

DAILY EDITION

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Parents Needed! at 'Question and Answer' meeting @ Loudon Auditorium today



Principal Tim Berry meets with parents in a Blue Sky Activity which was held to garner support for our schools at this evening's school board meeting. It is very important that all parents attend what is being called the most important meeting in the history of Loudon County Schools. (see Question and Answer pg. 9)

LCSD Detective says "Farewell"

To the citizens of Loudon County:

Some of you have called and asked where I've been. I've taken an early retirement because of medical reasons. I've worked very hard to help you and wish I could stay with you.

Sheriff Guider has fi-

(see Farewell pg. 3)



Retired Detective Lt. John Houston

Woman stabbed during custody exchange

The old saying goes 'The pen is mightier than the sword,' but one woman reportedly took it too far when she used an ink pen to stab another woman

during a custody exchange, causing the victim to seek medical treatment for the wounds.

On Monday, Deputy Daniel Kelly, LCSD, re-

ported he responded to a call of an assault that occurred at Greenback Market just after 7:30 p.m. Sunday and upon arrival spoke with Joann

(see Stabbed pg. 6)

Kids, BB guns bad mix for neighbors

Police were called to a Loudon County residence Saturday to investigate a complaint of neighborhood kids shooting BBs at the home and

(see Kids pg. 4)

Ex-employee trespasses at plant

Police were called to a local meat packing plant early Tuesday when a former employee was discovered lurking in at least

(see Trespasser pg. 7)

Letter to the Editor

Principal responds to bomb threat (see pg. 9)

In a letter received from North Middle School Principal Tim Berry on

Wednesday he explains what happened on Tuesday afternoon.

Officers honored

From celebrations of birth to the paying of last respects, mankind has practiced rituals since the dawn of time and on Monday several agencies joined together to honor members of the law enforcement community who looked into the face of horror (see Honored pg. 8)



Deputy Jason Scott
1969 - 2004

Verse of the day

And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples,

and the disciples to the multitude.

Matthew 14:19

Obituaries

Ralph Raul Fernandez

Weather:

Today: Cloudy with a

few showers. Warm. High near 75.

Tonight: Showers in the evening, becoming steady rain overnight with a few thunderstorms possible. Low 58.

Friday: Rain and thunder. Highs: upper 50s; Lows: upper 30s.

Wazzup

Kim, Angie and Erin, you all are truly the most beautiful women in Loudon County!

Horoscopes: Pisces

(Feb 20-Mar 20)

With so many new goings-on around you at home and at work, it's time to take ex-

(see Horoscopes pg. 2)

Horoscopes

tra-special care of yourself on multiple levels. Make sure you're doing all you can for your mental and physical states at this time.

Aries

(Mar 21-Apr 20)

Throw your considerable skills and energy behind your goal, and you'll be amazed at what you can accomplish. Rally the troops with your planning and your enthusiasm. They'll follow you anywhere.

Taurus

(Apr 21-May 20)

The stars emphasize fresh starts and major lifestyle changes, especially when it comes to work. It's time to tie up loose ends from the past and give yourself a clean slate. Free your ambition!

Gemini

(May 21-June 21)

People from your past may rekindle old feelings. The million-dollar question is this: Do you want to create new memories with them? Make sure you don't fall into old, bad habits. Stay alert and aware.

Cancer

(Jun 22-Jul 22)

Generally you and your conscience have a good working relationship. Lately, though, it feels as if there's something underground that needs to be brought out into the light. Go ahead and do the necessary

work.

Leo

(Jul 23-Aug 23)

Prove to the boss that you're a contender. All you have to do is demonstrate your ability to lead wisely and well. To you, that's practically as natural as breathing. Step up to the challenge and you'll leap over it.

Virgo

(Aug 24-Sep 23)

It's important to carefully manage the tasks you take on, but don't overdo it. Being flexible will help you out a lot more today. Learn to bend. Figure out how to juggle the surprises the universe tosses your way.

Libra

(Sept 24-Oct 23)

Personal needs demand that you rethink your schedule. Remind yourself that you deserve the best. The stars are saying you can change old patterns. Take the celestial dare and expand your boundaries.

Scorpio

(Oct 24-Nov 22)

Discretion is the better part of valor, especially right now. When it comes to injured pride, you're better off sucking it up and expressing nothing. Don't say something you'll only end up regretting later.

Sagittarius

(Nov 23-Dec 21)

Partnerships can form from unlikely meetings, so get yourself to all kinds of places. It's time

to lose your inhibitions and get in the mix. Forget what's expected of you. Instead, figure out what you want to do.

Capricorn

(Dec 22-Jan 20)

Some parties really want to get aggressive, but you don't have to succumb to their combative tendencies. Keep a close eye on any outgoing communication and you can defuse any antagonistic situations.

Aquarius

(Jan 21-Feb 19)

Set yourself a chal-

lenge and you'll rise to it, especially if something humanitarian or a cause for social justice is at stake. With your unique point of view and altruistic spirit, you're guaranteed success.

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Ralph Raul Fernandez, age 77 of Lenoir City, passed away Monday, March 12, 2007 at the Parkwest Medical Center. Ralph was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was a member of the St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. Ralph was a veteran of the U.S.

Army. He was a graduate of the University of Houston. Ralph was an electrical engineer at Kennedy Space Center where he worked on the Mercury - Atlas, Apollo, and Sky Lab missions. He later retired from T. V. A. Ralph was a volunteer tutor at Lenoir City Elementary School for 5th grade students and volunteered at the

Baptist Health Care Center. He was an avid golfer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Maria Fernandez; brothers, Rudy and Ernest Fernandez; sister, Jovita Balderas. Ralph is survived by his wife of 18 years, Ruth Ann Fernandez; son, Thomas John Fernandez of Knoxville; daughter, Anna-Marie Snyder and husband, Paul

people and equipment will give the Unit a better chance to solve crimes.

Captain Arden does a great job as the Supervisor over the patrol officers. I've loved working for Sheriff Guider and with all the Patrol and Corrections Officers.

Loudon County citizens are the greatest people in the world. I have met a lot of people and I hope none of them are disappointed. Thanks for the letters and cards over the years.

Some of it was Trag-
ic, Some of it Magic,
but it was a Good Job
All the Way!

Thank-you,
John Houston

Farewell

nally been able to hire more people and purchase more equipment for the Criminal Investigations Unit. The Unit has an excellent Supervisor in Lt. Jeff Vittaoe.

I feel that the extra



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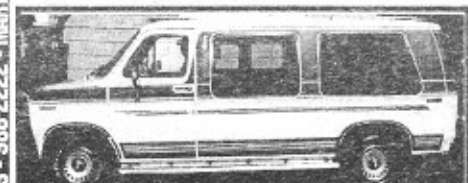
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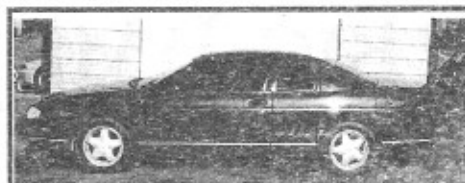
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Kids

damaging property as well as pets.

According to records, Evelyn Lynn, Hunstville Hollow Road, advised some neighboring kids were shooting an air gun and the shots were hitting her house, furniture and animals (cats).

Deputy Deland, LCSD, responded to the call and reported he spoke to the kids and they said they were shooting the gun in a different direction the Lynn's house. The officer noted he told the kids not to e shooting their gun towards anybody's house anymore.

No other information was available at the time of the report.

Police Beat

Michael Rodney Ligdis, 49, Rock Springs Road, Lenoir City was jailed after he was observed by Officer Darrell Butler, LCPD

weaving over the fog line and driving on the shoulder of the road. When Officer Butler made contact with Ligdis, he noticed a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage about his person and when he asked him to exit the vehicle, Ligdis had trouble standing. He also performed poorly on field sobriety tests.

Officer Butler went on to report that he asked Ligdis at least five times if he would submit to a blood test and Ligdis refused to answer yes or no. Ligdis was charged with DUI 1st offense and violation of implied consent law. Officer Butler made the arrest.

Helpful Tip

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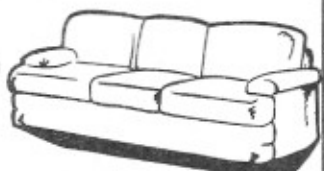
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Stabbed

and Jeffery Lynn of Maryville who advised they had met Mr. Lynn's ex-wife April Sloan at the market and a dispute erupted when he refused to sign an insurance card for the child.

Sloan's current husband, Vernon, reportedly also was present and is accused of butting against the other man's chest before a physical altercation broke out between the two.

Mrs. Lynn reported she tried to get Mr. Sloan off her husband's back and April Sloan then began stabbing her with a green, silver and black pen.

The officer wrote, "The assailant stabbed the complainant three times. Stabbed her once on the top, left side of her head, stabbed her in near her left eye, and also stabbed her in left side near her rib cage. All three stab wounds were complete puncture wounds."

Lynn was treated at Blount Memorial Hospital for the stab wounds.

Additional records indicate Vernon Sloan filed a police report in connection with the assault as well.

Deputy Steve Helm, LCSD, noted Mr. Sloan said his wife's ex-husband had assaulted him during the custody exchange. Sloan did

have a small bump and red mark behind his left ear and a small scratch on his right shoulder and lower neck area.

April Sloan also filed a report in which

she alleged her ex-husband's wife assaulted her. The officer noted she did have small red marks and scratches on her face and neck.

The Sloans' reports were filed just min-

utes after the alleged melee.

Police Beat

Jason Leon Payne, 23, Edna Garland Road, Maryville, was charged with failure to appear (burglary,

vandalism, VOP: simple possession & possession of drug paraphernalia).

Deputy Daniel Ferguson, LCSD made the arrest at Blount County Jail.

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#52 Dallas
#55 Reynolds
#58 Newhard
#68 Wells
#80 Meyers
#84 Lee
#89 Hunt

#91 Justice
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#144 Wright
#148 Parker
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#160 Covington

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Trespasser

two storerooms.

According to records, at James Harold of Wampler's Meats, Highway 70 West told Deputy T.J. Scarbrough, LCSD, he noticed an 80's model, red Camaro with tinted windows in the parking lot just before 1:00 a.m. and knew it didn't belong to anyone working

during that time. He then found a male prowling in a storage room and confronted him about why he was there.

Harold reportedly advised the male had been fired two months earlier and when asked about his presence the man said he was looking for something he'd left at the company.

Records indicate

Harold further reported the man had made entry into two unlocked storage rooms, but there appeared to be nothing missing. He also said he couldn't remember the man's name at the time of the report, but he would get it.

Police Beat

Tina Yvonne Gutierrez, 30, Finley Drive,

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Lenoir City, was charged with driving on suspended license, violation of financial responsibility and violation of registration Sunday.

According to reports, Officer Lynette Ladd, LCPD, and other officers were dispatched to a possible domestic dispute on Finley Drive. One party had left the scene and was located at West Hills Market.

The officer noted that while interviewing

the subject, identified as Gerardo Gutierrez, Tina Gutierrez drove up in a 1982 Cadillac that did not have a tag on it. Upon checking Gutierrez's license status, NCIC determined her driving status to be suspended. She was placed under arrest and transported to jail.

Officer Jeremy Dishner, LCPD, was on the scene and reported Gerardo Gutierrez, 23, also of Finley Drive, smelled strongly of an alcoholic beverage, was unsteady on his feet and had slurred speech. Gerardo Gutierrez was deemed a danger to himself and was charged with public intoxication.



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Honored

as they watched a brother-in-arms make the ultimate sacrifice.

Deputy Jason Scott had just started his day three years ago March 12, when the call came in that would destroy two families and change Loudon County forever. A dispute between a mother and her teen-aged son prompted the domestic violence call that would soon lead to Scott's death and a two day standoff that ended with the teen's suicide.

After Scott was mortally wounded, officers who had converged on the scene frantically tried to find a way to get to their fallen comrade amidst a hail of bullets and flying

shrapnel. Unable to tell if the young officer had survived the bullets that had slammed into him as he exited his patrol car, lawmen desperately tried to reach Scott and were successful when several bullet proof vests were draped on a patrol unit, giving them enough protection to retrieve the young man. Unfortunately, the bullets had found their mark and the father-to-be was gone.

The ordeal, however, was far from finished. Officers still had a job to do.

As the morning stretched into hours, then days, lawmen from surrounding agencies huddled behind wood piles and in other nooks and crannies as the distraught

teen rained down a hail of bullets from the windows of his home, resulting in the wounding of several officers.

Officials desperately sought ways to negotiate with the teen, however, once the silence settled, and the smoke and the dust dissipated, police were left with the harsh reality of the teen's suicide.

The scene was every law enforcement officer's nightmare come true, but they didn't flinch, nor did they shirk their duties and on Monday were honored for their courage.

Billy Hall, LCSD, Greg Gass, Patrick Lawson, and Les Mullins, all from KCSO were all awarded a Purple Heart, which

is awarded when wounds are received.

The Medal of Valor, which is awarded for extreme bravery beyond the call of duty, was awarded to Loudon County Sheriff's officers Chad Estes, Tony Arden, Billy Hall, Ernie Brown, James Massengill, Emory Matthews, Adam Yokley, and Bobby Hamilton; LCPD officers Jack Fine, Gillis Morgan, and Eddie Range; and LPD's Sam Harrison, Bobby Lankford and Darian Goodman. Knox County officers who received the award included Dr. Russ Frazier, Sam Hardy, Patrick Lawson, Gabe Mullinax, Todd Sleet, and Roger Sexton. A Medal of Valor also was awarded to THP's Mike Melhorn and the Knox

County Aviation Unit received special recognition for its role in the standoff.

The ceremony was held by the Knox County Sheriff's Office and Loudon County had a separate remembrance service at the Loudon County Justice Center earlier in the morning. Scott's widow Jonie and now three-year-old daughter, Jayden attended.

Jayden, born 11 days after Scott's death, is a living legacy of the young officer, and is a testament to the truth that even in the despair of loss, new life brings hope and the will to carry on.

ed's note: Due to various reasons, some of the officers awarded may no longer be with their respective departments as listed.

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Letter to the Editor

Principal responds to bomb threat

Parents,

I know there are many rumors about what took place yesterday, and I feel it is important for you to have a firm understanding of what happened and how we handled it. I will limit some of the explanations of our safety procedures because that secured knowledge would jeopardize future responses.

At approximately 1:15 p.m., I received notification from my School Resource Officer that graffiti had

been recorded on the wall, in one of our 5th/6th grade bathrooms. We try very hard to keep all writings off the wall and have it removed as soon as it is reported. However, this particular graffiti made reference to an individual having a gun and bomb in our school, and he was going to start by killing the principal. A quick analysis of the evidence led us to immediately evacuate the facility. We did this in the form of a fire drill, so that we

did not create widespread panic and chaos. Once all students were removed and accounted for, they were taken to the soccer field and the campus was locked down and surrounded by police officers to protect our students and faculty. Due to their close proximity, Eaton Elementary School also locked down in order to maintain a comfortable and secure environment. All backpacks and personal items were left in the classrooms. Specialized dogs were brought in from Knox County to search our building for any device or weapon that could be injurious to our school community. This was a very time consuming process, which resulted in an extended school day that became an inconvenience for every household. While the search was being conducted, specialized police officers conducted an investigation to determine the source. The building was clean, and the evidence has led us to believe that this was nothing more than an inappropriate prank. We will spend the necessary time with investigators to identify the

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source and prosecute that source to the full extent of the law.

I want to assure you that all of our decisions were based on the health and safety of your children and will never apologize for any minor inconvenience that may result in that effort. I really appreciate the words of support that many of you shared with us during this stressful event and assure you that your children are in a safe school! As in most crisis situations, you reflect on things you could have done better, but overall, I am very proud of our faculty and staff for the way they handled these procedures. If you have concerns that you would like to discuss, please schedule an appointment, so we can answer questions you may have.

Respectfully,
Tim Berry, Principal
North Middle School
Meeting

Loudon County School Board is holding a "Question and Answer" session regarding the needs assessment for Loudon County Schools. Your PTO is requesting your presence at this meet-

ing in which we will be discussing the Public Building Authority's (PBA) analysis of our school system. This may very well be the most important meeting in the history of Loudon County Schools.

At this time, the PBA is stating that there is only need for 10 additional classrooms over the next 5 years throughout the entire county. Unfortunately, though, we already have 18 portable classrooms (2 classes/each) throughout the county, with an additional 24 having been requested for the upcoming school year, in spite of PBA's claim of "limited Growth" in Loudon.

One only needs to step foot on any of our campuses to know that the need is greater than that. Now is the time for your voices to be heard!! Please, support your schools by coming to the meeting.

If you would like additional information prior to the meeting, please contact your PTO president or your school's principal. We look forward to seeing you there. The meeting will be held at the Loudon High School Auditorium tonight at 7:00 p.m.

Stupid Criminals

A man walked into a 7-11 and demanded all the money. He politely said thank you and walked out, forgetting the money. When he returned a few minutes later to get the money, he was quickly arrested.



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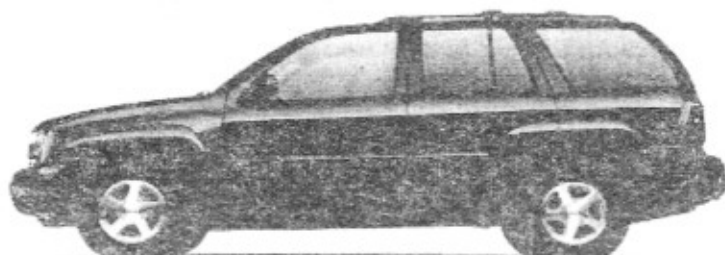
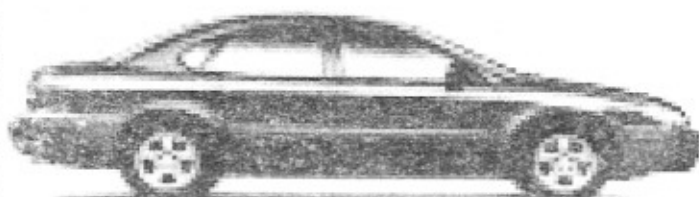
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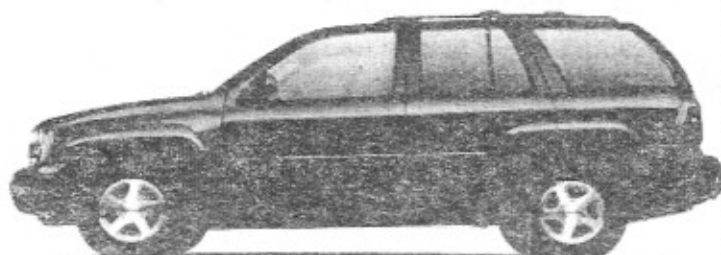
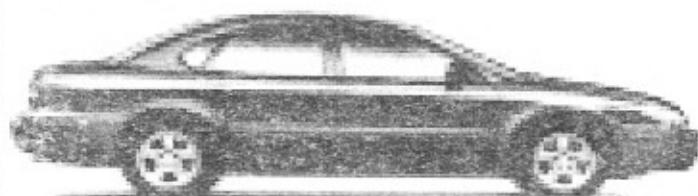
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