

DRUNKS AND THIEVES 2019 Part 6 July 12, 2019



By John Hoffmann

SMOKING MARIJUANA WITH A POLICE OFFICER BEHIND HIM AT RED LIGHT POTHEAD RAMS CAR IN FRONT OF HIM: On Saturday evening August 4, 2018 Koel Branson, 30, of Post Oak Road in Des Peres was driving his 2013 Dodge Dart and smoking marijuana with a friend Andrew ImPastato, of Ballwin.

The had been smoking a ‘Blunt’ which is a cigar that has been hallowed out and filled with marijuana. They were trying to get even higher by having the windows rolled up so they could suck in the smoke they had just exhaled.

They were stopped one car back at the red light for eastbound Clayton Road at Baxter Road. Unknown to them, behind them was a Chesterfield Police command officer, Lt. Lehman.



Overview Clayton & Baxter



Street view of Clayton and Baxter Road.

When the light went green Branson floored his Dodge Dart, without looking to see if the 2014 Honda Ridgeline in front of him had moved yet. The Dodge crashed into the rear of the Honda.

Officers Rupp and Welegala were dispatched to the accident. Officer Welegala arrived first. Both officers could smell an overpowering odor of burned marijuana in the Dodge.

Branson admitting to smoking marijuana in a “Blunt” and further told the officer that he and Impastato were “hotboxing” hoping to get a bigger high by having the windows up and breathing the exhaled smoke.

Branson was immediately given a field breath test that showed no presence of alcohol. He was then given a number of field sobriety tests which he failed. His eyes were badly dilated, his balance was poor and burnt marijuana could be detected on his breath. He was arrested for DWID (Driving While Intoxicated by Drugs)



Before going to the police station for booking, Officer Rupp transported Branson to St. Luke’s Hospital for a blood draw which Branson voluntarily agreed to submit. The blood was sent to the Missouri Highway Patrol lab and tested positive for the presence of THC (marijuana)

Branson was cited for Failure to Exercise the Highest Degree of Care While Operating a Vehicle and DUID.

OUTCOME: The blue ink portion below is from the Chesterfield Municipal Court Clerk. On 20/26/19 Branson pled guilty. He was given a 2-year SIS No-Record, NO-Fine on the DUID but had to attend a drug awareness class and a Victim Impact group. On the

Fail to Display the Highest Care he was fined \$325.50 and court costs of \$26.50. He did get points on his drivers' license record.

DUI, plead guilty on 2/26/19, SIS 2 years probation, complete SATOP and VIP, paid costs of \$111.50. Fail Exercise Highest Care, plead guilty on 2/26/19, fine of \$325.50 and costs of \$26.50

TOWN AND COUNTRY OFFICER FINDS DRUNK DRIVER SLUMPED OVER WHEEL WITH VOMIT ON HIM AND WINDOW IN DES PERES.

Cpl. Fowle of the Town and Country Police was working the midnight shift. It was Saturday night into Sunday morning June 17, 2018 at about 3:37 AM when Cpl. Fowle had completed a sweep of the SB lanes of I-270 in Town and Country. He was making a turn around to check the northbound lanes after taking the Dougherty Ferry exit, which is in the City of Des Peres.

Near the top of the ramp, about three car lengths behind the stop line there was a Toyota Scion, the driver and only passenger was passed out behind the wheel, with the car in gear and the driver's foot on the brake. When he got out of his police car Officer Fowle also found vomit on the driver's side window. After waking the driver, Michael Roberts, 26, of Ballwin, Roberts attempted to drive off, but stopped after Fowle yelled.

From his police report this is the condition Cpl. Fowle found Roberts to be in:

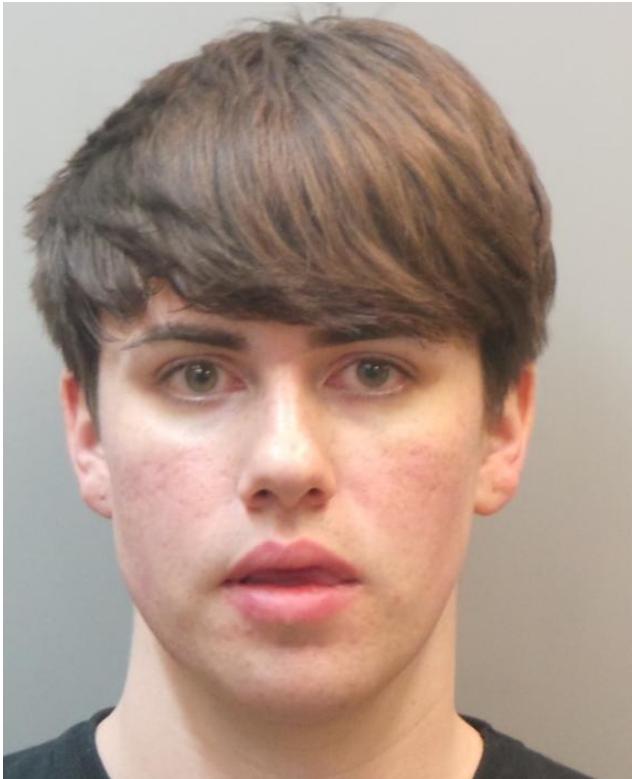
BREATH	ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE: <input type="checkbox"/> FAINT <input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRONG <input type="checkbox"/> NONE					
	ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO					
EYES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WATERY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GLASSY	<input type="checkbox"/> STARING	<input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL EYE	
PUPILS	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SLOW REACTION TO LIGHT		<input type="checkbox"/> DILATED		
BALANCE AND WALKING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCERTAIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAYING	<input type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING	<input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING	<input type="checkbox"/> FALLING	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
SPEECH	<input type="checkbox"/> SLURRED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED	<input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT	<input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUMBLING	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	DESCRIBE: BLACK T-SHIRT/BLACK SHORTS/ TENNIS SHOES SOILED BY: N/A					
UNUSUAL ACTIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> PROFANITY	<input type="checkbox"/> HICCUPS	<input type="checkbox"/> BELCHING	<input type="checkbox"/> VOMITING	<input type="checkbox"/> FIGHTING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: *BELOW
ATTITUDE	DESCRIBE: POLITE					*PASSED OUT AT WHEEL.

Upon contact Officer Fowle asked to see Roberts' drivers license and was promptly handed a credit card. When asked how much he had to drink, Roberts replied, "**Not enough.**"

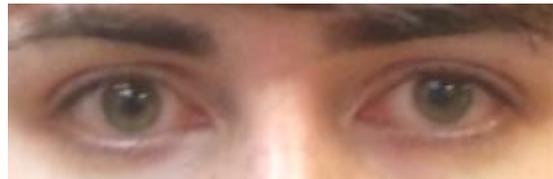
Roberts admitted having five vodka cocktails at JJ's Bar.

Roberts failed several field sobriety tests and test positive on an unofficial field breath test instrument. He was then arrested and his car was towed. He was transported to the Town and Country Police Station. There he agreed to take an official breath test that showed his BAC level to be .106%.

Since Fowle did not observe Roberts in Town and Country, State charges were filed for DWI in State Court.



Michael Thomas Roberts



Roberts' eyes

OUTCOME: On 12/05/18 Roberts pled guilty. He had no prior record. He was given a 2-year SIS No-Record, No-Fine probation term.

TWO NOAHS COME DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI FROM HANNIBAL TO TRY AND LOOT CHESTERFIELD OUTLET MALL: On Tuesday July 31, 2018 a shopper at the Chesterfield Outlet Mall contacted Chesterfield Officer Krumm of the Special Enforcement Squad who was on foot patrol at the mall. The shopper told Officer Krumm that they had just seen a white male and black male stealing from the Tommy Hilfiger store. He added as the pair left the store anti-theft devices sounded.

Special Enforcement Officer Fenton and the mall's security director started searching the mall for the pair. Meanwhile Officer Krumm went to the Hilfiger store and employees confirmed that the pair had just stolen items.



Noah Harrell



Noah Zahn

Officer Fenton located the two suspects on the parking lot. They were identified as Noah Harrell, 18, and Noah Zahn, 19, both of Hannibal, Missouri. They apparently were aware of Officer Fenton being nearby and were hiding stolen goods under a car on the parking lot.

Both suspects admitted shoplifting the items under the parked car and more items in a Chevrolet they had ridden in coming from Hannibal.

These guys were on a high-end stealing binge, hitting Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein and Saks Off of 5th Avenue. The stores may have been high-end, but the loot wasn't. These guys were stealing underwear, both boxers and briefs and t-shirts.

The pair's girlfriends arrived on the parking lot. The suspects had ridden from Hannibal to Chesterfield in one of the girl's cars. The girlfriends were not involved in the stealing.

The total amount of underwear stolen from the three stores came to \$163.58.

OUTCOME: Zahn pled guilty to an amended charge of “Littering” on `12/06/18. This means Chesterfield Prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer has done it again and refused to get a theft conviction to be counted under Missouri’s “after 3 Stealing Thefts the fourth one is a felony.” Engelmeyer will never try and convict anyone of the first theft, making it hard to get to the fourth. Plus the amended charges to “Littering” just invite more shoplifters back to Chesterfield.

On January 20, 2019, Zahn, the convicted Litterer, was charged with the felony of Tampering with Evidence in a Felony Prosecution by the Hannibal Police.

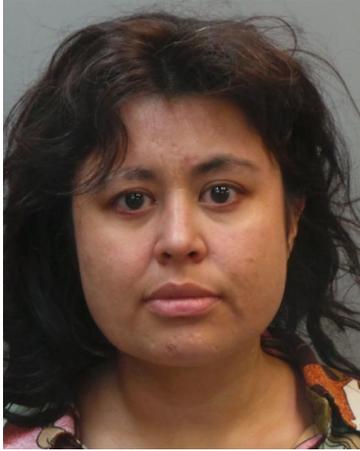
Harrell, pled guilty on 10/23/18 apparently without a lawyer and was fined \$300.50 plus \$26.50 court cost. There is now a warrant outstanding as he failed to pay any of the fine.

ANOTHER DRUNK DRIVER WHO REFUSES TO TAKE A BREATH TEST GETS A NO-FINE, NO-POINTS DEAL, BECAUSE SHE HIRED THE RIGHT LAWYER: Town and Country Officer Duddleston got stuck with a DWI report and arrest because his supervisor who stopped the car called him to handle it. There was a time when I was a police sergeant and a police captain and if I pulled over a traffic violator who was drunk, I handled the arrest and the report writing. That is not the case in Town and Country.

Cpl. Jordan Fowle was behind a 2004 Suzuki on eastbound Clayton Road after midnight on Wednesday June 20, 2018. The car did not have working taillights and the driver, Bernadette Marion, 42, of St. Louis was weaving across the centerline. Marion then turned right onto Mason Road and made an abrupt left turn against a “No Left Turn” sign into the Mason Village Shopping Center, where Cpl. Fowle stopped her.

Marion’s condition is listed on the front of the police report:

BREATH	ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE: <input type="checkbox"/> FAINT <input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRONG <input type="checkbox"/> NONE
EYES	ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
PUPILS	<input type="checkbox"/> WATERY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GLASSY <input type="checkbox"/> STARING <input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL EYE
BALANCE AND WALKING	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRICTED <input type="checkbox"/> SLOW REACTION TO LIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> DILATED
SPEECH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCERTAIN <input type="checkbox"/> SWAYING <input type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING <input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/> FALLING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLURRED <input type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED <input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT <input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING <input type="checkbox"/> MUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:



Bernadette Marion



Marion's eyes



Cpl. Fowle



Officer Duddleston

Besides the strong smell of booze on her breath, bloodshot eyes, slurred speech and unsure balance, Marion also tested intoxicated after taking an unofficial field breath test.

She failed other field sobriety tests, was arrested and taken to the police station, where she refused to take the official breath test.

She was released on citations.

OUTCOME: Marion hired high-end DWI lawyer Travis Noble. On 02/21/19 Marion pled guilty to "Improper Left Turn" and was fined \$225. She pled guilty to DWI and despite refusing the breath test, Judge Niehoff apparently bowed to the presence of the high-dollar Travis Noble. Drunk drivers at one time were suppose to accept consequences when refusing breath tests. Not anymore in Town and Country or Chesterfield.



Travis Noble, one pompous dude.

Noble has continued the hearing on the suspension from DOR of Marion's driver's license numerous times. Of course without Cpl. Fowle handling the arrest, two officers instead of one are required for court or hearings. One to testify they saw Marion drive drunk and the other to testify she refused a breath test.

CUSTOMER AT ANNIE GUNNS HAS SOMEONE PUT THEIR HANDS ON HIS SHOULDER AND EITHER THREATEN TO KILL HIM OR KICK HIS ASS: At 7:30 on Friday night July 27, 2018 Annie Gunn's high-dollar Chesterfield restaurant is busy place for the most overpriced eatery in Chesterfield. (I love Annie Gunn's but can only afford to go there for lunch Tues-Sat)



Dominic Bezzole, his wife and friends arrived at Annie Gunn's. For over 30-years Bezzole has done and supervised body work on expensive cars ranging from BMWs to Teslas. For the last six years he has worked at Car Craft in Chesterfield.



Derek Willyard, 52, is also a body shop tech and was doing some overflow work at Car Craft until three months earlier he was fired by Bezzole over a work quality issue. Willyard happened to also be at Annie Gunn's with his wife. He was apparently still sore over being let go by Bezzole.

Sometime after 9pm Willyard walked over to Bezzole, put his hands on his shoulders and said, "I'm going to fucking kill you." By this time Willyard's wife was yelling at him to come back to their table.

Bezzole had the police called. Another people at Bezzole's table confirmed to police officers the threat made by Willyard.

When police arrived and contacted Willyard, he admitted going to Bezzole's table, putting his hands on his shoulders, but denied saying "I'm going to fucking kill you." He claimed he told Bezzole that he was going to "kick his ass."

Willyard said he wanted to press charges again Bezzole. He complained three months earlier at Car Craft when he was told to leave by Bezzole, that Bezzole "mother-fucked" him.

Of course saying someone is a mother fucker falls more under protected first amendment speech, while threatening to kill someone or kick their ass while grabbing their shoulders fall under the criminal code as 4th Degree Assault.

Willyard was issued a summons to Chesterfield municipal court.

A background check of Willyard revealed an interesting item. On 03/18/16 there was a \$7,109 tax lien judgment by the Missouri Department of Revenue against him. Instead of eating at Annie Gunn's with his wife on a Friday night he could have paid off that lien by \$150 or \$200.

OUTCOME: On 01/10/19 Willyard pled guilty to the assault charge and was given a 1-year SIS No-Record, No-Fine probation term. He did have to pay \$26 in court costs.

REALLY DRUNK DRIVER WHO JUST DROPPED OFF SOME KIDS DENIES HAVING ANYTHING TO DRINK AND THEN CLAIMS HE HAD JUST ONE DRINK:

On Saturday afternoon June 23, 2018 at 4:25 in the afternoon Town and Country Police Officer Duddleston was doing Laser speed checks on WB I-64 traffic when he clocked a 2018 Hyundai Sonata at 87-MPH in the 60 MPH zone. Officer Duddleston stopped the car on I-64 near the Timberlake exit.



2018 Sonata

The driver was Jason Salazar, 43, of O'Fallon, Missouri. Being on a busy Interstate highway, for his safety Officer Duddleston went to the passenger side of the car and had Salazar roll the window down. He immediately detected a strong odor of booze on

Salazar's breath. He then went to the driver's side of the car and had Salazar get out of the car.

Duddleston asked how much Salazar had to drink and he replied that he had not been drinking. He later changed that to one drink when it was pointed out that the odor of booze was on his breath.

Officer Duddleston's observations of Salazar condition were on the face sheet of the police report.

OFFICER'S OBSERVATION MADE PRIOR TO ARREST OR CUSTODY (CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES)					
BREATH	ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE:	<input type="checkbox"/> FAINT	<input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRONG	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
EYES	<input type="checkbox"/> WATERY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GLASSY	<input type="checkbox"/> STARING	<input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL EYE
PUPILS	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SLOW REACTION TO LIGHT	<input type="checkbox"/> DILATED		
BALANCE AND WALKING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCERTAIN	<input type="checkbox"/> SWAYING	<input type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING	<input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING	<input type="checkbox"/> FALLING
SPEECH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLURRED	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED	<input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT	<input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUMBLING

Salazar failed the field sobriety tests, including one that I used in the past with many of the 375 DWI arrests I made. It is the alphabet test. Officer Duddleston asked Salazar to begin with the letter "C" and stop at the letter "U." This is what Salazar said, again from the police report:

 "C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,L,M,F,L,M,F."

An unofficial field breath test showed that Salazar was drunk and he was arrested.

At the police station Salazar agreed to take an official breath test. The test was given about an hour after Salazar was stopped for speeding. The results of that test were .206%.

During an in-custody interview Salazar stated that he was coming from dropping kids off at the Arch. Keep in mind that his BAC was higher than .206% at the time of the stop. This is also from the police report:

WHAT WERE YOU DOING DURING THE LAST THREE HOURS PRIOR TO CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT?	
I DROPPED MY NIECES AND NEPHEWS OFF AT THE ARCH.	
WERE YOU OPERATING THE VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH OR STOP?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING?	IF YES, WHAT WERE YOU DRINKING?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	FOUR HOURS PRIOR TO THAT
TIME STARTED	TIME STOPPED
11AM	2PM

Keep in mind that Salazar was stopped at 4:25, claimed he stopped drinking at 2pm but also said he stopped drinking 4-hours before dropping the kids off at the Arch.

He also stated that he did not think he was intoxicated despite having tested 2 ½ times the legal limit.



Jason Salazar



Officer Duddleston

OUTCOME: On April 189, 2019 Salazar with attorney Travis Noble appeared in Town and Country Municipal Court and pled guilty to speeding, 26 MPH over the limit. He was fined \$200.

He also pled guilty to DWI. Judge Neihoff placed him on a 2-year No-Record, No-Fine SIS probation.

Salazar got “good points” for being cooperative and taking the breath tests.

He got “bad points” for being 2 ½ times over the legal limit and clearly drunk with the road side tests recorded on car video. Plus being very drunk, he admitted having just

driven with children in the car. Judges have to at some point refuse to give probation to people that are 2 ½ times over the limit even if they have Travis Noble standing next to them.

DRUNK WOMAN WOULD NOT BLOW HARD ENOUGH TO OBTAIN BREATH SAMPLE. SHE WAS DRUNK ENOUGH THAT SHE PLED GUILTY, BUT NO POINTS WENT ON HER LICENSE THANKS TO THE CHESTERFIELD PROSECTOR AND JUDGE.

On Wednesday September 26, 2018 around 10:30pm Chesterfield Police Officer Adams was behind a gray 2011 Honda Accord driven by Anita Marie Thompson, 42. Who resides on Ladue Road in Chesterfield. They were travelling north (some might say east) on Olive Blvd, when Officer Adams observed the Honda swerving across the centerline. Thompson then turned right onto Ladue Road and accelerated to 59 MPH in the 35 MPH zone.

Officer Adams pulled the Honda over on Ladue Road. When the officer walked up to the car Thompson was holding her bank card out the window instead of her driver's license. When Officer Adams said she was stopped for speeding, Thompson replied, "I didn't think it is 35. (which is odd itself since she lives on Ladue Road) Every once in awhile I just punch it," she added.

As Thompson was handing her bank card to Officer Adams, she pulled it back and said, "Sorry, I was being silly." By this time Officer Adams could smell the booze on her breath and asked how much she had to drink. "Like barely anything," was the reply from Thompson.

Thompson was asked to perform field sobriety tests which she failed all while giggling. She was then asked to take a PBT unofficial breath test. She refused saying, "I think I passed all of your tests."

She was arrested and taken to the Chesterfield Police Station. There she agreed to take an official breath test, but three times she would not blow enough air into the instrument to be tested.



Anita Thompson



Thompson's eyes

She was cited for: DWI, Imp Lane Use, Failure to Provide Ins Information and Speeding. I have personally experience drunk drivers who intentionally would not blow hard enough to obtain a breath sample and would refuse to clamp down on the intake tube's mouthpiece. However in my cases these were repeat drunk drivers trying to pull a fast one.

OUTCOME: On February 19, 2019 Thompson pled guilty to DWI and placed on a No-Fine, No-Point 2-year probation term. The Fail to Produce Proof of Insurance was dismissed as was the improper lane use. The Speeding charge was amended to Illegal Parking with a \$198.50 fine. So at the end of the night, drunk driver Thompson left the courtroom with No-Points on her driving record. Nothing like looking out for the public's safety and forcing residents to pay higher insurance rates when it is the drunk drivers who should be paying more. Thank you Tim Engelmeyer and Rick Brunk.

SHE DID NOT MAKE A LANE CHANGE AFTER SIGNALING, THEN MADE A LANE CHANGE WITHOUT SIGNALING, THEN SPEEDING EQUALS A DWI: Cpl. Jordan Fowle of the Town and Country Police was apparently in charge on the night shift from Friday night June 29 into Saturday morning on June 30. I guessed he was in charge because he stuck another officer with the paper work after he stopped a drunk driver.

Cpl. Fowle, a 20-plus year veteran with the T&C PD was behind a 2015 Hyundai Sonata on westbound I-64 before I-270. It was 2:00 AM. The car was being driven by Latrina Tyse, 24, of Jennings. Cpl. Fowle watched as Tyse signaled a lane change to the left, but did not make the change. Then she changed lanes to the I-270 exit without signaling. He followed the car onto I-270 as the driver sped up to 82 MPH in the 60

MPH zone. The speeding occurred in the City of Creve Coeur which begins at the end of the entrance ramp.

Cpl. Fowle pulled Tyse over on I-270 before Ladue Road. He immediately smelled booze on Tyse's breath as she looked for her driver's license. She admitted having just two drinks earlier downtown between 12 midnight and 1am. She later changed that to 3 drinks.

By now Officer McPherson arrived and saw Tyse behind the wheel with the engine running, but he never witnessed her driving.

Tyse did some field sobriety tests and then agreed to take an unofficial PBT breath test. That test show she was intoxicated. She was arrested and taken to the police station.

There she agreed to take an official breath test and that showed her BAC level to be .116.

Interestingly in an interview at the police station when asked if she thought she was intoxicated she admitted that she thought so. This is somewhat unusual as some drivers 2-1/2 times over the limit will often answer they do not think they are drunk.

HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		IF YES, WHAT WERE YOU DRINKING? WINE	
TIME STARTED MIDNIGHT		TIME STOPPED 1	
HOW MUCH? 3 DRINKS	WHERE? DOWNTOWN	ARE YOU UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	



OUTCOME: On October 18, 2018 Tyse pled guilty to DWI and Fail to Signal. Town and Country Judge Niehoff placed her a 2-year No-Fine, NO-Points probation for DWI. This is the type of case such a probation is a correct sentence. It is not correct for people who are two times over the legal limit, refuse to take a breath test or they are in a crash. But judges, including Niehoff hand them out to serious drunk drivers like candy on Halloween. Tyse also pled guilty to the Fail to Signal charge and was fined.

WALMART EMPLOYEE NEEDS COMPUTER TO TAKE GED CLASS AND THEN COLLEGE CLASSES AT FOREST PARK CC, BUT FAILS “DO NOT STEAL AT WORK” CLASS: Walmart security officers had observed an employee remove a laptop computer from its box and place it in his backpack, while placing the box in a crusher. They called the Chesterfield Police for Special Enforcement officers to respond and requested they wait by the front doors in case the suspect tries to run.

Officers Krumm and Fenton responded, while store security officers contacted Karron Shannon and took him to the security office without incident. Shannon confessed to the theft to the security officers and later to the police.

He stated he needed the computer for an online program at Forest Park Community College to obtain his GED and later take college classes.

OUTCOME: On 10/13/18 Shannon, who did not have or could not afford a lawyer, pled guilty in Municipal Court and of course was discriminated against for being poor and not having a lawyer, as the charge was not dropped to non-criminal “Littering.” He was fined \$350.



Karron Shannon

Shannons' non-traffic record:

05/08/17	Unlawful Use of a Weapon	Misdemeanor	pending	St. Louis PD
08/23/18	Stealing			Chesterfield PD

SHOPLIFTER MAKING A 120-MILE TRIP IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO LOOT THE OUTLET MALL: Shirley Samuel, 22, and her friend Nicole Baskett, 22, of Columbia, MO made the two hour drive from Columbia, MO to the Chesterfield Outlet Mall on Thursday July 26, 2018. They arrived at the mall in the 3 o'clock hour and went to work.

A store loss prevention officer at the Saks Off 5th Avenue watched on video as Samuels began filling a Charlotte Ruse shopping bag they had when they entered the store, with children clothing. The loss prevention officer call the Chesterfield Police and Special (Retail) Enforcement officers responded and found Samuels and Baskett in the food court area. Samuels had the Charlotte Ruse bag filled with stolen clothes.

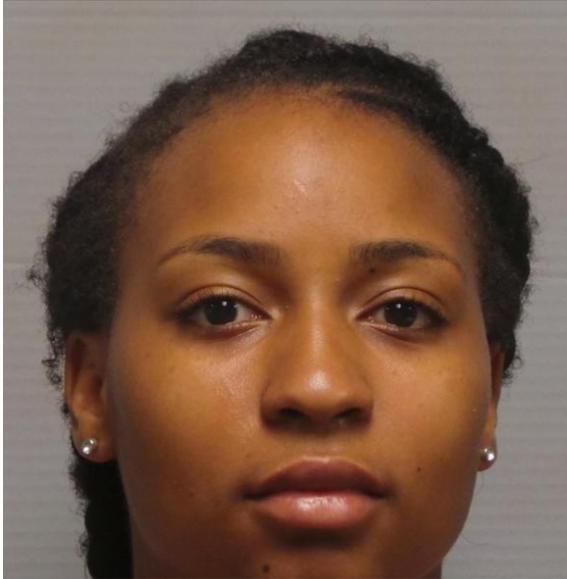
When contacted by officers and asked where she had been shopping, Samuels said she was at the Charlotte Ruse Store. She was then asked if she was at the Saks off 5th Avenue store and Samuels said she was unfamiliar with the store.

Officer Bromwich then showed her an image of her stealing inside the Saks store on his phone. She then confessed

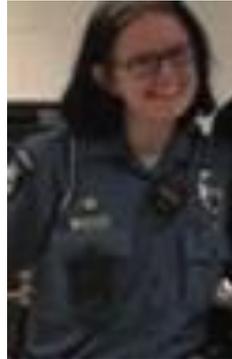
Officers then found stolen items from Saks Off 5th Avenue and from the GAP store.

Samuels was arrested. Her car was searched with no other stolen items found in the car.

However at the police station female Officer Michelle Hrivnak conducted a pat down search of Samuels. During this Samuels gave up a Nike Sports Bra she had stolen at the Mall hidden under her shirt. Samuels had stolen \$220.87 in property while at the mall for under an hour.



Shirley Samuels



Officer Hrivnak

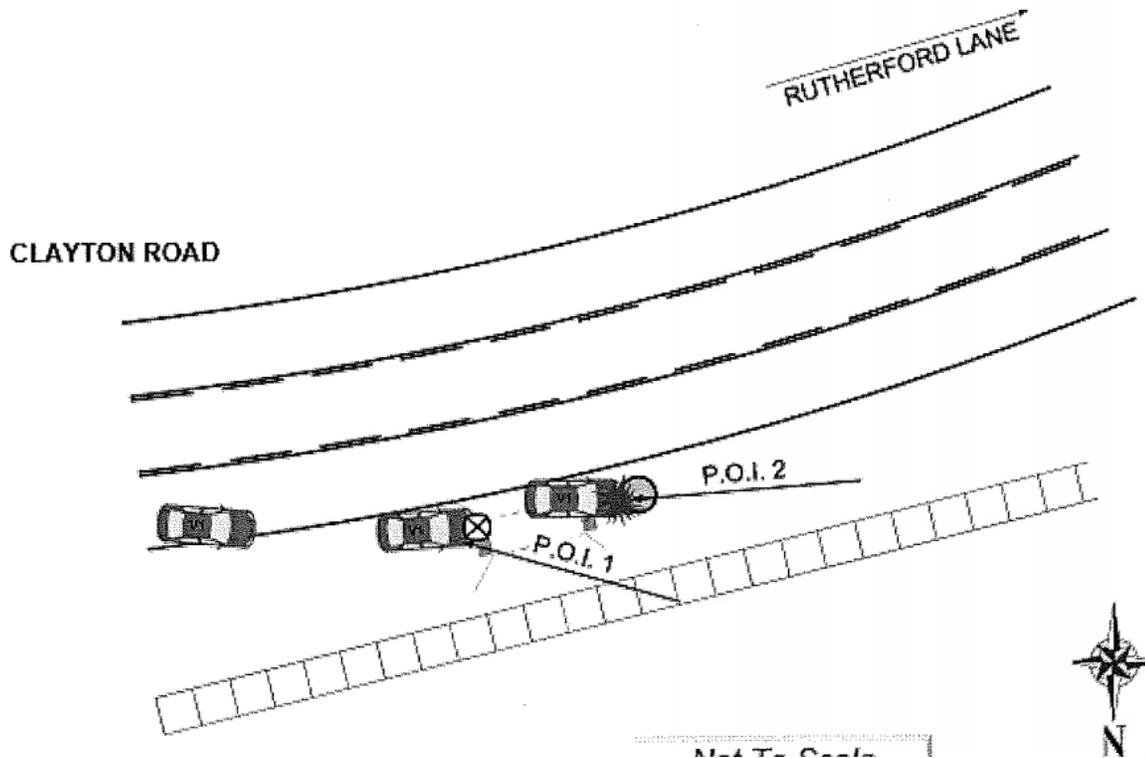


OUTCOME: On 08/21/18 Samuels apparently arrived at Chesterfield Municipal Court without a lawyer. She pled guilty to Stealing. Despite her having no prior criminal record her charge was not amended to a lesser non-criminal charge which happens almost every time a suspect hires a local lawyer. Samuels was fined \$300.50 and \$26.50 in court costs. When a poor person, often an African- American show up in Chesterfield Court without a lawyer, despite no prior record they get hammered with a full fine and record from Prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer and Judge Rick Brunk. Reviewing these cases over a six year period there is little doubt that the Chesterfield Municipal Court discriminates against poor people and the City Council could care less.

DRUNK TEENAGE DRIVER LOOKING AT HIS CELL PHONE INSTEAD OF DRIVING TOTALS A HONDA AGAINST A UTILITY POLE. It was Sunday morning July 1, 2018 at about 3:30am when Sean Griffin, 19, of South St. Louis County was driving a friend home to Ballwin. Griffin was driving a 2008 red Honda Civic registered to his father. The Civic's life as a car was about to end. Griffin was not only driving drunk he was also checking his phone while WB on Clayton Road approaching Rutherford Lane in Town and Country.

Griffin admitted that he looked down to look at his cell phone when the car left the road.

He said the car hit a ditch, went airborne and struck an Ameren/Union Electric power pole.



Town and Country Officer Joshua Cook handled the crash investigation. Officer York made the DWI arrest. This is from Officer York's DWI report commenting on Griffin after he had contacted him and the passenger sitting in the grass 75 feet away from the wreck.

Griffin and I returned to the scene of the crash. As Griffin walked I observed him swaying and off balance. As I was speaking to Griffin I noticed a moderate odor of an intoxicating beverage coming from his breath. As I continued to speak with Griffin, I observed his eyes were watery, bloodshot and glassy. I asked Griffin if he had been drinking. Griffin initially stated "Not very much". Griffin then changed his answer and stated he had not been drinking. As I spoke with Griffin he had trouble keeping his balance. I asked Griffin for his proof of insurance. Griffin retrieved a stack of papers from the glove compartment, in the front passenger side of the vehicle. As Griffin was searching for his insurance, he continually fumbled through and dropped the paperwork he retrieved from his vehicle. I also asked Griffin if he had consumed any alcoholic beverages since he crashed. Griffin stated he had not. While Griffin and I were near the crash scene, I observed no opened or unopened alcoholic beverages in or around his vehicle.

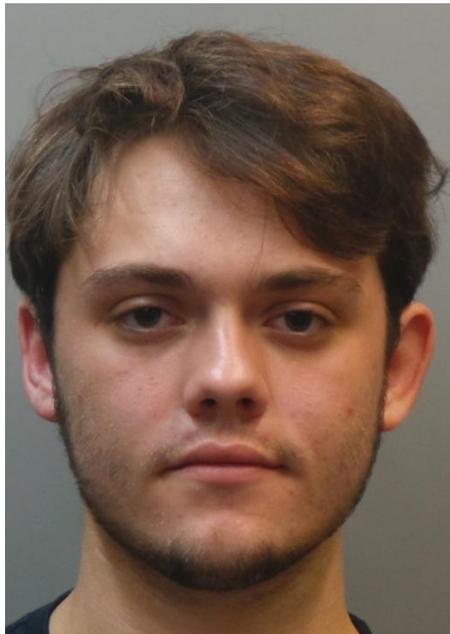
Besides Officer York's general observations of Griffin, Griffin also failed field sobriety tests and a field PBT breath test. He was then arrested.

This is from the face sheet of Officer York's DWI report:

BREATH	ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE: <input type="checkbox"/> FAINT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MODERATE <input type="checkbox"/> STRONG			
	ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
EYES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WATERY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GLASSY	<input type="checkbox"/> STARING
PUPILS	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SLOW REACTION TO LIGHT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DILATED	<input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL E
BALANCE AND WALKING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCERTAIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAYING	<input type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING	<input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING
SPEECH	<input type="checkbox"/> SLURRED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED	<input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT	<input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUMBLING	

Here are Griffin's answers to some interview questions at the police station:

WHAT TIME IS IT NOW? I HAVE NO CLUE	WHAT IS THE DATE? 07/01/2018	WHAT DAY OF THE WEEK IS IT? SUNDAY	WHAT CITY (COUNTY) ARE YOU IN NOW? ST LOUIS, I GUESS FRONTENAC
HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	IF YES, WHAT WERE YOU DRINKING? IM NOT GOING TO ANSWER THAT		
ARE YOU UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO NOT GOING TO ANSWER			



Sean Griffin

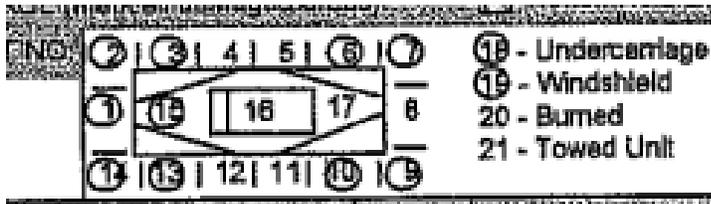


Griffin's eyes

Griffin agreed to take an official breath test. The results showed his BAC level to be .144%.

Griffin was charged with DWI and Improper Lane Use since the area off the side of the road where utility poles are located is not considered a normal lane of travel.

This was the condition of Griffin's father's Honda according to Officer Cook's report: The circled areas are where the car was damaged.



OUTCOME: On 11/15/18 Griffin along with his lawyer appeared in Town and Country Municipal Court. Griffin pled guilty to both charges. On the DWI he was given a No-Fine, NO-Points 2-year SIS probation term. On the Improper Lane Use violation he was fined \$350 and got 2-points on his driving record.

WOMAN HAS PANCAKES COOKED WHILE HER DOG COOKS LOCKED IN VEHICLE ON PARKING LOT: Vanessa Pollard, 48, of 15XXX Elk Ridge Lane (apartments) Chesterfield, on Tuesday August 28, 2019 in the noon hour had gone to the Original Pancake House at 17000 Chesterfield Airport Road. When she went into the restaurant had locked her small white Shiatsu dog in the cab of the Dodge pickup truck she was driving.



WOMAN HAS PANCAKES COOKED WHILE HER DOG COOKS LOCKED IN VEHICLE ON PARKING LOT

Pamela Lutzeier, 62, of Kirkwood probably saved the dog's life. Lutzeier noticed the dog locked in the sweltering truck and called the Chesterfield Police. Officer Carroll responded.



Pamela Lutzeier saved dog's life by noticing it and calling the police.

This is what Officer Carroll wrote about the condition of the dog:

"The dog appeared to be in distress and was panting very heavily."

Officer Carroll reported that the temperature was 96-degrees with a heat index of 100 degrees.

Officer Carroll contacted the manager of the Original Pancake House and the manager thought he knew who the person was. A few minutes later Vanessa Pollard came running out of the restaurant.

Pollard said the dog was her "service dog." He added that the Dodge truck was a loaner after she dropped off her vehicle for service. She said she forgot the dog was in the truck and had gone into the restaurant 20 minutes earlier.



Vanessa Pollard

Pollard was issued a citation for "Animal Abuse."

OUTCOME: This would have been a very easy case to make based just on Officer Carroll's eyewitness account. But of course that was not needed since the charge was amended by Chesterfield Prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer. The charge was reduced to "Littering" and Pollard was fined \$100.50 plus \$26.50 in court costs on 01/08/19.

This is interesting. At least Pollard was fined on an amended charge. We reported recently how the County Prosecuting Attorney's Office dropped Child Endangerment charges against Bibi Ahmadi of Ballwin who in July of 2018 left her infant daughter in her locked car on the Target Parking lot in Town and Country on a 96-degree day while she shopped.



Bibi Ahmadi