



JOE LESTER
Sheriff

DATE: Monday, July 28, 2014

SUBJ: **PRESS RELEASE by Sheriff Joe Lester**

Deputies arrest Norman woman for bringing gun into courthouse

Cleveland County sheriff's deputies arrested a Norman woman July 25 after she brought a handgun to the Cleveland County Courthouse.

About 12:50 p.m. Cynthia Bodnar, 52, of Norman, entered the courthouse through the east entrance. When Bodnar walked inside the building, one deputy asked her to place her purse on a conveyer belt that would move the item through an X-ray machine. Bodnar then walked through a metal detector.

The X-ray machine revealed an object that appeared to be a handgun inside Bodnar's purse. One deputy checked the purse and another deputy asked Bodnar if she had a gun in it. Bodnar told the deputies she didn't have a gun.

However, a deputy could see a zippered handgun case in the purse. The deputy opened the case and found a .22 caliber Taurus PT-22 semiautomatic handgun in Bodnar's purse.

The gun was loaded with one bullet in the chamber. Deputies also discovered a magazine with seven more rounds.

Bodnar told the deputies that she did not have a concealed/open carry permit and that her boyfriend put the gun in her purse and that deputies could have the gun. She also told deputies that her grandchildren were taken from her custody the previous evening. She was at the courthouse to attend a court hearing.

Deputies arrested Bodnar on complaint of unlawful carrying a firearm in courthouse. She was booked into the Cleveland County Detention Center. Bodnar bonded out of jail July 26, after posting a \$5,000 bond.

Sheriff Joe Lester said deputies did a terrific job of finding the weapon and possibly prevented a tragedy from happening at the courthouse.

"Deputies assigned to the courthouse division have the task of keeping the hundreds of people who are conducting business inside the building safe from harm," Lester said. "It is not an easy job and I appreciate their hard work and effort to protect citizens every day."

Any questions regarding this press release and/or information can be addressed to Meghan McCormick, Cleveland County Sheriff's Office, community liaison/public information officer. McCormick can be reached at (405) 701-8847.