

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

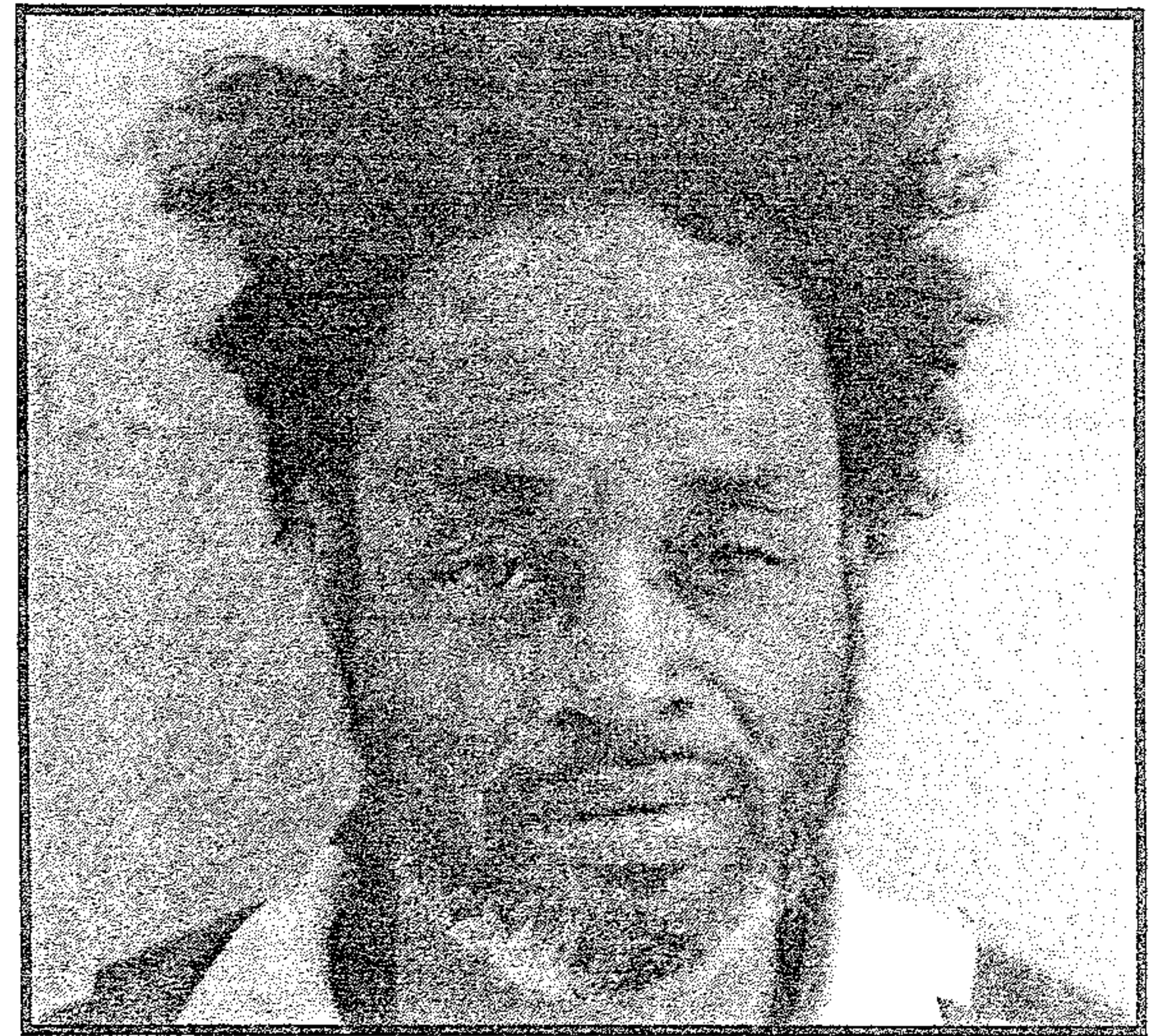
Friday, December 21, 2018

“Operation Safe Shopper” Criminals Caught

Expired Tags Lead To Arrest



Merchandise stolen from Wal-Mart in LC



Eugene Ward

see Tags pg. 4

Niota Man Tries To Flee From Theft At Home Depot



Colt Johnson

(see Theft pg. 4)

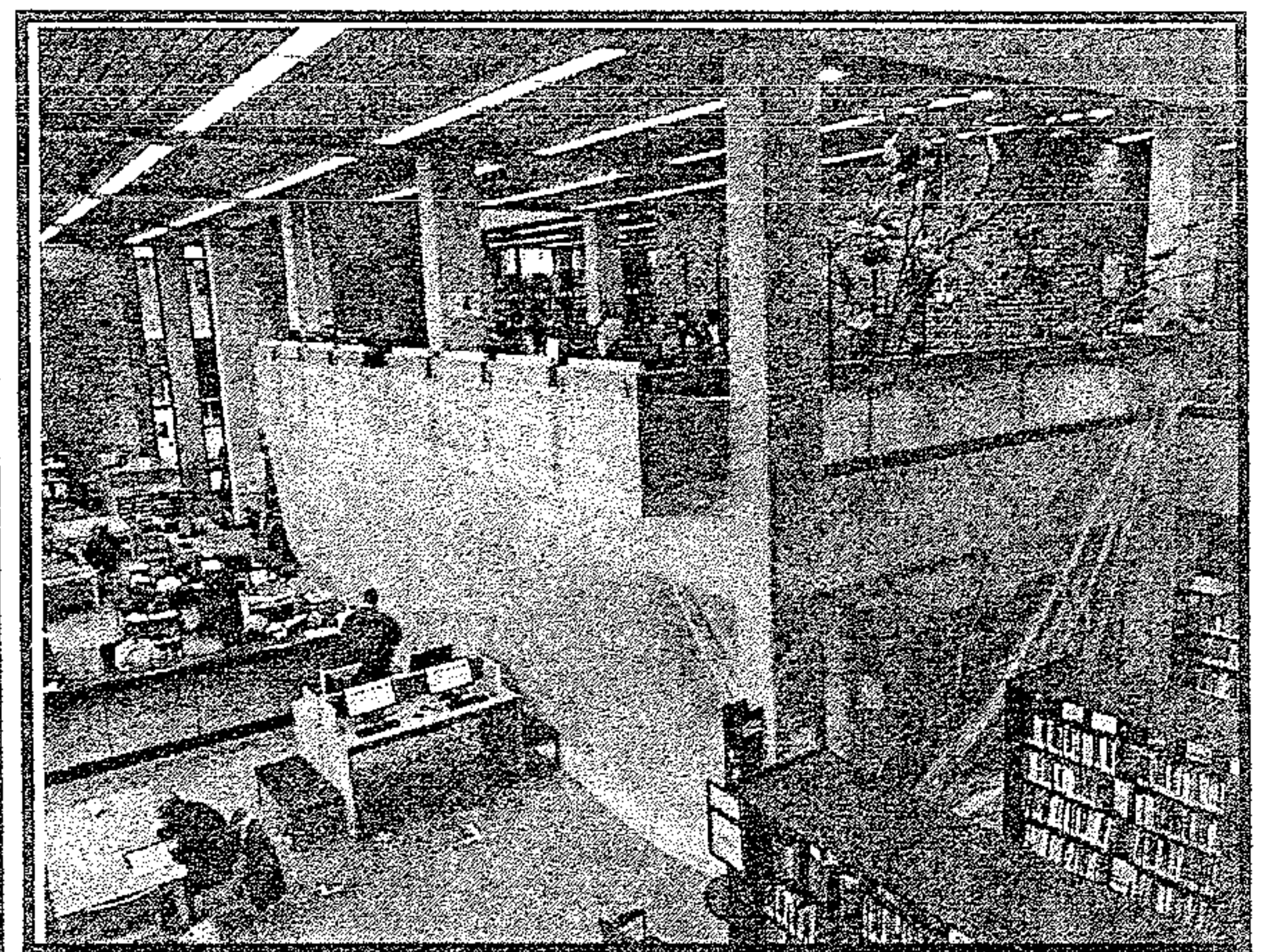
see Shopping pg. 2

SFMO Warns of Fire Dangers Associated with Heating During Winter

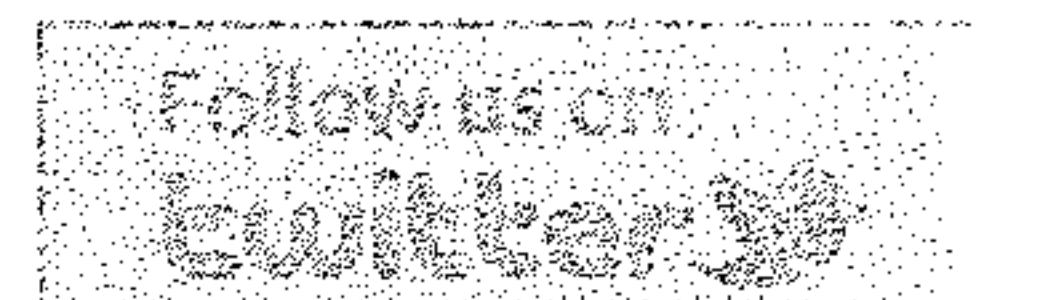
With less than two weeks remaining in 2018, fire fatalities in Tennessee have already exceeded their totals from 2017. Ahead of the first day of winter (Dec. 21), the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is advising Volunteer State residents that the cold weather season is the deadliest time of the

(see Heat pg. 5)

Major Updates Underway At Lawson McGhee Library



See Library P.5



Verse of the Day

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” — Matthew 1:20-21

Wazzup

Schools out for Christmas break everyone be

safe and have fun!!

Weather

Today: Rain. High of 46F.

Tonight: Rain. Low of 31F.

Saturday: Cloudy. High of 52F.

Saturday Night: Rain.

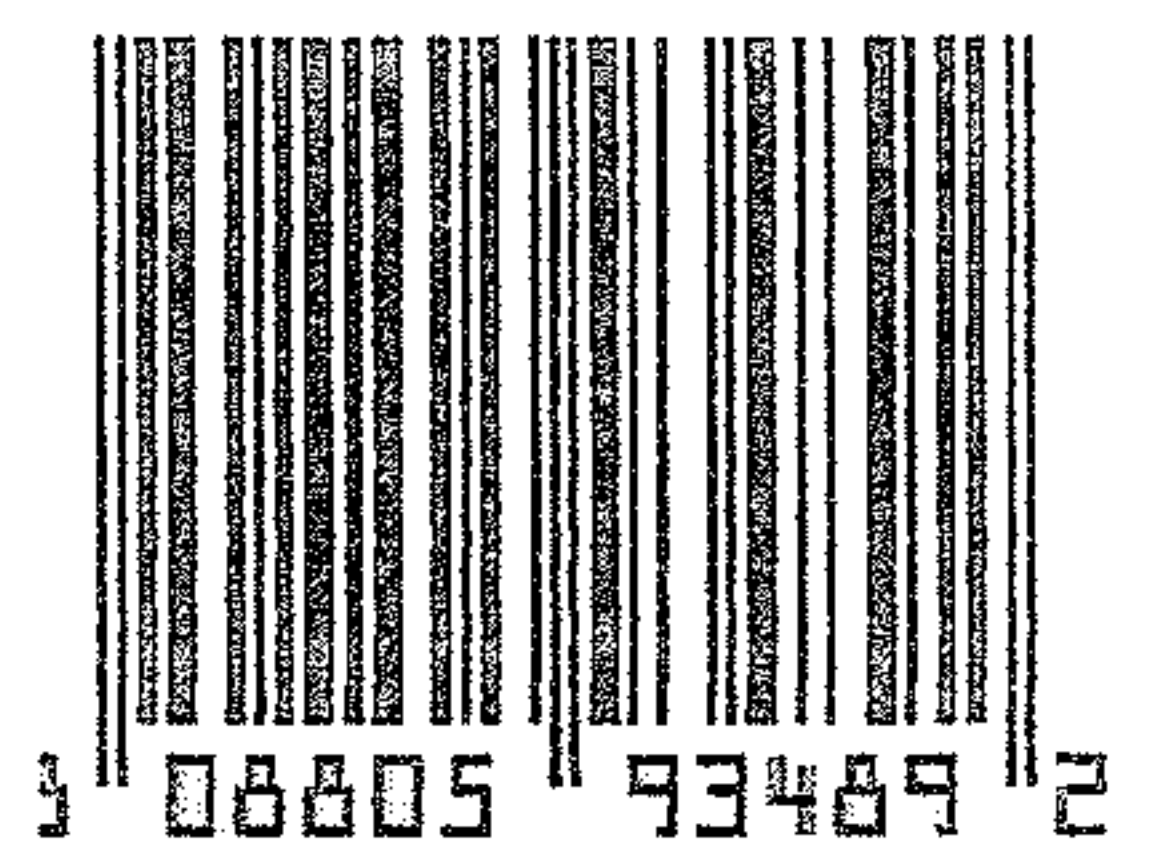
Low of 32F.

Horoscopes

Sagittarius 11/22-12/21

It might seem as if you have the King Midas touch today. Of course, nothing turns to gold in front of your eyes, but nearly everything you do

(Continued on page 6)



Shopping

“Operation Safe Shopper” was back in Loudon County for another year. This operation, led by the 9th Judicial Drug Task Force is an effort to curtail organized retail theft at our local retailers during the holidays. The operation is a combined effort

by the Loudon County Sheriff’s Office, Lenoir City Police Department, Loudon Police Department, loss prevention associates and agents of the 9th JDTF. In the weeks prior to Christmas law enforcement agents saturate the area to identify individuals and groups

targeting stores to commit theft and fraud. We also monitor parking areas and customers that may become targets of crimes to unwitting shoppers. During this enforcement action agents were able to

arrest 50 individuals with varying types of charges to include; theft, fraud, criminal impersonation, burglary, counterfeit money, identity theft,

Shopping ctd. to pg. 3

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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.

Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK *



2012 GMC Terrain SLT Decker Out, Leather, Alloy Wheels, PS, PW, PL, Sunroof, Low Miles



2013 Nissan Frontier Alloy Wheels, Auto Torneau Cover, Tow, PW, PL, Cold Air, Great Miles



2012 Toyota Camry; 90k, Alloy Wheels, Gas Saver, Pristine Condition, Touch Screen, PW, PL



2012 Dodge Ram SLT Crew Cab, Bed Liner, Tow, Alloy Wheels, V8, Low Miles, Spacious



2011 Honda Pilot Luxurious, Leather, 3rd Row, 4x4, DVD, NAV, PW, PL, PS, Tow, Luggage Rack



2013 Toyota Corolla Low Miles, Like New, Local Car, Alloy Wheels, PW, PL, 4 Cyl, A/C, Auto

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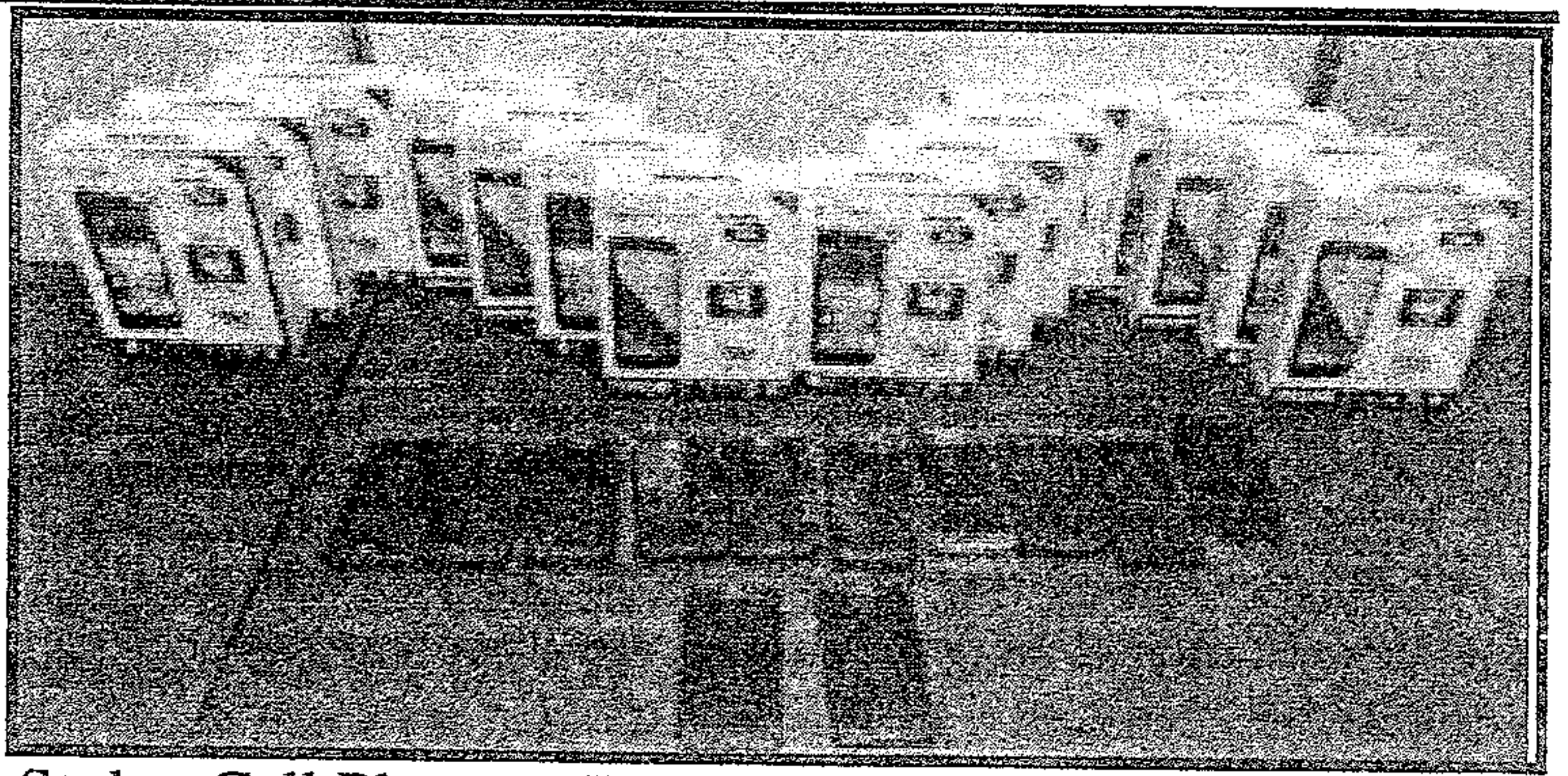
Shopping ctd. from pg. 2

drug crimes and criminal warrants.

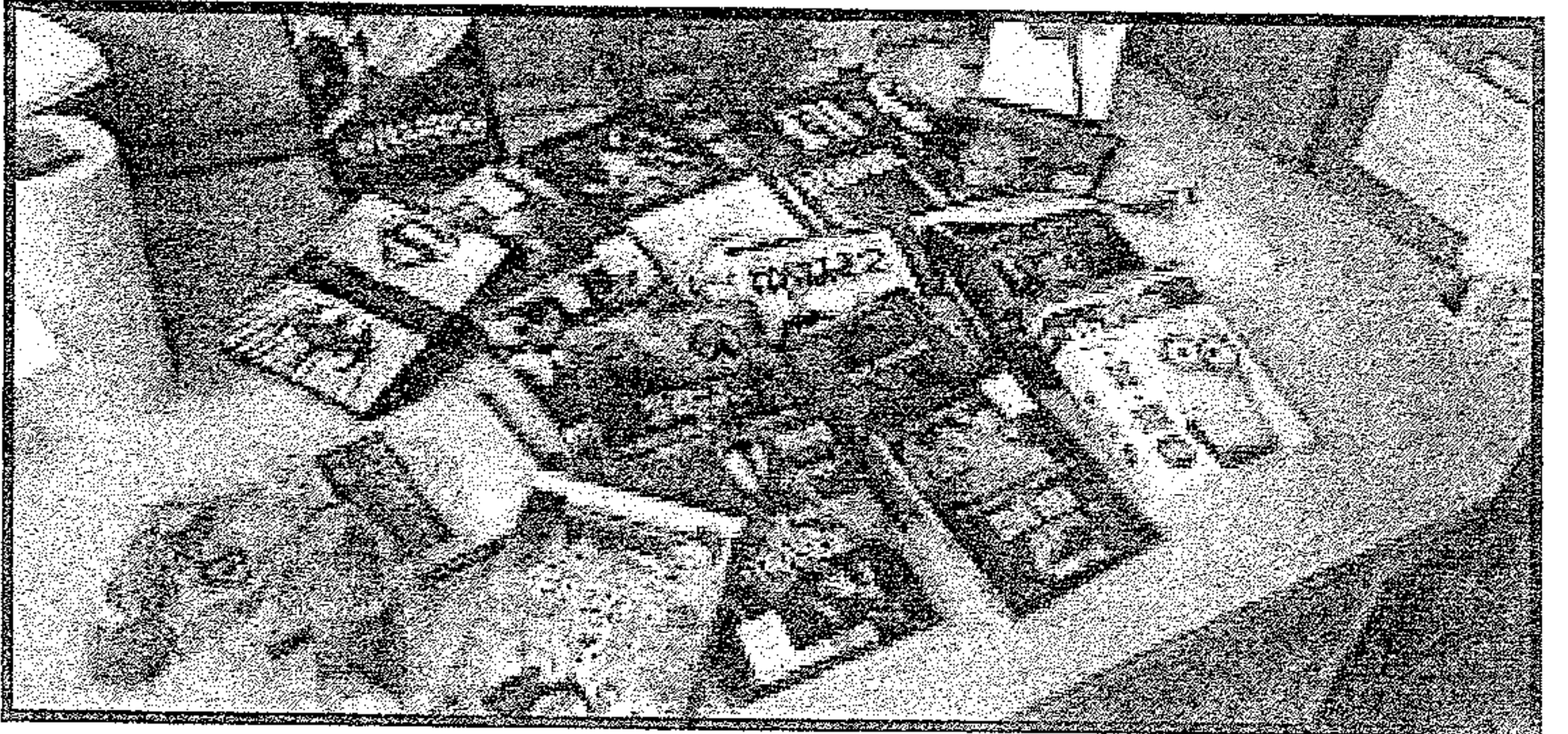
These activities led to the following noteworthy cases:

The arrest of an individual that was using stolen credit card numbers to make thousands of dollars in purchases at Walmart

stores in middle and East Tennessee. This male, a Florida resident was currently out on bond for the same charges in Florida. The arrest of an individual that was using counterfeit one hundred dollar bills to complete purchases. This individual was traveling from Georgia where he is currently



Stolen Cell Phones, Games And Misc. Items



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on probation for the same offenses.

Also, there were numerous arrests of repeat offenders that are banded from most retailers for similar offenses. One of which was brazen enough to steal a shopping cart worth of items and then call a LYFT driver to pick her up and have the driver load the stolen items into his vehicle for her.

Agents also encountered a male that was in the process of committing a theft from Home Depot in Lenoir City. In an effort to try and get away, this individual drove his vehicle at an agent attempting to detain him. He then fled in a vehicle and was pursued by agents. During this pursuit he struck two law enforcement vehicles and then crashed his car and fled on foot, but was finally apprehended by law enforcement. It was later found that he was involved in a similar incident in Knoxville the

week before.

In total, Operation Safe Shopper recovered over \$12,000 dollars in stolen merchandise, quantities of methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana and prescription pills, personal information (credit card numbers and social security numbers) on over 50 victims, 21 felony charges, 49 misdemeanor charges and the service of 10 outstanding warrants. Agents also found that 12 of the individuals arrested have previously been banned for trespassing from these stores for past thefts.

This coordinated effort by all the law enforcement agencies and retailers is increasing in support and productivity each year in Loudon County. As the holidays draw closer, the number of criminals targeting our shoppers and retailers increases and the task force will continue to try to ensure a safe shopping experience.

Tags

Eugene Ward, 46, Welch Ave Loudon, was charged with Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. Of Meth. Officer Cody Fritts LCPD, observed a red vehicle traveling in the Walmart parking lot. The tag on the vehicle had expired in Feb. 2018, and returned to a white vehicle. Upon stop of the vehicle Eugene Ward was identified as a back seat passenger. Ward was ran through dispatch and was found to have a warrant out of Monroe County. Deputy was given consent to search his person, found inside Ward's cigarette pack was a plastic baggy that contained a crystal substance .5 grams of Meth. Ward was placed under arrest.

Theft

Colt Johnson, 24, County Road Nio-ta, was charged with Criminal Trespass, Theft of Property, Evading Arrest, and Aggravated Assault x4. 9th DTF Agent, and LCSO, noticed an individual acting suspicious in Walmart

then leaving the store in a vehicle going to Home Depot. This male Colt Johnson entered Home Depot and a short time later walked out with a bulge in his jacket. Agent walked up to Johnson vehicle and showed him ID and ask to talk with him. Johnson turned his vehicle on and started backing up toward an agent that was walking up behind the vehicle. Agent again yelled Police stop and Johnson put the vehicle in drive and started moving toward agent until he had to move out of the way or be hit. The vehicle then took off at a high rate of speed and agents pursued. The vehicle was traveling at unsafe speed on the shoulder of the roadway, and not stopping for stop signs or red lights. The vehicle then drove through Fort Loudon Hospital parking area where he struck a TBI vehicle that was attempting to set up a perimeter for the fleeing suspect. The vehicle was still driving recklessly pass-

ing vehicle on Hwy 321 and attempting to get onto I-75, driving on the shoulder and grass area next to the roadway when he braked and tried to correct onto the roadway making contact with Deputy vehicle. Johnson then fled on foot and Agent and Deputies pursued for approx. ¼ mile. Johnson was taken into custody. Johnson had taken an impact driver from Home Depot and stated he seen Agents and panicked.

The Good News
The Rev. Dr. Julius McCarter
Scripture: Isaiah 12:2-6

Isaiah's hymn praises God for saving us from evil and destruction. It also gives us a picture of what happens when we trust God's promises of salvation, allowing them to define who we are. When we rely on God's promises, we have nothing to fear. Why? Because

only God can give us the security we long for, regardless of what happens to us. Wealth, power, reputation -- and anything else we put in God's place -- cannot do this. Only God's "wells of salvation" are inexhaustible. Moreover, when we rely on God's "wells of salvation," gratitude and joy expand our horizons. We discover that the God we name and exalt is, indeed, at work throughout the entire world. At the same time, we increasingly recognize that this God is in our midst, creating new life within and

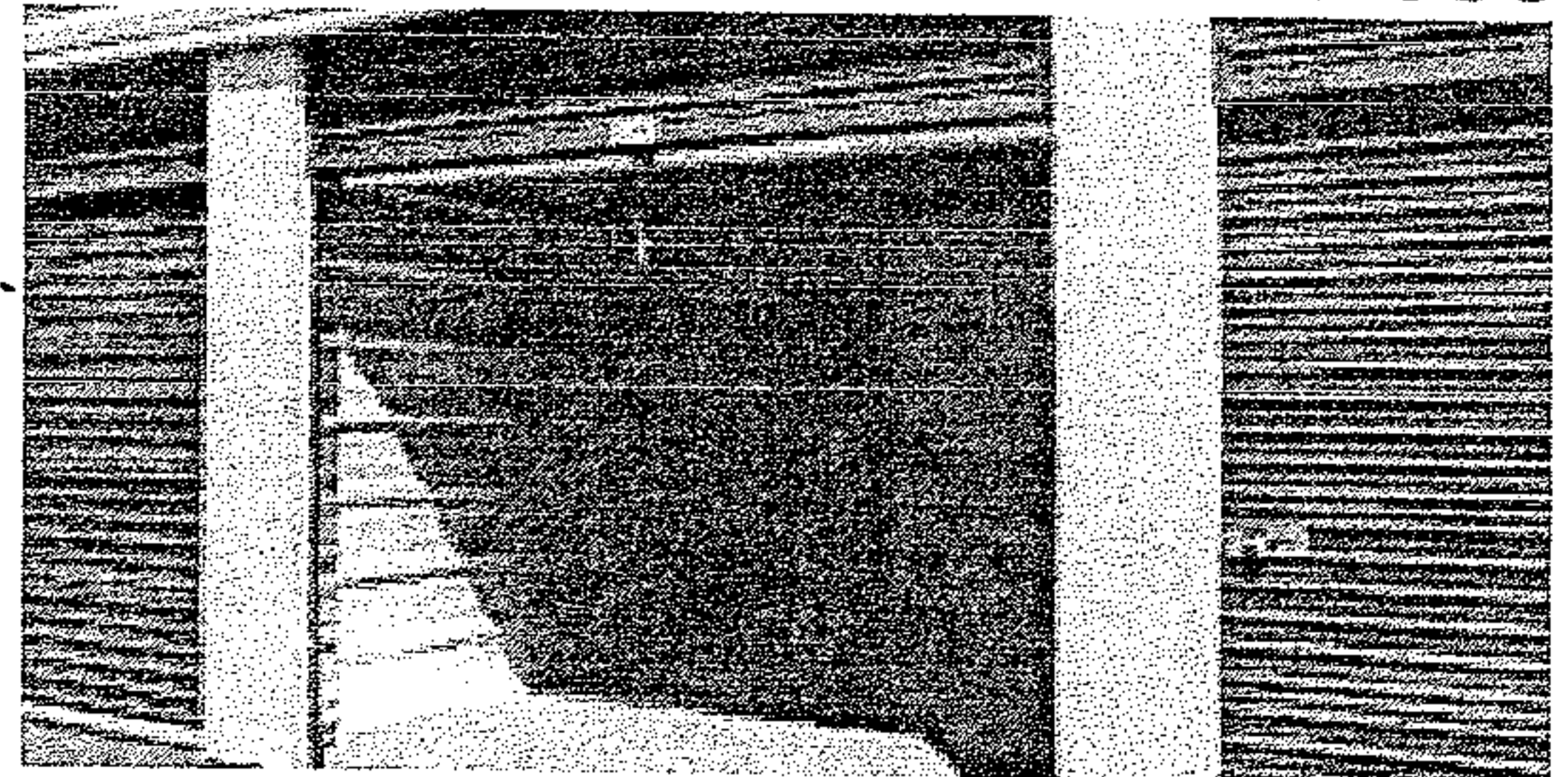
around us, and this increases our confidence to call on God amid whatever we are facing. Prayer: O Holy One, we shout aloud because we know we can call on your name to save us from destruction. We sing for joy because you live in our midst and are continually creating new life within and around us. Amen.

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Colt Johnson Vehicle After Theft From Home Depot

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A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. - Ecclesiastes 4:12

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Library

The hammer has dropped on Lawson McGhee Library. On Dec. 3, Shelton General Contractors began a major renovation to update the top three stories of the main library which is located at 500 W. Church Ave. Today, the construction has moved to the main floor and is causing some rearrangement of offices, but normal library operations will continue.

The main goal of the \$200,000 project is to create a more inviting space that meets the needs of 21st-century library patrons. All work will be done by Shelton General Contractors and is expected to last several months. The library will remain open throughout the process.

The renovations include relocating the periodicals section from the third floor to the first floor, and converting that space to classroom/meeting area. The second floor computer lab will be relocated to the first floor and be replaced with a "memory lab" to include photo and document scanning stations and an exhibit area. The main floor will be rearranged to include a new reference desk. New amenities will include private consulting rooms for individual

and small group use, a consolidated public computer section, and additional space for business reference services and the Books for the Homebound program. The renovation will also include a new circulation desk for checking out materials.

"We are looking forward to this renovation. The newly rearranged service areas will be a vast improvement for our patrons and staff. With many collections shifting to online resources, we are able to take advantage of some space that will better serve the public," commented Myretta Black, Knox County Public Library.

Heat

year, and fire-safe behaviors could be the difference between life and death when it comes to home heating fires.

Heating equipment is the leading cause of home fire deaths nationally and the second leading known cause in Tennessee. From November 2017 through the end of February 2018, 33 Tennesseans lost their lives in accidental residential structure fires. Heating was the most common known cause of these fires, causing seven fatalities alone during that time period.

"As colder weather settles in through 2019,

Tennesseans should remember that staying warm should not mean practicing risky behaviors when heating their homes," said Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Julie Mix McPeak. "I urge Tennesseans to follow our fire safety tips this winter and to make sure that all the smoke alarms in their homes are working properly before the start of winter."

To help Tennesseans stay fire safe, the SFMO offers the following tips:

-Give space heaters space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment.

-Use space heaters that have automatic shut-off features. If the heater tips over, it shuts off.

-Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface. Keep them and their electrical cords away from things that can burn, high traffic areas, and doorways.

-Always turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

-Never use your oven to heat your home.

-Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected every year.

-Burn only dry, seasoned wood in fireplaces and woodstoves. Never burn garbage or use flammable liquids to start a fire.

-Make sure any fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying out. Ashes should be cool before disposing of them in a metal container. Keep the container

a safe distance away from your home.

-Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

-If you smell gas coming from your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.

-Install and maintain working smoke alarms. If you need a working smoke alarm, many fire departments across Tennessee provide and install them for free.

To Get a Burning Permit:

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