

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mother charged with contributing after teen daughter found intoxicated



Sheena Frances

see Contributing pg. 2

Victim beaten while driving down the road



Tonya Amburn

see DV pg. 3

Claiborne County Inmates and Officers Sold Scrap Metal for Personal Gain

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has revealed that Claiborne County inmates and sheriff's litter patrol officers received \$23,763.18 in cash from selling scrap metal.

Investigators reviewed records from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018; however, sher-

iff's litter patrol officers and inmates told investigators it was a long-established practice for the litter patrol to collect scrap metal and sell it to buy inmates lunches, snacks, drinks, and tobacco products.

State law requires that payments for scrap metal sold by a gov-

(see Metal pg. 3)

Eastern District of Tennessee US Attorney's Office Back the Blue

Although we are only a little more than a month into 2019, statistics from the Officer Down Memorial Page indicate that across the nation 15 police officers have already been killed in the line of duty. One officer death is too many. Fifteen is an outrage!

(see Blue pg. 5)

A Brush with the Law

Prominent Gallery Owner Sentenced for Defrauding Clients

The fine art world trades largely on names—names like da Vinci, Picasso, and Cézanne that can make the value of a canvas soar, and the names of dealers and gallery owners who operate in this rarified air by virtue of their own reputa-

tion and renown. Ezra Chowaiki was one of those dealers, and his gallery on New York's Park Avenue catered to art collectors, buyers, and sellers from around the globe.

But in September 2018, Chowaiki was sentenced to 18 months

See Brush P.4



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Verse of the Day

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
—Romans 7:24-25

Wazzup

Get ready for spring now, sign up for baseball, cheerleading, tumbling, gymnastics, and more now. Check your local Parks and Rec Department FIRST! Then see what else is in the com-

munity!

Weather

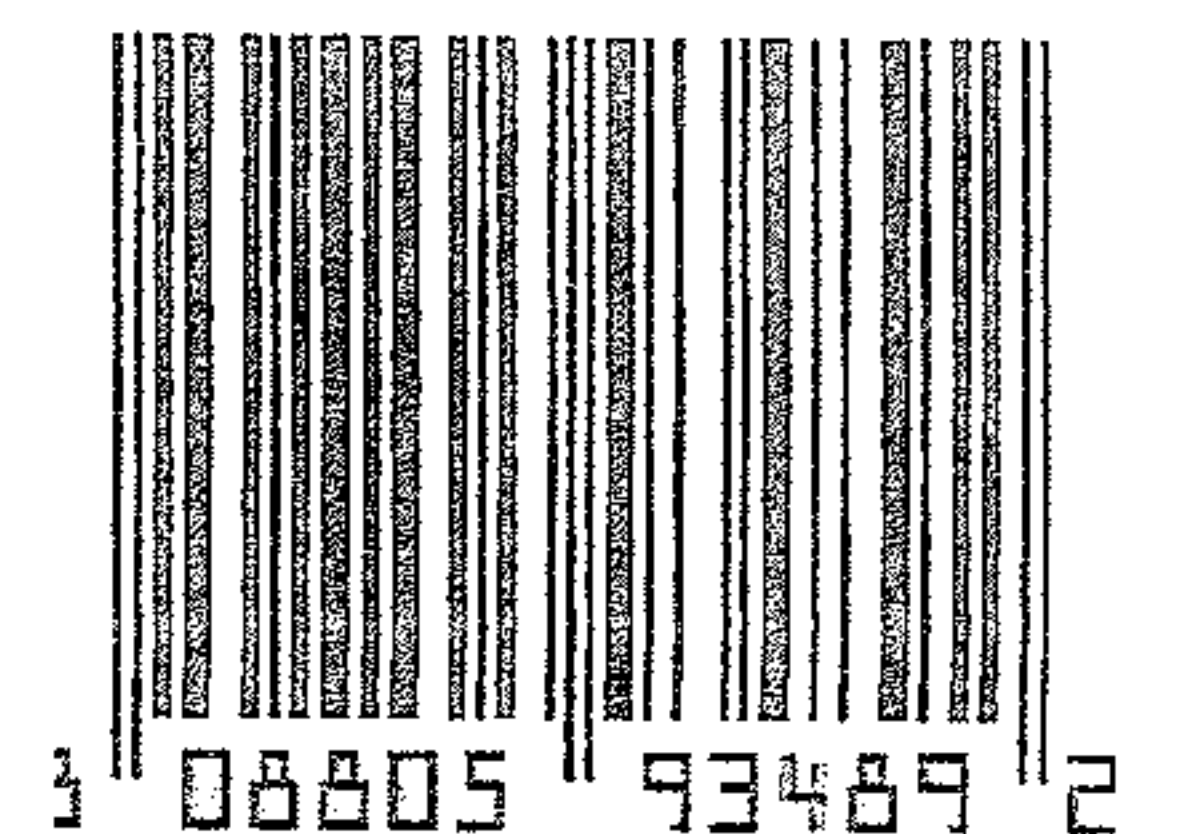
Today: Showers throughout the day. High of 58F. Tonight: Showers. Low of 52F. Tuesday: Rain most of the day. High of 61F. Tuesday night: Rain. Low of 37F.

Horoscopes

Aquarius 1/20-2/18

Your time is just as valuable as your money. Concerns about cash subside after a small, familiar sting in the pocketbook lets you

(Continued on page 6)



Contributing

Sheena Francis, 36, Adelia Drive Knoxville, was charged with Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, and Possession of a Handgun while Under the Influence. Deputy Akins LCSO, was dispatched to the area of Hwy 411 and Hwy 95 for a

possible assault between a male and female. A person driving through advised, they thought they saw a male pushing a female down to the ground next to a black vehicle. Deputy located the vehicle at Hwy 411 and Kyker Road. It was parked on the side of the road, Deputy made contact with 3 individ-

uals. After speaking with the individuals it was determined no assault occurred. The female juvenile in the vehicle appeared to be under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, she was throwing up, unstable on her feet and slurred

speech. Mother of the juvenile Sheena Francis did admit to giving the juvenile some alcoholic beverages. Francis also under the influence and was in possession of a handgun. Francis was placed under 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.

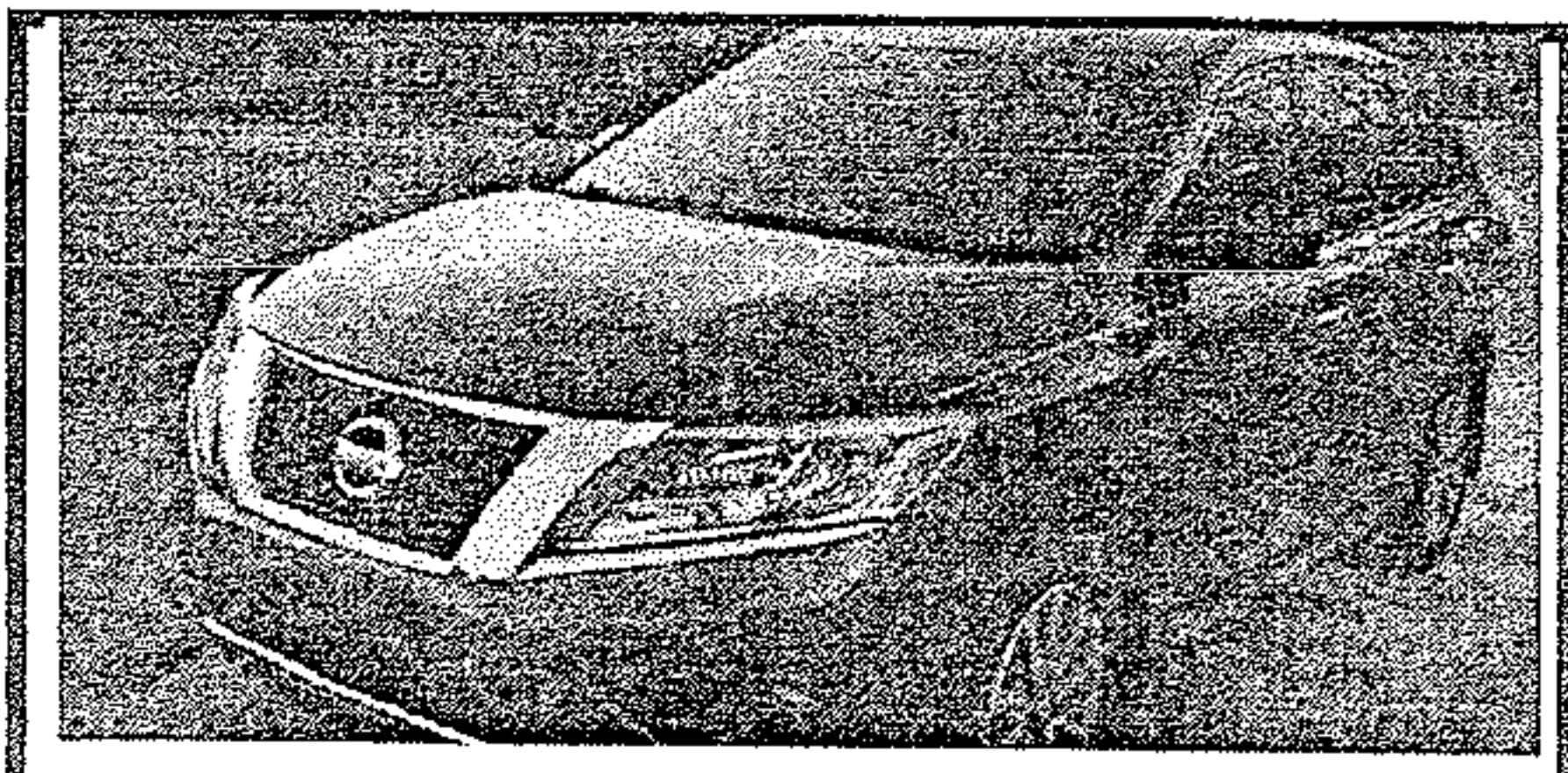
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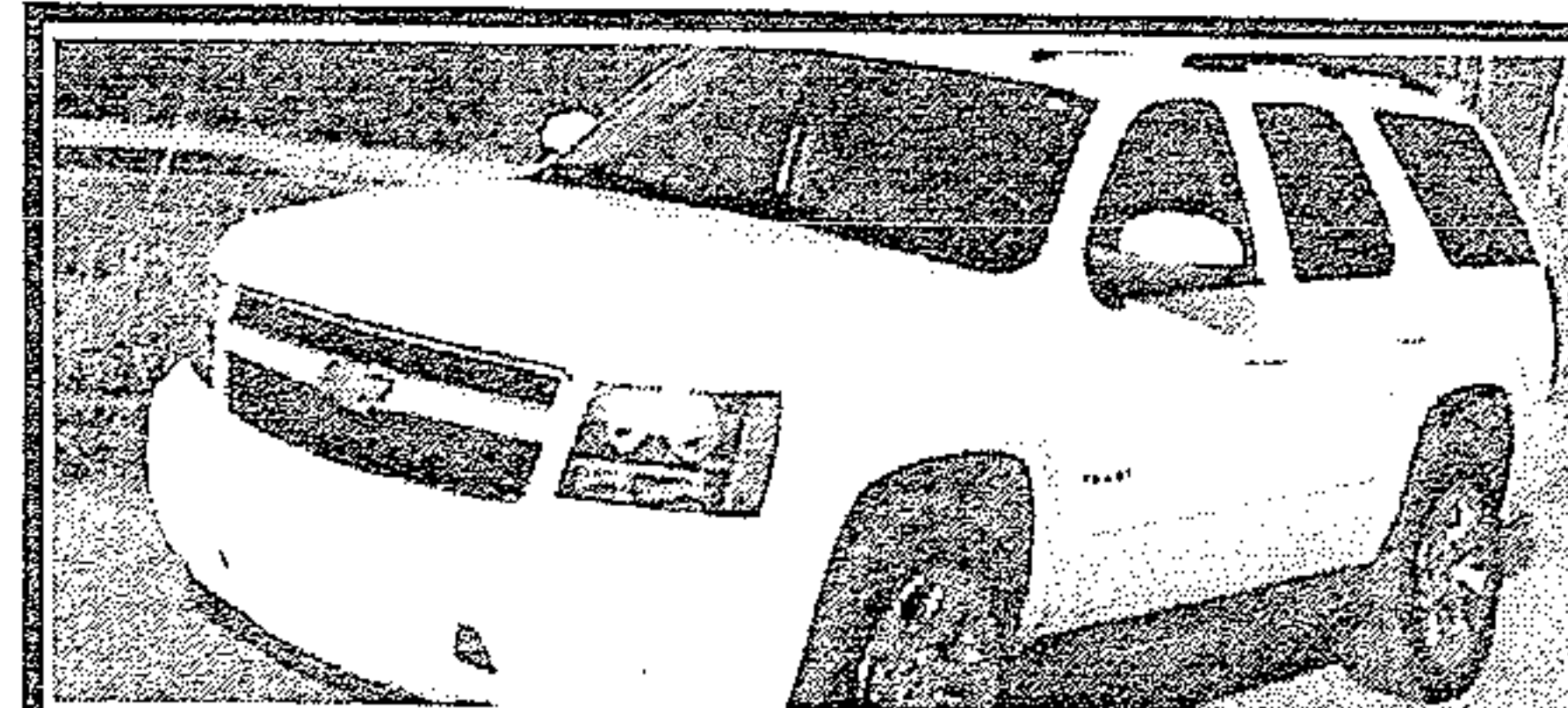
Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK *



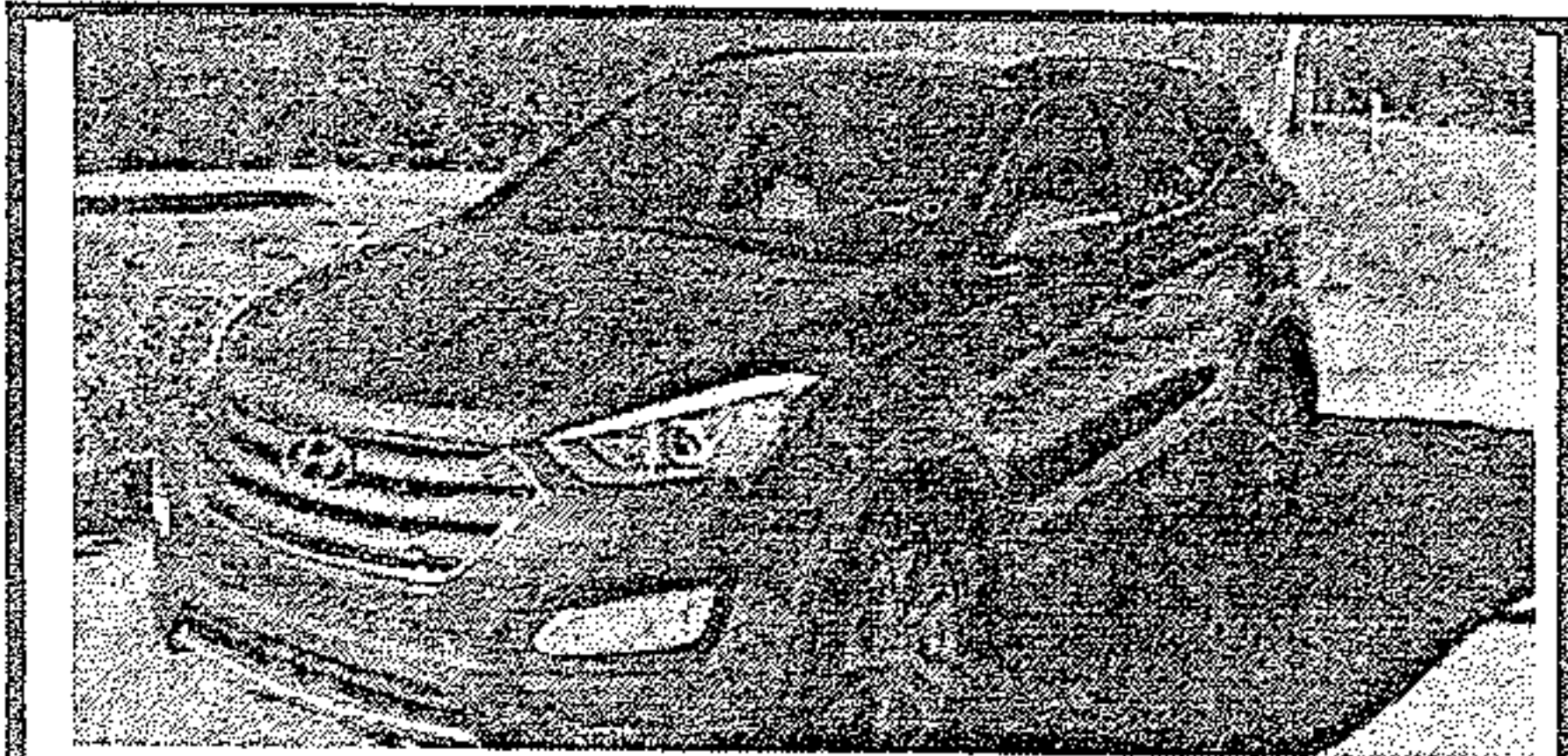
2014 Nissan Pathfinder Loaded, 3rd Row Seat, Alloy Wheels, Like New, Great On Gas, PW, PL



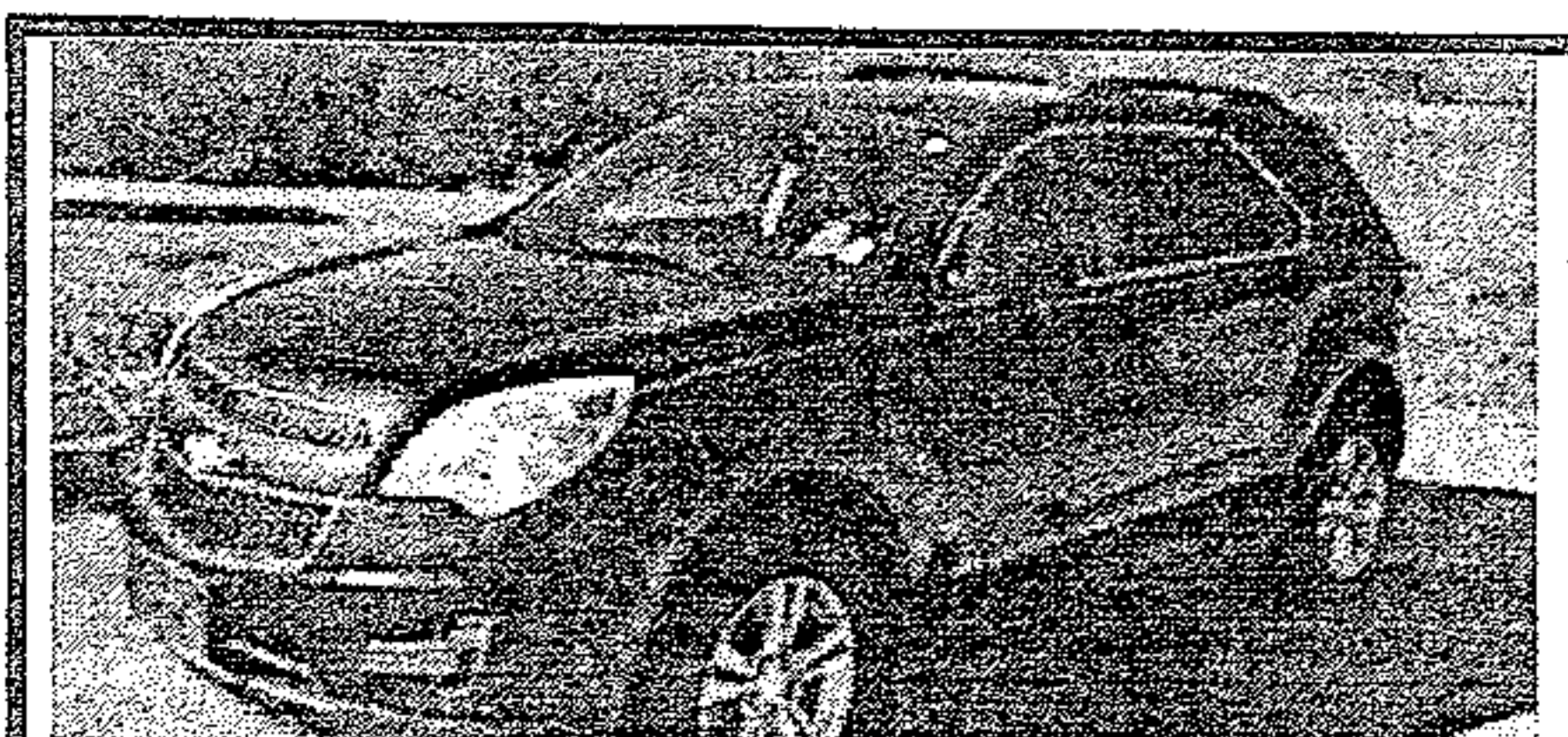
2013 Ford Expedition Fully Loaded, Power 3rd Row, Leather, Backup Camera, Rear A/C, Chrome Wheels, Locally Owned, Clean Carfax



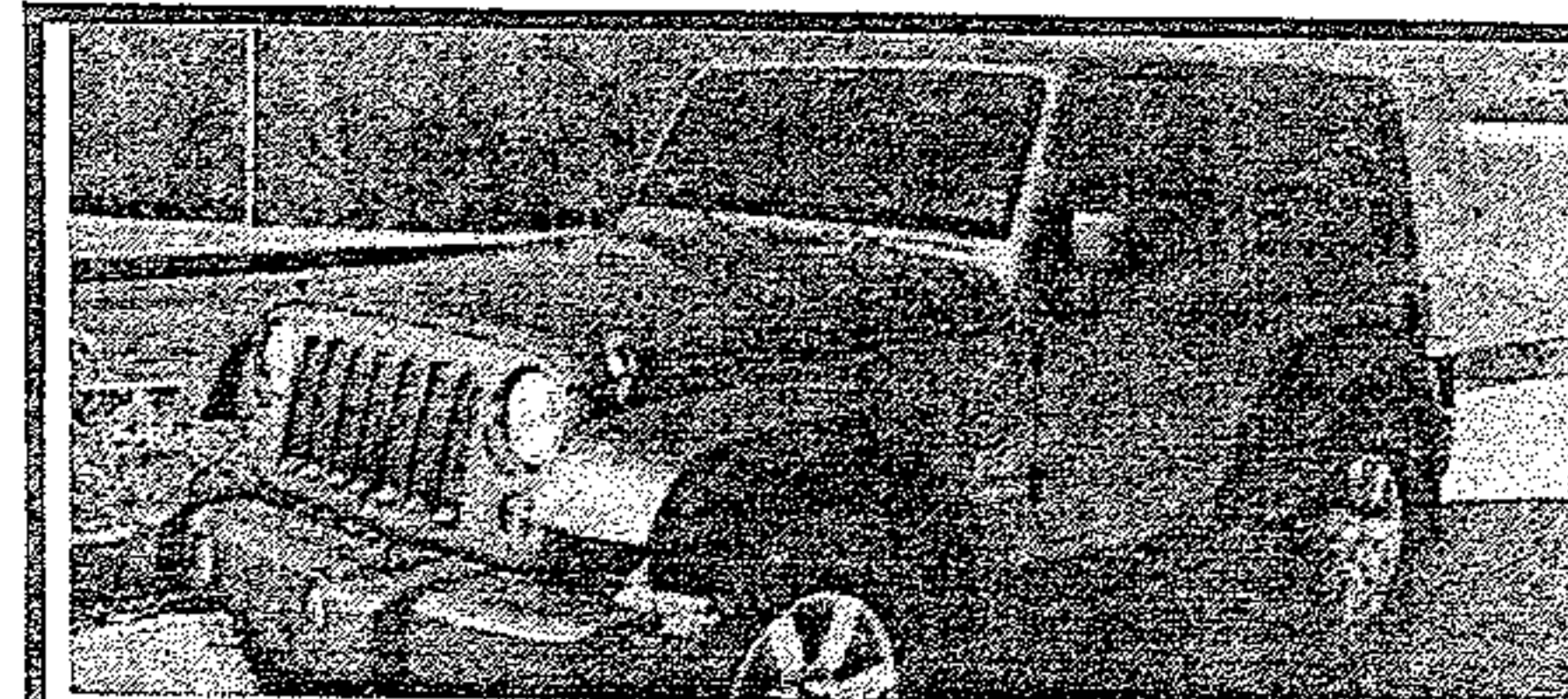
2012 Chevy Tahoe 4x4, Leather, 3rd Row, Chrome Wheels, PW, PL, Sunroof, Remote Start, Auto, 5.3 V8 Power



2014 Hyundai Santa Fe Dual Sunroof, Alloy Wheels, Leather, Heated & Cooled Seats, PS



2012 Chevy Equinox Auto, PS, PW, PL, Alloy Wheels, 2 Tone Interior, Luggage Rack



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Metal

ernmental entity be made by check or money order to the governmental entity and mailed to the business address of the governmental entity.

The failure to follow state law has resulted in lost revenue for the county.

The Comptroller's Office

has reviewed its investigation with the district attorney general for the Eight Judicial District and the district attorney general pro tem for the Thirteenth Judicial District. The Claiborne County Sheriff's Office is currently depositing checks from the sale of scrap metal with the county trustee.

To view the investigative report, go to: <https://comptroller.tn.gov/office-functions/investigations/find.html>

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, call the Comptroller's toll-free hotline at 800.232.5454, or file a report online at: www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline. Follow us on twitter: @TNCOT

DV

Tonya Amburn, 42, Moatsewell Road Philadelphia, was charged with Domestic Assault. Officer Brad Rayfield LCPD, was dispatched to Weigles on a physical fight between an male and female and they were pulling out of

DV ctd. to pg. 5

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Public Notice

The Loudon County Surplus Property Authority will have a meeting on February 13, 2019 at 4:00 at the County Office Building

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Every Monday Night
Doors open at 6pm. Program starts at 6:30. Childcare provided

Where Do We Meet:
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•Youth Recovery 14 - 18

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Public Notice

The Loudon County Commission will hold a special called meeting on February 19, 2019 at 5:30 at the County Office Building to discuss amending the motion made on February 4, 2019 regarding Allenbrooke Subdivision.

Brush

in federal prison for carrying out what the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York called “an elaborate scheme to defraud art dealers and collectors of millions of dollars.” Chowaiki’s name and his word, as it turned out, were not worth much.

According to an online biography, the company Chowaiki founded with partners in 2004 “established itself as a prominent gallery managing the acquisition and sale of art by Impressionist, Modern, Post-War, and Contemporary masters.” The gallery was also known for hosting exhibitions of major works.

“Chowaiki had been in the art world for a while and had completed plenty of legitimate deals,” said Special Agent Christopher McKeogh with the FBI’s Art Crime Team in the New York Field Office. “Most of the illegal activity was relatively recent.” But McKeogh stressed that once it began, “the schemes and thefts were coming at a fast and furious clip.”

When the investigation reached the FBI in November 2017, Chowaiki’s gallery had just filed for bankruptcy, and the New York Police Department was already identifying and

interviewing victims of bad deals. The FBI became involved because of the expertise of its Art Crime Team as well as the interstate and international nature of the crimes. The biggest concern: 25 stolen masterworks by Marc Chagall, Piet Mondrian, Alexander Calder, Fernand Léger, and others.

“The case came with a true sense of urgency,” said McKeogh. “We needed to get the scheme under control and get the artwork back before it changed hands again and disappeared.”

According to court documents and the case agent, Chowaiki was actively carrying out both frauds and thefts. McKeogh said the frauds usually involved Chowaiki overselling the value of a painting. For example, he would reach out to an individual with whom he had a relationship and offer that person the opportunity to buy a share of a work, claiming it could be resold for a quick profit. He would then offer the same deal to a second person and then to a third. Sometimes they were paintings in which Chowaiki had no actual control or ownership stake, but he would collect more than 100 percent of their value. “It was like me selling you a piece of the Brooklyn Bridge,” said McKeogh.

“The case came with a true sense of urgency.

We needed to get the scheme under control and get the artwork back before it changed hands again and disappeared.” Christopher McKeogh, special agent, FBI New York

The second part of the scheme was outright theft. Using his reputation as an established gallery owner, he would accept pieces on consignment—meaning he would agree to sell a

piece within a certain period of time on behalf of the owner and return it if he wasn’t successful. Instead, Chowaiki was selling the works on his own and keeping all of the

Brush ctd. to p.5

Public Notice

Invitation to Bid

The City of Lenoir City Street Department is now accepting sealed and competitive bids for asphalt to be put in place. Bidders should contact J.J. Cox, Street Superintendent, at 865-986-2715 to access streets and roads and for bid specifications. Resurface Work Bids will be accepted until Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. and will be opened and publicly read at the Purchasing Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 9:30 A.M. All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope and clearly marked “Bids for Resurfacing and Associated Work in Allenbrook Subdivision.” Bids shall be addressed and mailed or brought to:

City of Lenoir City
ATTN: Amber Scott, City Administrator
530 Highway 321 North
P.O. Box 445
Lenoir City, TN 37771

The City of Lenoir City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.



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Brush ctd. from p.4

proceeds.

McKeogh noted that the brazen nature of Chowaiki's crimes was unusual. "It was not sustainable," he said. "There was no way he could keep it under wraps for long."

The overwhelming amount of evidence allowed the investigation and prosecution to move quickly. What is still being sorted out is the artwork—valued at more than \$30 million. The FBI issued seizure warrants for the stolen paintings and has recovered nearly 20 of the missing pieces. "There are some paintings that we believe are overseas, and the FBI is still actively working to recover them," said McKeogh.

McKeogh stressed that Chowaiki's prosecution sends a notice to the rest of the art world, and that the prison sentence should be a deterrent to others who believe they can play fast and loose with people's trust and money—and with some of the world's great works of art. "There are consequences," he said.

DV ctd. from pg. 3

the parking lot going down Hwy 70 towards Roane County in a red Chevy. The vehicle was found just down the road at Eatons Food Market about one minute later by Loudon Sheriff Deputy. The

victim and Tonya Amburn was the person fighting. Both parties stated they boyfriend and girlfriend. Victim stated to Officer they were arguing over a cell phone, and he pulled into Weigles cause Tonya was beating him and back handing him while driving down the road. Victim had injuries to his face, his right cheek bone bleeding and badly swelled and his nose busted and bleeding. Tonya had no visible injuries but had blood on her left sleeve which was consistent to victim face injuries. Tonya Amburn was placed under arrest.

Blue

These same statistics indicate that in 2018 a total of 150 police officers lost their lives in the line of duty. The number reaches a staggering total of 811 for the past five years. Few words are more heart wrenching than "officer down." This violence against police officers must stop.

Brave members of the law enforcement community put their lives on the line every day to make

our neighborhoods safer. They do this selflessly, not for the money, fanfare, or recognition, but because of a desire and commitment to serve their communities. They are the foundation of our cities and towns, making sacrifices 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to ensure the safety of their families, friends and complete strangers. They should never have to sacrifice their lives. They are our first call when we need help...

and, that call should never be their last.

In February 2017, just weeks after taking office, President Trump issued an executive order calling on the Department of Justice to back our men and women in

blue. This is exactly what our office has

done and will continue to do. As United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Tennessee, I am personally committed to working in partner-

men and women in Blue conc. pg. 7

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We Love To Help and Support Our Community!!!

Hackers conc. from pg. 5
 ship with state and local law enforcement to develop strategies that work in our communities and make the streets safer for everyone, including law enforcement. Our office will continue to ensure that our laws are enforced and the public is safe.

to us all of the hundreds of thousands of men and women in this country who put themselves in harm's way each day. They, as well as their families, deserve our heartfelt thanks for a job well done.

While we should always surround our law enforcement community with respect and appreciation, this is especially important during the time of these senseless deaths. I challenge each of you in the coming days to make a point simply to stop and

say "thank you" to an officer for doing his or her job to keep us, our families and our communities a safer place to live.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 Special-Called Purchasing Committee Meeting

The Lenoir City Purchasing Committee will be holding a special-called meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 9:30 A.M. The purpose of the meeting will be to open and review bids for resurfacing work.

Thank you.

Help Wanted

Sonic In Lenoir City is looking for some help. If you are interested please apply in person at 1000 E. Broadway Lenoir City or Call 865-986-2266. Serious Inquiries only please.

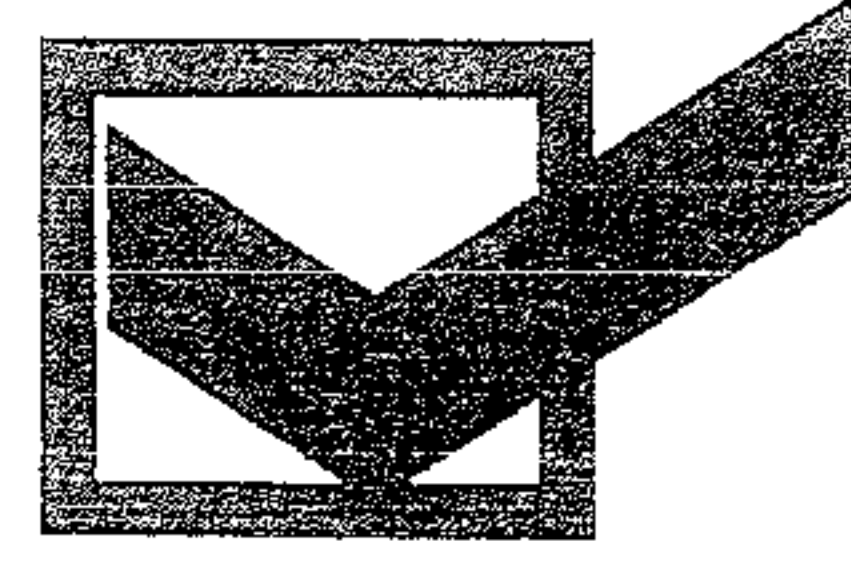
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