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Monday, March 18, 2019

Loudon woman leads officers on a chase over active warrants



Kellie McGraw

see Warrants pg. 2

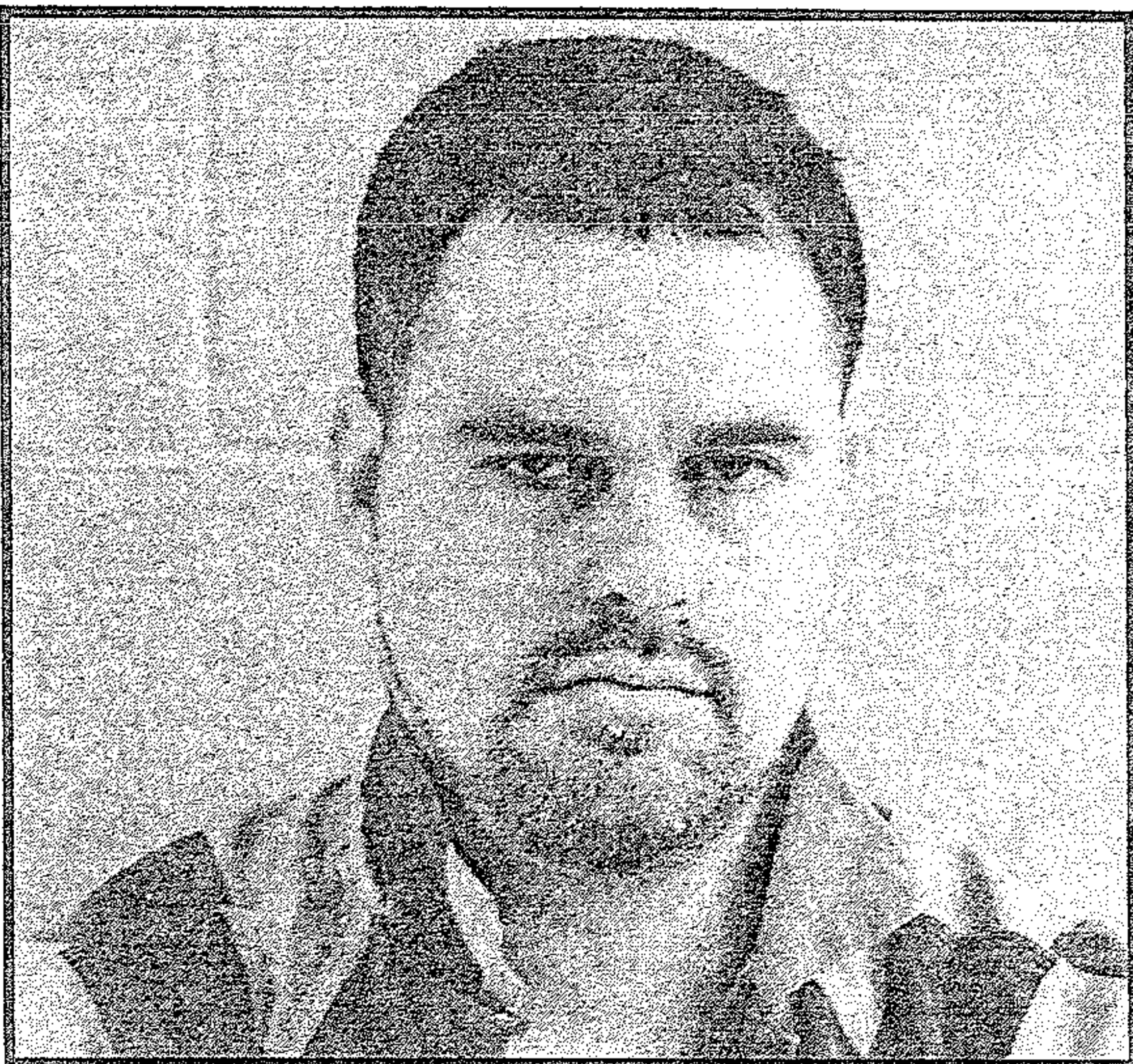
Woman tries to flee to Kentucky after stealing a car



Abbie Kent

see Stolen pg. 3

Riceville man charged with DUI after wreck on I-75



Christopher Grady

see Wreck pg. 3

The Good News The Rev Dr Julius McCarter

Scripture: Psalm 27

Most people find it easier to trust in God when life is going well; crises can snatch away our confidence. This psalm describes scary foes: opponents, liars, slanderers, and violent assailants. They threaten individuals' physical and

TGN ctd. to p.5

Three Sentenced in Public Corruption Case

State Legislator, Coal Executive, and Lawyer Schemed to Stop Environmental Enforcement Actions in Alabama

An Alabama legislator who was bribed by a corporation to represent the company's interests—instead of his constituents'—is now serving prison time, and the two men who paid him will be

serving time as well. Former state representative Oliver Robinson, Jr., 58, agreed to a community outreach contract with a law firm that represented Drummond Company, Inc., a

See FBI P.4



Verse of the Day

Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

—Ephesians 5:15-16

Wazzup

LCYFO will have their 2018 Awards ceremony on March 23rd from 5:00 to 8:00pm.

Weather

Today: Sunny. High of 53F.

Tonight: Clear. Low of 31F.

Tuesday: Sunny. High of 54F.

Tuesday night: Clear. Low of 35F.

Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20

Conveying your message

to others today may be difficult, but that doesn't mean you should just give up. In fact, it's absolutely imperative that you find a way to express your thoughts since per-

(Continued on page 6)



Warrants

Kellie McGraw, 25, Bethel Drive Loudon, was charged with Evading Arrest, Resisting Arrest, Driving without valid License, General Session Capias, Simple Possession, and Poss. of Drug Para. Officer Green LCPD, ob-

served a silver vehicle on Simpson Road @ Old Hwy 95. Officer attempted to catch up to this vehicle as it continued onto Old Hwy 95 at a high rate of speed. Officer observed the vehicle turn onto Ivy Ave, the vehicle was traveling in the middle of the roadway, then turned right onto

Jim Hartsook Dr. Officer initiated lights and siren and the vehicle accelerated continuing on Jim Hartsook at a high rate of speed. The vehicle continued evading until it came to a dead end. The driver exited the vehicle and continued actively

resisting arrest on foot. Officer gave verbal command to stop or taser would be deployed. Officer deployed taser but unsuccessful. The female was located in the woods and was forceful-

Warrants ctd. to pg. 3

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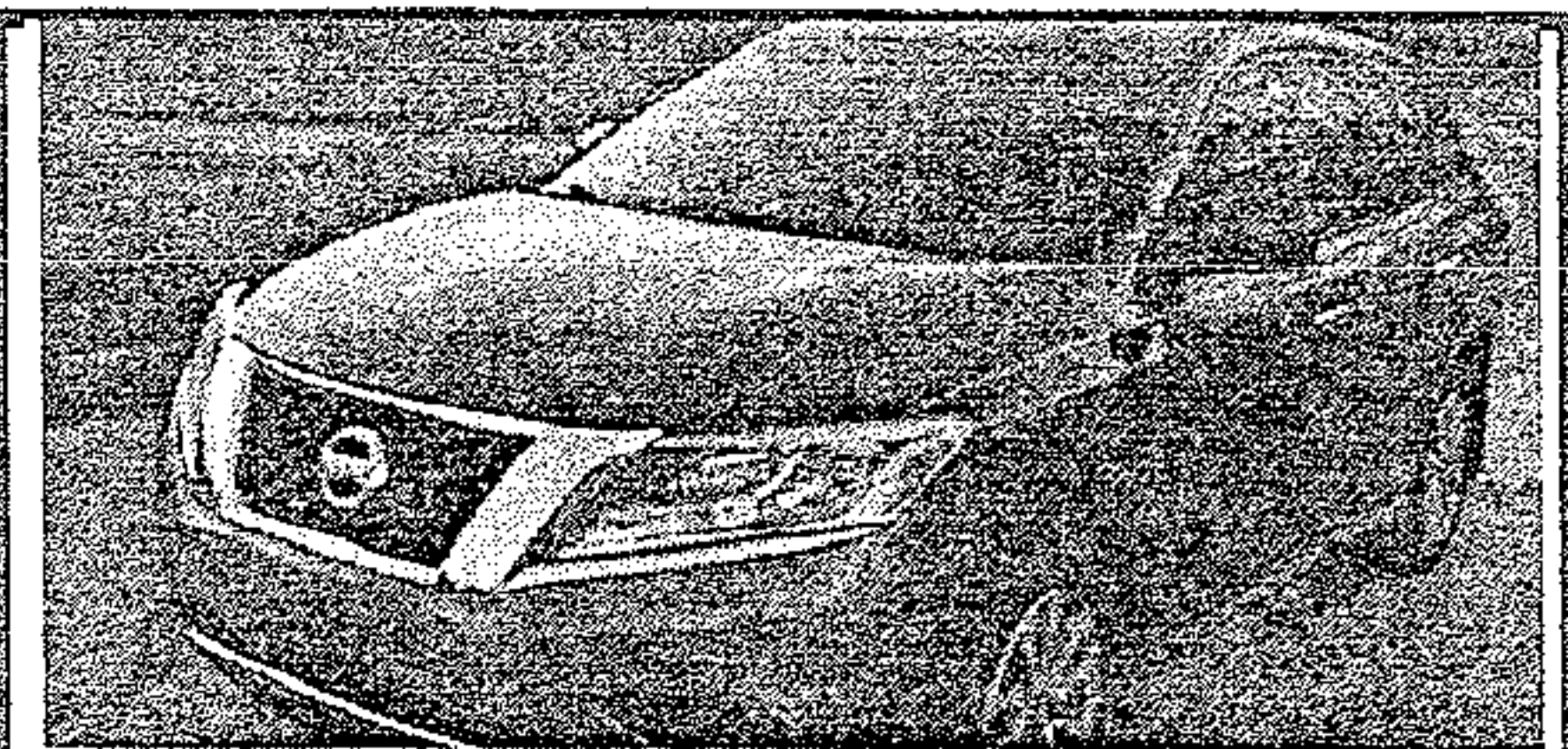
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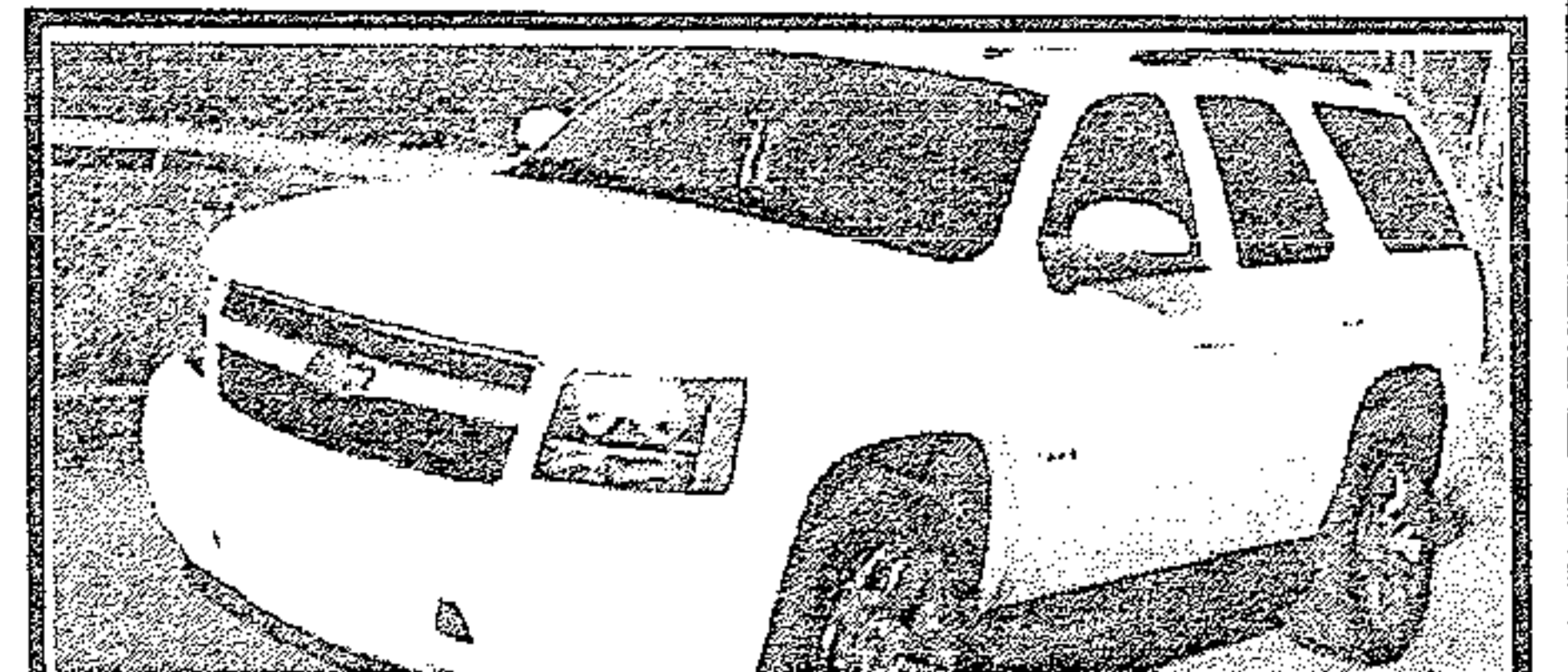
Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK *



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



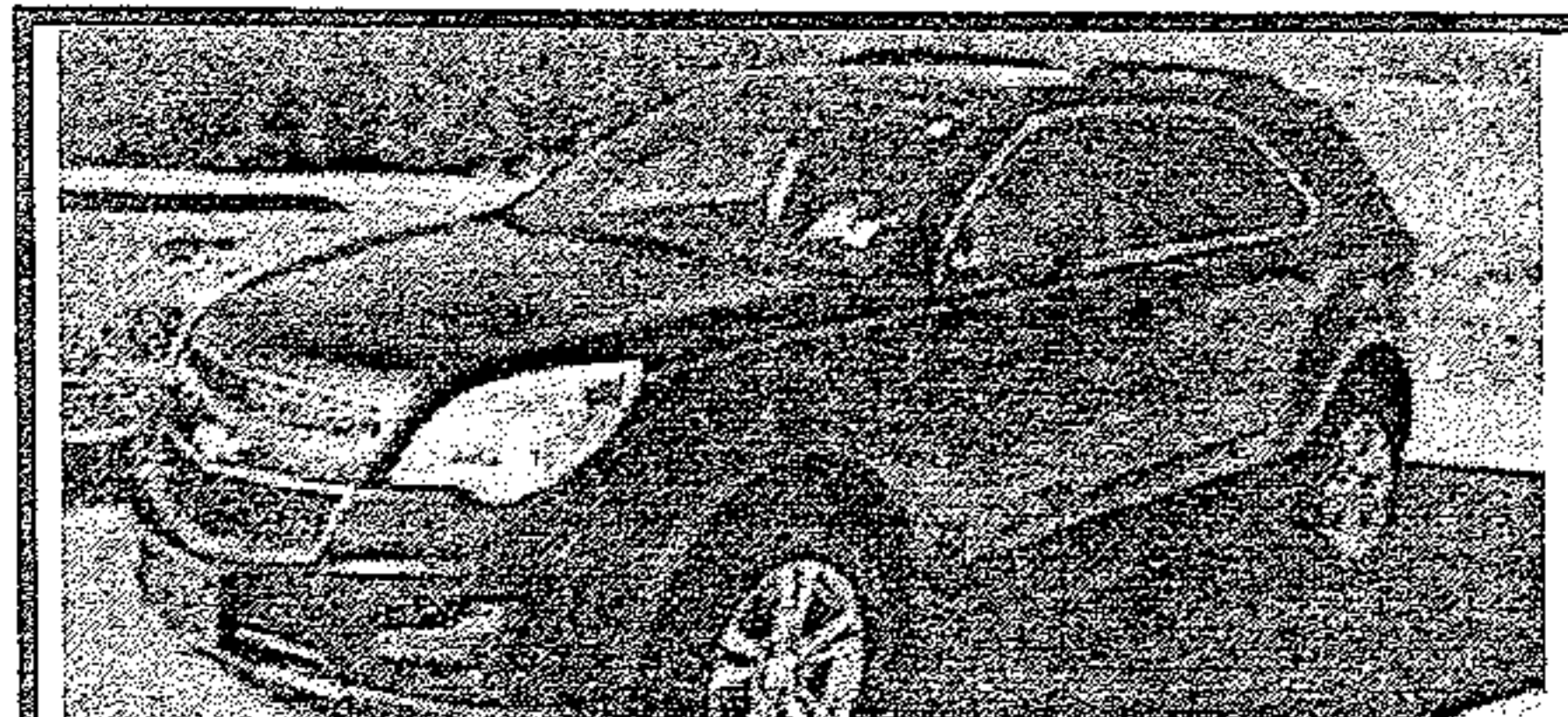
2013 Ford Expedition Fully Loaded, Power 3rd Row, Leather, Backup Camera, Rear A/C, Chrome Wheels, Locally Owned, Clean Carfax



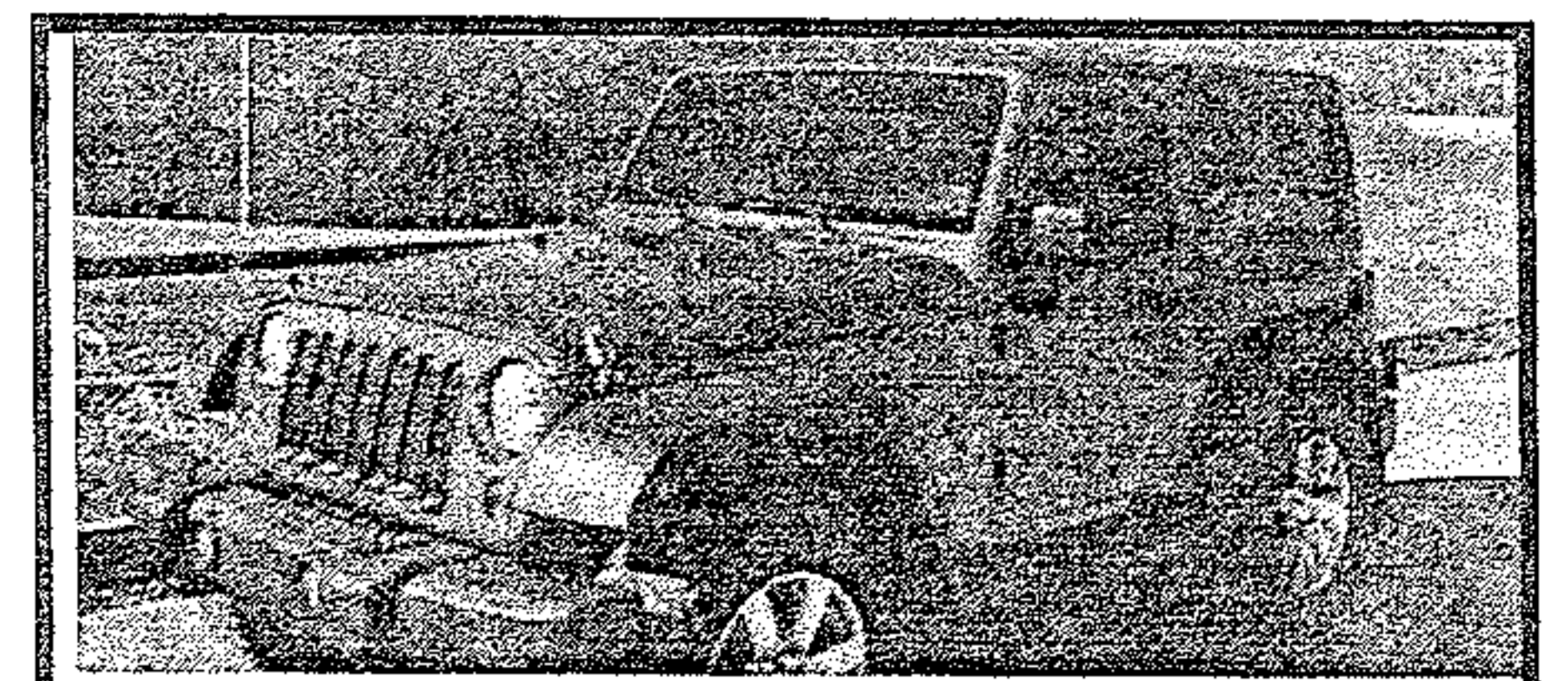
2012 Chevy Tahoe 4x4, Leather, 3rd Row, Chrome Wheels, PW, PL, Sunroof, Remote Start, Auto, 5.3 V8 Power



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



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Warrants ctd. from pg. 2

ly taken into custody. The female was identified as Kellie McGraw. She stated she ran cause she had an active warrant. Dispatched confirmed. A inventory of the vehicle Officer located several syringes, a blue pill identified as clonazepam. McGraw was transported to the Loudon Jail.

Stolen

Abbie Kent, 36, Roberson Lane Loudon, was charged with General Session Capias, DUI, Evading Arrest, Reckless Driving Reckless Endangerment, and Theft of Property. Abbie Kent did take a 2014 Toyota belonging to the victim,

without the victim consent. THP attempted to stop Kent in said vehicle where she fled the stop. Kent was encountered by THP where she fled again. Kent made her way toward the Kentucky area where she was perused once again and crashed the vehicle. Detective Chris Bowen issued the warrants.

served a white vehicle off the roadway resting in the wood line. Deputy made contact with the driver identified as Christopher Grady. While talking with Grady Deputy observed him to be unsteady, his breath smelled like an alcoholic beverage, and he had constricted pupils. Deputy ask if he had anything to drink or took medication. Grady stated he drank some alcohol, and had taken Alprazolam, Hydrocodone, and some diet medication. Grady perform poorly on sobriety test and was placed under arrest. Deputy located an open bottle of Jim Beam Apple Liqueur. how grant funds are reimbursed."

Wreck

Christopher Grady, 36, County Road 725 Riceville, was charged with DUI, and Open Container. Deputy Spradlin LCSO, responded to the area of I-75 sb at the 76 exit in reference to a wreck without injury. Upon arrival Deputy ob-

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FBI

Birmingham, Alabama-based coal company. The contract paid Robinson \$375,00 over two years. While the contract itself was not illegal, Drummond executive David Roberson and lawyer Joel Gilbert used it as a bribe to induce Robinson to take official action as a state legislator promoting the interests of the company he was secretly representing—a violation of public corruption law.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had previously informed a Drummond-owned company of its potential responsibility for environmental pollution in North Birmingham—a liability that could cost the company tens of millions of dollars. So Drummond, along with its attorneys, started a public relations campaign to oppose the EPA's actions. The company and its representatives told local residents not to allow the EPA to test their soil and that their housing values would plummet if the EPA placed the community on its Superfund National

Priorities List. Part of the overall strategy was the outreach contract with Robinson to help the company get those messages out.

In early February 2015, Robinson signed a letter (secretly authored by Gilbert) in his official legislative capacity to the Alabama Environmental Management Commission against the EPA's actions. Later that month, Robinson signed the contract and received his first check from Gilbert's law firm for \$14,000. Four days later, he represented Drummond's position at an Alabama Environmental Management Commission public meeting, where he claimed to be representing his constituents and did not disclose his financial relationship with the coal company or law firm.

"This case was unique in that the bribe was actually a lucrative contract," said Special Agent Ashley Hunt, who investigated this case out of the FBI's Birmingham Division in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service.

Robinson took other official acts on be-

half of Drummond, including representing the company's position in meetings with the EPA, voting on a resolution (written by Gilbert) to oppose the EPA's efforts, and encouraging the state to narrow the list of possibly responsible parties who would have to fund the cleanup efforts.

Robinson, who served in the state legislature from 1998 to 2016, pleaded guilty to conspiracy, bribery, and honest services wire fraud. In September 2018, he was sentenced to 33 months in prison.

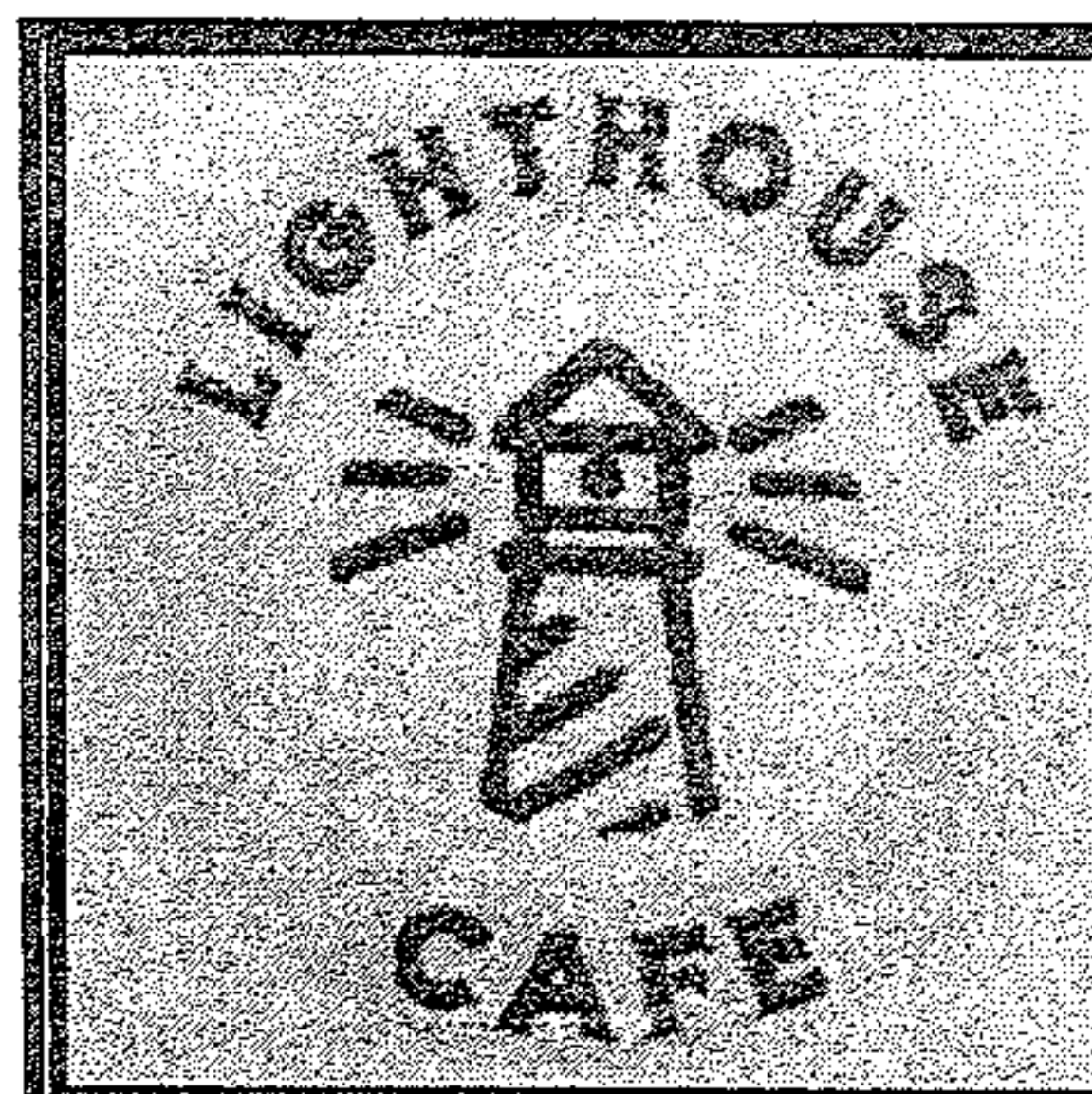
Gilbert and Roberson were both convicted of bribery, honest services wire fraud, conspiracy, and money laundering conspiracy

charges. In October 2018, Gilbert was sentenced to five years, and Roberson was sentenced to 30 months

In addition to the community outreach campaign, Gilbert drafted a number of opposition letters signed by Alabama officials and sent to the EPA. As a result of those actions, the site's status for inclusion on the Na-

tional Priorities List remains in limbo, which will effectively delay extra funding for cleanup efforts.

"This case is important because this bribery scheme had a real impact on the community, and additionally, we didn't just hold the elected official accountable, we also held the bribe payers accountable," Hunt said.



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social well-being. When they assume positions of significant power in governments and businesses, their treachery multiplies and they steal hope from communities and nations. The psalm's unshakeable trust in God's benevolence is appropriate for beleaguered believers who worry that they are no match for the endless stamina of bullies, haters, narcissists, and cruel manipulators of economic and political policies. Those who casually deny people their God-given dignity will, the psalmist believes, never be a match for "the goodness of the LORD." Let us expect to see that goodness here and now, in the com-

munities where we live, even as we urge God to provide it through our efforts to make it known.

Prayer: God of security and comfort, strengthen your people to stand against injustice by following your lead. Prompt us to repent of injuries we have caused to other people's health, reputation, and potential. Raise us again to stand in solidarity with those who wait for you to restore them. Amen.

Drunk driver crosses line and wrecks another car

Shawn Williams, 30, Cedar Grove Road Loudon, was charged with Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, Poss. Of Drug Para.,

Simple Possession, and Violation of Probation x2. Deputy JC. Schultz LCSO, answered a crash without injury call at Lakeview Road. Upon arrival Shawn Williams the driver had crossed the centerline and struck a silver vehicle head on. Dispatched advised Deputy that Williams license were revoked for DUI, and had 2 active warrants out of General Session Loudon and Roane County. William had 15.52 grams of a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana in his backpack. There was also a glass pipe with marijuana residue inside it. Shawn Williams was placed under arrest.

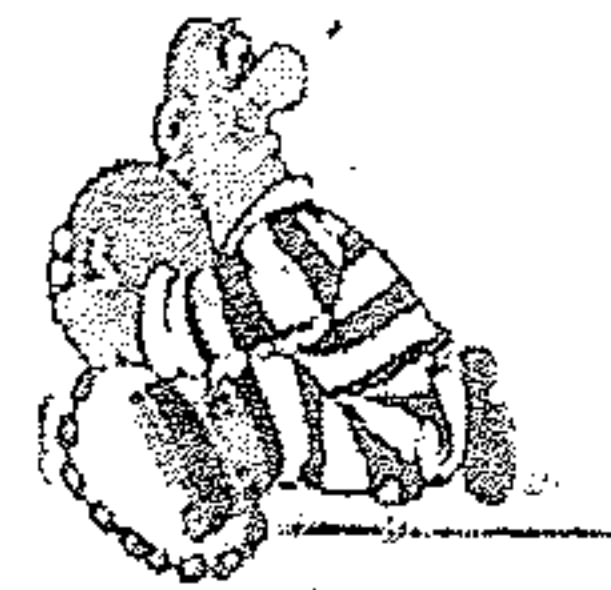


Shawn Williams

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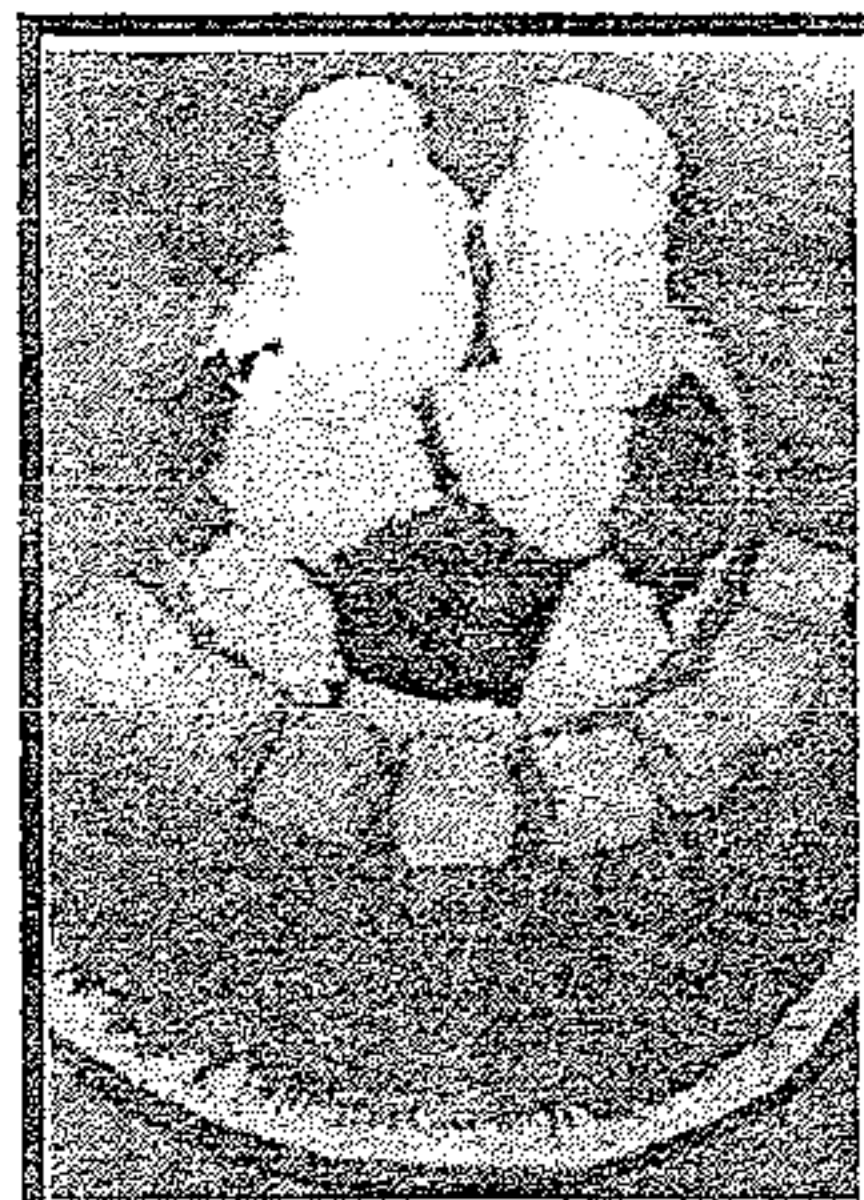
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