

Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

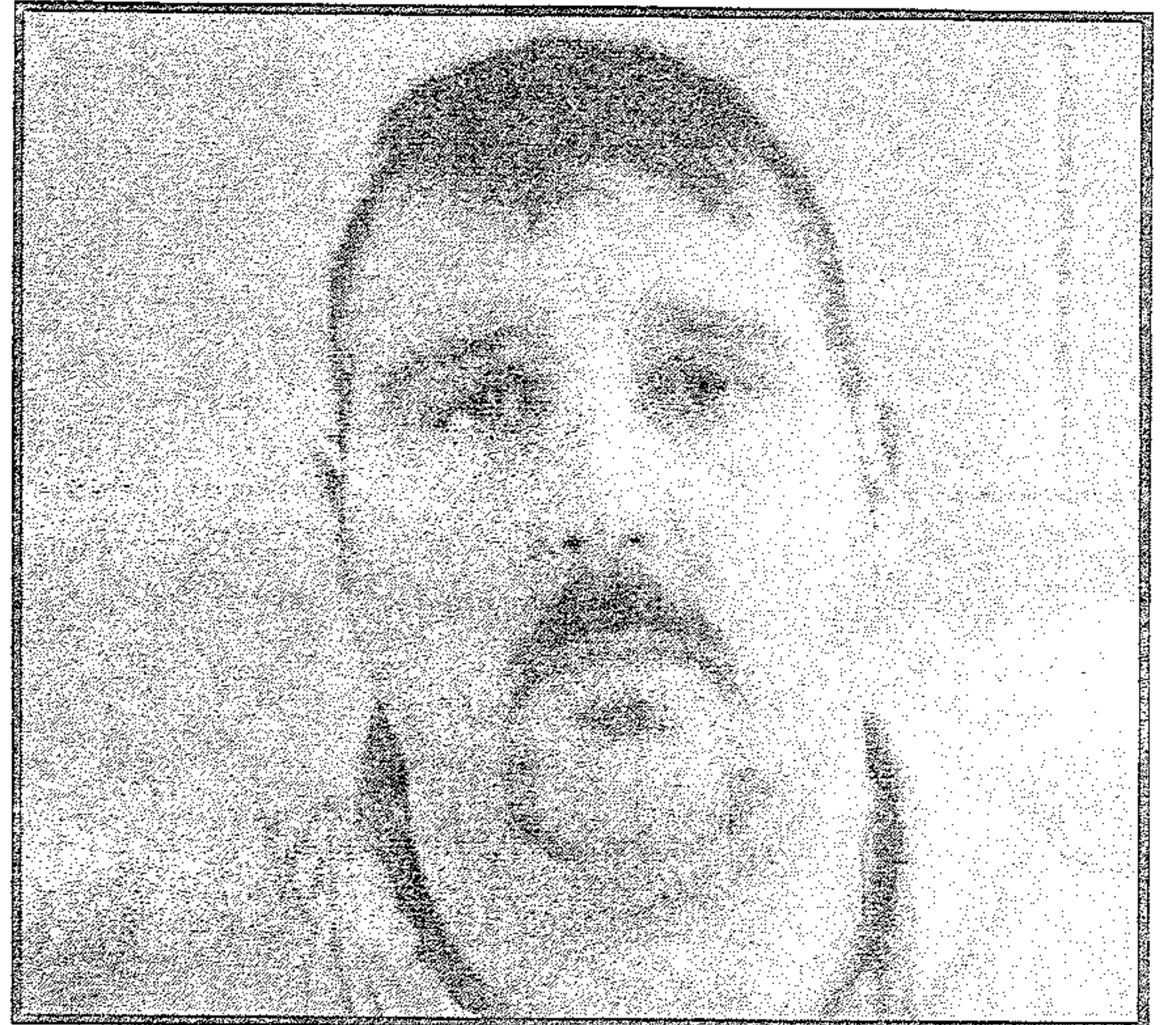
One Captured After Deadly Shooting On Lee Hi St In Lenoir City



David Miles

see Shooting pg. 2

Couple Fist Fight On Exit Ramp



Travis Humbert

see Fight pg. 4

Megan Brook Gilliam Sentenced To Serve 110 Months In Prison For Conspiracy To Distribute Methamphetamine

On February 11, 2019, Megan Brook Gilliam, 25, of Morristown, Tennessee, was sentenced by the Honorable J. Ronnie Greer, Senior U.S. District Court Judge, to serve 110 months in federal prison for her role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Gilliam pleaded guilty in October 2018 to conspiring with Trini-

ty Scott Johnson, 39, of Morristown, Tennessee; Truman Lee Smith, 24, of Russellville, Tennessee; Colby Scarlett, 20, of Morristown, Tennessee; Jessica James, 30, of Morristown, Tennessee; and others to distribute over 50 grams of methamphetamine in east Tennessee in 2017 and 2018. Johnson

was sentenced in October 2018 to serve 204 months in federal prison. Smith was sentenced in November 2018 to serve 10 years in federal prison. In January 2019, Scarlett was sentenced to serve 10 years in federal prison. Finally, in February 2019 James was sentenced serve 15 years in prison.

(see Meth pg. 7)

Cryptocurrency Fraudster Sentenced Virtual Currency Scam Defrauded Investors of Millions

Even in the world of virtual currency, where value and possession exist largely in the digital realm, laws still apply and the repercussion of breaking them are very real.

The victims of Homero Joshua Garza's virtual currency

scam lost more than \$9 million, and Garza will spend 21 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release after pleading guilty to one count of wire fraud. He has also been ordered to pay restitution to his

See Scam P.4



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Verse of the Day

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. —Ephesians 4:15

Wazzup

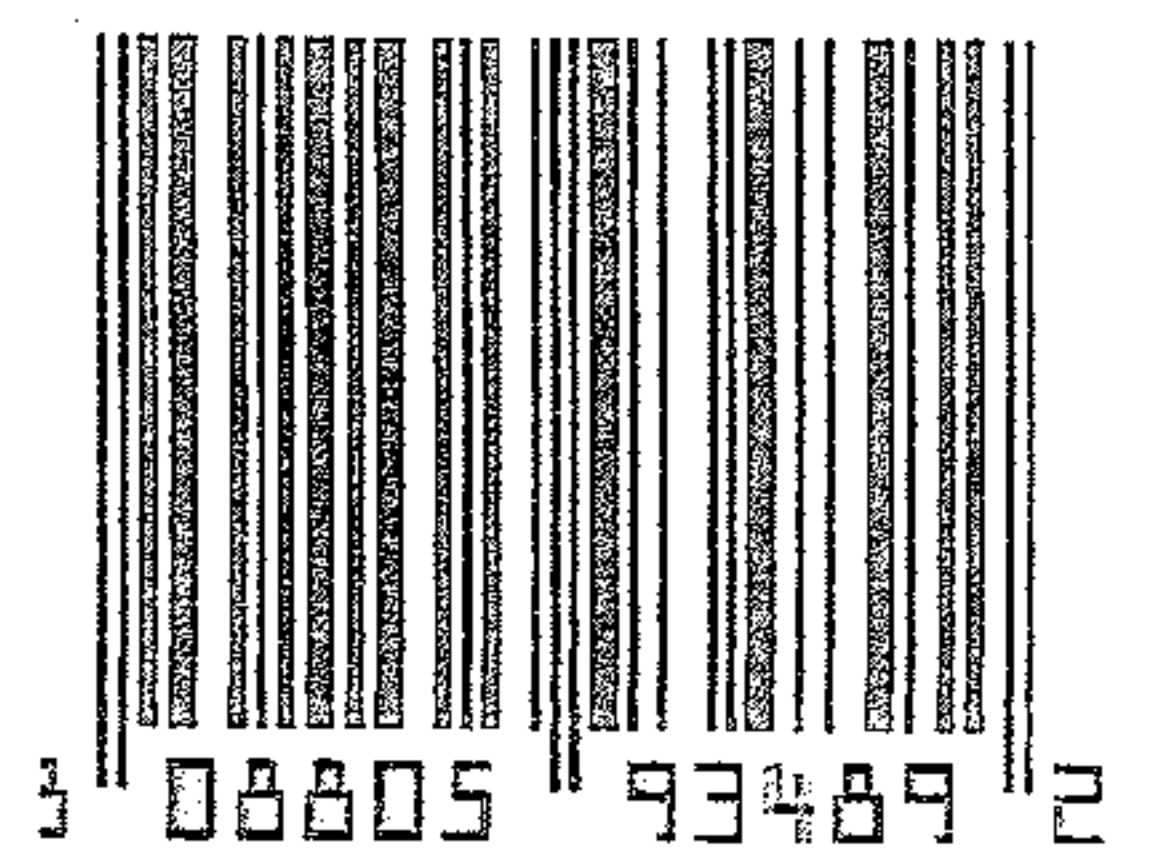
Happy Birthday to Maw Bell, the bestest mom in the whole world! Happy Birthday! Big shout out to all our local law enforcement!! Thanks for keeping our County safe.

Weather

Today: Sunny. High of 52F. Tonight: Clear. Low of 33F. Thursday: Mostly Cloudy. High of 60F. Thursday night: Cloudy. Low of 49F.

Horoscopes

Aquarius 1/20-2/18 Your living space must radiate beauty and coziness now for you to feel like yourself. If anything is out of place, you hurry (Continued on page 6)



Shooting

The Loudon County Sheriff's Office says the suspect in a deadly shooting Monday morning was captured in West Knoxville thanks to a tip from a citizen. The sheriff's office says they were called to a home on Lee Hi Street in Lenoir City

at 8:16 a.m. for a report of gunshots in the area. When deputies arrived, they found a man dead from gunshot wounds. Victim later identified as Dakota Willard.

Sheriff Tim Guider said that a observant citizen spotted David's vehicle with the same tag num-

ber on Walker Springs. The citizen then called 911 and they dispatched Knox County Police Department and Knox County Sheriff's office to make the arrest. The tipster, Laura Spalding, really credits it to perfect

timing. Her mom showed her a Facebook post the Loudon County Sheriff's Department made Monday morning, detailing the suspect's car and other in-

Shooting ctd. to pg. 3

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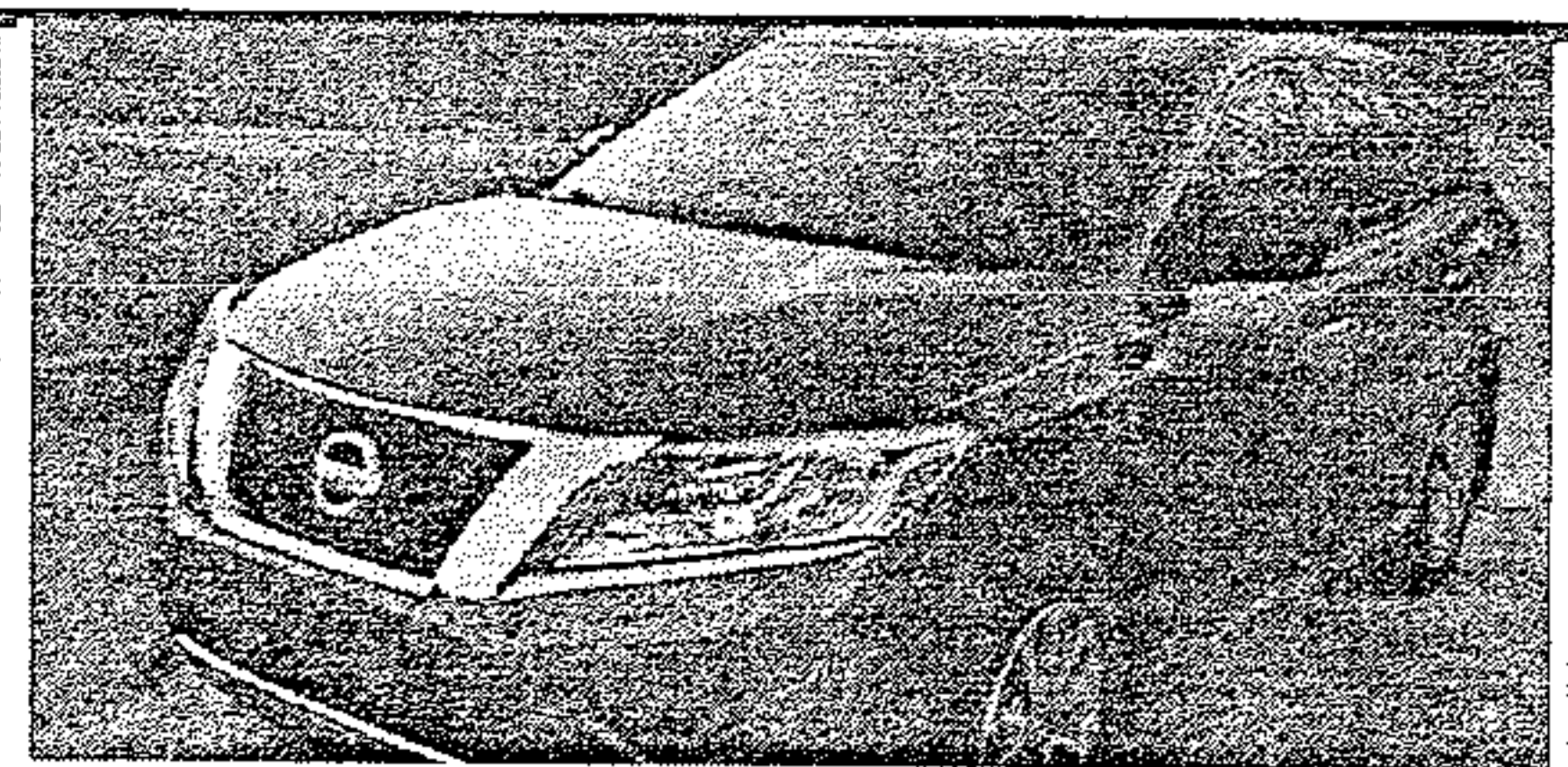
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The Daily Edition also serves Monroe, Knox, Anderson, Roane and Blount counties and serves 30,000 readers weekly. Send mail to PO Box 1240, Lenoir City TN 37771. 865-771-2249. email: dan1204us@yahoo.com

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.

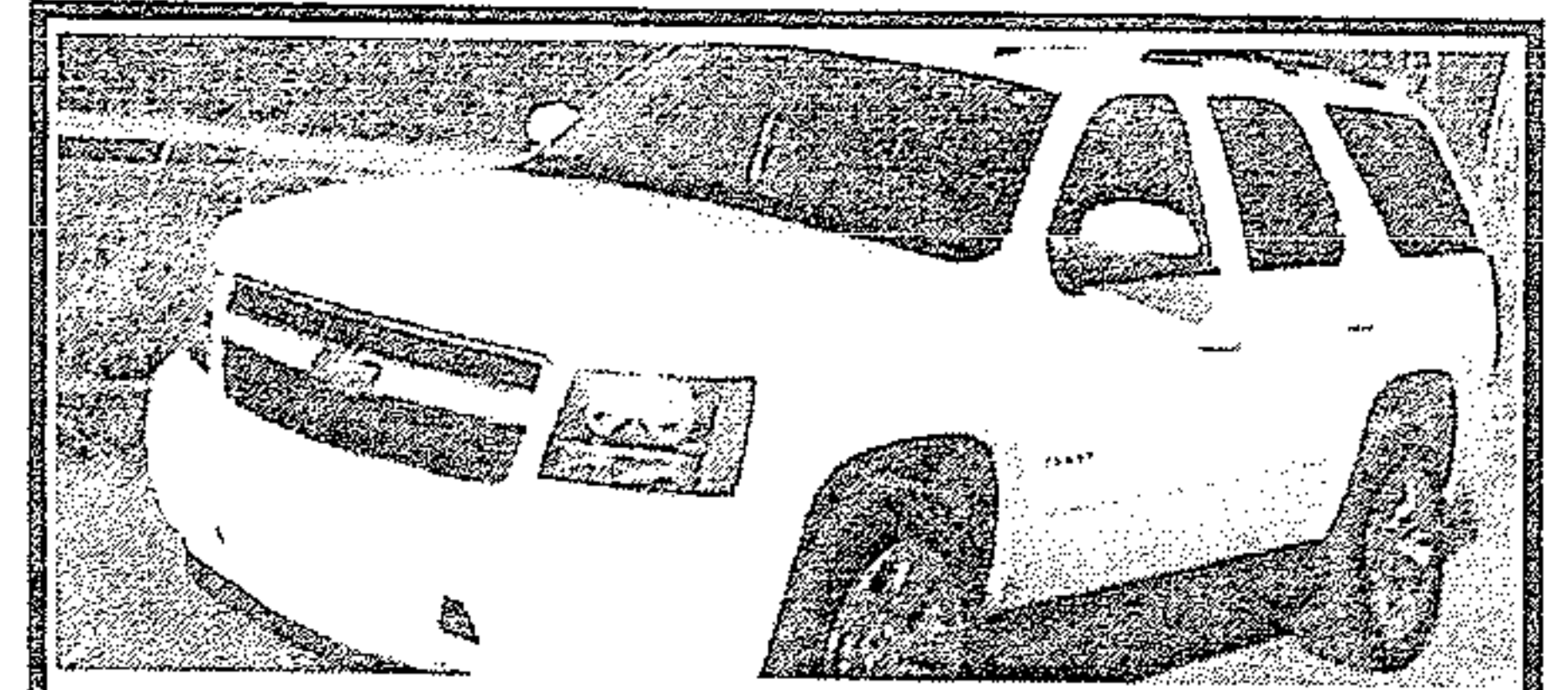
Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK *



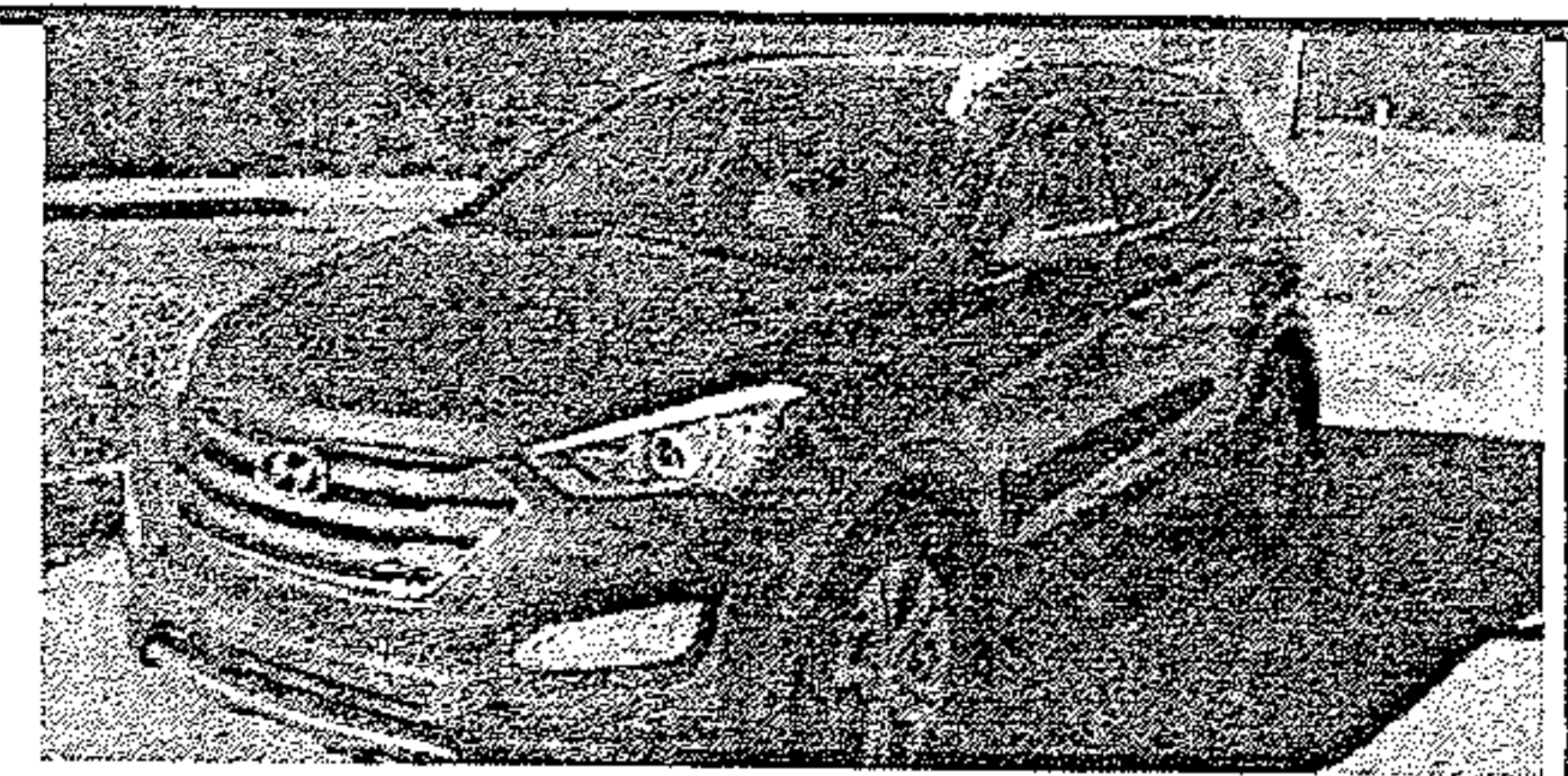
2014 Nissan Pathfinder Loaded, 3rd Row Seat, Alloy Wheels, Like New, Great On Gas, PW, PL



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



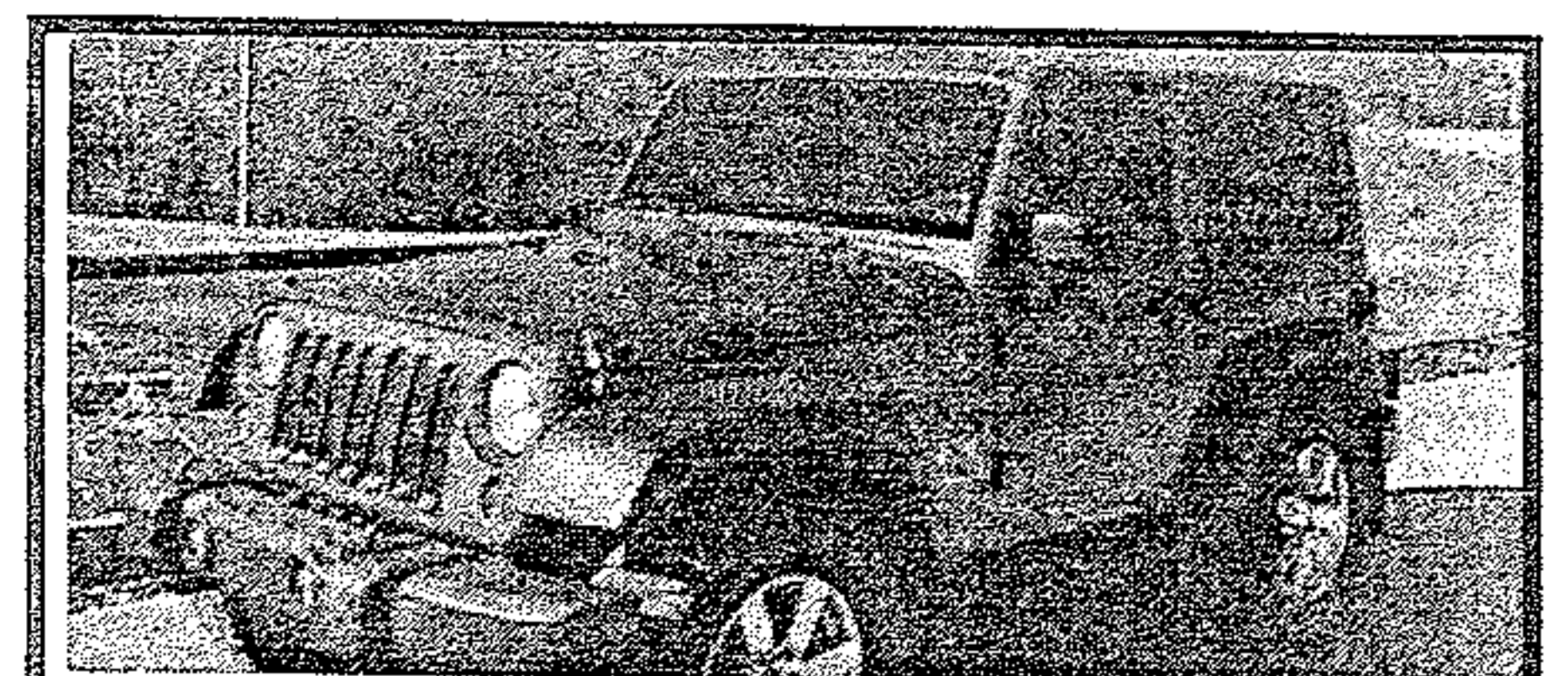
2012 Chevy Tahoe 4x4, Leather, 3rd Row, Chrome Wheels, PW, PL, Sunroof, Remote Start, Auto, 5.3 V8 Power



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



2009 Jeep Wrangler Low Miles, Hard Top, 4x4, Alloy Wheels, V6, Tow, TN Vol Orange

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Shooting ctd. from p.2

formation. "I had looked, and I saw the car, and I was like 'there's no way.' And my friend looks at me and he goes, 'Laura, those are the wheels,'" Spalding said. The wheels she's talking about are the ones on the car police last saw Miles driving.

"At first I didn't even know what to do. I kind of just froze. I was crying, I was scared. I didn't know what to do, so immediately I just called 911," she said. "I was scared, I was heartbroken. But at the same time I was happy. I was happy that I was there, he was there, this is over. In that moment that

I picked up that phone and dialed 911, I knew this was over," she said. Spalding is now encouraging all of us to pay attention and take those police social media posts seriously. And she says, if you see something you believe could help police, make sure you call it in. Miles has been taken to the hospital to be treated for injuries he had prior to his arrest. Investigators

say they believe they know the motive, but they're not sharing that information yet. The Sheriff's Office is also not releasing whether Miles and the victim knew each other. Schools near the shooting scene were placed on lockdown as a precautionary measure until Miles' capture. Miles was believed to be armed with a shotgun and a 9mm handgun.

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Home on 165 Lee Hi St where David Miles shot the victim

Public Notice

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

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.

Fight

Travis Humbert, 38, Moore Alley Philadelphia, was charged with Domestic Assault and PI. Deputy T.J. Scarbrough LCSO, was dispatched to I-75 south bound exit 72 ramp to a fight in progress. While in route dispatch advised that a male and female was fist fighting on the exit ramp. On arrival Deputy spoke with the victim. The victim advised that she and her boyfriend Travis Humbert had gotten into a argument after dropping his children off at his Ex-Wife residence. The argument became heated and they both exited the vehicle and the altercation in sued. At some point Humbert pushed victim to the ground. The victim had grass and gravel on her back side where she had been on the ground. Humbert had a strong smell of a alcoholic beverage on his person, blood shot watery eyes and slurred speech. Humbert was placed under arrest

Scam

victims. In charging documents, prosecutors contend Garza founded and operated several Connecticut-based businesses (GAW Miners, ZenMiner, and ZenCloud) between 2014 and 2015 that sold bitcoin-mining hardware, offered shares in a virtual currency mining operation, and created and sold a virtual currency called PayCoin. None of these businesses would have been illegal if conducted properly, but through a series of misleading and false statements about his companies' capabilities, partnerships, and financial backing, Garza fraudulently drew investors to his enterprises and eventually resorted to Ponzi-scheme tactics to delay detection of his fraud.

"Garza got into this market at the right time," said Special Agent Mark Munster, who investigated this case from the FBI's New Haven Field Office. "The interest and enthusiasm for these currencies was high, and he was able to market himself and the business very effectively. The problem was that much of what Garza was marketing was a lie."

The first iteration of Garza's companies sold the computer equipment virtual currency enthusiasts use to mine, or solve the

complex equations required to attain a bitcoin or other virtual currency. Munster said Garza's business started as a legitimate operation with a clever hook—he wanted to make it easier for

people who didn't have a technical background to access cryptocurrencies.

The initial currency-mining equipment business turned into one that offered to purchase a currency min-

er on the customer's behalf and set it up at the GAW Miners data center. The customer could then direct the miner's activities and reap its profits. Garza then moved into sell-
Scam 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:

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



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Scam contd. from p.4

ing shares, or “hashlets,” that represented a percentage of the profits being made by his company’s purportedly robust bitcoin mining efforts. These hashlets, Garza assured investors, would always be profitable.

Mining bitcoins at the volume needed to generate the type of value Garza was promising requires a staggering amount of computing power. These powerful computers are expensive, as is the electricity required to run them. “There were data centers,” said Munster, “but not nearly the capacity that they were representing.” Without the actual infrastructure to support the shares he was selling, returns fell far short of what was promised to investors, and Garza began using new investments in the company to pay returns to others.

During this time, Garza also created and began selling his own virtual currency called PayCoin, which he failed to properly register before offering to the investing public. To encourage investors to purchase this new currency, Garza said his company had a financial reserve of \$100 million that they would use to prop up the price of PayCoin to ensure it would never fall below \$20 per unit. He also claimed partnerships with major corpora-

tions like Target and Amazon.

In truth, the corporate partnerships did not exist, there was no \$100 million reserve, and the value of PayCoin quickly plummeted.

Between selling nearly worthless hashlets and the tanking value of PayCoin, Garza defrauded people worldwide of millions.

The FBI became aware of the scheme through the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which had issued a complaint against Garza and his companies in late 2015. Prompted by investor complaints, the SEC had conducted a robust investigation and successfully obtained a court-issued injunction against Garza and his firms. Garza’s conduct, however, had not only violated civil securities laws but criminal ones as well, so the FBI initiated its investigation.

“We relied heavily on the extensive analysis by the SEC,” said Munster. “Then it was a matter of interviewing employees and other investors and following the money trail—looking at what was brought in and what was spent, what was real and what was invented.”

Munster said it was easy to see where some of the money

was going: “Garza had a Ferrari, a Lamborghini, and a Maserati. He went to Las Vegas in a private jet and took his employees out on the Vegas strip. He was definitely caught up in the lifestyle of being a start-up mogul.”

Paying the price for those luxuries were thousands of duped investors. Munster said only several hundred of them came forward to investigators. “Many made small investments; many were overseas,” Munster explained. Although Garza has been ordered to pay restitution, Munster stressed, “It will be a long time until most of those people are made whole.”

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Meth etd. from pg. 1

Agencies involved in this investigation included the Hamblen County Sheriff's Department and FBI. Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert. M. Reeves represented the United States in court proceedings.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions reinvig-

orated PSN in 2017 as part of the Department's renewed focus on targeting violent criminals, directing all U.S. Attorney's Offices to work in partnership with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and the local community to develop effective, locally-based strategies to reduce violent crime.

This case was also the result of the Department of Justice's Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program, the centerpiece of the Department of Justice's drug supply reduction strat-

egy. OCDETF was established in 1982 to conduct comprehensive, multi-level attacks on major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. Today, OCDETF combines the resources and expertise of its member federal agencies in cooperation with state and local law enforcement. The principal mission of the OCDETF program is to identify, disrupt, and dismantle the most serious drug trafficking and money laundering organizations and those primarily responsible for the nation's drug supply.

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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.

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