

# DAILY EDITION

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

## Newport man faces felony drug charges after rolling assault

A Newport man is believed to be making a living in the narcotics trade after police reported finding evidence he is visiting numerous pain clinics in the southeast to get prescription narcotics. The evidence came to light after he allegedly assaulted two women and cut the tires on his vehicle while traveling through Loudon County.



**Kenneth Dewayne Ledford**  
Aggravated assault by domestic violence, possession of schedule II for resale, possession of schedule IV for resale, and possession of drug paraphernalia

Kenneth Dewayne Ledford, 34, of 2323

(see Ledford pg. 7)

## Update: alleged shoplifter charged with earlier event

A Lenoir City man who was charged with stealing from Walmart just last week received an additional theft charge after Investigator Jonathan Sartin, LCPD investigated a similiar incident earlier this year and executed his warrant at the jail.



**Daniel Lee Dan Ernst**

Daniel Lee 'Dan' Ernst, 25, East 1st Avenue, Lenoir

(see Ernst pg. 6)

## Alleged drunk driver takes pot to jail

A local woman is accused of taking a marijuana cigarette to jail after she was arrested for reportedly driving under the influence of alcohol after police received calls on her poor driving abilities.



**Rachel Leah Russell**

Rachel Leah 'Padgett' Russell, 31, Eblen Lane, (see Russell pg. 3)

## Melton Hill Musky Anglers Asked to Participate in Study



The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is asking anglers to participate in an on-going study aimed at finding out more information about musky, a fish like the one in the photo above, that have been stocked into Melton Hill Lake since 1998. (see Study pg. 3)

### Verse of the day

Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40

### Obituaries

Virgil D. Plemons

Marjorie Biel Baxter

### Weather:

Today: Cloudy with periods of rain. High near 40. Rainfall may reach one inch.  
Tonight: Cloudy skies early, then partly cloudy after midnight. Low near 25.  
Wednesday: Windy with mostly cloudy skies. Cold.

High 32F.

### Wazzup

Hey Julie - Who Dat!?! - guess you told Dan! Congrats to the New Orleans Saints!

### Horoscopes Aquarius

(Jan 21-Feb 19)

Your family or coworkers

need your input today -- and maybe more than that! If they're scattered, they need your sharp mind to help them stay organized.

(see Horoscopes pg. 2)



1 4 0 7 9 2 1 7 5 1 4

**Study**

MORRISTOWN, - The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is asking anglers, who fish for musky on Melton Hill Reservoir, to participate in an on-going study aimed at finding out more information about this important fishery.

Tennessee Tech University and United States Geological Survey researchers have begun a multi-year study of the movements, habitat use, and thermal ecology of muskies in Melton Hill Reservoir located in Anderson, Knox, and

Loudon counties.

Muskies have been stocked into Melton Hill Lake since 1998 and a small, but popular fishery has developed that attracts anglers from as far away as Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The researchers are working with TWRA's Region IV biologists to capture several dozen adult muskies this winter using electrofishing gear. A small radio transmitter weighing less than one ounce with a life span of several years is surgically implanted into the abdominal cavity of each fish in the study.

Within a few weeks,

the incision heals and anglers will not know they have caught a radio-tagged fish unless they see the 15-inch, thin silver wire antenna extending through the side or bottom of the fish.

During the study period, researchers will be on the reservoir periodically with radio telemetry equipment tracking the tagged fish.

Anglers who have any questions should contact Jim Negus (jim.negus@tn.gov), Aaron Cole (ajcole42@tntech.edu) or Dr. Phil Bettoli (Pbettoli@tntech.edu).

The researchers would also like to hear from anglers who catch one of these radio-tagged fish regarding where and when they caught it. Some of the tagged muskies will eventually grow longer than the minimum size limit of 50 inches that goes into effect March 1, 2010, however, the researchers are hoping anglers will choose to release tagged fish unharmed so that the fish can continue to

provide data for the study.

This research is funded by TWRA, Tennessee Tech and the U.S. Geological Survey.

**Russell**

Lenoir City was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and introduction into a penal institution.

According to records, Deputy Craig Brewer, LCSO received a call Wednesday of a possible drunk driver and located a blue Ford Escape turning off of Highway 11 onto Sugar Limb Road. While turning, the Ford Escape almost collided with a vehicle in front of it.

It almost hit the vehicle in front of it again near Loudon Ridge Road before turning onto Loudon Ridge Road in the wrong lane of traffic.

When Deputy Brewer activated his emergency equipment the vehicle sped up to almost 60 mph in a

35 mph zone and was driving in both lanes.

Mrs. Russell finally stopped at Dry Ridge Road. She could not follow commands and had an odor of an intoxicating beverage about her breath and person. Mrs. Russell had bloodshot eyes, slurred speech and was very unsteady about her balance on exiting the vehicle. She did poorly on field sobriety tasks.

Mrs. Russell was read the implied consent law and agreed to have blood drawn for blood alcohol content.

The deputy asked if she had any narcotics or drugs on her or in her possession and Russell said no. On arrival at the jail, Deputy Norman asked Mrs. Russell the same questions and when her purse was searched, a hand rolled cigarette with a green leafy substance in it believed to be marijuana was found. Mrs. Russell reportedly knew it was in her purse and did bring it into a penal institution.

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**Chocolate Fest**  
Where: New Providence Baptist Church at The Youth House, 245 White Rd., Loudon, TN 37774, (865) 986-5895  
When: February 6, 2010  
Time: 2pm- ?  
Cost: What size Covered Box you want? \$2, \$3, or \$5.  
Register for Door Prize  
All go to The Kingdom Project Mission Work coming in July 2010.

### Ernst

Ernst was charged with theft under \$500.

According to the report, on or about January 13th, 2010, Dan Ernst went to Walmart on Highway 321 in Lenoir City where, according to security personell, he went into electronics and took 4 X-Box Games.

Ernst then went over to the furniture aisle,

took out a knife, cut the cases open and removed the security bars from them.

Ernst proceeded toward lawn and garden and before the security person could get a witness, Ernst took off out the door with the games.

The total amount of the games was \$69.92.

Detective Jonathan

Sartin, LCPD arrested Ernst at the Loudon County Jail, Tuesday, where he was already incarcerated for reportedly trying to steal 2 DVD Movies from Walmart on Monday, February 1st.

### Highland Park Ruritan Club Pancake Breakfast

All you can eat pancake breakfast the Highland Park Ruritan Club located on Highway 321 in Lenoir City across from Walmart.

Featuring pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and coffee. Cost: \$4 adults, \$3 children 12 & under

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM February 13, 2010

## Advanced Pain Centers

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## Ledford

Dark Hollow Road, Newport, was charged with aggravated assault by domestic violence, possession of schedule II (oxycodone) for resale, possession of schedule IV (alprazolam) for resale, and possession of drug paraphernalia just after 7:30 AM Thursday.

According to records, the arrest came after Sgt. Bri-

an Jenkins, LPD, responded to a domestic call at a Highway 72, Loudon market and spoke with two women, one who was identified as Ledford's girlfriend, who said they were traveling with Ledford when he threw his girlfriend's cell phone at her while she slept because of some texts.

He also allegedly threatened the woman with a pocket knife, and also used it to

threaten her friend.

A two year old child also was in the vehicle.

The women said they convinced Ledford to stop, and while they were in the store, Ledford was seen squatting down beside the vehicle on the passenger side. When the women returned to the vehicle, Ledford was gone and the passenger side had two flat tires on it.

Officer Bobby Lankford located Ledford about a mile and a half away and he had a pocket knife in his possession which matched the description of the one the women said he threat-

ened them with.

The lawmen reported Ledford also had in his possession a set of digital scales commonly used to weigh drugs for sale and when a cell phone in his possession was checked there were messages in the in box from callers looking to obtain pills.

Records indicate Ledford had several prescription pill bottles with his name on them in his possession, but they all had more pills in them than they were supposed to.

One bottle was labeled for 90 oxycodone 15 mg, but it had 183 pills in it. Another

bottle was for 100 oxycodone 30 mg, and it contained 323 pills. A third bottle, labeled for 90 alprazolam, contained 183 pills.

Two alprazolam, eight 15 mg oxycodone and nine 30 mg oxycodone pills were found in a metal key chain Ledford was carrying.

Officers reported finding two unfilled prescriptions in Ledford's possession along with paperwork to indicate he was visiting at least three different pain clinics in Florida, which were all prescribing him narcotics.

### Help Wanted

Loudon County School Bus Driver. 2 openings in Lenoir City area. CDL with experience. Drug Free. *Drug test & background check required.* 2 hours in the morning, 2 hours in the evening. Call Mike Gray at 271-8194

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• Teriyaki Chicken • Battered Tilapia • BBQ Ribs and all your favorites veggies and salad bar to go with it.

## SHERIFF'S SALE NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Loudon County Sheriff's Office is offering approximately 50 DUI/Drug seized vehicles for sale to the highest bidder at public auction\*. These include several SUV type vehicles, motorcycles, and trucks. Vehicles may be inspected prior to the auction on the date of sale. All sales will be final and sold "AS IS" regarding the condition of the vehicle. All sales are cash only. The auction will be held Saturday, February 20th, 2010 at 10:00 AM.

The Loudon County Sheriff's Office also has approximately 30 firearms to be auctioned as well. To bid on a firearm you must possess a valid FFL license and a current business license. A copy of these documents should be delivered to the Sheriff's Department prior to the beginning of the auction. Firearms will be sold in lots of ten or more.

Any inquiries can be made to the Sheriff's Department at 865-988-2309.

\*The Loudon County Sheriff's Department reserves the right to reject any and all bids on vehicles offered at auction.