



**TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**JEFFREY M. MERRELL, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

P.O. Box 849

FORSYTH, MO 65653

[www.taneycountyprosecutor.com](http://www.taneycountyprosecutor.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: JEFF MERRELL  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
(417) 546-7260**

**DATE: MAY 26, 2009**

**CHRONIC ALCOHOL OFFENDER ENTERS OPEN PLEA TO FELONY DRIVING  
WHILE INTOXICATED**

FORSYTH, MO – Taney County Prosecuting Attorney, Jeffrey M. Merrell announced today that DANNY JAMES PRESTON, dob: 04/03/1960, of Forsyth, Missouri plead guilty without a plea agreement last week to the class B felony of driving while intoxicated as a chronic offender and to the class D felony of driving while license revoked. Formal sentencing is set for July 16, 2009 at 10:30 in front of Taney County Circuit Judge Mark Orr.

On January 17, 2009, Trooper Justin Henderson of the Missouri State Highway Patrol responded to a single vehicle crash on County Road Y, west of Nicholas road in Taney County, Missouri. The driver of the vehicle was found hiding in the woods a short distance from the where his Ford Mustang overturned in the ditch. When Trooper Henderson made contact with the driver he observed bloodshot eyes, a strong odor of intoxicants, slurred speech and swaying. The driver, who was later identified as DANNY JAMES PRESTON, admitted to Trooper Henderson that he had eight beers. DANNY JAMES PRESTON refused to submit to standardized field sobriety tests, and when asked to submit to chemical blood test, DANNY JAMES PRESTON, yelled an obscenity at Trooper Henderson. Later through his investigation, Trooper Henderson learned that DANNY JAMES PRESTON was driving on a revoked driver's license and had five prior driving while intoxicated convictions.

The class B felony of driving while intoxicated as a chronic offender has a range of punishment of five (5) to fifteen (15) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. The class D felony of driving while license revoked carries a range of punishment of one (1) day to one (1) year in the County Jail or one (1) years to (4) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections and/or a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

For more information please visit [www.taneycountyprosecutor.com](http://www.taneycountyprosecutor.com)

**MAIN OFFICE: (417) 546-7260 | FAX: (417) 546-2376**

**BAD CHECKS: (417) 546-7261 | FAX: (417) 546-3184**

**VICTIM/WITNESS: (417) 546-7263 | CHILD SUPPORT: (417) 546-7264**