

# The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, August 24, 2015

## 4 charged with drugs for resale after break down



Gerald Allen



Jeffrey Ethridge  
(see Resale pg. 7)

## Loudon named Safest City in Tennessee

2015 Safest Places in Tennessee

When deciding where to live, safety is a top priority. Our team at ValuePenguin has analyzed the most recent FBI Crime Report to determine the safety of cities in Tennessee. These 89 ranged in a crime score from 303 to 6,096, with an average of 1,901. The top five safest cities and towns are from every corner of

the state.

Nashville, Tennessee's capital, fell near the bottom of our rankings with a crime score of 3,832 but was well ahead of the slightly more populous Memphis (657,691), which finished dead last. This was true despite the fact that we adjusted our crime score metric for

(see Loudon pg. 4)

## Purse filled and stolen



Melinda Moses  
(see Theft pg. 5)

## Wanted and charged after stealing from Walmart



Clifford Winsted



Lara Winsted  
(see Wanted pg. 2)

## Medicare Fraud

Hospice Owner Falsified Numerous Claims

The overwhelming majority of people who go into the health care industry do it because they want to help people. Unfortunately, there are also some unscrupulous individuals who do it because they think they can take advantage of the health care system for their own financial gain.

That's just what happened in the case of an Oklahoma hospice executive. Paula Kluding,

owner of Prairie View Hospice, Inc., located in Chandler, Oklahoma, submitted millions of dollars' worth of fraudulent claims to the federal Medicare program. But after a thorough investigation by the FBI and our partners at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General, Kluding was convicted of Medicare fraud and other related charges at trial and was

(see Fraud pg. 3)

### Verse of the Day

If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. — Matthew 6:14

### Obituaries

see inside

### Wazzup

A Big Shout Out to Loudon Police Department! Congratulations on the Award for Safest City in Tennessee! Keep up the Great Work!

### Weather

Today: Scattered thunderstorms. High 84F.  
Tonight: Clear skies. Low 58F.  
Tuesday A mainly sunny sky. High 81F.  
Tuesday Night A mostly clear sky. Low 58F.

### Horoscopes

Virgo 8/23-9/22  
Although you are tempted to throw caution to the wind now, a friend will have enough sense to remind you about your priorities. In the long run,

(Continued on page 6)



**Wanted**

Clifford Winstead, 34, Homeless, was charged with Violation of Probation, Theft of Property, and Criminal Trespass. Clifford and Lara Winstead was observed by Walmart Loss Prevention taking video games from electronic dept and to the shoe dept. and broke them open and con-

cealed them and exited the store without paying. Officer Christian Dragon LCPD, was dispatched and placed both parties under arrest. After checking both for active warrants it was revealed that Clifford and Lara had active warrants and were transported to Loudon Jail. Officer Christian Dragon LCPD, made the arrest.

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The Daily Edition also serves Monroe, Knox, Anderson, Roane and Blount counties and serves 30,000 readers weekly. Send mail to PO Box 1240, Lenoir City TN 37771. 865-771-2249. email: dan1204us@yahoo.com  
 The Daily Edition is Loudon County's premier public interest and paid advertising paper. The Daily Edition is produced and published daily Monday through Friday and is circulated throughout Loudon County and parts of Monroe and Knox Counties. Display advertising rates \$5.00 per column inch and quantity discounts available. Call for information on upcoming promotions and events.



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 <p><b>2010 Nissan Altima- GAS Saver, Push Start, Chrome Wheels, PW, PL, A/C</b></p>	 <p><b>2011 Hyundai Elantra- Leather, Sunroof, PW, PL, Immaculate Shape, LOW MILES 78K!!!</b></p>	 <p><b>2011 Chevy Impala- Dealer Special, Auto, PW, PL, Like New, Local Vehicle</b></p>

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**Fraud**

recently sentenced to a federal prison term. She was also ordered to pay \$2.5 million in restitution to Medicare.

Hospice care, by definition, consists of health care, medication, certain medical equipment, and other goods and services provided to terminally ill patients. Prairie View Hospice was ostensibly in the business of doing just that and advertised its services for patients in nursing care facilities and at home. And as a Medicare-approved provider of hospice care, Prairie View agreed that it would comply with all Medicare-related laws and regulations, including those that required submissions of truthful and accurate claims for reimbursement.

But from July 2010 until July 2013, Kluding did not comply with those laws and regulations in her dealings with Medicare. In fact, she conspired—with her general

manager and two nurses—to actually conceal the true medical conditions of hospice patients and the true quality and quantity of their care in order to continue receiving payments from Medicare. (The general manager and both nurses were later charged in the scheme and ultimately pled guilty.)

How did Kluding conceal the true medical conditions of her patients? For one, she directed certain medical documents be changed or written a certain way to make it appear as if nurses had visited patients or conducted assessments at the regular intervals required by Medicare—when, in fact, they hadn't. She also

directed that nursing notes be falsified to make it appear that patients were in worse health than they actually were.

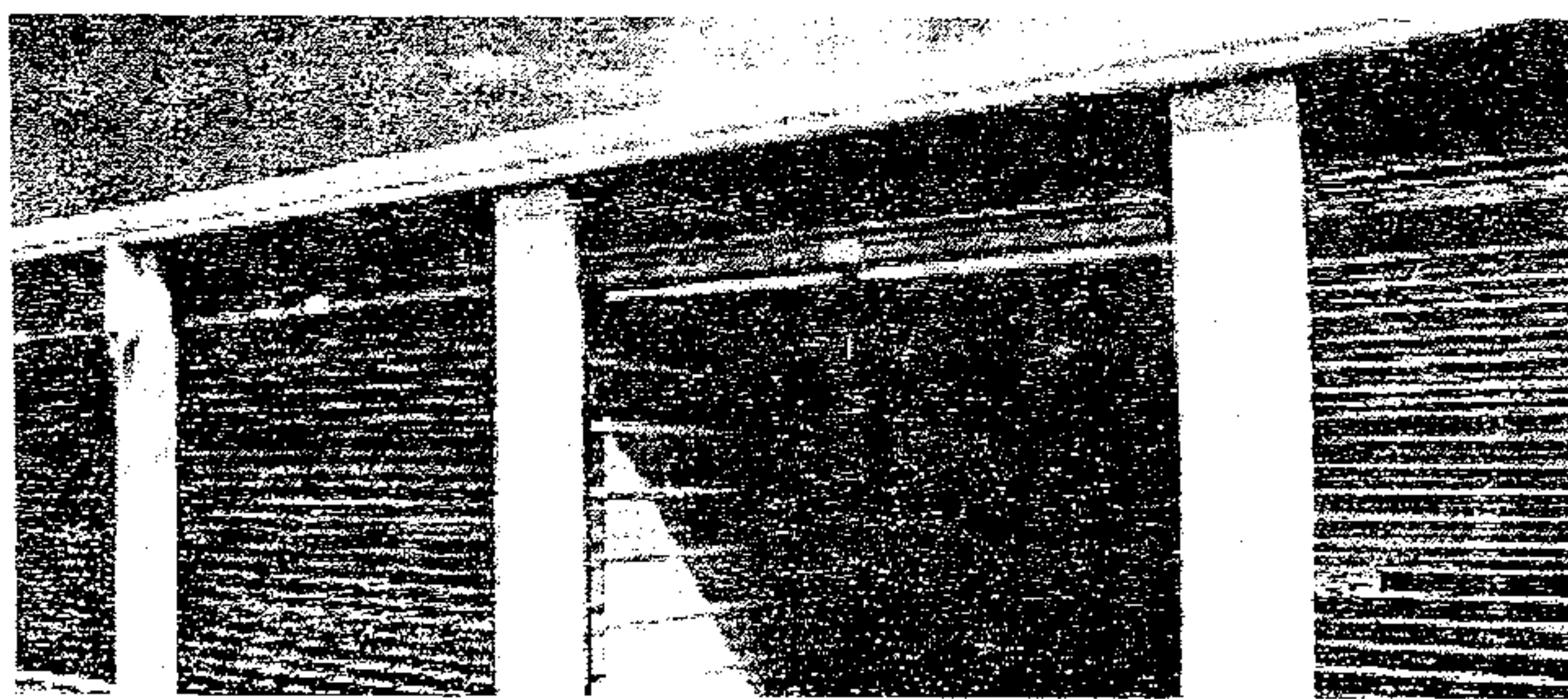
Typically, hospice care is offered for those with a life expectancy of six months or less. Our investigation revealed that many Prairie View Hospice patients received care for five, six, even seven years.

activity seem even riskier was the fact that at the time, Prairie View Hospice was part of a broader Medicare audit being conducted in the state. And to make matters worse, she gave falsified documents to the Medicare subcontractor performing the audit when asked to provide records of patient files and Medicare claims.

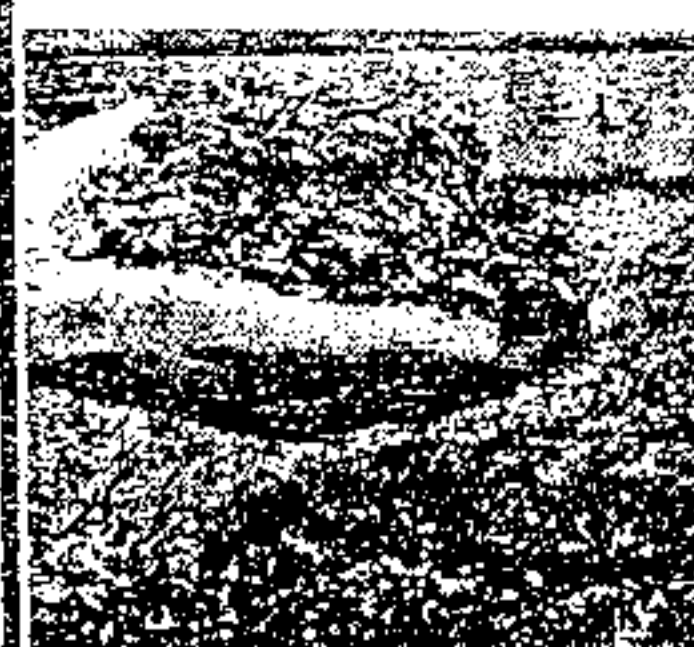
A pivotal point in the in-  
(see Fraud etd. pg. 5)

Making Kluding's criminal

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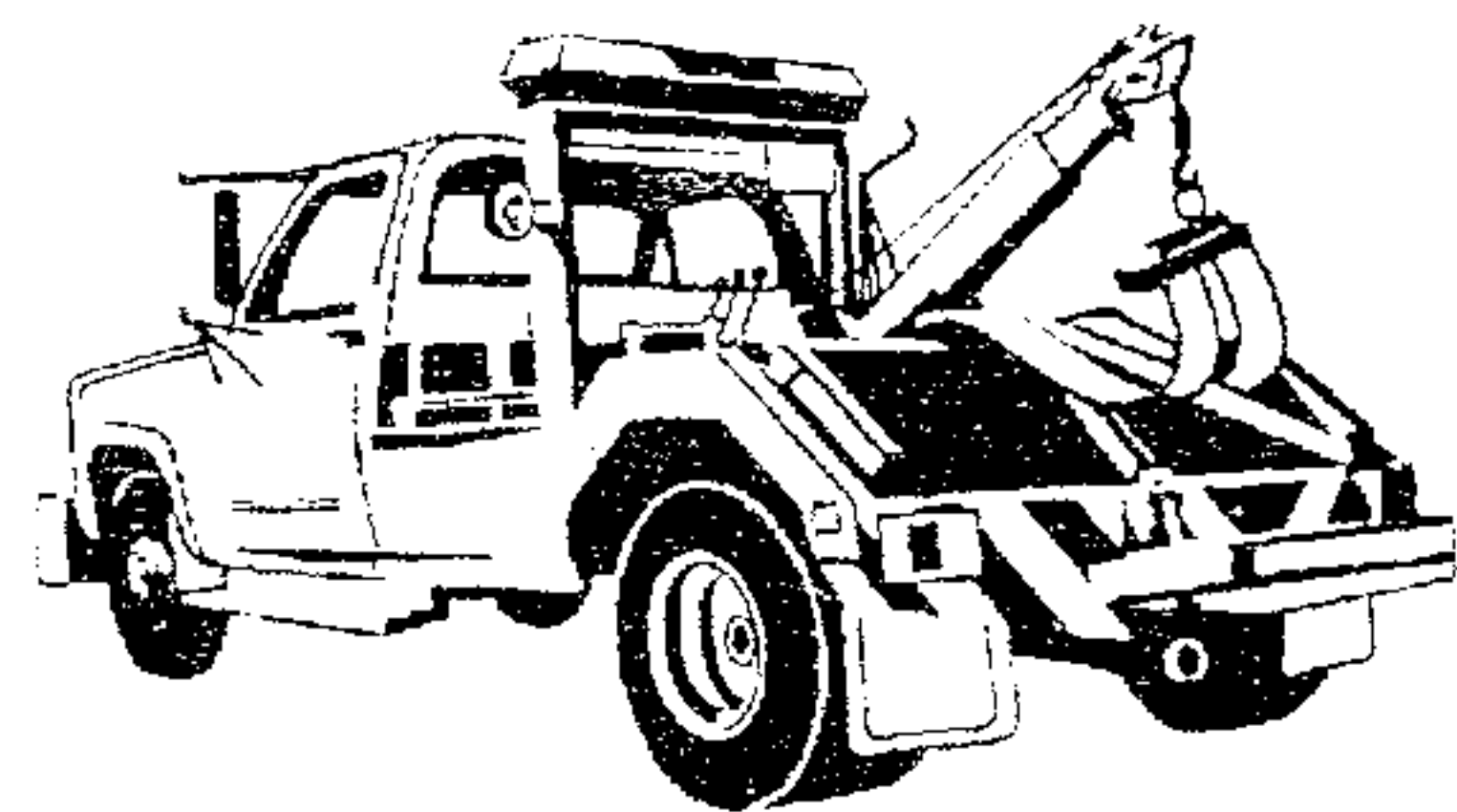
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**Loudon**

population size. The score also took into account both the amount of violent and property-related crimes per 100,000 people (more on our methodology below). For more insight, take a look at the report:

**5 Safest Places in Tennessee**

These cities have an average crime score of 349, 82 percent lower than their typical peer in Tennessee. With some of the state's lowest total violent crime rates, these five are the safest places in the state.

1. Loudon, Tenn.

With five violent crimes and 47 property

crimes, both the lowest totals in the state, Loudon is the state's safest – and among the smallest. Situated along the Tennessee River and just a 45-minute drive southwest of Knoxville, the home of the University of Tennessee, Loudon County hosts its Institute of Agriculture here. Given the presence of other schools, parks and manufacturing plants, the city's police department estimates its service population is greater than its residential coverage.

Factor	Value
Population	5,710
Crime Score	303

2. Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Signal Mountain, which registered the fewest property crimes per 100,000 people (658) in our study, is our second-safest place in Tennessee but isn't completely safe from bad characters. One of its residents admitted in April to plotting a murderous attack on a group of people in Delaware County, N.Y. These days, a fifteen-officer police department patrols the town, which boasts 18 miles of trails for hiking, trail running and mountain biking.

Factor	Value
Population	7,751
Crime Score	331

3. Brentwood, Tenn. Ten miles south of

Nashville, Brentwood recorded the fewest violent crimes per 100,000 people (50 and is the only large city in the top five (more on our population breakdown below). Its residents are among the wealthiest, with a median household income \$132,738 that is 210% higher than Tennessee's average, plus an estimated home value (\$509,172) that is 270% higher than a given in-state peer. Brentwood, which was incorporated only as recently as 1969, is also the home of Michael Oher, the Memphis-born NFL offensive lineman whose rise from poverty was chronicled in print and on the silver screen, in "The Blind Side."

Factor	Value
Population	39,635
Crime Score	362

4. Oakland, Tenn.

Thirty-five miles east of Memphis, Oakland, recorded a crime score that is 81 percent less than the study's overall average. While the town government here has excelled in safety standards, its leaders of recent years haven't escaped scandal. One of

its former mayors, Bill Mullins, was convicted of three counts of official misconduct in 2010, and another, Scott Ferguson, stepped down in 2013 as news broke that he had two wives. Oakland replaced the latter man with the appropriately-named Chris Goodman, who has been at the helm while the city recorded the state's fourth-best crime score.

Factor	Value
Population	6,976
Crime Score	367

5. Nolensville, Tenn.

Nolensville is a close neighbor of third-ranked Brentwood and has a similarly strong crime score. With a motto of "Community, history, proximity," the town also values transparency, posting its most recent crime report on its own website. Whether you consider its publicly-provided findings from last May or the data it reported to the FBI in 2013 (more on our methodology below), Nolensville is very deserving of rounding out Tennessee's five safest places.

Factor	Value
Population	6,164
Crime Score	382



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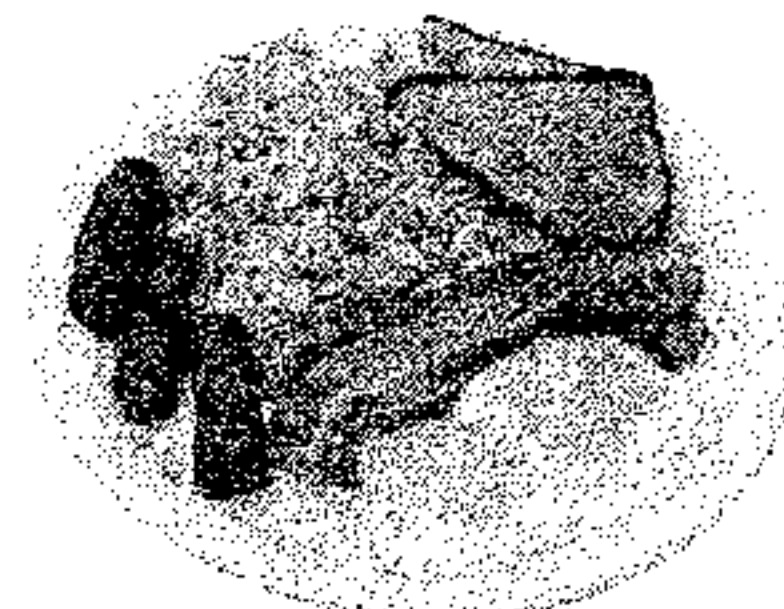
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**Theft**

Melinda Moses, 43, Cardin Street Sweetwater, was charged with Theft of Property.

Officer Christian Dragon LCPD, responded to Walmart for a theft call. Melinda was observed by Loss Prevention taking a purse and tearing the tag off and placing 129.75 worth of mer-

chandise in the purse to conceal it. Melinda passed all points of sale with the merchandise.

Officer Christian Dragon LCPD, made the arrest.

**Fraud ctd. from pg. 3**

Investigation came during the first interview with one of the two nurses charged in the case—she made a full confession and helped provide the necessary

probable cause to obtain search warrants.

Kluding had pocketed a substantial portion of the Medicare payments she received, using Prairie View Hospice's account as well as two other medical business accounts as her personal checkbook. A review of her banking records showed that she moved money between her business accounts

and personal account whenever she needed additional money to fund her lavish lifestyle—which included a 6,000-square-foot home on hundreds of acres of land.

But that lavish lifestyle is over: In addition to the \$2.5 million in restitution, Kluding owes an additional \$5.4 million to Medicare for overpayments.

**Former Knox County Schools Employee Uses School Credit Card for Online Gambling**

A special investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has revealed that Roger Underwood, the former accounts payable supervisor for Knox County Schools stole money. Investigators found that Underwood used at least two schemes to carry out the theft of public funds. This investigation was completed in conjunction with the Knox County Sheriff's Department.

Investigators discovered that Roger Underwood made personal charges totaling at least \$10,445 on a Knox County Schools credit card. Mr. Underwood disclosed that many of these charges were for online gambling. This included up to 14 separate charges totaling almost \$1,800 in a single day.

Additionally, Mr. Underwood received duplicate reimbursement of \$1,544 for lodging and meal expenses for at least three school system related trips. Mr. Underwood charged the expenses to a Knox County Schools credit card, and also requested and received reimbursement from Knox County Schools for these trips. Investigators noted that several of the meals Mr. Underwood charged to the school system credit card appeared excessive. Some of these meals included inappropriate alcohol purchases.

Investigators also (see School. ctd. pg. 8)

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**Wanted**

Gerald Allen, 53, North Wilderness Road Kentucky, was charged with Man, Sell, Del, Resale of SCH. VI, and Poss. of Drug Para.

Jeffrey Ethridge, 25, Hilltop Ave Kentucky, was charged with Man, Sell, Del, Resale SCH. VI, and Poss. of Drug Para.

Rebekah Lafever, 27, JacksCreek Road Kentucky, was charged with Man, Sell, Del, Resale of SCH. VI,

Kyle Bowman, 32, Scaffold Cane Kentucky, was charged with Man, Sell, Del, Resale, SCH. VI, and Poss. of Drug Para.

Deputy Chris Jenkins LCSO, responded to the area of I-75 southbound near the 68 mm for a disable vehicle. Deputy arrived in the area and ob-

served a white vehicle with 2 occupants standing outside the vehicle with the hood up and 2 occupants in the back of the vehicle. Deputy made contact with the driver and owner of the vehicle Gerald Allen who stated the vehicle had stopped running and needed a wrecker. Deputy notified dispatch to have a wrecker en route. During the

traffic assist Deputy ask Gerald for consent to search the vehicle. Gerald gave verbal consent to search. Deputy deployed his partner K-9 Deja for a drug sniff of the vehicle and gave a positive indication to a trained odor of illegal narcotic at the passenger side door. K-9 Deja was deployed inside the vehicle and gave positive alert to the front

center console and to a grey Under Armour backpack. A search was conducted of the vehicle and under the cup holder and gear shift Deputy located a pack of Tops rolling papers and a clear plastic bag with a green leafy plant material believed to be marijuana. Inside the backpack was a large glass bowl commonly used to smoke marijuana, and a Newport cigarette pack

with a clear plastic bag with a green leafy plant material believed to be marijuana all totaled weight 22.2 grams. All occupants in the vehicle was identified as: Rebekah Lafever, Jeffrey Estridge, and Kyle Bowman. None of the parties claimed ownership of the bag or marijuana that was located all parties were charged. Deputy Chris Jenkins LCSO, made the arrest.



Rebekah Lafever



Kyle Bowman

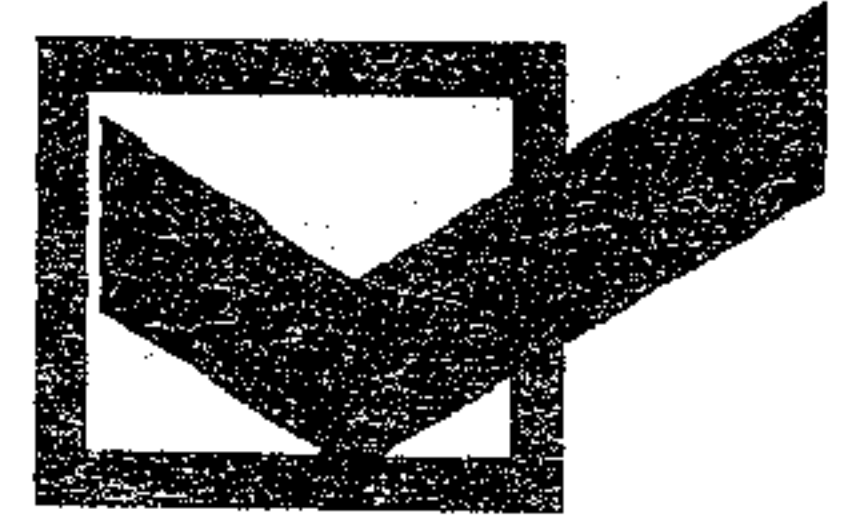
**Public Notice**  
**Personnel Committee Meeting**  
 The City of Lenoir City Personnel Committee will meet at City Hall, in the small conference room, on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the following:

- Consideration of filling vacant position in the Police Department.

The public is encouraged to attend.  
 Thank you

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School ctd. from pg. 5

questioned \$731 in charges to Mr. Underwood's Knox County Schools credit card for a retirement reception in Biloxi, Mississippi. The reception charges included hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer. This reception was not for a Knox County Schools employee.

In August 2015, Roger Underwood was indicted by the Knox County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$10,000.

"I hope Knox County

Schools will take steps to improve the oversight of its credit cards and travel expenses," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "Government has an obligation to prevent the loss of public funds."

To view the special investigation online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee,

see, call the Comptroller's toll-free hotline at (800) 232-5454, or file a report online at: [www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline](http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline). Follow us on twitter: @TN-COT

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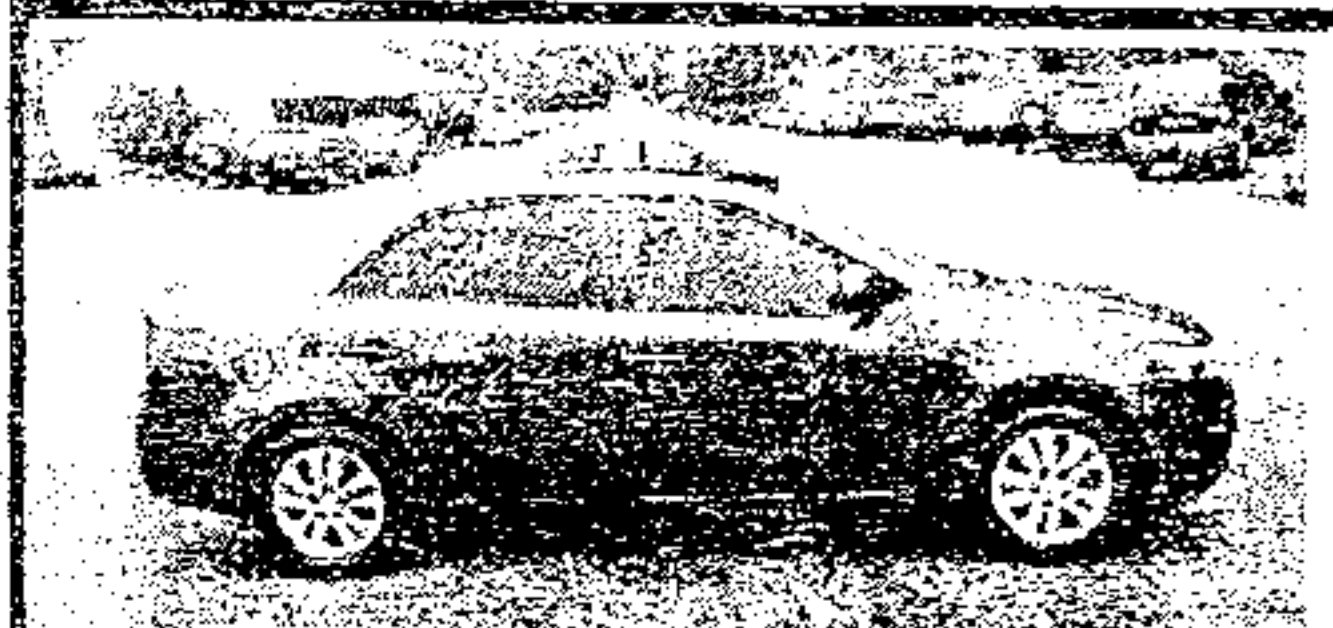
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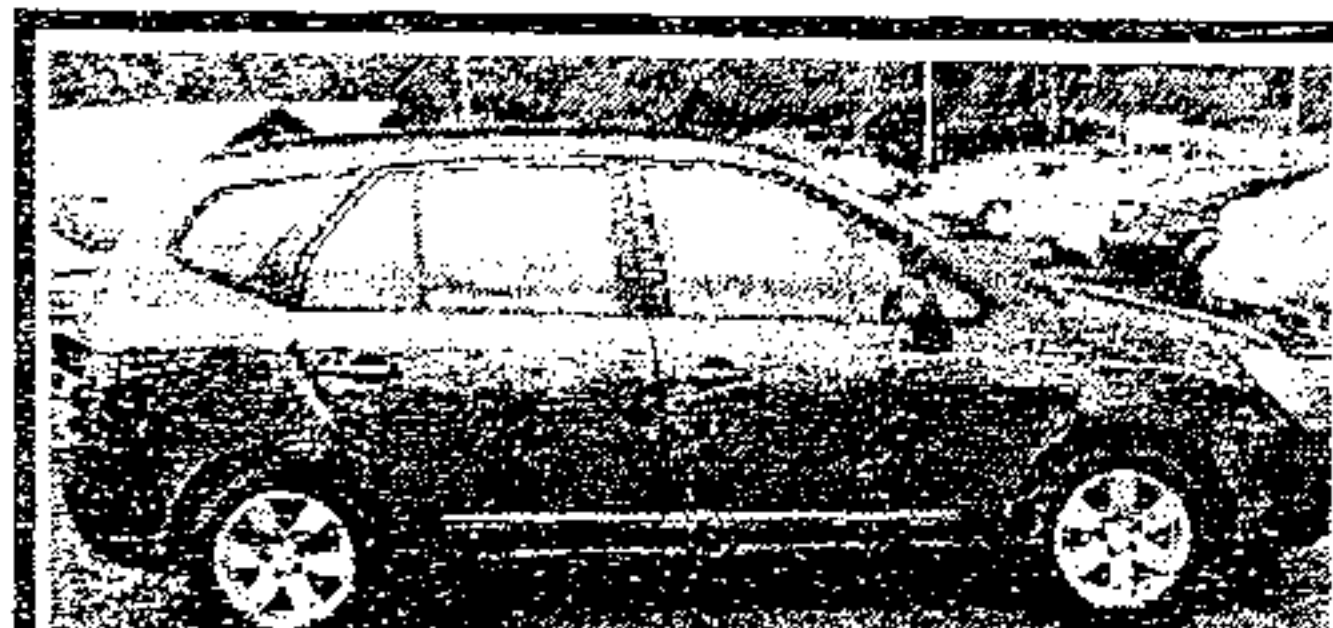
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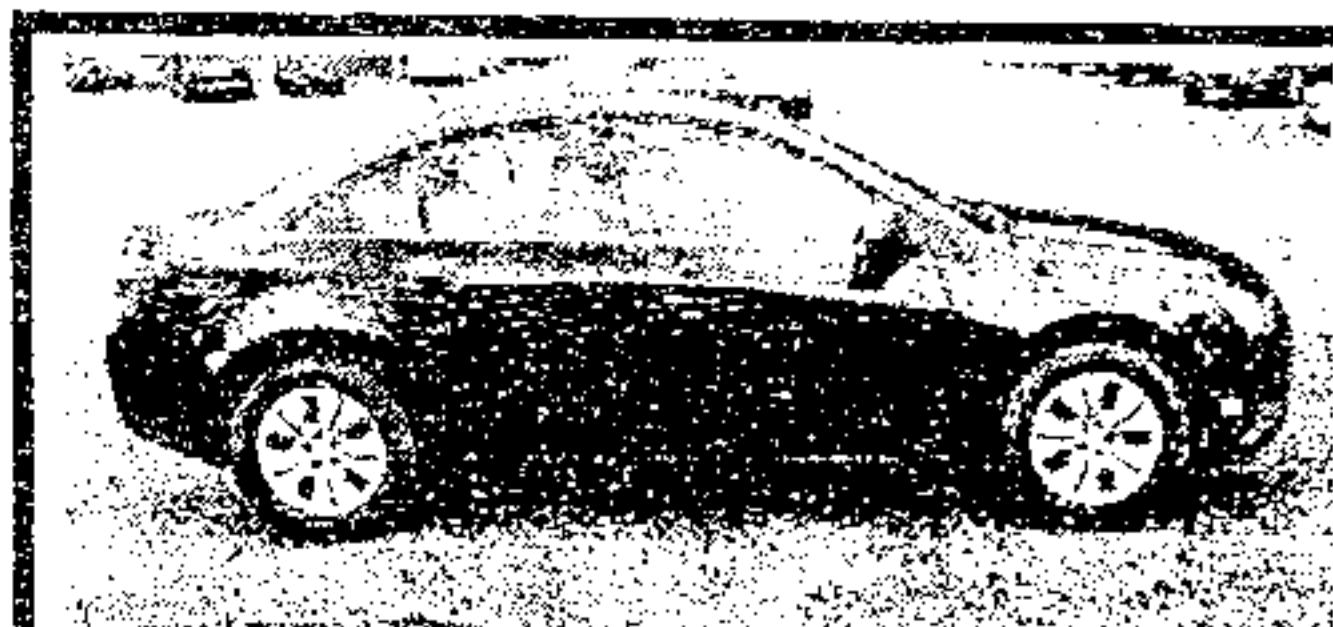
2008 Rondo, 4dr, only 70k miles, Gas Saving Family Car



2012 Ford Focus, 5sp. GAS SAVER, only 88k miles



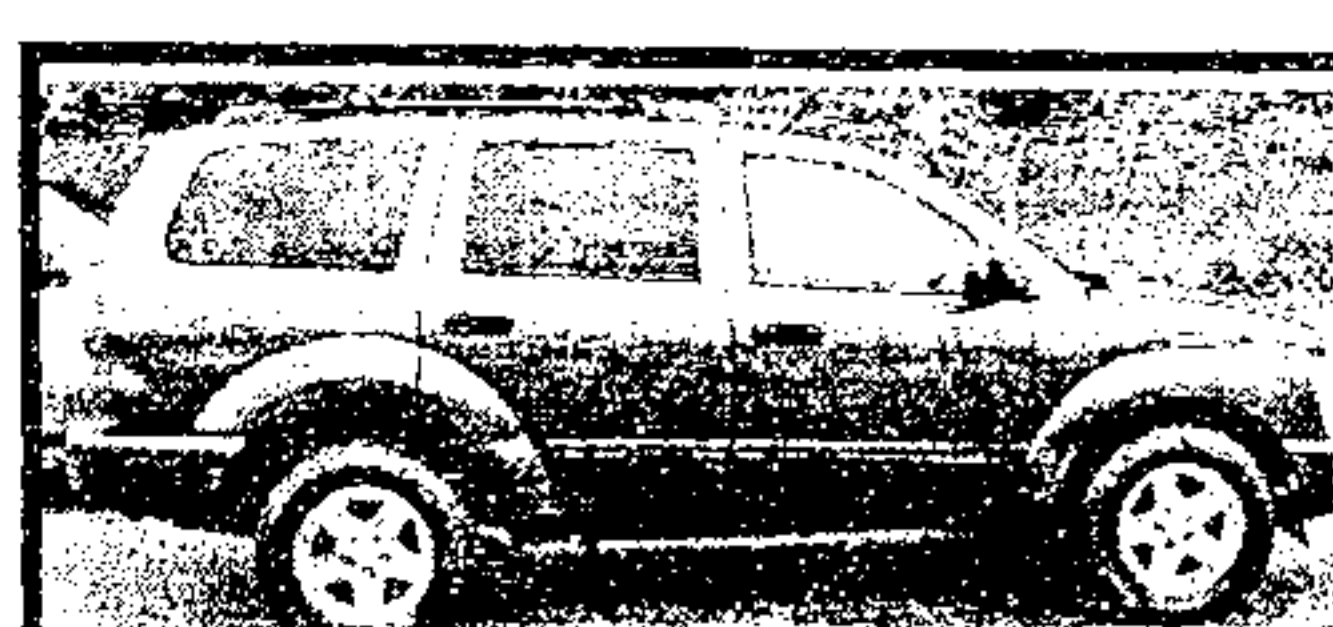
2007 Buick Lucerne, Loaded, Leather, NICE, NICE, NICE!!!



2012 Chevy Cruze, only 83k miles, Sporty, 4dr, NICE!!!



2012 Ford Focus, Hatchback, Auto, only 90k miles



2004 Dodge Durango, 3rd row seat, 100k miles

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