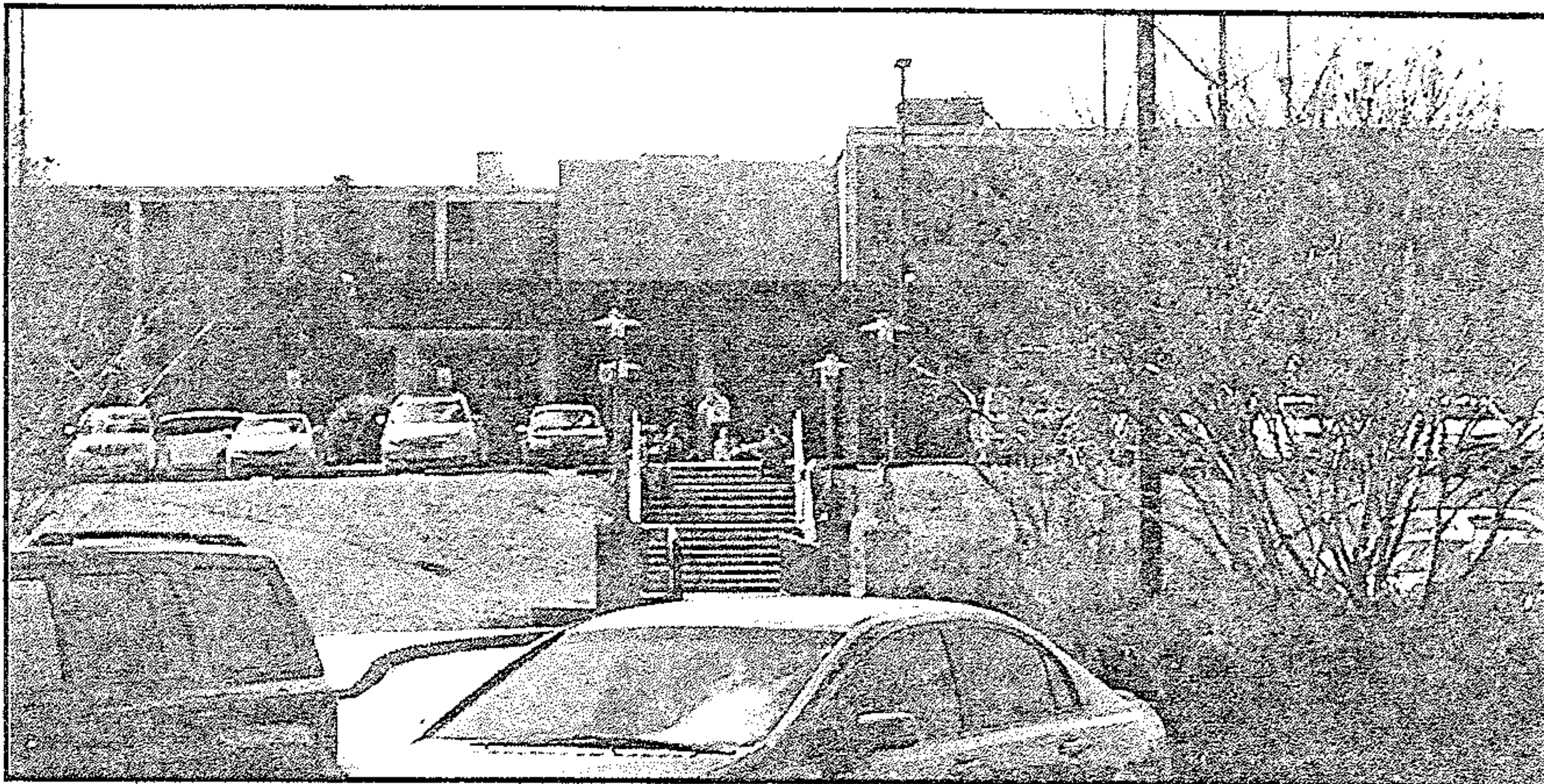


Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, February 23, 2018

LCHS Students take time of remember Florida victims



LCHS was the focus of a staged student walkout to honor Florida shooting victims and to discuss other issues they wanted to voice. (see School pg. 2)

Federal jury returns guilty verdicts for former Pilot Flying J president, vice president and customer service representative.

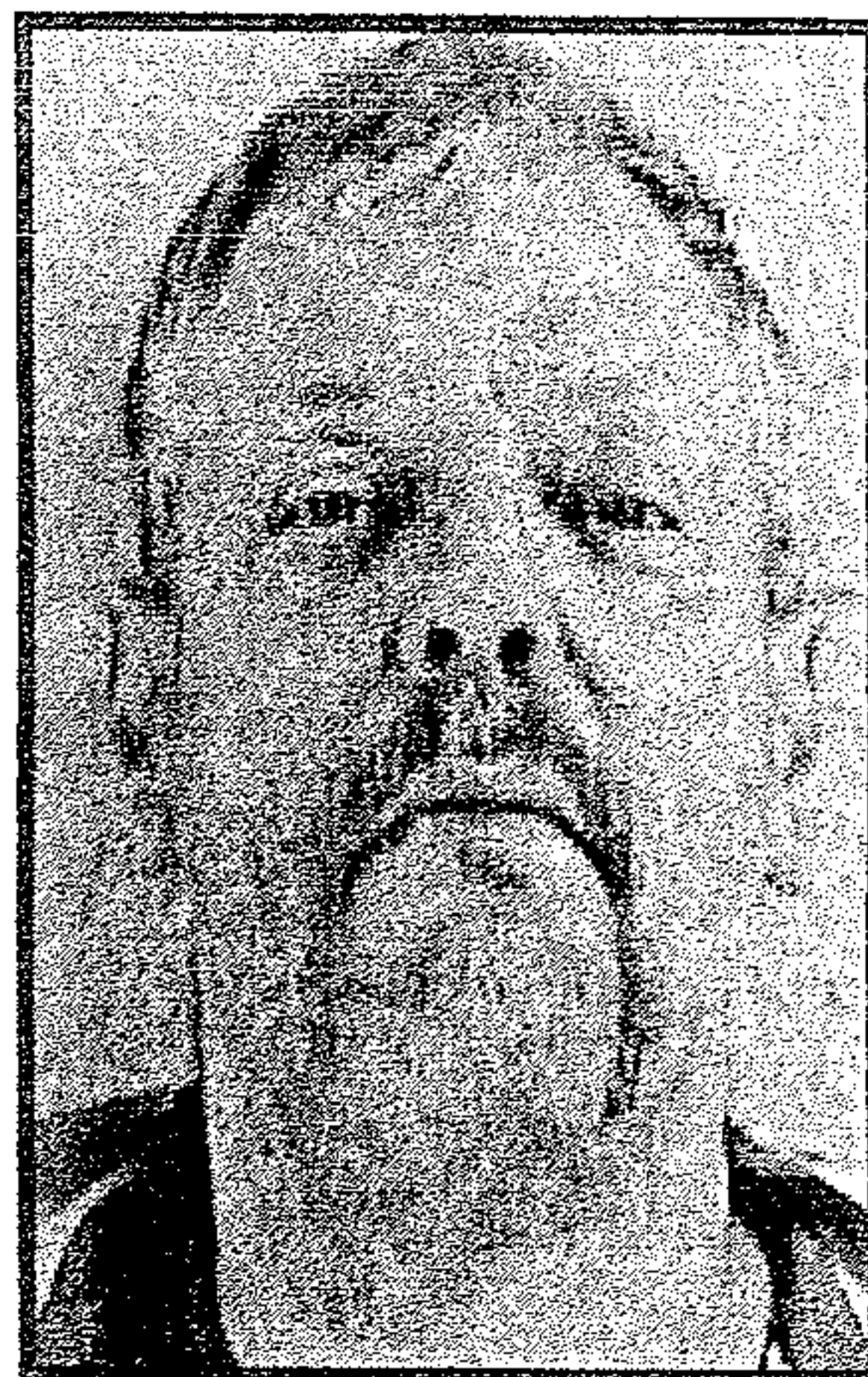
On February 15, 2018, following a multi-month trial in U.S. District Court, Chattanooga, before the Honorable Curtis L. Collier, Senior U.S. District Judge, a jury returned guilty verdicts against Mark Hazelwood, 59, of Knoxville, Tennessee; Scott "Scooter" Wombold, 58, of Gallatin, Tennessee; and Heather Jones, 47, of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Hazelwood, former president of Pilot Flying J, was convicted of con-

spiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud as charged in count 1 of the indictment, wire fraud as charged in count 8 of the indictment, and witness tampering as charged in count 14 of the indictment. Wombold, former vice president of Pilot Flying J, was convicted of wire fraud as charged in count 2 of the indictment. Jones, a former customer account representative for Pilot Flying J, was con-

See fraud P.5

Trucker caught with meth on I75



Jonathan Redding see Meth p.4

Flagging traffic leads to DUI

Christina Thorton, 42, Skyline Drive Harri-man, was charged with DUI.

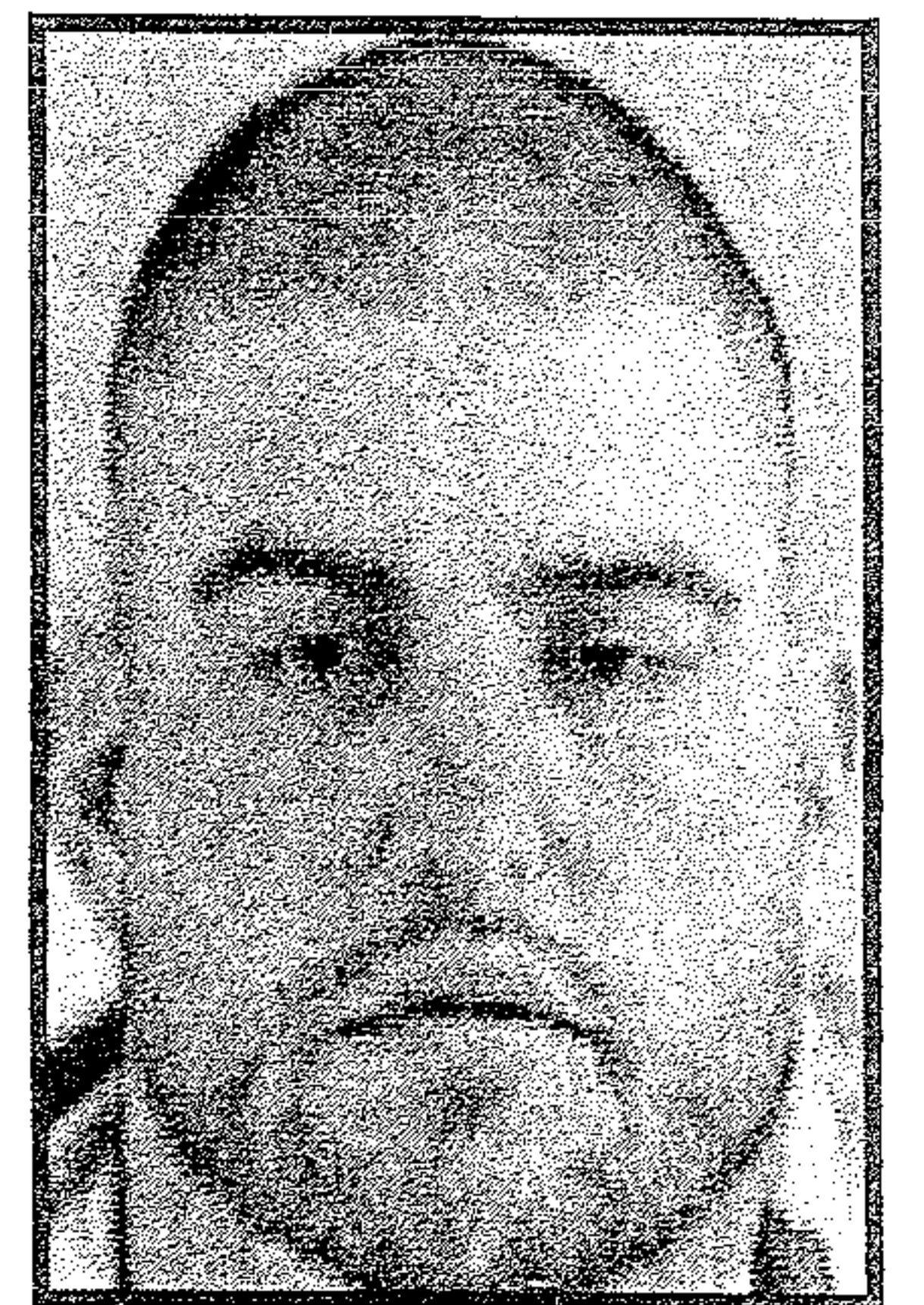
Deputy Spradlin LCSO, was dispatched to I-40 westbound in reference to a person flagging down traffic in a light colored vehicle. Deputy arrived on scene at 00:23 and made contact with a vehicle sitting on the shoulder, Deputy then made contact with the offender later identi-



Christina Thorton see DUI pg. 3

Electrical repair gone wrong leads to assault charges

David Cragg, 36, Powel Valley Shores Speedwell, was charged with Aggravated Assault, and Public Intoxication. Cpl. Rondel Branam LCSO, was dispatched to Jackson Bend Road in reference to an unknown 911 call involving a male screaming. Prior to arrival dispatch advised the male involved in



David Cragg (see Assault pg. 4)

Verse of the Day

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved

us. — Romans 8:35-37

Obituaries

see inside p.4

Wazzup

Congrats Lacey Pritchard on your engagement to Brian Johnson!

Weather

Today: Cloudy. High of 75F.

Tonight: Cloudy. Low of 57F.

Saturday: Showers. High of 73F.

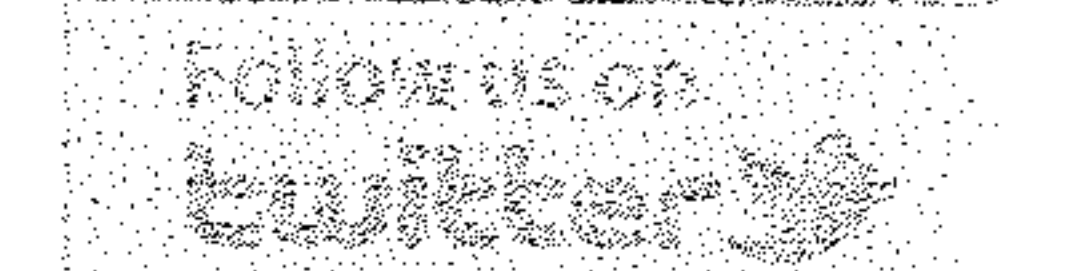
Saturday night: Cloudy. Low of 57F.

Horoscopes

Aquarius 1/20-2/19

Your process may feel like a roller coaster ride today, but its more gentle than scary. Your self-esteem rises and falls as people react to your ideas. They might judge you harshly when your vi-

(Continued on page 6)



School

On Tuesday February 20th LCHS students gathered at the flag pole to remember the lives lost in Florida school shootings. Students took turns voicing their opinions and feelings

about violence and school security. Many students are stressing the importance of not judging others, bullying and listening to one another. Students were very concerned about the security and ways it could be improved. Prin-

icipal Chip Orr and administrators were very accommodating while over 100 students gathered some for over 2 hours. Principal Chip Orr stated "We take their concerns seriously,

and especially one as basic as safety," Orr said, "We want them to know that we feel that that's one of the most important things we do on a given day is try to make them feel safe."

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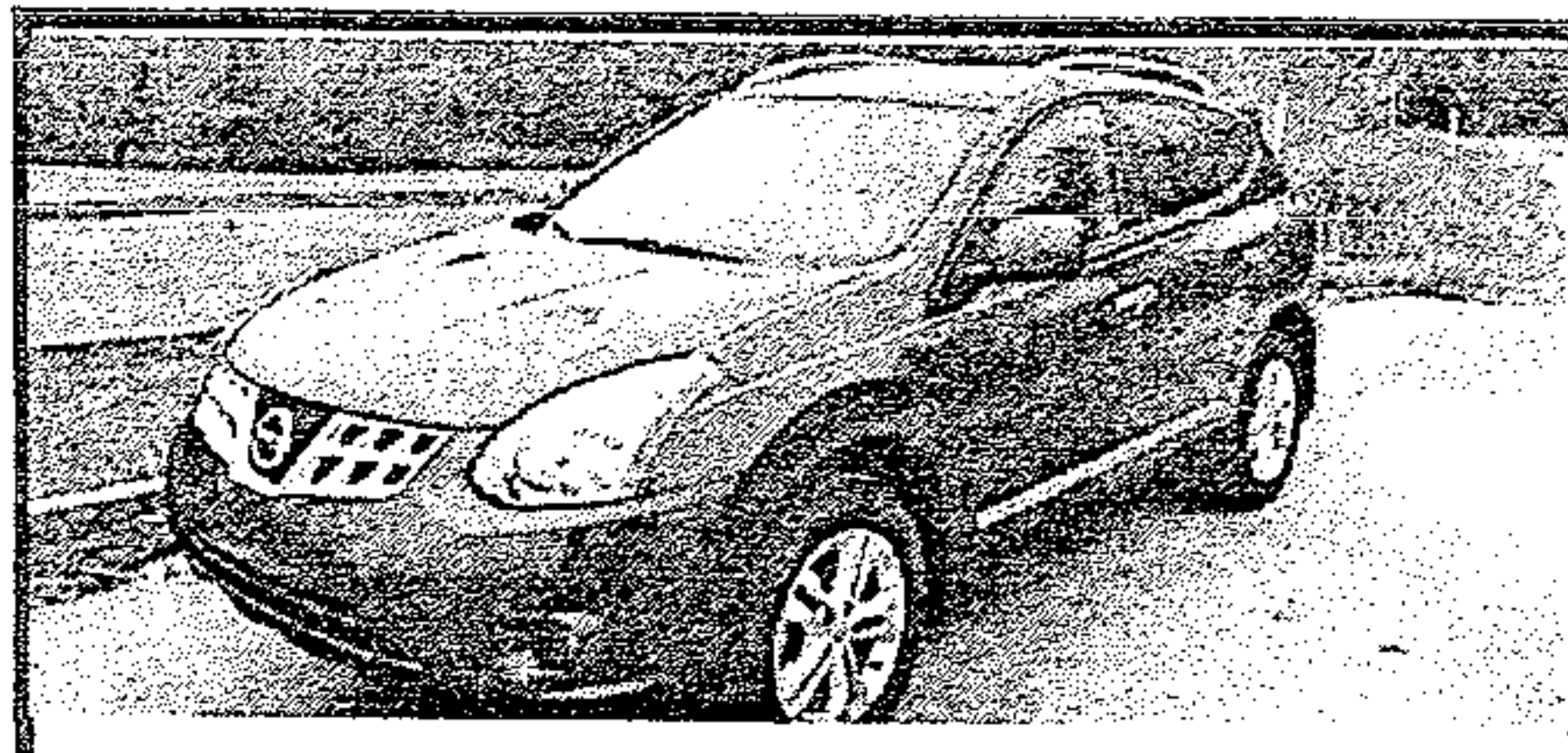
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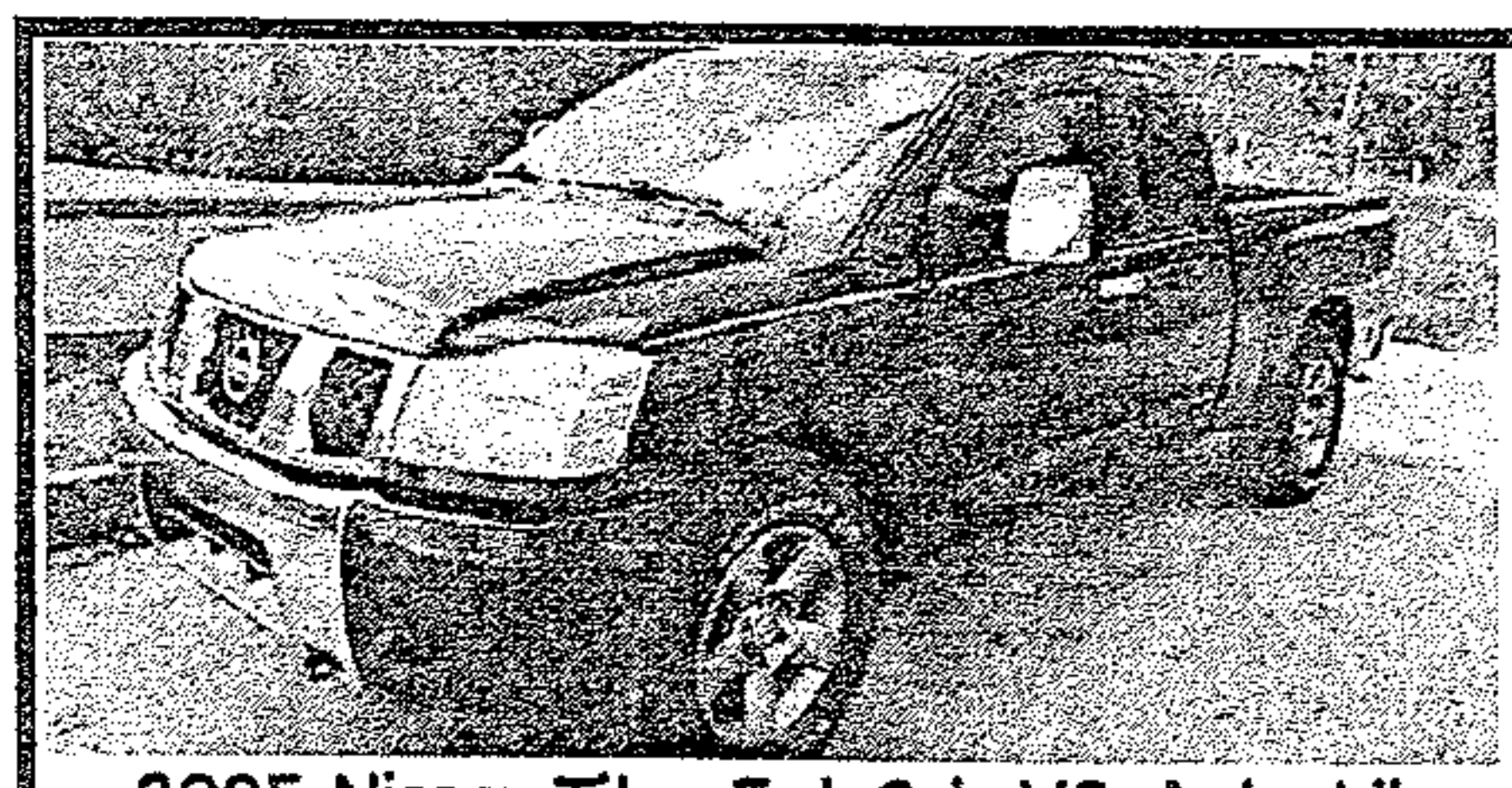
2013 Nissan Rogue AWD, PW, PL, PS, Sunroof, Alloy Wheels, V6, Luggage Rack



2009 Ford F150 Crew Cab, XLT, V8, Auto, Tow Pkg, Bed Liner, AC, PW, PL, Alloy Wheels



2011 Buick Lucerne, Immaculate condition, Like new, Only 69k, Alloy Wheels, PS, PW, PL, 27 MPG!



2005 Nissan Titan Ext Cab, V8, Auto, Like New, Low Miles, AC, PW, PL, Tow PKG, Bed Liner



2015 Chevy Cruze, 52k Miles, Gas Saver, 42 MPG, PW, PL, Local Car, Auto, 4 Cylinder, LT

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DUI


fied as Christina Thornton whom was sitting in the driver seat the vehicle was turned on and the lights were flashing. Upon talking with the offender Deputy could smell the odor of an alcoholic beverage on her breath, the offender also spoke with slurred speech and was unsteady on her feet. Upon further investigation the offender stated that she had been drinking wine, but only had one beverage at dinner. Deputy asked the offender if she would perform standardized field sobriety testing, and she stated that she would not. Mrs. Thornton was very argument and stated that she was being harassed by us along with Knox County and Roane County Sheriff's offices. Due to the totality of the circumstance

Deputy felt that Mrs. Thornton is under the influence of alcohol and or drugs. This is Mrs. Thornton was convicted of, DUI 02-14-2015 out of Knox County. Deputy further asked the offender if she would consent to a blood draw and she stated that she would but when we arrived at the ER she then refused. Deputy placed the offender under arrest and placed her in my patrol vehicle to be transported to jail. This did occur in Loudon County.


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*A person standing alone can be steered and deflected, but two can stand back-to-back and resist. There are even better, for a top-branded card is not easily broken. - Ecclesiastes 4:12

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*note: the "Rotation List" is a list of wrecker services that provide service for wrecks, DUI's, breakdowns, etc. and are on an on-call basis for service. This list is approved by the Sheriff.

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Assault

the situation had left the camper walking. Deputy Kevin Kirkland LCSO, made contact with the male identified as David Cragg walking down the roadway from the camper. Cpl. then made contact with David while Deputy was talking with him. David was very animated with his movements, and was not making sense while talking. David was detained at that point for safety due to his erratic behavior and intoxication. Deputy made contact with the victim/complainant at the camper who stated he had picked David up from the Inskip Market in Knoxville and brought him to the camper where David began working on an electrical issue with the camper when David began talking crazy. David then began to destroy the inside the camper and attacked the victim. The victim stated during the fight David drug him by the neck across the camper and wrapped a lamp cord around victim neck attempting to choke him out. Victim was able to escape David's grasp and yelled for the neighbor to call 911. David Cragg was placed under arrest.

Meth

Jonathan Redding, 48, Harper Road Alabama, was charged with DUI, Poss. of Drug Para., and Driving on Roadways Lane for Traffic.

Deputy Chance Gray LCSO, was traveling on I 75 North bound at the 75 mile marker, when he observed a red tractor and trailer cross the solid white line multiple times in a very short period of time. Deputy then initiated

traffic stop at the 76mm. Deputy then began to approach the passenger side of the truck when he noticed someone coming around the back of the truck. Deputy then made contact with the driver Jonathan Floyd Redding who was very fidgety and speaking very fast Deputy then asked Mr. Redding if he would be willing to perform field sobriety task to which he agreed and performed poorly. Deputy Lance Anderson then performed Aride to which Mr. Redding performed poorly. Mr. Redding then gave consent for a search of his truck. While searching the truck a meth pipe and butane torch was located behind the driver seat in a Crown Royal bag was located. Mr. Redding was advised of implied consent to which he agreed. Mr. Redding was asked when the last time he had used methamphetamine and stated approximately 3 days ago. Mr. Redding was then transported to the Fort Loudon Emergency room for a blood draw. Mr. Redding was then transported to the Loudon County Jail without incident. This did occur in Loudon County Tennessee.

Obituaries

Bunzie Carolynn Cook Smith age 83 of Lenoir City, TN passed away Friday, February 16, 2018 at her home. Bunzie was born December 22, 1934 in Copperhill, TN. She was a 1951 graduate of McCaysville High School in McCaysville, GA. Bunzie was past president, secretary and treasurer of Lenoir City Clonian Club. She was former co-chair of the Lenoir City Downtown Merchants Association. Bunzie was a member of Hickory Valley Baptist Church for over 25 years. She retired at age 70 after a long career with Mashbern-Malin Jewelers. She was preceded in death by her husband, Billy T. Smith, Sr.; son, Billy T. Smith, Jr.; parents, John and Maude Cook; brother and sister-in-law, Gene and Norma Cook. Survived by her daughter, Connie L. Smith; brother, Joseph Cook and wife, Eunice; sisters-in-law, Bettye J. Hancock, Linda J. Smith and Lucille Sparks Smith; brother-in-law, Tony A. Smith and wife, Aida; several cousins, many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 24th at Click Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 7 p.m. with Pastor Charlie Carpenter officiating.

Family and friends will gather at 1 p.m. c.s.t. on Sunday, February 25th at Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery in Section, Alabama for graveside services. Flowers will be gladly accepted or memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's of Tennessee. Click Funeral Home, is in charge of arrangements.

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Fraud

victed of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud as charged in count 1 of the indictment.

Evidence presented at trial proved a scheme to defraud certain Pilot Flying J trucking company customers through false and fraudulent representations and promises of diesel fuel discounts that were intended to induce victim customers to purchase diesel fuel from Pilot Flying J rather than a competitor. The scheme resulted in victim customers being cheated out of their promised diesel fuel discounts. The evidence at trial showed that the scheme's goals were to increase Pilot's market share of diesel fuel sales over its competitors, maximize Pilot's profits, and maximize the scheme-participants' potential for profit- and commission-based compensation from trucking companies targeted through the scheme to defraud.

Before trial, 14 other former

Pilot Flying J executives and employees had already pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges related to the same scheme to defraud. They are awaiting sentencing. In July 2014, Pilot Flying J entered into a Criminal Enforcement Agreement with the United States in which the company agreed that some of its employees in its Direct Sales group engaged in fraudulent conduct in the payment of diesel fuel discounts for certain targeted Pilot customers. Pilot Flying J agreed that the conduct of those employees resulted in \$56 million in loss to affected customers. In accordance with that agreement, Pilot Flying J agreed to pay full restitution to all victim customers in addition to paying a \$92 million monetary penalty. Additionally, according to the terms of the Criminal Enforcement Agreement, this federal investigation not only resulted in the payment of full restitution to the scheme's victims, but also created protection for trucking companies

going forward through greater transparency in their future fuel pricing arrangements with Pilot Flying J.

Sentencing has been set for June 27, 2018, in U.S. District Court, Chattanooga. Hazelwood, Wombold, and Jones each face a sentence of up to 20 years in prison for their convictions.

Law enforcement agencies participating in this joint inves-

tigation included the FBI and IRS- Criminal Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys F.M. (Trey) Hamilton III and David P. Lewen, Jr. represented the United States at trial.

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Former Hardeman County Schools Teacher Pleads Guilty to Theft

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has resulted in Erin Piefer, a former fifth-grade teacher at Toone Elementary School in Hardeman County, pleading guilty to theft.

Piefer also served as the sponsor of Toone's Junior Beta Club, which promotes the ideals of academic achievement, leadership, and service to selected 4th-8th grade students. The Comptroller's Office began its investigation after school officials reported possible missing funds related to

the Junior Beta Club.

During the period August 2016 through April 2017, Piefer stole at least \$2,125 from the Club. Piefer failed to deposit money that was collected by students during a candy fundraiser, and she kept money that she collected from students and parents that was intended to offset the cost of attending the National Beta Club convention in Nashville.

In April 2017, school officials confronted

Piefer about the shortage and she returned \$840 to the school. Piefer later admitted to Comptroller investigators that she kept and used Junior Beta Club money to pay for personal expenses, including past-due house payments. Piefer submitted her resignation on August 25, 2017.

On February 16, 2018, Erin Piefer pled guilty to the theft over \$1,000.

"It's important that schools include some


basic checks and balances around the fundraising process," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "For example, schools must obtain a fundraiser summary report and have someone not involved with collecting the money perform a profit analysis."

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