

# Daily Edition

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Friday, October 19, 2018

## Loudon County Jury Convicts Mother And Her Boyfriend In 2014 Death Of Baby Levi

*Warning: Contains graphic details.*

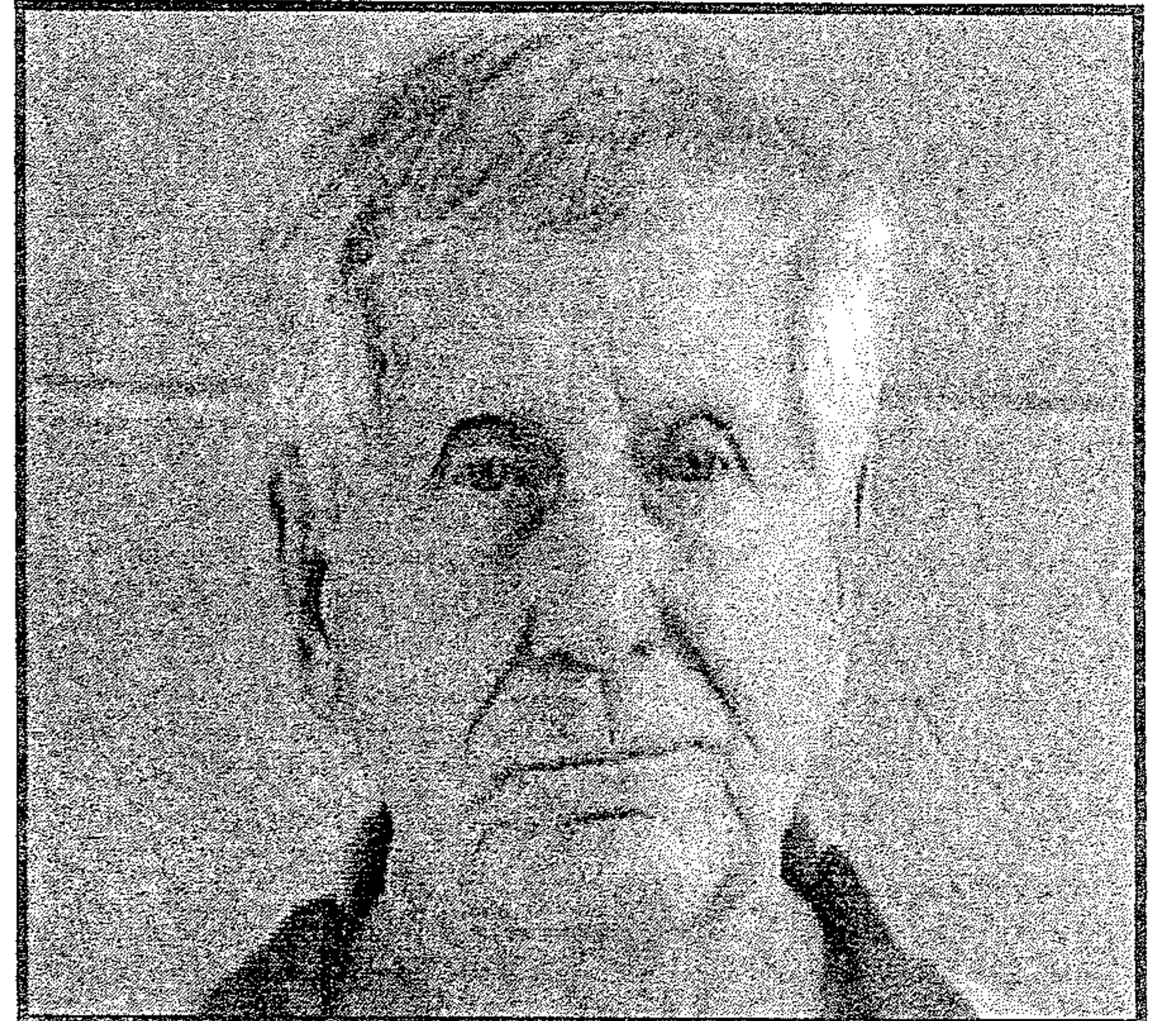
District Attorney Russell Johnson is reporting that, after a week-long trial, a Loudon County jury convicted Morgan County residents Amanda Beaty and Rodger Dale Prince of two counts each of the first degree felony-murder of Amanda's seventeen month old son, Levi Beaty, whose death occurred in June of 2014.

The trial, which was moved by Morgan County Criminal Court Judge Jeff Wicks to Loudon County upon the defendants' motion for change of venue, began with jury selection last Tuesday. The district attorney's office

concluded its proof late on Thursday with the testimony of Dr. Darinka Mil-eusnic-Polchan of UT Forensics Center who testified about the results of the autopsy and the manner of death. Amanda Beaty took the stand in her own defense on Friday.

see Levi pg. 2

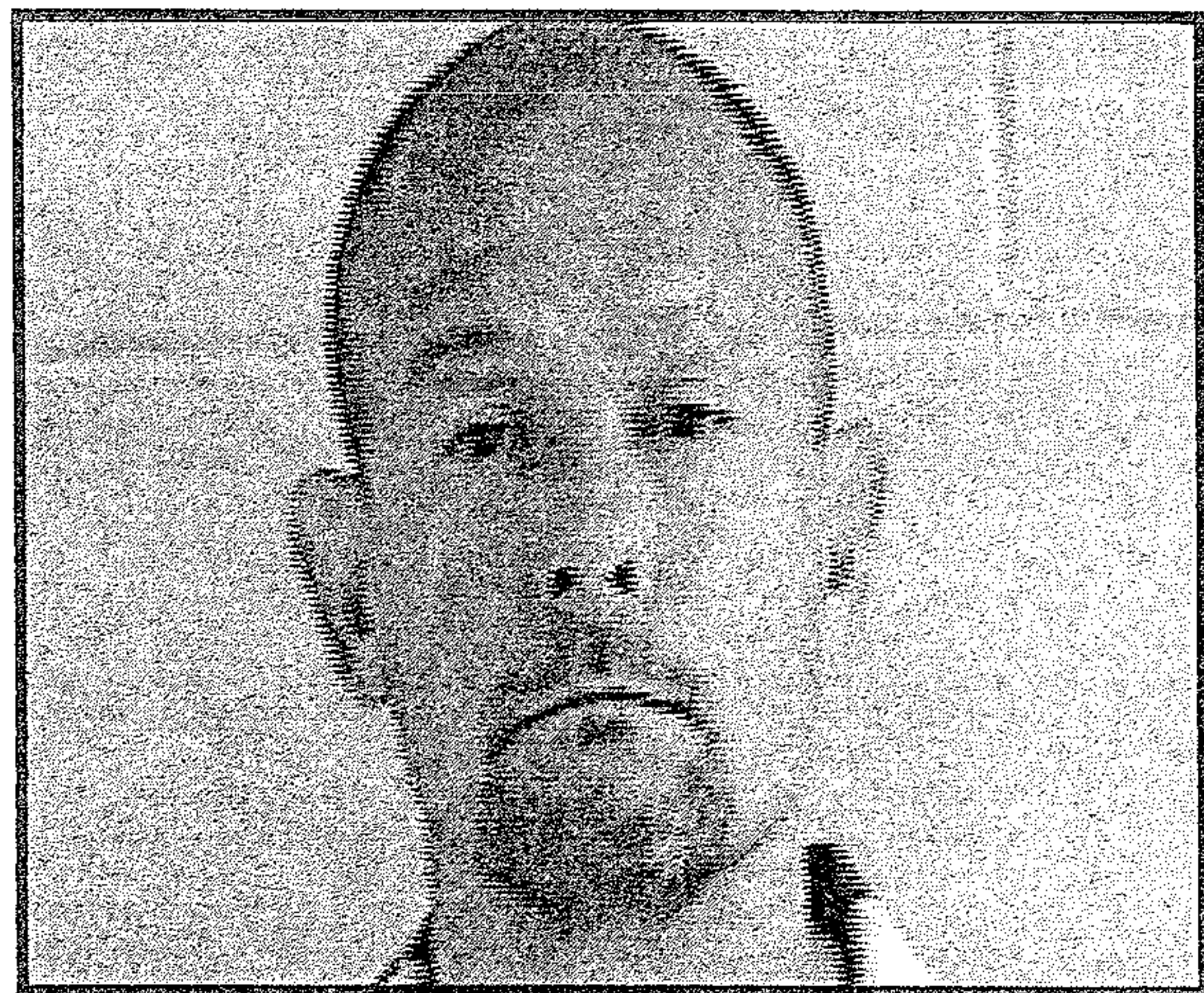
## Man Yields Gun In Road Rage Incident



Royce Ferguson

see Road Rage pg. 3

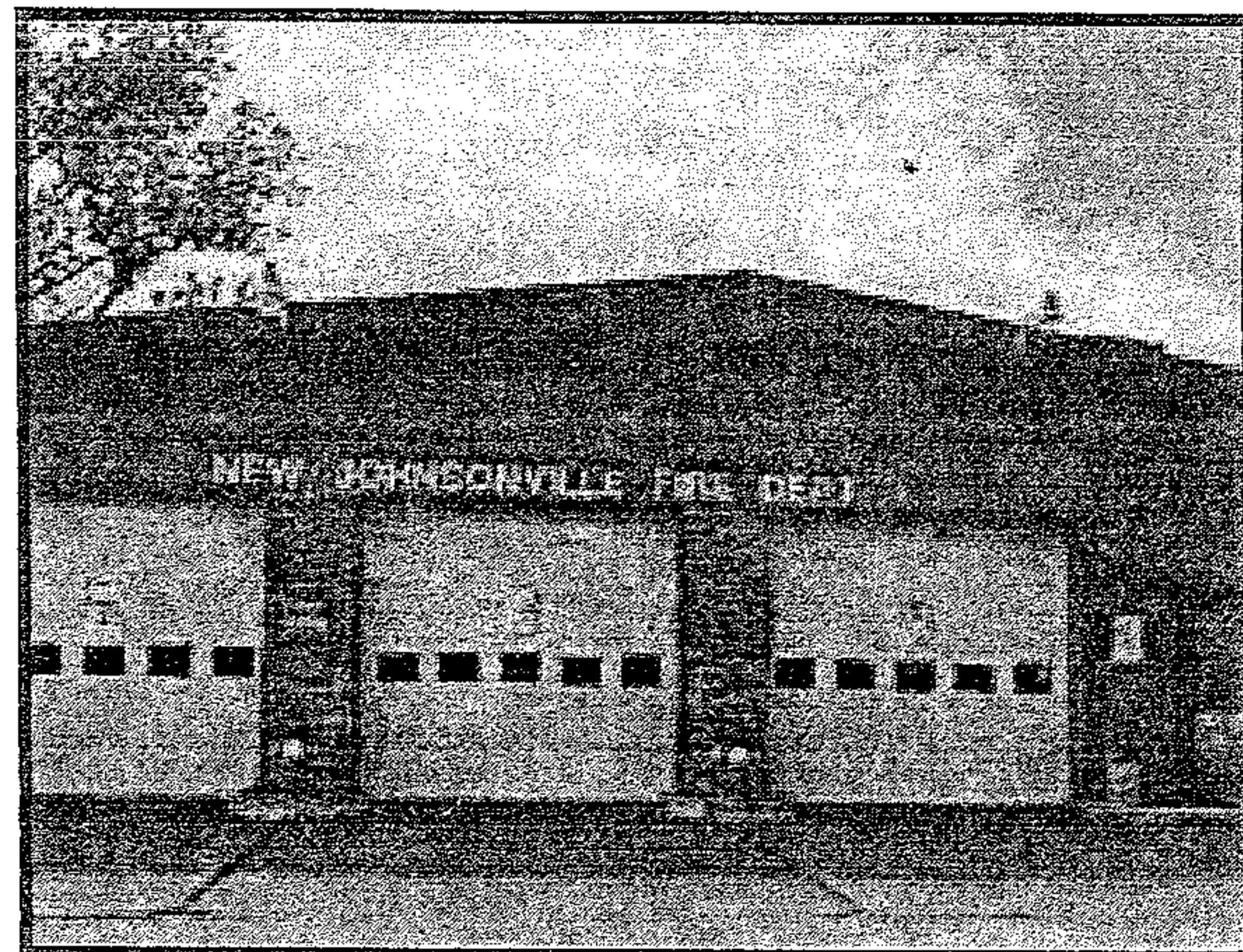
## Its My Money And I Want It Now



Robert Chavarria

(see Assault pg. 4)

## Cell Phone Bills Went Unpaid by the New Johnsonville Volunteer Fire Department

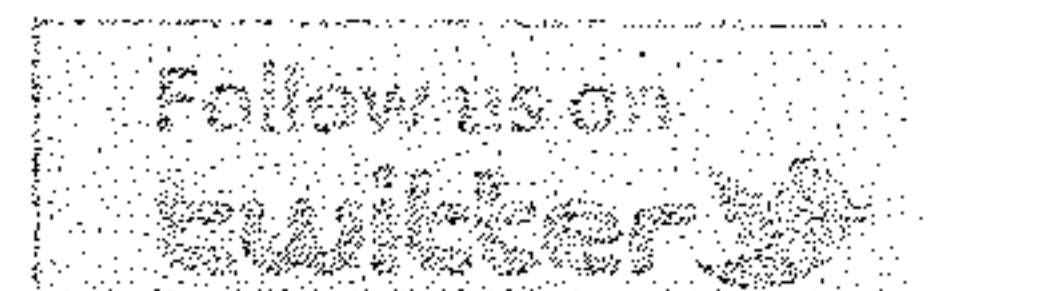


New Johnson Volunteer Fire Department

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office has released an investigation into a cell phone plan operated by the New Johnsonville Volunteer Fire Department.

Beginning in May 2016, the department established the cell phone plan

See Phone P.4



### Verse of the Day

Listen to advice and accept instruction and in the end you will be wise. Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. —

### Proverbs 19:20-21

#### Obituaries

None

#### Wazzup

Happy birthday to our brother Brad Fitzpatrick! Hope your day is blessed! We love You!

### Weather

Today: Sunny. High of 69F.

Tonight: Cloudy. Low of 56F.

Saturday: AM Rain. High of 62F.

Saturday Night: Clearing. Low of 40F.

### Horoscopes

Libra 9/23-10/22

The transcendence of a deeply ingrained habit can be turned into a bit of a game now. When approached as a fanciful experiment, breaking patterns becomes tri-

(Continued on page 6)



**Levi**

Several witness, including Prince's mother, testified on behalf of Prince Friday afternoon. Prince then took the stand on Monday before the trial concluded with closing arguments. The jury, consisting of four men and eight women, re-

ceived the case just before 7:00 pm on Monday before breaking for the evening at 9:00 pm. The jury returned to deliberations at 9:00 am on Tuesday and announced its verdict at 10:30 am finding the two defendants guilty on all indicted counts, two sep-

arate counts of first degree felony-murder on both Beaty and Prince, as well as a third count of child endangerment on Beaty. Judge Wicks immediately rendered life sentences to

both defendants. Prince was taken into custody. Prince had been out of bond since his arrest in September 2014. Beaty was already in custody and

See Levi ctd to P.5

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### Road Rage

Royce Ferguson, 78, Grubb Road Lenoir City, was charged with Aggravated Assault. Officer Yoakum LCPD, was dispatched to a possible road rage incident involving a weapon. The suspect vehicle was located by Lt. Tinnel, who

conducted a traffic stop on that vehicle. When Officer Yoakum arrived Officer Rayfield had the defendant detained. Officer then went and spoke with the victim who stated that the defendant Royce Ferguson was driving erratically and was yelling at him.

The victim stated while at a traffic light Ferguson produced a silver plated pistol and pointed it directly at the victim. Lt. Tinnel did locate a silver loaded revolver laying in the passenger seat of Ferguson's vehicle, and a box of ammunition. Ferguson was placed under arrest

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### CALL to PRAYER Loudon and surrounding areas

A prayer meeting will be held on November 4 at 6:00 pm in the Loudon High School auditorium. Prayer for our city, our children, our schools and our country. And our election.

Several pastors in the area are sponsoring this meeting. We need many more pastors involved. Everyone is welcome!

There will be a meeting on October 22 at 6:00 pm at the LaQuinta Inn (Hwy 72 at I-75 interchange) for pastors for meeting information. We need as many pastors that are able to attend this October meeting.

### Public Notice

The Loudon county commission will be holding a public hearing on November 5, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Annex to amend the Loudon County zoning resolution

1. Eliminate the \$100 fee to appeal to the Loudon County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).
2. Accessory structures may be allowed in the front yard.
3. No building permit or fee required for construction of any accessory structures of under 500 sq. ft.

## Assault

Robert Chavarria, 44, Summer Street Loudon, was charged with Domestic Assault.

Officer was dispatched to Summer Street Loudon, TN, for a domestic

assault. Upon arrival we found Mr. Robert A. Chavarria Jr. outside in the front yard and the victim inside the house, victim stated the argument started when Robert wanted money back that he'd given her to hold for a cell phone. The victim stated she knew he wanted it to buy drugs and she wouldn't let him have it so an argument ensued. Victim stated Robert slapped her on the right side of her face and pulled her hair when she ran back in the house, victim did have redness on the right side of her face. Witness said she witnessed Robert pull victim by the hair when she ran back in the house. Both victim and witness

wrote statements to what happened. Officer placed Mr. Robert A. Chavarria Jr. under arrest for domestic assault and transported him to the Loudon County Jail.

## Phone

for the benefit of firefighters and others. The department plan was not created for a government purpose. The cell phone plan bills were supposed to be paid with individual participant money and not with volunteer fire department or government funds.

On April 2, 2018, the cell phone plan invoice carried a delinquent balance of \$22,648. Billing records suggest that at least some participants failed to pay their entire bill from the beginning of the plan's establishment. Although participants apparently paid off a portion of the bill, the cell phone provider suspended the department plan account in April 2018. In August

2018, the account had a delinquent and unpaid balance of \$7,424.

Investigators also determined the volunteer fire department's cell phone plan had no eligibility restrictions. The plan included bills related to 116 phones although the membership of the volunteer fire department was less than 25 firefighters.

The department also failed to pay an estimated \$7,740 in taxes and fees when it improperly used the city's tax-exempt status for the department plan. The plan was established to provide personal cell phone service and was not intended to benefit the city.

The current fire chief advised investigators that the department cell phone plan has been abolished and the department will not enter into such a plan in the future.

## The Good News The Rev Dr Julius McCarter Scripture: Hebrews 4:12-16

A double-edged sword cuts both ways. It slices as it goes down and as it comes up. This text talks about the word of God: sharper than any double-edged sword. There is both confession and comfort here. There is confession about how God's word uncovers us. Nothing is hidden from God. That can seem harsh and vulnerable. But that same sword cuts as deeply and sharply in giving us God's Son Jesus. As much as we are revealed, we are also comforted. As much as we are laid bare, we are also given grace. As much as we are judged, we

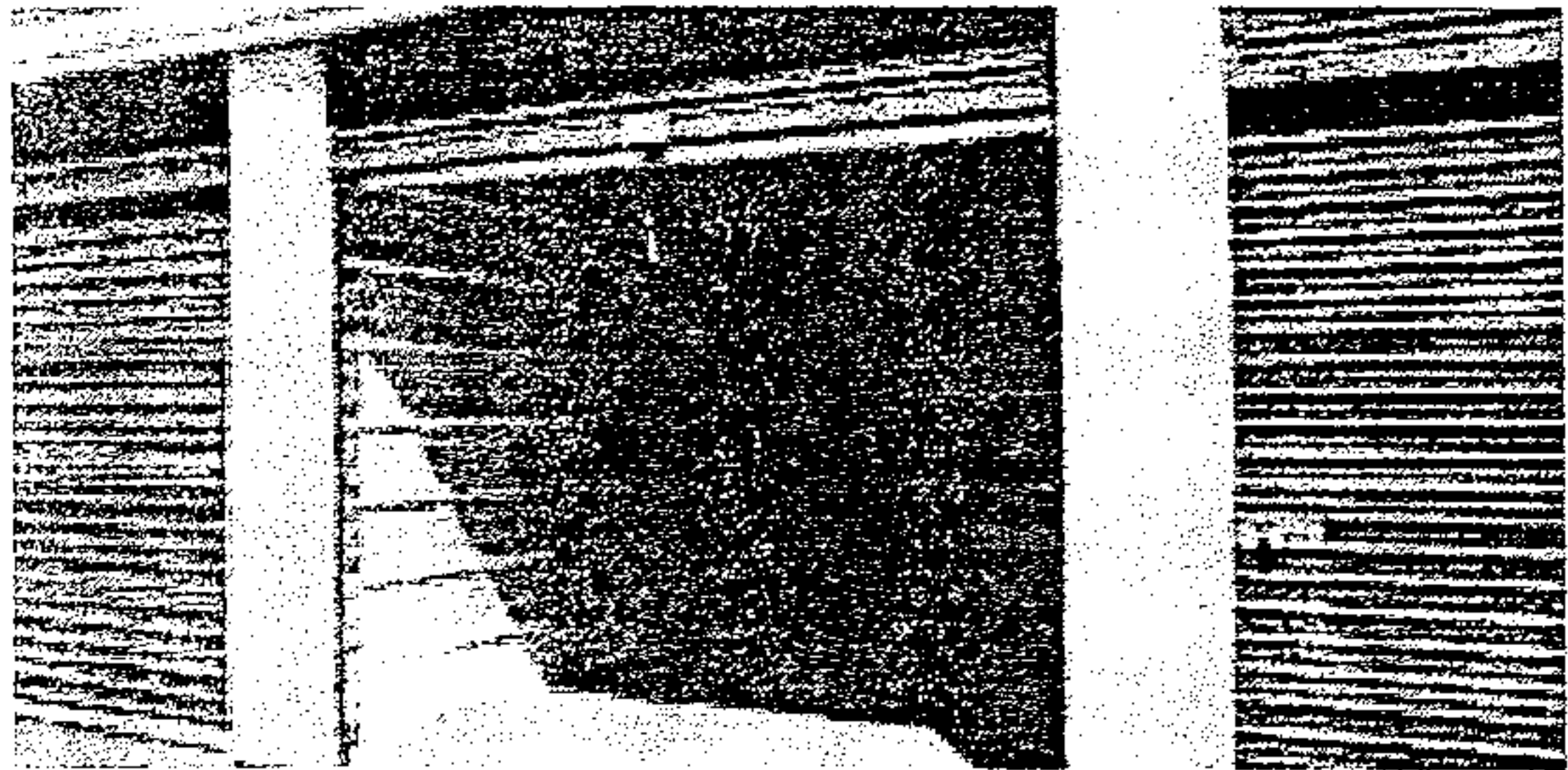
can also approach the throne of grace with confidence.


Some of us are really good at dwelling in guilt. It can weigh on us and hold us back--even cripple us from living well. Jesus, our great High Priest, offers grace and mercy in greater measure than our guilt. That grace and mercy cuts as deep as--indeed, deeper than--any guilt or judgment.

Prayer: As we bring the depth of our confessions and sins to you, our Great High Priest, let us know the cut of your grace and mercy. Let us be confident to approach the throne of grace because of your great love. Amen.

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\*A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better. For a tribe's battle is not easily broken.\* - Ecclesiastes 4:12

Levi ctd from p.2

has been in continuous custody since her arrest in September 2014. Senior District Attorney General Bob Edwards and Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Edwards (no relation) tried the case for District Attorney General Russell Johnson's Office. Both of Bob Edwards and Jonathan Edwards had worked for years as criminal defense attorneys before joining General Johnson's office, Bob Edwards in October of 2014 and Jonathan Edwards in November of 2017. The death of 'Baby Levi' generated significant media attention in Morgan County at the time of his death at the hands of Beaty and Prince in June of 2014. A former babysitter of Levi and others, including family members

of Levi's father who lives in Cleveland, Tennessee, formed 'Baby Levi' Facebook and support groups, keeping his memory alive through the conclusion of the jury trial. In fact, the significant amount of publicity within Morgan County caused the Court to move the trial to Loudon County which move caused further delay in bringing the case to trial. The case also had to be continued numerous other times due to multiple changes in defendant Prince's attorneys for various reasons. Josh Hedrick represented Amanda Beaty at the time of the trial and Tom Slaughter represented Rodger Dale Prince. In June of 2014 Amanda Beaty was living in an apartment with her three children, including Levi. Local authorities, including the Morgan Coun-

ty Sheriff's Office, responded to the Beaty apartment on June 1st of 2014 in response to a 9-1-1-call made by Amanda Beaty. Upon arrival they found Amanda, her older son and daughter, as well as her boyfriend, Rodger Dale Prince, and Prince's daughter at the residence with baby Levi who appeared to be deceased. EMS took Levi to Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge while trying unsuccessfully to revive him. Prince and Beaty explained to the sheriff's deputy and EMS that Levi had choked on a vanilla wafer. The Morgan County Sheriff did not immediately contact the medical examiner, DCS or the district attorney because he assumed that it was an accidental death based

on what Prince told them about the 'cooking choking' story. Upon learning of the death some fourteen hours later, District Attorney General

Russell Johnson ordered an autopsy of the deceased child and predicated the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to

Levi ctd to p.7



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Levi ctd from pg. 5  
 take control of the scene and conduct a homicide investigation. The TBI investigation subsequently revealed that there was no sign of cookies at the scene according to the first responders, in fact there was a cookie jar that was entirely empty. Also, lead TBI Agent Dan Friel learned that Prince, Beaty and Prince's mother appeared to fabricate the cookie story as cover for what really happened to cause

Levi's death. Furthermore, it was revealed that the Department of Children's Services had an open case on Amanda Beaty and Rodger Dale Prince at the time but had not removed Levi from the home, although there was an active court order that prohibited Amanda Beaty from allowing Prince to be in the home and around Levi. It would later be learned through the TBI investigation that Levi had been seen on at least

two prior occasions at Children's Hospital in Knoxville for severe injuries to his spine that had actually resulted in fractures. Dr. Milusenic testified at trial that the final cause of death was Levi's aorta being ruptured and essentially ripped in half, trauma that was consistent with a high impact collision similar to 'an automobile accident or being kicked by a horse'.  
 "It goes without saying that we are pleased with the

verdict that brings justice to Baby Levi and validates that years that our office has worked to get this case to trial, going through several different defense attorneys and adjusting to the change of venue from Morgan County to Loudon County," state Russell Johnson. "This was a tremendous effort by both Bob and Jonathan, along with their support team which included everyone else in the office covering everything else in the office that still goes

on when a trial of this magnitude not only takes place in the courtroom, but including all of the days and weeks of preparation." Bob Edwards and Jonathan Edwards both concluded by saying that "this is justice for Baby Levi and the folks of Morgan County who have waited to see these two people go to prison for life."

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