, but I don't want the city to go through and cut down all the trees," said City Commissioner Rick Billinger.

In other business, the commission:

- Passed home occupation special use permits for Bob and Mary Harkins, 815 Walnut Avenue, for a home crafts business; Stuart and Kerry Bassett, 1420 Walnut Avenue, for a day care center; and Shawn Jarmin, 724 Arcade Avenue, for a dog grooming business.

- Adopted the budget for 2001

- Passed ordinances attesting to an increase in tax revenue, to inform the public about an increase in revenue for the city, adopted the state code books for traffic and public offenses, and passed a resolution to waive the requirements for generally accepted accounting principles and fixed asset accounting which the city has to do every year.

- Voted to pay \$104,552 to Rhoads Construction for work on Steever Waterpark; Associated Pool Builders \$20,200 for work on Steever Waterpark; and Clarke Well and Equipment, \$59,031 for work on the water well improvement project.

Gore visits his hometown school

CARTHAGE, Tenn. (AP) — Visiting an elementary school in his hometown, Al Gore said Wednesday he wasn't afraid of having a running mate who disagrees with him, and he promised his administration would oppose school vouchers.

Running mate Sen. Joseph Lieberman has taken more conservative positions than Gore and has expressed support for experimenting with giving parents vouchers to pay for private schools for their children. Gore and most Democrats say that could undermine public education.

At the day's opening event, Lieberman was questioned about his views on school vouchers and he played down where Gore and he disagree.

"The differences are very, very few," said Lieberman. "We share values, we share a vision for the future."

He ticked off a list of education issues, saying: "On all of those other things, Al Gore and I agreed."

"I'm not afraid to have a vice president who disagrees with me on some issues," said Gore, who quickly added: "Our administration will be opposed to private school vouchers."

Gore, in his pitch to voters, vowed "to elevate" the tenor of his White House battle against Republicans George W. Bush and Dick Cheney.

"I will not say a single negative word

about Governor Bush or Dick Cheney," said Gore, who has kept up a steady drumbeat of criticism for both Bush and his running mate. "I will not have a single negative, personal attack on either one of them. We want to elevate the campaign."

"We are going to run a campaign that honors the American people," he added.

The new ticket, families in tow, went to Gore's hometown for a photo-friendly gathering at Gore's red brick farmhouse set in the hills of middle Tennessee and for a town meeting at an elementary school where about 150 people gave accounts of "how Gore fought for changes that made real differences in their lives."

"Stand up and talk to me and tell me and my family about Al Gore," Lieberman urged. "Make it personal."

Lieberman was reciprocating later in

the day, taking Gore to his hometown of Stamford, Conn.

In Carthage, he credited Gore with making history by picking a Jewish running mate. "You break one barrier and everybody else goes forward," said Lieberman.

Gore said he wanted the first campaign stop after unveiling the ticket to be in his hometown.

"Everything important in my life, it seems, has started right here in Carthage," said Gore. "These folks are my people."

On their hometown tour, both men focused heavily on core values they have stressed in opening the race.

"It was here that I learned to cherish faith, family and community," Gore said. "It was here that I learned the importance of honor, responsibility and doing the right thing."

Local band to perform at Goodland fair

"Exit 17," a local band, will appear in concert Thursday night at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

Band member Stony Wilson, who plays guitar and sings, said the show which will start at 8 p.m. promises to be a big production, as a sound and light company has been commissioned for it.

"This show will be a treat for people who are used to seeing us at dances, since the production will be of such quality," said Stony. "We're really looking forward to bringing this show to our hometown."

The five-member band has played at clubs, county fairs, concerts and special events for three years.

The other band members are Karen Wilson, who sings and plays keyboards; Cody Wilson, who plays drums and sings; Shad Sheldon, who sings and plays guitar; and Tony

Drug team disbands

HAYS (AP) — The Kansas Highway Patrol's efforts to catch drug smugglers have dwindled because salaries aren't keeping up with those in neighboring states, officials say.

Drug interdictions on the state's highways have slowly gone from being the responsibility of a dozen troopers and six dogs to being the responsibility of all troopers. The last two-man, one-dog team for the Kansas Highway Patrol devoted strictly to catching drug smugglers disbanded last month.

As the drug interdiction unit has disintegrated, drug-related seizures by the patrol have declined:

- In 1995, the peak year, troopers seized \$1.9 million in cash, 58 vehicles, 83 weapons and drugs with an estimated street value of \$44.5 million.

- In 1998, troopers seized \$1.5 million in cash, 28 vehicles, 25 weapons and drugs with an estimated street

value of \$22 million.

- In 1999, troopers seized \$662,317 in cash, 23 vehicles, 37 weapons and drugs with an estimated street value of \$34 million.

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