

Needle in haystack gets library \$500

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Have you noticed anyone skulking around a park at odd hours? Crawling under benches, looking through the flowers and checking all the lights, maybe even pointing flashlights in the dark.

Don't worry. It was just the Winstons and the Gillihans looking for a needle in a haystack. Or it might have been the Emigs hiding the needle to start the search.

Monica Emig of Goodland, a field editor for "Country" magazine, was chosen to hide a 12-inch wooden needle in a public park in Kansas. She, her husband Eddie and son Justin went out early in the morning last summer, picnic basket in hand, to hide the prize.

The needle, after all, was worth \$250 to the finder and \$250 to a library or school of his or her choosing. As it wound up, in fact, the entire \$500 for the Kansas needle went to the Goodland Public Library.

Harold and Karen Gillihan and Barb Winston and her daughter Sydney, 12, were determined to find the treasure. They wrote the magazine for clues and received a poem and a map that narrowed the search to a 20-square-mile area in Sherman County, roughly from Edson to Kanorado with I-70 as the southern border.

"It's not up a tree, it's not down a hole," the poem said; "it's within your reach without being a mole. It's not down a ravine nor hidden in a brook; it can be easily reached, so you only need to look."

Thirty days later, they sent for a

clue that narrowed the search to the Goodland city limits.

Emig got a letter in April saying she was one of two people chosen to hide a wooden needle in Kansas. She needed to let the magazine know if she wanted to do it, so she sent a "yes" back the same day.

A month and a half later, she hadn't heard from the magazine and assumed the other person had been chosen.

Two weeks after that, she said, a box arrived with the needle, a bracket and instructions to attach it to something in a public park. It needed to be in place by June 5. She, Eddie and Justin went to Gulick Park early Friday, June 3, a chilly, wet morning, carrying a cooler with pop and snacks.

When the contest was announced in "Country," said Karen Gillihan, director of the library, she and the Winstons knew they wanted to find the needle, but they had a problem — there are a lot of public parks in Kansas.

They considered traveling around the state to look, as long as it wasn't too far away. When they got their first clue, though, they learned the needle was in Sherman County.

But that was still a lot of ground to cover, and they didn't want anyone else to see where they were looking, so they went out early on Saturday mornings to look.

Sydney said she was sent to Rosewood Park, across the street from her house, several times to look. Barb, Sydney and their dog Dakota went to several parks, looking high and low for the valuable sewing



Karen Gillihan (from left), Sydney Winston and Barb Winston sat on the bench in Gulick Park where they found the wooden needle hidden by Monica Emig of Goodland, a field editor for "Country" magazine. Photo by Erica Harlan/The Goodland Star-News

notion.

The Gillihans also were looking. Karen said they even went out at night with flashlights, thinking the plastic the needle was supposed to be wrapped in would reflect the light.

Meanwhile, Emig was keeping a secret, and every time she drove past Gulick Park, she could see the

needle from the street and knew it hadn't been found.

Finally, Tuesday, Nov. 22, all that searching paid off. Both families were searching in Gulick Park when Karen Gillihan found the grandly oversized needle attached under the bench where Emig had put it.

When the search was narrowed down to the city limits of Goodland,

Barb said, they decided Chambers, Gulick and Steever parks were the most likely places because they were the oldest parks. They had already eliminated Pioneer Park, since construction was just getting started when the needle was hidden.

But they were reluctant to think it could be in Gulick. With so many people holding family reunions and such in the park, they reasoned, how could everyone miss a needle for so long?

The Winstons and Gillihans had decided before they found the needle that the whole \$500 would go to the library.

"Barb and I talked about splitting the money," Karen Gillihan said, "but we love the library."

Kanorado men enter pleas in two cases

A Kanorado garage owner entered a not-guilty plea to possession of stolen property at his arraignment Monday, Jan. 9, before Judge Jack Burr in Sherman County District Court.

This is a case split off from seven drug charges also filed against Scott Baumfalk, 38. The allegedly stolen property was found during a search on July 1 at Baumfalk's home at 715 Center Ave., when police and federal officers were looking for bomb-making materials but found a drug lab.

Baumfalk was represented at the hearing by Richard Dinkel of Sharon Springs.

Court records show the property included three silver dollars, five gold state coin sets, 30 \$1 silver

certificates, a ruby-and-diamond necklace and a diamond necklace. The property was valued at more than \$500, making it a felony, the state claims.

In a separate case, Bob Handle, a Kanorado resident, was arraigned that Monday before Judge Burr and pleaded not guilty to breaking into an elderly woman's home in Goodland to rape her on Nov. 18. His lawyer is Kevin Berens, St. Francis.

Handle's next court appearance for pretrial motions was set for Monday, Feb. 13, at 9 a.m.

Baumfalk is still in the Sherman County Bastille with bail set at \$250,000, while Handle was released Friday, Dec. 2, on \$50,000 bond.

Board to narrow candidates for school superintendent

The Goodland School Board will select finalists to be interviewed for the superintendent's job when it meets Friday.

A screening committee from the Kansas Association of School Boards will make recommendations and the board will chose its favorites, said Selby. Then interviews will be scheduled with each candidate.

Selby told the board he was retiring as of the end of the school year at a meeting Nov. 21. The superintendent came to Goodland in July 1994 from the North Lyon County School District, north of Emporia. He has been in education for 47 years, starting in 1958 in Valley Falls.

In other business at the meeting,

the board will:

- Hear member Fritz Doke report on the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center.
- Approve the 2006-2007 school calendar.
- Talk about acquisition of real property.
- Discuss whether the board wants to sell any more of the land it owns north of Eighth Street.
- Review bids for a bus.
- Hold a closed session for personnel.

The board meets in the board room at the School Administration Office, 1312 Main. The meeting is being held Friday instead of next Monday, the regular day, because of the end of the application time for the superintendent's job.

corrections

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.

Firemen called to wash down Bastille, prisoner

Firemen were called to the Sherman County Bastille last Friday night, but not to put out a fire.

A prisoner had created a commotion in one of the cells and was refusing to let the deputies clean him up.

When confronted with the 200 pounds of pressure from a fire hose, though, the prisoner gave in.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said he called the rural fire department about 5 p.m. to help wash down a prisoner who had created a mess in his cell. Chief Kenny Griffith and fire fighter Justin Bentzinger brought a fire truck and were suited up to wash him down.

"He was unhappy with the medication we were getting for him," Butts said. "He stripped off his clothes and defected in the cell. He spread the feces on his body and

around the cell."

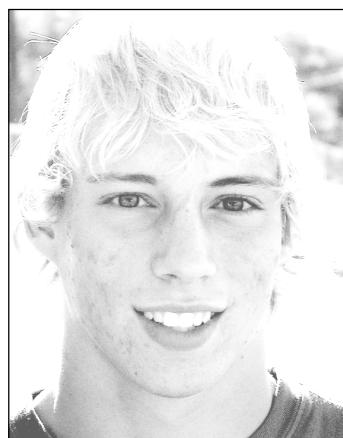
He said the man, Dana Scott Cooper of Cheyenne, Wyo., was arrested Jan. 10, by Goodland police for allegedly attempting to get drugs at the hospital with a false identification. It turned out the car he was driving had been reported stolen from a dealer in Fort Collins, Colo.

"We moved the other prisoners into the other half of the Bastille," the sheriff said, "and tried to wash him down with a hose. He kept hiding behind a mattress, and we had him cornered in the cell.

"I told him we would call the fire department, but he remained belligerent.

"When the firemen arrived and told him the water pressure would destroy the mattress, he quit arguing and gave up.

student of the week



Name: Wyatt Dautel

Parents: John & Coleen Dautel

Grade: 12

Age: 18

We've nominated this student because: Wyatt is a self-starter: he comes to class ready to go and gets to work on his projects right away. He is a very dedicated student. He is a polite and courteous young man. He is a joy to have in class.

Student Comment: I love the sports and activities that I am apart of, hanging out with friends, dances and my girlfriend. High school has been a time in my life full of memories, good times, unforgettable experiences, learning and of course studying: LOL! Physics and Engineering Principles are my favorite classes. I will always remember making sectional finals in football my junior year

and I will also remember being 1 inning and 2 runs from making it to state baseball the first year GHS ever had it.

Activities involved in at school: Football, basketball, baseball, G-Club, and Peer Counseling.

My choice of movies, books, and games: I like movies: Coach Carter, Passion of the Christ, The American Pie movies and Hardball. I like all kinds of music. Book: SLAM! by Walter Dean Myers. Baseball, Texas Hold'em and PS2 are games I enjoy.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: play college baseball and go into sports management, business administration, or some kind if medical field.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: a college grad, married, maybe with some kids, and hopefully doing something I love.

Favorite Quote: I've never been afraid to fail. That's something you have to deal with in reality. I think I'm strong enough as a person to accept failing. But I can't accept not trying.

—Michael Jordan

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.

—Vince Lombardi



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For more information or to see any of these properties, contact Rose Koggie 785-899-3060 or 866-899-3060.



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3 homes located on 63.44 acres adjacent to Sugar Hills Golf Course. The main home is custom built and offers 1,836 sq. ft. of living space plus a full unfinished basement, oak cabinets, main floor laundry, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, dining room, central air & heat, breakfast bar. The 2nd home is a 1990 modular with approx. 1,600 sq. ft. of living space with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room, dining room, family room, with a big deck. Third home is an older farmhouse that could be remodeled. Property has a newer well with several out buildings. Owner may be willing to subdivide property.

For more information or to see this property, contact Tom Harrison at 785-899-3060.

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