

The Daily Edition 50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Thursday, December 22, 2011

Synthetic drugs top list of TN District Attorney Generals' 2012 Key Issues

Every year, each of Tennessee's district attorneys faces different challenges in his or her district. However, as a group, the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference

continuously works to identify serious areas of concern that must be addressed at the state level. Going into 2012, synthetic and prescription drug abuse tops our list.

(see Key Issues pg. 3)

Bright Lights & Busted.



Toepfer

When authorities stopped a vehicle for bright-lighting an oncoming officer, a subsequent search of the driver reportedly revealed the man was in possession of meth and a variety

(see Bright & Busted pg. 7)

Electronics are on Grinch's list



Arden

A Niota woman was jailed Saturday in connection with a late November shoplifting incident in which she reportedly stole multiple items of electronics.

(see Grinch pg. 7)

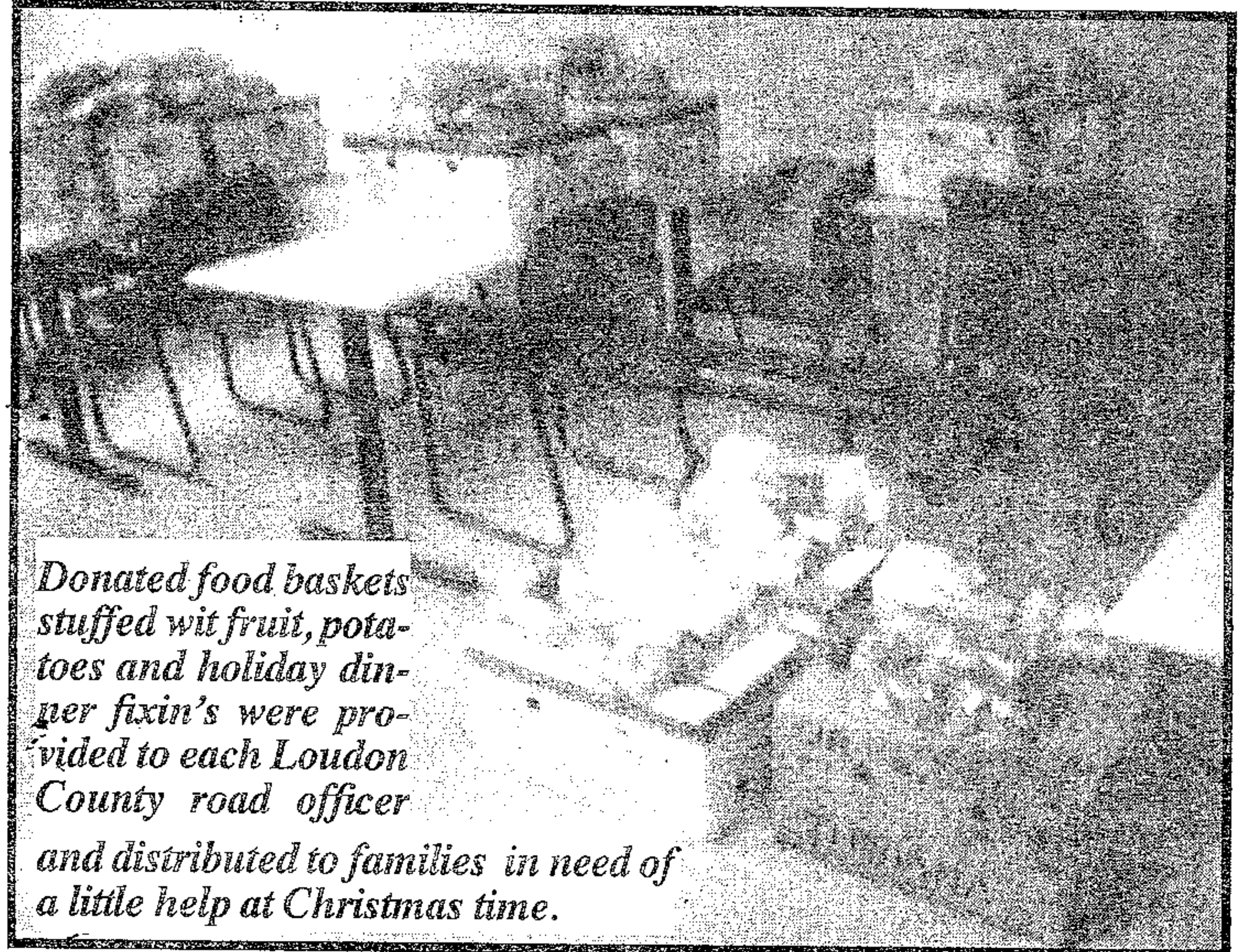
Drinking alcohol at school? Really?

Police arrested a Loudon man Friday when officers were informed he was in the parking

lot at Lenoir City High School drinking alcohol just minutes before students were released

(see Duh pg. 7)

LCSO offers Christmas cheer to those in need



Donated food baskets stuffed with fruit, potatoes and holiday dinner fixin's were provided to each Loudon County road officer

and distributed to families in need of a little help at Christmas time.

Flat screen television stolen

Corporal Michael Watkins, LCSO responded to a theft call on Davis Ridge Road Friday and met with the complainant,

Mrs. Trudy Petty, who told the deputy she and her family left their residence around 7:00 PM, and returned around

(see Stolen pg. 3)

TDOT Halts Highway Construction for Busy Holiday Travel Period

NASHVILLE – Holiday travelers should enjoy a smooth drive through Tennessee during the busy Christmas and New Year's travel holidays. The Tennessee Department

of Transportation (TDOT) is once again halting all lane closure activity on interstates and state highways in anticipation of higher traffic volumes

(see Construction pg. 6)

Verse of the Day

"If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you."

1 Peter 4:14

Obituaries

Joseph Wayne Bolt
Anna Lee Wade Wells

James Fred Smallen
M. Laird Willson

Wazzup

How 'bout Pat Summit being on TMZ the other night? In a nutshell, she was asked if a female coach would be accepted in the NBA and she said, "No." Most on the show's set agreed with her, stating a female

coach wouldn't be accepted right now, but maybe someday. What do you think? Is Pat right?

Weather

Today: A few showers early then thundershowers developing in the afternoon. High around 60. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 70%.

Tonight: Showers with a possible

thunderstorm in the evening, then variable clouds overnight with still a chance of showers. Low 46. SSW winds shifting to NW at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 80%. Rainfall may reach one inch.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Highs in

(Continued on page 2)

Key Issues

Synthetic drugs such as K2 (synthetic marijuana) have devastating mental and physical side effects. They are spreading across our state and have the potential to eclipse methamphetamine as the most dangerous drug in Tennessee. These drugs are often marketed in convenience stores as incense, bath salts or plant food, and commonly feature cartoon characters on package labels.

In 2012, Tennessee's district attorneys will seek to increase penalties for those who sell and produce synthetic drugs. Because synthetics constantly change to

capitalize on existing legal gray areas, the DAs will also work to make certain these substances remain illegal and out of reach of our youth.

Prescription drug abuse is not new to Tennessee, but can be addressed in a new, meaningful manner through common-sense steps that do not necessarily result in prison time. The DAs will propose more access to the state's prescription drug monitoring database by law enforcement, more active monitoring of that database; and a requirement that physicians and pharmacists check the database when prescribing or filling any pain medications.

Our hope is that these

steps will reduce theft and distribution of legitimately prescribed medications, the operation of pill mills, the practice of "doctor shopping" and prescription fraud.

Following are additional issues of importance to the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference in 2012:

Convicted felons are currently prohibited from owning and carrying firearms; however, present penalties for failing to abide by this law are not in line with the potential violent outcomes it seeks to prevent. Tennessee's DAs would like to see the jail time increased to at least one year from

six months for armed felons with a prior non-violent offense, and to at least two years for those with a prior violent offense.

Gang crime is a topic of importance in cities from East to West Tennessee. I, along with the rest of our state's DAs, believe the time is right to begin prosecuting gang crime in a meaningful way by automatically increasing sentencing to the next higher felony grade when offenses are committed by groups of three or more, as opposed to one on one. We cannot continue to allow robbery, home burglary and the infliction of serious bodily injury by groups of criminals to continue to be sentenced as though they were committed by an individual.

Lastly, we remain committed to making our roads and highways safer through refinements to laws dealing with impaired driving. The DAs' main objective in this area in 2012 will be to require greater use of alcohol-monitoring devices such as

interlock ignitions for violators who request special considerations, often in the form of restricted driver's licenses.

These are serious topics. However, citizens of Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane Counties should know that I, along with the all of Tennessee's district attorneys, am firmly committed to making the New Year a safer and more just year for our entire state.

The Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference was created by the General Assembly in 1961 to provide for a more prompt and efficient administration of justice in the courts of this state. It is composed of the district attorneys general from the state's 31 judicial districts.

Stolen

8:10 PM, only to discover someone entered their home through an unlocked door and stole their 32" RCA flat screen television.

Records indicate nothing else in the home was disturbed. The estimated value of the television was \$400.

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Construction

across the state.

No temporary lane closures will be allowed for construction on Tennessee roadways beginning at noon on Friday, December 23, 2011 through 6:00 a.m. on Monday, January 2, 2012.

"Nearly two million Tennesseans are expected to hit the roads to visit family and friends during this busy holiday travel period," said TDOT Commissioner John Schroer. "We want to do everything possible to minimize delays and provide maximum capacity on Tennessee roadways. We also want drivers to obey the rules of the road and arrive safely at their destinations."

Except for a few long-term closures which must remain in place for safety, all construction related closures will be suspended

during the holiday period. Workers may still be on site in some construction zones. Drivers should obey all posted speed limits, particularly in construction areas. Slower speeds are necessary in work zones due to the temporary layout of the roadway and will be enforced. Drivers convicted of speeding through work zones where workers are present face a fine of \$250 to \$500, plus court fees and possible increased insurance premiums.

"Drivers can expect to see increased law enforcement on the roads throughout the holiday with a particular focus on stopping drivers who are impaired," said Governor's Highway Safety Office Director Kendell Poole. "We want everyone to have a safe holiday so remember to buckle up, drive the speed limit and don't get behind

the wheel of a vehicle if you've had anything to drink."

AAA predicts holiday travel will increase nearly 2% in Tennessee this year, with more than 1.8 million expected to travel by automobile in the volunteer state between the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Across the U.S. 83.6 million people are expected to drive to their year-end holiday destinations, which represents 30% of

the total U.S. population.

For up-to-date travel information, motorists may call 511 from any land line or cellular phone or visit www.TN511.com. TDOT is also on Twitter. For statewide travel tweets follow www.twitter.com/TN511. Smart phone users can use the TDOT SmartWay Mobile website at <http://m.tdot.tn.gov/SmartWay/> to access TDOT's SmartWay cameras, incident information and messages

displayed on overhead Dynamic Message Signs. Motorists are reminded to use all motorist information tools responsibly. Drivers should refrain from texting, tweeting or using a mobile phone while operating a vehicle. Drivers should "Know before you go!" and check traffic conditions before leaving for your destination.

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TUESDAY

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WEDNESDAY

CHEESE DIP...\$1.99
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DINNER - BURRITOS CALIFORNIA...\$7.50

THURSDAY

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DINNER - CARNITAS...\$7.29

SATURDAY

MARISCO DIP...\$4.50
LUNCH - TAQUITOS MEXICANOS...\$4.00
DINNER - ARROZ CON POLLO...\$8.00

SUNDAY

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MONDAY KARAOKE 6-10

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MARISCO DIP...\$4.50
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2 stuffed tortillas, 1 chicken - 1 steak, deep fried w/ rice, beans, lettuce, guacamole & pico de gallo.
DINNER - ARROZ CON POLLO...\$8.00
SUNDAY
SPINACH DIP...\$1.99
Grilled Spinach w/ cheese sauce.
BURRITO TIPICO...\$3.25
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DINNER - POLLO LOCO...\$7.50
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Bright & Busted

of pills. He reportedly also was under the influence of alcohol.

Adam Victor Toepfer, 29, Morningside Drive was charged with possession of schedule II meth, possession of paraphernalia, possession of schedule II oxycodone, possession of schedule IV hydrocodone and possession of schedule IV alprazolam.

According to records, Sunday, around 3:18 AM, Deputy Cody Fritts, LCSO was driving on Spring Street when a small blue Ford CST passed him and failed to dim its headlights,

thus bright-lighting the lawman. Deputy Fritts turned around and followed the vehicle onto Sunnyside Road and performed a traffic stop. The driver was identified as Adam V. Toepfer.

Mr. Toepfer had bloodshot eyes and there was an odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the vehicle. The deputy noticed a Sparks Beer can in the back passenger floorboard and asked Toepfer to step out of the vehicle.

Deputy Fritts asked Mr. Toepfer if he could search him and Toepfer agreed. There was a medication bottle in Toepfer's right jacket

pocket and it contained several bags of a powder substance. When the deputy retrieved the bottle he located 3 bags believed to be meth from inside it.

A search of the vehicle produced a Tylenol bottle in the parking brake area below the console that had one hydrocodone, three alprazolam, and two oxycodone in it.

Weight scales with white powder residue on them were also discovered in front of the passenger seat. Mr. Toepfer was placed under arrest and transported to the Loudon County Jail. Sgt. Jerramie Bowen, LCSO was also on the scene.

Grinch

Krista Danielle Arden, 24, County Road 319, Niota was charged with theft under \$500 and criminal trespass.

According to affidavits, filed by Detective Jonathan Sartin, LCPD; on or about November 26, 2011, Krista D. Arden was at the Walmart in Lenoir City where she took a DVD player, a Digital camera and DVD movies totaling \$495.92.

Arden passed all points of sale with the merchandise and according to Walmart Loss Prevention, Ms. Arden was advised on August 30, 2009, she was not to be on any Walmart properties due to her shoplifting.

Detective Sartin made the arrest Saturday.


Duh

for holiday break.

Richard A. Gess, 65, Rosedale Avenue, Loudon was charged with public intoxication.

According to reports, Friday, at approximately 11:30 AM, Officer Shane Tilley, LCPD was informed someone was in the Lenoir City High School parking lot drinking alcohol. The officer found Richard Gess on school property with an open can of Busch beer.

Gess had a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage on his person and was very unsteady on his feet. He was taken into custody.



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