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Lots of ideas for Christmas gift-giving on page 6A of today's paper

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THE TOMAHAWK

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Former officer Ken Lane arrested on federal weapons charge

Fellow officer Ron Shupe set for federal drug plea Dec. 6

By Becky Campbell
Johnson City Press
Senior Reporter

One of the former Mountain City police officers charged in an undercover drug operation has a new indictment against him in federal court.

Elmer Kenneth "Ken" Lane, 61, was arrested Monday on a single-count indictment charging him with possessing weapons while being an "unlawful user and addict of a control substance." The indictment also stated the weapons were "shipped and transported in interstate commerce."

In layman's speak, it simply means Lane, who was a sergeant with the Mountain City Police Department at the time, is charged with owning the weapons, which were made in another state and shipped into Tennessee, and he did so while being under the influ-

ence of drugs.

The seven weapons listed in the indictment were:

- Smith & Wesson, Model 10, .38 Special revolver;
- Smith & Wesson, Model 66, .357 Magnum revolver;
- Smith & Wesson, Model 19, .357 Magnum revolver;
- Remington, Model 110, 12-gauge shotgun;
- Marlin, Model 336W, 30-30 rifle; and
- Two Glock 22, .40-caliber pistols.

Lane's initial arrest occurred after a fellow police officer — according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation — was arrested when he purchased Oxycodone for himself and for Lane from a confidential informant who was working with law enforcement. That fellow officer, Ron Shupe, who was a Mountain City police lieutenant, was arrested Nov. 7 immediately after the alleged

drug transaction in Mountain City. At the time, agents said Shupe was in uniform, on duty and in his patrol car. Both men have now been fired from the Mountain City police force.

That arrest was on federal charges, but at the time, Lane was not charged in federal court. Both men, however, were also indicted by a Johnson County grand jury and arrested on Nov. 9 on state charges.

Lane's state charges were:

- Conspiracy to possess schedule II drugs (oxycodone) with intent to deliver in a school zone;



Elmer Kenneth "Ken" Lane, a former Mountain City police sergeant, was arrested last week on a federal weapons charge. He also has state drug charges pending.

- Solicitation to commit delivery of schedule II drugs (oxycodone); and
- Simple possession of schedule II drugs (methamphetamine).

Shupe's state charges were:

- Possession of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony;
- Possession of schedule II drugs (oxycodone) with intent to deliver in a school zone;
- Conspiracy to possess schedule II drugs (oxycodone) with intent to deliver in a school zone;
- Solicitation to commit assault;
- Accessory after the fact;
- Release of confidential information;
- Casual exchange of schedule VI drugs (marijuana);
- Simple possession of schedule II drugs (methamphetamine);
- Theft of property over

- \$1,000 (marijuana); and
- Three counts of official misconduct.

The charges against Lane apparently stemmed from information authorities obtained while investigating Shupe, according to federal court records. Investigators apparently discovered Shupe's alleged drug activities while interviewing a woman jailed in North Carolina on drug charges in June. She told Johnson County Sheriff's Office investigators that Shupe provided her with methamphetamine several times, and they did the drug together in his patrol car while Shupe was on duty.

After that initial interview, investigators obtained a transcript of Facebook messages between the woman and Shupe. The messages did not contain blatant admissions of drug use, but investigators MORE ON PAGE 2A

United Way funds are slow coming in this year

The United Way Fall Campaign is now underway. "In this our 21st United Way Fall Campaign, the challenges are great," said Judy McGuire. "Our goal is \$40,000, which will help 16 human care agencies who applied for United Way funding. The needs of our community continue to grow, and the agencies do an incredible job of serving Johnson County. Every day someone uses one of those agencies. The volunteer fire departments are continually updating and/or rebuilding their equipment to better serve. They are responsible for the cost of their own training and better training is critical. In 2018 United Way will be funding 2nd District, Trade, Neva, Dry Run, Butler, Doe Valley, as well as Shady Valley Volunteer Fire Departments."

Other agencies who receive funding from the Johnson County United Way are as follows: the American Red Cross who assist in helping victims of single family fires in Johnson County; the Imagination Library, bringing the gift of reading to children from birth

to age five. Every month more than 650 children receive a free and age appropriate book delivered to their homes; the Johnson County 4-H, dedicated to helping our youth develop life skills. The United Way funding helps by providing camperships to those children wanting to attend camp.

Additionally, another recipient, the Johnson County Cancer Support Group, provides emotional, material and financial helps to cancer patients dealing with the hardships of this terrible disease. Johnson County Emergency Heating Assistance for Seniors also receives funding as they provide a variety of heating options that include wood, kerosene, electric, and propane to those seniors unable to afford the cost of heating. Johnson County Safe Haven, a shelter for women and children when the situation in their own homes becomes intolerable because of domestic abuse, will also receive funding from the Johnson County United Way.

"Johnson County Senior Center is an amazing experience for anyone over 55," said McGuire. "Every day sees 100 plus people gathering for a meal, conversation, games, and other daily activities." The senior center will also receive funding from the United Way of Johnson County. According to McGuire, the Legal Aid of East Tennessee has also applied for assistance as it provides legal assistance to victims of domestic abuse and works closely with our own Safe Haven.

Mountain City Community Center, another recipient of the generosity of Johnson County, is a busy wholesome environment offering many programs and services to our children. "United Way is pleased to be able to offer scholarships to children attending the annual Oak Tree Day Camp," said McGuire. "All of the people involved with these agencies are com-

MORE ON PAGE 2A



Left to right: Transportation, Terry Hodge; Quilters: Judy Dunn, Cora Mae Stout, Carole Shore, Ollie Phipps, Barbara Henson, Jean Henson, Beverly McKinney, Grace Davis, Director Kathy Motsinger, not pictured: Quilter Janie Nelson

'Quilting Bees' stay busy raising funds for seniors

On any Tuesday morning, sounds of laughter and smiling faces can be found gathered around a quilting frame at the Johnson County Senior Citizens Center. These dedicated and talented quilters have donated their talent and time to benefit the Johnson County Senior Center as over \$1,000 has been raised since January 1st of this year through their ef-

forts. The quilters quilt by hand and finish quilts for people throughout the community who provide the quilts and pay for the quilting services. All money raised through the quilting is used to provide services at the Johnson County Senior Center.

On quilting day, a fly on the wall can be entertained by

Grace's stories or memories shared by members of days gone by. The sharing of stories and memories provides pleasant diversion as the quilters' needles stitch quilts such as Catina's Basket, Double Wedding Ring, Trip Around the World, Lady's Boot, to name a few. Many of the quilts are old quilt tops left by family members. Traditional quilts are the

preference but a wide variety of quilts are quilted.

Quilters include Grace Davis, Judy Dunn, Barbara Henson, Jean Henson, Beverly McKinney, Janie Nelson, Ollie Phipps, Carol Shores, and Cora Mae Stout.

For more information on quilting, contact the Johnson County Senior Citizens Center at 423-727-8883.



Experience 'Christmas on Main' downtown Friday

By Paula Walter
Assistant Editor

The Johnson County Chamber of Commerce will present their very first annual Christmas on Main on December 1. The event will run from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm on Main Street in downtown Mountain City.

The festive evening begins with the judging of decorated business storefronts on Main Street. The first, second and third place winners will be announced at the Christmas parade held the following day on Saturday, December 2nd starting at 5:30 pm. Lo-

cal crafters will be set up to help you with your Christmas shopping. Hot chocolate will be available as people shop for Christmas presents made locally, in addition to other delicious treats. Additionally, Christmas trees and wreaths will be available for sale to start off the season.

Additionally, there will be a photo booth and activities planned for children and adults. Angel tree ornaments will be available to honor those special people in your lives or to remember a loved one.

There will also be a live nativity scene.

Children singers will be per-

forming from 5:30 to 6:30 under the direction of Ms. Thumb. The lighting of the Christmas tree will be at 6:00 pm, followed by the story of the candy cane, the meaning of Christmas and prayer for all during the holiday season. Enjoy the music of Christmas as carolers sing up and down Main Street and spreading some Christmas cheer.

If Santa can get away from the North Pole, he will be in Mountain City from 6:30 to 7:30 pm to see who has been good. Elves will also be available to help take pictures.

The Johnson County Arts Center will open until 6:30 pm

for shopping. If you haven't seen the beautiful art work by local artists, make sure to stop by and take a look at what our artists have to offer.

At 7:00 pm, Heritage Hall will present "The Doublewide, Texas Christmas." There will be performances on December 1st, 2nd and third.

Don't forget the Christmas parade, Saturday, December 2nd beginning at 5:30 pm.

The Johnson County School System will be set up in front of Johnson County Bank on Saturday before and during the Christmas parade and they will be giving a free book to any child that comes by their table.

DR. RANDY RABON
DR. DANIEL MILLER

114 W MAIN ST
MOUNTAIN CITY, TN
(423) 460-1567

MOUNTAIN CITY EYE CARE

