

Officers who dragged man at airport investigated

By Ken Miller
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Prosecutors said Monday they were awaiting results of an investigation into the actions of officers who were videotaped dragging a man face down across the Oklahoma City airport after he tried to break through security.

James Heidebrecht, 53, was arrested on complaints of trespassing, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest following the Feb. 20 incident at Will Rogers World Airport, during which he told officers he was trying to meet Newt Gingrich.

The Republican presidential hopeful was not at the airport at the time, officials said. Heidebrecht was released the following day and no charges were filed. He did not return a message left Monday at a phone number listed in his name.

The video, which is time-stamped shortly before 9 p.m., shows three officers confronting a man who can be heard yelling "I'm with the CIA. I'm the director of the CIA."

The video shows an officer shoot the man with a stun gun and he falls to the floor, yelling "OK, I give up, I give up," before an officer yells "get your

hands behind your back" and he is handcuffed.

Two officers then take Heidebrecht by the ankles and drag him facedown from the room.

The Oklahoma City Police Department's Office of Professional Standards is investigating the entire incident "because of our concerns with the actions of the involved officers," according to a department statement. The results will be sent to the Oklahoma County District Attorney's office.

Assistant District Attorney Scott Rowland said the office has not received the report,

but that the police chief briefed him on the incident "two or three weeks ago."

Police Capt. Dexter Nelson said the investigation is not complete and that there is no timetable for its completion.

"Any time an officer makes an arrest with the use of force, other than putting handcuffs on, we investigate," Nelson said.

Gingrich had arrived at the airport earlier in the day for an afternoon campaign appearance in Tulsa and an evening appearance in Oklahoma City. He spent the night in the city and left the following day after speaking to the Oklahoma Leg-

islature.

A Gingrich spokesman did not immediately return a call and email seeking comment Monday.

Will Rogers airport relies on Oklahoma City police for security and does not have its own force, spokeswoman Karen Carney said.

"We have the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) which is responsible for the security of passengers and aircraft and that sort of thing," Carney said. "But as far as law enforcement, Oklahoma City provides that. And they're on duty 24/7."



Former Oklahoma state Rep. Kevin Calvey, left, talks to an anti-abortion group at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City on Monday. Archbishop Paul Coakley, leader of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, marched with more than 100 people from an east-side church to the state Capitol as part of the rally to support what they said is the sanctity of life. Lawmakers are considering several anti-abortion measures this session that are endorsed by Oklahomans for Life, including a so-called "personhood" bill that declares life begins at conception. That measure has drawn fierce opposition from critics who maintain it would outlaw abortion and certain forms of birth control.

AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki

Anti-abortion group marches to Oklahoma Capitol

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The leader of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City marched with more than 100 people on Monday from an east-side church to the state Capitol as part of a rally to support anti-abortion measures before the Legislature.

Archbishop Paul Coakley delivered a mass at the Corpus Christi Catholic Church and then marched with the group to the state Capitol about a mile away.

Former Republican state Rep. Kevin Calvey of Oklahomans for Life participated in the march and said the goal of the event is to support the "sanctity of human life."

Lawmakers are considering several anti-abortion measures this session that are endorsed by Oklahomans for Life, including a so-called "personhood" bill that declares life begins at conception. That measure has drawn fierce opposition from critics who maintain it would outlaw abortion and certain forms of birth control.

Other bills that have been passed this year require abortion providers to make available the sound of the fetal heartbeat to a woman seeking an abortion and to make it easier to sue abortion providers.

Several petition circulators were on hand gathering signatures to place a separate "personhood" measure on the November ballot that would define a fertilized egg as a person.

"I think we have to respect the human dignity of unborn children," said rally participant D.W. Hearn, 66, of Oklahoma City. "We're coming together to show solidarity."

House OKs 'In God We Trust' for state motto

By Sean Murphy
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Oklahoma House on Monday approved a resolution declaring "Oklahoma - In God We Trust!" as the state's official motto, adding the state name and an exclamation point to distinguish it from the U.S. and Florida mottoes.

The state motto long was believed to be "Labor Omnia Vincit," or "Labor Conquers All Things," which appears on the state seal. But Rep. Danny Morgan said the saying never was officially authorized as the state motto.

"I'm going to call what is now located on our seal as our state slogan and let 'In God We Trust' be our motto," said Morgan, D-Prague. "I think they can run parallel to each other."

The resolution, which still must be approved by the Senate, was requested by one of Morgan's constituents, retired University of Central Oklahoma political science professor Carl Reherman.

Reherman said he researched state mottoes and learned that while the saying that appears on the state seal is

described in the Oklahoma Constitution, it never was formally adopted as the motto. He said that by linking the state and national mottoes, "it gives us a sense of unity and strength at a time of stress."

"One of the things I look at is that a motto should reflect the attitude and the thoughts and the patriotic beliefs of a group of people," Reherman said. "If I had my way, every state of the union would have 'In God We Trust.'"

The resolution notes that while Florida adopted 'In God We Trust' as that state's official motto in 2006, Oklahoma's motto is slightly different.

The entire idea of adopting a new motto is a waste of time and a slight to the state's residents who may not believe in God, said Ryan Kiesel, a former Democratic lawmaker and now the executive director of the Oklahoma chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"I think that this frivolous waste of legislative time takes away from the sincere meaning of our current state motto and discounts the fact that Oklahoma has believers and non-believers alike," Kiesel said.

BRIEFS

Panel OKs drug testing of welfare recipients

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A Senate panel has approved a bill to require drug testing for certain welfare recipients.

The bill by Oklahoma City Republican Sen. David Holt passed 5-3 on Monday in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, with Democrats opposing the measure. The bill already has been approved in the Republican-controlled House.

Holt removed from the bill an amendment added in the House that would have required drug tests for those seeking elected office. He described that amendment as a "stunt" by those who oppose the concept.

The bill requires those receiving Temporary Benefits for Needy Families, or TANF, to pay for a drug test and then be reimbursed if they test negative. Under the bill, children whose parents fail a test could receive benefits through a designated appointee.

Auditor to review education conference

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — State Auditor and Inspector Gary Jones says his office will investigate a conference held last year by a private foundation on behalf of the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Jones said Monday he plans to launch the investigative audit at the request of state Superintendent Janet Barresi.

Details of an investigative audit released earlier this month showed former Department of Education officials under the previous administration used secret bank accounts during a 10-year period that the audit described as a "slush fund."

It was learned during the investigation that a similar account used under Barresi's administration was used to finance a conference in 2011.

Barresi maintains the 2011 Innovation Conference held last summer represents the "very antithesis" of the way in which similar events were managed by her predecessor.

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