

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Argument with store clerk lands man in jail with charges

Jeremiah Hudgins, 39, Pat Road Knoxville, was charged with SCH. III Drug, Public Intoxication, and Contraband in Penal Institution. SGT. Jeremy Dishner LCPD, was dispatched to the Kenjo on Hwy 321 on a disturbance and intoxicated person. Officer made contact with Jeremiah Hudgins (see LCPD pg. 4)



Jeremiah Hudgins

DUI warrant served



Pamela Puckett

(see DUI pg. 5)

Possible DUI driver call ends with arrest

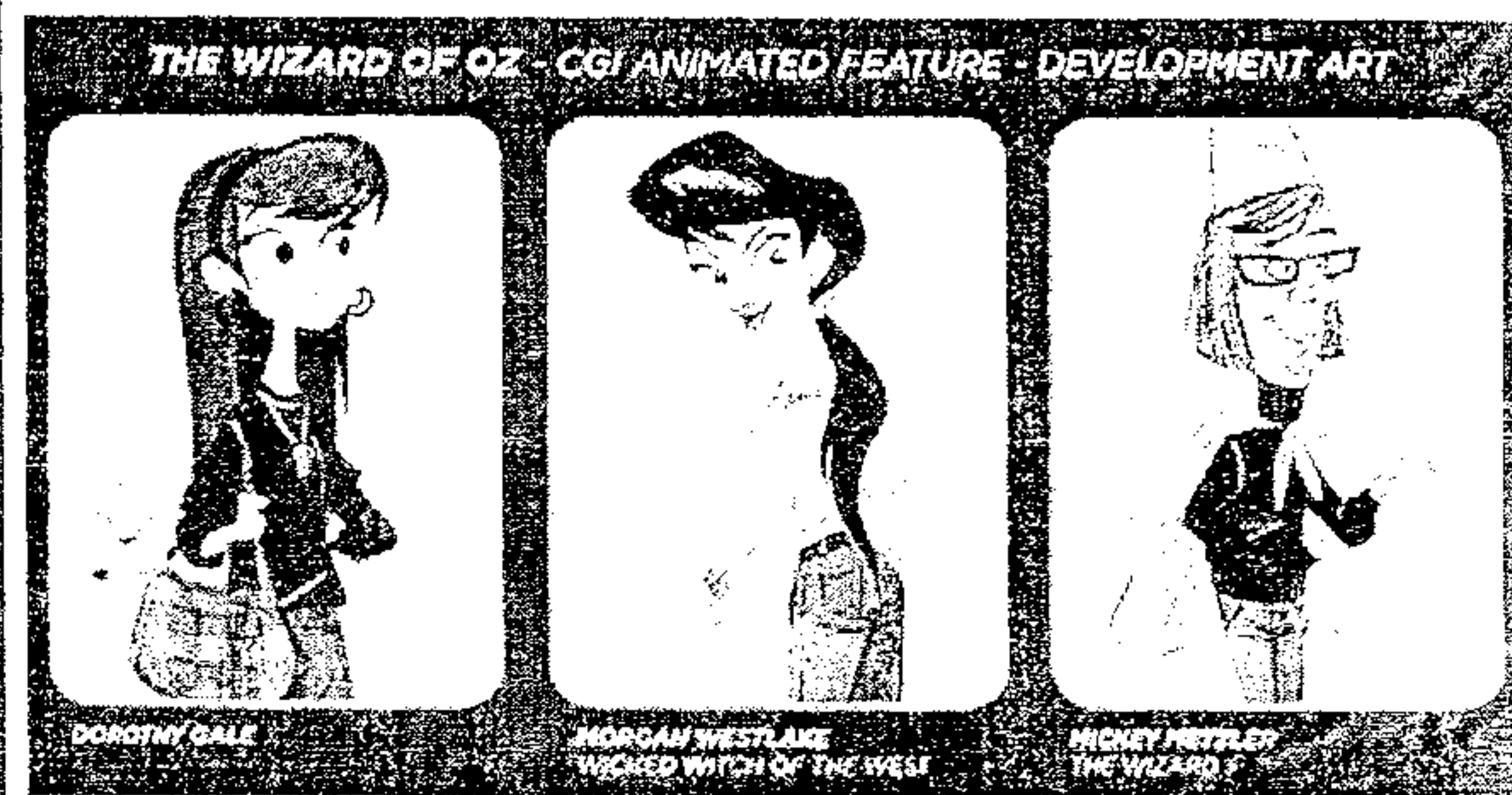


Sandra Gaston

(see Charged pg. 5)

Financial Fraud

Hollywood Film Scheme Results in Unhappy Ending for Investors



Development art depicting characters in the movie OZ3D—an animated version of the Wizard of Oz—which was never made by Gigapix Studios even after hundreds of victims were lured into investing millions of dollars in the project.

(see Fraud pg. 3)

Former Wilson County Elementary School Bookkeeper Indicted for Theft

A special investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has revealed that Shannon Williams, a former bookkeeper at Elzie D. Patton Elementary School in Wilson County, stole \$8,646.

Investigators found that Ms. Williams made unauthorized purchases using the school's Amazon.com corporate ac-

count between September 2011 and November 2013. Ms. Williams purchased at least 184 items for her personal benefit, including a \$2,099 vacuum cleaner, toys, clothing, and various art supplies. She concealed some of these purchases by adding the personal items to legitimate purchase requests, making it appear they

(see Theft pg. 2)

Verse of the Day

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. — Ephesians 4:25

Obituaries

see inside **Wazzup**

A Big Shout out to Slick Rick, glad to hear your moving back here buddy.

Thanks "We" for all your help!

Weather

Today: More clouds than sun. High 62F.
Tonight: Overcast. Low near 45F.
Thursday Rain likely. High near 55F.

Thursday Night Rain showers early with overcast skies late. Low 48F.

Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20
The innocent side of love is captivating to you these days. Although you are ready to reduce the com-

(Continued on page 6)



Theft

were ordered by other school staff for official purposes.

Ms. Williams admitted to investigators that she made personal purchases using the school's Amazon.com account, and she asserted that she reimbursed the school approximately \$250. Investigators were unable to verify her assertion.

On March 10, 2015, Shannon Williams was indicted by the Wilson County Grand

Jury on one count of theft over \$1,000 and one count of official misconduct.

Investigators also found that school officials failed to separate and provide adequate oversight of financial duties. The former bookkeeper had access to and control over all aspects of financial transactions. Officials with Elzie D. Patton Elementary School and the Wilson County School System indicate they have corrected or intend to correct

(see Theft ctd. pg. 7)

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The Daily Edition also serves Monroe, Knox, Anderson, Roane and Blount counties and serves 30,000 readers weekly. Send mail to PO Box 1240, Lenoir City TN 37771. 865-771-2249. email: dan1204us@yahoo.com

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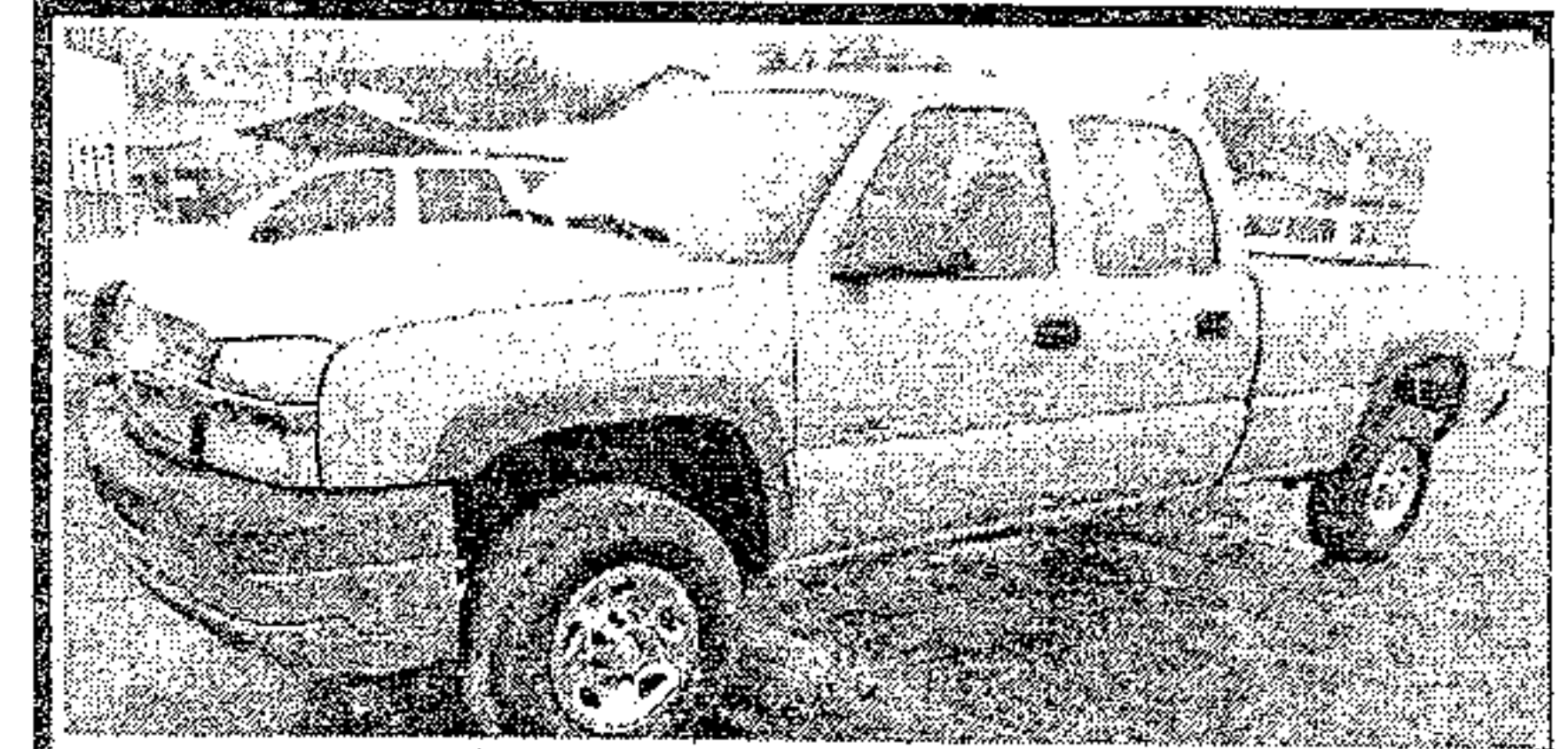
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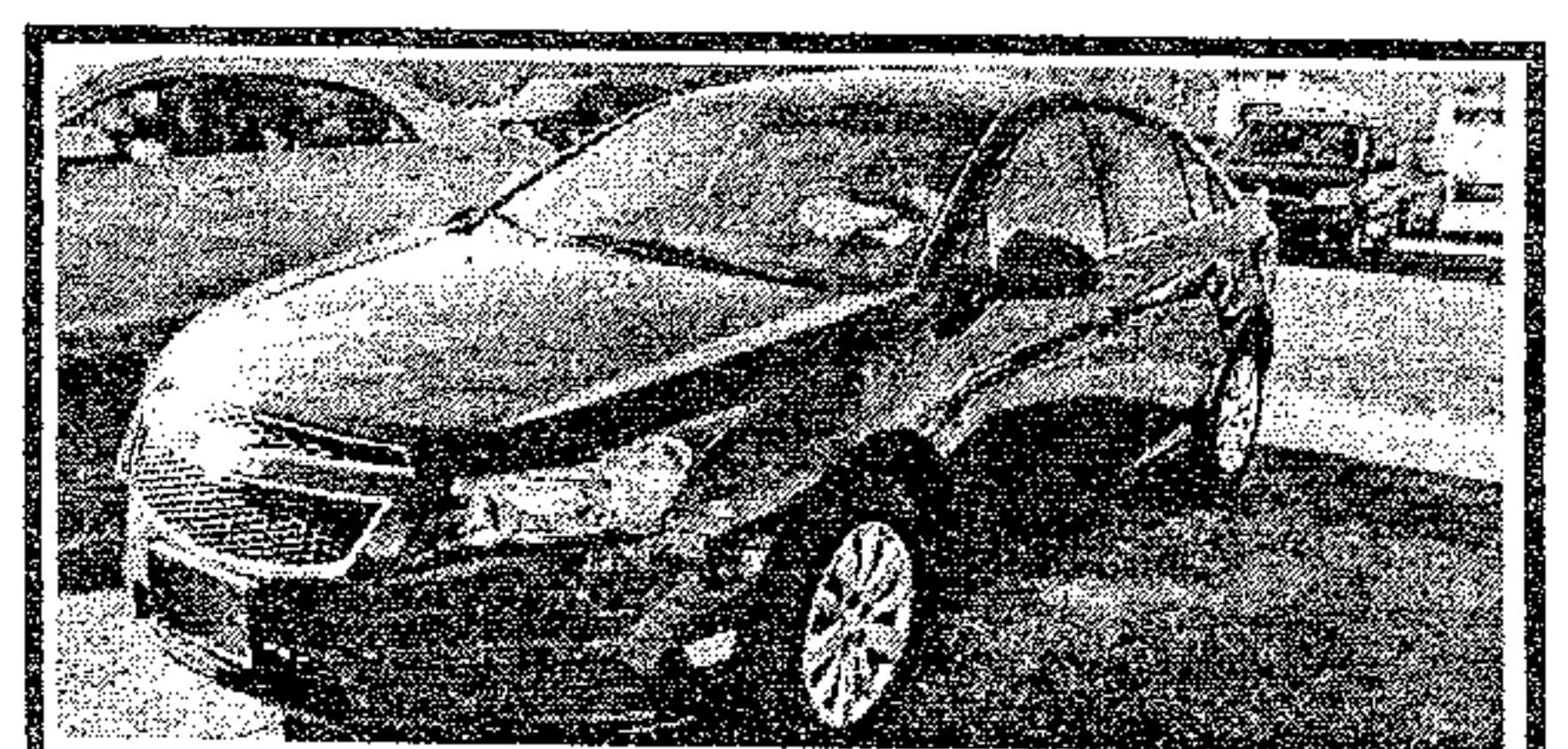
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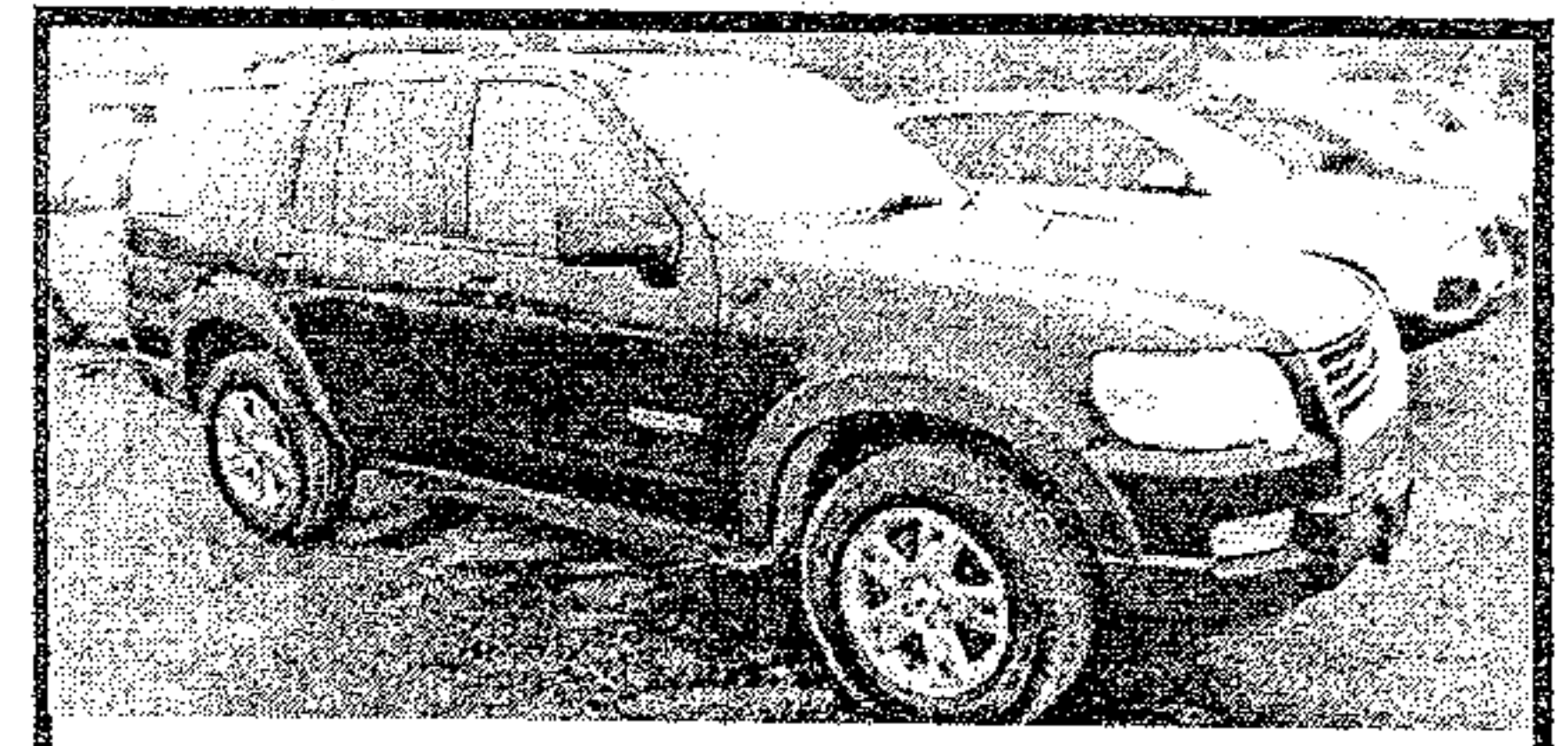
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2012 Ford Fusion SEL - 84k, Back Up Camera, Auto, Loaded, PW, PL, Gas Saver



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Fraud

The owners of Gigapix Studios told investors they had a sure thing: They were going to make an animated version of the Wizard of Oz called OZ3D, and those who got in on the ground floor—and the company’s imminent public offering—could make a killing.

Unfortunately, the film was a bigger fairy tale than investors bargained for, and approximately 730 people lost millions of dollars. For some, the investment represented their life savings.

“Potential investors were told, ‘You’re going to make so much money that your kids and grandkids won’t want for anything,’” said Special Agent Eric Potocek, who investigated the case out of our Los Angeles Division. “In the end, the movie was never made, and it is unlikely investors will ever get anything back.”

Between the film and the impending public offering, the two principal fraudsters behind Los Angeles-based Gigapix raised some \$21 million over a seven-year period beginning in 2006. Of the \$8 million raised for the movie, only 5 percent of that amount

went toward actually producing a film. The rest was used to pay big salaries, commissions, overhead for a fancy office, and other expenses.

Christopher Blauvelt, 59, and David Pritchard, 67, were convicted in 2014 on a series of federal charges including mail fraud, wire fraud, and offering unregistered securities for sale. Last month, Blauvelt was sentenced to eight years in prison, and Pritchard received a five-year term.

Blauvelt founded Gigapix in 2002 and brought Pritchard on as a partner four years later. The two hired telemarketers to solicit potential investors, who were told that Gigapix was a blockbuster animation company waiting to happen—similar to Pixar Animation Studios—and that Gigapix was developing projects expected to generate huge profits when the company went public.

The telemarketers—known as “fronters”—used marketing lists to cold call potential investors and worked from scripts touting the supposed merits of Gigapix. When victims expressed an interest in investing, they were turned over to “closers” who collected their money. Two of the

company’s closers were also convicted in the fraud.

While soliciting money for Gigapix and OZ3D, the defendants told lies and half-truths, suggesting that the company was financially successful and investors would receive high returns on their investments in less than 18 months. They claimed that investments carried little or no risk.


Some of the victims were

“savvy investors,” Potocek noted, and perhaps could afford to lose what they risked. But many victims—referred by friends or other investors and who lived far away from Hollywood—were susceptible to the sales pitch and the lure of being part of the film business.

“Many of the victims were

(see Fraud etd. pg. 4)

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LCPD

who had been in a verbal altercation with the clerk. Jeremiah smelled strongly of an alcoholic beverage and admitted to Officer to drinking numerous beers. Jeremiah was placed under arrest. Upon his arrival at the Jail and subsequent search in the facility. Jeremiah was found to be in possession of a small plastic bag which contained 4 zanax. Jeremiah did introduce a controlled narcotic in to the jail illegally. Sgt. Jeremy Dishner LCPD, made the arrest

Obituaries

William G. (Jerry) Bryant - age 71 of Lenoir City passed away Monday, March 16, 2015 after a long battle with diabetes and its complications. Jerry was an avid fisherman and golfer until illness interfered. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Connie Bryant; sister, Yvonne Smith and brother, Steve Bryant. Jerry is survived by his wife of 49 years, Judi Bryant; daughter, Jeannine Bryant; son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Holly Bryant; 6 grandchildren: Ty, Sam, Micah, Hannah, Griffyn and Lucas; brother and sister-in-law, James and Lori Bryant; several nieces

and nephews; extended family members, Mike and Jo Strickland; special cousin, C. M. Evans and longtime friends, J. D. Watkins and Petey Baker. The family will be gathering at the home of Jim and Holly Bryant, 2380 Misty Ridge, Lenoir City. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18th at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. Memorial services will follow at 7 p.m. with Rev. George Seay and J. D. Watkins. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the Mission of Hope, P O Box 51824, Knoxville, TN 37950. Click Funeral Home, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements.

Gladys Hyatt "Shorty" Pritchard - age 91 of Lenoir City, passed away Monday morning, March 16, 2015 at The Lantern Assisted Living. She and her husband were the owners of Pritchard's Grocery where she worked for many years. Preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Ralph L. Pritchard; son, Eddie Pritchard; granddaughter, Lucy Pritchard; parents, Carl and Zella Hyatt; brothers, Don, Bob, Bill, Ralph and Jim Hyatt. Survived by her children: Doyle (Carolyn) Pritchard of Oliver Springs, Wayman (Anna) Pritchard of Knoxville, Sissy (Bob) Shirer of Rockwood and Paul (Lisa) Pritchard of Knox-

ville; grandchildren: LeeAnn C. (Neel) Caughron, Andy (Ginger) Pritchard, Chris Pritchard, Mark (Robin) Pritchard all of Lenoir City, Adam (Sandra) Pritchard, Jimmy (Susan) Lawson, Craig and Amanda Burchell all of Knoxville, and Matthew Pritchard of Texas; great grandchildren: Grace and Amelia Caughron, Tristen, Tye, Evan, Lacey, Jacob, Edward, Emily, Maddie and Elizabeth Pritchard, Rachel Lawson, Elijah, Isaiah, Kristen, and Kayla Hinds; brother and sister-in-law, Troy and Marilyn Hyatt of Ohio; several nieces and nephews; special friend, Tammy Bright of Lenoir City. The family would like to thank the staff and

nurses of the Lantern and the hospice nurses with Amedisys Health Care. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 17th at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. Funeral services will follow at 7 p.m. with Rev. Bill Ivey officiating. Family and friends will gather at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Poplar Springs Cemetery for graveside services. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Tyler Pritchard Eye Fund, P O Box 52044, Knoxville, TN 37950. Click Funeral Home, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements.

Richard C. Parker, Sr. - age 86 of Lenoir City, TN, passed away Saturday, March 14, (see Obits ctd, pg. 5)

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Charged

Sandra Gaston, 51, Browder Hollow Rd Lenoir City, was charged with DUI. Officer Jeremy Garland LCPD, responded to the Kings Inn to a possible intoxicated driver. The complainant observed the defendant getting into a vehicle while she appeared to be under the influence. Upon arrival Officer observed the vehicle that was

described to Officer trying to pull out of the parking lot. Officer observed the driver having difficulty operating her vehicle. Officer initiated a traffic stop before she could pull onto the HWY. Officer came in contact with the driver Sandra Gaston, and ask her to step out of the vehicle. Sandra did not have her pants all the way on and was

very unstable on her feet, slurred speech and a strong odor of alcohol coming from her person. Sandra refused sobriety test stating she was to intoxicated. Sandra was placed under arrest. Officer Jeremy Garland LCPD, made the arrest.

DUI

Pamela Puckett, 53, Brentwood

Place Lenoir City, was charged with DUI. Deputy Kenneth Palmer LCSO, went to Brentwood Place on an attempt to locate Pamela Puckett. Deputy made contact with Pamela and advised Pamela he had a Warrant for her arrest for DUI. Pamela was placed under arrest. Deputy Kenneth Palmer LCSO, made the arrest.

Obits conc. from pg. 4

2015. Richard regularly attended Central United Methodist Church in Lenoir City and was retired from General Motors in Dayton, OH. He was preceded in death by his wife, Flora Melton Parker; son, Richard (Dickie) Parker; parents, B.V. and Mary Reece Parker. Survived by his daughter, Robin Wiggins and husband, Don; granddaughters, Bri McCurry and husband, Lee, and Haley Wiggins; great granddaughter, Abby McCurry all of Lenoir City; sisters, Mary Edith Sharp and Mildred Shumaker of Springboro, OH; brother, Buddy Parker of Arizona. As he requested there will be no memorial services. Click Funeral Home, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements. www.clickfuneralhome.com

Helen M. Hawk - of Lenoir City, TN, passed away on March 13, 2015 after a brief illness. Helen had a beautiful soprano voice and sang in many productions at the University of Tennessee and in her church choir. She was a fabulous Mother and counted among her greatest achievements her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Being "Nan-mama" and decorating birthday cakes in the latest themes for countless family members gave her years of pleasure. Helen spent years cultivating her wildflower gardens and trying to keep her husband of 61 years, Larry, from "digging them up".

(see Obits conc. pg. 8)

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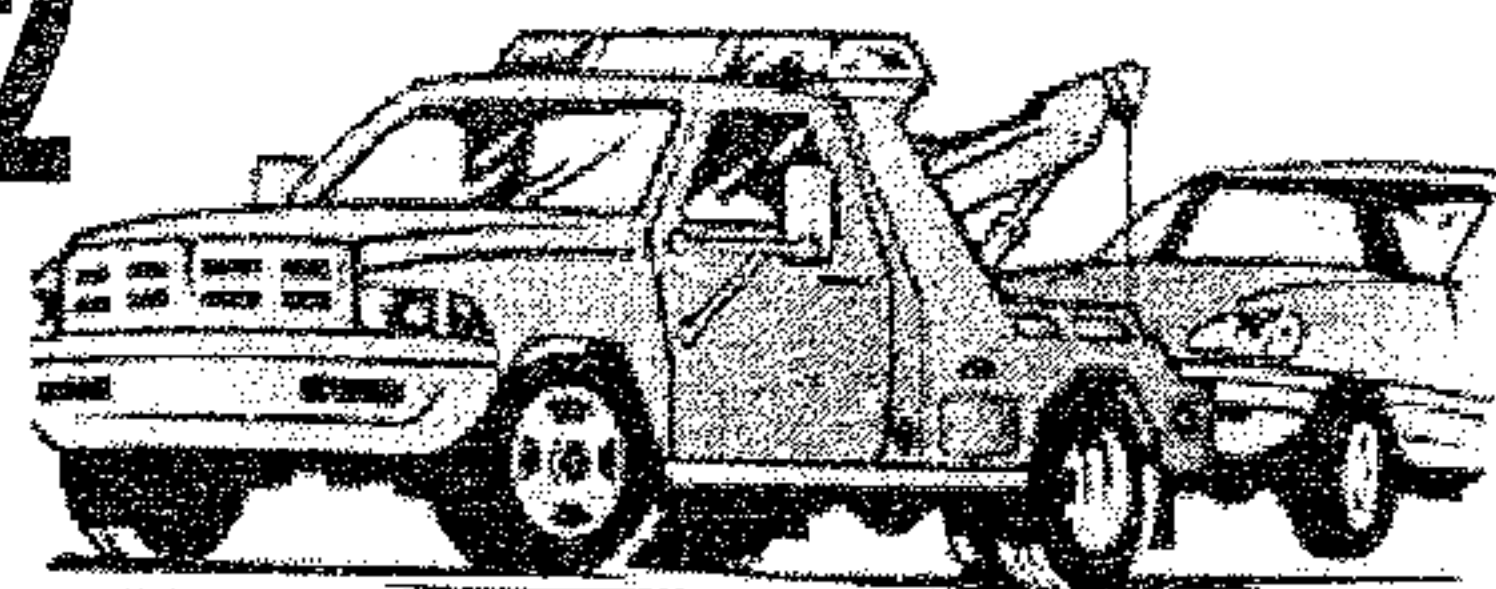
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Theft ctd from pg. 2

these issues.

"I continue to stress the importance of separating money-handling responsibilities between multiple people," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "Simple checks and balances prevent theft, and help ensure that dishonest people are caught."

To view the special investigation report online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of pub-

lic money in Tennessee, call the Comptroller's toll-free hotline at (800) 232-5454, or file a report online at: www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline. Follow us on twitter: @TNCOT

Fraud ctd from pg. 3

not wealthy people," Potocek said. "They were teachers and secretaries and folks who worked 30 or 40 years to save for retirement." He added that Gigapix "took money from older people and from oth-

ers who clearly could not afford to lose it. People lost their homes and had their dreams of retiring evaporate."

There have been other recent cases in Los Angeles involving movie fraud, where telemarketers lure victims into investing in films that never get made. "These criminals were selling

entertainment," Potocek said, "but it could just as easily have been stocks or precious metals. When someone promises a high rate of return in a very short time, and with little or no risk, any investor should beware. Those are very large red flags."

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