


weather report



80°
noon
Tuesday

Today
• Sunset, 7:25 p.m.

Thursday
• Sunrise, 6:13 a.m.
• Sunset, 7:20 p.m.

Midday Conditions
• Soil temperature 71 degrees
• Humidity 54 percent
• Sky clear and sunny
• Winds southeast 13 mph
• Barometer 29.85 inches and rising

• Record High today 106° (1926)
• Record Low today 42° (1906)

Last 24 Hours*
High Monday 82°
Low Monday 63°
Precipitation none
This month 6.01
Year to date 13.14
Below normal 2.80 inches

The Topside Forecast
Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, a high in the lower 80s, winds from the north at 10 to 15 and a low in the upper 50s. Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high in the mid 80s, winds from the north at 10-15 mph and a low in the mid 50s.

Extended Forecast
Friday: Mostly sunny with a high in the mid 80s and a low in the upper 50s. Saturday through Labor Day: Mostly clear with a high in the upper 80s and a low in the 50s.
(National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

Obama plot tied to area

Burlington men held in Denver

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@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



Technicians prepared the stage at the Pepsi Center in Denver Tuesday for the afternoon session of the Democratic National Convention. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius was among the speakers on the

agenda for Tuesday night. Reports of a possible plot against candidate Barack Obama did little to dampen the convention effort.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

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

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Agents visit witnesses, sheriff's office here

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.

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 Burling-

ton 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.

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 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. Burlington Police Chief Randy Milburn could not be reached Tuesday.

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.

Girl meets Hillary as she tags along with delegate mom

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Getting to shake hands with Sen. Hillary Clinton at the Democratic National Convention in Denver is one of those moments a Sharon Springs girl will remember her whole life.

Catherine Walker, 13, daughter of Sharon Springs lawyer Etta Walker, said she was thrilled to get to meet Clinton and shake her hand at a Hispanic Caucus downtown Tuesday morning.

Her mother, a Clinton delegate and sup-

porter, said they also got to go to a gathering of Emily's List where Michelle Obama was speaking.

Walker said they had a great day on Monday, when Catherine got a guest pass that allowed her to get into the Pepsi Center. Etta said she and another Kansas delegate who had a daughter traded floor passes for a while so each girl could go down on the floor to experience what it was like among the delegates.

Walker said she was impressed with the surprise appearance by Sen. Edward Kennedy.

"I was glad to see Caroline (Kennedy

Schlossberg)," she said, "and it was a moving tribute and made me reflect and feel humbled to think about what the Kennedy family has been through."

She said officials tell the delegates not to bring in signs, but then someone comes around and hands them out, like the Kennedy signs people were waving when he came out.

Etta said she thought Michelle Obama did a good job, and that her speech was well delivered. She thought the video phone call at the end with Sen. Barack Obama was a

good touch.

In a video presentation shown Monday night before Michelle's speech, her husband said he had tried to date her several times and she kept saying no, but one night he offered to take her out for ice cream and she agreed.

"I thought it was a good comment when he said Monday, 'you want a persistent president,'" Walker said.

The delegate said she was looking forward to hearing Gov. Kathleen Sebelius talk on Tuesday, with Sen. Clinton to follow.

inside today



More local news, views from your Goodland Star-News

ATF agent details 'plot' as told by four arrested.
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Tennis starts Thursday
Senior Shonna Webster, who qualified for substate last year in doubles with Kaitlin Fugleberg, practiced her forehand. The girls take to the court Thursday in Cimarron. See story, photos on Page 11.

When was the last time you said something GOOD about Goodland?
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