

## **Car taken in Gothenburg recovered in North Platte**

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
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### **Cat stays warm in stolen pickup**

A car belonging to a local resident, stolen Jan. 28, was recovered the same day in North Platte.

Gothenburg police officer Joe Humphrey, who investigated the incident, said an employee of All Points Cooperative, 120 Eighth St., left keys in a 2010 Pontiac sedan.

Left at the business was a 1997 Dodge pickup, with a cat inside, that had been stolen in Osceola, Humphrey said.

Police alerted other law enforcement about the theft and through an investigation, the sedan was located near the Lincoln County Courthouse in North Platte, he said.

Humphrey said Michael Smith, 50, who lists Grand Island and North Platte as home, was arrested on charges of motor vehicle theft.

The cat was taken to Eastside Animal Center which serves as the city pound.

What people can learn from the incident, he said, is to not leave keys in vehicles.

“If you do, everyone coming through town can help themselves to your property,” Humphrey said. “Don’t leave your car unlocked or leave valuables in your car.”