Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Trump Wins! President Donald Trump will Make America Great Again Lenoir City continues with proven leaders; appointment to come

Tuesday Night was a Historic Night across our country, including our state and even our county. Records were set EVERYWHERE across our great country. People are fed up with Obamacare, open borders, and our jobs leaving our country. The man who promised to stop it all and



A winning combination Vice President Mike Pence and President Donald Trump

(see election pg. 2)

Charged after running Burglary Crew off the roadway



Lana Helton

see Charged pg. 5

Break-In Netted 'Jedi Knight' Thieves \$2.5 Million in Jewels

The group of friends in their late 20s had known each other since high school and called themselves the "Jedi Knights." The name was based on the Star Wars movie characters who used "the Force" to bring balance and harmony to the universe. These Jedi Knights, however, were more interested in forced entry—as in burglary.

By their own accounts, the robbery crew loosely based in New York state committed several hundred home breakins up and down the East Coast during 2011 and 2012. In February 2012, two of the Jedi Knights, Jason Gatto and Michael Simpson, chose a modest-looking house

see Burglary pg. 4

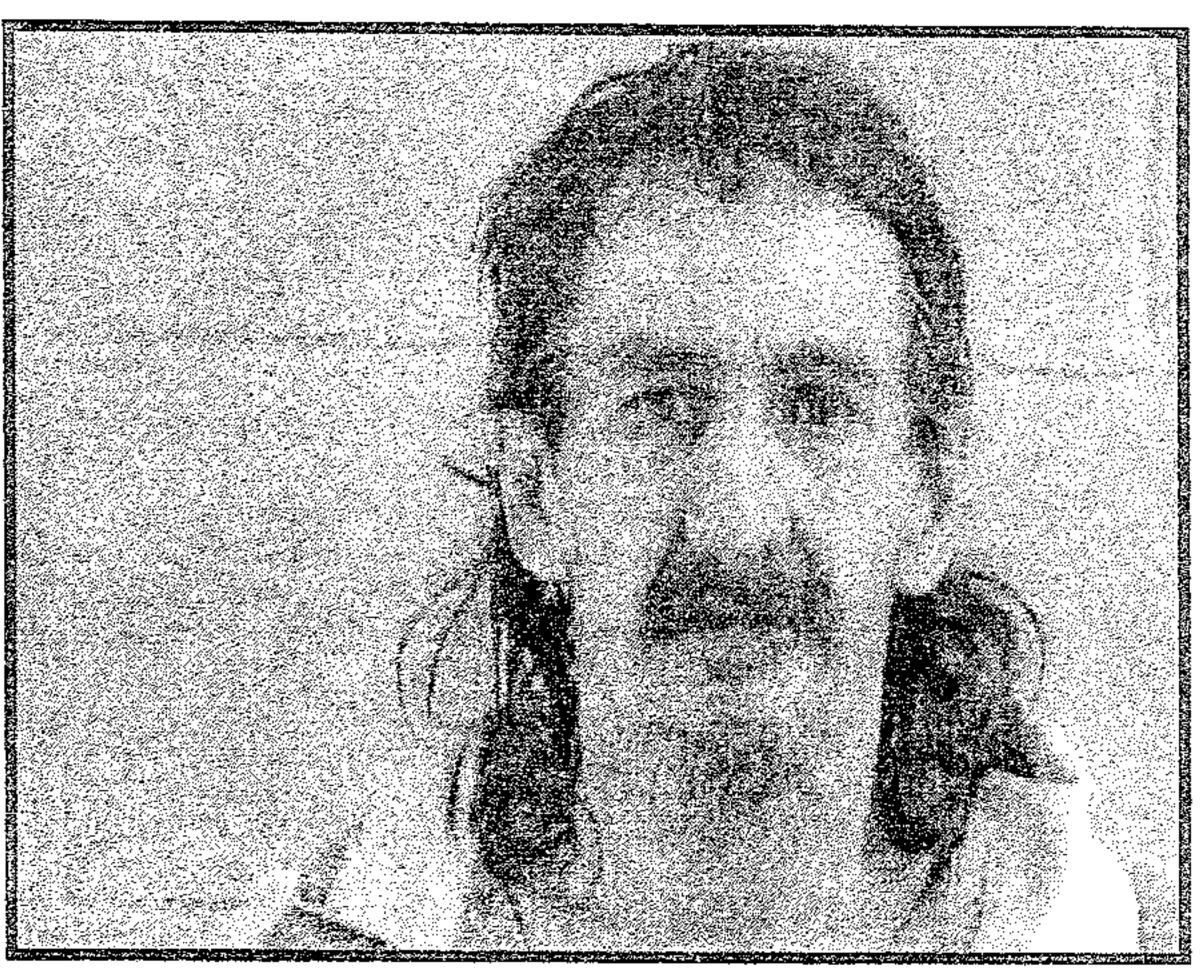
Today: A mainly sunny sky. High 67F.

Tonight: A mostly clear sky. Low 36F.

Friday Mostly sunny skies. High 68F.

Low 41F.

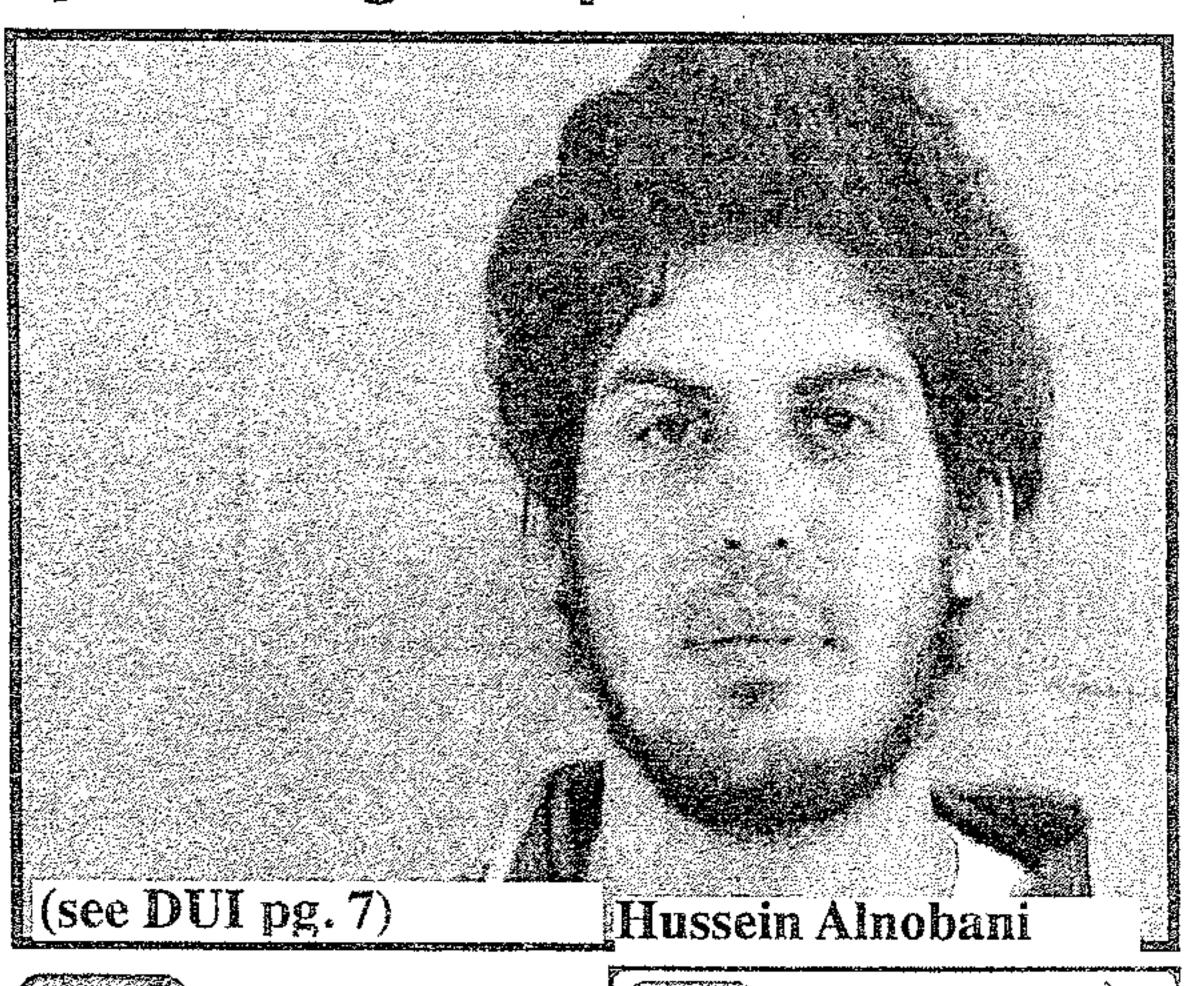
Revoked driver charged with parapheranalia

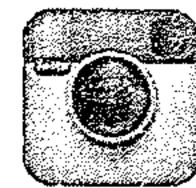


Dennis McCurry

(see revoked pg. 4)

Man charged with DUI after speeding stop in LC





Horoscopes

Scorpio 10/23-11/21

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Weather

truth today without concern for the consequences. You are cleansed from your past experiences while impul-

Friday Night Clear skies.

(Continued on page 6)

sive Mars moves through

You're driven to share the

They will neither harm see inside nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the Congratulations Presearth will be full of the ident Trump, Mayor knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the

sea. — Isaiah 11:9

Verse of the Day Obituaries

Wazzup Aikens, Councilmen Simpson, Johnson and Wampler!

Election

build a wall was elected in a landslide victory across the country.

In Lenoir City which was pretty much the only contested race locally saw the incumbents, Eddie Simpson, Bobby Johnson Jr and the late Harry Wampler being reelected.

Congratulations to all

Simpson should be given the position of Vice Mayor as is customary with the top vote getter in the race. Due to the untimely death of the late Harry Wampler his seat will be appointed by the council as soon as possible. That seat appointment will be up for election in two years with the other three seats that will be

up for re-election as well.

Tony Aikens received an outstanding complimentary vote and will retain his postion for four years. The Mayor of Lenoir City is now a full time paid position.

see election ctd. pg. 7

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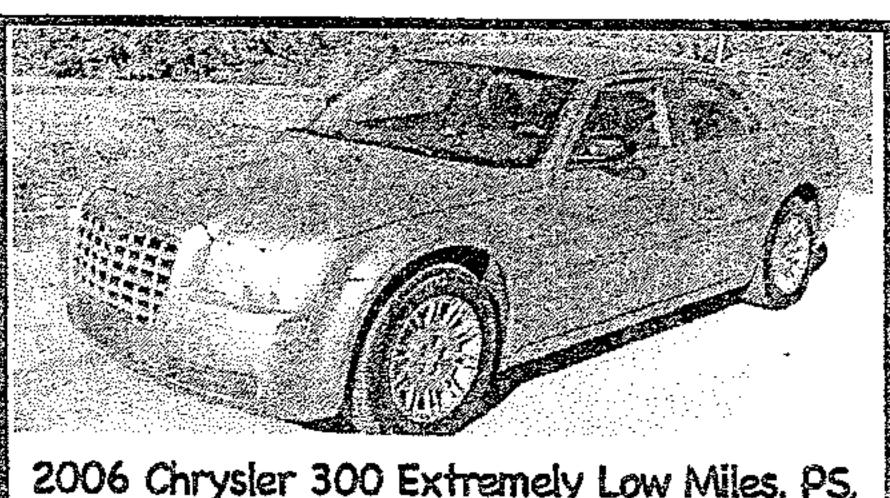
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s omside of Mexico City!

Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK



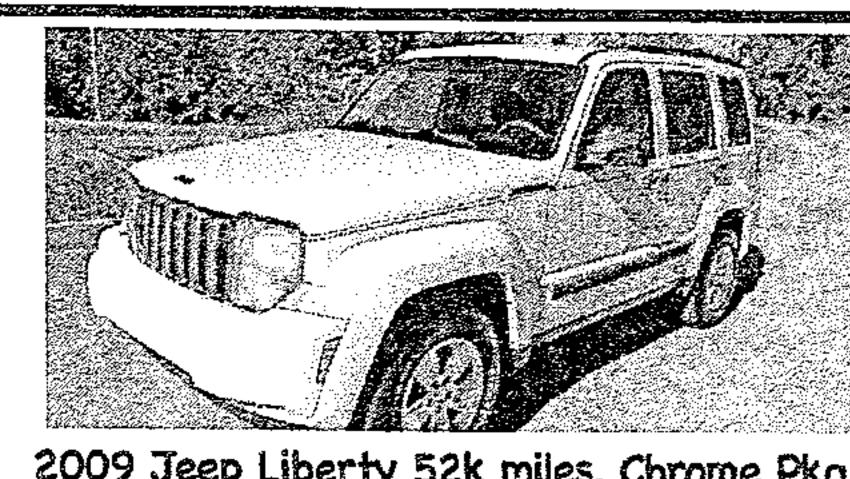
2011 Subaru Forester Low Miles, AWD, Luggage Rack, Alloy Wheels, AC, PW,



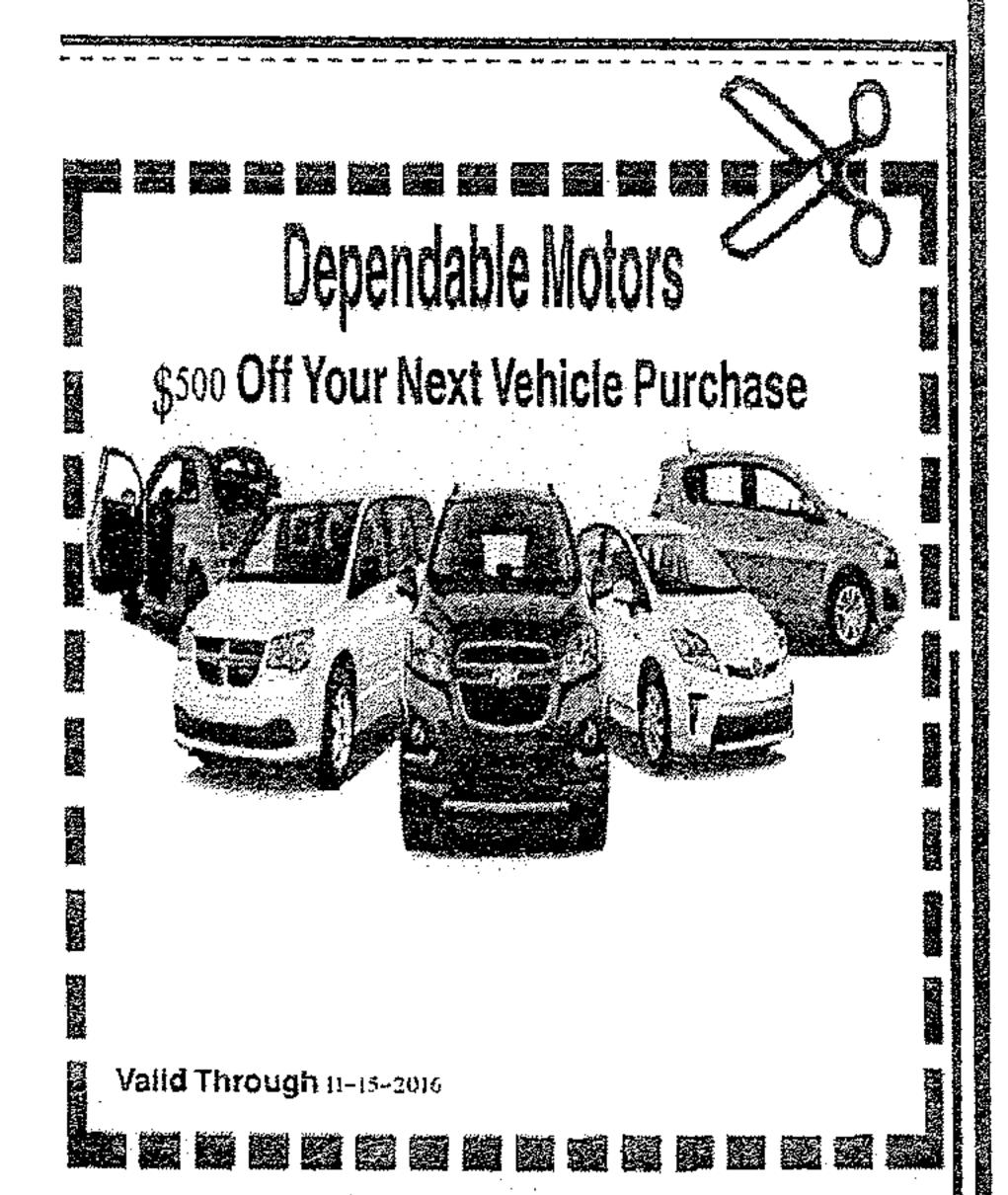
2006 Chrysler 300 Extremely Low Miles, PS, PW, PL, V6, Auto, Alloy Wheels, Like New



2011 Chevy Traverse AWD, LT, PW, PL, Chrome PKG, Luggage Rack, 3rd Row Seat



2009 Jeep Liberty 52k miles, Chrome Pkg, Luggage Rack, PW, PL, V6 Engine, Like New



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Revoked

License, Deputy Para.

Deputy Curry stated that he did After further invesnot have a license that tigation I did find Mr. it was revoked. Dep- McCurry had 1 prior

though dispatch by 53, Myer Road Lenoir at which time they City, was charged with advised his license Driving on Revoked/ were revoked for DUI. asked Mr. and Poss. of Drug McCurry if he could search the vehicle at Kenneth which time he stated LCSO, ob- yes. While searching served a 1985 Chev- the vehicle Deputy did rolet Blazer traveling locate a sunglass case South on Highway with 4 hyperemic sy-321. Deputy observed ringes. Deputy also lo- in Salisbury, Connectithe vehicle's passenger cated a spoon with burn side brake light was makes commonly used out. Deputy stopped from shooting narcotthe vehicle on Highway ics. Mr. McCurry was 321 at Bimbos. Deputy placed under arrest for made contact with the driving on revoked lidriver Mr. Dennis Ben- cense, and possession ton McCurry. Mr. Mc- of drug paraphernalia.

uty ran Mr. McCurry driving on revoked and

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BBB.

Approved Auto Repair

I prior driving on sus-McCurry, name and date of birth pended. Mr. McCurry was then transported to the Loudon County Jail. Mr. McCurry's vehicle was towed from the scene by Malones Wrecker Service for Seizure. This did occur in Loudon County TN.

Burglary

cut, where no one seemed home. They knocked on the front door. If someone answered, the pair, professionally dressed in shirts and ties, would make up a story about why they were

there. If no one was home, linen closet that contained which was the case—the inexpensive plastic convictim and her husband's tainers—similar to fishing was to go to the back of containers and where they the house and break in.

members of the burglary crew all had Jedi Knights tattoos on their arms, and the thieves had a code of conduct: All proceeds were split evenly among the group, and members vowed to never snitch if arrested. Their strategy was to steal cash, jewelry, Street, Loudon and reand weapons, and leave just about everything else behind.

Inside the Connecticut home that winterday, Gatto and Simpson discovered a

primary residence was in tackle boxes—full of jew-New York City—the plan elry. Because of the cheap were located, the men be-The half-dozen principal lieved the roughly 250 rings, watches, bracelets, and brooches were fakes. They took the jewelry, but

see Burglary ctd. pg. 7

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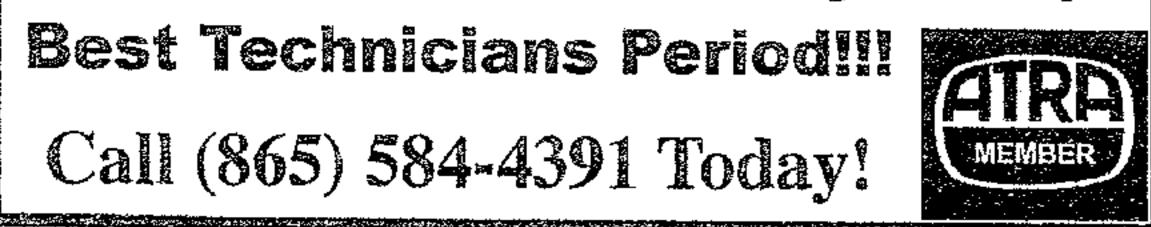




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Charged

way. Upon stopping Lana Helton, 54, the vehicle the driver County Lane Lenoir was identified as Lana City, was charged with Helton. Deputy ask Man/Sell/Del/Resale Helton about running Sch. VI, and Driving off the roadway, she on Revoked/Suspend- stated she was messed License. Deputy ing with the radio. Cody Fritts LCSO, ob- Deputy could smell a served a gold vehicle strong odor of maritraveling on Manis juana coming from the Road. The vehicle vehicle. Upon running went off the roadway Helton through disin the ditch and came patch she was found back onto the road- to be revoked. Deputy

ask Helton is she had her or in her vehicle. Helton retrieved a sun glass case, inside the case was a baggy of weighing marijuana

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approx. 21.6 grams. anything illegal on Helton was placed under arrest.

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Burn oan in effect for East TN

the Loudon From County Government, Office of the Mayor

Currently, East Tennessee weather has produced dry conditions with little or no rain fall, temperatures in the 80's, wind and low humidity for several weeks. Counties in our area have varying levels of drought conditions and these factors have created an increased brush and forest fire risk.

Because of this increased risk, Loudon County Mayor, Roland "Buddy" Bradshaw, in consultation with the state forestry office and TEMA has requested a "Ban on Open Burning" in Loudon County from the state Commissioner of Agriculture. As approved, this ban is effective immediately and will remain in place until further notice.

Until our region receives appreciable rain fall, this increased fire risk will continue and the ban will remain in effect.

For the safety of all persons, livestock and property, we are asking our citizens to voluntarily comply with this ban.

A violation of this ban is classified by the Tennessee Code Annotated 39-14-306 as "reckless burning" and is a class A misdemeanor with up to a \$2,500 fine.

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DUI

Hussein Alnobani, 24, County Road Sweetwater, was charged with DUI.

Officer Christian Dragon LCPD, observed a black Chrysler Sebring traveling on Hwy 321 N. before Hwy 70. The radar confirmed the speed to be 76 mph in a 55mph zone. Officer initiated a traffic stop by activating his emergency lights at the red light at the intersection of Hwy 321 and Hwy 70. The defendant didn't react emergency lights Officer activated his sirens. We continued traveling North on Hwy 321 to exit 81

Koloy's Too Service TILL INSUIGU

ceeded onto interstate I-75 south, and traveled to mile marker 80 where the complainant finally stopped. On I-75 S. the defendant was swerving, crossing the center line, and driving on the shoulder. Upon stop, Officer smelled the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the defendant's mouth. He performed poorly during the field sobriety test. During horizontal gaze nystagmus test, he showed lack of smooth pursuit, nystagmus prior to 45. During the one leg stand test, he was swaying, hopping and putting his foot down. The defendant was taken into custody for driving under the influence. He gave consent to draw blood. The defendant transported to the ER and after the blood was drawn, he was transported to the Loudon County Jail without incident. After the consent of the defendant to search his vehicle, we observed

south bound. We pro-

several empty whisky bottles of different sizes and beer cans in plain view. During the time of traveling in an attempt to stop the defendant from the intersection of Hwy 321 and Hwy 70 to the I-75 South mile marker 80 we maintained a normal rate of speed. Election ctd. from pg. 2

state el, Kent Calfee and Jimmy Matlock were re-elected and on the federal level our own Jimmy Duncan Jr. was re-elected as well.

The elections across the country echoed the frustation of the American people, who have watched jobs leave our country and families nearly bankrupted over rising insurance premiums. We shall see what when our happens newly elected leader the 45th President of the United States, Mr. Donald Trump, takes the helm in January.

Maybe NAFTA will be repealed and we can get some of our jobs back in the USA! It sure would be great to be able to go back to Knoxville to pick up those Levi's where they used to be made, now they come from overseas.

By the numbers from Vanshaver.com Loudon County Election Results Only President Hillary Clinton 4,916 Donald Trump 17,588 Lenoir City Council Vote For Any Three Bobby Gene Johnson 1,404 Monty Ross 1,133 Steven D Shoemaker 871 Eddie Simpson 1,628

Harry Wampler 1,292

United States House

Of Representatives 2nd Congressional District John J Duncan Jr. (R) 18,675 Stuart Starr (D) 3,919 Tennessee House Representatives 21st District Matlock Jimmy 12,967 "Pam" Weston Pamela (D) 2,911 William James Vandever (I) 558Tennessee House Representatives 32nd

District D Calfee (R) Kent 4,162 Stafford (D) Corey B

897 Tyler Overstreet

Burglary ctd. from pg. 5 as they drove away from the home, they threw a number of pieces out the car window.

It was only later, after Simpson's girlfriend and accomplice got a look at the jewelry—pieces made by Cartier, Tiffany, and Van Cleef—that the Jedi Knights began to understand that they had made the heist of their lives.

"It was dumb luck that they came up with such a valuable haul," said Special Agent Jennifer Berry, who investigated the case from the FBI's New Haven Division along with the Connecticut State Police. "They had never hit the jackpot like they did this time."

total estimated value of the jewels was \$2.5 million. Gatto, Simpson, and Simpson's girlfriend, Martha Dahl, went to North Carolina with the jewelry, where a fellow Jedi Knight, Miguel Mead, later met them. The pieces were distributed among the group, who began to sell them to pawn shops, fences, and other buyers.

"It was dumb luck that they came up with such a valuable haul. They had never hit the jackpot like

they did this time." -Jennifer Berry, special agent, FBI New Haven

"They sold the jewels in Nevada, California, North Carolina, all over the country," Berry said, "and for a fraction of what they were worth—it was pennies on the dollar." Investigators picked up the Jedi Knights' trail, Berry explained, when stolen items started turning up. "We were notified when a Cartier watch that belonged to the victim showed up at a pawn shop in Beverly Hills, Califor-

That watch led investigators to Dahl, and later to the other members of the burglary crew. In January 2016, Gatto was arrested for his role in the Connecticut robbery, and two months later the Jedi Knights ringleader pleaded guilty to one federal count of conspiracy to transport stolen property.

Eventually, Simpson, Dahl, and Mead also pleaded guilty in connection with their roles in the Connecticut theft. In February 2016, Mead was sentenced to 41 months in prison. In August 2016, Gatto received a 40-month term. Simpson and Dahl await sentencing.

After the burglary, police recovered some of the stolen jewelry that Gatto and Simpson had discarded along Route 41 in Salisbury. But the maiority of the pieces were never recovered.

"What's sad," Berry said, "is that much of the iewelry had belonged to the victim's grandmother, and it had tremendous sentimental value." A oneof-a-kind brooch signed by the artist and valued at \$65,000, for example, was lost forever because the Jedi Knights sold it to a smelter for under \$1,000. "That's what they did with a lot of the pieces," Berry said. "They sold them for the weight of the gold and they were melted down."





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