

# Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, September 27, 2019

## Busted at Weigels with Meth and a Heroin wrapper



Laurie Fitzgerald



Mitchell Griggs see Busted pg. 2

## Woman throws a rock thru victims window



Cheri Phillips

see Rock pg. 3

## Drinking and driving causes another wreck



Derek Hatcher

see DUI pg. 3

## Foster Care Agency Shut Down Organization Head Financed Lavish Lifestyle at the Expense of Children and Employees

*Lifestyle at the Expense of Children and Employees*

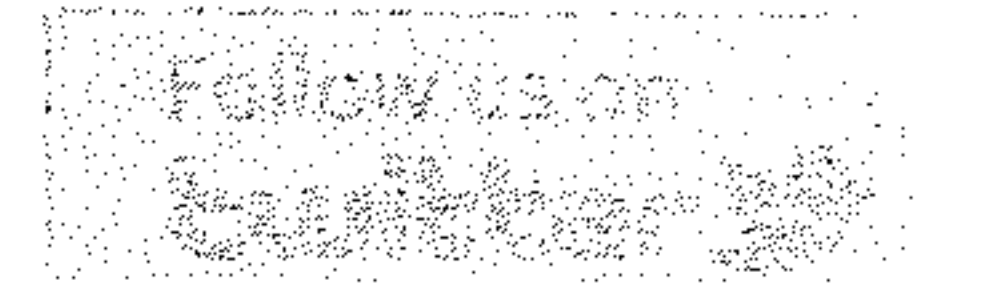
If the damage done by graft was only measured in dollars and cents, the effects of Mary Holden Ayala's crimes would be limited to the approximately \$1 million she stole from the organization she ran. But when that organization was responsible for providing much-needed services for children

in foster care, the damage must also be measured by the young people harmed, the employees unpaid, and the hole left in the community when the organization was forced to close.

In June 2019, Ayala, 59, was sen-

tenced to 33 months in prison after a federal jury in Portland, Oregon, found her guilty of five counts of theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, two counts of engaging in monetary transactions in criminally derived property, and seven counts of fil-

See Foster P.4



### Verse of the Day

You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the mul-

titudes of heaven worship you.

—Nehemiah 9:6

### Wazzup

Come to Refuge Church for service at LC Park, Sunday morning at 10am. Food, games and fun

for the whole family!!!!

### Weather

Today: Partly Cloudy. High of 92F.

Tonight: Cloudy. Low 68F.

Saturday: Cloudy. High of 91F

Saturday night: Clearing.

Low of 69F

Sunday: Sunny. High of 93F

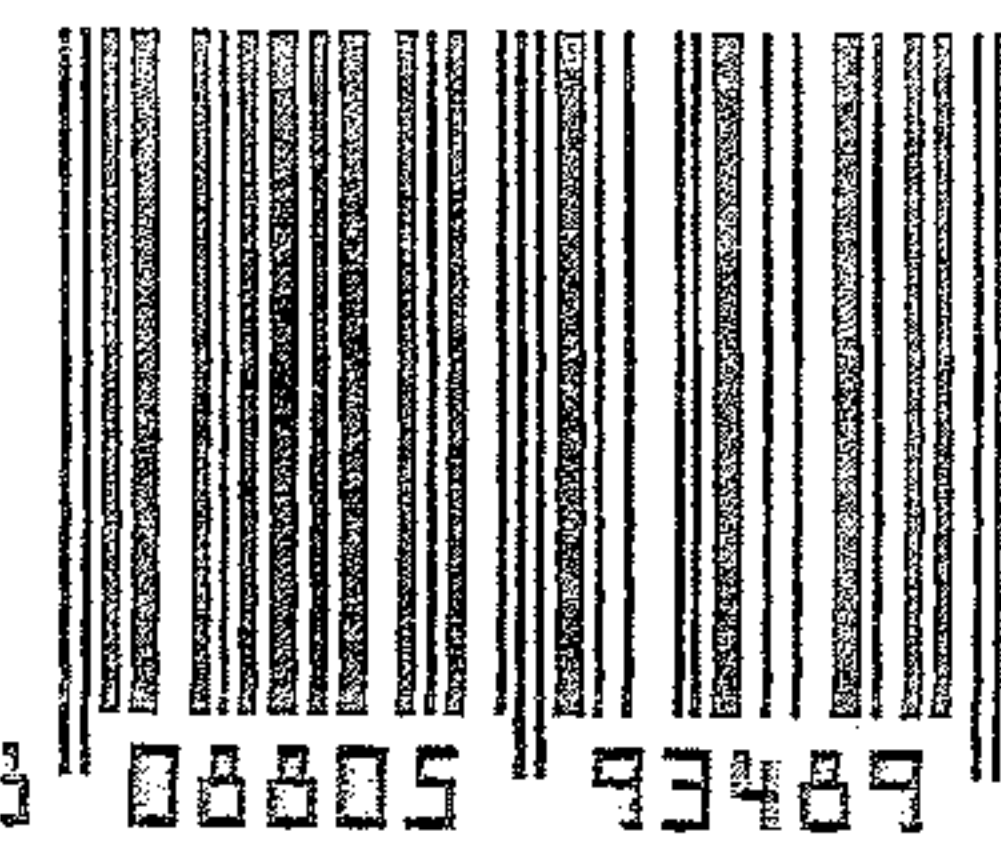
Sunday night: Clear. Low of 68F

### Horoscopes

Libra 9/23-10/22

A close member of your

(Continued on page 6)



### Busted

Laurie Fitzgerald, 33, Flora Drive Lenoir City, was charged with Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. Of Meth, and Poss. Of Drug Para. Mitchell Griggs, 46, Flora Drive Lenoir City, was charged with Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. Of Meth, and Poss. Of

Drug Para. Agent C. Fritts and Agents from the 9th DTF observed a red vehicle traveling on Hwy 70 near Eaton's Food Market. Agent DeBoer paced the vehicle traveling 55 mph in a 40 mph zone. The vehicle pulled into the Weigles on Hwy 70. Agents

made contact with the vehicle, the rear passengers were identified as Laurie Fitzgerald, and Mitchell Griggs. Upon Agent DeBoer speaking with Griggs he stated he had a wrapper that previ-

ous had Heroin inside of the vehicle. The wrapper was retrieved from the back seat behind the driver. Agent Farmer was speaking with Fitz-

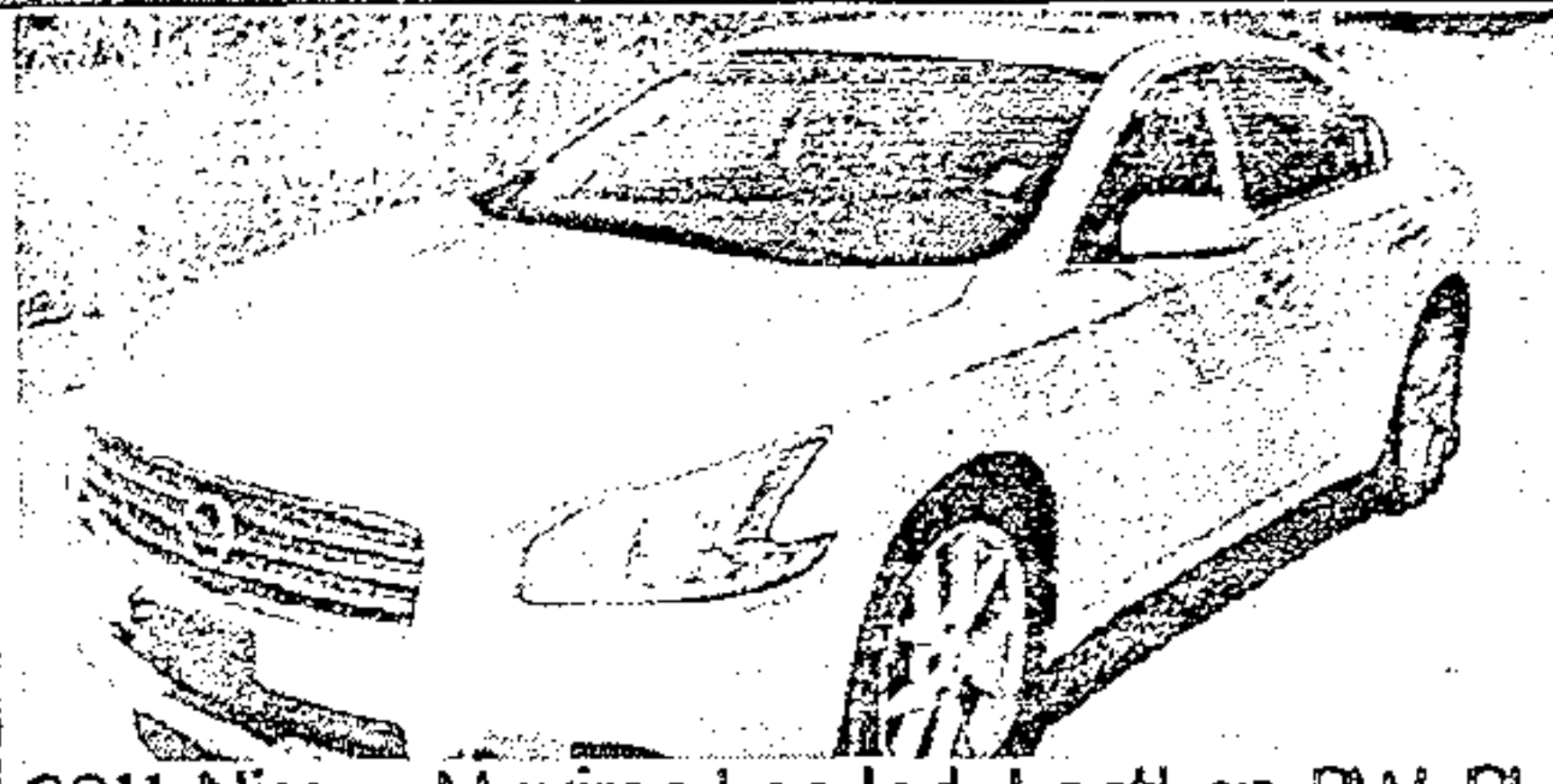
See Busted etd. P.3

## Public Notice

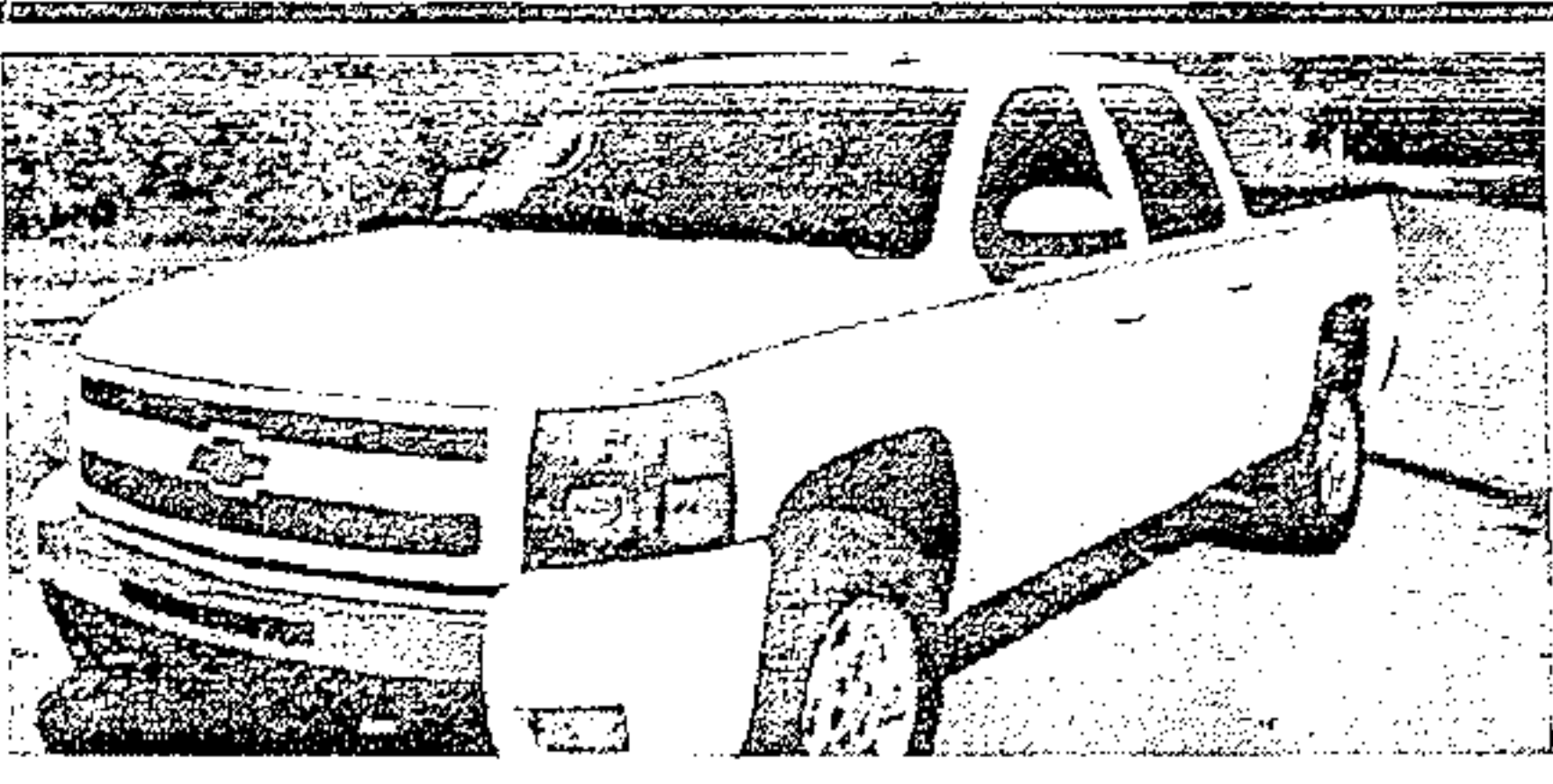
The Loudon County Commission public hearing to receive public comments regarding amending the Zoning Resolution, Article 7. Section 7.060 Procedure for Authorizing Special Exceptions scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 7, 2019 at the Loudon County Courthouse Annex has been canceled.

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




2011 Nissan Maxima Loaded, Leather, PW, PL, PS, Alloy Wheels, Low Miles, Auto, Excellent First Car



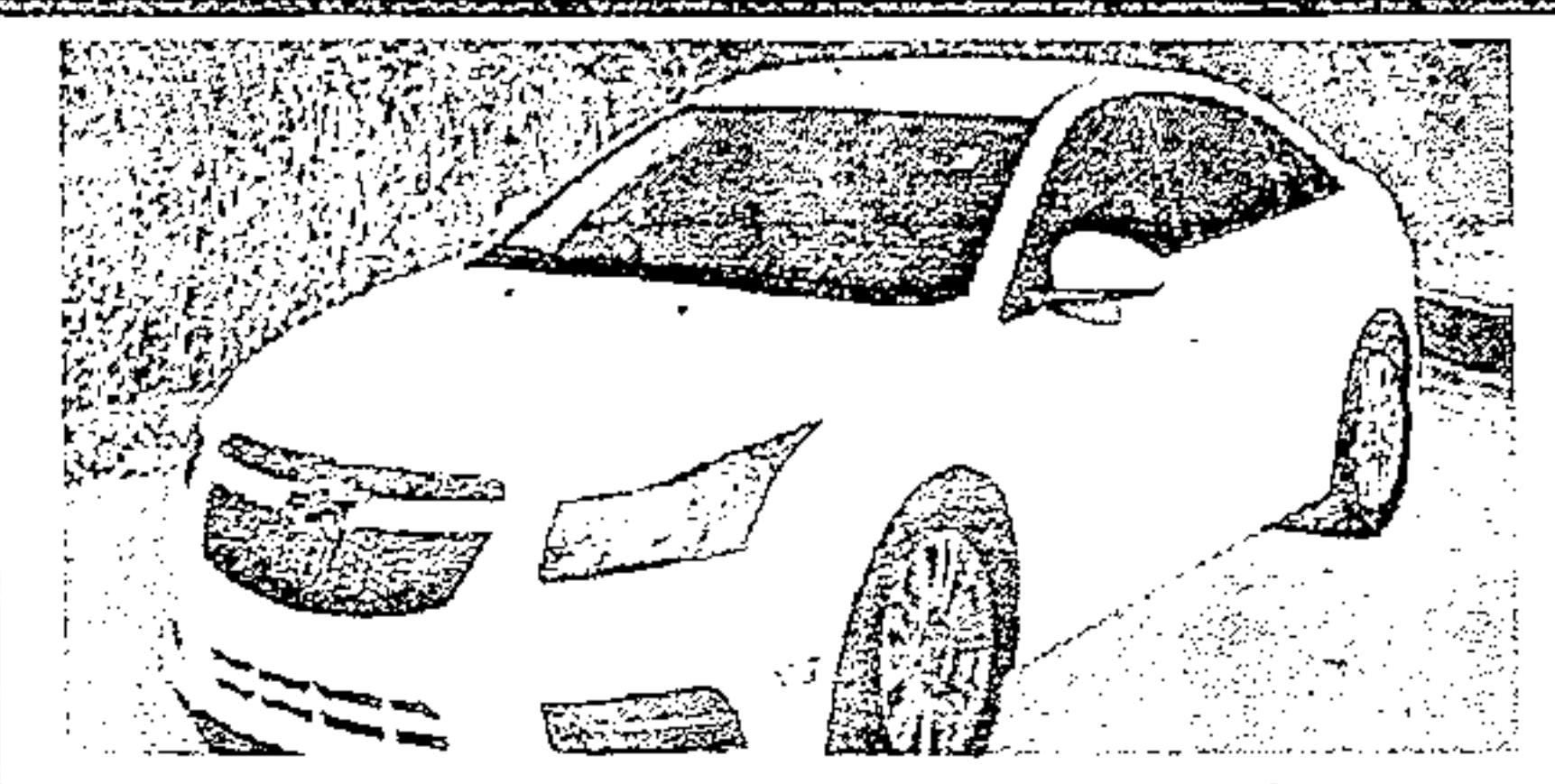
2010 Chevy Silverado Z71 4WD, Crew Cab, Beautiful Inside & Out, V8, Automatic, Z71, PW, PL, NAV



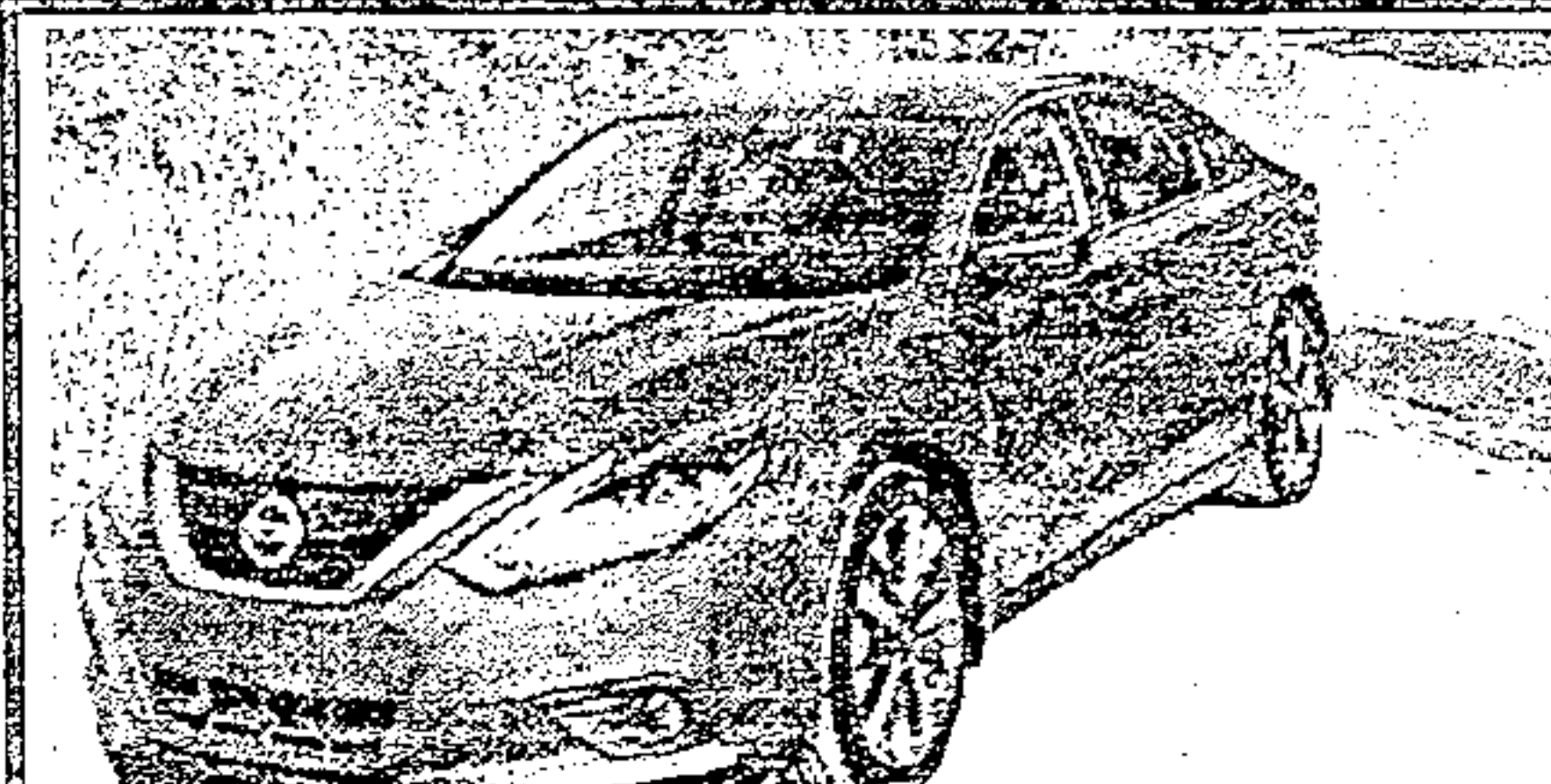
2015 Chevy Silverado Z71, Auto, Bed Liner, Tow, Chrome Pkg, PW, PL, Crew Cab, Immaculate Condition Local Truck



2014 Kia Optima Alloy Wheels, Great Shape, Tan Interior, PW, PL, Auto, Great On Gas



2014 Chevy Cruze Alloy Wheels, 42 MPG, Auto, PW, PL, Low Miles, \$150 Monthly Payments!



2017 Nissan Altima Low Miles, PS, PW, PL, Dual Climate Control, Alloy Wheels, Great Shape, Auto, SR Edition

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**Rock**

Cheri Phillips, 56, Dogwood Drive Maryville, was charged with Vandalism. Deputy W. Jenkins LCSO, was dispatch to an unwanted guest at Fairview Road. As Deputy was approaching the address a brown sedan passed him headed toward 321. Shortly after the vehicle passed Deputy dispatch advised him that, that was the unwanted guest that left the scene in a vehicle matching that description. Deputy was able to catch up to the vehicle at Hwy 321 and Meadow Road, where Deputy traffic stopped the vehicle. Cherie Phillips was the driver of the vehicle Phillips advised Deputy that she had two tall Long Island Tee at Wild Wings, and had taken a Zoloft around lunch time. Phillips stated that her and her boyfriend had got in an argument on the way back and that he had struck her in the face. Deputy saw no evidence that this had occurred. Phillips stated she

was beating on the door of his house in an attempt to gain entry to the house. Phillips was beating on the door when victim stated the police were on the way and Phillips picked up a rock and broke the glass and left the scene. Cheri Phillips was placed under arrest.

Busted ctd. from p.2

gerald and ask her if she had anything illegal on her Fitzgerald stated she had meth in her pocket. A baggie of meth 0.3 was retrieved from Fitzgerald. Griggs stated he forgot they had the meth and it belonged to both of them. A cut straw that was used for snorting heroin. Both were placed under arrest, and both are currently out on bond for drug indictments.

**DUI**

Derek Hatcher, 33, Grand Ave Knoxville, was charged with DUI. Deputy M. Rodriguez LCSO, was dispatched to Hwy 72 in regards to

a single vehicle wreck. Upon arrival Deputy came in contact with Derek Hatcher who was showing signs of impairment. Hatcher was unsteady on his feet, and had thick slurred speech. Deputy ask Hatcher to perform sobriety test, and he agreed. Hatcher did poorly on sobriety test

and was placed under arrest. Hatcher did agree to blood draw and was transported to Ft. Loudon Hospital then to the Loudon County Jail.

**Help nab a drug dealer**  
**988-DRUG**  
 All calls confidential

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR LOUDON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Regarding the Estate of:  
 JAMES ERNEST HUNT, deceased  
 DKT# 5952

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

(As required by Chapter No 171, Public Acts of Tennessee 1939 As Amended by Public Chapter 886 on 05/09/2012)

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019 Letters of Testamentary in respect of the estate of JAMES ERNEST HUNT who died on the 1ST day of DECEMBER 2017 be issued to the undersigned by the Loudon County Probate Court of Loudon County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred:

- (1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or
- (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

THIS THE 23rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019  
 Steve Harrelson, Clerk

BY: Robyn Shannon, Deputy Clerk

By Personal Representative(s)  
 JAMES EUGENE HUNT KENNETH MICHAEL HUNT

Notice to Creditors:  
 All Claims must be submitted on a claim form, notarized with invoices/statements; in triplicate, with a fee of \$11.00 to Loudon County Probate Court, 12671 Highway 11 West Ste. 3, Lenoir City, TN 37771

Run Date: 9-20-19, 9-27-19 and 10-4-19  
 (Extra day due to date of death error)

**Public Notice**

The Loudon Regional Planning Commission will hold a public workshop at 11:30 AM, on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at the Loudon City Hall, 2480 Hwy. 72 N., Loudon, TN, to review and discuss the Zoning Ordinance, Standards of signs, billboards and other advertising structures.

Foster ing a false tax return. Give Us This Day, the organization where Ayala served as president and executive director, closed in October 2015 after decades of serving the East Portland community. The organization provided care for high-risk children

who could be difficult to place in foster care settings because of their ages or histories. It was founded with the belief that children are best served within their community. Until its problem-ridden final years, the FBI agents who worked on Ayala's case said Give Us This Day was a reputable and

needed organization within the community. "The agency's mission was mostly short-term care," said Special Agent Caleb Williams, who investigated the case out of the FBI's Portland Field Office with Special Agent Matt Swansinger. "The care was provided by traditional foster parents and in group home settings."

The FBI led the investigation into Give Us This Day because it involved a misuse of the federal funds given to states to support children who need foster care services. States use those federal funds to pay licensed non-profit organizations.

According to this model, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) reimbursed Give Us This Day for the children in its care. Whenever mon-

ey ran short—and money chronically ran short—Ayala told her staff that DHS was late with payment, paid less than was billed, or had not paid the agency at all. The state agency was always to blame, according to Ayala, and employees believed her explanation of what was at the root of their constant financial issues.

Without adequate funding available, the children in Give Us This Day's care often went without enough food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. Funding for outings and activities was absent. Employees, including families that provided foster care in their homes, often didn't get paid. "These were low-paid employees who were only getting checks once a month, and even then, they would

have to stand in line at the bank on payday to make sure that their checks did not bounce," said Williams. "This included foster parents."

Sometimes even racing to the bank didn't help. Paychecks still bounced, and the agency racked up hundreds of dollars in fees for returned checks some months. The same employees who often went without pay would then dip into their own funds and food stamps to provide for the children in their care.

"When employees would complain about a lack of food in the group homes, [Ayala] would tell them to go to food banks," Swansinger said. Some staff even reported that Ayala would go through what had been gathered from the food banks and take choice items home for herself. It seemed

Foster ctd. to pg. 5

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR LOUDON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Regarding the Estate of:  
ALICE ELIZABETH CUSTEAD, deceased  
Dkt # 5953

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

(As required by Chapter No 171, Public Acts of Tennessee 1939  
As Amended by Public Chapter 886 on 05/09/2012)

Notice is hereby given that on the 17TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019 Letters of Testamentary in respect of the estate of ALICE ELIZABETH CUSTEAD who died on the 18th day of AUGUST 2019 be issued to the undersigned by the Loudon County Probate Court of Loudon County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred:

- (1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or
- (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

THIS THE 17TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019  
STEVE HARRELSON, CLERK  
BY: Robyn Shannon, Deputy Clerk

By Personal Representative(s)  
WILLIAM T. CUSTEAD

Notice to Creditors:  
All Claims must be submitted on a claim form, notarized with invoices/statements; in triplicate, with a fee of \$11.00 to Loudon County Probate Court, 12671 Highway 11 West Ste. 3, Lenoir City, TN 37771

Run on: 09-20-19 and 09-27-19



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Foster etd. from pg. 4  
 everyone at Give Us This Day was barely scraping by. The financial records, however, told a different story. When FBI forensic accountants began analyzing the organization's finances, they found that for several years, Ayala didn't even have her own bank account. She simply used the Give Us This Day account for her own benefit and its funds as her personal bankroll. "This case really came down to the money trail," said Brandon Tabbal, one of the FBI forensic accountants who worked on the case and sorted through thousands of charges they came to believe were personal expenses. Tabbal said some violations were obvious, like payments to luxury retailers, spas, and Ayala's own mortgage. Other items, like cash withdrawals, were harder to prove as misuse of funds but the overall picture was clear. "You could see that the money would come in from the state, and then she would immediately divert the funds and spend it on her vacations or home remodel," said Tabbal. "She spent about \$175,000 on renovations, put \$126,000 toward her mortgage, spent \$133,000 in travel," said Swansinger. "And here we had kids not

getting basic necessities and employees not getting paid on time." No one at the organization looked over Ayala's shoulder. Her employees trusted her, and the board of directors—whose members all lived out of state—was not involved in the agency's day-to-day operations.

At trial, the assistant U.S. attorney showed a handful of the charts assembled by the FBI's forensic accountants to illustrate Ayala's crimes and undo the defense's attempts to justify how she used the organization's funds. "With charts up that documented and traced and tracked

all the money, it really brought it home for the jury how egregious it all was," said Williams. He and Swansinger both described the verdict against Ayala as righteous but also tragic. "It was one of the more emotional cases I've worked," reflected Swansinger. "It left behind a scathing hole in the

community and a lot of distrust." Tabbal stressed that no organization should operate without accountability and oversight, as Give Us This Day did, and that employees should always speak up if they observe irregularities. "Trust," he said, "is not an adequate internal control."

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

(As required by Chapter No 175, Public Acts of Tennessee 1939  
 As Amended by Public Chapter 862 on 05/09/2012)

IN REGARDS TO THE ESTATE OF:  
 DOCKET NO: 5951

JAMES EVERETT BROWN, deceased, a resident of Loudon County, TN

Notice is hereby given that on the 18TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019 Letters of Administration in respect of the Estate of JAMES EVERETT BROWN, who died on the 10th DAY OF JUNE 2019, were issued to the undersigned by the Loudon County Probate Court of Loudon County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred:

- (1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or
- (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

This the 18TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019  
 STEVE HARRELSON, CLERK  
 BY: Robyn Shannon, Deputy Clerk

By Personal Representative(s)  
 William Russell "Will" Brown

Notice to Creditors:  
 All Claims must be submitted on a claim form, notarized with invoices/statements; in triplicate, with a fee of \$11.00 to Loudon County Probate Court, 12680 Highway 11 West Ste. 3, Lenoir City, TN 37771

Run on: 09-20-19 and 09-27-19

**IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR LOUDON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Regarding the Estate of:  
 EFFIE LAVENIA COOK, deceased  
 DKT# 5958

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

(As required by Chapter No 171, Public Acts of Tennessee 1939  
 As Amended by Public Chapter 886 on 05/09/2012)

Notice is hereby given that on the 25TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019 Letters of Testamentary in respect of the estate of EFFIE LAVENIA COOK who died on the 12TH day of MARCH 2019 be issued to the undersigned by the Loudon County Probate Court of Loudon County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred:

- (1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or
- (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

THIS THE 25TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019  
 Steve Harrelson, Clerk  
 BY: Robyn Shannon, Deputy Clerk

By Personal Representative(s)  
 JANET GAIL BROCK

Notice to Creditors:  
 All Claims must be submitted on a claim form, notarized with invoices/statements; in triplicate, with a fee of \$11.00 to Loudon County Probate Court, 12671 Highway 11 West Ste. 3, Lenoir City, TN 37771

Run on 9-27-19 and 10-4-19