

DAILY EDITION

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, November 15, 2007

Bus driver fired but Threats made to minor no charges filed

A letter from District Attorney General Russell Johnson was sent to Sheriff Tim Guider Tuesday afternoon commending the Sheriff and his officers job on an incident that occurred last week. The incident that occurred where the driver of Loudon County Bus 16 put off students after she was pelted with objects while driving and put the students off the bus and didn't follow the procedure given to her as a driver.

In the letter from DA John-

son is states:

Dear Sheriff: I have reviewed your office's investigative file in the above referenced matter and spoke at length with Detectives Patrick Upton and Jason Smith. I met with Gil Luttrell of Loudon County Schools and discussed the matter with him. Also, ADA Lee Ledbetter and I drove the bus route and the several roads between where the students were discharged on Loudon Ridge Road and Hatley Road. General Led-

(see Driver pg. 8)

Did he really think he could escape on a skateboard?

Deputy Mike Williams, LCSD was attempting to serve a Loudon County General Sessions mittimus on Brian Frank Zielinski and informed him he was under arrest. Zielinski did evade arrest by running away both on foot and by use of a skateboard. Attempts to apprehend Mr. Zielinski were unsuccessful

(see Zielinski pg. 6)



Brian Frank Zielinski

Verse of the day

Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

Isaiah 56:11

Obituaries

Bobby Ronald Arden
Naomi Gladys Brown Lawson
Louise Bright Raby

Weather:

Today: Windy with a few clouds from time to time. Cooler. High 47.
Tonight: Partly cloudy skies.

The mother of a teen has filed harassment charges against an Athens teen. According to the warrant, starting around October 18, her daughter, who is a minor, has received numerous calls from Matthew Hamblen. Hamblen has left several vulgar and threatening messages on the daughters cell phone.

Hamblen also called the
(see Hamblen pg. 4)



Robert Matthew Hamblin

Dog accused of livestock deaths

A local man told police a dog had killed his pigmy goat and some chickens after he found the animals

dead in his yard Sunday.

According to records, Charles Greer, Grandview Drive, advised he found

(see Dog pg. 3)

\$3700 TV missing

Police were called to a local storage facility Sunday when a woman discovered her 42" television missing.

Deputy Mickey Patter-

son, LCSD, reported he was dispatched to 4879 East Lee Highway where he spoke with Sheila Graham of Loudon. Graham said her

(see Missing pg. 7)

Garage burgled

Authorities were called to a local residence Monday when a man discovered

someone burglarized his garage and took multiple items.

(see Garage pg. 3)

Gusty winds early. Cold. Low 27.

Friday: Mainly sunny. High 54.

Wazzup

Congratulations on your pending arrival Chad and Amy Estes!

Mike, your 1/2 calzone

was in Dan's fridge for the longest.....

Horoscopes Scorpio

(Oct 24-Nov 22)

Today is perfect for hanging out with friends and enjoying the good social

(see Horoscopes pg. 2)

Dog

his registered pigmy Angora goat dead in his yard around 10:00 a.m. and it appeared to have been attacked by a dog.

Deputy Steve Helm, LCSD, reported a suspect dog was identified as having been on the property recently chasing the goat and trying to

get to some chicks in a pen, two of which also were killed.

A witness stated she has run the dog off the property several times recently, however, both she and Greer advised they did not see the loose canine kill the goat and chicks.

The dog's owner was identified to police.

Garage

According to reports, George Lawson of Turn Lane advised someone took a John Deere mower, a Kawasaki 4-wheeler, a Honda generator and a Campbell Hausfield air compressor from his garage.

Deputy Steve Helm, LCSD reported Lawson further advised he believed the burglary may have occurred

over the weekend.

Police Beat

Douglas Neil Graham, 43, of Stomp Road, Greenback, was charged with VOP.

According to the affidavit, Graham was convicted of DUI and sentenced to probation for 11 months 29 days.

Since then he has failed to report to probation officer; failed to

pay costs/fines, owes \$876; failed to pay supervision fees, owes \$180; failed to respond to notices; failed to complete A/D assessment, failed to attend DUI school and failed to provide address/phone number. Deputy Adam Bryant, LCSD made the arrest.

Jose Alfredo Medina, 18, of Main St., Loudon, was charged with underage consumption. According to the report, Officer Brendan Deboer, LPD stopped a vehicle and Medina was a passenger. He is under 21 and had the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his person. Officer Brendan Deboer, LPD made the arrest.

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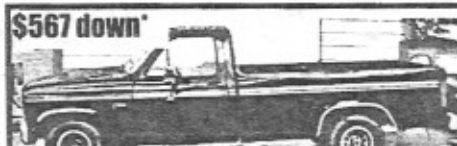
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Hamblen

victim's home numerous times a day. The mother and victim have both asked Hamblen to stop calling and the mother has spoken with investigators and filed several police reports, but Hamblen continues to call and continues to leave vulgar and threatening messages.

Hamblin, 19, of Alfred Street, Athens, was charged with harassment. Deputy Chris Bowen, LCSD made the arrest.

Police Beat

Matthew Todd O'Neil, 29, of Honey-suckle Road, Loudon, was charged with an attachment for child support.

Deputy Chad Petty, LCSD made the arrest.

Robert Matthew

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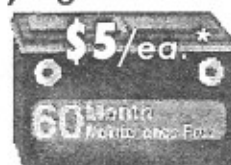
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Missing

Sylvania 42" plasma television, which was new in the box, was missing from her storage unit and advised

only she and her son and daughter-in-law have a key. There also were no signs of forced entry.

The lawman noted

Graham made the report at same time he was dispatched to the area for a verbal argument between Graham and other family members.

The loss was valued at \$3700.

Police Beat

Johnny Andrew Kelley, 18, of 3rd Avenue, Lenoir City was charged with theft un-

der \$500. According to the report, Mr. Kelley was observed with an Othwatch. He went into house wares and found a knife he took out of the packet. Mr. Kelley then proceeded to cut the tag off the watch and walked out the grocery store side without paying for the

items depriving the store of \$11.60. Officer Nathan Wilson, LCPD made the arrest.

Heidy Marina Pineda-Corea, 24, of Bob Gray Road, Knoxville, was charged with no driver's license. According to the report, Detective Jonathan Sartin, LCPD stopped the woman for passing on the shoulder and she was found to have no license. Detective Jonathan Sartin, LCPD made the arrest.

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Public Notice

Special Called Workshop

The Lenoir City Utilities Board will have a Special Called Workshop on Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 4:00pm. The meeting will be held in the upstairs conference room of the main office building at 200 Depot Street. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss new water and wastewater rates for the next five fiscal years.

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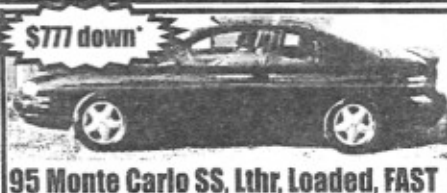
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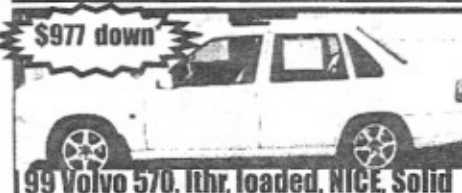
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Driver

better also researched the issue. I will summarize what we have concluded.

Brenda Cook has been a school bus driver for one of Loudon County Schools' independent bus contractors for approximately two years. There have been only minor complaints about her job performance. On Wednesday, November 7th she was driving her regular route carrying students from Eaton School and North Middle School along Loudon Ridge Road. Several of the students were misbehaving and throwing items-perhaps beads from a necklace and 'hornets' (which are hardened origami type paper wads with points)-which actually hit Cook while she was driving. The video tape that was in the bus was at the end of the tape and does not automatically rewind; therefore, there is no footage of this bus trip.

After trying to control the situation without success, Ms. Cook stopped the bus near the intersection

of Davis Road and Loudon Ridge Road and demanded that the two most disruptive students leave the bus. Apparently, several other students (as many as six) left the bus voluntarily as well. Ms. Cook's explanation is that she had recently been letting these two students off near this intersection anyway at their request, although in violation of school policy that requires written permission from the parents in order to deviate from a student's normal bus stop.

The weather was clear and of average temperature, certainly not cold or inclement. These students lived at various locations - Loudon Ridge Road, Crook Road and Hatley Road, with Hatley Road being the farthest from the point of discharge or about one mile - and on the other side of Highway 11. This group of students, after leaving the bus, went to the nearby house of one of their number whose mother was at home and called their parents. Obviously, the situation caused con-

cern for the three sets of parents involved and calls were made to your office and, evidently, the news media.

According to Gil Luttrell if a school bus driver has a discipline

situation that he or she cannot control the policy is for the driver to call the transportation supervisor, the school resources officer or the LCSO. Luttrell advised me that the policy demands

that the driver, in the situation at hand, had a cell phone and should have called one of these three entities, although she did call her independent contractor/bus

Continued next page



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Driver

owner, Vonnie Myers. According to Luttrell these policies are not in a handbook or any written from that is disseminated to the bus drivers, but that they

are explained to all bus drivers at the Department of Safety Annual training for school bus drivers in August. Ms. Cook did attend the training session according to Luttrell.

After meeting with

Ms. Cook on Thursday, Luttrell suspended Cook and planned to notify Cook on Wednesday, November 14th that, although she is an employee of Mr. Myers, she could no longer operate a school bus for Loudon County Schools and would be removed from the approved list of drivers. I verified with Luttrell again he will deliver Cook the letter of termination.

There are only two possible criminal charges that we can consider in a situation such as this: a) child neglect and endangerment and b) reckless endangerment, both of which might apply to our case are misdemeanors.

Although Loudon Ridge Road and the arteries such as Davis Road and Crock Road are narrow and potentially dangerous, most

of these students walk some portion of these roads each day. The area in which they were let off was a residential area and near a friend's house where everyone who did not live close by was able to call their parents. Therefore, there was no real probability of danger, only the mere possibility of danger. Absent the real likelihood of a judge or jury finding that Cook's actions created a reasonable probability of danger beyond a reasonable doubt, there can be no basis for a criminal charge of reckless endangerment.

It is my opinion that we cannot prove a charge of reckless endangerment nor child neglect and endangerment. Therefore, I recommend that you do not seek to have a

warrant(s) issued on Ms. Cook for either of these charges. I am sure that you have received or will receive inquiries about this case and potential charges. Please direct them to my office.

Once again, thank you for the service that you and your deputies perform. Sergeant Jeff Russell, the other deputies who worked on this case and Investigators Upton and Smith were most attentive and helpful. Their work was in the best interest of the children involved in this case.

Sincerely,

Russell Johnson,
District Attorney General
ed's note: We want to know what you think about the incident. Send a letter to the editor to PO Box 1240, Lenoir City, TN 37771

Open House Sunday, Nov. 18, 2007 2-4 PM



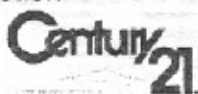
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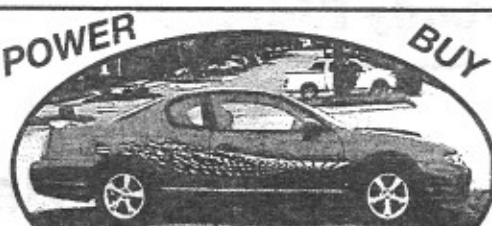
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