

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, February 16, 2015

Update: More details in Loudon meth lab bust by 9th DTF and LPD

When --- Monday, February 10, 2015 (2:30 pm)

Who --- Good Guys --- 9th DTF and other agencies (Loudon City PD, Loudon County Sheriff's Office, Tennessee Meth Task Force, Department of Children's Services)

Bad Guys --- Tracy Brown (B/F, dob 9-22-1975) and Jeremy Byrd (W/M, dob 9-13-1981)

What - two meth labs (one active, one inactive)

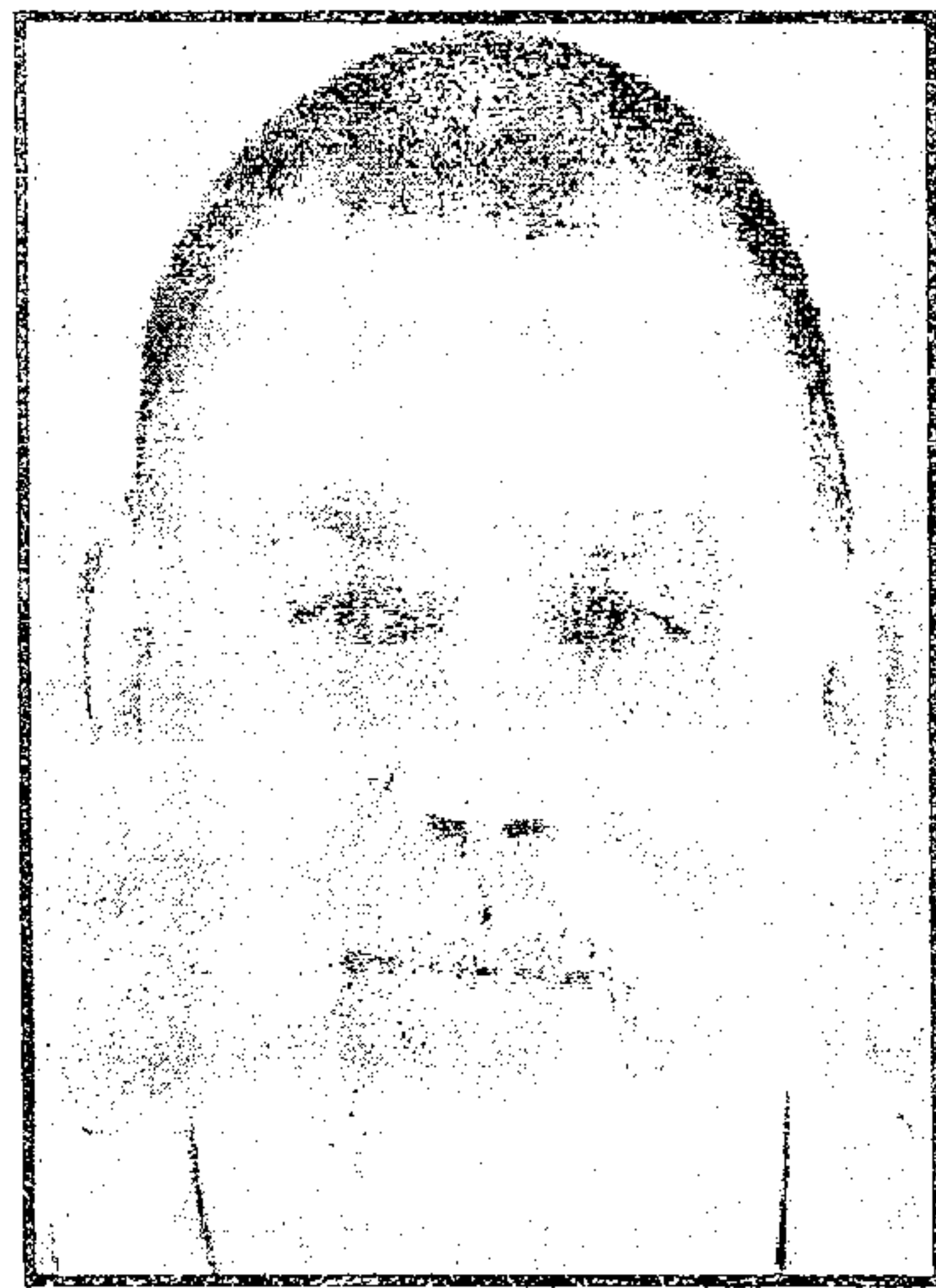
Where - 210 Simpson Street, Loudon, TN

Why --- search warrant -- year long investigation into illegal drug activity

At 2:30 in the afternoon on Monday (2/10/15) agents with the 9th Judicial District Drug Task Force (9th DTF) located an active

'one pot' meth lab in a residence located at 210 Simpson Street within the City of Loudon. (There was a second inactive meth lab found as well). The DTF agents executed a search warrant at the residence along with other local law enforcement officers as part of the culmination of a year-long drug investigation fo- (see 9th DTF pg. 4)

Banned for a reason; man returns to steal again



Shawn Spurlock (see Theft pg. 5)

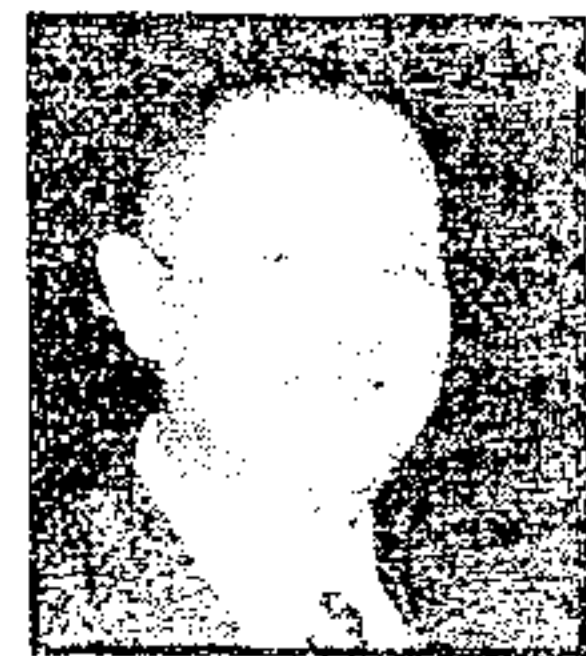
LC man charged with forgery



Benjiman Gunter (see Forgery pg. 5)

The Good News

by Jeff Vittatoc



Just Do It

For those of you who have been around for a minute, you can most likely recall a slogan used by a famous tennis shoe manufacturer that said, "Just Do It". I even know a guy who had a "Swoosh" tattoo placed on his arm to remind himself to "Just Do It". I assumed for many years that Nike was the first

to come up with such an encouraging phrase of motivation. It wasn't until this past week that I discovered the true origin of the phrase actually dates back over two thousand years.

For about a month now I have had the privilege of meeting with one of our local pastors, along with two to three (see TGN pg. 3)

Law Enforcement and Race Director Cites 'Hard Truths' and Calls for 'Open Discussion'

FBI Director James B. Comey called on the nation's law enforcement personnel and the citizens they serve to participate in a frank and open conversation about the disconnect that exists in places like New York City and Ferguson, Missouri—and many communities across the country—between police agencies and many citizens, particularly in communities of color.

Georgetown University. Comey said the lethal police encounters involving Michael Brown and Eric Garner—both African-Americans—the ensuing protests across the country, and the assassinations of New York Police Department Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos have put the fundamental relationship between police and their constituents at a crossroads.

In a speech today at

(see Race pg. 2)

Verse of the Day

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. — Romans 12:9

Obituaries

see inside

Wazzup

What is gonna happen with the big empty lot on Broadway? A Park? Businesses? Condos? or just a giant empty space?

Weather

Today: Cloudy with snow. High 33F. Winds light and variable. Snow accumulating 3 to 5 inches. Tonight: Snow showers. Low 22F. Winds light and variable.

Tuesday: Snow showers. High 39F. Winds light and variable. Tuesday Night: Cloudy skies early, then partly cloudy after midnight. Low 18F.

(Continued on page 6)



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Race

“As a society, we can choose to live our everyday lives, raising our families and going to work, hoping someone, somewhere, will do something to ease the tension,” Comey said to the Georgetown students and faculty. “We can turn up the music on the car radio and drive around these problems. Or we can choose to have an open and honest discussion about what our relationship

is today — what it should be, what it could be, and what it needs to be — if we took more time to better understand one another.”

The speech, entitled “Hard Truths: Law Enforcement and Race,” sought to move the ongoing debate about race and the character of law enforcement officers to a more productive footing, where police and citizens acknowledge a few elemental “truths” in an effort to better

understand each other. The Director began by acknowledging law enforcement’s own spotty history, including police bias a century ago against Irish immigrants — from whom Comey descended — and the FBI’s surveillance of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“At many points in American

history, law enforcement enforced the status quo, a status quo that was often brutally unfair to disfavored groups,” Comey said. “One reason we cannot forget our law enforcement legacy is that the people we serve cannot forget it either. So we must talk

(see Race ctd. pg. 7)

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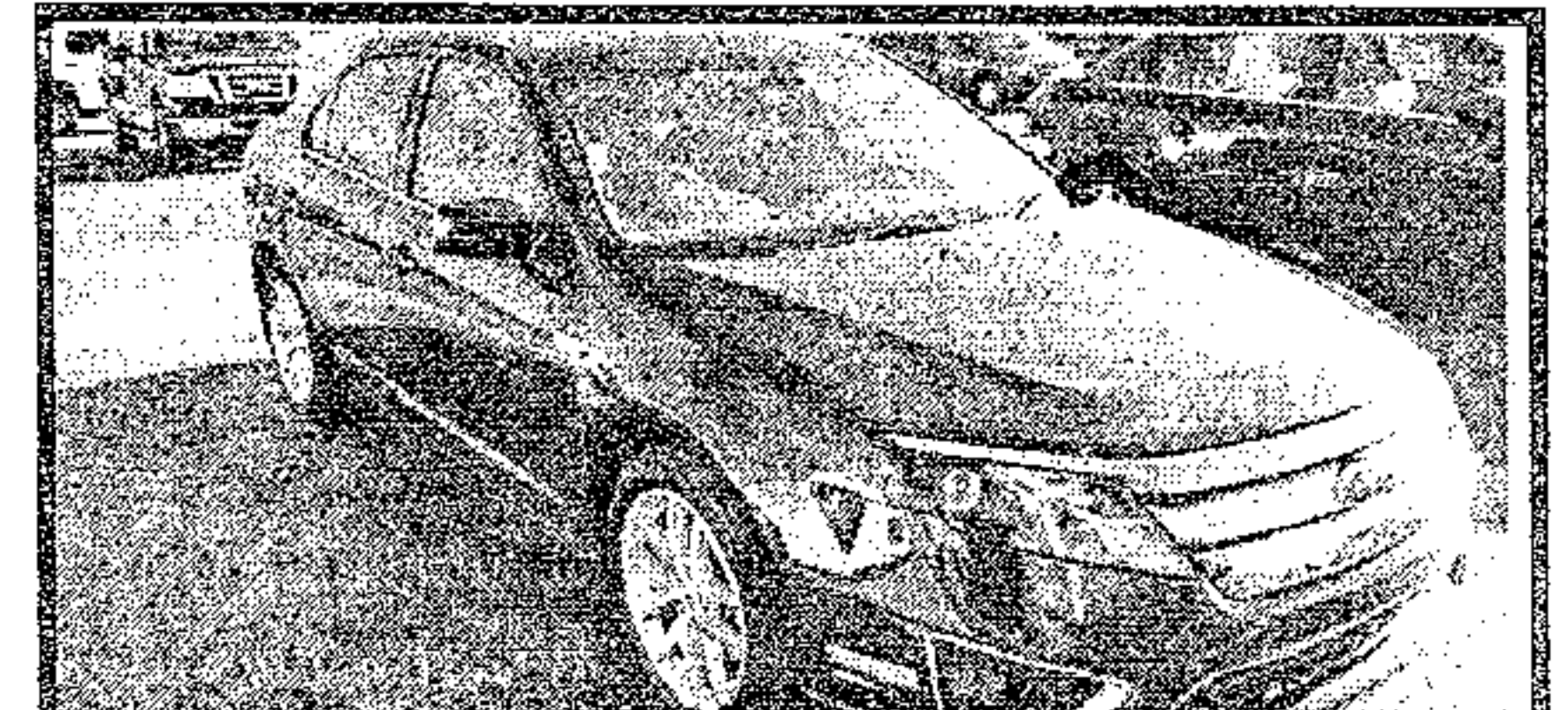
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Serving Loudon County for 20 Years

TGN

relatively new believers at a coffee shop every Wednesday evening after work. We began this weekly discipleship meeting by exploring John MacArthur's commentary on the Gospel of John. Pastor Ullrey and I rotate the teaching responsibility every other week and I have really been enjoying our time together.

This week it was my turn to lead the discussion and our scripture was found in John 2:1-11. If you don't immediately recognize the text I will tell you that this is the story of Jesus performing His first miracle while attending a wedding in Cana. Here, let's just read it together:

John 2:1-11 (NKJV) On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Now there were set there six

water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.

When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bride groom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.


Did you see it? The phrase was pretty much coined by Mary, the mother of Jesus, while displaying her faith that Jesus had the power to do amazing wonders. Mary said, "Whatever He says to you, do it!" What does this have to do with us, you might ask? Allow me to give you a recent example;

Last Saturday morning I pulled into the parking lot of the Sportsman's Warehouse, where I have a part time job. Before entering the store I prayed and asked God to use me during my shift to honor Him in some way. Within ten minutes of walking in the door I was asked by the custodian how "My boy" was doing. My custodian friend, Kenny, was referring to Andrew, the young

man I recently had the privilege of leading to the Lord. I immediately felt God leading me to have a spiritual conversation with Kenny. I told Kenny that Andrew was doing well and had just accepted Christ as his Savior. I told Kenny that we hope to baptize Andrew soon and that he was attending church with us and doing

(see TGN etd. pg. 4)

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9th DTF

cusing on what agents describe as a local 'drug house'. Arrested at the residence on charges related to the meth lab were Tracy Brown and Jeremy Byrd.

Tracy Brown, the primary renter of the property, was arrested for Maintaining a Dwelling for the purpose of Manufacturing Methamphetamine, Promoting the Manufacture of Methamphetamine and Felony Possession of Methamphetamine.

Jeremy Byrd was charged with Manufacturing Methamphetamine, Promoting the Manufacture of Methamphetamine and Felony Possession of Methamphetamine.

Because agents determined that a 9 year old child and an 18 year old, who was still attending high school, were living a residence where methamphetamine was being manufactured the Department of Children's Services was called to remove them from the home.

During the last twelve months, DTF agents had devoted countless hours of surveillance time, knock & talks, and high profile patrolling in this area of Loudon to try and curb a variety of drug activity from

the residence which is located near Legion Field Park. (The proximity to the park will enhance any penalties upon conviction as any drug activity within 1000 of a city park carries further sanctions). In fact, a search warrant was executed on the same residence in February 2014 and several arrests were made for drug violations, including small amounts of marijuana, and outstanding warrants. The landlord, once notified, informed law enforcement that the residents would be evicted. However, this did not happen and occupants continued to engage in illegal activities. The DTF has continued to field complaints of drug activity and again responded, conducting surveillance operations and observing activity which revealed that methamphetamine was being manufactured at the residence. It was determined the occupants were purchasing psuedoephedrine, the precursor for the "one pot" shake method of manufacturing meth-

amphetamine. With all of this information, another search warrant was obtained and executed on the residence with the collaborative effort of the Loudon City Police Department, Loudon County Sheriff's Office, Lenoir City Police Department, Tennessee Meth Task Force and 9th DTF. Agents found two "one pot" meth labs, one actively being cooked as law enforcement made entry into the house. Several bags of methamphetamine, acid, drain cleaner, ammonium nitrate, stripped lithium batteries, psuedoephedrine, rubber tubing, lighter fluid and paraphernalia were also found. Agents noticed the unmistakable chemical smell not only in the obvious area of the where labs were found but also in the main part of the home where the children stayed. DCS was contacted and three case workers immediately responded. Animal Control also came to the scene to remove 3 pit bulls dogs. All charges will be

prosecuted by the Drug Division of the 9th Judicial District Attorney's Office. The DTF continues its efforts to partner with the local law enforcement agencies in the district and with the concerned

citizens in the community. The success of these efforts is greatly increased with the help of the community. Tips of drug activity can be provided, anonymously at 9thdtf.com.

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Forgery

Benjman Gunter, 62, Woodlawn Road Lenoir City, was charged with Forgery. On April 4 2014 Benjman went to Malones wrecker service and paid a bill with a check belonging to the victim. The check was made out for 75.00 dollars and Benjman sign the victims name in front of a employee at Malones. On 5/2/15

the daughter of the victim who is also on the account filed a report that Benjman had taken several checks from victim and made several purchases without permission. Investigator Jeff Russell LCSO, issued a Warrant and Benjman was arrested on on 2/13/15. Deputy Cody Bengel LCSO, served Benjman with the Warrant.

Theft

Shawn Spurlock, 39, Jacksboro Pike Knoxville, was charged with Criminal trespassing, Theft of Property. Sgt. Eddie Range LCPD, responded to Walmart on a theft call. Asset Protection observed Shawn take merchandise and leave the store without paying and had sign a notification restriction from property

on 9/22/15. Shawn was placed under arrest. Sgt. Eddie Range LCPD, made the arrest.

TGN ctd. from pg. 3 great.

Kenny then began to share a negative experience that he had within a church many years ago before his wife died. He stated that his kids have been saved and baptized but that he "had a grudge" against God

and was the last holdout in his family. I was then able to share the gospel with Kenny and explain how a relationship with Christ is far more important than holding a grudge against God or some "Christian" who had an inaccurate interpretation of God's word. I offered to meet with Kenny sometime to further discuss what Jesus did for each of us, what He really expects from His followers and how church tradition is often confused with scripture. Kenny spent several years in a biker gang in California before moving to Montana and during the many conversations we have had in the past year he has never shown an interest in talking about spiritual matters before.

The Holy Spirit of God compelled me to take another shot at sharing with Kenny on this particular day, and He compelled Kenny to listen. I had asked God to use me just moments before this encounter and then found myself right in the middle of God's plan to make Himself known to Kenny. It was truly an amazing moment!

I will continue to pray for Kenny and hope to have another opportunity to share with him how much Jesus loves him and how important (see TGN conc. pg. 8)

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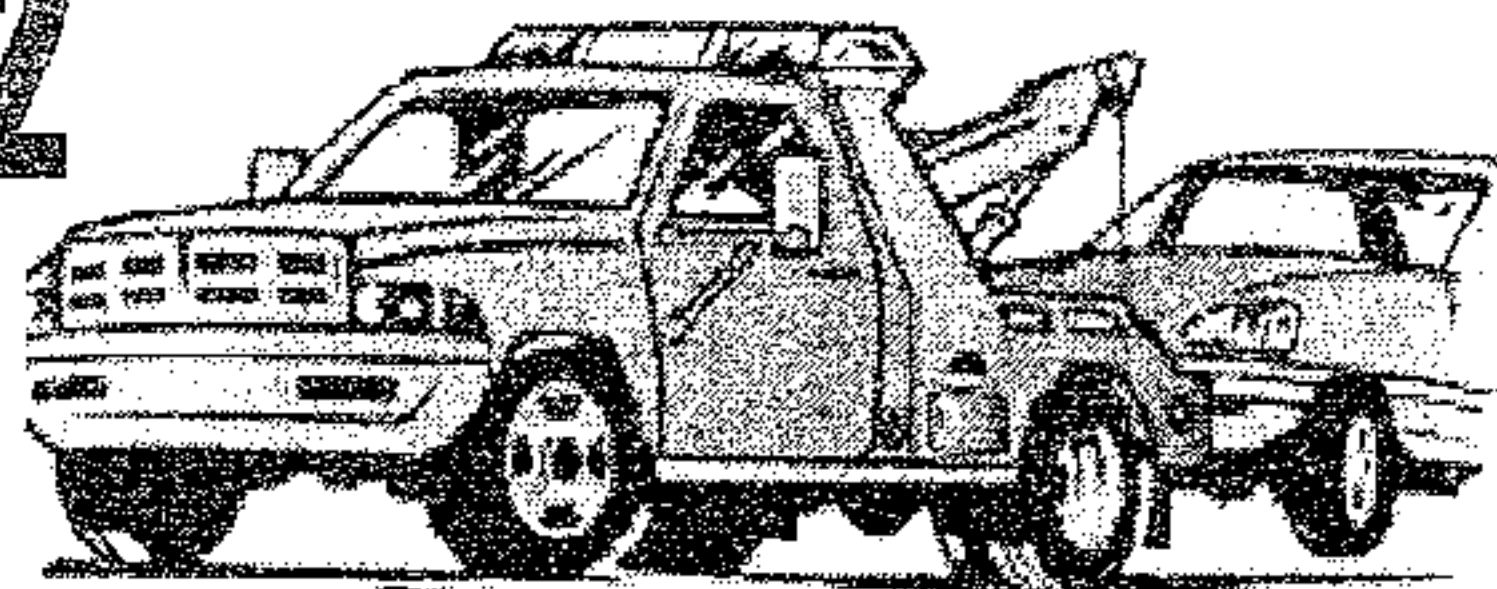
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Race ctd. from pg. 2

about our history. It is a hard truth that lives on."

Comey then raised the subject of the unconscious racial bias within all of us, but said it's how we behave in response to it that defines us. He said racial bias is no more prevalent in law enforcement than anywhere else. "In fact," he said, "I believe law enforcement overwhelmingly attracts people who want to do good for a living. They don't sign up to be cops in New York or Chicago or L.A. because they want to help white people or black people or Hispanic people or Asian people. They sign up be-

cause they want to help all people."

That being said, many police over time develop different flavors of cynicism—lazy mental shortcuts, Comey said, that we have to resist because they can lead to over-generalizing. "We need to come to grips with the fact that this behavior complicates the relationship between police and the communities they serve."

Still another hard truth, Comey added, is the recognition and need to address the disproportionate challenges faced by young black men in struggling communities—inadequate education, jobs, and role models. Too often, he said, they inherit a legacy of crime and prison. "Changing that legacy is a challenge so enormous and so complicated that it is, unfortunately, easier to talk only about the cops," Comey said. "And that's not fair."

Comey said law en-

forcement needs to better "see" the people they serve. And to that end, he is urging police departments to provide the FBI, through our Uniform Crime Reporting Program, with better, more complete data, such as demographics and circumstances, which could shine more light on incidents where force is used by police or against them.

But the "seeing" needs to flow both ways. Citizens need to understand the difficult and perilous work of law enforcement. "If they take the time to do that, what they will see are officers who are human, who are overwhelmingly doing the right thing for the right reasons," he said.

"We all need to talk and we all need to listen," Comey said in closing, "not just about easy things but about hard things, too. It is time to start seeing one another for who and what we really are."

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TGN conc. from pg. 5
 it is to have a personal relationship with our Creator.

If you are a Christian there is an important lesson for you to take with you today as you go about your business; "Whatever He says to you, do it!" God prepares the way and gives us the strength, the courage and the words to say if we are willing to be used.

What has God asked you to do lately? Are you listening? Are you doing it? Wouldn't this be a great day to start? The eternal destination of someone you meet today could hang in the balance.

Whatever He says to you..... Just Do It!!!!

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