

# The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

## Meth troubles for tired beer ponger



Shannon Payne

Shannon Payne, 44, Genensis Road Crossville, was charged with MFG/Del/Sale or Poss. of Meth, Poss. of Drug Para., and Contraband in a Penal Institution.

Deputy Kevin Kirkland LCSD, was dispatched to a suspicious male who was passed out in his vehicle at the Dollar General Store in Greenback. Upon arrival Deputy met with Greenback Fire 702 who requested Deputy check the subject, Mr. Shan-

(see Meth pg. 2)

## LC Mayor Aikens forms LC School Safety Task Force in wake of Florida HS Shooting

Mayor Tony Aikens of Lenoir City has called for the organization of a School Safety Task Force in light of the recent school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Mayor Aikens will be working closely with Dr. Jennie Barker, Lenoir City School Su-

perintendent, to form a task force comprised of city officials, school officials, parents, and students. The focus of the task force will be to assess current school safety measures, as well as collaborate to identify any additional areas of concern.

see task force pg. 3

## Public Corruption Houston Community College Official Took Bribes for Years

The FBI is using a recent high-profile public corruption case—one that involved a long-time board member of Houston Community College—to raise awareness about unscrupulous officials who violate the public trust for personal gain.

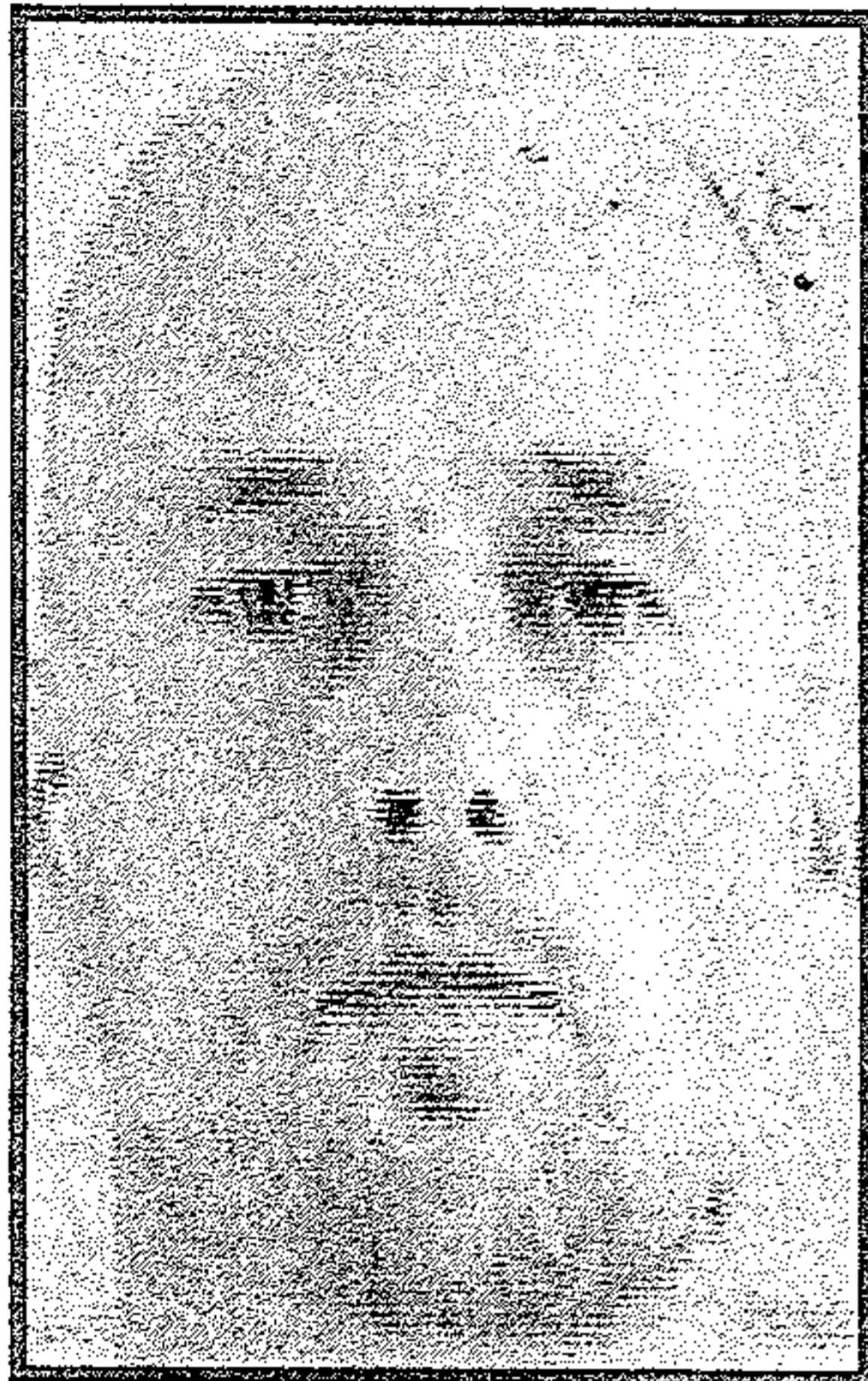
In January 2018, a federal judge sentenced 53-year-old Chris Oliver to 70 months in prison after his conviction on bribery charges. First elected to the com-

munity college board in 1995, Oliver held a position of trust—but in 2009, he began soliciting and accepting bribes to influence how lucrative contracts were awarded.

“He had considerable influence,” said Special Agent Mark Michalek, who supervises public corruption investigations in the FBI’s Houston Division. “Eventually someone came forward to report that Oliver

(see Bribe pg. 4)

## No seatbelt leads to stolen truck, drugs and charges



Randy Lane



Emily Reynolds  
See Stolen P.5

## Speeding gets woman DUI and drug charges



Amanda Watson  
see Speeding p.4

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### Verse of the Day

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart

and my portion forever. — Psalm 73:25-26

### Obituaries

None Reported

### Wazzup

Congratulations Kris Bell for being the Emcee of Creepy Con.

### Weather

Today: Sunny with clouds moving in during evening. High of 45F.

Tonight: Showers. Low of 30F.

Thursday: Sun. High of 43F.

Thursday night: Cloudy.

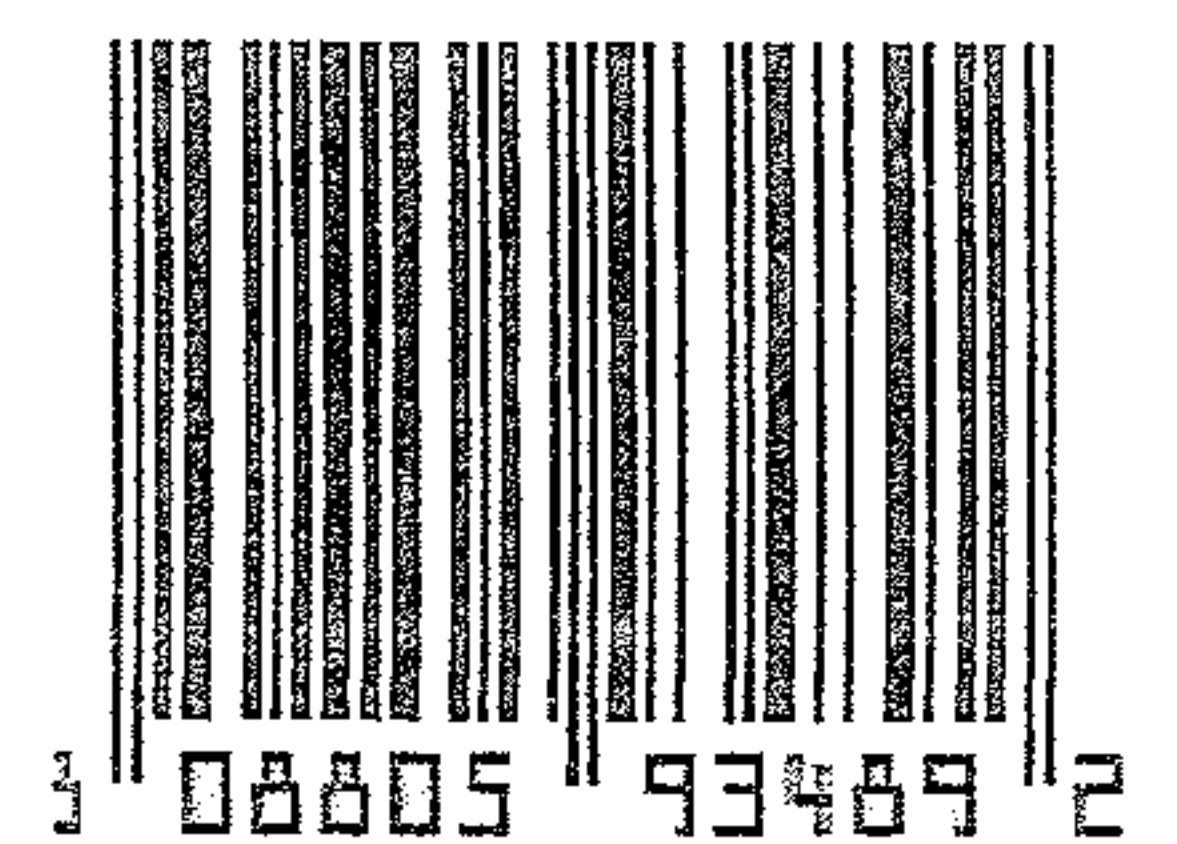
Low of 27F.

### Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20

You are passionate about a new idea but might not be ready to put your plan into motion yet. Your vision of the future is a primary driving

(Continued on page 6)



**Meth**

non Dale Payne (Offender) who was believed to be intoxicated. While speaking with Mr. Payne he advised that he was just tired and fell asleep in his car because he was up all night playing beer pong. Mr. Payne stated that he went to the Dollar General to buy a purse for his girlfriend and some make-

up then came outside and fell asleep. GBFD advised that a worker at the Dollar General called him and stated the male had been outside for over an hour asleep in his vehicle. After speaking with Mr. Payne it was determined that he was too intoxicated to be left out in the public. Deputy then asked Mr. Payne what narcotics he had taken and he said that he

was prescribed pain pills but had not taken any. Mr. Payne did have slurred speech and appeared to be intoxicated, after checking his driver's license through dispatch it was discovered that his license had been suspended. Deputy asked Mr. Payne if he had

anything illegal in the vehicle which he stated he did not, and did give Deputy consent to search his vehicle. A black bag was found in his front passenger seat which contained a plastic baggie with approxi-

see meth conc. pg. 5



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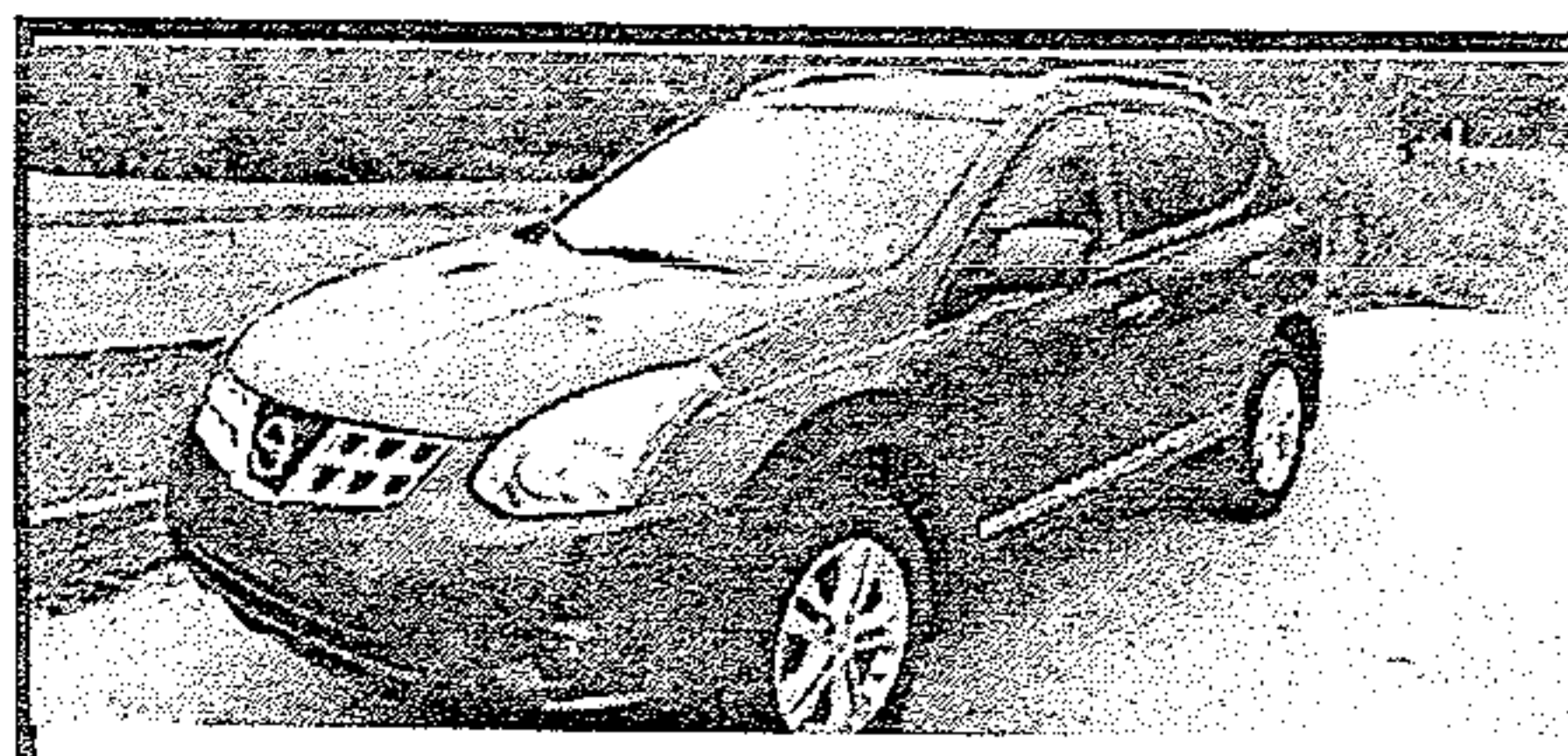
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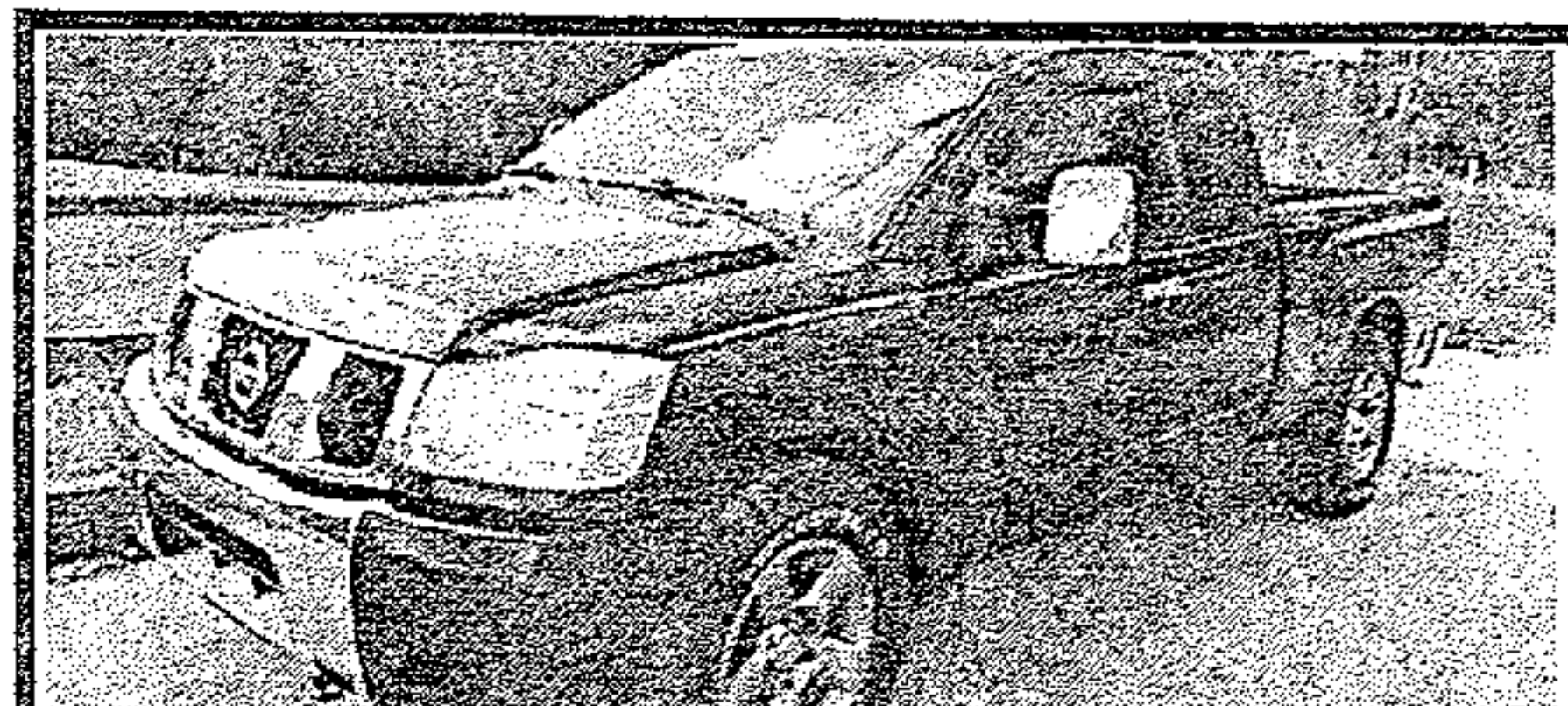
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**Task force**

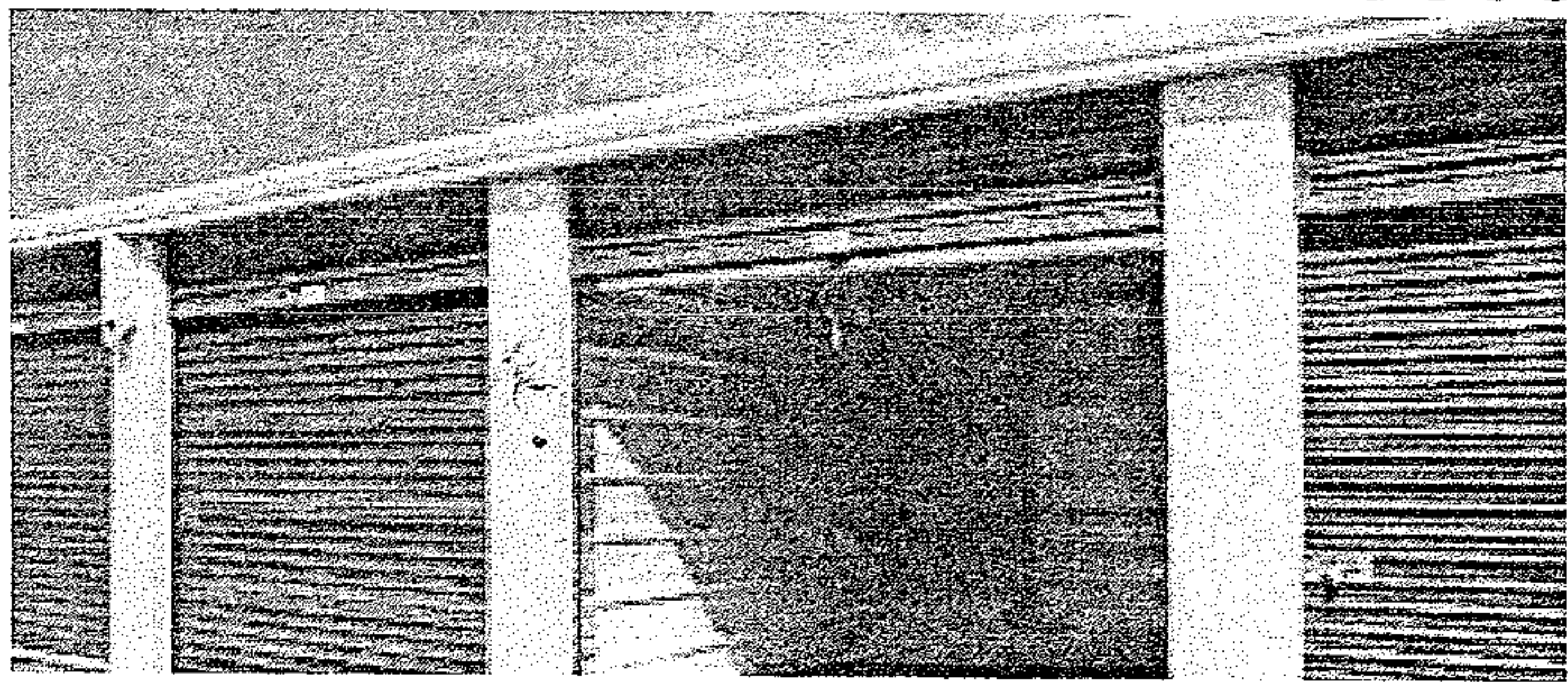
Mayor Aikens is taking a proactive stance in the safety and security of students, faculty and staff of Lenoir City Schools. This initiative will further secure and provide confidence in the education and safety of all those involved with Lenoir City Schools. The School Safety Task Force will meet on Friday, March 9, 2018 at 2:00pm. The meeting will be held at Lenoir City Hall, 530 Hwy 321 N, Suite 200, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

**Police beat**

Amanda Anderson, 28, West 1st Ave Lenoir City, was charged with DUI. Deputy Brandon Pesterfield LCSO, witnessed a red vehicle in the

parking lot of Krystals. The restaurant was closed, the vehicle driver side headlight was not working. Deputy witnessed the vehicle pull out of the parking lot make a left turn around the median the vehicle drove straight as if it was going to pull into Bimbos parking lot then merged into the turn lane and make a turn back into Krystals parking lot go around and back out onto Hwy 321. Deputy performed a traffic stop on Hwy 70 and made contact with the driver Amanda Anderson. Ms. Anderson was very jittery and could not sit still. Deputy ask Anderson to step out of the vehicle which she could not stand still. Deputy ask Anderson what she had taken, she stated a Percocet a few hour prior. Anderson did poorly on sobriety test and placed under arrest.

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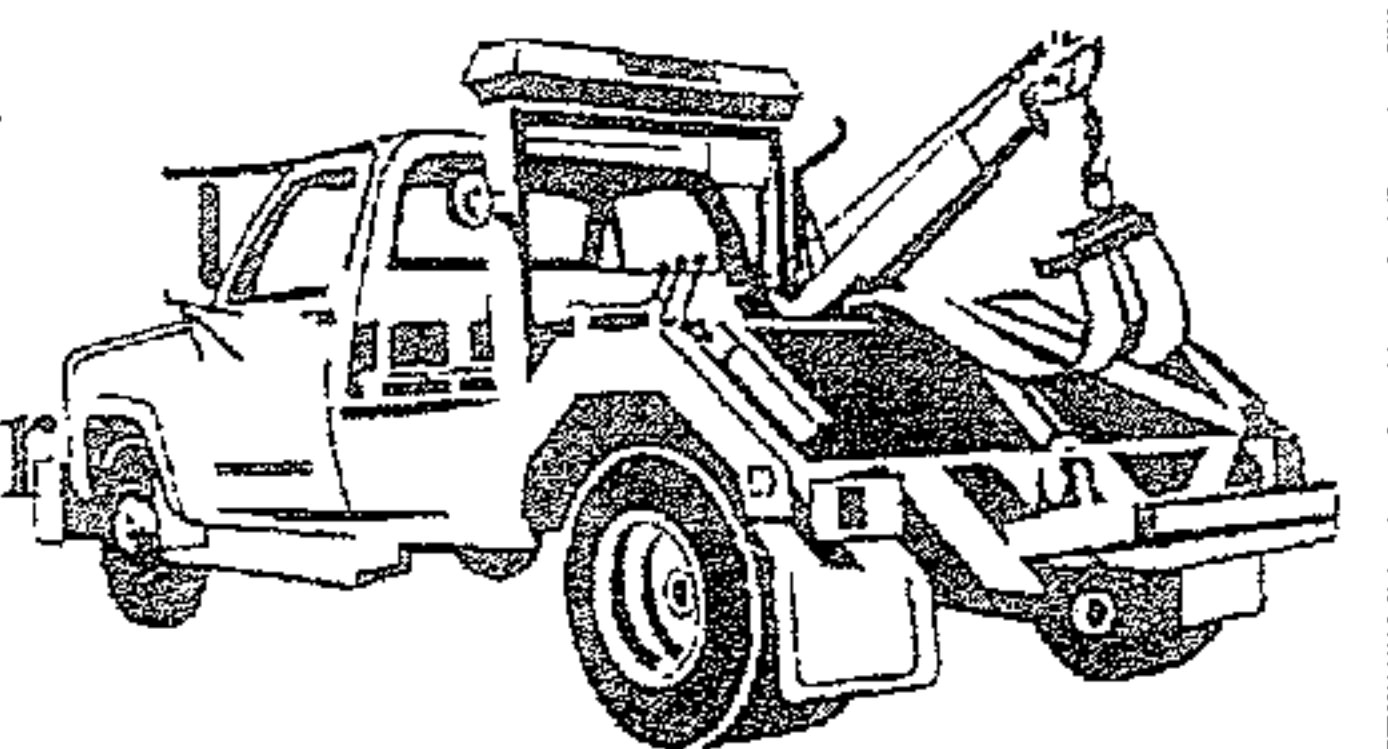
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### Speeding

Amanda Watson, 31, Hines Valley Road Lenoir City, was charged with DUI, Simple Possession, Poss. of Drug Para., and Violation of Implied Consent. Sgt. Jerramie Bowen LCSO, was advised by the city of a vehicle at a high rate of speed on Hwy 321. Deputy made contact with the vehicle near I75. The vehicle was still at a high rate of speed. The vehicle turned onto Hwy 70 and crossed the center line. It then turned on Hines Valley Road, the vehicle went into the other lane of travel. Deputy tried to catch up to the vehicle it was still traveling at a high rate of speed. The vehicle pulled into Hines Valley Trailer Park. Deputy then made contact with the driver Amanda Watson, who had a strong odor of alcohol and marijuana. Deputy then ask Watson how much she had to drink she stated 2 shots. Deputy could smell the odor of marijuana and Watson stated she had about 3 grams in the vehicle along with 2 pipes. Watson did poorly on sobriety test. Deputy located 2 pipes and approx. 3 grams of marijuana in the passenger seat. Watson was placed under arrest

### Bribe

was requiring cash bribes in order for people to get contracts or work within

the community college network.”

Houston Community College (HCC) is one of the largest community college operations in the country, Michalek said, with an annual operating budget that approaches \$350 million. At the time of his arrest in 2016, Oliver was vice chair of the board, which consisted of nine members each elected to six-year terms.

The FBI’s investigation revealed that during a period of approximately seven years, Oliver accepted nearly 70 bribe payments totaling more than \$225,000 from individuals seeking contracts with HCC to perform work related to the college’s grounds and facilities. Oliver often received cash payments of thousands of dollars stuffed in envelopes, delivered in local coffee shops. “He had been getting away with it for so long, he was brazen—he must have felt he was above the law,” Michalek said. “He had been getting away with it for so long, he was brazen—he must have felt he was above the law.” Mark Michalek, special agent, FBI Houston

“The individual who came forward was a victim in the case because

he was put in a position of having to pay Chris Oliver to be able to get contracts with the college,” Michalek explained. “Victims sometimes assume they have no other option. Before long in a culture like that,” he added, “bribes and kickbacks can feel like the normal way of doing business.” Corrupt public officials create other victims as well, chief among them members of the community who lose faith in their elected and appointed officials—and, by extension, the institutions they represent. That’s why public corruption is the FBI’s top criminal investigative priority, and why the FBI’s Houston office is using the Oliver case to raise awareness and to encourage citizens to come forward if they suspect that an individual in a position of public trust is abusing that trust.

“Our focus is on those who exploit their official position for personal gain,” Michalek said. “That usually takes the form of bribery, kickbacks, extortion, and misappropriation schemes.” He added that such cases can be very challenging to un-

cover and difficult to investigate. “That’s why we rely heavily on the public to help us do our jobs,” he said. “We are encouraging anyone who sees something—even if you are not certain it’s a crime—to contact the FBI.”

Michalek, a 13-year veteran of the FBI, has seen firsthand the negative effect corrupt officials can have. Al-

though most public servants are honest, those few who seek to line their pockets “can tear away at the fabric of the community,” he noted.

When Oliver was arrested—thanks to a sting operation in which he was recorded accepting bribes—“people at HCC were in shock,” Michalek said. As a result, the college undertook audits and began to

Bribe ctd. pg. 7

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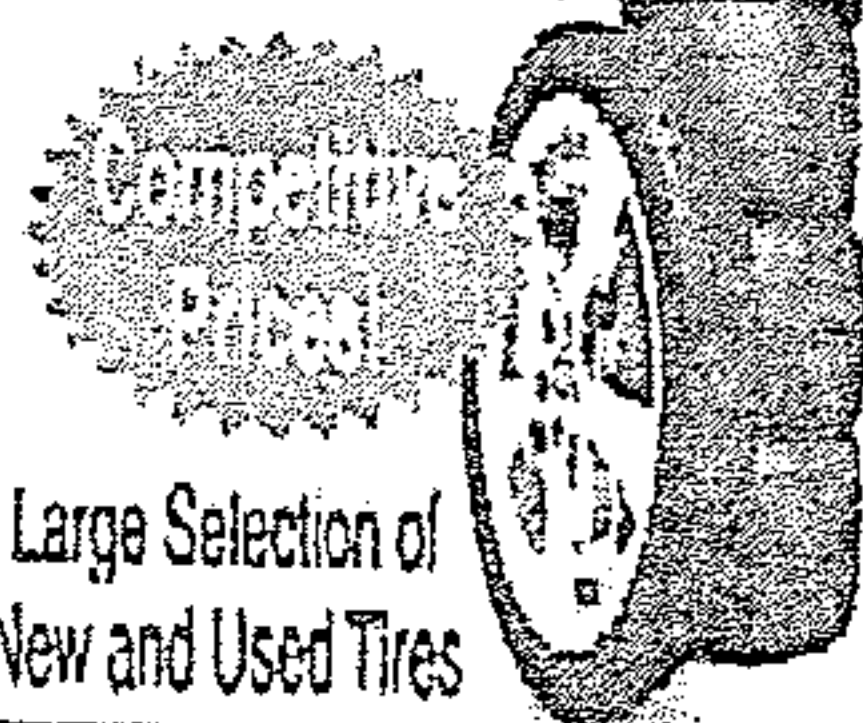
The Lenoir City Beer Board will meet, March 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Room to consider issuing an On-Premises Beer License Application for the following business: Stock Burgers 540 Highway 321 N. Lenoir City, TN. 37771

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**Stolen**

Randy Lane, 40, Brickyard Road Knoxville, was charged with Theft of Property, Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, and Assisting other Agency.

Emily Reynolds, 25, Rose Petal Lane Knoxville, was charged with Poss. of Drug Para.

Deputy Kevin Dailey LCSO, observed a 2003 white F250 on I75 Southbound at mile marker 67 with the driver not wearing his seatbelt. Upon traffic stop Deputy came in contact with the driver Randy Lane and passenger Emily Reynolds, Mr. Lane's license came back to be revoked while the registration on the vehicle came back stolen out of Knox Co (dispatch confirmed). While searching Mrs. Reynolds' purse Deputy came in contact with 2 syringes, swab, ointment, and shoe laces

which are commonly used to shoot up with. Dispatch also came back to confirm Mr. Lane had a warrant out of Morgan County, Tennessee. The vehicle was towed by James's Wrecker Service with all this occurring in Loudon County, Tennessee.

Meth ctd. from pg. 2

mately 1 gram of a white crystal substance which tested positive for Methamphetamine. A hollow pen was found in the purse with powder residue inside. When we arrived at the jail Mr. Payne was asked if he

had anything else on him and he stated he did not. Deputy Vinsant did find a multi colored glass pipe in Mr. Payne's left pocket as well as a baggie with 7 blue pills (1 mg Alprazolam). Mr. Payne was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Introduction into a Penal Facility. This did occur in Loudon County Tennessee.

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Bribe conc. from pg. 4 change the way it does business. Even better, Michalek explained, would be preventing the corruption in the first place. "The strategy of prevention—in large part by educating the public—is much more effective in the long run than having to repair the damage to the reputation of our government institutions caused by a select few who violate the public's trust."

**No tail lights lands man with DUI.**  
Peter Hunt, 34, Powell Street Wildwood, was charged with DUI, and Driving on Revoked/Suspended License. Officer Caleb Green

LCPD, observed a white vehicle traveling on Hwy 321 with no taillights. Officer followed behind the vehicle and observed a series of hesitant actions from the driver. The vehicle made a left turn onto Creekwood and attempted to make a left turn into the EZ Stop but missed the turn. Officer initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle which failed to yield for approx. 100 ft. eventually stop-

ping the vehicle at the entrance of the Creekwood Cove Lane. Officer made contact with the driver Peter Hunt, and immediately observed an open case of Budlight in the back seat. As Officer spoke with Hunt Officer could smell a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage. Officer observed the driver eyes which were bloodshot and slow slurred speech. Driver exited the vehicle to perform

sobriety test and stated he had 3 beers approx. 45 minutes prior. Hunt did poorly on sobriety test and dispatched advised Officer Hunt's license were suspended. Hunt did give a breath test which registered a reading of .126.




Peter Hunt

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