

News Release

03/14/2013

Sheriff Lavender reports that on March 13th at approximately 11:30 p.m. Deputy Brett McKnight was patrolling in the area of 1700 Western Avenue and initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for not having a license plate light.

The vehicle was occupied by two male subjects a driver and, front seat passenger 19 year old Dimitrious J. Burgin who was the registered owner of the vehicle.

Deputy McKnight reports smelling a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle while talking with the driver. Deputy McKnight asked both occupants if there were any drugs or weapons in the vehicle and they both stated no. Deputy McKnight then asked Mr. Burgin for permission to search the vehicle and Mr. Burgin would not give consent.

Deputy McKnight then requested a K9 unit from the Chillicothe Police Department to perform a sniff of the vehicle. Chillicothe Police Officer Tonya Gannon and K9 Ciko arrived and assisted with the traffic stop. Ciko was deployed by Officer Gannon and alerted on the vehicle.

At this time Deputies McKnight and Chris Davis along with Officer Gannon began a search of the vehicle. Officer Gannon located a bag containing green, leafy vegetation under the front passenger seat. The contents tested positive for marijuana.

A pat down search was conducted by Deputy Davis on both occupants. Deputy Davis found a wad of cash totaling \$348.00 in Mr. Burgin's pocket. Mr. Burgin reported that he is un-employed and the money was from an income tax return.

Mr. Burgin was issued a citation for possession of marijuana. The marijuana and cash were taken as evidence to be processed.

Sheriff Lavender would like to thank Chief Roger Moore of the Chillicothe Police Department for his continuing cooperation, as well as commend Officer Gannon and K9 Ciko and Deputies McKnight and Davis for their efforts. This is the second time in less than a week that a traffic stop by Deputy McKnight has resulted in drugs and money being seized by the Ross County Sheriff's Office.