

The *Grand Jury Report Inside* 50¢ Daily Edition

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Monday, August 19, 2019

Loudon County Grand Jury Indicts 56 at August Term

The Loudon County Grand Jury met on Monday, August 12th and reviewed cases presented by 9th District Attorney General Russell Johnson. Detectives, Officers and Troopers (as well as two private citizens) presented cases involving homicides, attempted murders, vehicular homicides, rapes and assaults as well as the 'run of the mill' burglaries, thefts, shopliftings and even a dog running at large case. All 56 individuals whose cases were presented were indicted by the grand jury. There were no 'NO BILLS'. Individual FB posts will be released on

some of the more serious or interesting cases as a means of better informing the public about some of these individual cases and to better explain the operation of the Loudon County justice system, especially in light of the special circumstances with 'over-crowding' is-

see GJ pg. 2

Booster Club Treasurer Stole More Than \$20,000

Former Houston High School Football Booster Club Treasurer Valerie Baker treated the club's funds like her personal piggy bank when she stole at least \$20,112 in 2018. An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has resulted in Baker's indictment after investigators determined she used the booster club's debit card to withdraw

cash, make unauthorized purchases, and pay off a personal car loan. Baker also wrote booster club checks payable to cash and then cashed them for her personal use. Baker has admitted that she used her assigned booster club debit card for unauthorized transactions and purchases. The investigation be-

see Treasurer pg. 4

Cheryl Broussard Pleads Guilty to Wire Fraud

Cheryl D. Broussard, 63, of Miami, Florida, entered a plea of guilty on August 14, 2019, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee at Knoxville, to a federal indictment charging her with wire fraud. Sentencing has been

see Fraud pg. 4

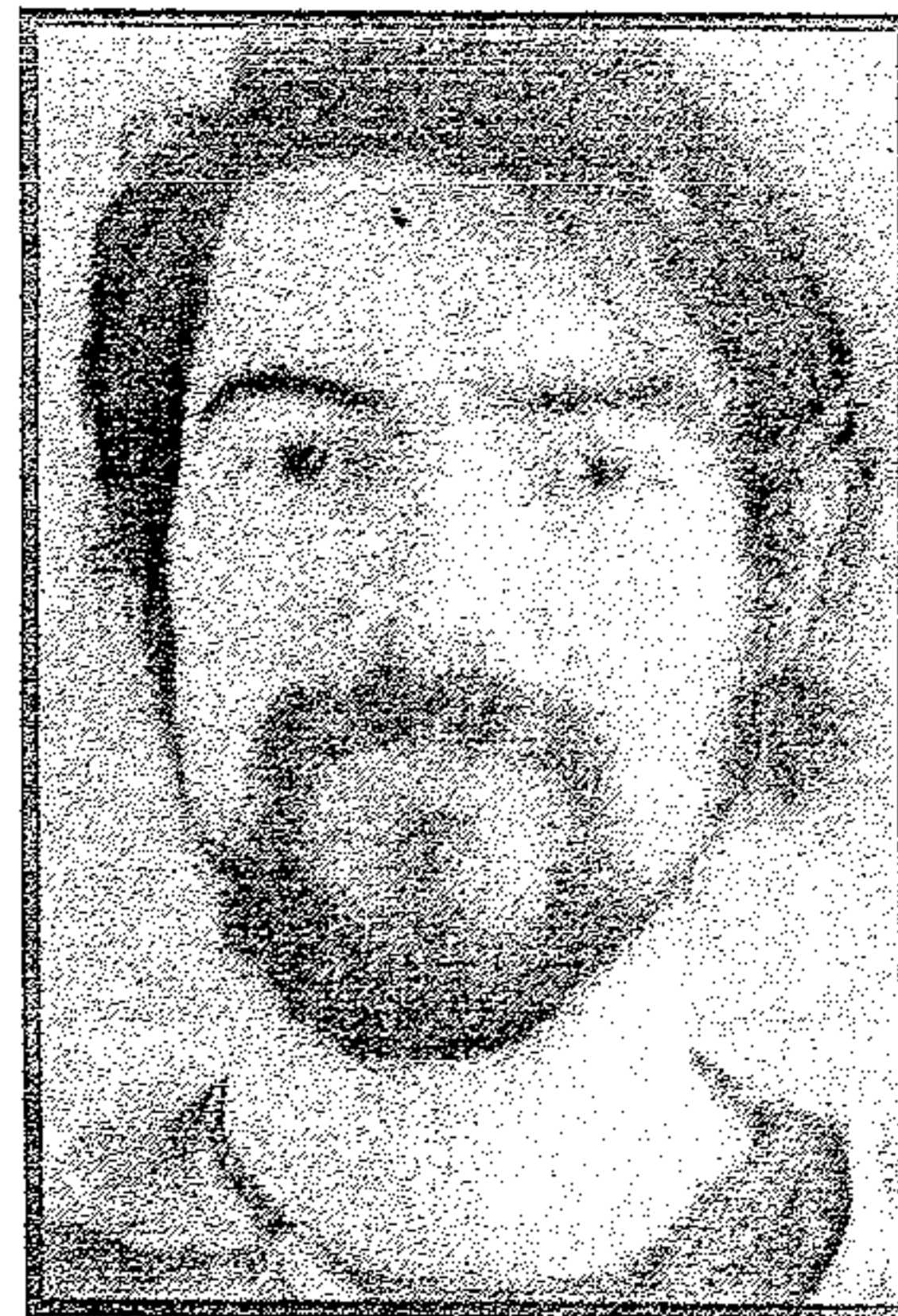
Courtney Michelle Bingham Indicted By Grand Jury on 32 Criminal Counts for Having Sex With Minor

Loudon County District Attorney General Russell Johnson announced today that the Loudon County Grand Jury met on Monday August 12th and hear testimony from former Loudon County Sheriff's Office Detective Jason Smith (who is now a detective with the



see Bingham pg. 3 *Courtney Bingham*

David Tyler Miles Indicted for the First Degree Murder of Dakota Willard and Leslie M. Myers Indicted for the Attempted First Degree Murder of Her Husband



David Miles



Leslie Myers
See Indicted P.4



Verse of the Day

But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

—Matthew 9:13

Wazzup

A BIG Shout Out to Circuit Court Clerk Steve Harrelson and his awesome staff! A Huge Thanks to Chief Deputy Clerk Penny Glasgow for all the in-

credibly HARD work you and your staff do on the daily!

Weather

Today: Hot and Humid. High of 94F.
Tonight: Muggy and cool. Low 71F.

Tuesday: Rain. High of 92F

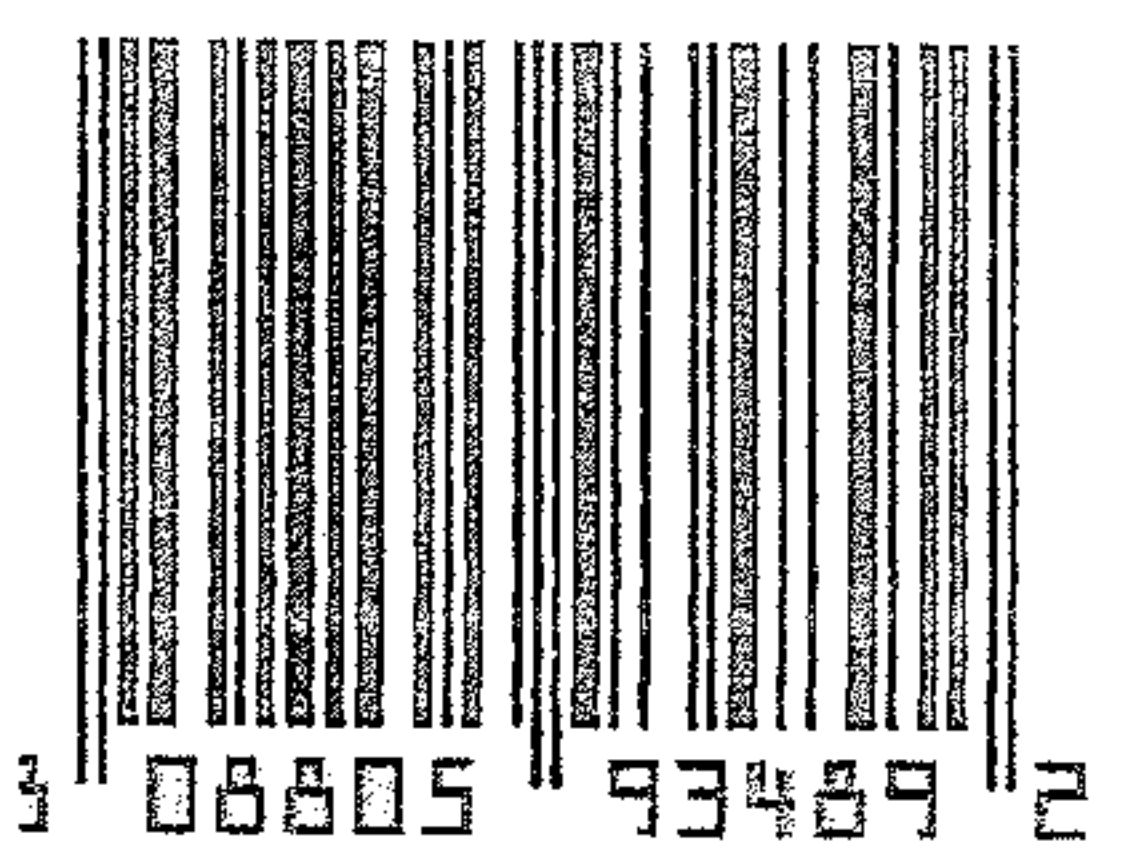
Tuesday night: Rain. Low of 71F.

Horoscopes

Leo 7/23-8/22

Defending and protecting your ego diminishes

(Continued on page 6)



GJ

sues at the current jail and problems presented by the lack of a courthouse due to the fire this past Spring. Also, we want to provide the same information at the same time to all media outlets that have been requesting information.

Attached will be a copy of the Grand Jury Report (dated August 12, 2019) which includes, under the TRUE BILL section of the report, all defendants who were indicted as a result of cases where individuals were initially arrested on warrants and had their cases bound over to the Grand Jury in Judge Hank Sledge's court by either a waiver of their right to preliminary hearing or their case was bound over by

either Judge Sledge or Judge Rex Dale after the District Attorney's Office proved probable cause at a preliminary hearing that the defendant committed the crime upon which he or she was arrested. Some individuals had not yet been arrested and their cases were presented directly to the grand jury as NEW BILLS. A few individuals may have been arrested on a single charge but additional or more serious charges were presented the grand jury as NEW BILLS. NOTE - That the NEW BILL defendant's names are not released until they are 'in arrest' so they do not appear in the public report.

Cases listed under the report as DISMISSALS are cases in which the

District Attorney General has decided not to pursue; usually these are charges where the defendants have already pled to more serious charges in State Court or Federal Court. Note that the Legislature

recently repealed the Habitual Motor Vehicle Operator Act (HMVO) in order to create revenue for other areas of the state budget, so that is that one case is dismissed (Fisher).

GJ ctd. to pg. 3

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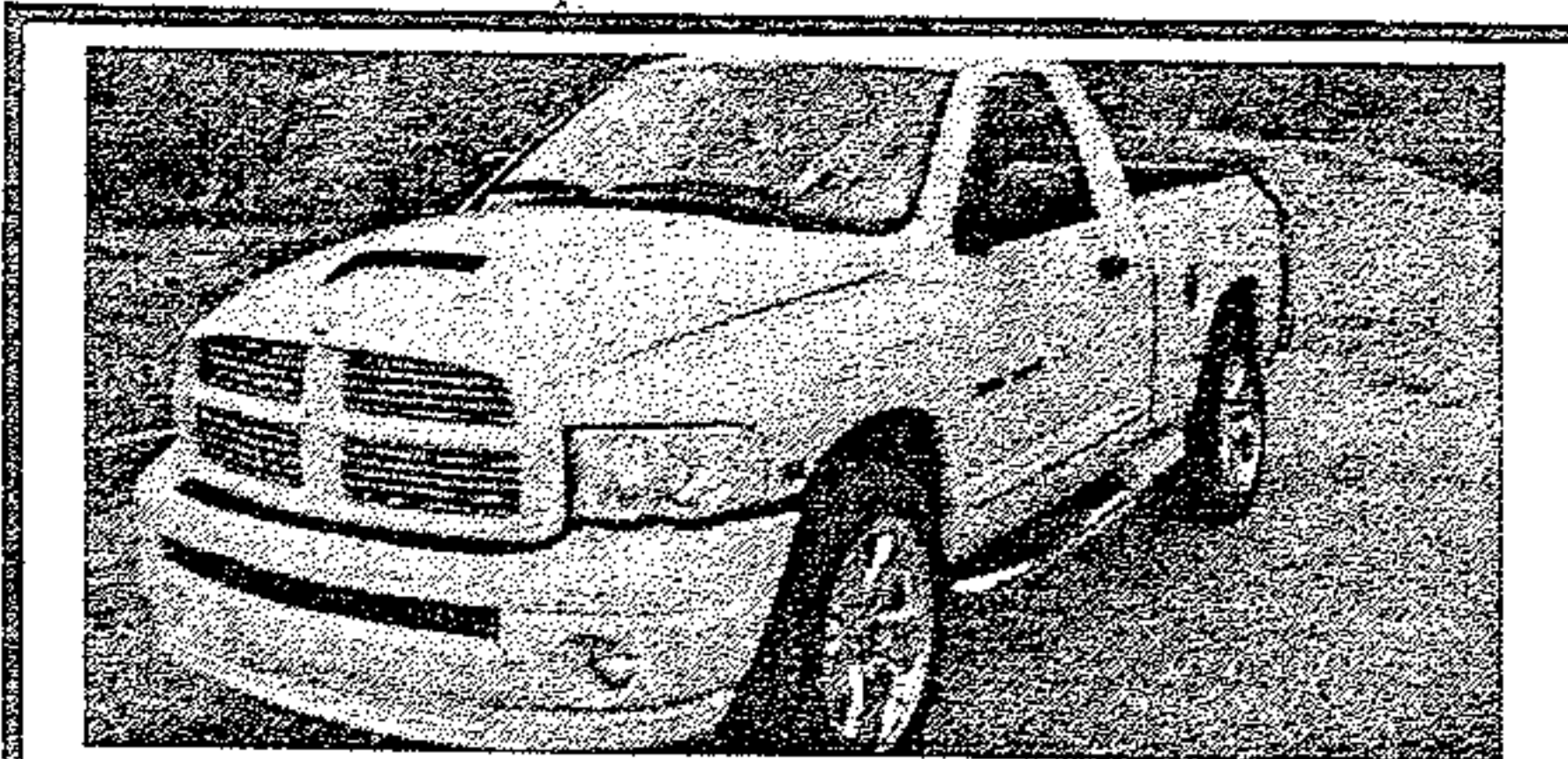
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GJ ctd from 2

Please further note that all individuals who are indicted are deemed by the Court to be 'innocent until proven guilty'. If they cannot afford an attorney, the Court appoints one for them for their defense. The role of the District Attorney General in each and every case is to seek the truth and to try and do justice by each case, whether that means

prosecution as charged, a reduction in charges or dismissal. Each case is fact specific and the proof must be available to reasonably expect a conviction beyond a reasonable doubt and to a moral certainty under Tennessee constitutional and statutory law.

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Bingham

Lenoir City Police Department) regarding an investigation into illegal sexual relations between Courtney Michelle Bingham (age 35 of Vonore Road, Loudon, Tennessee) and a minor who was 16 years old at the time between the dates of November 1st and December 3, 2018. The 32 counts include:

Statutory Rape by an Authority Figure (4 counts) - Class B felonies - 8 to 30 years;

Aggravated Statutory Rape (4 counts) - Class D felonies - 2 to 12 years;

Solicitation of a Minor to Commit Statutory Rape by an Authority Figure (8 counts) - Class C felonies - 3 to 15 years);

Solicitation of a Minor to Commit Aggravated Statutory Rape (8 counts) - Class E felonies - 1 to 6 years; and

Sexual Exploitation of a Minor by Electronic Means (8 counts) - Class E felonies - 1 to 6 years.

Bingham was originally arrested on one count of aggravated statutory rape by an authority figure and one count of solicitation of a minor by electronic means in December of 2018 after the allegations of sexual impropriety came to the attention of Detective Smith and he concluded his inves-

tigation. The case has been moving its way through Loudon County General Sessions Court since that time. Bingham and her attorney, Robert Hinton of Lenoir City, waived the case to the Loudon County Grand Jury at the last General Sessions court hearing before Judge Hank Sledge on July 17th.

The District Attorney General's Office is prohibited from giving details about the allegations of the crime, as well as the name of the alleged victim since he was at the time and still is a minor.

Please further note that all individuals who are charged with a crime via warrant or indictment are deemed by the Court to be 'innocent until proven guilty'. If they cannot afford an attorney, the Court appoints one for them for their defense. The role of the District Attorney General in each and every case is to seek the truth and to try and do justice by each case, whether that means prosecution as charged, a reduction in charges or dismissal. Each case is fact specific and the proof must be available to reasonably expect a conviction beyond a reasonable doubt and to a moral certainty under Tennessee constitutional and statutory law.

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Indicted

District Attorney General Russell Johnson announced today that the Loudon County Grand Jury also returned indictments against David Tyler Miles (of West Second Avenue, age 26 at the time) in the February 11, 2019 shooting death of Dakota Willard in the Lee-Hi neighborhood outside of Lenoir City. Also, indicted was Leslie W. Myers (of Greenback, age 42) for the attempted murder of her husband, Alan Myers at their home off of Hwy 95 in April of 2019.

Both of these individuals were arrested and their cases have been through Loudon County General Sessions Court where both had preliminary hearings. At the Miles' hearing on June 26th the District Attorney's Office was deemed by Judge Rex Dale to have proven probable cause that Miles committed the offense of 1st Degree Murder and bound the case over to the Loudon County Grand Jury. Miles also was indicted for Felony-Murder, Especially Aggravated Burglary and Theft \$10,000 - \$60,000.

At the Myers' hearing on May 22nd the District Attorney's Office was deemed by Judge Rex Dale to have proven probable cause that Myers committed Attempted 1st Degree Murder and Aggravated Assault against her husband. She was indicted on both of

those charges as well as additional counts for Attempted 1st Degree Murder and Aggravated Assault that were brought directly to the grand jury from a separate but prior incident involving her husband as an alleged victim at from November 2018.

These cases are set for arraignment, along with all other grand jury returns, on Monday, August 19th at the Alma Place location of the old Loudon City Hall which is serving as a temporary non-jury meeting site for Loudon County Criminal Court. Both Miles and Myers are being represented by Assistant Public Defender Harold Balcom and the cases are being prosecuted for the State by Senior Assistant Bob Edwards and Jed Bassett.

Fraud

set for January 16, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., in United States District Court in Knoxville. Broussard faces a term of up to 20 years in prison.

In a written plea agreement, Broussard admitted to entering into an investment agreement with Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., a national business and professional women's sorority, through which she would manage \$100,000 of the sorority's funds in securities. She told the sorority that she was employed at Contenta Capital Group,

and falsely claimed that she was a registered investment advisor. Broussard sent periodic reports, containing fabricated information, to the sorority concerning the status of their investments. Rather than investing the funds, however, Broussard converted the money to her own use.

This prosecution was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Trial Attorneys Tracee Plowell and Michelle Pascucci, of the U.S. Department of Justice, Fraud Section, and Assistant United States Attorney Frank M. Dale, Jr., represented the United States.

Treasurer

gan after the booster club president discovered that Baker had made suspicious

withdrawals from the club's checking account. He reported the activity to the Comptroller's Office. In July 2019, Valerie Baker was indicted by the Shelby County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$10,000 and one count of forgery under \$2,500.

"It is fortunate the club president noticed this activity and reported it," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "However, it's important that controls are put in place to prevent

theft before it occurs. Financial responsibilities must be shared by multiple individuals to provide appropriate oversight and accounting."

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.



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Lenoir City Police Department increases Impaired-Driving enforcement During "Booze It and Lose It Campaign"

Lenoir City Police Department is partnering with the Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) for Booze It and Lose It from August 16th to September 3rd, surrounding Booze It and Lose It is a statewide campaign to increase impaired-driving enforcement and reduce fatal crashes. The Lenoir City

Police Department will be conducting a sobriety check point on Friday August 23rd from 8pm to 10pm on Adesa Boulevard. The department will also be increasing enforcement during those dates focusing on impaired driving. Increased state and national messaging about the dangers of drunk driving, coupled with increased sobriety checkpoints and high visibility enforcement, aim to drastically reduce the number of drunk-driving crashes, injuries, and fatalities this year. The consequences of a single DUI conviction for a first-

time offender in the state of Tennessee may include costly fines, court costs, legal fees, jail time, mandatory drug and alcohol treatment, and/or the installation of an ignition interlock device in his/her vehicle.

The THSO provides grant funding to support the Lenoir City Police Department's increased enforcement efforts during the Booze It and Lose It holiday campaign. For more information about the THSO, please visit www.tntrafficsafety.org

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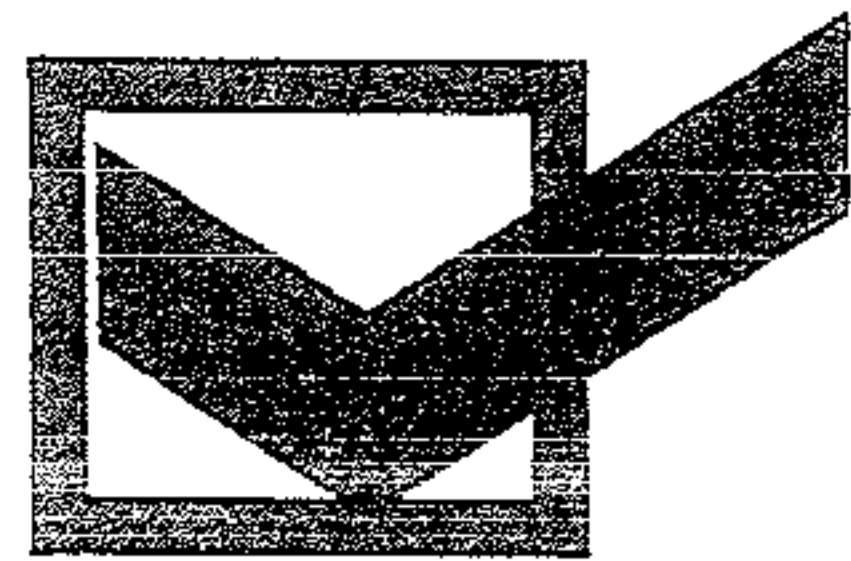
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