

# The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, April 01, 2019

## Man charged after busting windshield while on cocaine



Douglas Santos

see Assault pg. 2

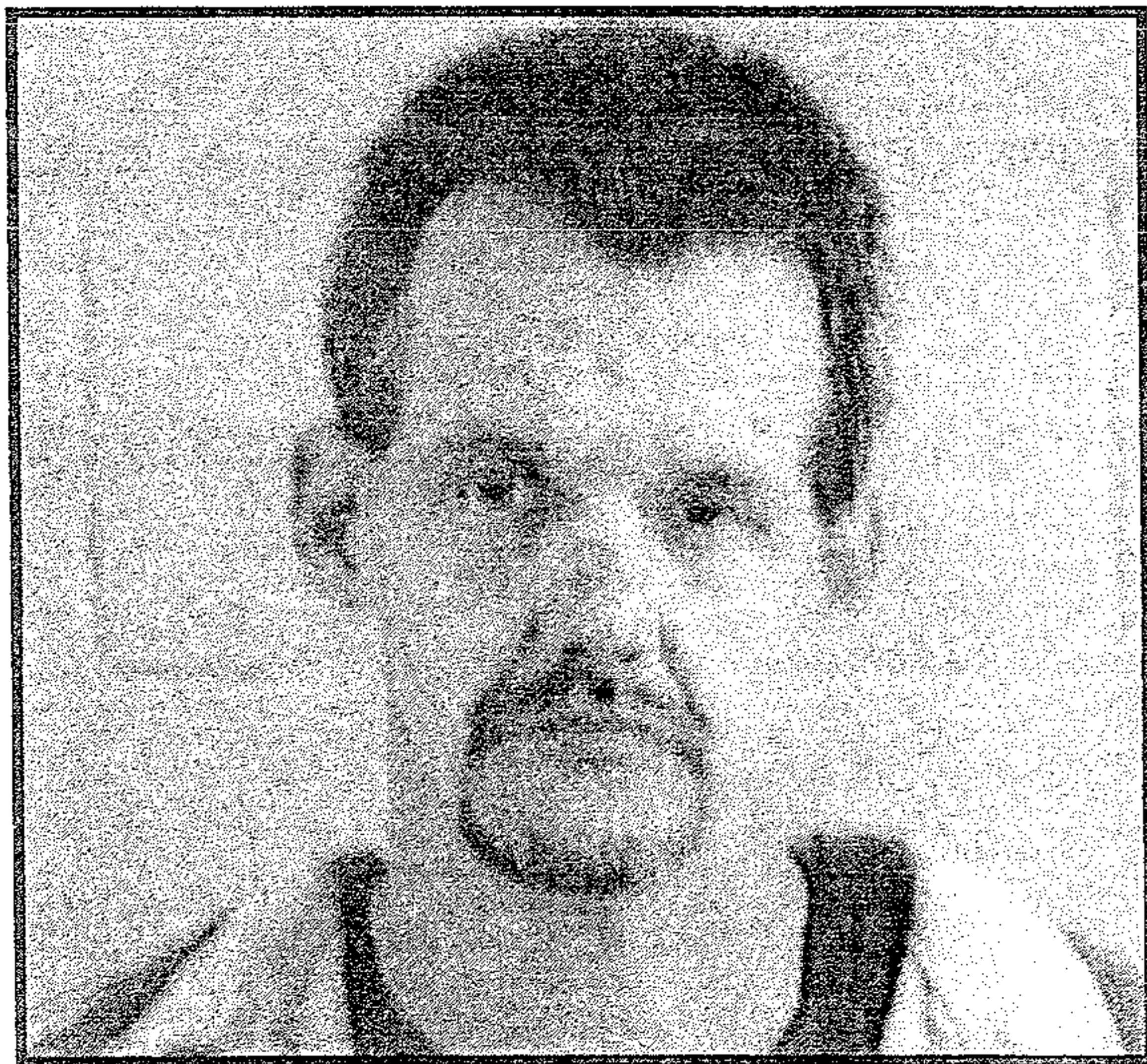
## Woman lost control of vehicle while intoxicated



Jordon Ledet

see Wreck pg. 3

## Clinton man charged after reckless driving down I-75



Steven Stringer

see DUI pg. 5

## The Good News The Rev. Dr. Julius McCarter

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

This portion of the apostle Paul's letters to the Corinthians sums up the entire gospel story in a few short sentences. It establishes our foundational Christian confession that Christ's death and resurrection brought and continue to bring new life into the world. More than that, these

see TGN ctd. to p.2

## Operation SaboTor: Federal Partnerships Key to Dismantling Online Drug Markets

When Knoxville first responders found a man dead in his home, there was clear evidence on the scene of the heroin that caused his overdose. Also nearby were clues to how the deadly drugs had reached him. Investigators found a padded manila envelope with postage and markings that provided them another link back to the online drug sellers who have prolifer-

ated on the Darknet in recent years.

Drug traffickers are increasingly using anonymous online networks to sell narcotics, including potent synthetic opioids like fentanyl, to buyers who can order and receive the drugs without ever leaving home. What can appear to be a regular e-commerce transaction is one of the de-

See Drugs P.4



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**Verse of the Day**  
When he [Judas] was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him."

—John 13:31

**Wazzup**

Watch out for the April

Fools jokes today my friends

**Weather**

Today: Sunny. High of 58F.

Monday night: Cloudy. Low of 39F

Tuesday: Showers. High of 57F.

Tuesday night: Clering. Low of 37F.

**Horoscopes**

Aries 3/21-4/19

You know what you want now, and you have what it takes to succeed. You've been patient -- never an easy task for

you -- but the wait is over. Mercurys three-week retrograde tossed a few roadblocks in your professional path. Let go of any residual discouragement and get the show on the road.

(Continued on page 6)



### Knife

Douglas Santos, 31, Myers Road Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault, Driving without a valid License, Contraband in Penal Institution, Vandalism, and Simple Possession. Deputy Kevin Kirkland LCSO,

was dispatched to Myers Road in reference to a 911 call. Dispatch advised they could hear people screaming and a child on the phone could not give a location of where they were. Officer Samuels LCPD, located the caller behind Taco Bell. The vehicle had damage to

the windshield, and was occupied by victim and 4 children. Victim stated that her and Douglas Santos had been arguing at their residence on Myers Road. Upon arrival Deputy Kirkland and Cpl. Jenkins noticed an open door

and cleared the residence and no one was home. Dispatch was then advised of a wreck on Outer Drive involving a white vehicle matching the description of Douglas Santos vehicle. Deputy came  
Assault ctd. to pg. 3

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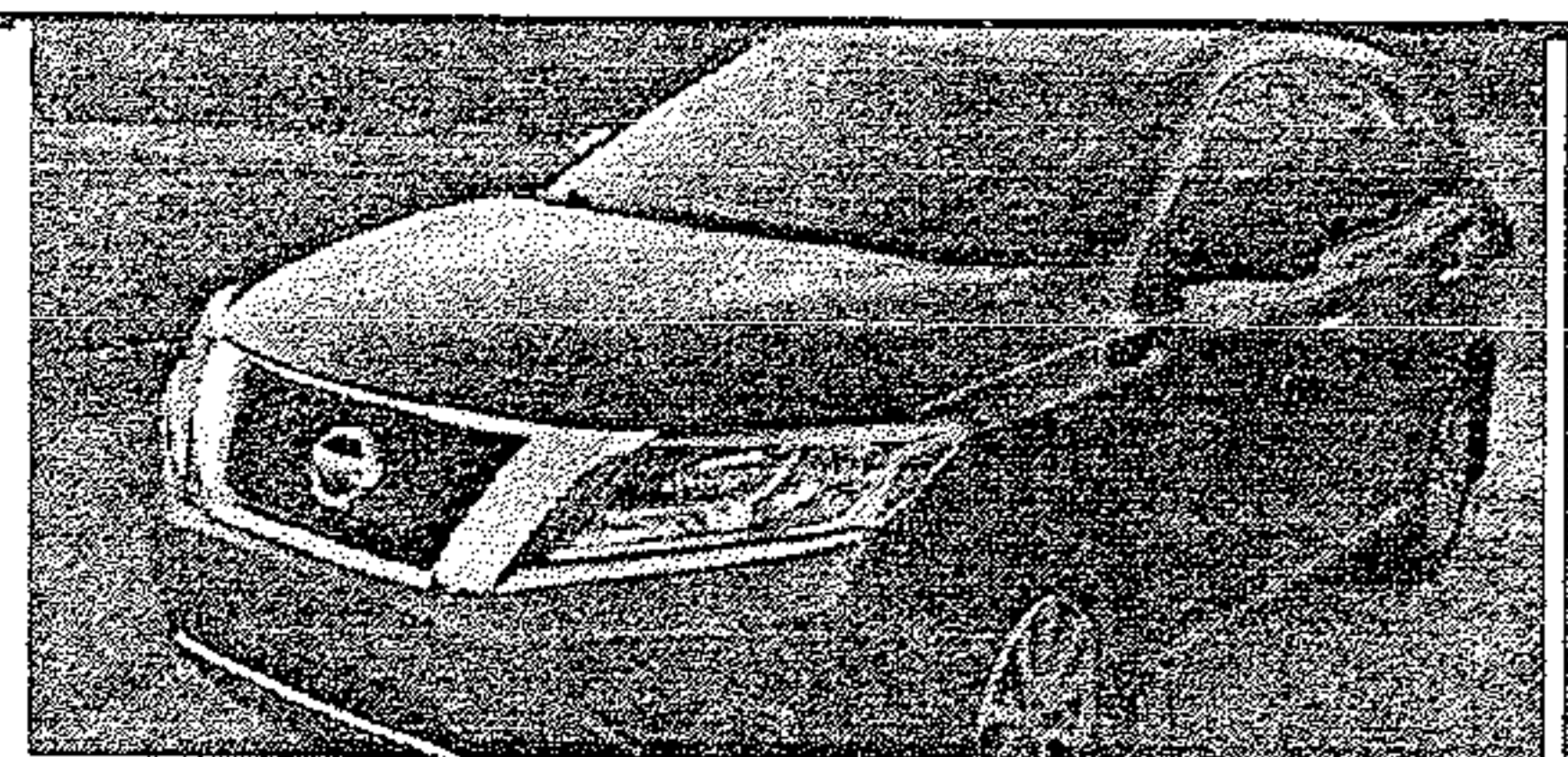
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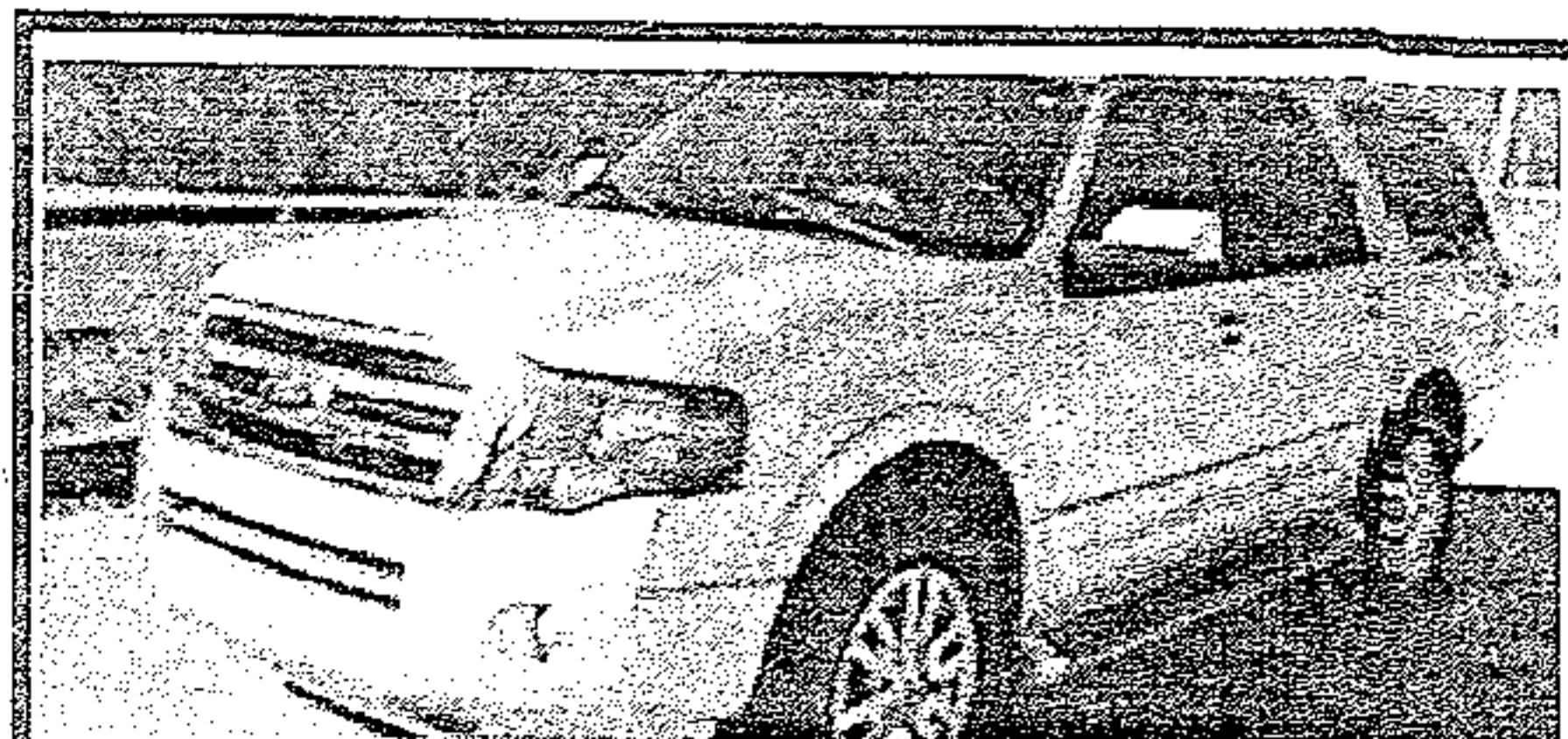
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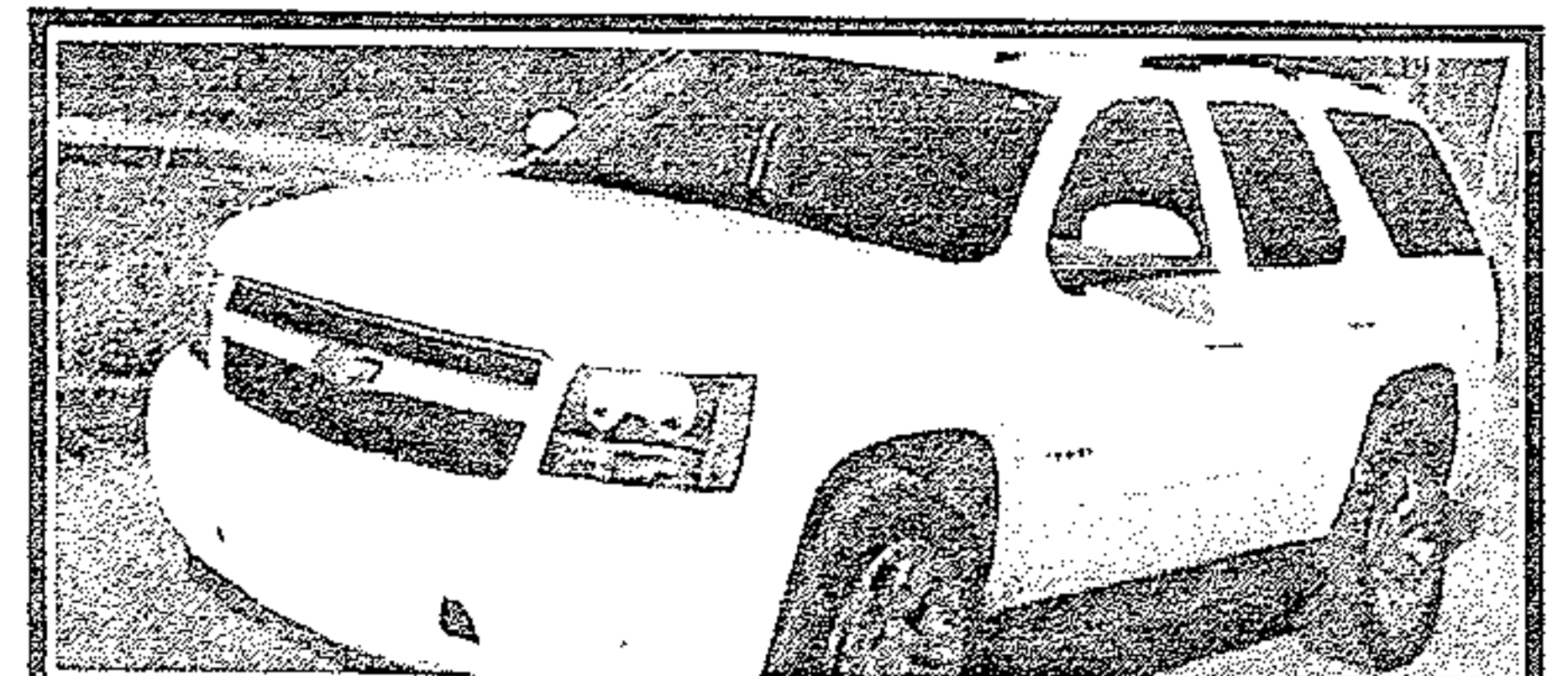
**Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK** \*



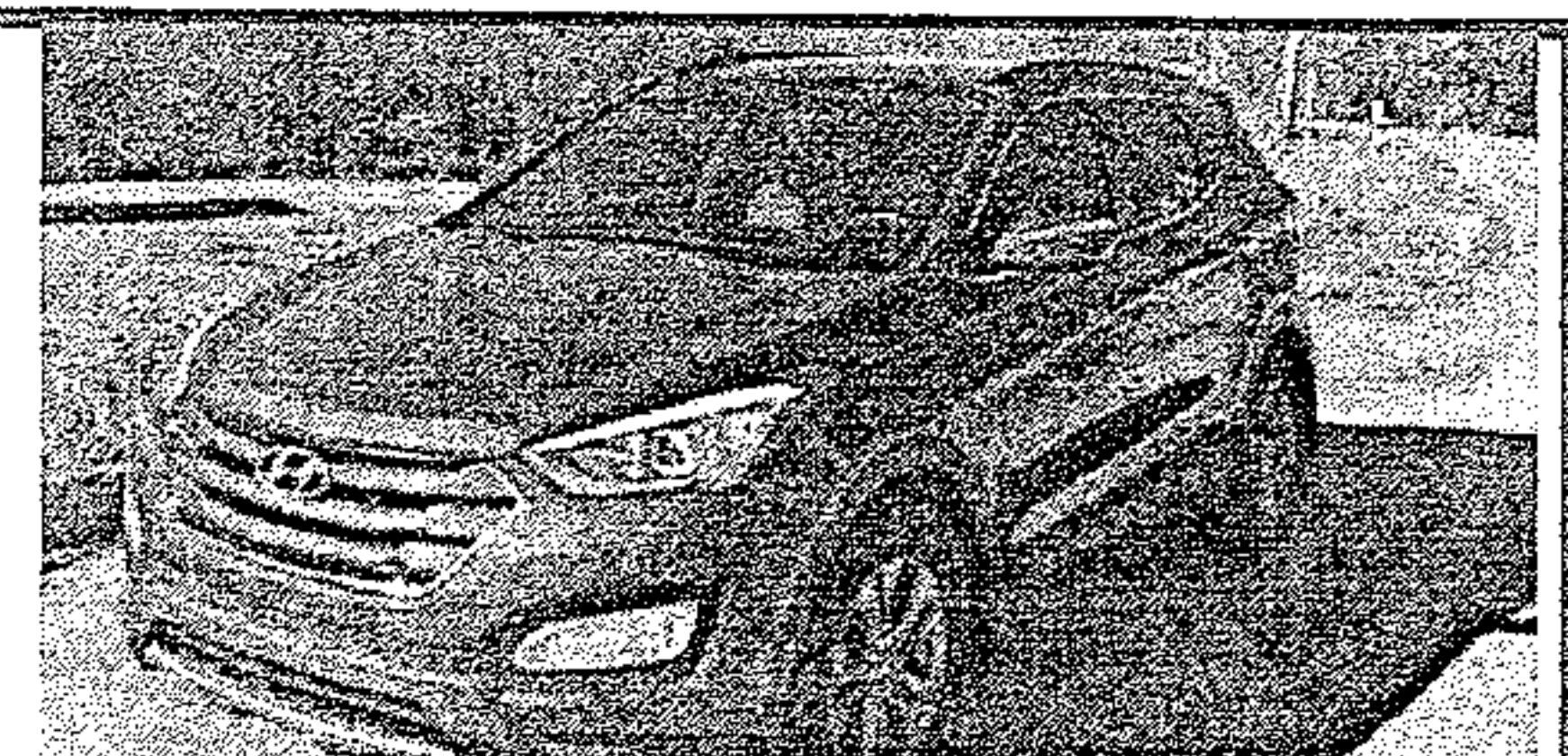
2014 Nissan Pathfinder Loaded, 3rd Row Seat, Alloy Wheels, Like New, Great On Gas, PW, PL



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



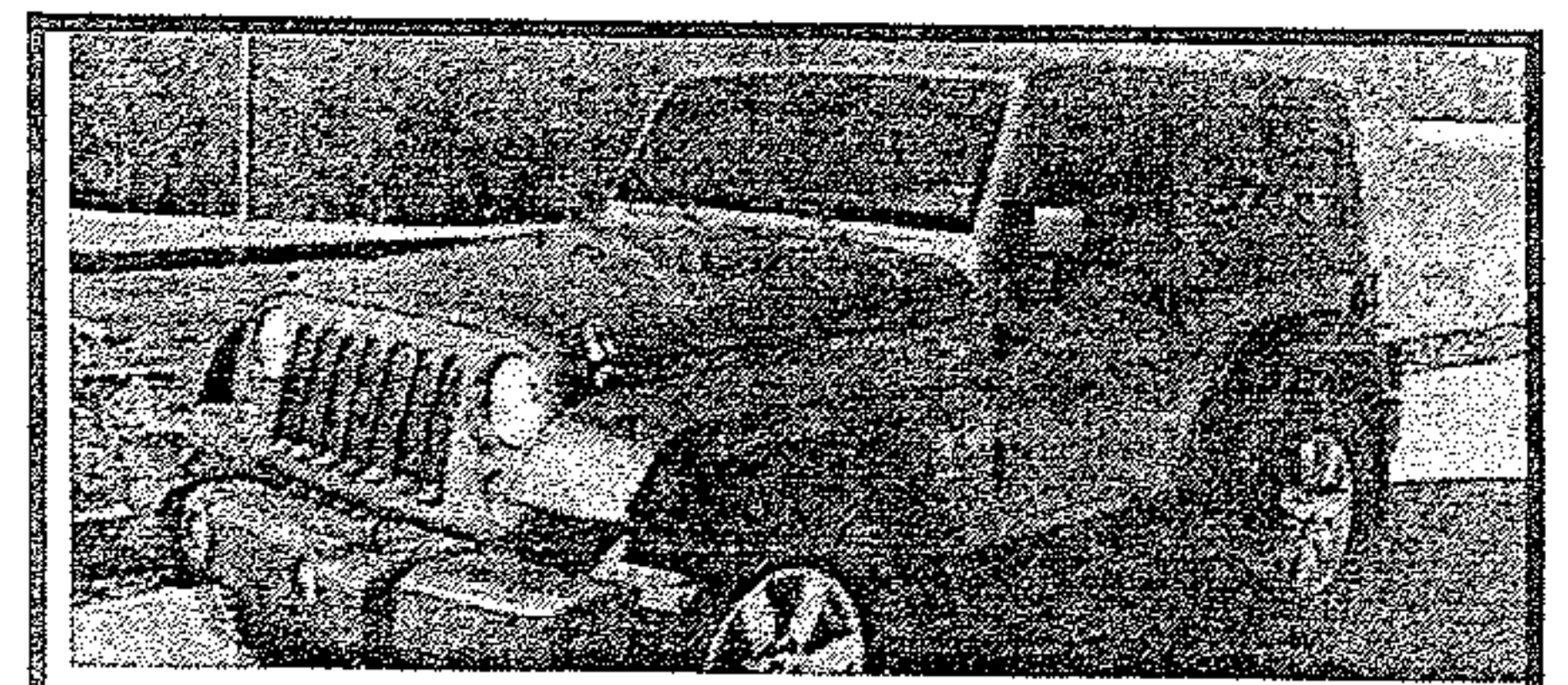
2012 Chevy Tahoe 4x4, Leather, 3rd Row, Chrome Wheels, PW, PL, Sunroof, Remote Start, Auto, 5.3 V8 Power



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



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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Assault ctd. from pg. 2

in contact with the vehicle wrecked in the yard on Outer drive and 3 hispanic males in the driveway. Santos stated he was not driving and had been at that residence all day. After an investigation Santos did admit to driving the vehicle and being the one who kicked the windshield

on victim vehicle. Douglas Santos was placed under arrest and transported to the Loudon Jail. During a routine search once in the jail by Deputy Swinney he did locate approx.. 0.7 grams of a white powder substance believed to be cocaine in Santos right pocket. Santos stated it was cocaine.

**Wreck**

Jordan Ledet, 22, Lloyd Huskey Road Pigeon Forge, was charged with DUI, and Financial Responsibility. Deputy Chance Gray LCSO, was dispatched to the area of Hwy 70 near Smith Valley Road in reference to a wreck with no injury. Upon approaching the vehicle Deputy noticed a very strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle. Deputy made contact with the driver Jordan Ledet. Deputy ask Ledet what happen she stated she was traveling on Hwy 70 when she came over a hill and lost control of the vehicle. While speaking with Ledet Deputy noticed a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from her person, and red blood shot watery eyes and slurred speech. Ledet did poorly on sobriety test and agreed to breath test. Once at the jail Ledet breath sample results of .145. Ledet was cited for no proof of insurance.

carrier, and conduit of this relationship. The Holy Spirit animates us and empowers us to know the Son, who is a reflection of the heart of the Father. The Holy Spirit is integral in making all things new. When we read about God and Christ today, we need to remember that the Holy Spirit is there too. Prayer: God, thank you for newness, and for your Holy Spirit that calls me into your reconciling work. Help me to channel my creativity today--to embrace someone or something in my world afresh, and on behalf of you. Amen.

**TGN**

words of confession define ministry, showing us how the relationship between God and Christ translates to the relationship uniting God, Christ, humanity, and all of creation.

What this passage doesn't say, however--what breathes between the lines--is that the Holy Spirit is the catalyst,

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### Drugs

livery channels fueling a deadly nationwide epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that drug overdose deaths have been on an upward climb for several years, across the United States and across all demographic groups. In 2017 alone, 70,237 people in this country died of a drug overdose; two-thirds of those deaths involved an opioid.

As part of a government-wide effort to address the epidemic, the Department of Justice created the Joint Criminal Opioid and Darknet Enforcement (J-CODE) team in 2018 to leverage the

power of federal and international partnerships to combat the complex and deadly threat of online drug sales.

Now in its second year, J-CODE is delivering results through coordinated efforts and the commitment of the nation's law enforcement agencies to address opioid sales on the Darknet. Building on the success of last year's Operation Disarray, the J-CODE team led Operation SaboTor between January and March of this year. These concentrated operations in the United States and abroad led to 61 arrests and shut down 50 Darknet accounts used for illegal activity. Agents execut-

ed 65 search warrants, seizing more than 299 kilograms of drugs, 51 firearms, and more than \$7 million (\$4.504 million in cryptocurrency, \$2.485 million in cash, and \$40,000 in gold).

J-CODE joins the efforts of the FBI with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Defense (DOD). As many of these markets cross borders, Europol is also an invaluable international partner in J-CODE's efforts to make a global impact on Darknet drug trafficking.

"This is a new and evolving threat, and we found that no one agency can do it alone," said FBI Special Agent Maggie Blanton of the Hi-Tech Organized Crime Unit at FBI Headquarters. "The

FBI may get information from local law enforcement after an overdose or arrest. Through that tip, we can work with our federal partners with the Postal Inspection Service, because so often the drugs are moving through the mail. Our Customs and Border Protection partners are a great resource on understanding trends and preventing drugs from coming into the country from abroad, and our partnership with DEA is critical because of their experience and expertise with drug cases."

The evidence gathered from that overdose death in Knoxville, for example, was shared with local law enforcement and then with USPIS, the FBI, and other partners. The eight-month investigation led to the arrest of five suspects in the Los Angeles area in March 2019 who are believed to be behind at least two online drug sites that shipped out an estimated 1,500 parcels each month. Search warrants carried out on a residence rented by the suspects and two of their vehicles un-

see Drugs ctd. to pg. 5

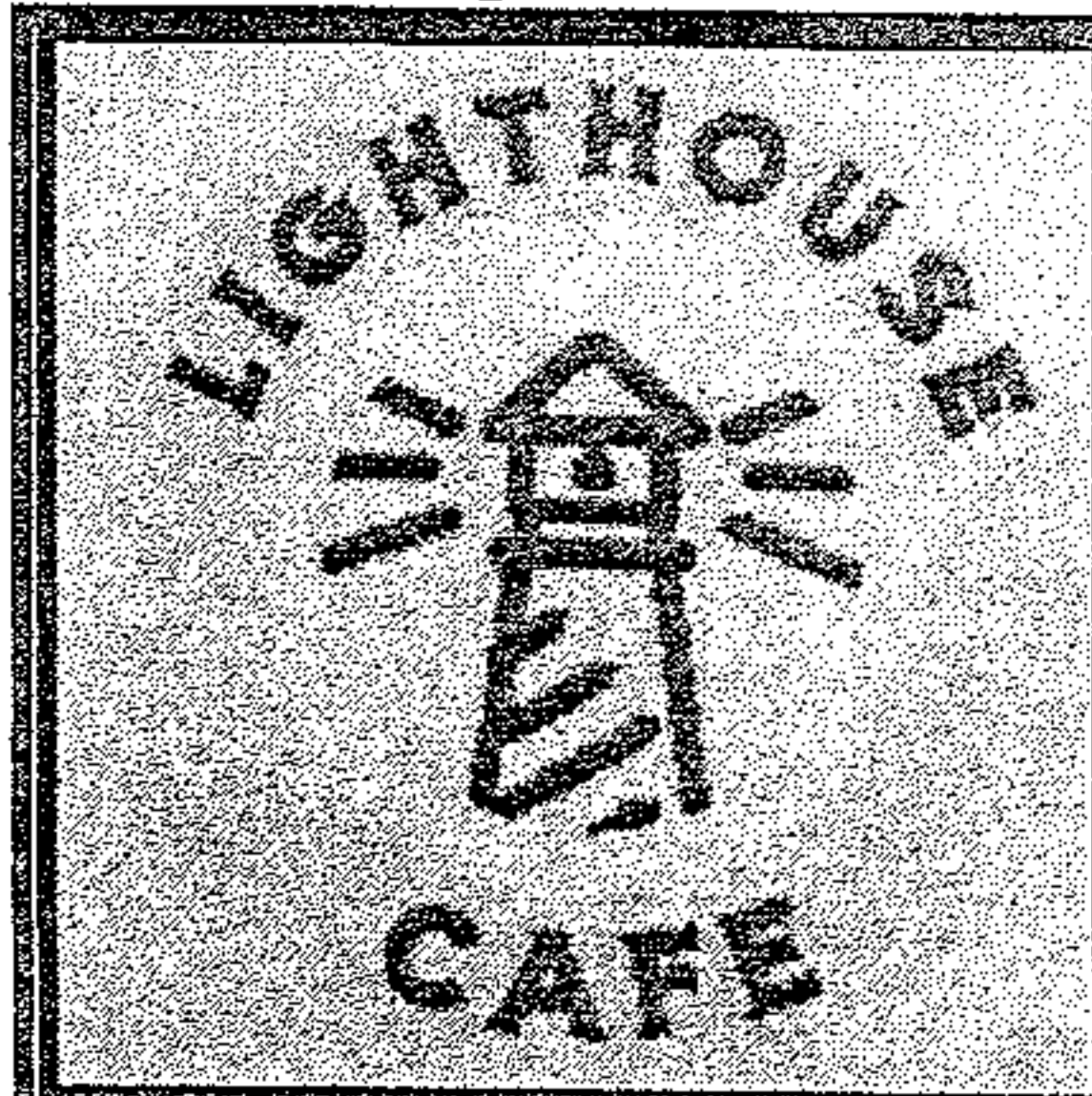
### Public Notice

The City of Philadelphia Mayor and Board of Aldermen will meet in a regular scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. located at the United Methodist Church of Philadelphia.

### THE LOCAL MARKET

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see Drugs ctd. frm pg. 4

covered drugs, a loaded gun, mailing supplies, computers, cell phones, and transaction receipts.

FBI Special Agent Nathan Cocklin said members of his Hi-Tech Organized Crime squad from the Los Angeles Field Office, along with USPIS inspectors, interviewed the suspects as they were brought into custody. He said the suspects claimed they were just running a business, making money, and not considering the impact of their on-line sales. "It's a transaction only," Cocklin said of the Darknet marketplaces. "They don't even know each other's real names." He said the suspects never considered that a package dropped in a mailbox in Southern California could mean the

loss of a life in eastern Tennessee.

**A Multi-Agency, Multi-Layered Approach**

The Darknet is a part of the Internet accessed through a specialized browser called Tor. Tor allows users to better hide who they are, where they are, and what they are doing online. Darknet marketplaces offer illicit goods that range from hacked bank accounts and stolen credit card information to guns and drugs.

"It's become easier to get onto the Darknet marketplaces—all you need is a smartphone or computer," said Chris Oksala, a supervisory special agent with DEA. "There are multiple ways to pay for the drug—from crypto-

currencies to Western Union transfers—and there are multiple ways to shield your identity."

But on the other side of the seeming ease and anonymity of buying and selling on the Darknet is the hard work being done by law enforcement, in concert, to combat the illegal activity occurring on-line—from targeting the marketplaces and the sellers to reaching out to those buying ille-

Drugs ctd from pg. 7

**DUI**

Steven Stringer, 38, Pine Ridge Road Clinton, was charged with DUI, Reckless Driving, and Driving on Revoked/Suspended License. Deputy Pesterfield LCSO, witnessed a silver vehicle traveling on I-75 southbound at a high rate of speed. Using rear mounted radar Deputy clocked the vehicle traveling 104 in a 70 mph zone. Deputy initiated his emergency equipment and attempted to stop the vehicle. The

vehicle made abrupt lane change around another vehicle without signaling. Deputy made contact with the driver identified as Steven Stringer. Upon check Stringer license was revoked. While speaking with Stringer Deputy noticed him to have

dilated pupils and was clinching his teeth. Deputy ask Stringer if he had taken anything he stated no. Stringer did poorly on sobriety test and was placed under arrest, and transported to the Loudon County Jail.



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**Public Notice**  
**Loudon County BOE**  
**Workshop**  
**April 4, 2019 at 6 pm**  
**Central Office**

**Board Meeting**  
**April 11, 2019 at 7 pm**  
**Courthouse Annex**  
**"Director of Schools Contract will be Considered"**



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Market ctd from pg. 5  
gal wares online.

"These are very complex and time-consuming cases for one agency," said Kyle Rau, USPIS program manager for Darkweb investigations. "The 'one government' approach allows us to tap into each agency's strength and allows each agency to focus on a particular task."

The FBI and its law enforcement partners in the United States and abroad have had tremendous success in recent years taking down some of the largest and most profitable Darknet marketplaces. In 2017, law enforcement seized the Alpha-Bay marketplace, believed to be the largest

Darknet market at the time. That seizure was followed by a take-down of Hansa market, another major player.

"It is harder to get the infrastructure up," stressed Cocklin. "To compare it to a normal drug organization, a dealer is easier to replace than the head of the organization. If you take out a marketplace, you have to rebuild. It takes money and time and undermines trust. Did taking out Alpha-Bay and Hansa stop everything? No. Did it make an impact? Absolutely."

The next-level target is the Darknet drug trafficking organizations. The goal of Operation Disarray and Operation SaboTor, along with the ongoing

work of J-CODE partners, is to identify and arrest those behind the online sales.

The final prong of the J-CODE effort is educating the public on the dangers of opioids by contacting individuals who are known to have purchased drugs online. Sometimes the message arrives too late. In locating and contacting buyers, the J-CODE team often comes across death notices and obituaries. In some cases, agents learn from buyers that they had survived an overdose; in other cases, agents learn from family members that a buyer did not. Oksala stressed that many of the drugs being sold online carry the added danger of unknown,

powerful chemicals. "People are making thousands of pills at a time, doing the formulation without any scientific training," he said.

The agents arrive with information on addiction and treatment, and their very presence challenges the anonymous nature of the Darknet. "If they know someone is looking, people lose faith in the marketplace," said Rich Sheehan, USPIS assistant inspector in charge.

"We are able to identify people," said Cocklin. "It takes work, but the FBI, USPIS, DEA, and others are laser-focused on tackling the opioid epidemic on the web."

**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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Loudon County Budget Committee will meet at the County Office Building as follows:

*The following meetings will begin at 9:00 AM:*

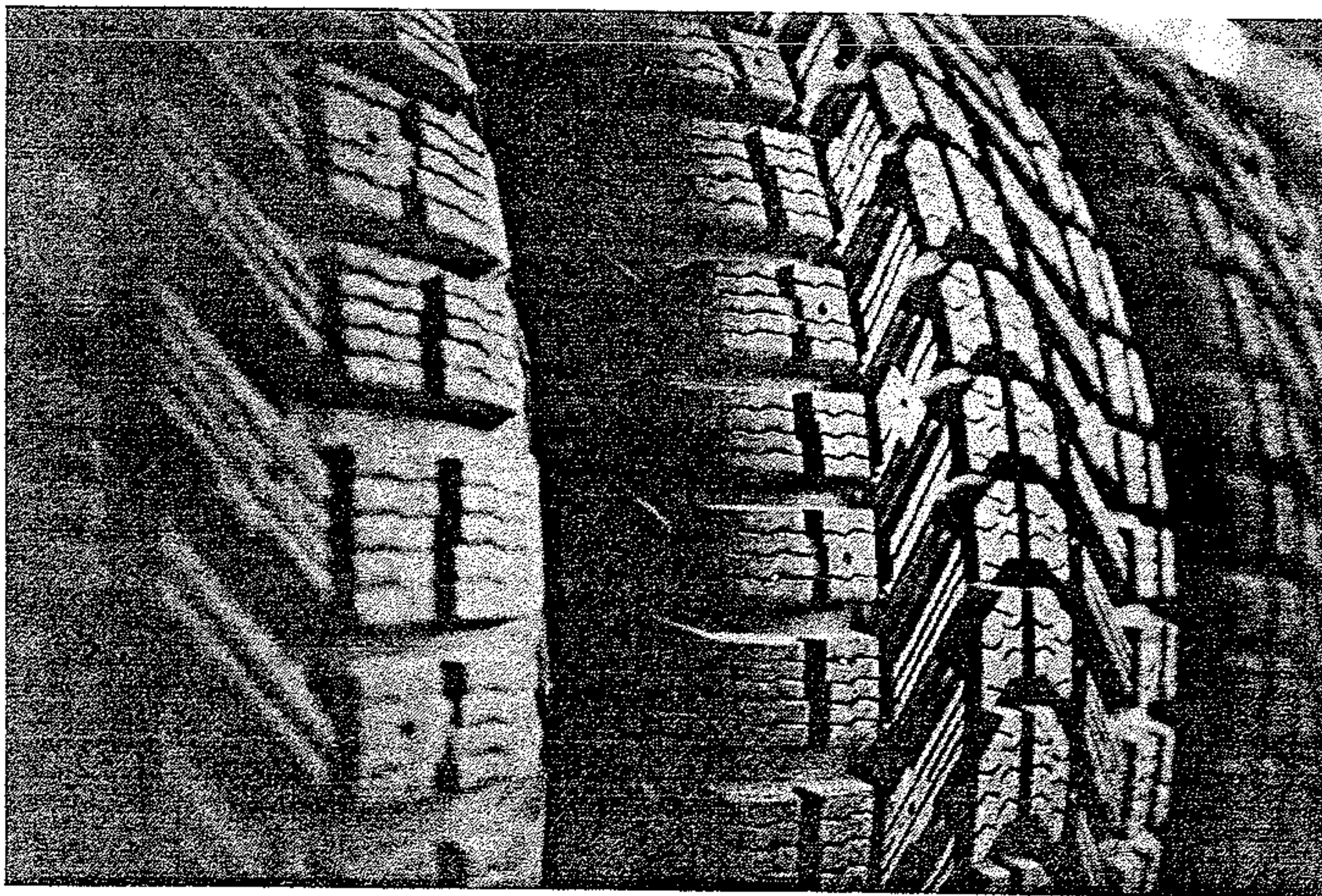
Friday, April 5, 2019  
Monday, April 8, 2019  
Tuesday, April 16, 2019  
Thursday, April 18, 2019  
Monday, April 22, 2019  
Wednesday, April 24, 2019  
Monday, April 29, 2019  
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Friday, May 3, 2019  
Wednesday, May 8, 2019  
Friday, May 10, 2019  
Monday, May 13, 2019  
Tuesday, May 14, 2019

The regular April and May monthly meetings will proceed as previously scheduled, on Monday, April 15th and Monday May 20th, 4 PM.

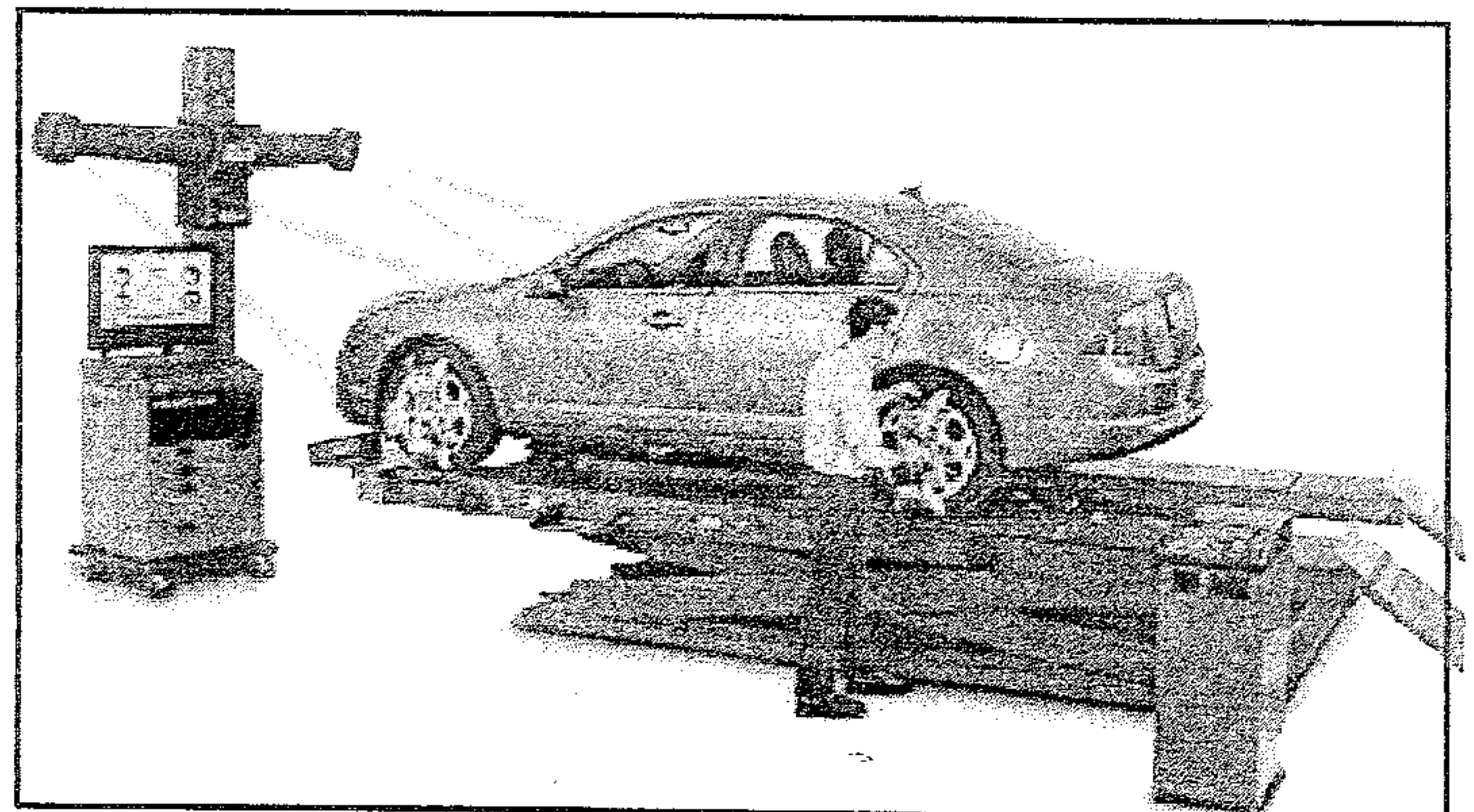
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