

- Daily Leader staff report

A Memorial Hospital of Texas County employee who lives in Meade County was arrested Thursday and charged with embezzlement after she allegedly stole various medications while claiming to be suicidal.

According to a report written by Travis Ruiz in the Guymon (Okla.) Daily Herald, Kimberly D. Barnett, 43, was arrested on Thursday on one count of embezzlement stemming from an incident that occurred at the hospital on June 7.

“A Guymon police officer was dispatched Sunday evening to the hospital after Barnett allegedly stole medication prior to going off duty. Nurses also advised the officer that Barnett was suicidal after making several comments before leaving,” Ruiz wrote.

“According to the affidavit for probable cause filed at the Texas County Court Clerk’s Office, the medication was found missing by an EMT who reportedly found two drawers unsecured on the emergency room ‘crash cart.’ After checking, he realized no one had used it during the previous shift and that inventory had been taken and medication was discovered missing,” Ruiz continued.

“Surveillance footage was later viewed by the hospital CNO John Jones who reported to GPD he saw Barnett taking items from the E.R. crash cart.

“Because Barnett’s residence is in Meade Co., Kan., the officer then

made contact with a detective at the Meade Co. Sheriff’s Office,”

the report noted.

“According to the affidavit, the detective then got in contact with Barnett and she allegedly agreed she would meet him at her residence with the stolen items to be returned.

“According to Deputy Brown with the Seward County Sheriff’s Office, Barnett was then involved in an accident. She was transported to the hospital to draw blood. She was then placed in the ICU for a mental health evaluation,” Ruiz reported.

“Her vehicle remained locked up and secured in the Seward Co.

Sheriff’s Office. Deputy Brown then confirmed that the items in the driver and passenger floorboard were consistent with the items allegedly stolen from the Memorial Hospital of Texas County. In Seward County, she was charged with a DUID (Driving Under the Influence of Drugs), no seat belt, no insurance and disobeying a stop sign.

“The items stolen were estimated at \$1,373. Barnett was later taken into custody by the Texas County Sheriff’s Department and later released on a \$20,000 bail,” Ruiz added.