

8/4/05

# Men charged with MoDOT burglary

Preliminary hearings have been set on Aug. 22 for two men charged last week with second-degree burglary.

Cole County prosecutors last week charged Albert Ray Christmann, 27, Jefferson City, and Charles W. French, 35, Hallsville, with the July 25 theft of items from a Transportation Department storage facility.

Capitol Police said their investigation resulted in the arrest of a third man, from Jefferson City. But prosecutors said that part of the case remains under investigation, and he has not been charged.

Capitol Police said video surveillance recordings from the MoDOT facility, 740 MoDOT Dr., "show two individuals on separate

occasions breaking into a storage facility housing valuable raw materials."

A Capitol Police news release, issued Tuesday afternoon, said MoDOT's inventory records indicated about \$6,500 in supplies was taken, including a portable gas generator.

"Capitol Police officers were able to recover the generator at a business in Columbia," the news release said. "One suspect was apprehended in Lebanon, Mo., following a statewide broadcast from Capitol Police dispatch."

Another man was arrested by Jefferson City police, they said, while the third suspect was arrested by Capitol Police officers.

A probable cause statement

said two residents of an apartment on Dawson Drive identified Christmann on the surveillance video, and that Christmann also confessed to a June 26 burglary.

Officials said Christmann identified French as his accomplice.

Bond was set at \$10,000 for both Christmann and French.

Their preliminary hearings are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 22.