

DAILY EDITION

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, February 19, 2010

LCSO charges Greenback couple with meth, more

When deputies responded to a suspicious person call at the Greenback Co-op early Saturday, they reportedly found an intoxicated couple, meth and drug paraphernalia. Neither of the persons knew what day it was, and once awakened inside the vehicle, the female advised she thought she was in Sweetwater.

Matthew Paul Messmer
(see Couple pg. 7)



Matthew Paul Messmer III



Tallishi a Dezzaray Mason

Hiding didn't help; 4 charged

LPD charged four persons after officers went to a local residence to arrest a Vale Street man on outstanding warrants and were told he wasn't there, even though he could be heard moving around overhead in the attic.

(see Charged pg. 3)

Suspended drivers

Eduardo Mardoque Lopez-Lopez, 21, West Broadway, Lenoir City was charged with suspended license and financial responsibility.

According to reports, Mr.
(see Suspended pg. 4)

Walmart's reach is far, alleged shoplifter banned after Florida incident

A Lenoir City man charged with theft for allegedly shoplifting found himself facing an additional charge after Walmart researched it's data base and discovered he had been banned from the shopping giant after stealing from a Walmart in Florida.

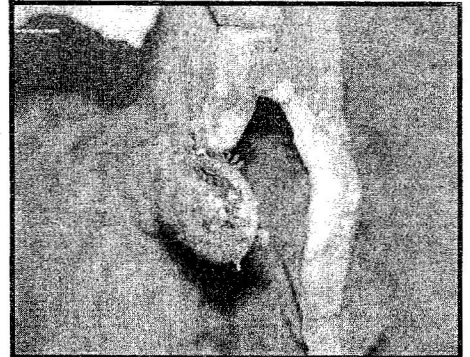
Matthew Eugene Gathers, 22, Town Creek Road
(see Gathers pg. 4)



Matthew Eugene Gathers

TWRA Confirms First Cases of White Nose Syndrome in Tennessee Bats

NASHVILLE -- The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has received confirmation that two bats have tested positive for White Nose Syndrome (WNS), a white fungus that is responsible for the deaths of thousands of bats in the Eastern United States.



This is one of two two-colored bats collected last week showing signs of White Nose Syndrome. (Photo by Sterling Daniels, TWRA)

This is the first record of White
(see Syndrome pg. 3)

Verse of the day

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

Obituaries

None

Weather:

Today: Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afternoon. High 47.

Tonight: Partly cloudy skies early will give way to cloudy skies with light rain and snow developing overnight. Low 31. Chance of precip 30%.

Saturday: Clouds giving way to sun. Highs: low 50s; Lows: mid 30s.

Sunday: Occasional showers possible. Highs: upper 40s; Lows: low 40s.

Wazzup

Remember the Sheriff's Auction is tomorrow starting at 10 AM, and registration

starts at 11 AM for The Lenoir City Band Boosters Guitar Hero Tournament fund raiser at the Lenoir City High School.

(see Horoscopes pg. 2)



Charged

Joshua Allan Underwood, 23, Vale Street, Loudon was charged with resisting stop, halt, frisk and arrest.

Robert Andrew Yelverton, 20, Steekee Road, Loudon; Carmen Jeanae Stegall, 18, Old Holderford Road, Kingston; and Kayla Michelle Viars, 19, Highway 72 North, Loudon were charged with obstruction of service of legal writ.

According to an affidavit filed by Officer Jonathan Yates, LPD;

on February 12th, 2010, at around 4:46 PM, LPD officers including Officer Yates attempted to arrest Josh Underwood at a residence on Pine Top Street for outstanding warrants charging him with violation of probation and domestic violence assault.

Mr. Underwood intentionally prevented his arrest by concealing himself in an attic located at that residence. He could be heard moving about the attic and it was found where access

had been made in a bedroom through a small opening in the ceiling.

After entering the attic, Officer Yates announced to Underwood that he was under arrest and Underwood continued to hide under insulation at the front of the house until physically apprehended without further incident.

Underwood was transported to jail, served with two outstanding warrants and additionally charged with resisting arrest.

Records indicate the others were charged after Officer Yates told them he had a warrant for Underwood's arrest and asked if he was there. Yelverton, Stegall, Viars intentionally prevented law enforcement from serving the warrant on Underwood by denying the fact that he was hiding in the attic. All three also were arrested and transported to the Loudon County Jail.

Syndrome

Nose Syndrome in Ten-

nessee. The bats were hibernating in Worley's cave in Sullivan County. Three tri-colored bats were collected by the TWRA and submitted to the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, Wis. for testing last week.

Last spring the state of Tennessee, National Park Service, and USDA Forest Service and Tennessee Valley Authority closed caves on public lands in Tennessee in an attempt to slow the spread of the fungus. The Nature Conservancy also closed caves located on their lands in Tennessee.

Scientists are trying to determine the cause of WNS and its effects. Once a colony is affected, the fungus spreads rapidly and has killed at least 95 percent of bats at one New York hibernation site in two years. Other northeastern U.S. monitored bat colonies affected by WNS are experiencing similar large fatalities. There have been no reported human illnesses attributed to WNS and there is currently no evidence to suggest that WNS is harmful to humans or other organisms.

Preliminary research results recently released by the United States Geological Survey indicates that the potential exists for WNS to be transmitted between bat hibernation caves as an unwanted hitchhiker upon humans, their clothing, or other caving gear.

"Temporarily staying out of caves and mines is the one thing we can do right now to slow the transmission of White Nose Syndrome," said Cory Holliday, Cave and Karst Manager for The Nature Conservancy in

Tennessee. "We knew the bat deaths in the Eastern United States were large. Here in Tennessee we stand to lose the last stronghold of bats like the endangered Indiana and grays. We have hundreds of thousands of bats hibernating in our caves each winter. With a 95 percent mortality rate the loss is catastrophic."

Biologists are concerned that WNS could devastate populations of endangered Indiana and gray bats. Bats play a key role in keeping insects such as agricultural pests, mosquitoes and forest pests under control.

"Bats provide a tremendous public service in terms of pest control, said Richard Kirk, Non-game and Endangered Species Coordinator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. If we lose 500,000 bats, we'll lose the benefits from that service and millions of pounds of insects will still be flying around our neighborhoods, agricultural fields and forests."

The disease causes bats to use up their fat reserves rapidly during hibernation. This causes the bats to fly out of caves during the winter in a desperate attempt to find food, but since the insects they eat are also seasonally dormant, the bats soon die of starvation.

State and federal agency biologists and non-governmental organizations are currently surveying caves in east Tennessee and other portions of the state. These surveys are being conducted as annual bat population surveys and to monitor for WNS.

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Gathers

Last, Lenoir City was charged Wednesday with theft under \$500 and criminal trespass.

According to records, Matthew Gathers was stopped by Walmart Loss Prevention officers for concealing a stick of deodorant and body jewelry, all valued at \$10.47 and made no attempt to pay for the items.

A check of Walmart's system showed Mr. Gathers had previously been issued a no trespassing notice after an arrest in a Florida Walmart.

Patrolman Jeremy Dishner, LCPD transported Mr. Gathers to the Loudon County Jail.

Suspended

Lopez-Lopez was operating a black Ford Ranger on Broadway at Grand Street. Sgt. Eddie Range, LCPD, had prior knowledge that Mr. Lopez-Lopez did not have a valid license and stopped him.

Lopez-Lopez also had no insurance.

Michael E. Pack, 30, Maple Lane, Loudon was charged with driving on suspended.

According to records, Patrolman Jeremy Dishner, LCPD was dispatched to a possible drunk driver at Zaxby's Wednesday. Dispatch advised a man driving a tan Lexus was intoxicated.

Officer Dishner spotted a tan Lexus in the parking lot between

Zaxby's and Hibbett's Sports. Mr. Pack was driving the Lexus and pulled back into Zaxby's and got out of the car.

Mr. Pack advised the officer his license were suspended. A check through NCIC showed it was suspended for failure to satisfy.

Jenna Raine Garland, 22, Hines Valley Road, Loudon was charged with driving on suspended license.

The report states Patrolwoman April Farmer, LPD observed a silver Buick traveling north on Highway 11 in Loudon at 51 mph in a 30 mph zone. The officer ran Ms. Garland's license through NCIC and it came back suspended for frequent traffic violations.

Garland was also issued a citation for speeding.

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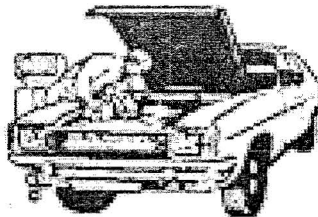
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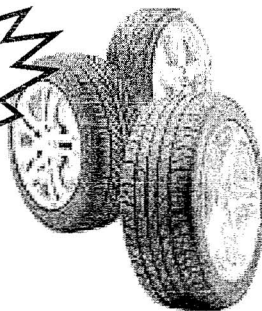
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Couple

mer III, 26, Craigs Chapel Road, Greenback was charged Saturday with possession of schedule II (meth), possession of drug paraphernalia and public intoxication.

Tallishi'a Dezzaray Mason, 19, Craigs Chapel Road, Greenback, also was charged with posses-

sion of schedule II (meth), possession of drug paraphernalia and public intoxication.

According to records, Deputy Chris Jenkins, LCSO assisted Deputy John Wilson on a call of a possible suspicious person inside the Greenback Co-op. Upon arrival, Mr. Messmer was outside the store and appeared to be

intoxicated by either alcohol and or drugs.

Messmer was asked if he knew the day and time and he stated it was Friday and past 2:00 in the evening.

Mr. Messmer was unsteady on his feet, had slurred speech, glassy eyes and appeared confused. He performed poorly on several field sobriety tasks. For the safety of the public and

Mr. Messmer he was placed under arrest.

K9 Diego was deployed for a drug sniff of Mr. Messmer's black Dodge 1500 pickup and when inside the truck alerted to the center console. Inside the console were two plastic bags with a crystal type substance believed to be methamphetamine, which weighed approximately 1 gram.

Also during the search, two rolls of aluminum foil were found, along with pieces of aluminum foil with burnt marks on them, a hot plate, several clear plastic baggies and a straw with white residue inside of it.

Records indicate Ms. Mason was

charged after she was found passed out in the pickup. Before attempting to wake her up, the officers noticed a white straw in Ms. Mason's lap area with a white substance inside of the straw.

After being awakened, Mason was extremely unsteady on her feet, with slurred speech and glassy eyes and she appeared to be intoxicated by alcohol or drugs.

Ms. Mason did not know the day, stating it was Tuesday, and she thought she was in Sweetwater.

Due to Ms. Mason's intoxicated state and for her safety, she was not given field sobriety tasks.

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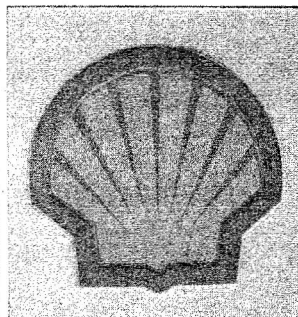
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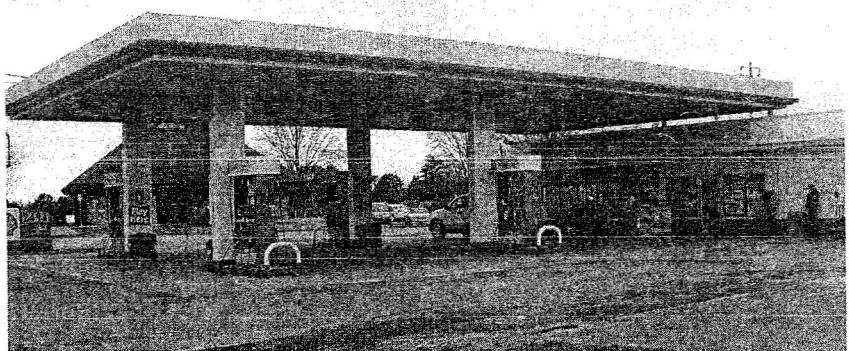
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