

LOCAL/STATE

Business Owner Says Landlords Stole \$400K Worth Of Fireworks

The alleged theft of \$400,000 worth of fireworks from a Chuckey location was reported Sunday to the Greene County Sheriff's Department.

The victim, of Tampa, Florida, told deputies the theft occurred between March 25 and April 10 on Apricot Lane in Chuckey from a company called Pyro Junkie Fireworks Tennessee LLC.

The man who filed the complaint said the company was locked out of the building by two landlords listed as suspects in the report.

The victim said he was locked out of the building "overnight without warning in the middle of a business deal," Sgt. Jeff Caudill said in a report.

The victim said the suspects "have since taken possession of \$400,000 of our product and assets and are unwilling to give it back," the report said.

The case had been a civil matter until recently, the report added.

"The landlords have removed all of our assets and inventory in secrecy and are refusing to return it or even

tell us where our property is," the victim told deputies.

The victim met with the landlords on Saturday and were told "they acknowledged that they took the assets and inventory and will not be giving it back," the report said.

The victim alleged the landlords also acknowledged they "have probably gone about taking (the assets) and possessions unlawfully," the report said.

The case remains under investigation.

Report: Man Points Shotgun At 4 People

Jeffrey Allen Nelson, 20, of 120 Curtis St., was charged Sunday afternoon by sheriff's deputies with four counts of aggravated assault after allegedly pointing a sawed-off shotgun at a group of people.

Deputies went to an address on Rocky Point in Midway and spoke with the alleged victims, one of whom had recently sold a truck to Nelson, who had not paid for it, Deputy Adam Weems said in a report.

The alleged victim told deputies that Nelson sent a text message Sunday to him stating he had "swapped the vehicle identification number on the truck" and indicated he was coming to his Rocky Point house. Nelson and another man arrived soon afterward and drove by the man's house several times while the four alleged victims were outside.

Nelson stopped in the road, got out, and attempted to fight the man who had sold him the truck. He got back into the vehicle, backed into the man's driveway and pulled out onto the road, the report said.

The alleged victims told deputies that Nelson pulled out a sawed-off shotgun and pointed it at them, stating, "I've got something for all of you," the report said.

The gun was not fired. Nelson and his passenger left. Nelson was taken into custody a short time later.

He is held on \$40,000 bond pending a first scheduled appearance Monday in General Sessions Court.

Navy: Training Jet Flew Too Low — For Thrills — Before Crash

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Navy is citing pilot error for a military training jet crash in Tennessee that killed the two aboard, saying it was being flown for thrills and too low.

Navy officials said in a report the T-45C Goshawk was flying below allowable altitudes last October when it plunged into a forest near Tellico Plains. The report was emailed Saturday to The Associated Press, which requested it under the Freedom of Information Act.

The crash killed 31-year-old instructor Lt. Patrick Ruth from Metairie, Louisiana, and 25-year-old stu-

dent pilot Lt. j.g. Wallace Burch from Horn Lake, Mississippi. Both were stationed at Naval Air Station Meridian in Mississippi. The flight originated from McGee Tyson Airport in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The report cited a "culture" within the individual training unit and Naval air training at large that allowed pilots to fly "beyond the bounds" of approved Naval Air Training Command curriculum. It also said leadership failed to ensure training operations adhered to approved publications.

Ruth "was overly confident, nonchalant, and aggressive at low

altitude training, with limited awareness of the performance capabilities" of the aircraft during the low-altitude awareness training flight, the report said. Ruth's attitude "conditioned (Burch) to fly the aircraft in an aggressive manner, without correction" from Ruth.

The report said Ruth exceeded approved training curriculum, including aggressive ridgeline crossings and descending turns that went below the minimum altitude of 500 feet (150 meters).

Shortly before the crash, Ruth told Burch they would "deviate from the direct line" of the

approved training route in order to follow terrain. Ruth started a descending turn to demonstrate terrain-following techniques, then instructed Burch to make a hard right turn.

But the plane was going too slow and too low relative to the rising terrain ahead, the report said. "In response to their maneuvers, the aircraft entered into a stall," it added.

By the time the crew realized the situation, it was too late to safely eject, according to the report.

The Navy said it has since conducted an audit to ensure instructor pilots have completed training requirements.

IT HAPPENED HERE

Joseph Buckner, 22, no address listed, was arrested for public intoxication after entering the Greeneville Police Department on Saturday and asked to use the restroom. According to a police report, Buckner had an odor of alcohol and was unsteady on his feet. Buckner was reportedly asked how much he had had to drink and he said, "Enough." He was taken into custody for his safety and the safety of others and was transported to the Greene County Detention Center. He is scheduled to appear in court on Monday.

A woman is facing shoplifting charges after she was spotted by an employee leaving the Walgreens store on East Andrew Johnson Highway without paying for a basket full of items as well as photos that had been printed at the self-serve kiosk. According to a Greeneville police report, the store manager was able to provide a partial tag number, description of the vehicle and occupants, in addition to a partial name and photo of the suspect. Officers found Breanna Bardo-Davis and questioned her. Bardo-Davis was charged with shoplifting. The recovered items were returned to Walgreens. The theft totaled \$198.73.

A Mohawk residence suffered an estimated \$4,000 in damage after a grass fire got out of control on Friday and ignited a mobile home. According to a Greene County Sheriff's Department report, homeowner Billy Gilbert stated that he was burning off a grass bank when the fire "got away from him." The fire reportedly got up to the home, located at 190 Glades Road, and caught the mobile home's vinyl underpinning on fire. Gilbert said he first attempted to use a water hose to control the fire, but that failed. He then broke a water line under the house and used that to control the fire until the McDonald Volunteer Fire Department arrived on the scene. No injuries were reported.

Randall W. Roderick, 26, of 240 Twin Barns Road, Afton, was arrested on domestic assault and felony vandalism charges following an incident Friday evening at Walmart. According to an arrest warrant, the

female victim was shopping with her daughter and ex-husband at Walmart when Roderick reportedly approached them and started an altercation with the male. Roderick then reportedly shoved a shopping cart at the mother and daughter, injuring the mother, and punched the man in the head. Roderick then reportedly went to the parking lot and vandalized the victim's truck. Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$1,000. Roderick, who reportedly left before officers arrived, was later arrested. He was held without bond prior to an initial court appearance on Monday.

Alvin Cates, 47, of 2546 Babbs Mill Road, was arrested on a domestic assault charge following an altercation at his residence on Friday evening. According to a sheriff's department report, the victim states that she was vacuuming when Cates came into the house, and they began arguing. Cates then allegedly head-butted the victim in the forehead. She then reportedly went to get a baseball bat to defend herself, and that's when the Cates started choking

her and hit her in the face before throwing her onto the couch. Upon speaking with deputies, Cates reportedly admitted to assaulting the victim because she had hit him with the bat. The deputy noted in the report that there were no visible marks on the Cates where he said he had been hit. Cates was arrested and held without bond pending a court appearance on Monday.

David A. Dabbs, 27, of 106 Henry St., is facing multiple drug charges after Greeneville police responded to a call of suspected drug activity on Tuesday at 51 Bradley Ave. According to a police report, officers had been told by several people that drugs were being sold out of the residence. When officers arrived to investigate, they reported a strong odor of marijuana coming from the residence. When officers knocked on the door, people inside reportedly began running towards the back door. A search turned up "a large quantity of methamphetamine," along with "marijuana, heroin, a schedule II pill, several items of drug paraphernalia, cocaine, a loaded .22-caliber

semi-automatic pistol and \$500 in cash," according to a report. Dabbs was charged with being a party to the offense of sale and delivery of schedule I, II and VI drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony. Total bond for Dabbs was set at \$91,000. He is scheduled to appear in court on Monday.

This information has been provided by EK Law, PC.




Did You Know?

DID YOU KNOW that in Tennessee it is illegal to curse in court? According to T.C.A. § 29-9-107 "Any person who profanely swears or curses in the presence of any court of record commits a Class C misdemeanor." This includes attorneys, citizens, and judges.

So be aware that it is always important to consider your language while in the courtroom.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?
This information has been provided by the EK law firm. This firm consists of Edward Kershaw (23 years of legal experience); Angela Pease – Legal Assistant/Paralegal; Rhonda Ratliff – Medical Consultant (BSN, RN.) We may be reached 24 hours a day at 423-620-0219.

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