

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, January 06, 2020

Simple Possession leads to 3 warrants for Sweetwater man

Meth and guns and no license



Dustin Webster

see Resisting pg. 2



Freddie Mejia



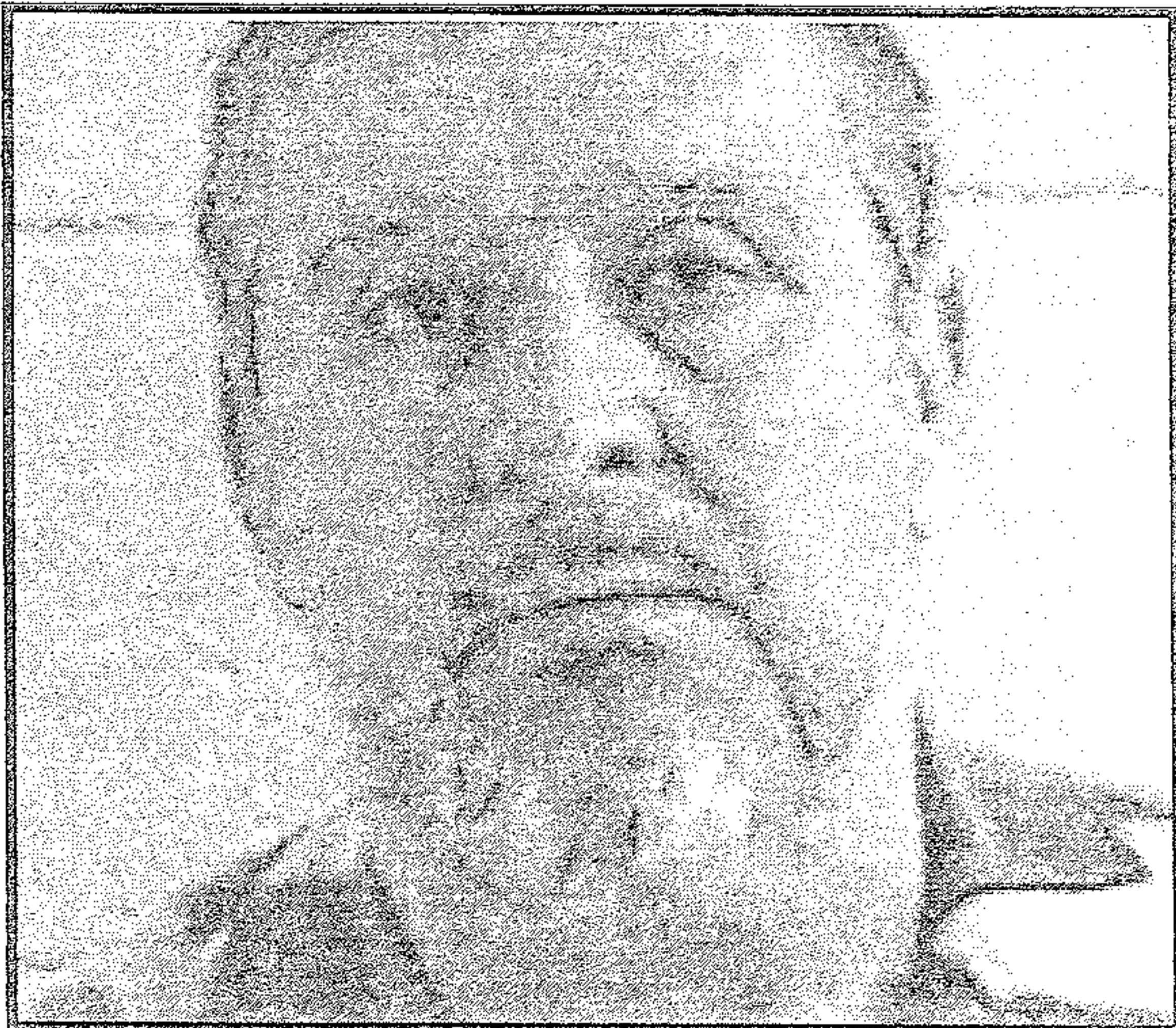
Marco Munoz-Espinoza

see Dollar Bill pg. 3

Passed out at a four way intersection in Sweetwater

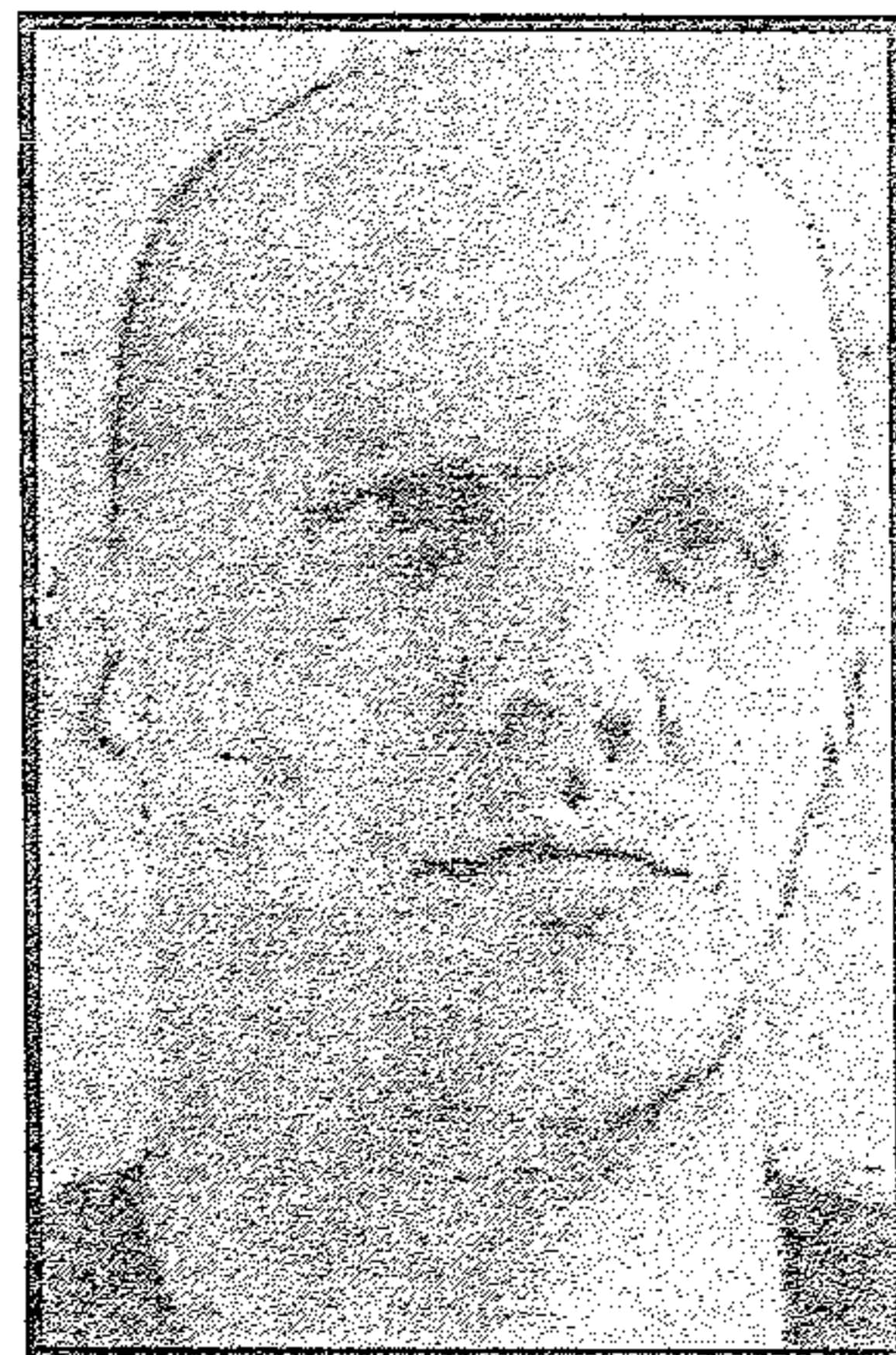
21 MPH over the limit and open container

Former Greeneville man pleads guilty to embezzlement scheme



Manuel Gonzalez

see Sleep pg. 3



Dustin Reed

See Speed P.2

Shain A. Chappell, 48, currently of Helena, Montana, entered a guilty plea to one count of wire fraud and one count of filing a false tax return in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee at

Greeneville. Sentencing has been set for May 1, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in United States District Court in Greeneville. Chappell faces a term of up to 23 years in Federal prison, \$500,000

See Scheme P.4



Verse of the Day

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of

the Majesty in heaven.

—Hebrews 1:3

Wazzup

Happy Birthday Charles Hatcher!!! Thanks for all you do!!

Weather

Today: Sunny. High of 52F.

Tonight: Clear. Low of 38F

Tuesday: Showers. High of 50F.

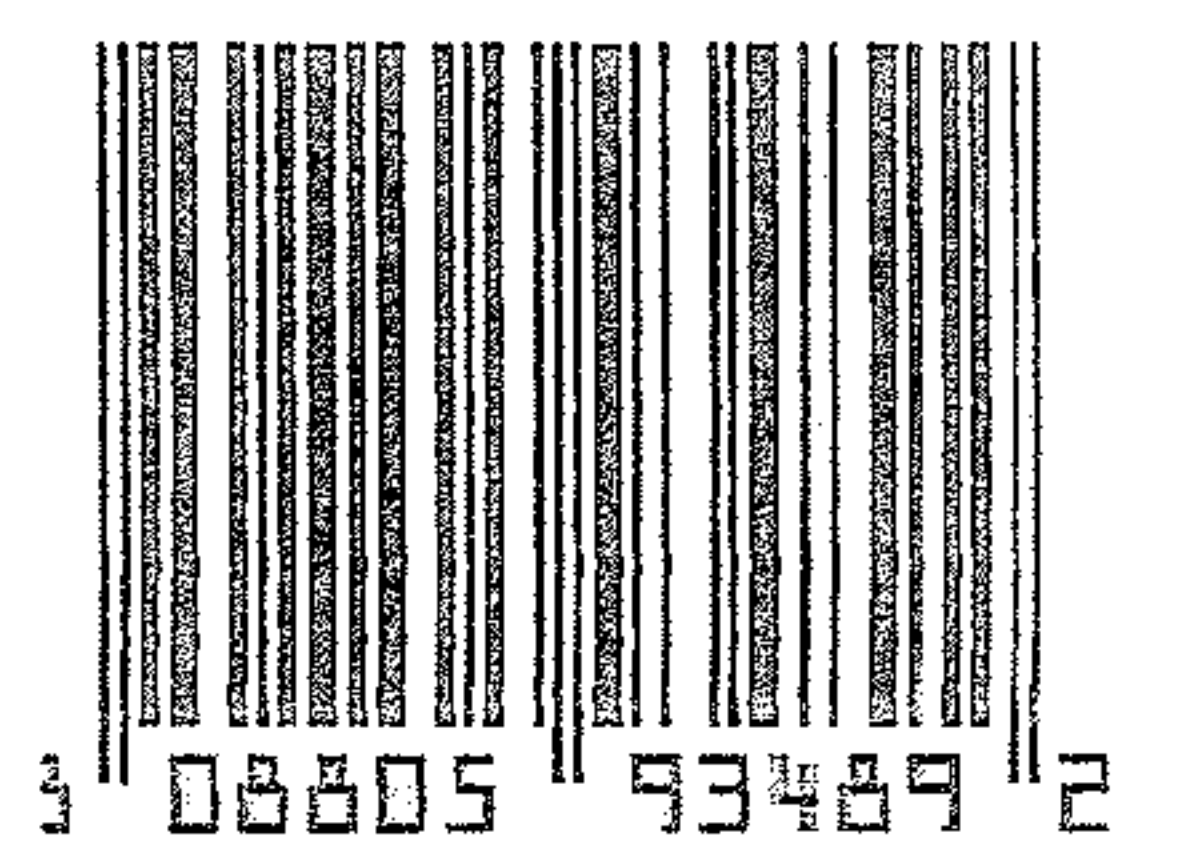
Tuesday night: Clearing. Low of 30F

Horoscopes

Capricorn 12/22-01/19
There are blessings wait-

ing to be discovered today. Cutting your losses and starting over is always a challenging endeavor. Before you complain to your crew or sink low with self-pity, realize that not everyone

(Continued on page 6)



Resisting

Dustin Webster, 34, Old Hwy 68 Sweetwater, was charged with Resisting Arrest, Simple Possession, Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, Evading Arrest, and Assisting other Agency. Deputy Clay Jenkins LCSO, responded to Fork Creek Road in reference to a suspicious vehicle. Upon arrival Deputy observed a black vehicle about to leave a driveway. Upon Deputy pulling into the driveway Deputy

observed the vehicle to back up and come to a stop. Deputy then observed a male driver Dustin Webster step out of the vehicle and start running towards the woods. Deputy then announced himself as law enforcement with the Sheriff Office and command Webster to stop. Webster continued to flee on foot through the woods and behind a residence on Fork Creek Road. Deputy then observed Webster reach into his waistband for something

and Deputy commanded waistband. Upon further investigation Webster was found to have 3 active warrants out of Monroe County, and had revoked license. Dustin Webster was transported to the Loudon County Jail.

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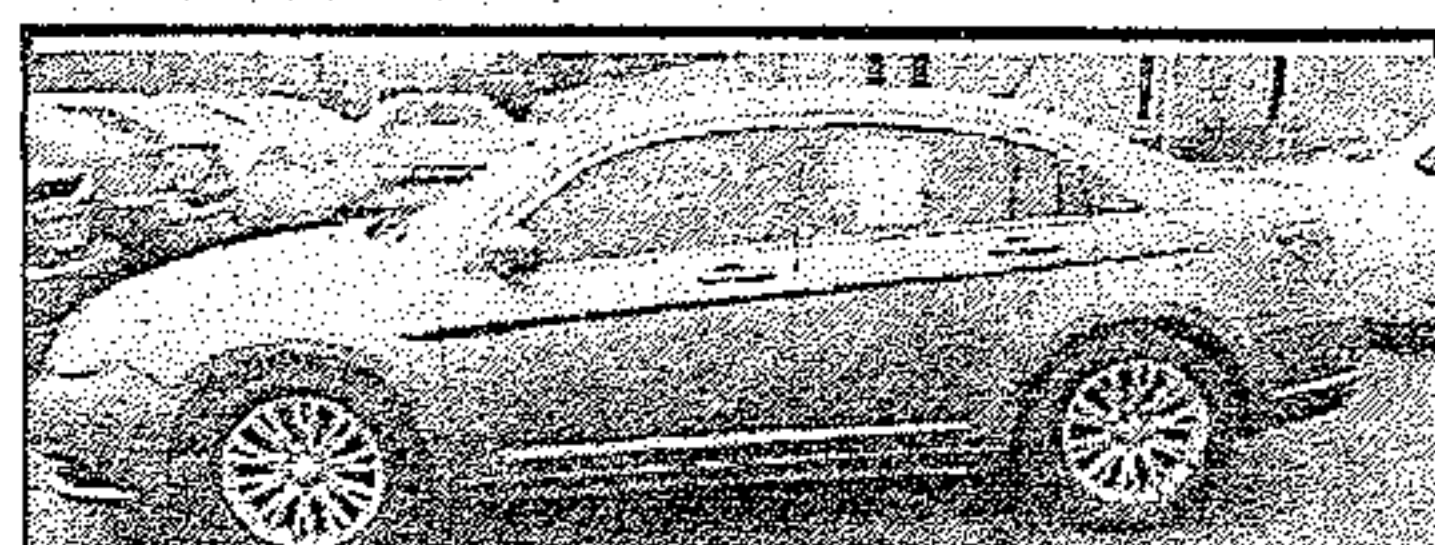
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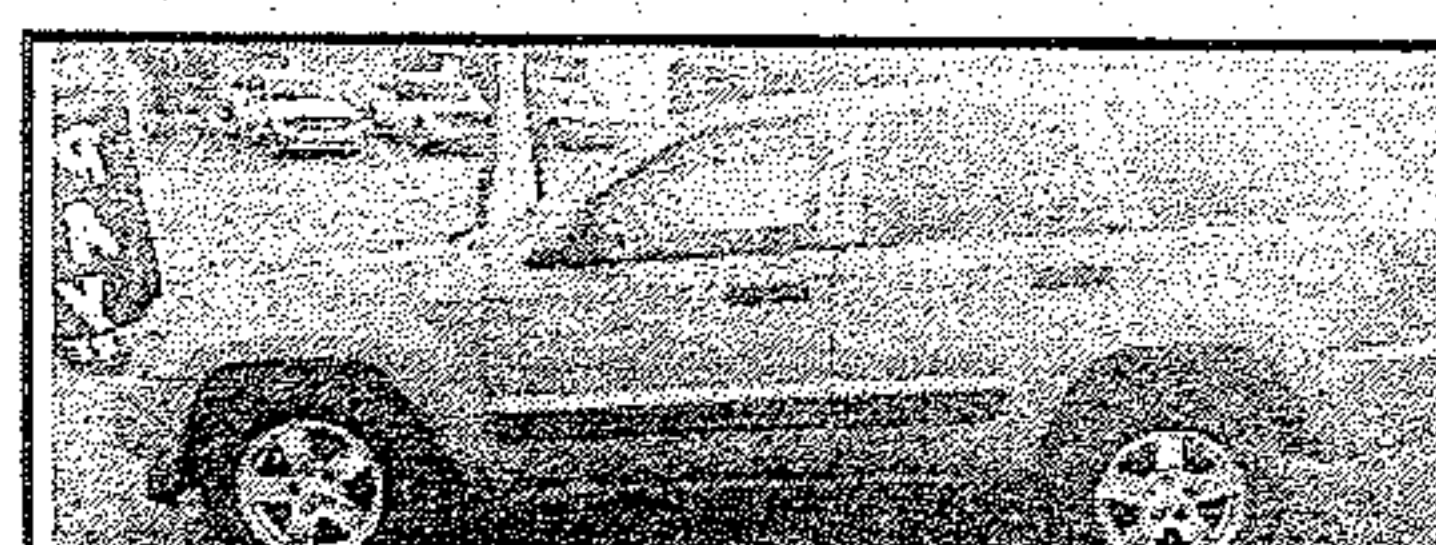
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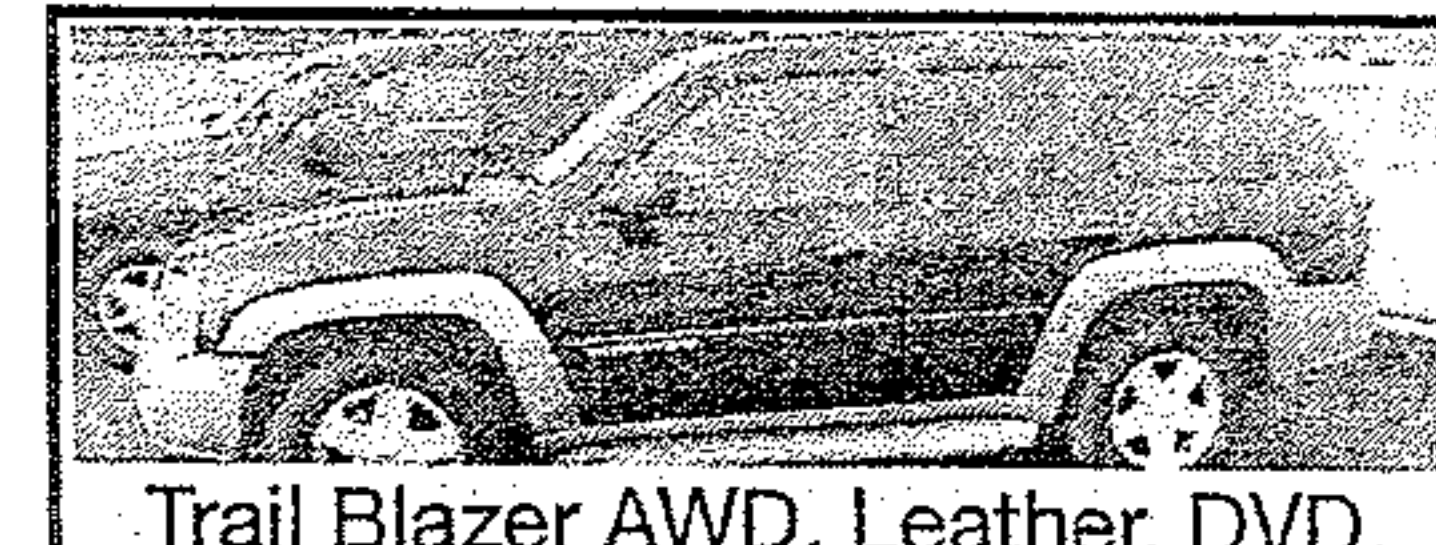
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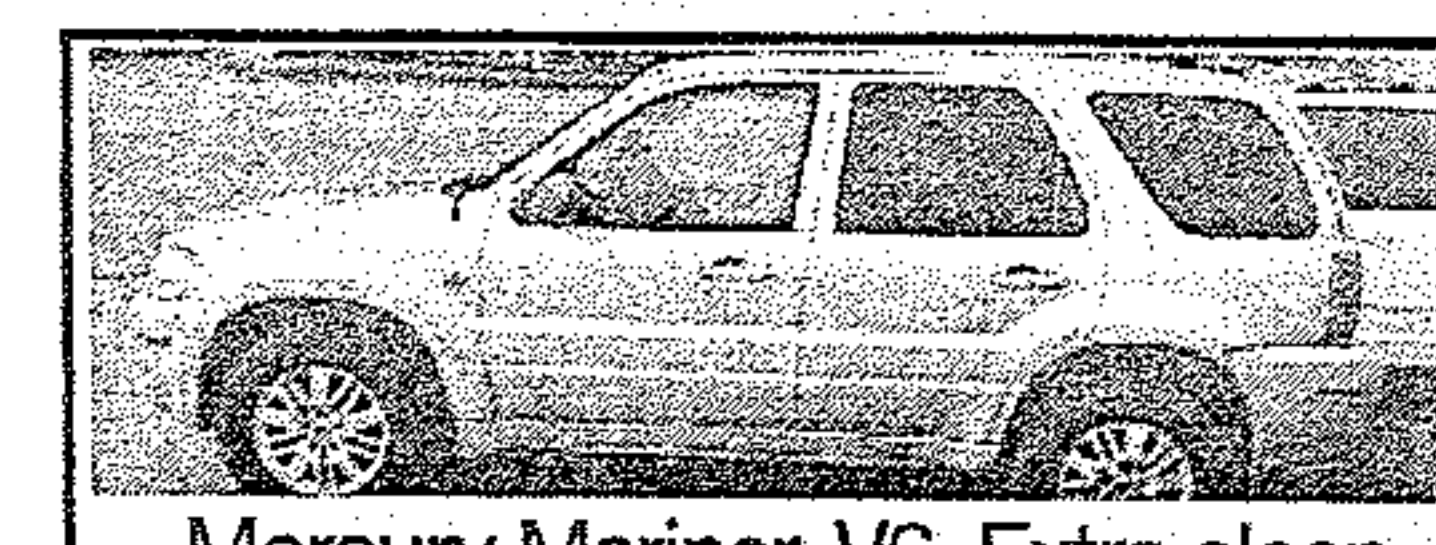
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Dollar Bill

Freddie Mejia, 19, Highland Ave Loudon, was charged with Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch. II, and Unlawful Carrying or Possession of a Weapon. Marco Munzo-Espinoza, 25, Church Street Loudon, was charged with Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch. II, Open Container, and Unlawful Carrying or Possession of a Weapon. Officer C. Law LPD, observed Marco Munoz-Espinoza walk from O'Reillys Auto Parts Store and get into a red vehicle that was in the parking lot. Officer was familiar with Marco and was aware he has suspended license. After conducting a traffic stop Officer placed Marco under arrest for driving on suspended license. The passenger in the vehicle identified as Freddie Mejia. While inventorying the vehicle for towing purposes, Officer located a dollar bill in the air vent

with approx.. 1.2 grams of an unknown crystal substance believed to be meth. Also in the vehicle was a brown 22 rifle. Both were placed under arrest and transported to the Loudon County Jail.

Sleep

Manuel Gonzalez, 62, Ferry Street Loudon, was charged with DUI. Officer T. Harris LPD, was dispatched to Sweetwater Creek Blvd., and Kline Drive on a welfare check of a Hispanic male passed out at a 4 way intersection. After awaking the subject identified as Manuel Gonzalez, Officer located an open pint bottle of whiskey, that was almost empty in the console with a cup and a bottle of coke that was mixed in it. The keys were in the ignition and running. Officer had Gonzalez step out of the vehicle. Gonzalez was very unsteady on his feet, had

bloodshot eyes, and Officer could smell the odor of alcohol on his person. Gonzalez did poorly on sobriety test and was placed under arrest.

Speed

Dustin Reed, 35, Paoli Trace Lenoir City, was charged with DUI, and Open Container, Speeding 21 mph over Limit, and Violation of Implied Consent. Deputy C. Rogers LCSO, observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed while traveling on Hwy 11. Deputy paced the vehicle at 60 mph in a 45 mph zone. Deputy initiated a traffic stop in the area of Leeper Parkway. The vehicle continued to the intersection of Hwy 321 where it showed no signs of pulling over. Deputy the activated his emergency siren and placed his spot light on the driver side mirror at that time Deputy noticed

the driver to look surprised. Upon contact with the driver identified as Dustin Reed, who had blood shot eyes, and had a very strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his person. Reed agreed to sobriety test however before he attempted the one leg stand he stated he did not want to continue the test, because he knew he was going to jail for having to much to drink. Reed was placed under arrest and ask to empty his pockets , a marijuana roach was in his pocket. After inventory of the vehicle there was an open beer in the driver floorboard and a small bag of marijuana. Dustin Redd was transported to the Loudon County Jail.

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Scheme

in fines, and supervised release of three years.

As part of the written plea agreement, Chappell waived an indictment by a Federal Grand Jury and agreed to plead guilty to the aforementioned charges. Chappell admitted to using his position as controller to embezzle over \$1 million from his former employer, Greentech Environmental, LLC, in Johnson City. Chappell began employment as controller in October 2015, and by July 2017, had devised a scheme where Greentech would falsely pay for his personal credit card purchases by showing the payments as purchases of inventory in Greentech's books and records.

During the two year period, Chappell embezzled money by causing Greentech to pay for lavish lifestyle expenditures. Chappell's luxury purchases included clothing, shoes, jewelry, meals, vacations, sports memorabilia, athletic and

concert tickets, firearms, a Harley Davidson motorcycle, a hot tub, and significant charitable contributions. In addition to stealing from Greentech, Chappell filed false tax returns for calendar years 2017 and 2018 that failed to include income from the money stolen from his employer, resulting in additional income tax owed of over \$350,000.

"The federal law enforcement agencies are to be congratulated for their detection, investigation and successful prosecution of this individual. The devastation caused by economic white collar crimes from embezzlement negatively impacts many people. Our office will continue in our efforts to uncover these crimes and prosecute the individuals responsible" said United States Attorney J. Douglas Overbey. "The FBI is committed to investigate and pursue those who commit fraud for personal gain and we take that responsibility very seriously. We

along with our law enforcement partners will continue to seek justice and hold accountable those who use illegal means and criminal behavior to take advantage of others" said Special Agent in Charge Joseph E. Carrico.

"IRS Criminal Investigation agents play an important role in fraud and embezzlement investigations due to complex financial transactions that can take time to unravel," said Matthew D. Line, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Charlotte Field Office. "Mr. Chappell abused his position as controller and stole from his employer by embezzling company funds for personal gain. In addition to cheating his employer, Mr. Chappell hid these gains from the IRS and cheated taxpayers by failing to pay taxes on this ill-gotten income." The criminal information and plea agreement are the result of an ongoing investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations.

Fayette Co. Woman Charged with TennCare Fraud

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), working with the Madison County Sheriff's Office today announced the arrest of Britney Tatum, 29, who is charged with two counts of TennCare fraud, a class D felony. Authorities accuse Tatum of knowingly using the iden-

tity of a TennCare recipient in order to receive health care benefits on a dozen separate occasions, totaling expenditures by TennCare of approximately \$7,500. "The TennCare program is designed to provide benefits for individuals that need the services and rightfully qualify," Inspector General Kim Harmon said.

TN Care ctd. to p. 5

Press Release From Lenoir City Mayor Tony R. Aikens

The city of Lenoir city recently underwent a bond rating review with S & P global ratings. This was a periodic process in which all municipalities and county governments participate.

The city is pleased to report that a rating of "AA/Stable" was determined from the review. Experts continue to say, "that's an extremely good rating for a city the size of Lenoir city." Having a strong bond rating is a positive indicator of the financial and economic stability of a community.

This is the result of myself and City Council's philosophy to conserve fiscal management responsibility, while keeping the tax rate at \$.99 per \$100.00 value of assessed property. The city leaders always place the needs of residence as the priority and guiding focus in all financial decisions.

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Reward Offered for Arrest in Shooting of Bald Eagle in West Tennessee

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are investigating a shooting of a bald eagle in West Tennessee. The injured eagle was reported on Dec. 30 around 3 p.m. in Decatur County. A \$2,500 reward is being offered for an arrest.

The eagle was found off Martins Landing Road in Bath Springs. TWRA wildlife officer Brant Luker responded to the call and the bald eagle was transported alive, but injured to the North Madison Animal Hospital on Dec. 31. After examination, it was determined the eagle had been shot. Injuries sustained were incurable and the animal was euthanized. Bald eagles historically ranged throughout most of North America. However, for envi-

ronmental reasons and a lack of regulations, their numbers dwindled in the 1900s. Bald eagles were placed on the endangered species list in 1978. Eagle populations recovered after changes in environmental practices and protection and the endangered status was removed in 2007. However, bald eagles are still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Violations of these statutes carry a maximum criminal penalty of up to \$100,000.00 and/or one year in federal prison. State charges will also apply.

Bald eagles are biparental, meaning it takes both parent birds to raise young. Losing one eagle likely means failure of a nest.

Anyone with knowledge in regard to this incident should call the TWRA Region I office (731) 423-5725 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (615) 736-5532.

TN Care ctd. from P.5

"The OIG will continue to pursue individuals that take advantage of the system and use services they are not entitled to."

If convicted, Tatum could face penalties of up to a maximum of 24 years in prison for the two counts of TennCare fraud. The case is being prosecuted by District Attorney Jody Pickens of Madison County.

The OIG, which is separate from TennCare, began full operation in February 2005 and has investigated cases leading to more than \$3 million being repaid to TennCare, with a total es-

timated cost avoidance of more than \$163.6 million for TennCare, according to latest figures. To date, 3,135 people have been charged with TennCare fraud.

Through the OIG Cash for Tips Program established by the Legislature, Tennesseans can get cash rewards for TennCare fraud tips that lead to convictions. Anyone can report suspected TennCare fraud by calling 1-800-433-3982, toll-free or by logging on to www.tn.gov/oig/ and following the prompts that read "Report TennCare Fraud."

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Public Notice

There will be a Loudon County Public Records Commission Meeting

5:00 p.m.,

Tuesday, January 14, 2020
Loudon County Office Building