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Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Seatbelts would have made difference in tragic crash



A mother and her little girl have lost their lives as a result of a tragic accident Monday afternoon. The accident occurred on I-75 when the mother and daughter were ejected from the vehicle they were traveling in after the driver lost control. The group was on their way home from Disney World with the woman's best friend driving when the trip took a fatal turn.

(see Accident pg. 6)

Above: Assistant Chief Jimmy Davis and Detective Patrick Upton await the arrival of Lifestar (upper right)



Rural Metro EMS personnel administer triage to four-yearold Maya Kali Thomas of Ohio after the deadly accident that claimed the life of her mother, Lauryn Thomas

Verse of the day

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? this commandment have we from him, That

he who loveth God love his brother also. 1 John 4:20-21

Obituaries

None

Weather:

Today: Thundershowers following a period of rain early. High 64.

Big Rob goes to jail

Deputy Ben Munro, LCSD responded to River Manor Apartments on a disturbance call. Upon arrival the officer found two subjects in a white pickup and when he asked a black male for his name or ID, he stated they (the officers) couldn't make him tell them.

Officer Joe Foster, LCPD told Brabson to exit his

(see Big Rob pg. 3) Brabson



Inside today's Edition:

Crack Parphernalia found Underage consumption + DUI driver taken to hospital, jail after crash

Tonight: Showers likely with a possible rumble of thunder in the evening, then partly cloudy overnight. Low near 50.

Thursday: A few clouds. Highs: low 70s; Lows: upper 40s

Wazzup

How 'bout the Sheriff auc-

tioning off vehicles & guns in May? Look for the ad Friday.

Horoscopes: Aries

(Mar 21-Apr 20)

Very soon you'll have a chance to put your feet up (see Horoscopes pg. 2)

Horoscopes

and fully relax -- but only when the day is over. Tell a key person in your life that though you definitely want some together time tonight, you're feeling low impact.

Taurus

(Apr 21-May 20)

Don't scorn this reaction as simply the heat of the moment. Those heightened reactions are actually telling you what your heart feels. Listen closely; the message is different from the dressenger.

Gemini

(May 21-June 21)

Are you biting your reals over a decision? Confide in someone instead of fretting about it silently. Yes, you're a private person, but share this anxiety to clear it up: The sooner the better.

Cancer

(Jun 22-Jul 22)

Keeping a family together and maintaining a home is hard work. You should know -- you're one of the hardest working signs in the zodiac, especially when it comes to relative matters. Give yourself a pat on the back.

Leo

(Jul 23-Aug 23)

Be frank and honest when you discuss whatever's on your mind, and you'll see an intellectual spark in your partner's eye. You may just inadvertently stumble on a solution for an outstanding issue.

Virgo

(Aug 24-Sep 23)

If you set your mind to it, nothing is impossible. A difficult task is just a slightly different mountain to climb, and if anyone can reach that goal, it's you. Break the situation into its microcomponents and tackle it that way.

Libra

(Sept 24-Oct 23)

Have you really never been salsa dancing? Have you ever visited your local parks/museums/historical society after saying you would for the last year? It's time to break out of old molds and go exploring.

Scorpio

(Oct 24-Nov 22)

Second chances come around more often than you think -- really. Sometimes, though, they wear funny-looking disguises. Make sure to examine something from all sides before saying yes or no right now.

Sagittarius

(Nov 23-Dec 21)

All this success is exciting, but it might also feel a little overwhelming. Give yourself quiet time so you can review everything that's happened. You've got all the opportunities in the world, so make the most of them.

Capricorn

(Dec 22-Jan 20)

Someone you love comes to you with a serious concern, so treat it respectfully. Okay, so this situation looks a tad silly to you

 it obviously means (or represents) something much bigger to him or her.

Aquarius

(Jan 21-Feb 19)

Have you wanted to organize an exotic vacation or some other large-scale outing for ages? Now is the time to start pulling it all together. The stars say any plans started today will fall neatly into place.

Pisces

(Feb 20-Mar 20)

Someone in charge is awfully good at dishing it out, but can they take it? Now may not be the time to find

out. While their behavior is annoying, it's a good idea to choose your battles (and your timing) wisely.

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Big Rob

truck and he didn't comply. Upon the third request Brabson did comply. The officers then asked Brabson to put his hands on the truck for a pat down and he once again didn't comply. Upon a

third request he complied.

Deputy Marty Stanley, LCSD then talked to an onlooker who identified the subject as Robert "Big Rob" Brabson. LCSD had an active warrant for his arrest and officers then tried to arrest the

310 lb man who then resisted and also got very loud and disorderly with numerous residents who came outside to see what was going on.

Robert Brabson, 27. of Riverview Apartments, Lenoir City. was charged with dis-

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orderly conduct and resisting arrest. Deputy Ben Munro, LCSD made the arrest.

Police Beat

Brent Allen Snyder, 24, of Steekee Road, Loudon, was charged with driving on sus-

pended. According to the report. Officer Blake Norman, LPD stopped the vehicle Snyder was driving due to having prior knowledge his license was suspended. A check confirmed Snyder had a suspended license.



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INTRODUCTORY MEETING

Representatives of the Mimms group, developers of a portion of the Eldridge farm, will be in town on the following date/time in order to introduce their company to the Lenoir City Council. The informal session will be at the following: LCUB Board Room on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at 3:45 p.m. Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Agency, and LC Committee of 100 will also be present. Thank you.



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Underage consumption +

Two young local men were taken into custody after they attempted to avoid police checking campsites. When they were noticed walking away, they were checked and found to be under the influence of alcohol and had drugs or paraphernalia in their possession.

Lincoln Andrew Walters. 18, of Silo Drive, Lenoir City was charged with underage consumption and unlawful drug paraphernalia.

According to the report, Officer J. Alex Gambrell. TVAP was checking campsites in the Melton Campground when he esserved several subjects an and walk away from

When officers approached them they could smell a strong odor of alcohol. One of the subjects was Waiters.

When asked at first, Walters stated he had nothing to drink and later admitand to having a few beers. Malters advised he owned a vehicle at the campsite and when searched officers found a glass pipe with residue in the bowl believed to be marijuana.

Joshua Brandon Blanton. 18, of Walnut St., Lenoir City was charged with underage consumption and simple poss. of marijuana.

According to the report. Blanton admitted to having a few beers and during a search of his vehicle officers found a clear bag containing a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana. Officer J. Alex Gambrell, TVAP made the arrests.

Police Beat

Jose Antonio Marquez-Leyva, 34, of Southeaster Golf Inc., Tifton, Ga, was charged with driving without a license.

According to the report. Officer Samuel Harrison. LPD observed a pickup at 45mph in a 30mph zone on Hwy 11.

Upon stopping the vehicle the driver was discovered to

never have had a license. Officer Samuel Harrison, LPD made the arrest.

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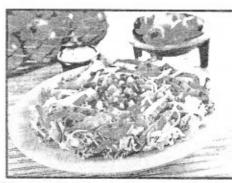
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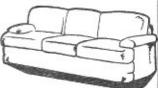
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Accident

According to Trooper S.F. "Hawk" Holcomb III, THP 33-year-old Caroll Cooper was driving the 1993 Ford Explorer north on I-75 just after 4:00 p.m. when she swerved to miss a tractor trailer and lost control. The Explorer was owned by Lauryn Thomas of Dayton, Ohio.

Ms. Thomas, 32, and her five-year-old daughter, Maya Kali Thomas were ejected when the vehicle rolled multiple times ust past the 76 mile

transported to UT Medical Center where she was treated and released.

According to Trooper Holcomb, a witness and the driver stated the SUV was run off the road by the tractor trailer and she lost control in her attempt to avoid a collision with the semi. The child was not in a child safety restraint device and Ms. Cooper reported she thought the little girl was lying down in the back asleep.

Scant information was available about



Above: The Ford Explorer came to rest on the grass alongside the roadway Below: Officials shield the body of Lauryn Thomas while rescuers work to save the lives of the survivors

that resulted from traffic being re-routed from Sugarlimb Road through Lenoir City to Exit 81. The section of Interstate where the crash occurred was shut down for under three hours while crews cleaned up the debris.

Seatbelts would have made a difference in the outcome of the crash, according to Trooper Holcomb.



marker. Lauryn Thomas was declared dead at the scene and the youngster was flown to UT Medical Center via Lifestar where she succumbed to her injuries early Tuesday.

Ms. Cooper sustained non-life threatening injuries and was the big-rig and authorities said a truck was detained, but was released because it was not definitively connected with the accident.

No charges are expected to be filed. Trooper Holcomb is handling the investigation.

Agencies responding to the scene included LCSD, THP,
Rural/Metro EMS,
Loudon County Fire
& Rescue, LCFD.
Agencies, particularly LCPD, handled
the traffic nightmare

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Crack paraphernalia found

A Loudon woman was jailed after police stopped her vehicle for having a bad headlight and discovered she had crack paraphernalia in her possession.

Melissa Annette Lee, 39, of Caldwell Road, Loudon, was charged with poss. of drug paraphernalia.

According to the report, Officer April Farmer, LPD observed a green vehicle on Mulberry St. with a passenger side headlight not functioning properly and stopped it.

Help Wanted: Full/ Part time. Retired persons encouraged to apply. Call Elizabeth 986-4740 or apply in person at BP Kenjo, Hwy. 321 The officer asked for permission to search and found a brown pipe with part of a brillo pad stuck in the end and burn marks on the end which would be consistent with a pipe used to smoke crack. The pipe was located between the console and passenger seat.

After searching Ms. Lee's purse the officer found a razor blade and a small plastic container both with white powder residue on them. Officer April Farmer, LPD made the arrest.

Police Beat

George Blackburn Watkins, 58, of Hardin St., Loudon was charged with public intoxication.

According to the re-

port, Deputy Deland, LCSD was dispatched to a possible drunk and upon arrival came in contact with Watkins. Upon speaking to Watkins he had a strong smell of an alcoholic beverage on his person and was very unsteady on his feet. Deputy Deland, LCSD made the arrest.

Douglas Antonio Barrientos, 27, of 1st Avenue, Lenoir City was charged with driving on revoked.

According to the report, Officer April Farmer, LPD observed a vehicle with a driver's side brake light out and stopped it. The driver was found to have a revoked license. Officer April Farmer, LPD made the arrest.

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DUI driver taken to hospital, jail after crash

Police arrested a Ten Mile man after he was involved in a crash and was found to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Joseph L. Barish, 24, of Suttarth Rd. Ten Mile, was charged with DUI, failure to maintain control and financial responsibility

According to the report, Trooper Kevin Smith, THP was dispatched to an accident with injury and arrived on the scene to find the Rescue Squad extricating the subject. He was then transported to the hospital via Rural Metro.

Upon clearing the scene Troopers went to UT to speak with the driver and upon speaking to him observed drastic mood swings and rambling speech of various topics with no apparent meaning or order.

When asked, Barish admitted to drinking 4 beers prior the crash. A BAC was taken at the hospital. Trooper Kevin Smith, THP made the arrest.

Handy Tip

Stop your dog from digging that "dogone" hole by putting cayenne pepper in the hole. Gives them a weird feeling in their tootsies. He won't be digging that hole anymore.



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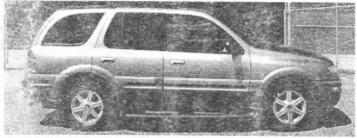
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