

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, March 06, 2019

Men threaten to vandalize victims home



Brian Myers



Bradley Myers

see Threats pg. 2

LC man takes roommates credit card; then applies for another



Dennis Smith

see Fraud pg. 3

Witness calls for police over domestic assault



John Henry

see Assault pg. 3

Comptroller's Office Completes In-Depth Study of Sex Week at UTK

Report Examines Sex Week Funding and Includes Policy Considerations

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office has released an in-depth report examining Sex Week at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UTK).

Legislative leadership requested a review of the week-

UTK ctd. to p.5

Sentence Scammers Stopped Fraudsters Told Prisoners' Families They Could Buy Sentence Reductions

The sales pitch was enticing: Families with loved ones in prison could hire investigators to provide information to the government that would result in a reduction in their family members' sentences.

It sounded too

good to be true—because it was.

A group of fraudsters who made this pitch to more than 20 inmates' families were paid more than \$4 million, but neither the prisoners nor their relatives ever received any benefit.

See Scam P.4



Verse of the Day

We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true — even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God

and eternal life.

—1 John 5:20

Wazzup

Make sure you keep your pets in proper housing while it so cold !!

Weather

Today: Sunny. High of

41F.

Tonight: Clear. Low of 24F.

Thursday: Sunny. High of 50F.

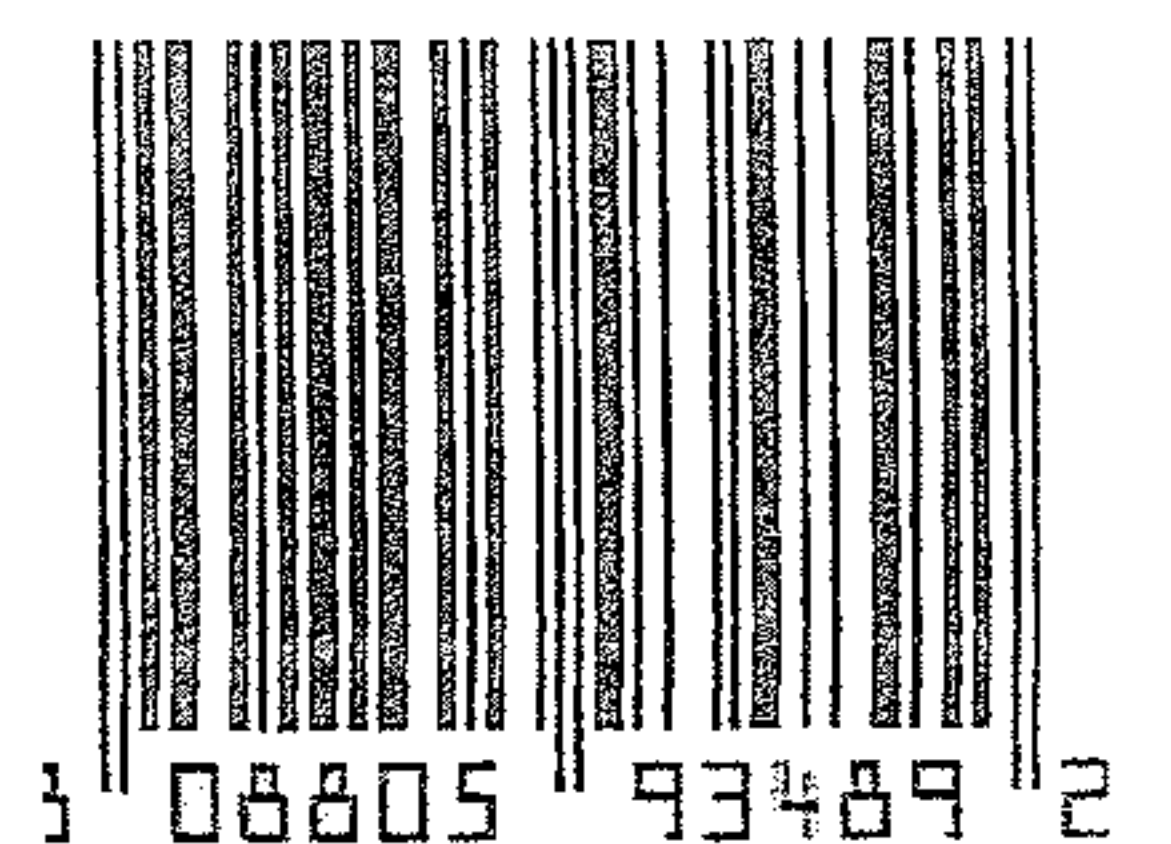
Thursday night: Cloudy. Low of 38F.

Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20

A snippet from a familiar song or a whiff of a passing strangers cologne might act as a psychological trigger today. Feeling nostalgic about the past is a natural inclination for you, but

(Continued on page 6)



Threats

Brian Myers, 50, Holt Drive Loudon, was charged with Domestic Assault. Bradley Myers, 23, Atkins Road Madisonville, was charged with Domestic Assault. Officer responded to Holt Drive,

where victims reported that Brian and Bradley Myers were living in their basement and would not leave. Victims stated both suspects were intoxicated and yelling at victims and intimidating them. Victim stated at one point one of the suspects told

them their throat would get cut in their sleep and their house would be vandalized. Victims were very afraid of both Brian and Bradley Myers. Brian stated to Officer he had said

some thing he later regret. Bradley told victim if they made them leave their home would get vandalized. Both parties were intoxicated and placed under arrest. Officer J. Russell LPD, made the arrest.

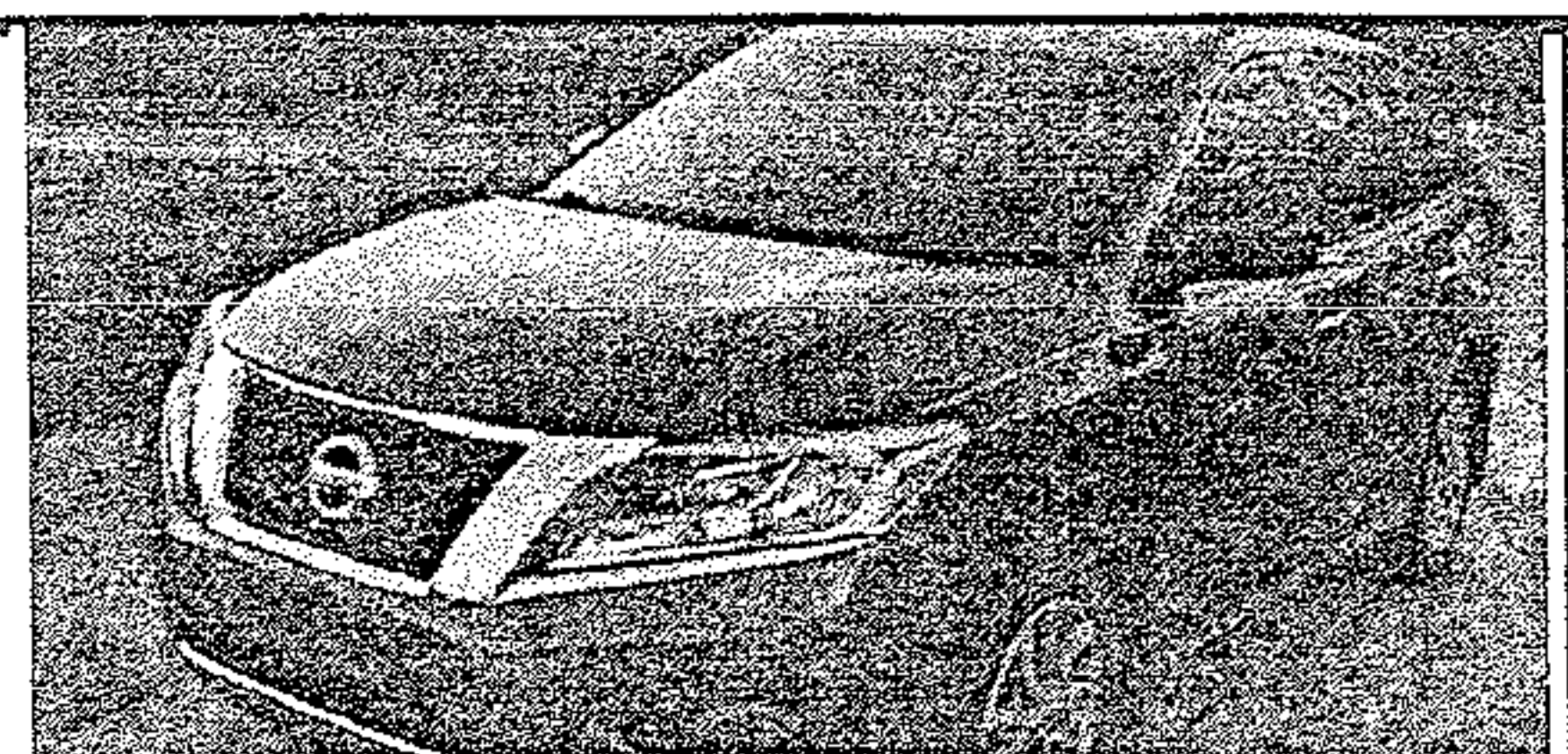
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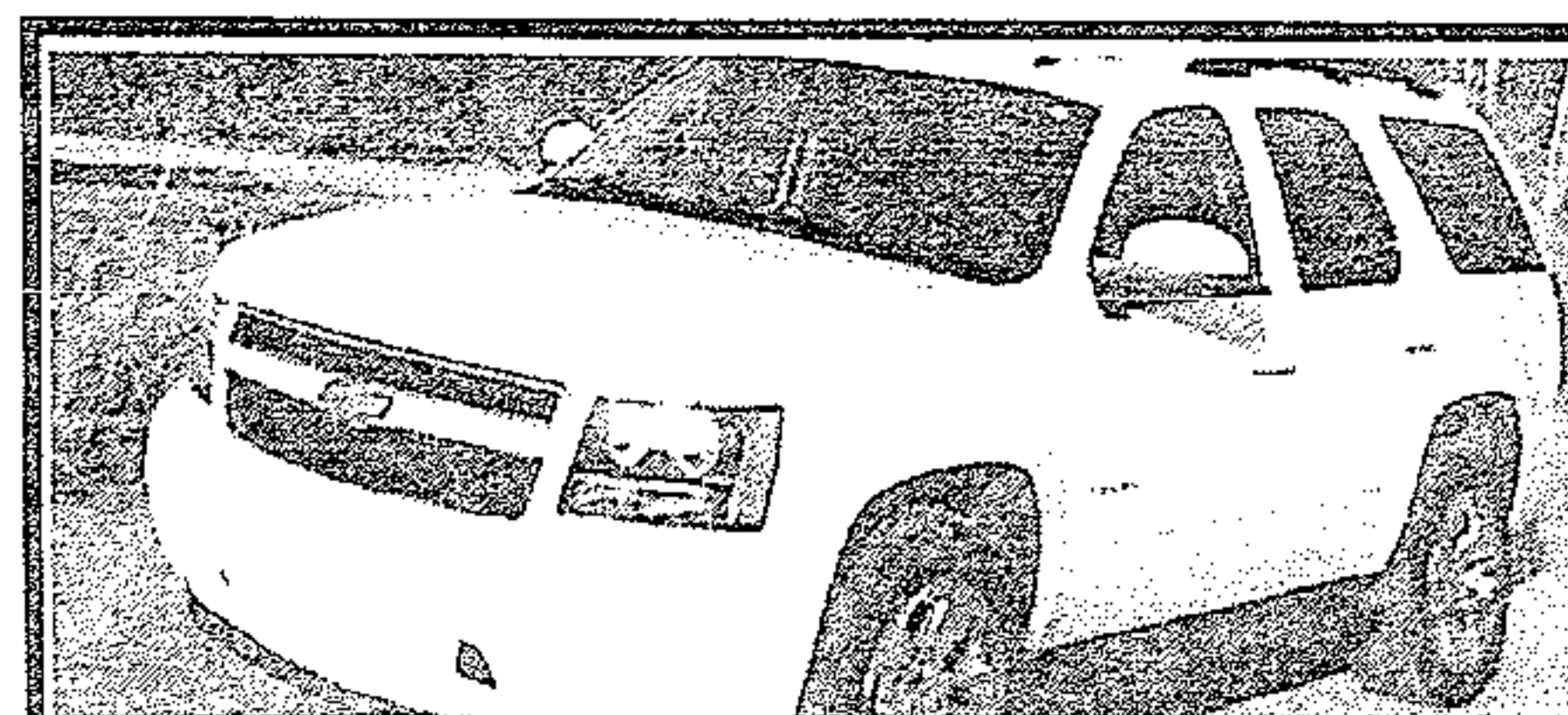
Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK *



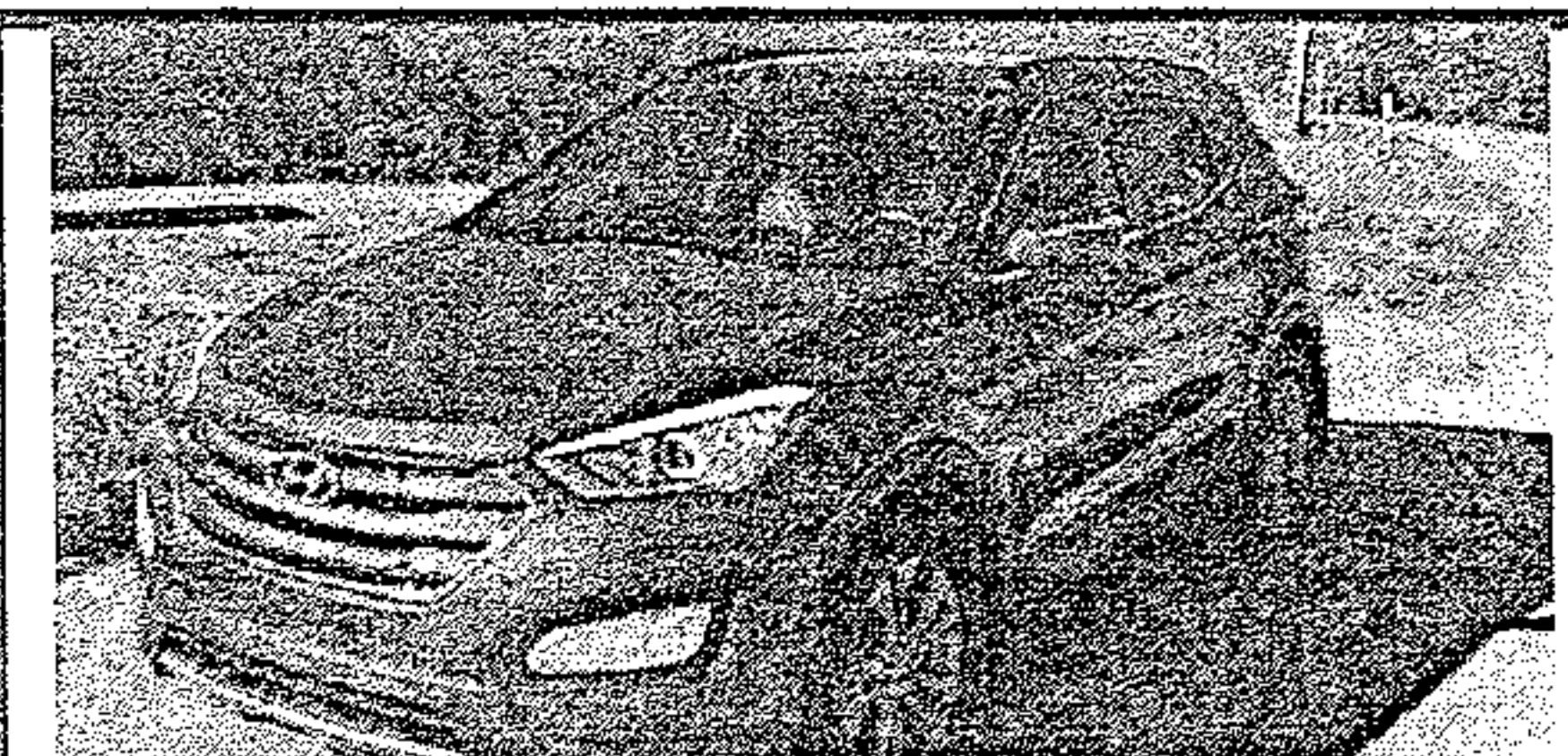
2014 Nissan Pathfinder Loaded, 3rd Row Seat, Alloy Wheels, Like New, Great On Gas, PW, PL



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



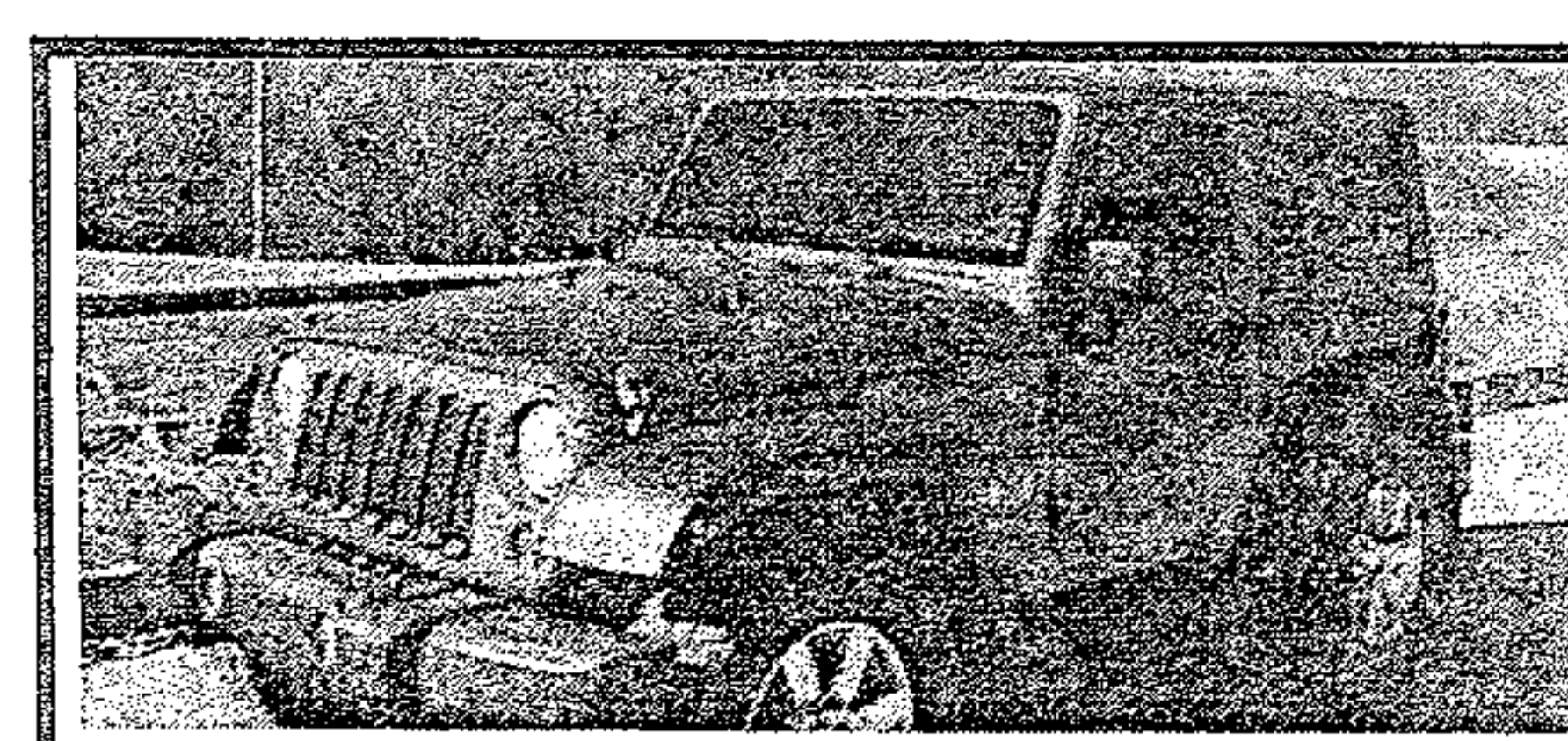
2012 Chevy Tahoe 4x4, Leather, 3rd Row, Chrome Wheels, PW, PL, Sunroof, Remote Start, Auto, 5.3 V8 Power



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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Fraud

Dennis Smith, 32, Oakwood Drive Lenoir City, was charged with Identity Theft, and Illegal Possession/Fraudulent use of Credit Card. Dennis Smith was a roommate with victim and used victim credit card without

his consent at Walmart. Smith also applied for a credit card in victim name and was captured on video using the card. Inv. Lynette Ladd LCPD, issued warrants.

Help nab a drug dealer
988-DRUG

Assault

John Henry, 52, Keenland Drive Maryville, was charged with Domestic Assault, and False Imprisonment.

Officer Morgan LCPD, was dispatched to Hwy 321 N, Lenoir City, TN 37771 for a possible domestic. Upon arriving on scene Officer met with both Parties victim and John Henry. Both parties stated that they had been arguing, victim was stating that John had been abusive hitting her in the mouth and arms yelling and screaming at her. There was no signs that she had been hit, however during the arguing Amy stated she did fear for her safety and tried to call 911

on the room phone which had been unplugged from the wall that is when she started yelling for someone to call the law. John stated that he picked her up from a crack house in Blount County and took her the room to maybe sober her up, that's when she started arguing and it escalated until Officer arrived. John said he did not put his hands on Amy at any point, he was simply trying to get her to calm down. Officer was able to talk to witness who wants to remain anonymous and stated she could hear them arguing all day and at some point heard the male get loud and the female yell

Assault ctd to pg. 4

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*A person's recovery plan can be unique and different, but this can stand as a guide and support. These are even better for a little bit of help to get you back on track. - Encourages 4:12

Assault ctd from p.3

and scream to call the law that's when she went to the desk and told the clerk to call 911. John has a history of domestic violence with victim and his son. With all this taken into account John was taken into custody for domestic and false imprisonment and transported to the jail without incident.

Scam

It is possible under certain circumstances for incarcerated individuals to get a sentence reduction for providing information to the government, but they never have to pay for that. Also, those cases typically involve an incarcerated person providing information regarding their own co-defendants.

Alvin Warrick and several co-conspirators set up a company called Private Services in Texas, but the word—and the scam—quickly spread across the country. Warrick and his associates communicated primarily through email and phone and used pseudonyms in an attempt to cover their tracks. They told the families their investigators were making undercover drug buys and that those "investigations" would lead to sentence reduc-

tions for their family members. They repeatedly lied to their clients, telling them that the investigations were ongoing and working their way through the legal system.

"That is just not how the system works, but many of these families didn't know that," said Special Agent Tracy Masington, who investigated this case out of the FBI's Houston Field Office along with the Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Masington noted that at least one victim was in another country trying to get his son out of prison. Another victim was an elderly woman who, on her deathbed, made her daughter promise she'd continue paying Private Services to try to free her son from prison after her death.

Warrick worked with his former girlfriend, Tanya Richard, a Bureau of Prisons employee who had access to sensitive information on prisoners. Richard created realistic-looking documentation to facilitate the scam, complete with seals and forged signatures from a U.S. Attorney that fooled many victims.

"The sad thing about this case is they manipulated people's hopes," Masington said.

"They took advantage of the hope they had. These victims just wanted to help their family members who were incarcerated."

After several years of the scam, one of the victims' attorneys contacted the FBI, who began an investigation.

Investigators learned Warrick and his associates spent their ill-gotten gains on lavish lifestyles, including high-end cars, vacations, night clubs, and gambling.

Warrick pleaded guilty to mail fraud and wire fraud charges and was sentenced last year to 19 years in prison. Richard pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and was sentenced in October to 24 months in prison. Warrick's wife, Colitha Bush, also participated in the scam and was sentenced to eight years. Four

others were also convicted and sentenced.

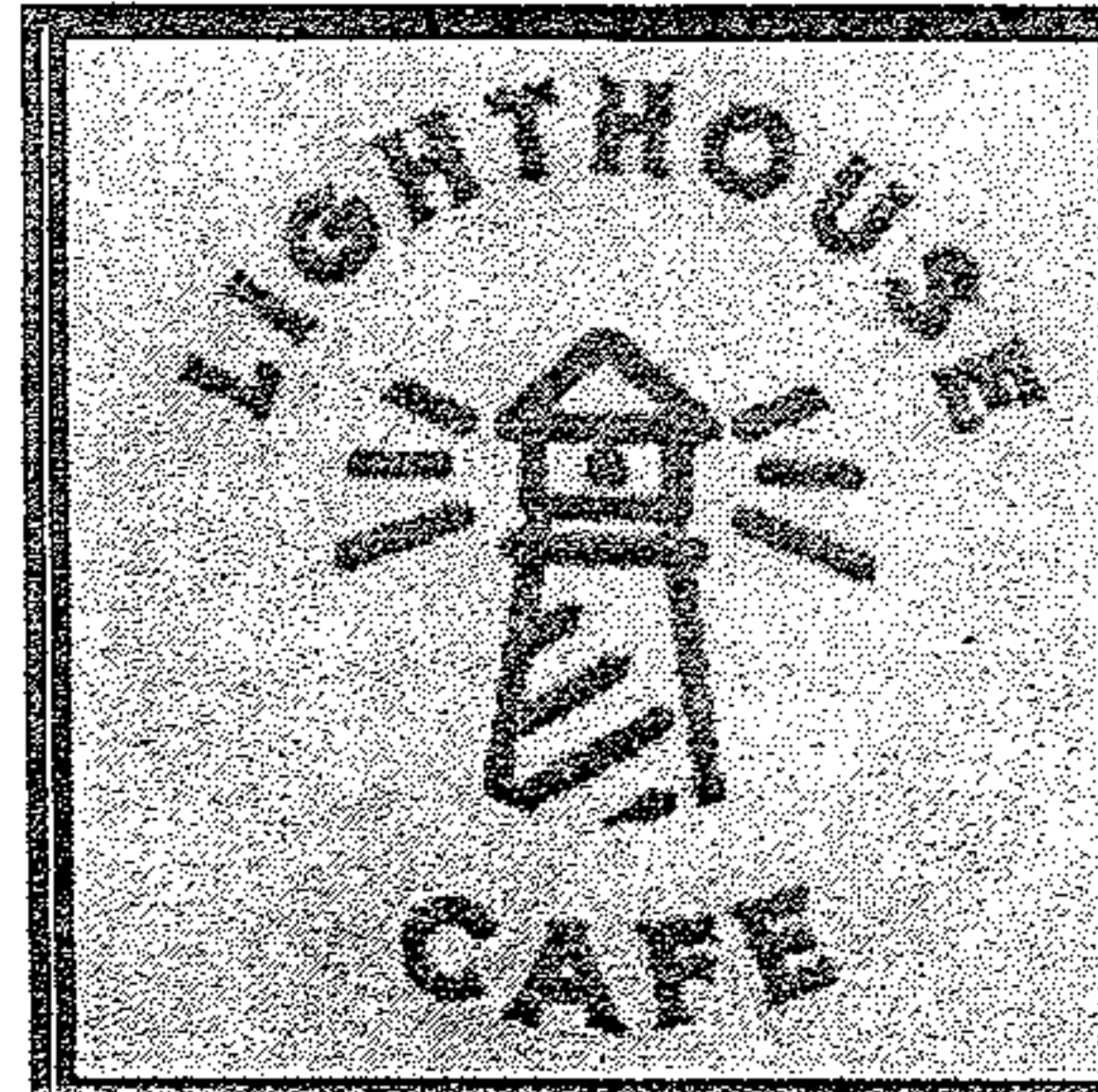
At the fraudsters' sentencing hearings, victims told emotional stories of having their hopes dashed and finances ruined.

"Some victims got home equity loans; others spent their grandchildren's college funds," said Special Agent Rose Medina of the Department of Justice OIG, who worked on the investigation with Mas-

ington. "Listening to these victims as they told their stories to the judge, I was struck by the emotional toll they endured and was proud that our investigation brought them closure and helped empower them."

Masington noted this case is an example of the FBI's commitment to equal justice.

"I hope this case sends the message that the system should be fair to see Scam ctd. to pg. 5



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Scam ctd. from p.4

everyone, whoever the victim might be. We're protecting the integrity of the system," Masington said. "The law applies to everyone. Just because you happen to be incarcerated doesn't mean your issue is going to go unaddressed if you're a victim."

UTK

long event which has been held on the UTK campus each spring since 2013. The event is organized by Sexual Empowerment and Awareness at Tennessee (SEAT), which is a registered student organization (RSO).

From 2013 through the present day, some legislators have expressed their concerns and disapproval of the event.

The Comptroller's Office reached several key conclusions about the Sex Week event. These include:

-SEAT is one of about 600 RSOs at UTK, all of which are eligible to request student activity fee funding. In four of the past five years, SEAT received the highest allocation of student activity fee funds, including about \$29,000 in both 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

-SEAT also received gift funds, private donations, and indirect bene-

fits, such as use of campus facilities, for Sex Week, all of which are options for RSOs at UTK.

-The University has taken some actions to address the Sex Week controversy, but the most significant change, to give students the choice whether to allocate their mandatory activity fee to student-organized programming (such as Sex Week), was made reluctantly.

-SEAT has been unwilling to compromise with university administrators who have asked it annually to "tone it down" and consider the impact of its language choices.

The Comptroller's Office also examined policies and practices at other Tennessee public universities that could be applied at UTK. For example, other Tennessee universities limit the amount of funding student organizations may request or receive.

The report includes

14 policy considerations ranging from minor changes to campus policy to an outright ban on the event. Some policy considerations may have potential legal implications.

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville reviewed a draft of the Comp-

troller's report and indicated its willingness to work with its Board of Trustees to implement a number of changes. A letter from the University's Interim President and Interim Chancellor is included in the report.



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