

Two Charged in New Year's Crime Spree

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A couple from Roan Mountain started off their new year in jail after a car break-in was discovered, thanks to quick police work. On the evening of New Year's Day, Beech Mountain Police took a report of a breaking and entering to a motor vehicle parked at Ski Beech Resort, with more than \$4,000 in goods taken. While the victims were at the Beech Mountain Police Department, using the telephone to close down their credit and debit card accounts, they were told by Bank of America that the card had just been used at Banner Elk Exxon minutes before. The Beech Mountain telecommunicator immediately contacted Banner Elk Exxon, and got a description of the two seen using the card, that description leading to the discovery of the suspects at Rite Aid Pharmacy in Invershiel, where more purchases had just been made with the stolen card. Suspects in the case, Crystal Marie Arnold, 26, and Zachery T. Cook, 27, of Roan Mountain, Tenn., were arrested, and a check for warrants turned up warrants by both Avery County and Carter County, Tenn. Police say that a search of the suspect's car turned up additional contraband, including the credit cards, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Arnold and Cook were charged with some 22 criminal charges.