



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

September 20, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Arrests After Burglary, Deputy Struck By Van

Two persons are in custody after a business burglary on Tuesday, September 20, where a deputy was struck by the fleeing suspects. About 5:40am, a burglary-in-progress was reported at a heating and air business on Bull Run Road in the Claxton community. The business owners live next door and reported two men taking items from a shed. When Deputy Jonathan Bryant arrived he saw the two men in a silver van attempting to leave. The driver struggled with Deputy Bryant and began to drive away dragging the deputy through the driveway. The van then ran over Deputy Bryant's leg and foot as it sped away. As this was occurring, the business owner shot at the van with a shotgun. The van fled and was pursued by Deputy Bryant and Deputy Brent Buckner but they lost sight of the van a short distance away. However, the van was located nearby after it had struck a tree. The passenger was taken into custody but the driver ran on foot. Stolen items from the heating and air business were found in the van.

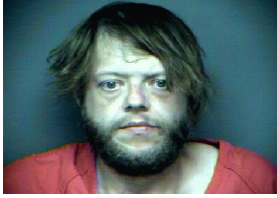
The passenger was identified as **Jason Lamar Ledford** of Knoxville. **Ledford** was taken by patrol car to Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge where he was treated for injuries sustained in the accident. He was then transported to the detention facility.



Jason Lamar Ledford
W/M 12/22/1979 (31)
205 N. Laurel Cir.
Knoxville, TN

Especially Aggravated Burglary
Criminal Conspiracy (2 counts)
Evading Arrest
Theft of Property
Resisting Arrest
Criminal Responsibility
Facilitation of a Felony
Possession of Burglary Tools
(Bond Pending Arraignment)

The driver fled on foot but was identified as **John Allen Gentry** of Knoxville. **Gentry** was not located after search of the area by deputies and K-9 teams. He apparently was given a ride by a passerby to Clinton Highway where he obtained another ride to Knoxville. Sheriff's investigators contacted the Knoxville Police Department and **Gentry** was arrested a short time later at his grandmother's house on Mississippi Avenue in Lonsdale by members of the Repeat Offender Squad. Investigators transported him to Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge where he also was treated for injuries from the accident before being taken to the detention facility.



John Allen Gentry
W/M 03/17/1979 (32)
2200 Mississippi Av.
Knoxville, TN

Especially Aggravated Burglary
Aggravated Assault (2 counts)
Evading Arrest
Reckless Endangerment (3 counts)
Criminal Conspiracy
Theft of Property
Resisting Arrest
Criminal Responsibility (2 counts)
Possession of Burglary Tools
Reckless Driving
(Bond Pending Arraignment)

Both **Gentry** and **Ledford** are being held in the Anderson County Detention Facility. Bond amounts will be set at their arraignment.

Gentry and **Ledford** have no arrests in Anderson County but both have criminal histories in Knox County.

Sheriff's investigators are now working with detectives from the Knox County Sheriff's Office and the Knoxville Police Department to determine if **Gentry** and **Ledford** are involved in other related crimes.

Deputy Jonathan Bryant was treated and released from Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge. Deputy Bryant has leg and foot injuries with possible broken bones in his foot. He is expected to be off from work several days.

Our thanks to the Repeat Offender Squad of the Knoxville Police Department for their assistance.

Sheriff Paul White