

DAILY EDITION

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, June 6, 2008

Mom sees daughter's murderer get life

Gerald Davis Thomas was sentenced in Loudon County Criminal Court Wednesday to life in prison, which will run consecutive with his current federal sentence that will not expire until 2021. Thomas is currently 54 years old and will be roughly 104 before the possibility of parole. Thomas was sentenced after his conviction for the brutal murder of Adwinna

Pamela Hughes.

Prior to the sentencing, Eugene Eblen "Your honor,

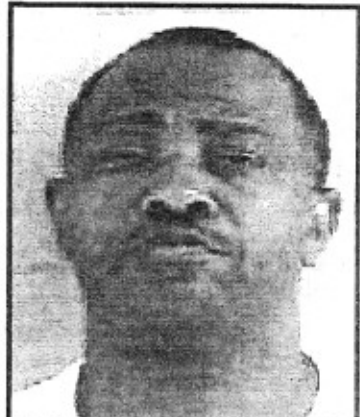
of Thomas and Judge E.

I would never hear her voice, hear that belly laugh or the phone ring & Wena saying "Hi Mom, just called to say I love you and hope you have a great day. Bye"

My prayer is that Wena's murderer lives a very long life, gets a conscience and is tortured physically and mentally for the rest of his days. When he dies be cast into Hell burning with fire and brimstone and I could spend eternity keeping the flames stoked.

Thank You, Phyllis Hughes Edington (Victim's Mother)

the victims mother, Phyllis Edington, stated in front may I address the court and Adwinna Pamela Hughes (see Murderer pg. 8)



David Gerald Thomas

Local charged with scrapping borrowed car

Police arrested a young Loudon man following an investigation into allegations he borrowed a woman's car and took it to a junk yard where he sold it for scrap.

Charles Dewayne Ramsey, 21, of Bishop Road, Loudon, was charged with theft over \$500. According to the warrant filed by Detective Sgt. Patrick Upton, LCSD CID; (see Ramsey pg. 6)



Charles Dewayne Ramsey

TWRC finalizes 2008-09 Hunting Seasons

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission has finalized the 2008-09 state hunting seasons. The action

was taken at the TWRC's regularly scheduled meeting May 21-22 at the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (see Hunting Seasons pg. 3)

Verse of the day

The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.
Exodus 15:2

Obituaries

Alma Mae Hayworth

Weather:

Today: Sunshine. Hot. High near 95.

Tonight: Clear skies. Low 71.

Saturday: Sunny. Highs: upper 90s; Lows: low

Copper wire stolen

Police were called to a contractor someone had stripped copper wire out of the residence sometime morning when the electrical (see Stolen pg. 4)

Home burglarized

Authorities were called to a home to find someone had stolen about \$5000 worth of his property. (see Burglary pg. 7)

Package stolen

An elderly Philadelphia woman called police Monday when she learned she had received a package in the mail and it was stolen. According to reports, a 75 (see Package pg. 2)

Breaking & entering

A local woman called police Monday when she returned home to find someone had broken into her residence and stolen several items. (see B&E pg. 9)

70s.

Sunday: Abundant sunshine. Highs: upper 90s; Lows: low 70s.

Wazzup

Congratulations Jeff Vittatoo and Bill Russell on graduating the photo class!

Horoscopes Gemini

(May 21-June 21)

You're having so much fun with people today that you may accidentally acquire a few new secret (or public) admirers. You're

(see Horoscopes pg. 2)

Hunting Seasons

Region II Ray Bell Building.

The 2008-09 big game seasons will only feature a few changes to last year's regulations. Due to the odd calendar year, there will now be a nine-day first segment of the muzzleloader season running from Nov. 1-9.

Most other chang-

es were small adjustments in regulations to either increase antlerless harvest or simplify regulations. Two counties, Obion and Shelby were placed into Unit L, while 21 Unit A and B counties saw slight increases in their antlerless hunting opportunities. The commission also approved that Unit L Young Sportsman hunters have the same

opportunity to harvest three does per day as the rest of the Unit L hunters.

In other house cleaning items, the commission made it easier for Unit A and L hunters to take their statewide limit of three bucks by allowing all three bucks to be taken with the same weapon in the same unit. For a number of years it has been legal for hunters to harvest three bucks with the same weapon, they simply had to hunt in different units. The new regulation simplifies regulations for the Unit A and L hunters. Clarifications were also made of bonus animals, youth accompaniment, and legal antler points.

In other big game news, there will be only minor adjustments to bear and boar seasons, with most changes involving increases in harvest opportunities, especially as it pertains to archery season.

There were slight expansions in the fall turkey seasons with East

Tennessee adding a few counties to the fall hunting list. It was also approved that the 2009 spring turkey season begin March 28 with the Young Sportsman hunt one week before.

Tim Singleton was honored as the TWRA Boating Office of the Year. Singleton, a Putnam County officer, covers Dale Hollow and Center Hill lakes among his duties.

The TWRC also set its next meeting for June 17-18 (Tuesday-Wednesday). The days for this meeting are a change from the TWRC's regular meeting days of a Wednesday-Thursday.

Hunting season notes:

Added two days to the muzzleloader season so that the 1st segment runs from November 1-9, 2008 in all deer units.

Add Shelby and Obion county to Unit L

Increase antlerless gun opportunities

in: Anderson, Benton, Blount, Carter, Chester, Claiborne, Fentress, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Henderson, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Meigs, Sevier, Sullivan, Tipton.

Remove the Jackson county quota hunt.

Allow Unit L Young Sportsman hunters the same opportunity of harvesting three does per day as the rest of the hunters.

Allow Unit L and A hunters to harvest all three bucks with the same weapon in their unit of choice. They no longer have to switch units to harvests their three bucks.

Add Polk county (East of Hwy. 411 & North of Hwy. 64) to the Oct 18-19 feral hog hunt with dogs.

Add Polk county (East of Hwy. 411 & North of Hwy. 64) to the Oct 6-7 and 18-19 black bear hunt with dogs.

Extend the bear archery still hunt from September 27 - October 24.

Increase fall turkey hunting opportunities in Anderson, Benton, Blount, Davidson, Knox, Moore, and White counties

Set the 2009 Spring Turkey opener for March 28, 2009 (Young Sportsman March 21-22).

Defined a legal antler point as a projection of at least one inch long, measured from the tip of the point to the nearest edge of the beam, following the mid-line of the tine.

Clarified bonus animals and youth accompaniment requirements.

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Stolen

over the weekend.

Records indicate Jason Gentry told Deputy Jerramie Bowen, LCSD, he arrived at the lot along Dudala Way around 7:30 a.m. Monday and found someone had cut the wires to the main panel in the garage, a heart and air unit and the service line to the main house. The wire was cut about 8" to 10" above the main box and also taken.

Gentry reported he had left the location around 4:00 p.m. Friday and everything was intact.

The loss was valued

at \$2500.

Police Beat

Jodi Lea Bunch, 21, of Browder Hollow Road, Lenoir city was charged with two mittimus out of Lenoir City. Bunch was taken into custody at McGhee Square Apartments.

Officer Nathan Wilson LCPD made the arrest.

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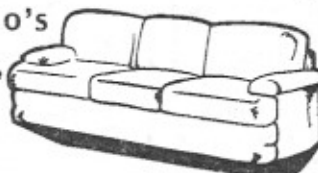
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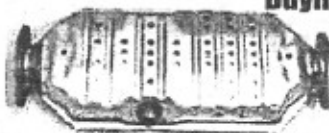
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Burglary

Deputy T.J. Scarbrough, LCSD, was dispatched to Lynwood Road where Gary Lewelling advised he returned

home to find several things missing from his residence including an Xbox 360 with ten games and extra controllers, a 32" Panasonic LCD flat screen television, a

Toshiba laptop computer and a water jug containing several hundred dollars worth of change. There was no sign of forced entry to the home and the

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value of the loss was estimated at around \$5000.

Investigator Charles Cosner, CSI, was also summoned to process the scene.

Police Beat

Greg Barton Hewett, 53, of Commerce St., Loudon, was charged with VOP.

According to the affidavit, Hewett was

convicted of DUI and sentenced to probation for 11 months 29 days.

Since then he has failed to report to probation officer; failed to pay costs/fines, owes \$1291; failed to pay supervision fees, owes \$225 and failed to respond to notices.

Officer Samuel Harrison, LPD made the arrest.

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Murderer

murderer. As the mother of Adwinna Pamela Hughes I would like to put a face on the murder victim, so you know her, my only child, as our family knew Wena. As an only child growing up she loved her dog Buffy, playing shortstop on the softball team, cheerleading, 4H camp, schoolmates, (Wena always made straight A's) Sunday school, Bible school and her mommy & daddy.

We as parents, her Dad, Mom & Papa Joe always felt there were 2 things we owe our children - roots to grow & wings to fly - somehow Wena got a broken wing and EVIL PENETRATED PU-

RITY. Wena came face to face with a monster who took control of her life, her money, cell phone, car & then on a cold winter night felt he had the right to take her life. Dragged Wena from her car, choked her, shot her 3 times, tore skin from her body, cut her flesh away and left her dead body for the animals to eat - all because he could. SOMEONE WAS WATCHING - GOD & Payday ahead. My faith has taught me you can't hurt a dead body. If I didn't believe this I would go insane.

Before anyone brought his news, I felt in my heart Wena was already dead, laying somewhere with snow covering her body. I JUST KNEW.

At that point I started living in a Valley of the Shadow of Death. I couldn't eat, lost 40 pounds, Joe would put food in my mouth and tell me, Honey please swallow. Rub my throat telling me I need you. Wena was dead and I wanted to be with her, but for my husband Joe who is a man of faith, I would try.

I looked for Wena's face in every crowd. I would dissolve into tears, when a memory of Wena came flooding back. The AWFUL PAIN. No parent should ever have to live with this. Friends and family stepped back, didn't call, visit or send a card. It Hurt A LOT.

A friend finally told me not to feel bad, no one wanted to hurt me, I just made

them feel uncomfortable. Try not to feel left out, they were afraid I would start crying and make everyone uncomfortable. Out of pure innocence when a friend asked me what happened to Wena, all I got out was Wena was in Heaven. She was murdered. My friend fainted.

It's been a long journey, over 4 years, I have prayed for peace and justice and kept silent. I kept talking with God. I'm down here. It's me again. Help me. My best friend knew how it felt to lose your only child. My friend had lost his only child - A Son. He felt my grief, knew how a parents heart can shatter. My best friend has and will always be here for me. His name is God.

His son is Jesus."

It was 17 months after Wena's death before I felt a connection with life. 3 years before I could feel physically - I felt wind on my face. This is what this murderer has done to me. I finally went back to Wena's grave on a cold February day. I took my gun and some flowers. I told no one I was going. I don't know if the gun was for protection or to take my life. I thought about it many times. I sat down beside Wena's grave and prayed. God give me an answer - Please I can't go like this. Wena's still small voice said "Mom don't do this to Papa Joe. I'm Ok with granny in heaven."

I made Wena a promise that day. I

Continued pg. 9

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Murderer

would walk with dignity and faith and fight for justice as long as I live. With God's help I will keep that promise.

Your honor, my last and only plea, I would ask the court for justice for Wena's murderer, not mercy, he has shown none. I am begging you to keep this monster behind bars for the rest of his life. Society deserves to feel safe. We have earned that right. It has been paid for with the blood of our forefathers. My prayer is that Wena's murderer lives a very long life, gets a conscience and is tortured physically and mentally for the rest of his days. When he dies be cast into Hell burning with fire and brimstone and I

could spend eternity keeping the flames stoked. Thank You, Phyllis Hughes Edington."

Judge Eblen handed down the life sentence to Gerald Davis Thomas and at the State's request, ran the life sentence consecutively with his current federal sentence that will not expire until 2021. Thomas will not be eligible for parole until around 2058 when he will be 104. Jury following the trial handled by District Attorney General Russell Johnson and Assistant DA Frank Harvey handed down the conviction.

B&E

According to reports, Deputy Kevin Parks, LCSD, was dispatched to Jackson Ferry Road, Green-

back, where he spoke with Karen Leonard who said she and her daughter came home to find someone had been inside without permission and they exited the house and called police.

The officer reported he cleared the residence and found a window that had been busted out. The house had been entered and several items taken without permission of the owner.

The deputy notified the detective on call and turned the investigation over.

No other information was available at the time of the report.

Police Beat

Leaf Etta Marie Botenfield, 44, of Edward St., Madisonville, was charged with violation of probation.

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Deputy Terisa Julian, LCSD made the arrest.

Justin Allen Ford, 22, of Kelly Lane, Lenoir City was charged with domestic violence.

According to the report, Officer Jason Butler, LCPD was dispatched to a problem area at McGhee Square Apartments on a 911 hang-up.

On arrival the officer observed a male subject yelling extremely loud in an irate manner coming from the residence. The victim sated Ford pushed her against a wall and twisted her arm, placing her in fear.

Jose A Garcia, 21, of Industrial Park Drive, Lenoir City was charged with theft un-

der \$500.

According to the report, officer Darrell Butler responded to Walmart where Garcia had been stopped by loss prevention taking 3 DVDs from their packages and attempted to leave the store without paying.

Jonathan R. Yoakum, 22, of Gregie Lane, LaFollette, was charged with DUI 1st and seatbelt violation.

According to the report, Trooper Russell Smith THP stopped Yoakum for a seatbelt violation and performed poorly on sobriety tasks.

Yoakum admitted to taking methadone prior to driving. Trooper Russell Smith THP made the arrest.

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