

# Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Thursday, May 2, 2013

## Woman gets 2nd DUI and pill charge

Deputy Chris Hutchens, LCSO observed a vehicle sitting at the intersection of Morganton Road and East Coast Tellico Parkway. The deputy observed the driver did not have her seatbelt on and stopped her. The driver was identified as Jennifer Elrod. Ms. Elrod stated she and her passenger Timothy Spires were on their way to meet with their probation officer in Loudon. Ms. Elrod had blood shot eyes, slurred speech and seemed lethargic. The deputy received consent to search and discovered a black bag which

(see 2nd DUI pg. 5)

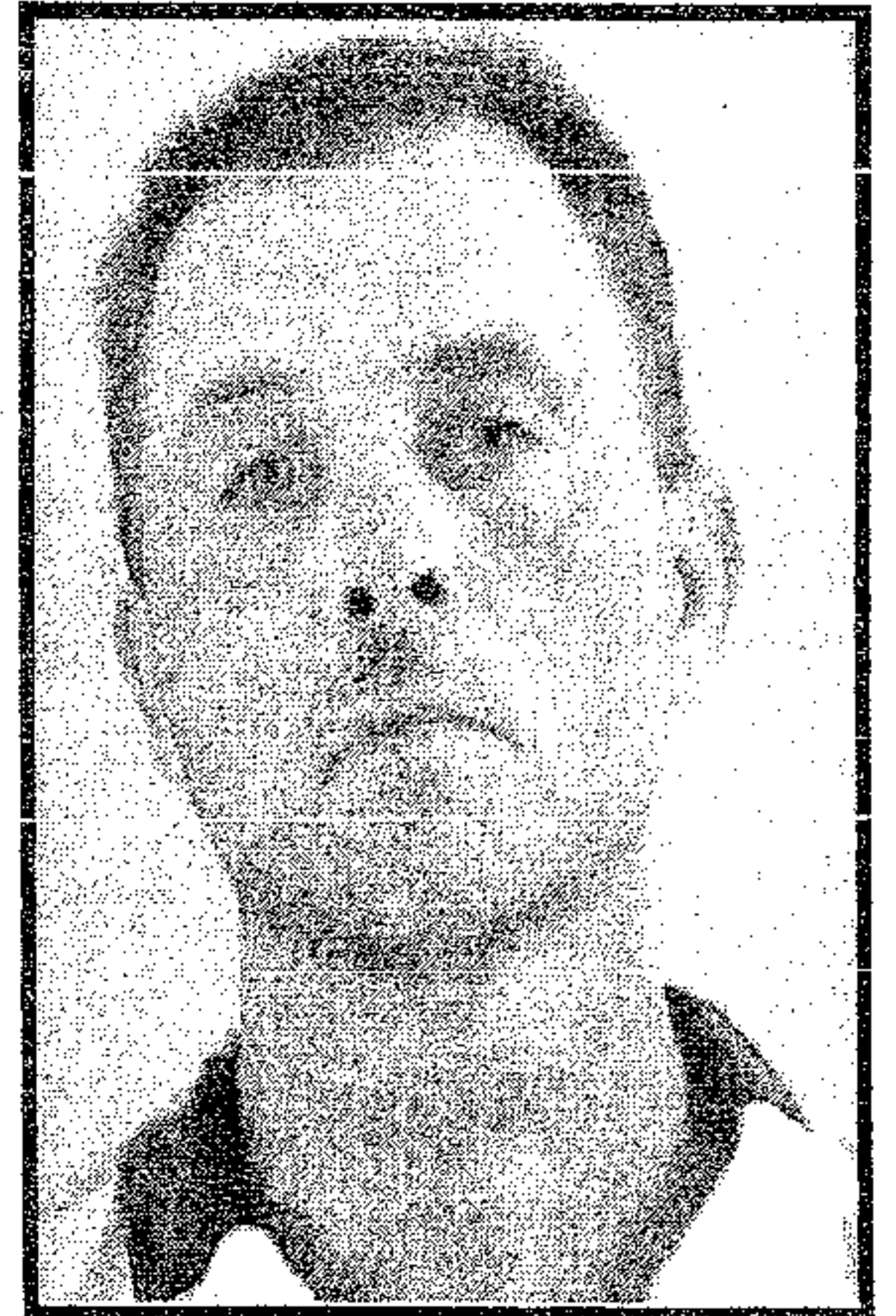


Elrod

## Repo man scraps car; charged with theft

According to the warrant, filed by Lt. Patrick Upton, LCSO CID; on or about December 6, 2011 Mr. Phillip Ploufee repossessed a 1995 Lincoln Town Car for Service Loan and Tax on Hwy 321, Lenoir City. Upon getting the vehicle Mr. Ploufee advised the Manager of Service Loan and Tax he would

(see Repo Man pg. 2)



Ploufee

## Letter to the Editor Home Rule?

by Wayne Schnell  
A Loudon County "Home Rule" Charter Petition has been getting lots of local buzz lately. Those who don't already know what home rule is can consider it a Loudon County Taxpayer's/Citizen's Bill of Rights. The Charter would serve local citizens in a similar manner to how the Constitution serves we

the people. The charter will be used to help many of our senior citizens on fixed incomes and others that are struggling to stay out of debt and keep their houses. It would create an environment for the county government to operate more efficiently with the resources available. The current system

(see Letter pg. 3)

## Woman wanted for bad checks x5

Officer T. Craig, LCPD stopped a vehicle for a light violation. A check with dispatch revealed that Ms. Brashears had 5 warrants out of Loudon County for bad checks. She was taken into custody and charged. According to the warrants, filed by the victim, Food City, on May 5, 2012, Abigail Brashears wrote checks for \$53.42 that

(see Bad Checks pg. 7)



Brashears

### Verse of the Day

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and*

respect... — 1 Peter 3:15

### Obituaries

Thearp, Lavada Johnson  
Sartin, Jonathan  
Hair, Wanda Williamson  
Cox, Jim

### Wazzup

A big shout out of the crew at EZ Stop on

Broadway. Sure do appreciate y'all.

The group sure does look sharp Sheriff Guider.

### Weather

Today: Partly cloudy with rain showers. High of 77F.  
Tonight Partly cloudy with

rain showers. Low of 54F.  
Friday Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain in the afternoon. High of 75F.  
Friday Night Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain. Low of 52F.  
Saturday Overcast with a chance of rain in the afternoon. High of 70F.  
Sunday Overcast with a

chance of rain. High of 63F.

### Horoscopes

Taurus 4/20-5/20

Your energy is terrific for moving out from your home base. This is likelier to involve travel than anything

(Continued on page 6)

**Repo Man**

store the car and possibly purchase it.

The vehicle was taken to Wilson Road in Loudon. Upon several attempts to get the vehicle by Service Loan or to get money for the vehicle. Mr. Ploufee then later admitted he

did take the vehicle to a salvage yard in Sweetwater and then sold the vehicle without the permission of the victim.

Phillip Jason Ploufee, 38, of Creek Road, Sweetwater, was charged with theft over \$500. Corporal Wilson, LCSO made the arrest.

**Police beat**

John Allen Bivens, 28, of County Road 350, Sweetwater, was charged with violation of probation and failure to appear. Deputy Kenny Palmer, LCSO made the arrest.

Ramon Constantino, 19, of Finley Drive,

Lenoir City, was charged with failure to appear. Officer T. Buckner, LCPD made the arrest.

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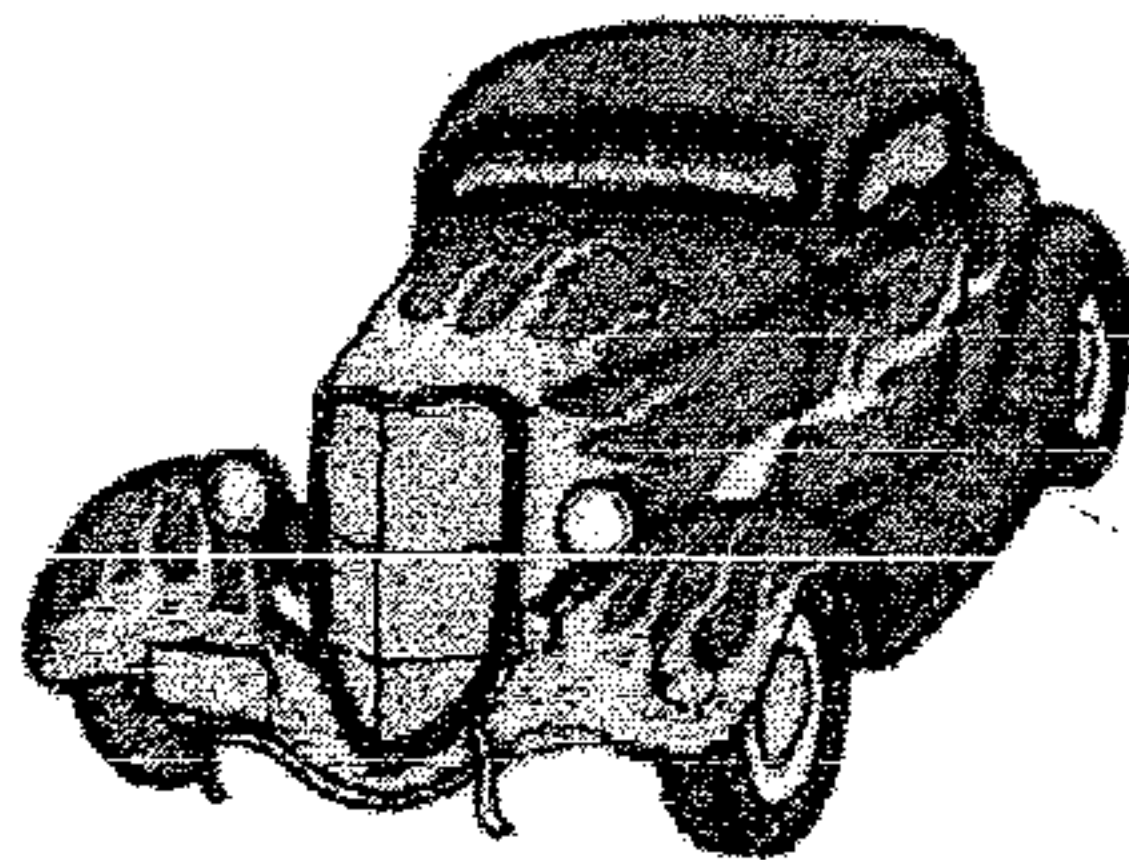
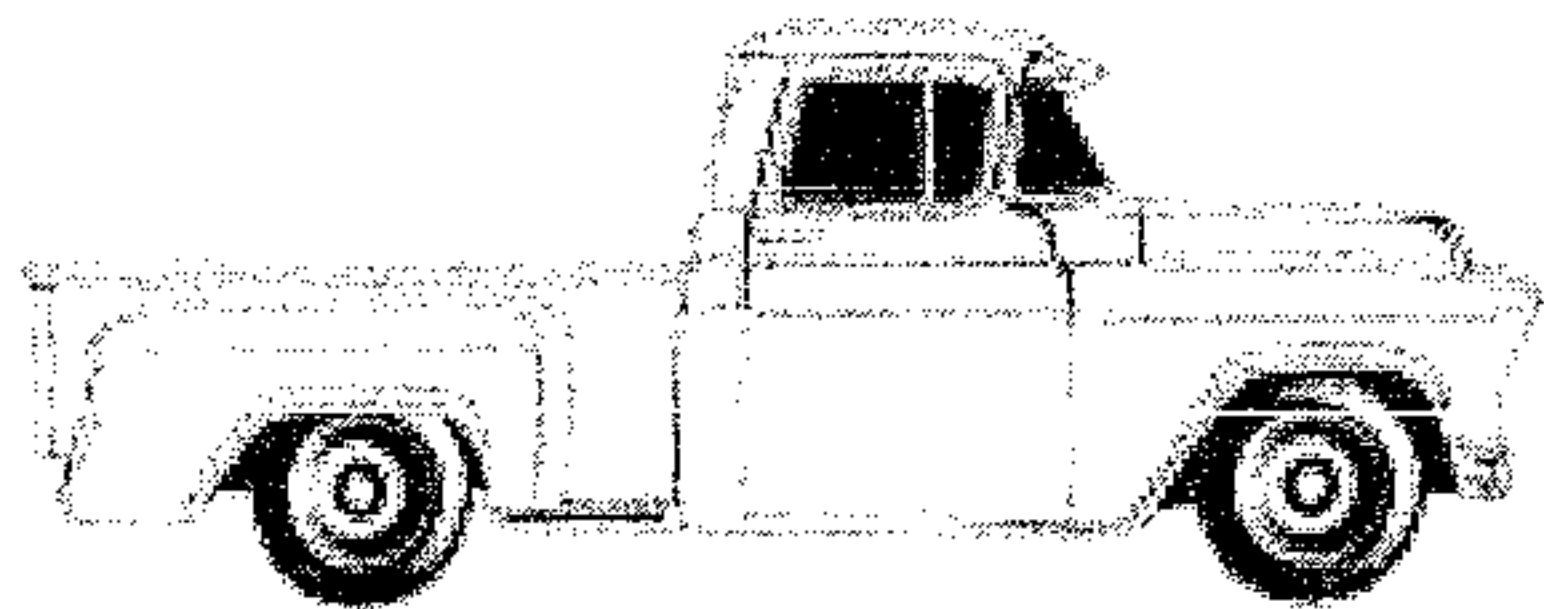
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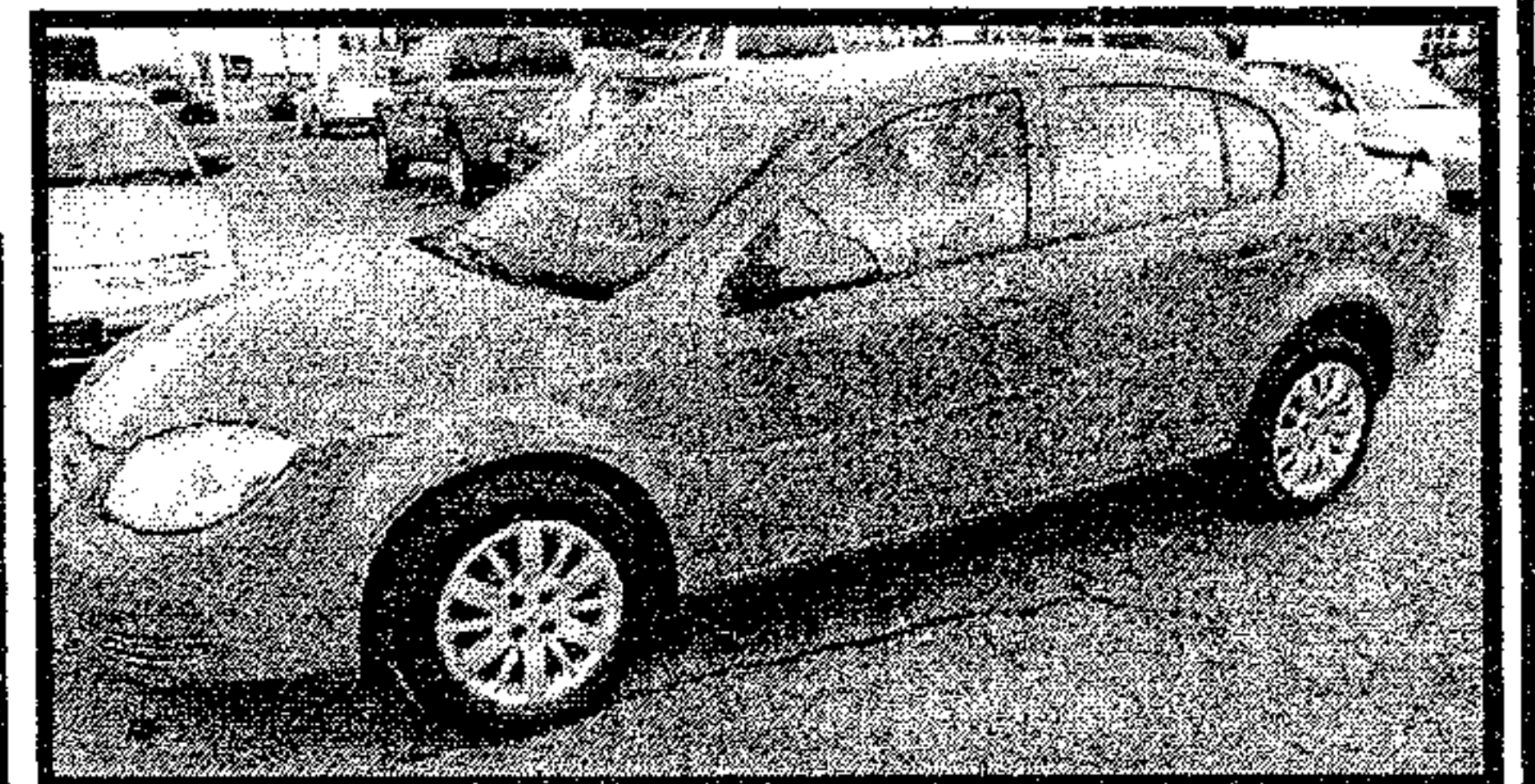


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**Letter**

lends itself to an ever expanding government controlled by closed door, special interest politics not the tax payers.

Home rule is not a new concept in Tennessee. Three of the state's largest four cities, Memphis, Chattanooga & Knoxville, operate under home rule charters. Knox County is a home rule charter county. Unlike what is happening now where local government has the power over the people, changing Loudon County to a home rule charter helps put some of the power back in

the hands of the people.

The Charter, after passage by the voters, will include rules to make local government: more transparent, provide information to citizens before meetings, allow the public to speak on any issue during meetings, ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to compete for all county jobs and that the most qualified people are hired... just to list a few items. It can be written to affect the way our Loudon Commission addresses tax increases such as wheel, sales and other taxes. It can also require that any general

obligation bonds be placed on the ballot for voter approval.

Much like putting other referendum on the ballot for approval, after a minimum 1,600 + verified Loudon County registered voters have signed the petition, a Charter Commission will be formed via the election of 21 people, three from each district. Once seated, after being elected, the Charter Commissioners will have nine months to complete their charter. These individuals will not be paid for their service. The Charter Commission will have up to \$50,000 for expenses, including legal fees, and other administrative costs. The Charter expenses would be recouped once a more efficient government is in place and the County Commission salaries are reduced to the level of comparably sized counties. They will not have to build a charter from scratch. There are many charters that have been written and in use that can be used as guides. The Charter Commission will have the authority to decide what goes into the Loudon County Charter or what does not. That is why it will be very important to select the right people to run and be elected to write the charter.

What could be changed for the better? Provided these ideas get included into the final charter, some citizen favorites are:

Term limits for elected officials (boards & commissions) & a recall process.

Prohibition of any elected officials and committee members from voting on items where they have a conflict of interest (perceived or actual).

Requiring the County check register to be "online" so the public can see where their tax money is being spent.

Agenda items and all documents associated with those agenda items that are given to Commissioners must be made available for citizens to view online at least five business days prior to any meeting.

The Charter Commission will decide how often they should meet to ensure the Charter is completed in the nine months allotted to do the job. I would expect them to break up into small groups that meet at least once a week; and, then have a full Charter Commission meeting once a

month to vote on what gets included in the Charter. Once the final Charter is complete they will submit it to all voters in a referendum for approval. If approved, it becomes law. If it is not approved, it dies and can only be resurrected by going through the entire process again. Again, the Loudon County Charter will be created by 21 elected Home Rule Charter Commissioners. These 21 citizens will have a unique opportunity to help make county government a better servant of its citizens in many regards. Who doesn't want a more open and efficient local government that hires the most qualified candidates? What suggestions do you have for the future Charter Commissioners? Please leave your ideas at the Loudonhomerule.org website.

Editors Note: Let us know what you think, are some of these items already part of the charter? Aren't some of the items already in place? Tell us what you think.

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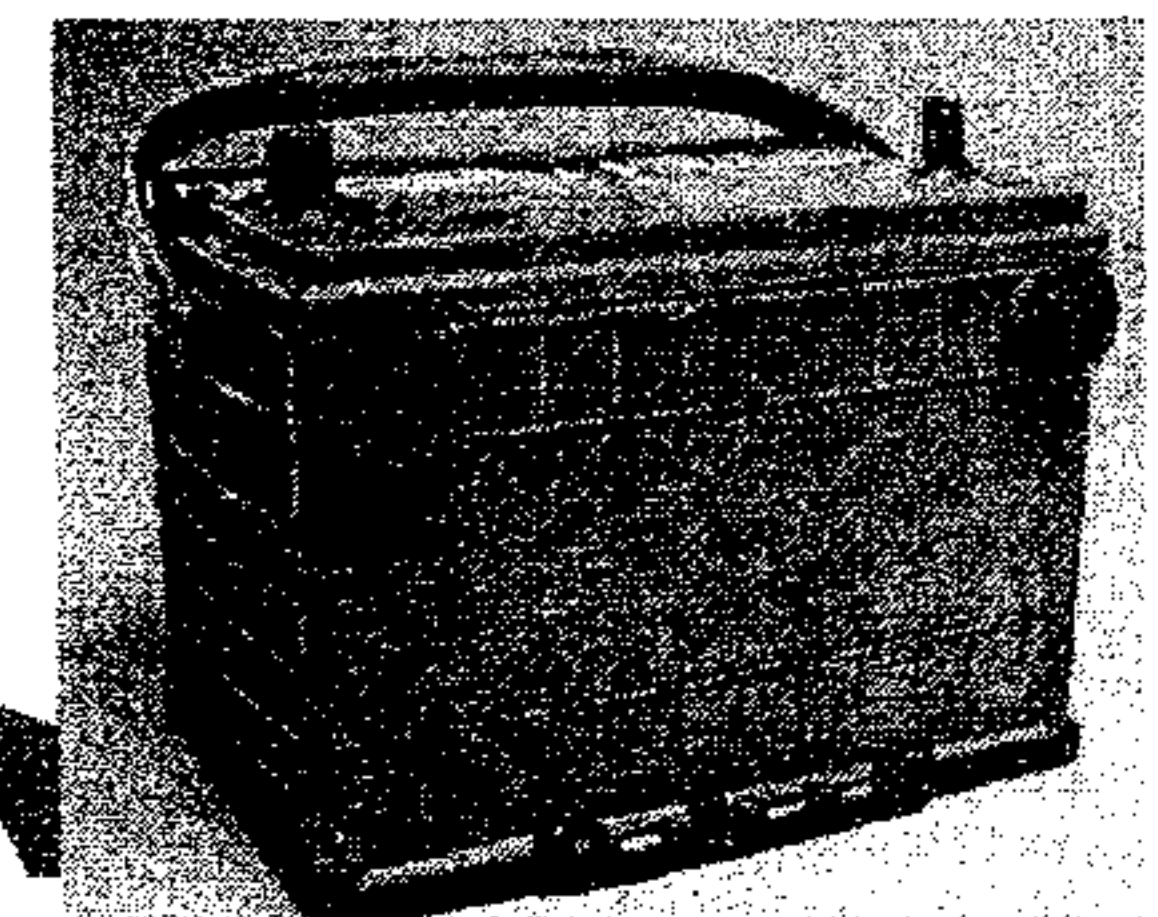
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2nd DUI

contained 3 pills identified as Suboxone along with a clear yellowish liquid. Ms. Elrod reported it was clean

urine from another person and another was found in the back. Ms. Elrod provided a blood sample at the hospital. The passenger Mr.

Spires had a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage on his person and performed poorly on sobriety tasks. Jennifer Michelle

Elrod, 29, of Trigon Road Maryville, was charged with DUI 2nd offense, and possession of schedule III controlled substance.

Timothy Trent Spires, 40, of Morganton Road, Greenback, was charged with public intoxication. Deputy Chris Hutchens, LCSO made the arrest.

I got pills from mom! Donna Kaye Catlett, 46, of Yarnell Road, Knoxville, was charged with simple possession of schedule IV.

According to the report, Officers Brad Brown and Brandon Gentry, LCPD made contact with Ms. Catlett. Ms. Catlett gave consent to search her vehicle and during the search five Klonopin were found inside the vehicle in a green pill bottle.

Ms. Catlett reported she received the pills from her mother, Catherine Proffit. She also wrote a statement that states the same.

Officer Brad Brown, LCPD made the arrest.

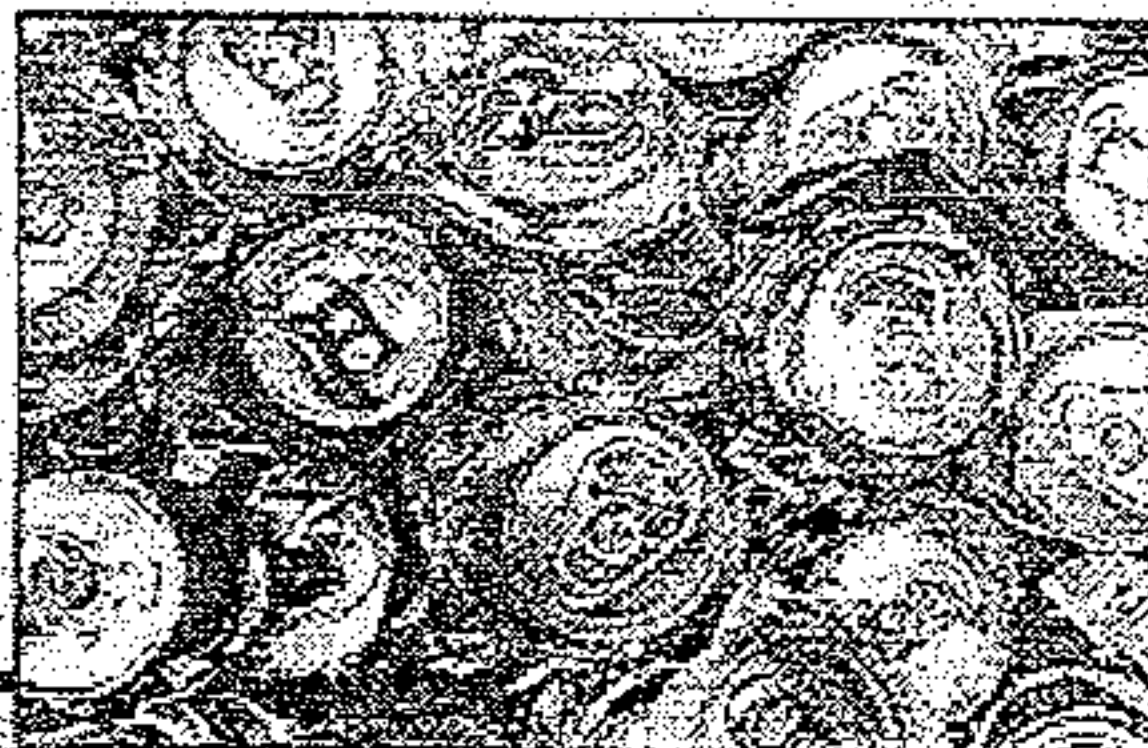
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was returned for insufficient funds. On May 7, 2012 Abigail Brashears wrote a check in the amount of \$26.71 that was returned for insufficient funds. On July 24, 2012 Abigail Brashears wrote a check in the amount of \$20.85 that was returned for insufficient funds. On May 8, 2012

Abigail Brashears wrote a check in the amount of \$26.71 that was returned for insufficient funds. In yet another warrant, on May 6, 2012 Abigail Brashears wrote checks in the amount of \$53.42 that were returned for insufficient funds.

Abigail Marie Brashears, 34, of Hines

Valley Road, Lenoir City, was charged with bad checks x5. Officer T. Craig, LCPD made the arrest.

**Police beat**

Martin Leonard Grisko, 58, of Clark Road, Lenoir City, was charged with driving under the influence. According to the report, Officer Jason Felts, LCPD received a call on a possible drunk driver on Highway 321. The officer stopped the vehicle and the driver, Mr. Grisko, was unsteady on his feet, had slurred speech and smelled of an alcoholic beverage. Mr. Grisko stated he had just had two beers. Mr. Grisko performed poorly on sobriety tasks and refused a BAC test. Officer Jason Felts, LCPD made the arrest.

Christopher Allen Cunningham, 27, of Bruce Lane, Milton, FL, was charged with DUI 1st. According to the report, Deputy Kenneth Palmer was dispatched to I75 to try to locate a reckless driver that was on I75. The deputy observed the vehicle and pulled out behind it and observed the vehicle swerving inside the lane and onto the shoulder and stopped it. The driver was identified as Christopher Cunningham and the deputy observed him throw a 12-pack beer box in the back seat. The deputy could smell a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the vehicle and the drivers person. Mr. Cunningham originally reported he had nothing to drink and then stated

he had consumed a couple of beers before leaving Gatlinburg about 2 hours prior to being stopped. Mr. Cunningham was unsteady on his feet and performed poorly on sobriety tasks. Mr. Cunningham was also cited for no insurance. He gave a blood sample at the hospital. Deputy Kenneth Palmer, LCSO made the arrest.

Charles Allen Hutcheson, 37, of Hwy 70, Lenoir City, was charged with violation of probation. Deputy Jamie Ketner, LCSO made the arrest.

Clyde David Viars, Jr., 37, of Gateway Lane, Philadelphia, was charged with failure to appear. Deputy Kevin Parks, LCSO made the arrest.

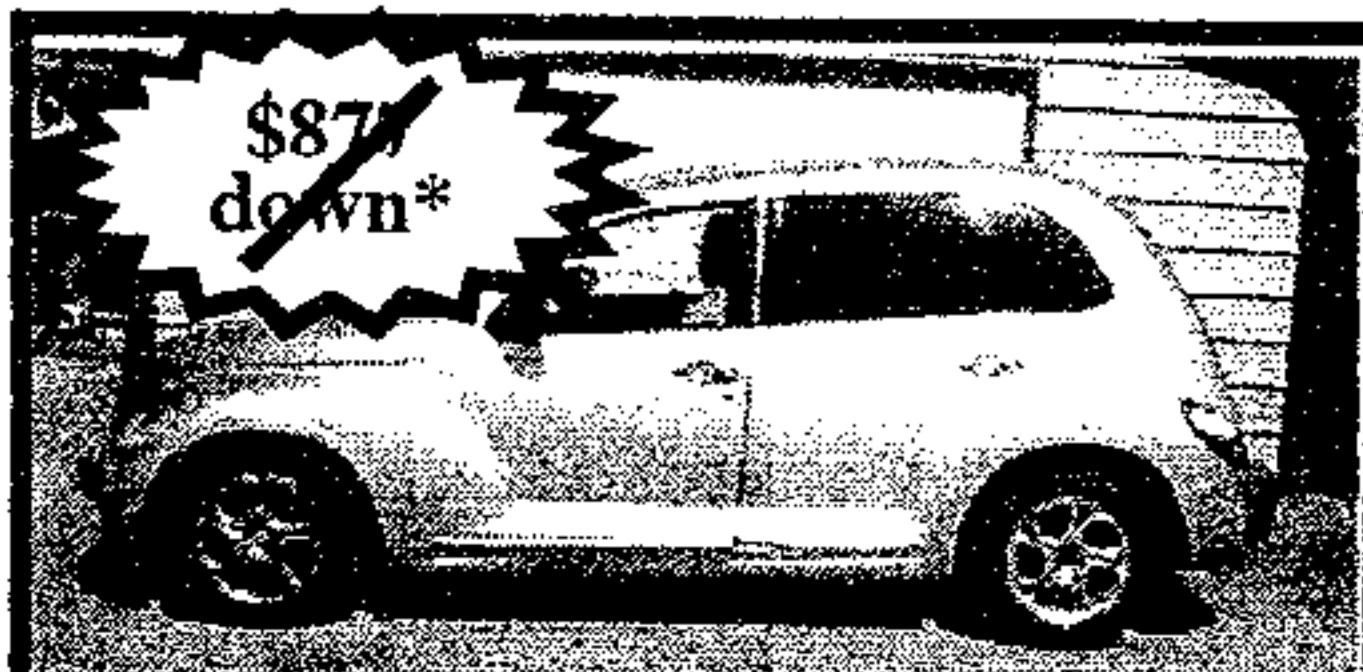
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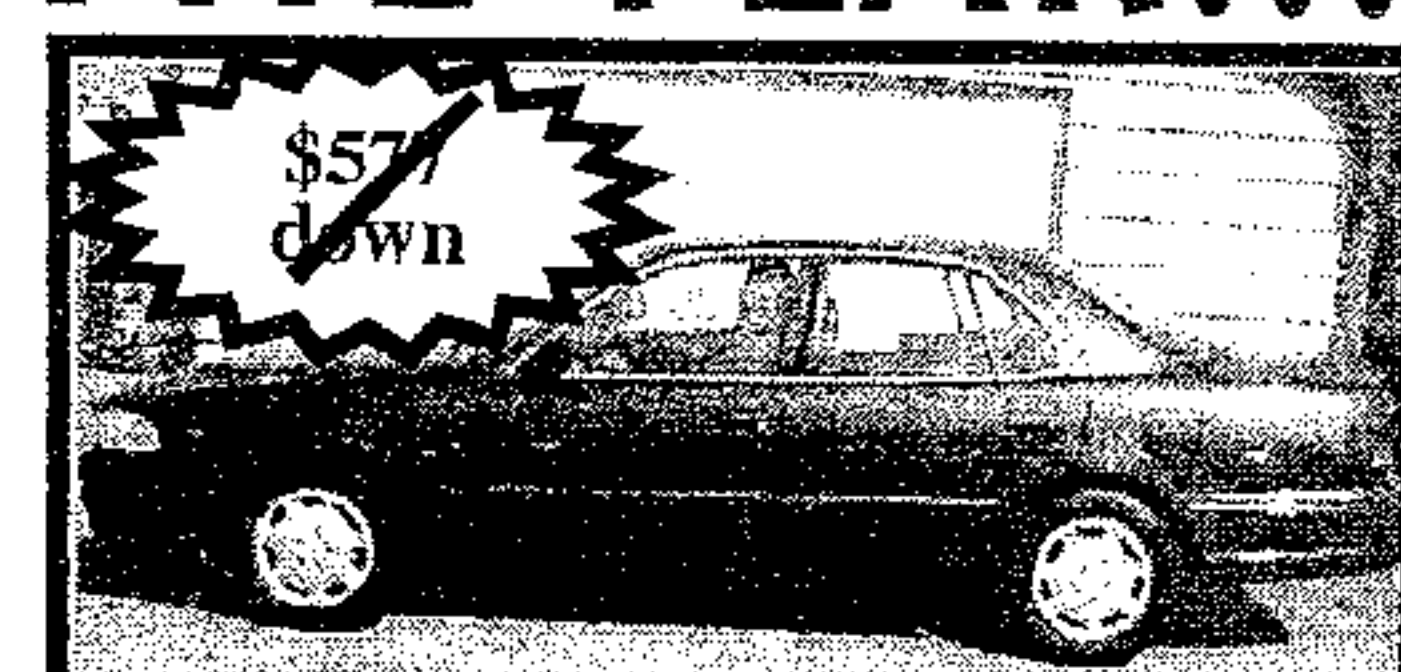
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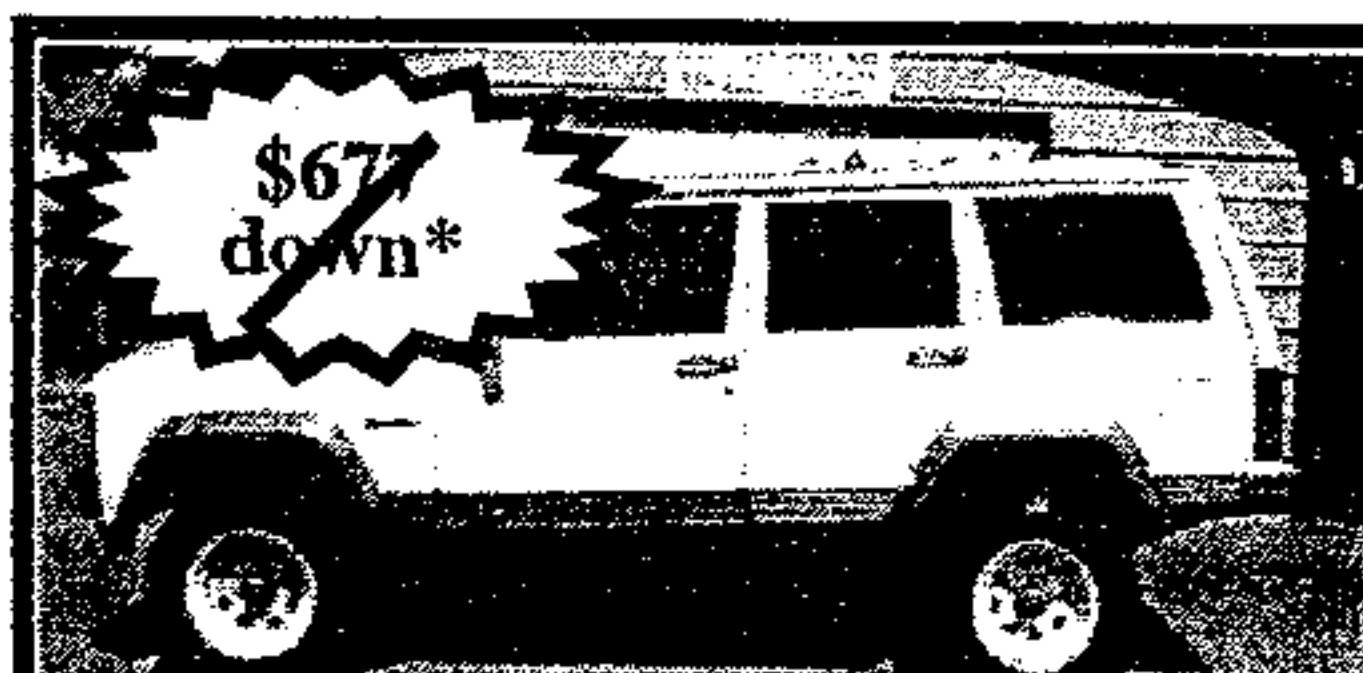


**96 Toyota Camry, auto, Cold AC, Gas Saver**

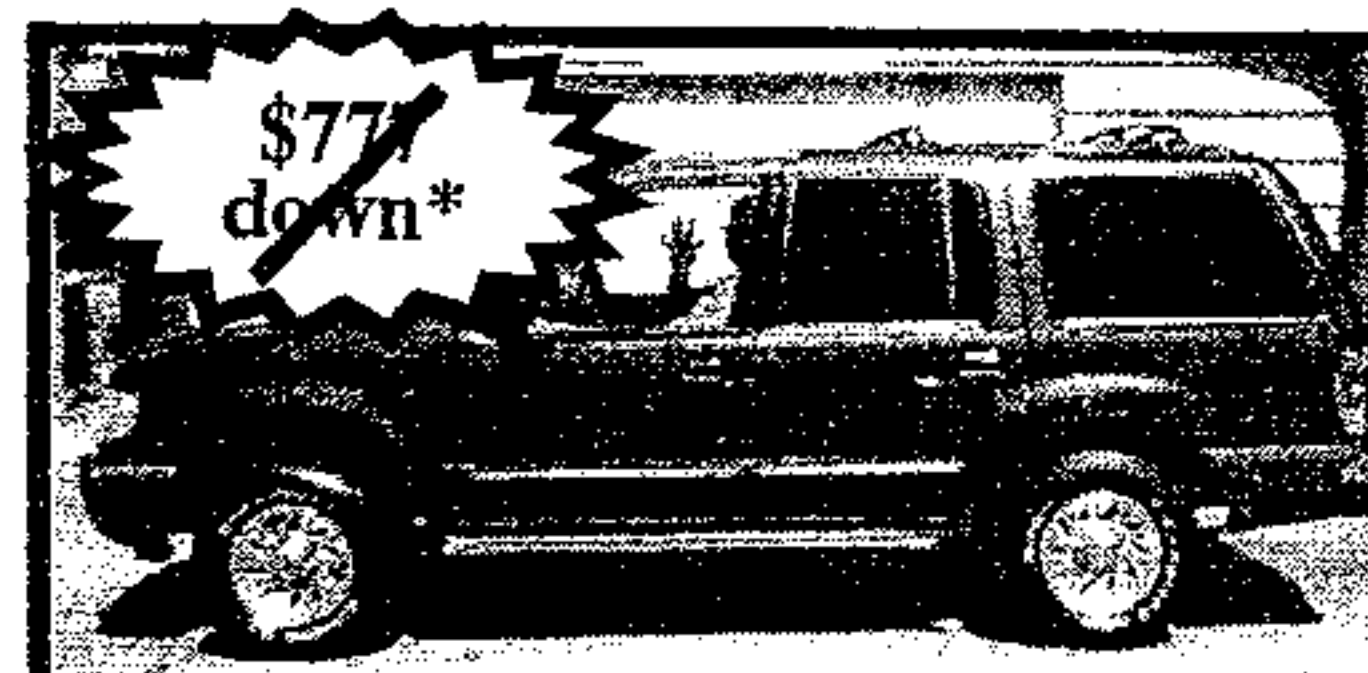
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