

Strung out on dope and caught in the act, 2 charged with theft

Two men were caught allegedly trying to steal a riding lawn mower Friday after a citizen called them in and police arrived as the mower was being loaded. One of the men tried to run away, but after being stopped by a K9 officer admitted to trying to take the mower because he was on dope.

Timothy Charles Counts, 49, Maple Lane, Loudon was charged with theft of property

(see Caught pg. 4)



Counts



Russell

Stolen steaks land woman in jail



Purkey

Police arrested a Maryville woman Tuesday after she reportedly stole over \$50 worth

(see Purkey pg. 6)

Hall nabs man with felony amount of weed

When Deputy Billy Hall stopped a vehicle along I-75 for speeding, he found over 40 grams of marijuana in the trunk after glimpsing a pot pipe and pill bottle in the glove box and asking the owner for consent to search.

Christifer Michael Love, 30, Ely Road, Hixson, Tennessee was charged with felony possession of marijuana.

(see Love pg. 7)



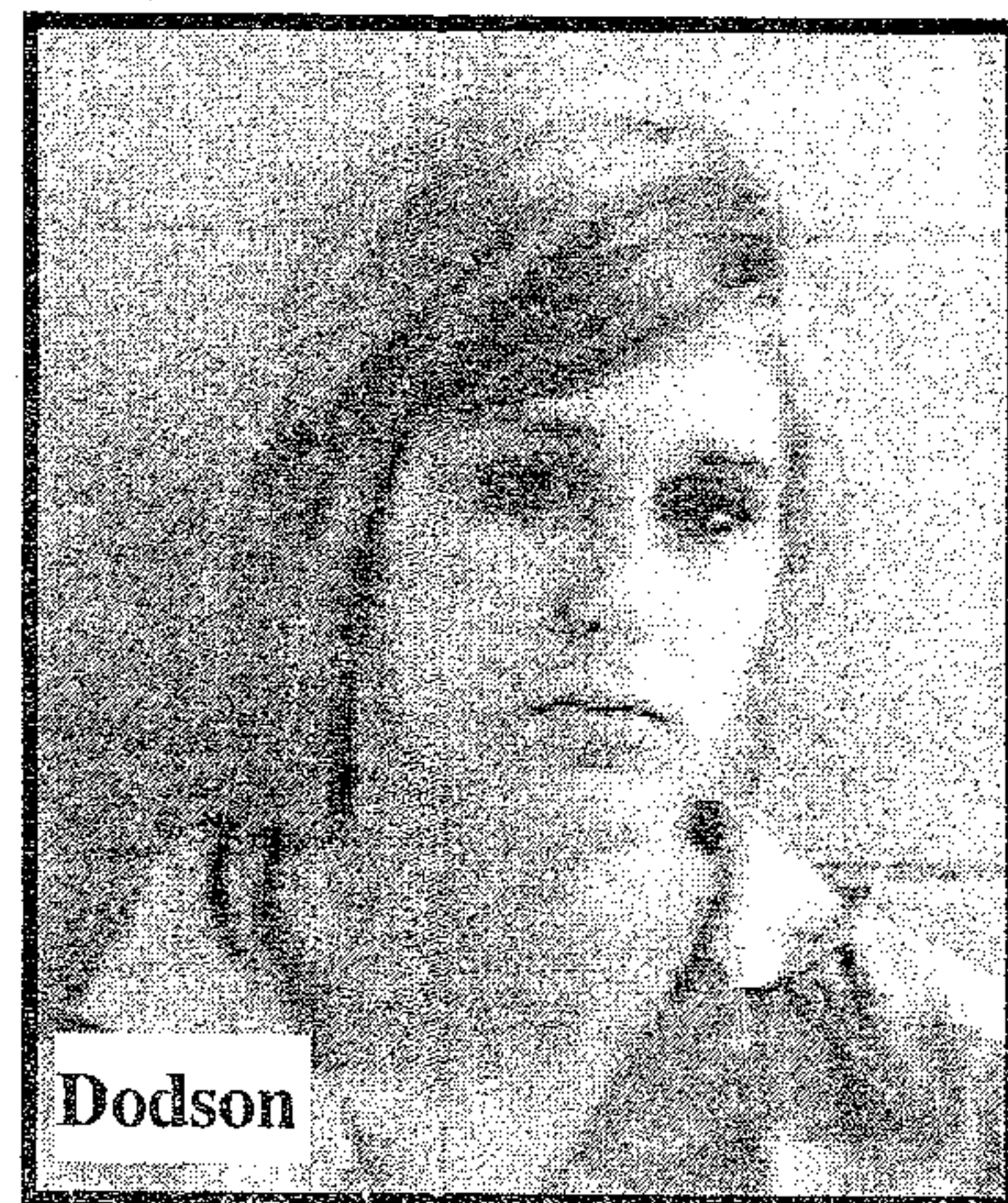
Love

All over the road, woman gets DUI

A young local woman was jailed Sunday after she reportedly ran a stop sign, then made a U-turn in front of Deputy Billy Hall and when stopped was found to be under the influence.

Chelsey Dodson, 21, Sinking Creek Road, Lenoir City was charged with DUI 1st offense.

According to records, Sun- (see Dodson pg. 3)



Dodson

Alabama Couple Found on TennCare, Charged with Fraud

NASHVILLE - An Alabama couple is charged with misrep-

resenting their residency in order to obtain TennCare health-

care insurance benefits.

The Office of Inspector

General (OIG) announced the (see Fraud pg. 7)

Verse of the Day

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox,

nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Exodus 20:17

Obituaries

Ada Norris Jenkins
Eloise Brown
Andrea Gaylene Opp

Wazzup

Happy Birthday Larry McKinney - 29 & holding???

Happy Birthday to Randy Harrell - hope it's great!

Thank you to Dr. Ameen

and staff for all the great care and concern.

Shaw Ferry East will be closed until Monday, March 7 for completion of curbs and paving.

Weather

Today: Cloudy. High 62.

Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight: Cloudy with occasional showers. Low 49. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 70%.

(see More pg. 2)

Dodson

day, around 2:34 AM, Deputy Billy Hall, LCSO witnessed a yellow Ford Mustang fail to stop at the stop sign on Morganton Road at East Coast Tellico Parkway. The vehicle then made a U turn in the intersection and sped back up Morganton Road.

Hall followed the Mustang for approximately one mile at speeds between 50 to 60 mph in a 45 mph zone. It was all over the roadway and crossed the center line dozens of times.

When the deputy activated his emergency lights the vehicle slowed to 30 mph and continued to drive in an erratic manner, but didn't stop for the officer.

He turned on his audible warning device and the car continued down Morganton Road for about a mile and finally pulled over in the parking lot of the Greenback Fire Hall.

The driver was identified as Chelsey Dodson. She had glassy eyes and it appeared she had been crying. Ms. Dodson also appeared confused and had slow speech. She told Deputy Hall she hadn't been drinking.

When Dodson got out of her car she was unsteady on her feet and had to use the car for balance. Dodson had an odor of an alcoholic beverage on her person and did poorly on all field sobriety tasks. She stumbled several

times during the tasks and admitted to drinking 1 beer.

Mustang all over the road, driver charged

Ms. Dodson consented to give blood and was transported to the ER for a blood draw and then to the Loudon County Jail.

Cleveland, Tenn. Hosts State Arbor Day Celebration

Cleveland – Recognizing the importance of trees to Tennessee, Governor Bill Haslam recently signed a proclamation declaring March 4, as Arbor Day. Arbor Day is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. This year's state celebration will be held in Cleveland, a Tree City USA community.

"Arbor Day is important for reminding us of the value of trees not only to our rural environment but to our urban areas as well," said state Agriculture Commissioner Julius Johnson. "TDA is committed to improving forest resources in Tennessee that contribute greatly to our local economy and environment."

Cleveland earned the honor of hosting this year's State Arbor Day celebration by being recognized as the state of Tennessee's Tree Board of the Year in 2010. A tree board is a group of local citizens with an interest and concern for their community's trees. They are appointed by the city to advise and assist in caring for trees in the community, and are

a requirement for achieving Tree City USA designation by the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Arbor Day celebration will take place at the Allan Jones Creek Ridge Pavilion on March 4 at 11 a.m. EST. This year's ceremony will recognize the City of Cleveland as a Tree City USA, Cleveland Utilities as a Tree Line USA and Cleveland State Community as a Tree Campus USA.

Founded by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872, National Arbor Day is celebrated each year on the last Friday in April. A number of state Arbor Days are celebrated at different times of the year to coincide with the best tree planting weather. Tennessee celebrates Arbor Day the first Friday of March every year.

TDA's Division of Forestry works to protect the forests that cover half the state and provides more than 42,000 jobs. Forests help promote clean water, wildlife habitat and recreation. Last year, TDA awarded more than \$200,000 in Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program community tree planting grants for 26 projects. These grants assist cities and towns in maintaining and increasing their tree resource.

For more information on the Tennessee Division of Forestry, visit www.TN.gov/agriculture/forestry. For more information on Arbor Day, visit www.arbor-day.org.

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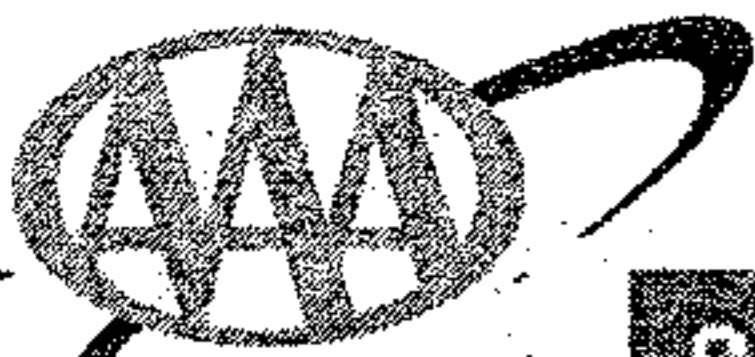
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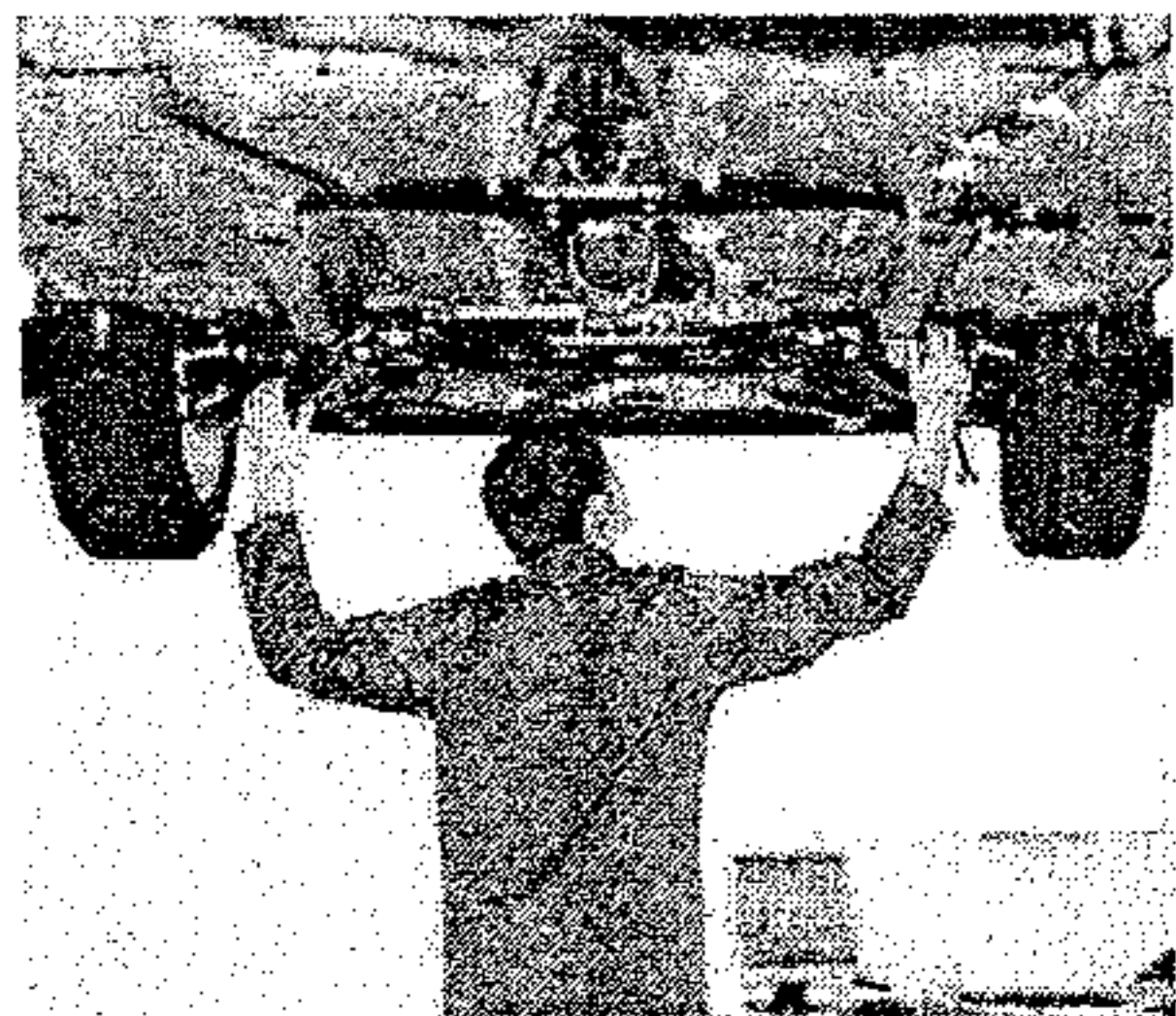
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Fraud

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Joseph Edward Russell, 46, homeless, was charged with theft of property and evading arrest.

According to records, the Loudon County Sheriff's Office received a call Friday about a suspicious vehicle occupied by two men on Watson Road in Loudon. When Deputy Michael Watkins, LCSO arrived in the area, the caller who was still on the line, stat-

ed it appeared the men were trying to steal a lawn mower from 3056 Watson Road.

The deputy made contact with a black Nissan truck and a man was at the rear of the vehicle trying to load a lawn mower into it. When he saw the patrol car he took off on foot.

Deputy Watkins exited his vehicle and yelled a loud verbal command identifying himself as a K9 unit and told the man to stop or he would release the K9.

The man entered into a thick area of brush and never came out the other side, so Deputy Watkins took K9 Denaro to the area of the brush and gave another warning to come out or he was going to release the K9 and the man refused.

Due to the severity of the crime and the safety of himself, the officer deployed K9 Denaro to apprehend the man, which he did by taking hold of him in the buttock area. The man struck the K9 causing the K9 to let go and reengage on

the arm area.

The man began being cooperative then, and the K9 was released and the man taken into custody. He was identified as Joseph Edward Russell and he told the deputy the reason he was stealing the lawn mower was because "he was on dope." EMS was called to the scene in order to give Mr. Russell treatment for his injuries.

The other man was found laying in a wooded area and was taken into custody as well. He was identified as Timothy Charles Counts.

The investigation was turned over to Investigator Charles Cosner, LCSO-CID. During the investigation, the owner of the riding lawn mower was located and gave a statement that he did not give permission to anyone to take his riding lawn mower. The mower was valued at approximately \$1300.

Police Beat

Cindy Denise Padgett, 53, Cedar Street, Loudon was charged with public intoxication.

According to reports, Officer Blake Norman, LPD responded to a 911 call Monday, at a residence on Cedar Street. When the officer arrived, he spoke with Mrs. Padgett on the front porch.

Padgett had a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage on her person and was very belligerent. She told the officer's when they left, she was going to cause problems and then she started yelling at her boyfriend while officer's were trying to talk to her.

Padgett did not comply with officers and was arrested for PI.

Heather LeeAnne Harrison, 26, Old Maryville was charged with violation of probation.

Deputy C. Huskin, LCSO made the arrest Sunday, at the Blount County Jail.

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Purkey

of steaks from a Lenoir City grocery store.

Tammy Cecilia Purkey, 49, West Odell Lane, Maryville was charged Tuesday with theft under \$500.

According to records, Food City Security observed Ms. Purkey selecting and concealing steaks in her purse.

Purkey was apprehended at the front of the store with merchandise totaling \$56.56. Officer Rick Eubanks, LCPD responded to the scene and made the arrest.

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Fraud

arrest of Christopher T. Smith, 31, and Brittany J. Smith, 23, both of Bridgeport, Alabama. The Bridgeport Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Office assisted with the arrests.

Both Christopher and Brittany were indicted by a Marion County Grand Jury and charged with TennCare fraud for falsely claiming to reside in Tennessee and failing to notify the state that their household resi-

dence is actually in Alabama.

The TennCare fraud charges against both Christopher and Brittany could result in a two year sentence, if convicted. District Attorney General J. Michael Taylor is prosecuting.

"We will prosecute anyone who knowingly misrepresents their income, address or employment to gain TennCare benefits," Inspector General Deborah Faulkner said.

The OIG, which is separate from TennCare, began full operation in February 2005 and has investigated cases leading to over \$2.5 million paid in restitution and recoupment to TennCare, with a total estimated cost avoidance of over \$171 million for the TennCare program, according to latest figures. To date, over 1,300 people have been charged with TennCare fraud.

Through the OIG Cash for Tips Program established by the Legislature, Tennesseans can get cash rewards for TennCare fraud tips that lead to convictions. Anyone can report suspected TennCare fraud by calling 1-800-433-3982 toll-free from anywhere in Tennessee, or log on to www.tn.gov/tnoig and follow the prompts that read "Re-

port TennCare Fraud."
Love

Matthew Dean Alexander, 29, Wynwood Avenue, East Ridge, Tennessee was arrested on charges issued in Hamilton County.

The report states, Saturday, at approximately 4:05 AM, Deputy Billy Hall, LCSO observed a yellow vehicle traveling south on Interstate 75 around the 70 mile marker. According to radar the vehicle was doing 74 mph in a 65 mph zone. Deputy Hall stopped it at the 68 mile marker.

There was an odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle and when the passenger opened the glove box Deputy Hall saw a marijuana pipe and a pill bottle containing marijuana.

The driver was identified as Christifer Love. The passenger was Matthew Dean Alexander.

After securing Love and Alexander, Deputy Hall conducted a probable cause search and discovered a plastic bag with a large amount of marijuana in the trunk area of the vehicle. Christifer Love claimed it as his. The total weight of the marijuana was 43 grams.

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