

The Daily Edition

50¢

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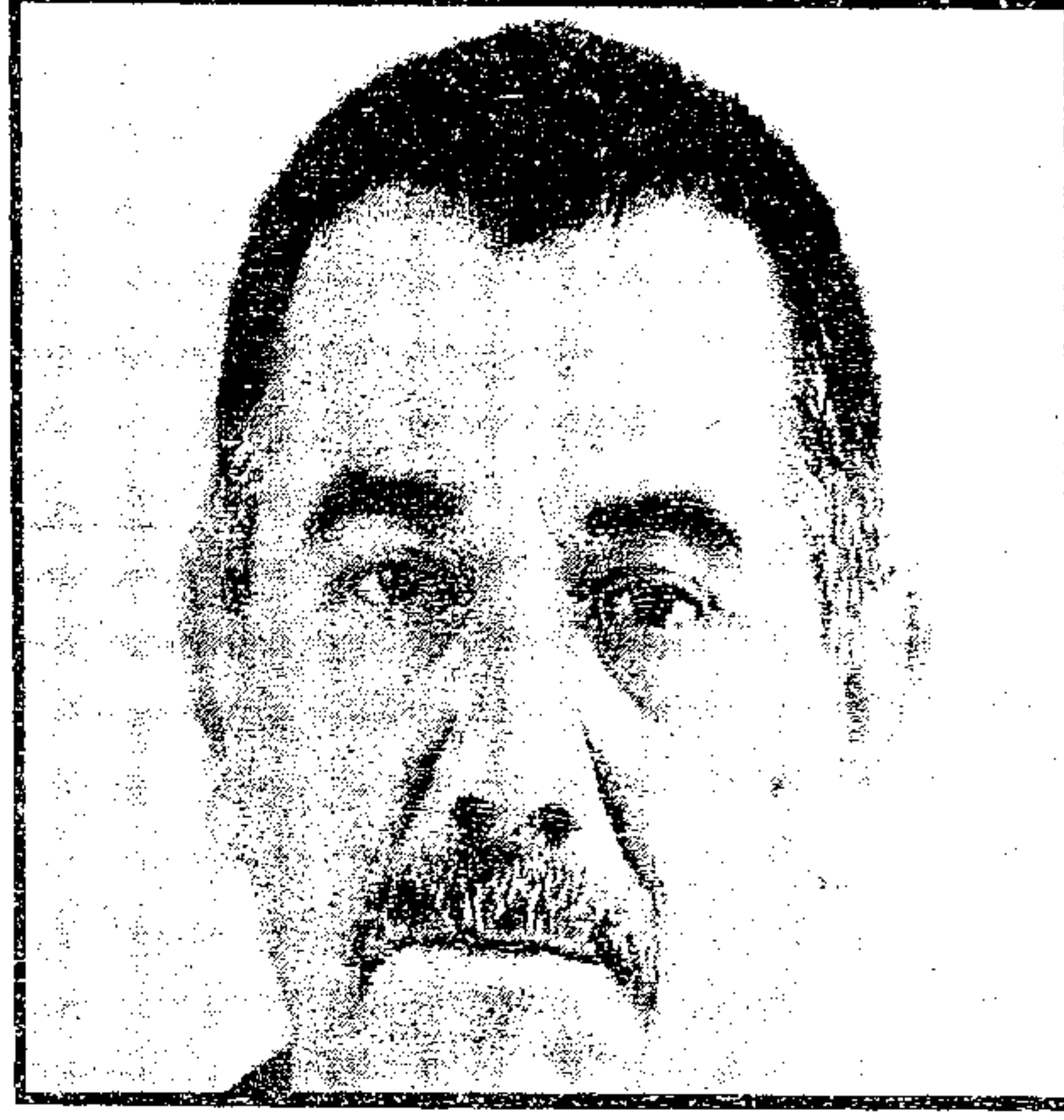
Thursday, August 20, 2015

2 charged with DUI in LCSO traffic stop

(see DUI pg. 4)



Jose Tapia-Rios



Reynaldo Gutierrez-Zamora

Disturbance call leads to arrests



Britney Blevins



Justin Blevins

(see Duo pg. 4)

Capias for Rape of a Child



Terry Phillips

(see Rape pg. 5)

2 charged at the jail with warrants



Timothy West



Jessica Crowder

(see Jail pg. 2)

Loan Sharks Sentenced Albanian Crime Group Used Violence, Intimidation in Business Dealings

Loan sharking. It's a term that might conjure up historical images of shadowy organized crime figures handing out questionable loans at exorbitant interest rates to desperate customers, usually followed by threats of violence if the loans aren't paid off.

Unfortunately, loan sharks are alive and well in 2015 and continue to benefit from the financial misfortunes of others. Last month,

the two top leaders of an Albanian criminal organization operating in the Philadelphia area were sentenced to lengthy federal prison terms for running a violent loan sharking and illegal gambling ring. Ylli Gjeli, the boss, and Fatimir Mustafaraj, the muscle, were convicted late last year after a six-week trial. Two other defendants were convicted at the same trial.

From 2002 to 2013,

(see Loan Sharks pg. 3)

Verse of the Day

May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. — 2 Timothy 1:16

Obituaries

see inside **Wazzup**

Its looking like some great improvements have been done during the off season around the county.

Weather

Today: Thunderstorms likely. High 79F.
Tonight: Thunderstorms during the evening, then cloudy skies overnight. Low 68F.
Friday Sunny. High 84F.
Friday Night Clear to partly cloudy. Low 62F.

Horoscopes

Leo 7/23-8/22

You can feel the electricity in the air -- the kind that makes your hairs stand on end. Thankfully, it's not fear that you are experiencing now; rather, it's the anticipation of

(Continued on page 6)



08805 93489 2

Theft

Jessica Crowder, 31, Blue Spring Road Philadelphia, was charged with Forgery x3, and Theft of Property x3.

Timothy West, 29, Stockton Valley Road Loudon, was charged with Failure to Appear and Criminal Capias (Aggravated Burglary, Theft of Property).

Deputy Chance Gray LCSO was advised that Deputy Billy Lewis was out at the jail with a male and a female inmate.

Deputy Chance Gray went to the booking area of the jail and served Jessica Crowder and Timothy West with active Warrants.

Police beat

Shane Price, 25, Hwy 411 South, was charged with Failure to Appear. Deputy Lance Anderson LCSO, arrested Shane on a FTA Warrant at the Hwy 411 address and transported to Loudon Jail.

Courtney Brown, 29, Donelson Road Philadelphia, was charged with Violation of Probation.

Deputy Eric Curtis LCSO, served Courtney with a VOP Warrant at the Loudon CO Jail.

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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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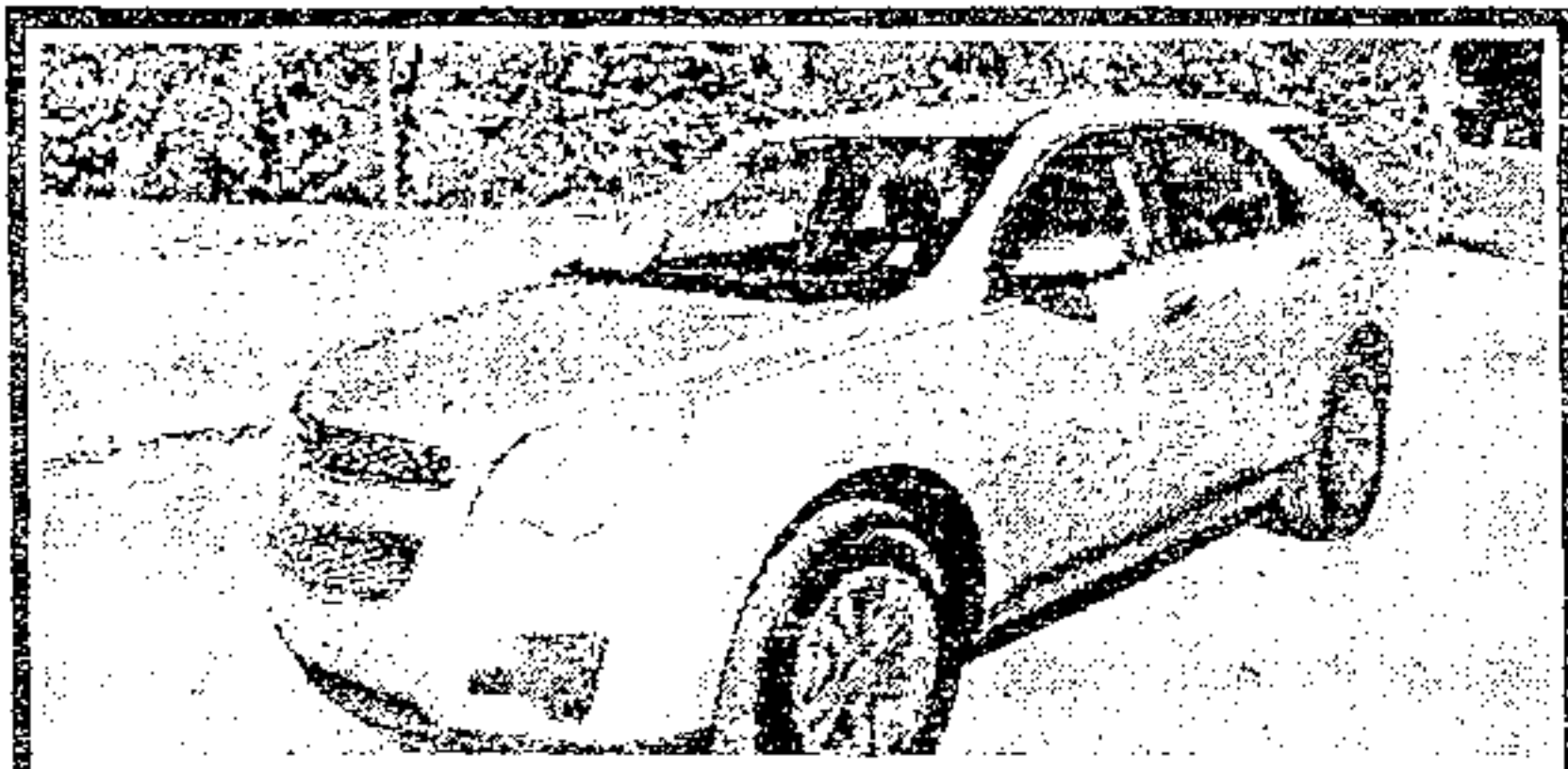
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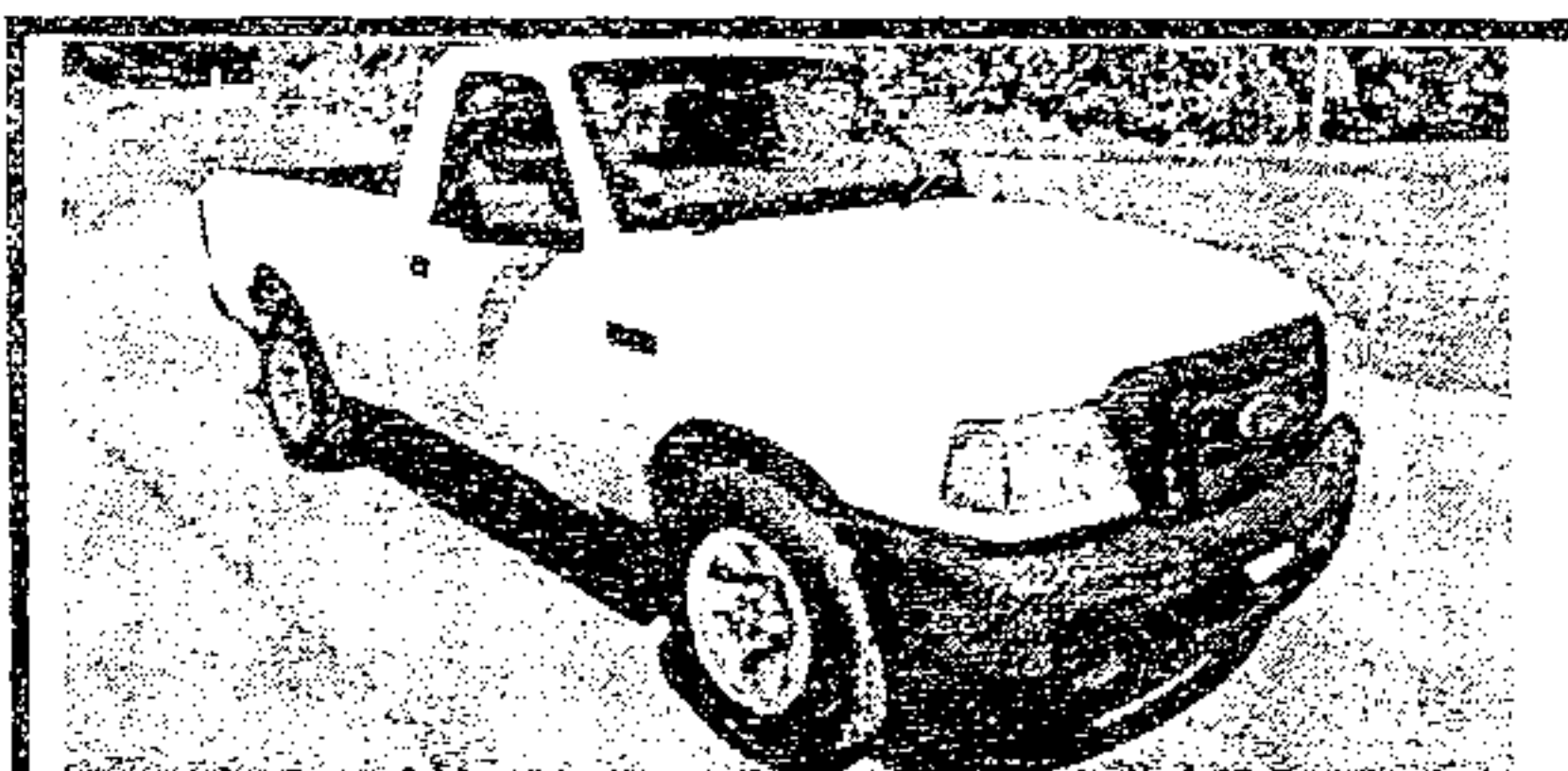
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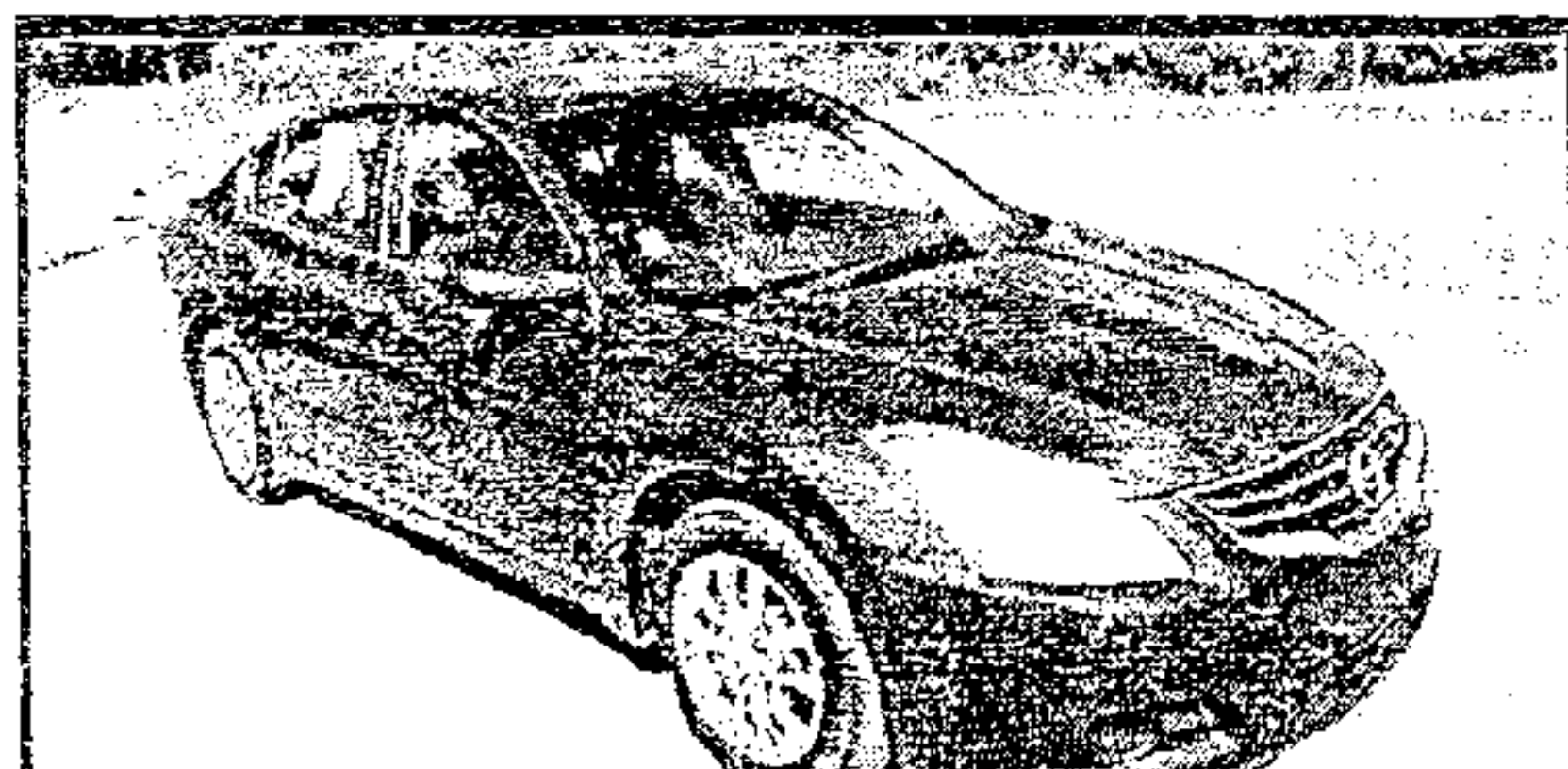
2011 Chevy Equinox- Loaded, Like New, Great On Gas, PW, PL, A/C



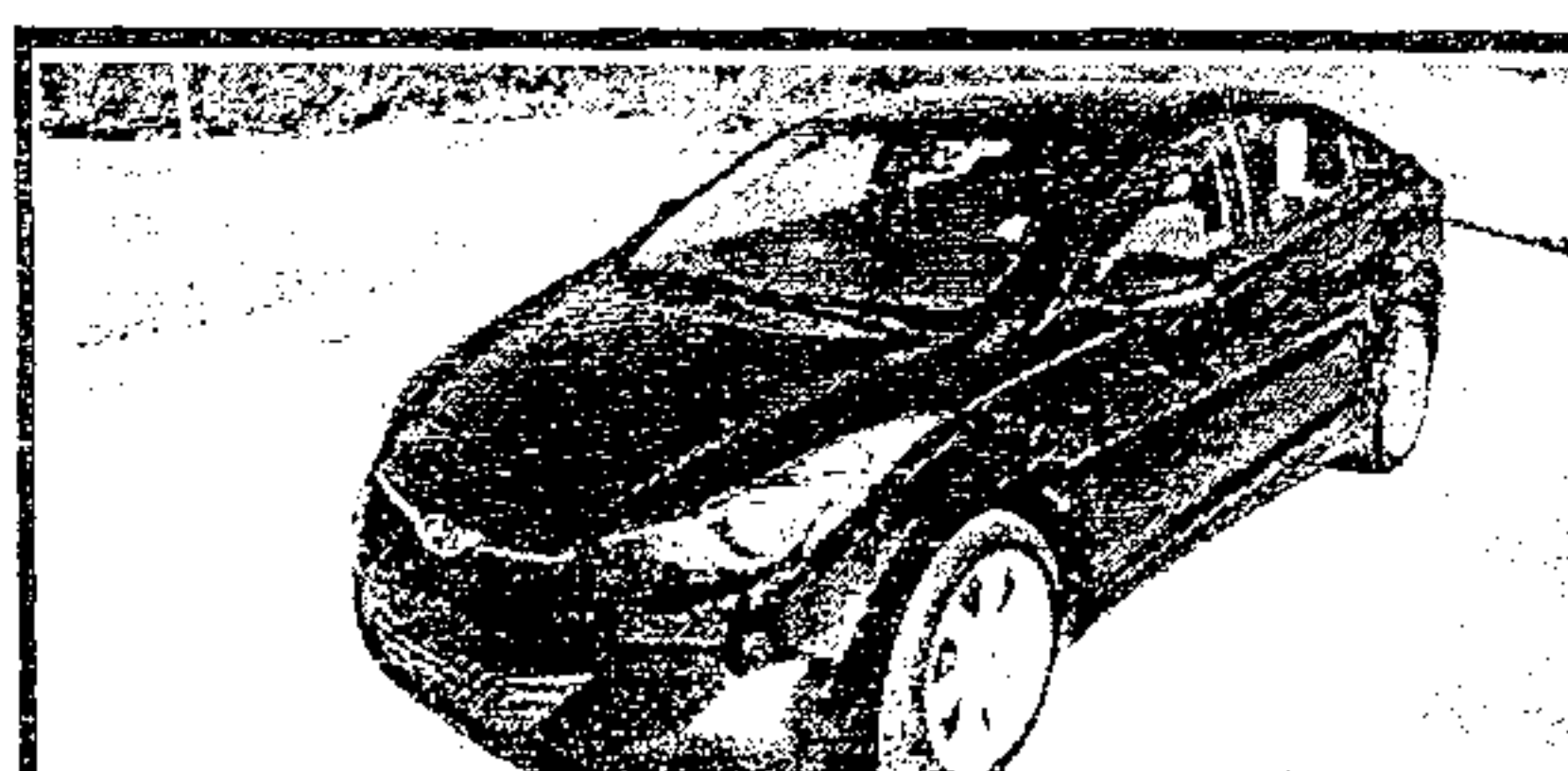
2011 Ford Ranger- Tow Pkg, Auto, A/C, Bed Liner, Immaculate, LOW MILES 97K!!



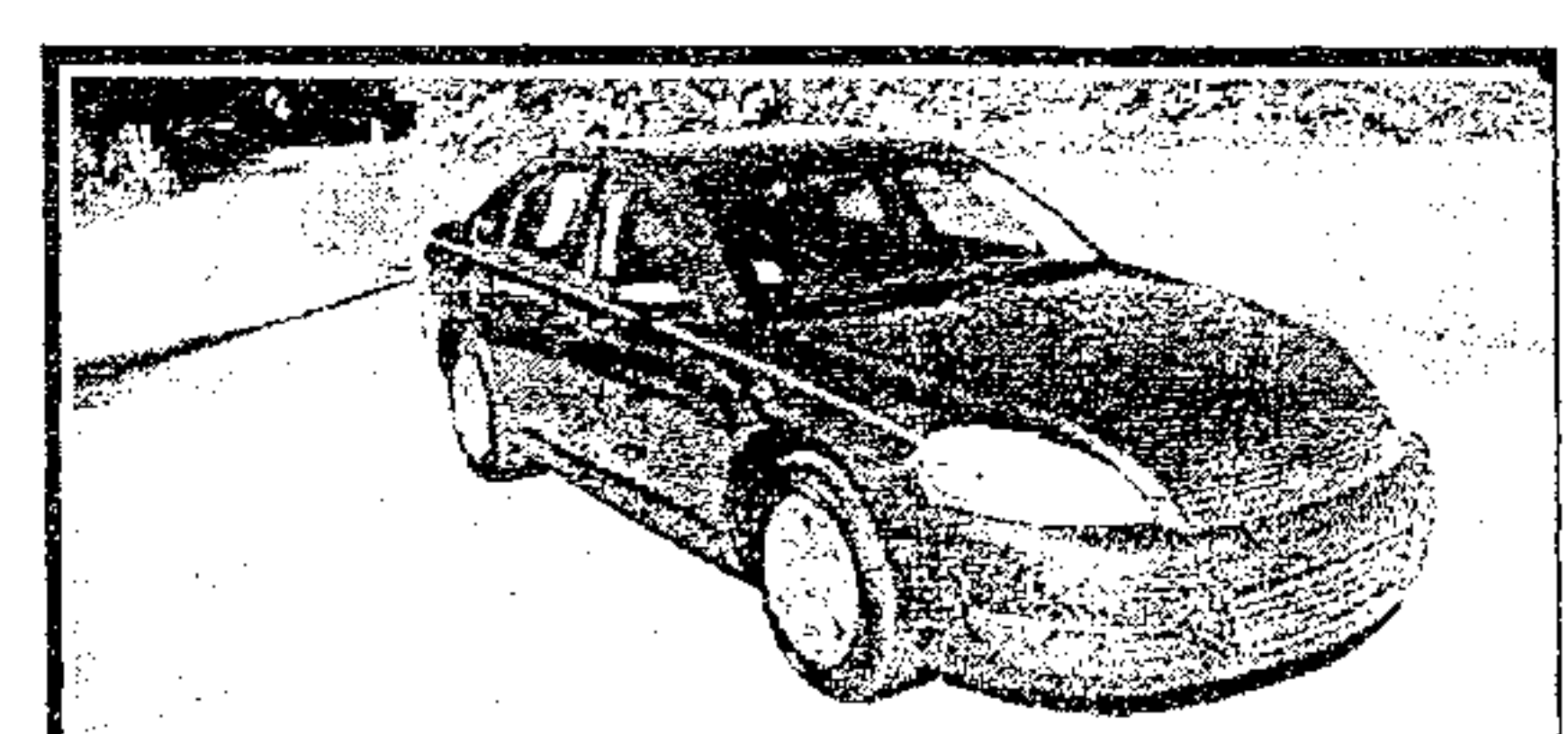
2000 Chevy S10- 4 Cyl, Auto, 3 Door, A/C, Tow Pkg



2010 Nissan Altima- GA\$ Saver, Push Start, Chrome Wheels, PW, PL, A/C



2011 Hyundai Elantra- Leather, Sunroof, PW, PL, Immaculate Shape, LOW MILES 78K!!!



2011 Chevy Impala- Dealer Special, Auto, PW, PL, Like New, Local Vehicle

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Loan Sharks

Gjeli and Mustafaraj led the multi-million-dollar criminal enterprise with two primary sources of income: loan sharking and illegal gambling. The illegal gambling arm of the operation included an online sports betting website that contributed more than \$2.9 million in gross profits to the group's criminal coffers. There was often crossover between the two arms of the organization—when customers couldn't cover their gambling losses, bookies would refer them to the loan sharking side of the house.

The illegal activity took place in various Philadelphia bars and coffee houses owned or controlled by the organization. In addition to the gambling operation, Gjeli, Mustafaraj, and company generated money by making loans to customers at interest rates that ranged from 104 percent to 395 percent and demanding

weekly repayments.

These repayment demands were almost always accompanied by acts of intimidation. Customers were menaced with firearms, hatchets, and threats of physical harm to themselves or family members. In a number of instances, perhaps to create the false impression that the Albanians were part of a larger and more powerful organization, customers were told that "people from New York" were willing to cause bodily harm to anyone who didn't pay up.

Gjeli and Mustafaraj not only directed the criminal activities of their underlings—who included debt collectors and bookies—they also

got their own hands dirty by directly financing loans, intimidating and threatening violence against customers to collect loan payments, and physically assaulting subordinates and associates who stole from the organization or who didn't collect their debts on time.

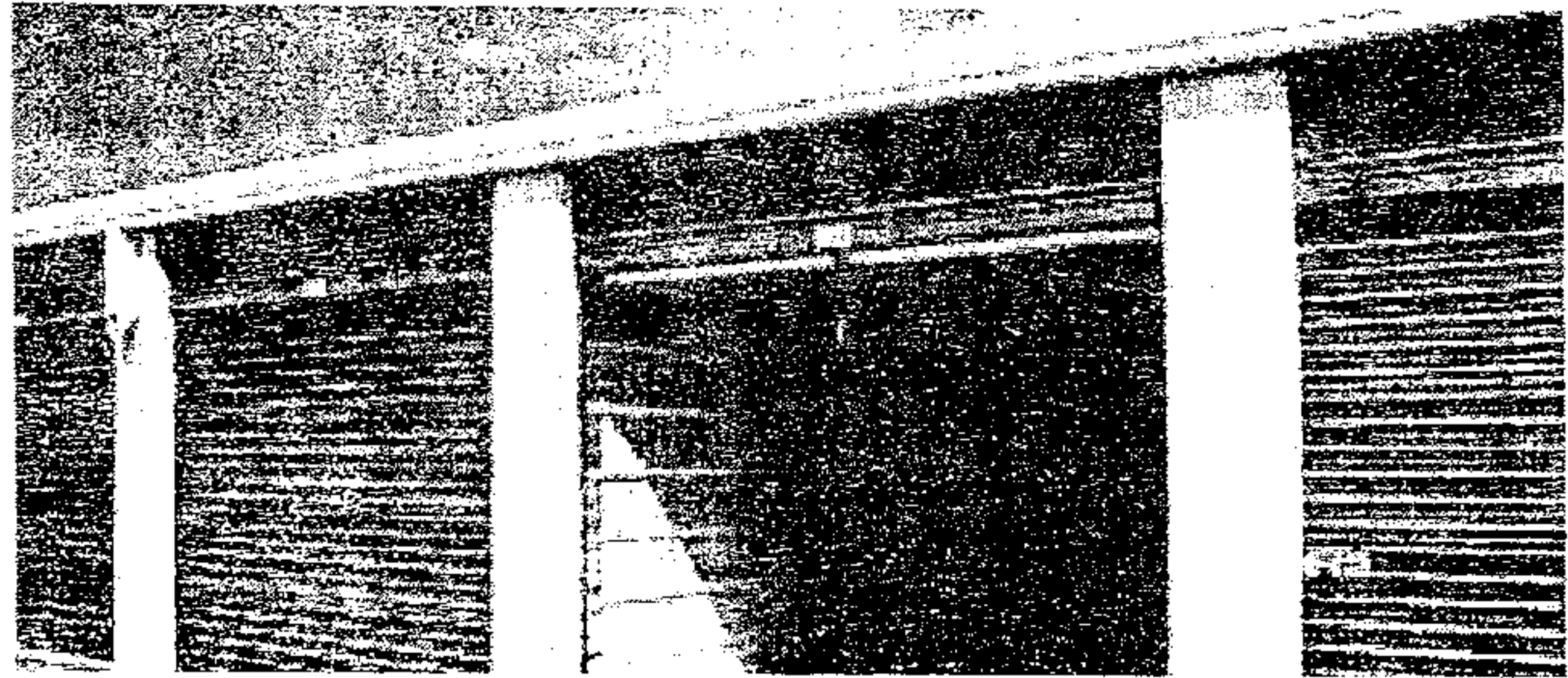
According to Philadelphia FBI Special Agent in Charge Edward Hanko, Gjeli and

Mustafaraj took advantage of their victims twice. "They provided loans at outrageous interest rates to those unable to obtain loans from traditional sources," he explained, "and then used threats and violence to collect on those illegal loans."

The investigation revealed that the Lion Bar, an establishment owned by Gjeli, served

(see Loan Sharks ctd. pg. 4)

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Duo

Britney Russell, 25, Sunnyside Road Philadelphia, was charged with DUI, and Violation of Implied Consent.

Justin Blevins, 27, Queener Road Loudon, was charged with public Intoxication.

Sgt. Jerramie Bowen LCSO, responded to Avery Street on a disturbance call. Upon arrival Sgt. Bowen found a purple vehicle running with the driver identified as Britney Russell. Britney, and a male later identified as Justin Blevins passed out with the vehicle running. Sgt. Bowen

knocked on the window and the Justin jumped out of the vehicle. Britney could not find out how to open the driver door. Britney then got the door open and when she stepped out she was very unsteady on her feet and had slurred speech. Sgt. Bowen ask Britney to open her mouth and tilt her head back Britney did have a white powder in her nose along with a white substance in her mouth. Britney stated she had snorted Gabeapentin. Britney did poorly on sobriety test and was placed under arrest. Sgt. Bowen

then made contact with Justin who was very unsteady on his feet and kept vomiting while Deputy was talking to him. Justin was very restless and could not stand still, and appeared to be under the influence of a narcotic. Justin was a danger to himself and others if left in public. Sgt. Jerramie Bowen LCSO, made the arrest.

Dui

Reynaldo Gutierrez-Zamora, 49, D Street Lenoir City was charged with DUI by Consent.

Jose Tapia-Rios, 41, West 4th Ave Lenoir

City, was charged with DUI, and Driving without a License.

Deputy Kenneth Palmer LCSO, observed a green vehicle traveling north on Hwy 11 weaving inside the lane. Deputy observed the vehicle cross the center line several times then cross back to the fog line. Deputy stopped the vehicle on Hwy 11 at Walt Williams car lot. Deputy made contact with the driver Jose Tapia-Rios,

and the passenger Reynaldo Gutierrez who appeared to intoxicated. A check through dispatch revealed Jose was driving without a license and failed sobriety test. Reynaldo knew Jose had been drinking and let him drive his vehicle while intoxicated. Reynaldo was charged with DUI by Consent and Jose was charged with DUI and Driving without license. Deputy Kenneth Palmer LCSO, made the arrest.

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Public Notice

The Salary and Benefits Committee will hold an open meeting at the County Office Building August 24, 2015 at 10:00 to discuss the Policy and Procedure Handbook.

SHANE'S CAFE

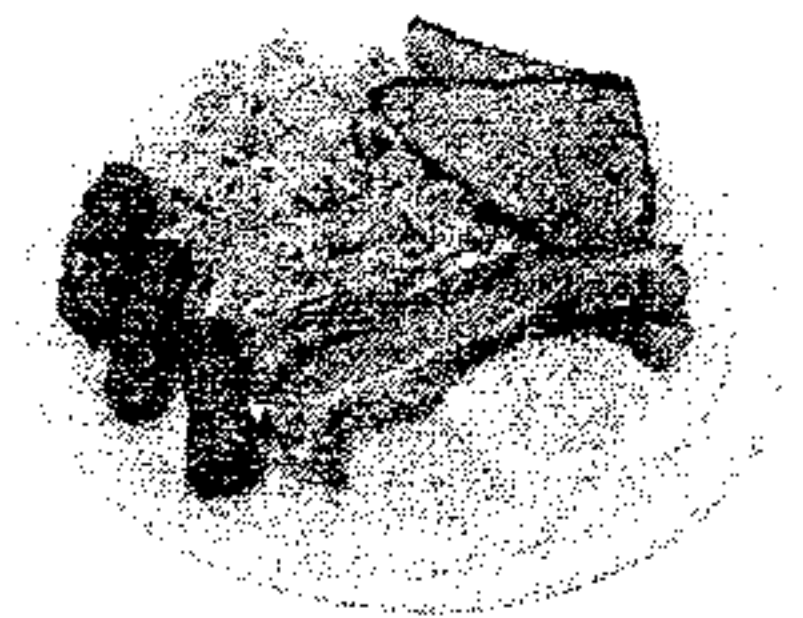
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Rape

Terry Phillips, 73, Abbott Road Lenoir City, was charged with a Criminal Court Capias (rape of child). Deputy Bobby Hamilton LCSO, served a warrant on Terry at the Abbott Road address and transported to Loudon Jail.

Loan Sharks ctd. from pg. 3

as the main hub of the organization's criminal activities—it was where Gheli, Mustafaraj, and their associates met with current and prospective borrowers. What they didn't realize was that one of their borrowers was actually an FBI undercover agent, and during one particular meeting, details of a \$50,000 loan

were worked out with him. Gjeli informed our undercover agent that his limbs would be broken if he didn't pay back what he owed in a timely manner.

Also during the investigation, law enforcement was able to make more than 400 audio recordings and numerous surveillance videos of the criminal activity. By August 2013,

arrests were made, including those of Gjeli and Mustafaraj. And the FBI executed a series of search warrants at related businesses, homes, vehicles, and a storage locker. Law enforcement recovered guns, cash, computers, phones, video surveillance, loan applications, loan ledgers, and gambling records. Fortunately, the group

kept good records of its criminal activities, and much of the evidence seized in August was presented at trial.

That evidence, plus trial testimony from many of Gjeli's and Mustafaraj's customers—and even members of their own criminal organization—was enough to convince a jury of the defendants' guilt.

And as with many successful investigations, the FBI didn't do it alone: Our Philadelphia Field Office worked closely with the Pennsylvania State Police, New Jersey State Police, Montgomery County Detective Bureau, and the Internal Revenue Service to dismantle a very dangerous and prolific criminal enterprise.

Police beat

Adam Evans, 24, Hopewell Springs Road Madisonville, was charged with Violation of Probation. Deputy Olwin Norman LCSO, served a VOP Warrant on Adam at the Loudon Co. jail.

Brittani Flint, 25, Walker Ave Seymour, was charged with Violation of Probation. Deputy Olwin Norman LCSO, served a VOP Warrant on Brittani at the Loudon Co. Jail.

Victoria Hippo, 30, County Road Athens, was charged with Failure to Appear. Deputy Olwin Norman LCSO, served a FTA Warrant on Victoria at the Loudon Co. Jail.

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