



By John Hoffmann

CHESTERFIELD TEENAGER ARRESTED FOR FELONY STEALING: OOPS, TARGET FIRED HER BUT DID NOT REMOVE HER FROM THE COMPUTER SYSTEM, ALLOWING HER TO RETURN AND STEAL GIFT CARDS. Brianna Richards of 1518 Westmeade Drive in Chesterfield started out being arrested for stealing at an early age, 17. She had a job at the Town and Country Target Store.

She was fired from the job at Target on Monday April 17, 2017. After being fired she returned to the store on Friday morning April 21 at about 10:54. She had not yet been removed from the Target computer system. She went to cash register one, removed two gift cards from a nearby rack and placed \$500 on each card and then left the store. Her actions were recorded on the store's video security system.

The next day she went to the Florissant Target and found the card was not activated that she tried to use. She then went to the Chesterfield Target where she was able to exchange both cards for \$1,000 in cash.

Town and Country Police had placed an "Arrest Wanted" for Richards. On the morning of Friday April 28 she was arrested by the Chesterfield Police and transported directly to the Town and Country Police Station. There she made a full confession. According to the police report this is what she used the \$1,000 for:

***** Richards stated she later used the money to fix her car, purchase gas and food, and loaned her friend money to pay a ticket.**

She was charged with Felony Stealing.



OUTCOME: A year after stealing the gift cards, Richards pled guilty to a reduced charge of misdemeanor Stealing in St. Louis County Associate Circuit Court. She was sentence to one-year in jail, but was immediately placed on a 2-year SES probation term.

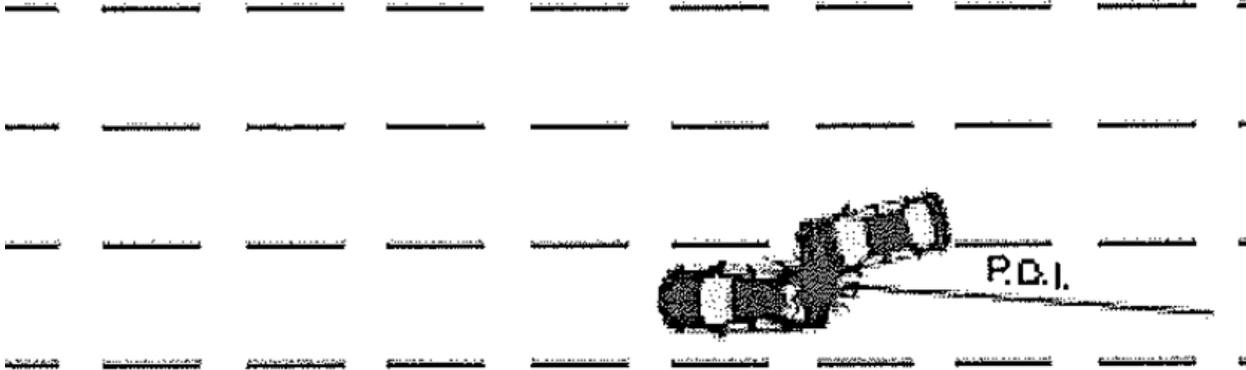
TENNESSEE MOTHER WITH A SLEEPING 3-YEAR-OLD AND 6-YEAR-OLD IN CAR HIT BY A DRUNK DRIVER. Michael Hamilton, 28, had been at a concert in St. Louis where he had some beers and then went to a strip club in Illinois. He was on WB I-64 headed home to Weldon Springs on Thursday night into Friday morning July 28, 2017. With Hamilton was 28-year-old Kyle Keeven of O'Fallon, MO.

Robyn Deck, 40, of Crossville, TN was driving her family cross country in their 2015 Subaru Outback. Her husband, Christian Deck, 47, was in the right front seat. Her six-year-old son Paul and 3-year-old daughter Jamie, were buckled into child seats asleep in the rear of the car.

At 3:47 AM, the drunk, Hamilton, driving his 2008 Lexus decided to change lanes from a right lane to a center lane. He however, did not see the Deck family in their Subaru and collided with the Outback. Normally when changing lanes a driver might not see a car behind them in the car's "blind spot." But in this case the Deck's car was in front of Hamilton and he turned into the right rear of their car.

Maryville Center Dr

WB IS-64



Town and Country police officers Becker and Josh Cook were dispatched to the accident scene. At the scene Becker could immediately tell that Hamilton had been drinking. His eyes were bloodshot, his breath smelled of booze and his speech was slurred.

Hamilton was arrested for DWI and Improper Lane Use. At the police station he agreed to be interviewed and to take a breath test.

Here is part of his interview from the police report:

WHEN DID YOU LAST EAT? 930 OR 10PM AT CONCERT	WHAT DID YOU LAST EAT? BRATWURST, SOFT PRETZEL WITH CHEESE	
WHAT WERE YOU DOING DURING THE LAST THREE HOURS PRIOR TO CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT? AT THE EAST SIDE AT A STRIP CLUB, USED TO BE PENTHOUSE CLUB		
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? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	IF YES, WHAT WERE YOU DRINKING? AT CONCERT 2 OR 3 BEERS, A COUPLE OF LONG ISLANDS THROUGH EVENING	
TIME STARTED 5PM	TIME STOPPED I DON'T KNOW, WE WERE IN THE CLUB, NOT MUCH	
HOW MUCH? 5 OR 6 DRINKS	WHERE? CONCERT AND STRIP CLUB	ARE YOU UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

The breath test at the police station showed that Hamilton's BAC was .127%.



Michael Hamilton



Robyn Deck victim

OUTCOME: On March 15, 2018 Hamilton pled guilty to DWI before Town and Country Judge Andrea Niehoff. He was given a 2-year SIS NO-Fine, NO-Points, NO-Record probation term. On the Improper Lane Use charge he pled guilty and was fined \$225. Hamilton had no prior traffic arrests that we could find. This would have been a hard case to send to trial since the primary witness is from Tennessee.

DRUNK DRIVER PASSED OUT BEHIND THE WHEEL ON SOMEONE'S FRONT LAWN: On Wednesday February 1, 2017 at 5:31 AM the residents at 13101 Conway Grove Lane awoke to see 2006 Cadillac STS on their front lawn with a man slumped over the wheel. They called the police.



Google earth photo. It is pretty hard to drive onto the lawn at 13101 Conway Grove without hitting a tree.

Officer Scott Schlager responded to the scene and found the Cadillac with the doors locked, a man behind the wheel, the car's engine running and the car was in drive.

Since the car was in gear and running, Officer Schlager called for an assisting officer to put a patrol car against the front bumper of the Cadillac to keep the driver from trying to drive off when he woke him. Cpl. Laughlin responded and put the front end of his patrol car against the front bumper of the Cadillac.

Officer Schlager pounded on the window and eventually woke up the driver who immediately accelerated but did not go anywhere.

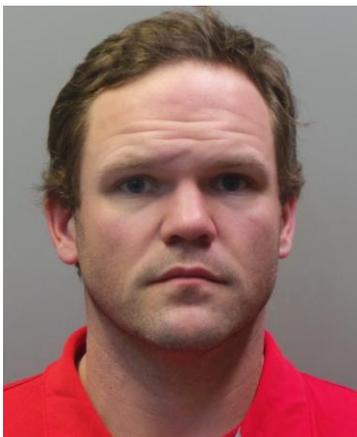
The driver did not want to or could not follow directions. This is from the police report:

I instructed the driver to put the car in park, but again he didn't seem to understand my instructions. I had reach into the car and put the car in park.

I instructed the driver to turn his car off. The driver put the car back into drive. I again had to reach into the car and put the car in park and I also turned the vehicle off.

The driver was identified as Travis Merrell, 29, of Maryland Heights, MO.

Merrell's eyes were bloodshot and glassy. He had a strong smell of booze about him and on his breath. His speed was slurred and he staggered when trying to walk. He refused to do any field sobriety tests. He was arrested and driven to the Town and Country Police Station.



Travis Merrell

At the police station Merrell refused to take an official breath test. He did answer some questions in a regular DWI interview, but refused to answer most. This was my favorite of his answers:

<p>HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>IF YES, WHAT WERE YOU DRINKING?</p> <p>LIQUID</p>
--	--

Officer Schlager was unable to find other prior DWI arrests involving Merrell. If he had the police would have to contact a County prosecutor and then a judge for a warrant to draw blood since Merrell refused to take a breath test.

Merrell, despite having a Missouri address in Maryland Heights, had an Illinois drivers' license, which was revoked.

He was release on summons for DWI. However a more detailed background check of Merrell revealed four prior DWI arrests.

The summons was voided and the County prosecutor issued a Felony DWI charge against Merrell.

Here are Merrell's three prior DWI convictions from the court files:

1. On or about June 26, 2006, defendant was found guilty of driving under the influence-alcohol for events occurring on April 23, 2006, in Coles County, State of Illinois in Court Case #2006DT106, and
2. On or about September 29, 2011, defendant was convicted of driving under the influence-alcohol for events occurring on April 30, 2011, in Macon County, State of Illinois in Court Case #2011DT213, and
3. On or about October 1, 2012, defendant was convicted of driving under the influence - alcohol for events occurring on April 30, 2012, in Madison County, State of Illinois in Court Case #12CF897.

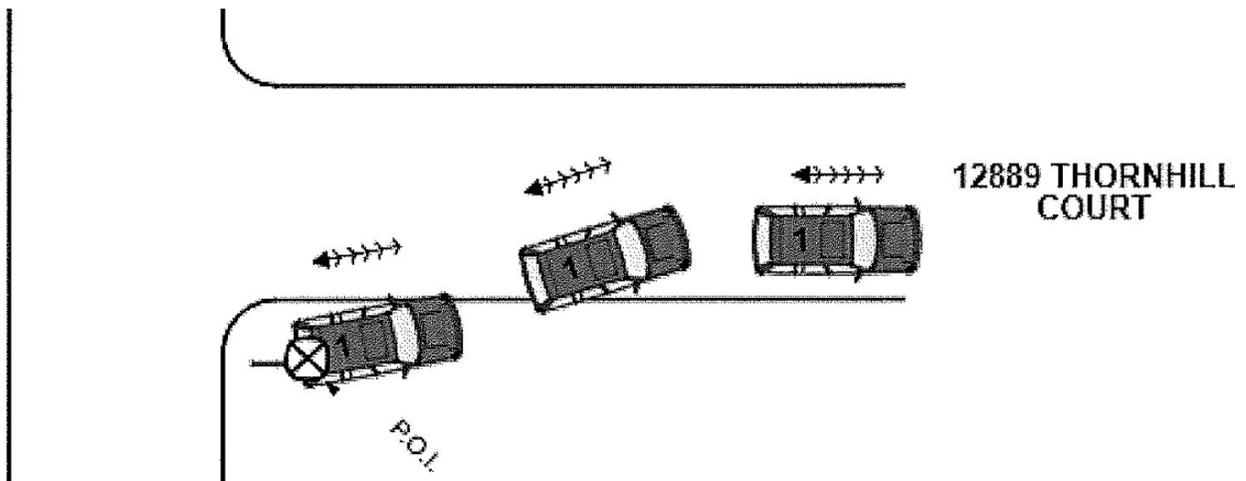
OUTCOME: On 01/22/18 Merrell pled guilty to Felony Aggravated DWI and Driving While Revoked before County Circuit Court Judge Joseph Walsh. Merrell was sentenced to 4-years in prison, but was immediately placed on a 5-years SES probation term. He was sentenced to 90-days jail for Driving While Revoke, but was given credit for time served prior to making bond.

FELONY LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT ARREST: On 07/31,17 Christopher C. Smith, 32, of 2905 South Kingshighway St. Louis was turning around in the driveway at 12889 Thornhill CT just off of Topping Road. While backing up in his 2002 Chevy

Tahoe, Smith hit the brick enclosed mailbox destroying it. The damage to the brick mailbox enclosure was over \$1,000.



Christopher C. Smith



Smith was later arrested and claimed he fled the scene because his drivers' license was revoked. Of course like anyone with a suspended or revoked license, Smith had no insurance.

KNOWING THAT FALSE STATEMENTS ON THIS FORM ARE PUNISHABLE BY LAW, STATE THAT I HAVE PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT:

ONABOUT (Date)	AT TIME	HWY CLASS	UPON / AT OR NEAR (LOCATION)
07/31/2017	1315 HRS	CST	CST 12889 THORNHILL DR

WITHIN CITY / COUNTY AND STATE AFORESAID,
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)
SMITH, STEVEN, C

STREET ADDRESS
2100 S KINGSHIGHWAY

CITY
ST LOUIS STATE **MO** ZIP CODE **63139**

DATE OF BIRTH	RACE	SEX	HEIGHT	WEIGHT
01/07/1985	W	M	510	210

DRIVER'S LIC. NO. [REDACTED] CDL: YES NO STATE **MO**

EMPLOYER

ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip)

DID UNLAWFULLY OPERATE/DRIVE PARK C.M.V. WITH HAZ. MAT

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	STYLE	COLOR
2002	CHEVROLET	TAHOE		GLD

REGISTERED WEIGHT [REDACTED] LIC. NUMBER [REDACTED] STATE **MO** YEAR **2018**

DID THEN AND THERE COMMIT THE FOLLOWING OFFENSE. THE FACTS SUPPORTING THIS BELIEF ARE AS FOLLOWS:
DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE LICENSE IS SUSPENDED
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN PROOF (07/21/17)
CASE # IN17009329

Subject taken into custody. (Complete "For Issuance of a Warrant" section on reverse side.) **OCA# 17-001074**

ONABOUT (Date)	AT TIME	HWY CLASS	UPON / AT OR NEAR (LOCATION)
07/31/2017	1315 HRS	CST	CST 12889 THORNHILL DR

WITHIN CITY / COUNTY AND STATE AFORESAID,
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)
SMITH, STEVEN, C

STREET ADDRESS
2100 S KINGSHIGHWAY

CITY
ST LOUIS STATE **MO** ZIP CODE **63139**

DATE OF BIRTH	RACE	SEX	HEIGHT	WEIGHT
01/07/1985	W	M	510	210

DRIVER'S LIC. NO. [REDACTED] CDL: YES NO STATE **MO**

EMPLOYER

ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip)

DID UNLAWFULLY OPERATE/DRIVE PARK C.M.V. WITH HAZ. MAT

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	STYLE	COLOR
2002	CHEVROLET	TAHOE		GLD

REGISTERED WEIGHT [REDACTED] LIC. NUMBER [REDACTED] STATE **MO** YEAR **2018**

DID THEN AND THERE COMMIT THE FOLLOWING OFFENSE. THE FACTS SUPPORTING THIS BELIEF ARE AS FOLLOWS:
VIOLATION OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The No Insurance and Suspended License were filed in Town and Country Municipal court with the Felony Leaving the Scene being filed in State Court. On 11/16/17 Smith pled to the charges in Town and Country Court and was fined \$127 for No Ins and \$272 for Driving with a Suspended License. However he never paid the fines and there are now warrants for his arrest.

From the Court files:

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI**

-VS-

STEVEN CHRISTOPHER SMITH
2905 KINGSHIGHWAY BLVD
SAINT LOUIS, MO 63139

Aliases:
Steven C Smith

RACE: White
SEX: Male
DOB: 01/07/1985
HGT: 5'10"
WGT: 210lbs.
P.D.: Town and Country
ORI Number: MO0957200

CHARGES

Count: 01 LEAVING SCENE OF ACCIDENT - PROPERTY DAMAGE EXCEEDING \$1,000 - CLASS E FELONY

I, Chris Hunt, DSN 0073, Town and Country Police Department, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true. I have probable cause to believe that on July 31, 2017, at 12889 Thornhill Court, Steven Smith, White, Male, DOB 01/07/1985, 5'10", 210lbs, committed one or more criminal offense(s).

Count: 01 LEAVING SCENE OF ACCIDENT - PROPERTY DAMAGE
 EXCEEDING \$1,000 - CLASS E FELONY

The facts supporting this belief are as follows: Defendant was observed striking victim's mailbox. Defendant failed to stop. Damage to the property exceeded \$1,000. Defendant confessed and stated he left the scene because he license was revoked.

Two months after the Town and Country incident, Smith was arrested for snatching a woman's purse and within minutes using the credit card and a very exclusive and high dollar store. It was a 7-11 in South County. This is from that court file:

I, Christopher Straatmann, DSN 4608, St. Louis County Police Department, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true. I have probable cause to believe that on October 11, 2017, at 4410 Lemay Ferry Rd, and 5604 Gravois, Steven Smith, White, Male, DOB 01/07/1985, 5'10", 210lbs, committed one or more criminal offense(s).

Count: 01 STEALING - PHYSICALLY TAKE- CLASS D FELONY

Count: 02 FRAUDULENT USE OF CREDIT/DEBIT DEVICE- CLASS A
 MISDEMEANOR

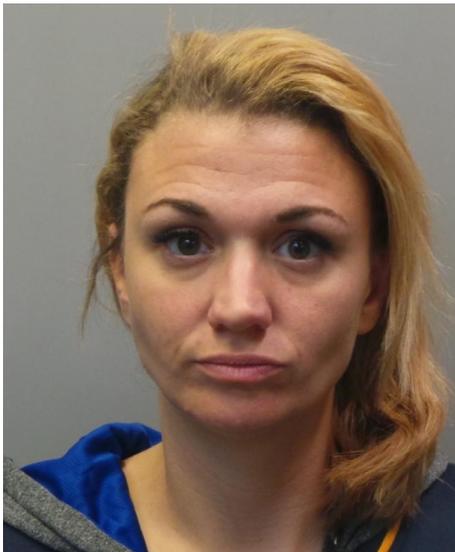
The facts supporting this belief are as follows: The victim was attacked by a male suspect demanding her purse. The suspect snatched her purse and used her credit card within minutes at a local 7 Eleven. The defendant was identified from the 7 Eleven footage as the person using the card.

This is Smith's record that we could find:

12/28/10	Domestic Assault	99-days jail	St. Louis PD
07/31/17	Felony Leaving the Scene of Accident	pending	Town and Country PD
07/31/17	Driving While Lic Suspended	Pled Guilty 11/16/17	Town and Country PD
	Fined \$272	Failed to pay fine, Warrant	
	No Insurance	Pled Guilty 11/16/17	fined \$127
	Failed to pay fine	Warrant	
08/01/17	Driving While Suspended	PG fined \$275	Frontenac PD
	Disobey Red Elec Signal	PG fined \$95	
	Drive Wrong Way on One-Way Lane	PG fined \$95	
	Failure to Yield to Emergency Vehicle	PG fined \$95	
10/11/17	Felony Stealing	pending	St. Louis CO PD
	Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card		
10/13/17	Driving While Suspended	PG 12/13/17 fined \$326	Webster Groves PD
10/13/17	Careless and Reckless caused Accident	PG fined \$250	St. Louis PD
	Driving with a Suspended Lic	PG 2/22/18 fined \$350	
	Destruction of Private Property	PG fined \$300	
	Leaving the Scene of Accident	PG fined \$400	
	No Insurance	PG fined \$175	
08/06/18	Driving W/Suspended License	pending	St. Louis PD

WOMAN HAS A 15-YEAR RECORD OF DRIVING WITH A SUSPENDED OR REVOKED LICENSE BUT GETS REDUCED CHARGES IN TOWN AND COURTY.

Jessica Landfair, 36, has had a suspended or revoked drivers' license dating back 16 years.



Town and Country Police Officer Palmer stopped her for a traffic violation on November 27, 2016 at 11:07 AM on Hwy 141 at Clayton Road. Officer Palmer determined that Landfair's license was revoked and he arrested her.

Here is part of her driving record and arrest record that we could find:

09/02/01	Op Motor Veh w/o a valid Drivers Lic 15 days jail1 yr probation	St. Charles PD
04/18/02	Moving Violation reduced to loud muffler \$80 fine	St. Charles S.O.
10/13/02	DWI PG 120 days jail, but placed on 2-year probation	MO Highway Patrol
	Speeding PG \$200 fine	
11/09/02	Moving Violation amended to Loud Muffler \$60 fine	
12/25/02	Driving While Revoked (ref testing drunk in earlier case)	MO Highway Patrol
	PG 12/03/04 fined \$290	
10/21/07	Moving Violation reduced to Loud Muffler \$250 fine	Wentzville PD
01/13/10	DWI (2 nd Offense) PG 5/07/11 90 days jail	St. Peters PD
11/27/16	Driving While Revoked(reduced to No Op Lic \$225 fine)	Town & Country
04/10/17	Improper Veh Registration (Plates from another) fine	Florissant PD
05/12/17	Driving While Revoked pending	St. Johns PD
06/05/17	3-Moving Viol reduced to Illegal Parking Charlack	No Co Police Coop

COURT DATE 01/05/2017		COURT TIME <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM 7:00		COURT PHONE NO. (314) 432-1420	
I, KNOWING THAT FALSE STATEMENTS ON THIS FORM ARE PUNISHABLE BY LAW, STATE THAT I HAVE PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT:					
ONABOUT (Date)	AT TIME	HWY CLASS	UPON / AT OR NEAR (LOCATION)		
11/27/2016	1107 HRS	MO	SB MO 141 AFRT HH		
WITHIN CITY / COUNTY AND STATE AFORESAID,					
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) LANDFAIR, JESSICA, MICHELE					
STREET ADDRESS 30 PINWOOD CT					
CITY OFALLON			STATE MO	ZIP CODE 63368	
DATE OF BIRTH 12/16/1981	RACE W	SEX F	HEIGHT 507	WEIGHT 125	
DRIVER'S LIC. NO. [REDACTED]		CDL: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		STATE MO	
EMPLOYER					
ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip)					
DID UNLAWFULLY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATE/DRIVE <input type="checkbox"/> PARK			<input type="checkbox"/> C.M.V. <input type="checkbox"/> WITH HAZ MAT		
V E H I C L E	YEAR 2004	MAKE ACURA	MODEL MDX	STYLE 4D	COLOR WHI
	REGISTERED WEIGHT	L I C E N S E N U M B E R	STATE MO	YEAR 2018	
DID THEN AND THERE COMMIT THE FOLLOWING OFFENSE. THE FACTS SUPPORTING THIS BELIEF ARE AS FOLLOWS: DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE LICENSE IS REVOKED					

OUTCOME: Normally you give someone charged with Driving While Revoked a break if they got their license reinstated by court time. But if you look at Landfair's driving record does she really deserve a break? She has three prior Driving While Revoked Convictions and two prior DWI convictions. However, prosecutor Ed Sluys and Judge Andrea Niehoff thought she was a good candidate for an amended charge, especially since she was represented by a local lawyer. On March 15, 2018 Landfair pled guilty to an amended charge of No Operator's License and was fined \$225.

CHESTERFIELD CITY PROSECUTOR REFUSED TO CONVICT REPEAT THIEF: In Missouri if you have two prior theft convictions the next one is a felony, even if they are under \$750. The problem in Chesterfield is that if the repeat offender hires a local defense attorney the Chesterfield prosecutor normally amends it to "Littering" with a steep fine. When this happens the case no longer counts toward a felony charge for repeated theft offenders.

That is what happened with Michael C. Hayes, now 35, of Fenton.

On Thursday August 18, 2016 around noon Hayes and Matthew W. Adams, now 35 also of Fenton, found their way to the Chesterfield Valley and the Best Buy store.

The store had been having an excessive amount of computer games stolen. The store's manager set a security camera to focus into the Xbox game area.



At 12:04pm Adams was observed wearing a "Superman" shirt and carrying an Aldi's shopping bag. Adams was taking on a cell phone as he walked through the store to the video games area. The manager watched him place several games in the Aldi's bag. The manager then went to the games area and observed Adams place another game in the Aldi's bag.

Staff had been notified and responded to the area. The manager asked him what he was doing and Adams put the last game he took back, but he did not give up the other games. When told to produce the other games, Adams refused and made a beeline toward the front doors, ran outside and entered a maroon older model Cadillac owned and driven by Hayes.

Both Adams and Hayes are Heroin addicts.



Adams



Hayes

A general description of the car was broadcast without a license plate.

Frontenac Police Sgt. Tim Barnett spotted the Cadillac on I-64. He took a photo of it. It then exited the highway and turned down a dead end street when Sgt. Barnett contacted them. He asked what they were doping and Hayes said they were looking for a friend. Sgt. Barnett identified Adams and Hayes, took a photo of them and release them.

A few years ago Sgt. Barnett would have search the car and found the stolen property. But a Supreme Court Ruling has made that type of search harder to do. Adams and Hayes were released and Sgt. Barnett responded to Chesterfield where Adams was identified as the thief in the store and Hayes as the getaway car driver.

On August 23, 2016 a St. Louis County Police stopped Hayes and arrested him for the “theft wanted” from Chesterfield. Chesterfield Officer McBride met the County officer at Hwy 141 and Manchester and Hayes was transferred to the custody of Officer McBride.

Hayes gave a statement that he and Adams used to live in the same trailer in Fenton. They were both heroin addicts. He said Adams asked him to drive him to Best Buy and

wait outside. Adams came running outside later yelling "Go, Go, Go!" Hayes said Adams had the video games.

Adams was arrested by the Brentwood Police on September 21, 2016. He was picked up by a Chesterfield officer taken to the Chesterfield Police Department, where he invoked his rights per the Miranda and declined to make a statement. Staff at Best Buy later picked his photo out of a photo lineup.

Hayes was charged with Stealing in Municipal Court. Adams with prior theft was charged with a Felony for the theft of \$229.96 worth of video games.

Records:

Hayes:

04/20/17	Stealing amended to Littering \$495 fine	Maplewood
04/14/17	Stealing amended to Littering \$150 fine	St. Louis
03/10/17	Stealing PG 7/10/18 2 year SIS No Fine, No Record Probation	Kirkwood
03/20/17	Poss of Stolen Property amended by City to Littering \$250 fine Possession of Drug Para amended to Littering \$350 fine	Chesterfield
11/13/16	Trespassing Fined \$275	Des Peres
08/18/16	Stealing amended to Littering \$250	Chesterfield

ADAMS:

02/19/18	Panhandling	St. Louis City
02/17/18	Panhandling	St. Louis City
01/28/18	Panhandling 2-counts	St. Louis City
01/21/18	Panhandling	St. Louis City
10/11/17	Possession of Drug Para FTA arrest warrant outstanding	Sunset Hills
04/20/17	Trespassing arrest warrant active	Maplewood
08/18/16	Felony Stealing reduced to Misdemeanor Probation term	Chesterfield
03/13/13	Driving While Revoked 37 days jail	Mo Hwy Patrol
02/10/13	Stealing (Misdemeanor) 6 months jail	Kirkwood
07/07/10	Driving While Revoke and Fail to Yield to Police 30 days jail	Jefferson Co
08/15/07	Misdemeanor Stealing PG 1 year probation term	Jefferson Co

Adams was also charged numerous times by St. Louis being a pedestrian on a Limited Acces Highway. (This is normally someone begging for money from drivers on an Interstate exit stopped for a red light.)

After Hayes' first arrest in Chesterfield, he was later arrested again in Chesterfield for stealing from Home Depot, in St. Louis for stealing from the Lowe's Store, in Kirkwood for stealing from the Lowe's Store, in Maplewood for stealing from the Lowe's Store.

OUTCOME: Hayes' lawyer moved the 2016 Best Buy case and a 2017 theft at Home Depot to St. Louis Associate Circuit Court in Clayton. There Chesterfield prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer amended all charges to "Littering" and Hays received cash fines and no record of theft convictions.

Matthew Adams' felony charge resulting in him pleading guilty on 06/01/18 to an amended charge of misdemeanor stealing. He was sentenced to six months in jail, but was then immediately placed on a 1-year SES probation term.

LOGAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIVING IN VALLEY PARK EITHER STEALS WALLET LEFT AT BAR OR "FINDS" IT AND STARTS USING CREDIT CARD: Todd Eason McGowan had been at the Corner Pub and Grill at 15824 Fountain Plaza in Ellisville at Clayton and Clarkson Roads on Sunday July 16, 2017 when he apparently left his wallet.



The Corner Pub



Todd McGowan left wallet

On Monday July 17, 2017 McGowan knew he had not simply misplaced his wallet. He called credit card companies and found out later on in the day he apparently left the wallet at the Corner Bar and it was taken as there was a \$500.71 transaction at the Target Store in Town and Country.

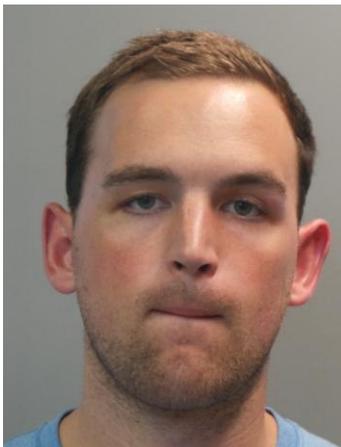
The Master Card was also used at two different Petro-Mart gas station/convenience stores also on Sunday July 16. One Petro-Mart was in Chesterfield and the other one

was in Valley Park. Later it was determined that it was also used at Half-Price Books in Chesterfield.

DON'T DO THIS IF YOU ARE A CREDIT CARD THIEF: Town and Country Police Detective Hunt called around to the four locations that the credit card was used on July 16 to steal a total of \$633.30 worth of merchandise.

Every location had a video of the suspect using the card. But the one that identified the suspect the fastest was the Petro-Mart in Valley Park, where the suspect is a regular customer and known to the staff. In fact he had just filled out a part time work application as he finished the last 18 months his studies at Logan University.

He was identified as **Curtis R. Bixenstine**, 27, who had lived in Valley Park and now lives at **1808 Ridge Lake Drive in Chesterfield**. Det. Hunt obtain Bixenstine's drivers' license photo from his home state of Ohio and then went to Target, the Chesterfield Petro-Mart and Half-Price Books, where he positively identified Bixenstine from the store video when he used the stolen card.



Curtis R. Bixenstine

At Target he fraudulently obtained a Play Station 4 and other Play Station accessories. At the Chesterfield Petro-Mart it was gasoline and food, in Valley Park it was cigars and cigarettes (He is now in the medical profession?). What he pulled at Half Price Books led me to believe this scam with a stolen credit card was not new to him. He bought books and then within days tried to return them for cash, but was only offered a store credit.

On July 25, 2017 Det. Hunt and Det. Nicoletti went to Bixnstine's apartment in Valley Park, but he wasn't at home. Next they went to Logan University, where Bixenstine is

currently enrolled to be a chiropractor. He was not there. (Perhaps he is developing a new treatment that can relax muscles, adjust bones and remove credit cards from patients' wallets.) They did reach him by cell phone. At first he said he would go right to the Town and Country Police Station in the next hour. 30-minutes later he contacted Det. Hunt back and said he had to hire a lawyer first.

The lawyer called back and informed Det. Hunt that Bixenstine was turning himself in.

Here is what Bixenstine told Det. Hunt from the police report after he was advised of the Miranda Warning:

*** Bixenstine stated he found the victim's wallet and contents, including the credit card in question, in the "middle of the street". Bixenstine stated his friend lives at 1 [REDACTED] Ridge Lake (Chesterfield, Mo) and that he found the wallet in close proximity to same.

I question this statement completely. McGowan apparently left his wallet at at the Corner Pub, at worse maybe it slid off the roof of his car in the Ellisville parking lot.

*** Bixenstine stated he later removed the credit card in question and made purchases at (2) two different gas / service stations, a book store, and a Target store.

*** Bixenstine stated at (1) one gas station (Petro-Mart - Chesterfield) he purchased food and fuel and at the other he purchased cigarettes and a cigar. Bixenstine stated he purchased numerous books from the book store. Bixenstine stated at Target he purchased a Playstation 4 gaming system, (2) two Playstation 4 video games, headphones, and an OtterBox.

OUTCOME: On April 4, 2018 Bixenstine pled guilty in Town and Country Municipal Court to Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card. Judge Niehoff placed him on a No-Record and No-Fine and No-Jail 2-year probation term. (Originally appeared in the July 8 edition, Newsletter #337)

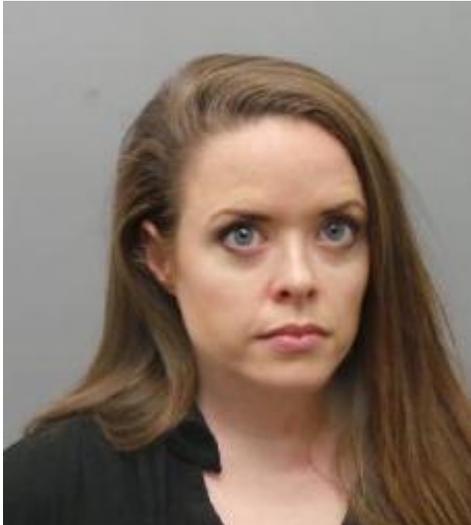
TWO PRIOR DRUNK DRIVING CONVICTIONS DIDN'T MAKE IMPRESSION ON 35-YEAR-OLD ST. CHARLES WOMAN. BUT JUDGE ALLOWS HER TO ENTER PROGRAM TO AVOID THIRD CONVICTION. Portia Lane, 35, of St. Charles had been arrested for DWI in 2008 in Maryland Heights and later convicted of DWI in 2011. In February of 2010 she was arrested for DWI in St. Louis and convicted in October of 2010.

A week before Thanksgiving 2017, on November 16 Lane was driving on Olive Blvd. near Creve Coeur Mill Road when Chesterfield Police Officer Matt Adams stopped her after she committed several traffic violations. She appeared to be drunk. She failed field sobriety tests, refused to take a field breath test and later refused to take a breath test at the police station. Since a third DWI is a felony, Officer Adams obtained a search warrant for a blood draw. The BAC results showed the 4-foot-10 inch 105 pound Lane had a BAC level of .121%.

In March of 2018 she was charged in Circuit Court with Felony Persistent DWI.

OUTCOME: On July 25, 2018 Lane pled guilty before Judge Burton. She was allowed to enter a DWI Special Program. She was not convicted and the case was continued for three years for sentencing.

Since there was no actual conviction and since Lane was not sentenced we could not obtain a police report reference the incident. Instead we obtained the Probable Cause information from the court files.



Portia Lane

PORTIA MICHELLE LANE
1410 HERITAGE LANDING
APT. 208
SAINT CHARLES, MO 63303

Aliases:

Defendant

RACE: White
SEX: Female
DOB: 08/21/1982
HGT: 4'10"
WGT: 105lbs.
P.D.: Chesterfield
ORI Number: MO0959,

CHARGES

Count: 01 DWI - PERSISTENT- CLASS E FELONY

Comes now the State of Missouri by and through the undersigned Assistant Prosecuting Attorney on information and belief that there is probable cause to believe that the above named defendant committed the following crime(s):

COUNT: 01 DWI - PERSISTENT- CLASS E FELONY

That Portia Lane , in violation of Section 577.010, committed the class E felony of driving while intoxicated, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.002, 558.011 and 577.010 RSMo, in that on or about November 16, 2017, Olive Blvd and Creve Coeur Mill Road in the County of St. Louis, State of Missouri, the defendant operated a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, and

1. On or about April 18, 2011, defendant was found guilty of driving while intoxicated for events occurring on July 23, 2008, in Maryland Heights Municipal Court in court case #2811943, and
2. On or about October 12, 2010, defendant was found guilty of driving while intoxicated for events occurring on February 3, 2010, in St. Louis City Municipal Court in court case #071993358B.

I, Matt Adams, DSN 5295, Chesterfield Police Department, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true. I have probable cause to believe that on November 16, 2017, at Olive Blvd and Creve Coeur Mill Road, Portia Lane, White, Female, DOB 08/21/1982, 4'10", 105lbs, committed one or more criminal offense(s).

Count: 01 DWI - PERSISTENT- CLASS E FELONY

The facts supporting this belief are as follows: Defendant was operating a motor vehicle in St. Louis County. Defendant was curbed for several traffic violations. Defendant's person smelled strongly of an odor of an intoxicating beverage. Defendant's eyes were watery and bloodshot. Her balance and walking was swaying and staggering. Defendant performed poorly on SFSTs. Defendant was read her Missouri Implied Consent and she refused to take a breath test. A warrant for her blood was granted. Defendant's BAC result was a .121.

Defendant has at least two prior intoxication related traffic offenses.

(This report originally appeared