

Fixing a leak



City worker Joey Snethen hammered bricks on Main Ave. on Friday, July 29, after a water leak forced the crew to tear up the street in front of American Communications.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Shop lifting escalates into federal drug case

By **Patty Decker**
Free Press Editor

What started out as a theft at Colby's Wal-Mart store in March involving two northwest Kansas people has escalated into a federal drug case involving a Colby man and a Goodland woman.

Jason Neal Hopkins, 31, Colby, and Tresha A. Carter, 27, Goodland, were indicted on seven counts in U.S. District Court in Wichita on Thursday, July 28, said Detective Sgt. Gary Shull of the Colby Police Department.

Hopkins, also known as Jason Davis, was charged with unlawful possession of firearms (a machine gun and a firearm with a silencer) in furtherance of a drug crime; manufacturing of methamphetamine; possession of prohibited equipment used to manufacture methamphetamine; receiving, possessing and disposing of a stolen firearm; possession of a machine gun; possession of pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine; and aiding and abetting.

Carter was indicted for unlawful possession of firearms; possession of a machine gun; possession of pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine; manufacturing; and aiding and abetting.

In the initial arrest about 10 p.m. on Sunday, March 26, Shull said, the police got a report of a theft at

Wal-Mart after employees saw a man (who later turned out to be Hopkins) run from the store with a bag of items.

Employees told police they saw the man get into a red Pontiac Grand Am.

One of the employees followed the vehicle as it fled and used his cell phone to keep in touch with the dispatcher.

Shull said the driver fled to the Oasis Travel Center area, turned back and headed east onto I-70, crossed over and then went west on I-70.

City and county officers chased the Pontiac, which got back off at the Colby interchange.

"The car ran a police roadblock that was set up at the bottom of the exit ramp and headed north on Range Avenue," Shull said. "The car fled at a high rate of speed on Range Avenue, including the speeds in the residential areas south of Webster Avenue."

Police lost sight of the car as they slowed down in the residential area, near the Colby grade school. Hopkins abandoned the car in an alley near Webster and Chickamauga, but within seconds, he ran in front of one of the patrol cars. He was captured in a fenced back yard, and after a struggle, he was placed in a patrol car.

Carter was caught after a resident told officers he saw a woman fleeing from the same alley.

"A search warrant was obtained for the 2000 Pontiac Grand Am, which appeared to contain a meth lab," Shull said. "There were 68 boxes of various types of pills as well as other items used in the manufacture of meth."

The car was registered to Angela Cook and Jerome (J.D.) Kruse of Oakley, but no charges have been filed against Cook and Kruse.

It was during the search that police found a fully automatic M1 carbine, along with another firearm and a suppresser (silencer) that also appeared to be fully automatic.

"Due to the seriousness of the crimes, the Drug Enforcement Agency was contacted," Shull said.

When he was booked into the Thomas County jail in March, Hopkins told officers that his name was Jason Davis.

However, FBI fingerprint records showed his real name was Hopkins and was wanted in two counties in Colorado as well as Sherman County, Kansas.

He has been in custody in both Thomas and Sherman Counties since this incident.

Federal agents picked up Hopkins from the Sherman County jail on Thursday, July 28, and Carter was arrested by the Quad County Drug Task force at her home in Goodland on Friday, July 29. Both were being held at the Federal Detention Center in Wichita.

Summer school has 120 students attending here

By **Kathryn Burke**
The Goodland Star-News

Summer school is in full session and 170 Goodland students were asked to study over the annual break.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the first day, Monday, July 18, 120 students showed up.

"They were very pleased with the turn out they had," he said.

Fifty students who didn't show up, he said, were on a list for teachers to call.

Selby said students who did not score well on state exams were asked to attend. Other students were

recommended by teachers because of grades or classroom performance.

Pam Hardy, a teacher at North Elementary, and Tara Mull, a teacher at Central, are in charge of the summer school program.

"They really are doing a great job for us," Selby said.

In preparation for the regular school year, playground work at West Elementary has been completed. Selby said the crew finished replacing about 60 percent of the wood with plastic material this summer, leaving the rest for next year.

"They've done a good job over there," Selby said. "It's looking pretty good."

He said the crew added gravel to the base under the playground.

The paint crew is finishing up work at the schools, he said. Their main jobs this year have been repainting the high school library and the outside of North.

"The summer crews have been good," Selby said.

In other business Monday, July 18, the school board:

- Approved bills for \$179,921.
- Approved hourly wages for the year. While teacher contract nego-

tiations will not be completed until later this month, Selby said, they want to get contracts out to hourly employees.

• Agreed to allow the school to sell used printing equipment. Selby said Dennis Friedrichs, technology teacher at the high school, wants to sell a printer, paper cutter and other items.

He said the school used to print their own calendars, but hasn't in several years. While the equipment was valuable, he said, with new printers and equipment, it has become outdated. The large items, he said, just take up space.

Selby said he will ask Friedrichs about a price. He plans to put the items up for auction on eBay.

• Accepted Andy Scheopner's resignation as head girls softball coach.

Resignation on board creates opportunity

By **Kathryn Burke**
The Goodland Star-News

Want to serve on the school board?

Applications are being accepted at the Goodland School District office for anyone interested in filling an open seat on the board.

Board member Danny Whalen, owner of the Dairy Queen franchise here, turned in his resignation last month.

Whalen reportedly is moving to Castle Rock, Colo.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said he hasn't received any formal

applications, but he hopes to have a good response for the opening on the school board.

He suggests anyone interested send a letter to the board.

He said a resume would be nice, but is not necessary.

Former board members who want to serve again can call Selby, too.

The law allows the board to appoint a new member fifteen days after notice of the opening has been published.

That puts the decision off until the week of Aug. 15, Selby said.

Selby said he thinks the board will wait until the next regular meeting after that, Monday, Aug. 22, to make a decision.

He said the board can start interviewing applicants any time.

The interviews will be conducted in a public meeting and so will the vote, he said.

Since the spot is normally an elected position, the board cannot go into a closed session to discuss the choice.

Selby said current board members have not discussed the criteria they will use to choose a replacement

board member.

"We have no plans," he said. "We have not talked about it."

Selby said the best applicants will be those willing to serve.

He said the board requires a lot of time for meetings and committees.

"We hope we get some people who want to help," he said, adding that an interest in students and education wouldn't hurt.

Selby said the board will be taking applications until they vote on the new member.

correction

An article titled "Radio personality faces charges" on Page 3 of the Tuesday, July 26, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* reported that Sherman County sheriff's officers said Heidi N. Cohn, wife of radio personality known as the Conman, had been beaten up.

Officers said they did not disclose the nature of the injuries to Cohn, but reported that her husband Chris Cohn had been arrested for battery.

The article said that in Kansas, officers are required to press charges.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said the officers are required to arrest the accused in domestic cases, but the county attorney has to press charges.

These mistakes were due to editing and reporting errors.

The article also said Cohn was released on Tuesday, July 5.

Records show he actually was released from the Sherman County Bastille at 10:40 p.m. on Monday, July 4, 48 hours after he was taken in. This mistake was due to incorrect information given to the newspaper.

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention

any failure to live up to this standard.

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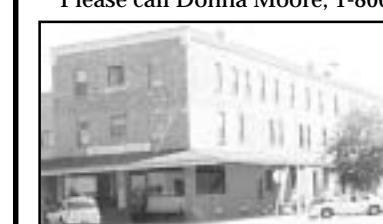
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315 Clark, Goodland

Owners loss is your gain! Originally listed at \$36,000 the owner says "sell it" for \$30,000 because we're leaving the state. This quaint bungalow has living room, eat-in kitchen, two bedrooms and bath on the main floor. Basement has a large family room, bath with shower, bedroom/office and laundry area. There's a storage shed and carport in the back. Great home for first time homebuyer or for your student...payments would be cheaper than rent! Please call Donna now to see this great buy!

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