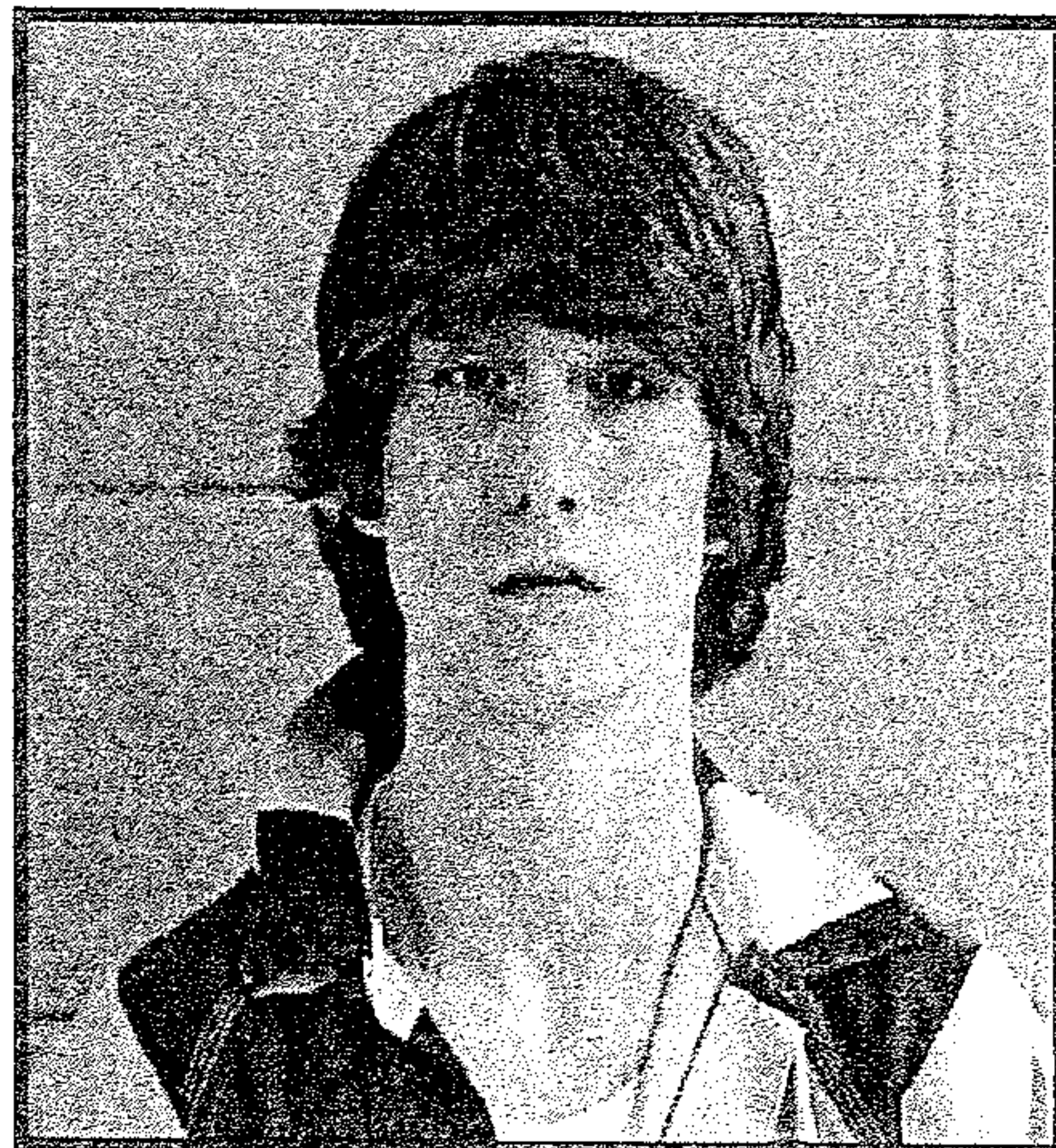


2 charged with drugs and contributing to minors



Jackie Watkins



Justin Ritchy

Loudon man assaults girlfriend in public



Scott Rogers

see Assault pg. 3

Domestic violence leads to chest pains

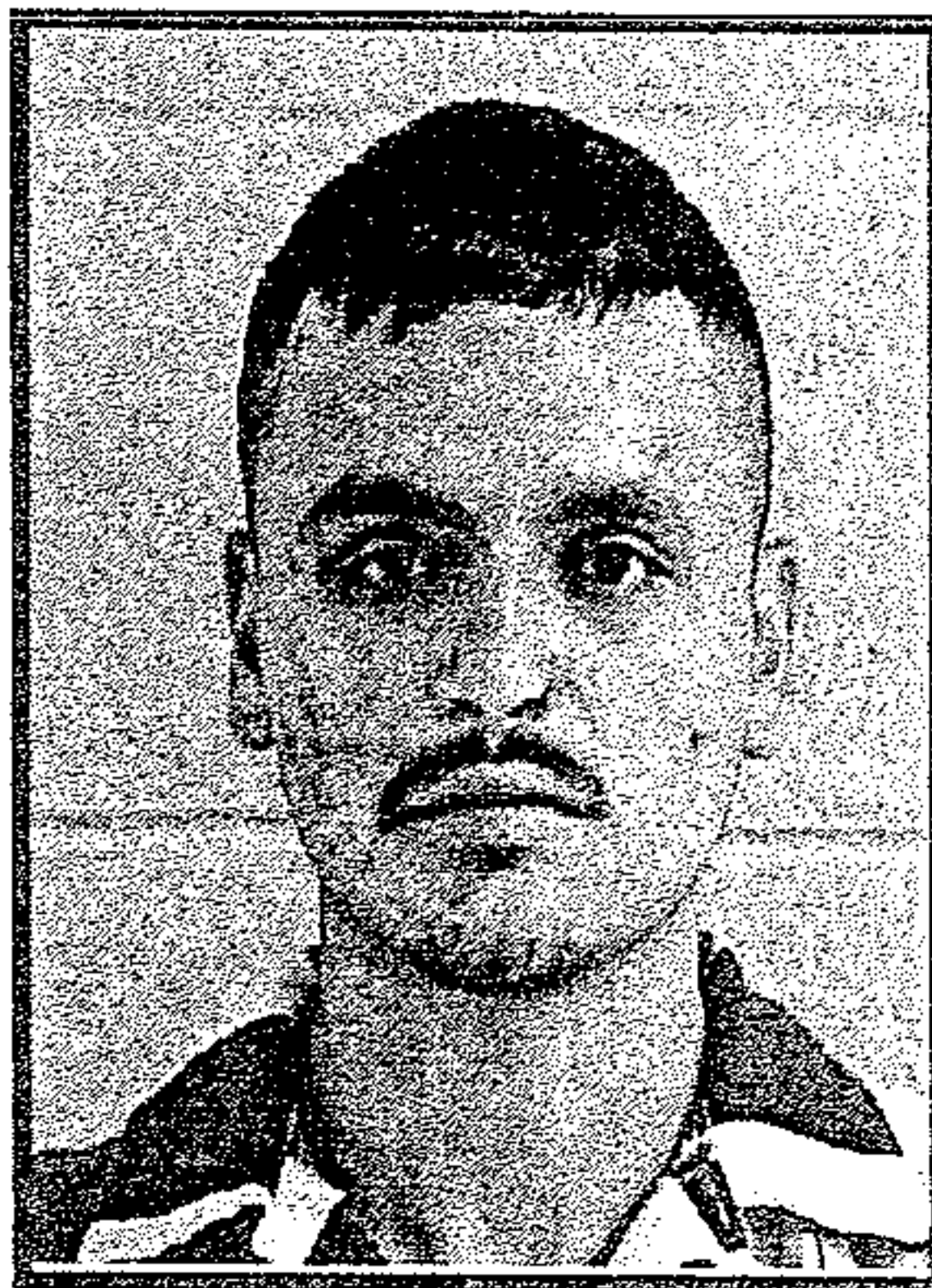


Billy Hill

See DV P.4

see Under age pg. 2

Man Ejected in DUI wreck



Elmer Cano

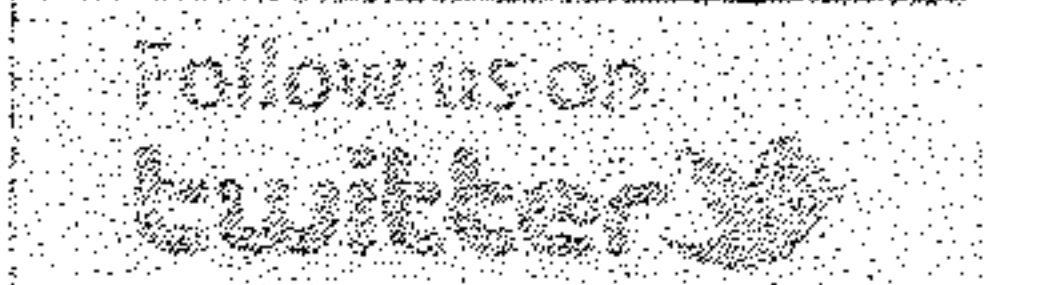
See DUI p.3

Tennessee man indicted for filing false retaliatory liens and committing tax crimes

A federal grand jury has returned an indictment, which was unsealed today, against a Rogersville, Tennessee resident charging him with obstruction of the internal revenue laws, filing fraudulent multi-million dollar liens against govern-

ment employees, and filing false claims for tax refunds, announced Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard E. Zuckerman of the Justice Department's Tax Division. According to the indictment, Brian Leo Snow obstructed

(see crimes pg. 5)

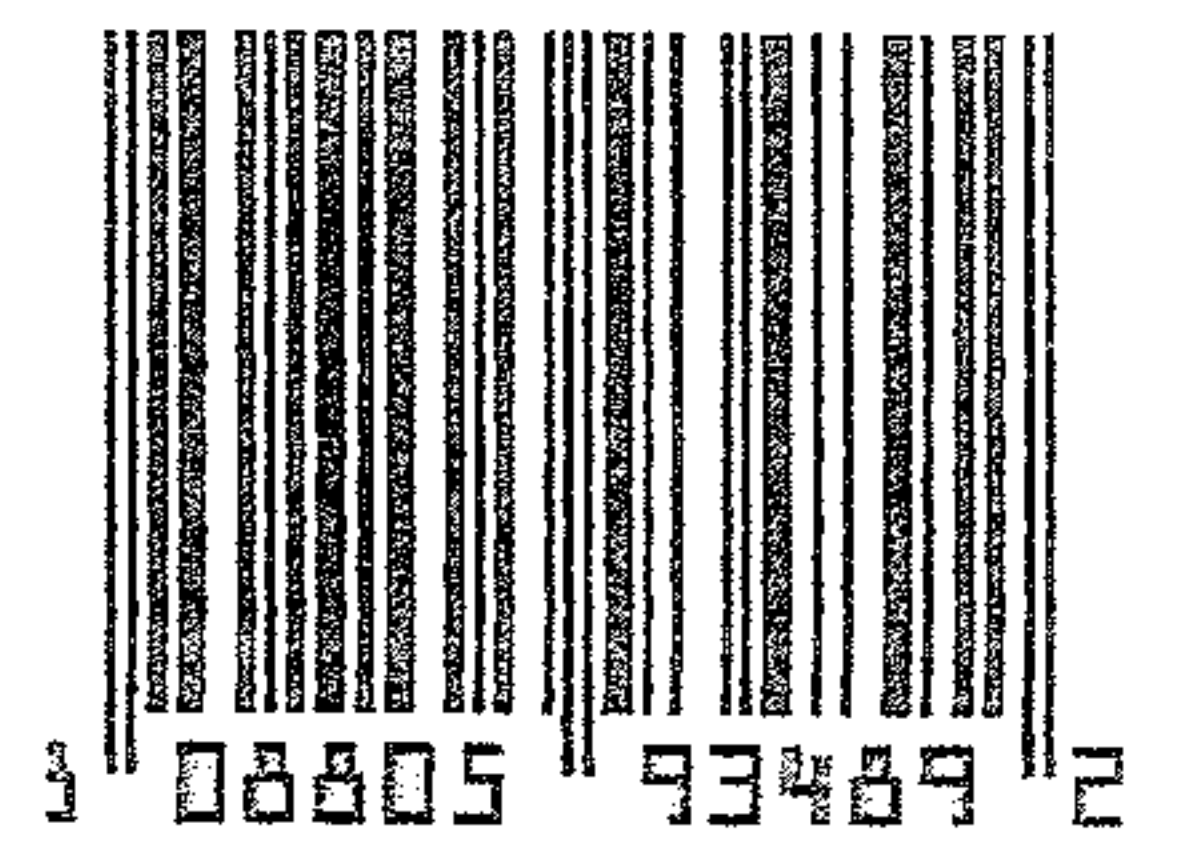


Verse of the Day
The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with

singing.
—Zephaniah 3:17
Obituaries
None to Report
Wazzup
Schools out for the summer
Weather
Today: Rain. High of

86F.
Tonight: Thunderstorms. Low of 64F.
Tuesday: Rain. High of 84F.
Tuesday Night: Thunderstorms. Low of 64F.
Horoscopes

Taurus 4/20-5/20
The knottiest problems may be solved today by your willingness to look beneath the surface. Uncovering underlying causes is the first step toward untangling nearly any puzzle. Fortunately, you're
(Continued on page 6)



Under age

Jackie Watkins, 23, Highway 70 East Lenoir City, was charged with Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. of Meth, Poss. of Drug Para., and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor. Justin Richey, 19, Bear

Creek Lane Knoxville, was charged with Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, and Underage Consumption. Deputy Brandon Pesterfield LCSO, witnessed a van traveling North on Hwy 411. Deputy witnesses the van traveling in the left lane of a 4 lane

Hwy while not passing another vehicle. Deputy witnessed the vehicle about a half mile down Hwy 11 begin to merge and not use a single until he had merged. Deputy observed the vehi-

cle make a left turn onto Hwy 95 and was driving in the other lane of travel. Upon traffic stop the driver was identified as Jackie Watkins, see Under age p.3

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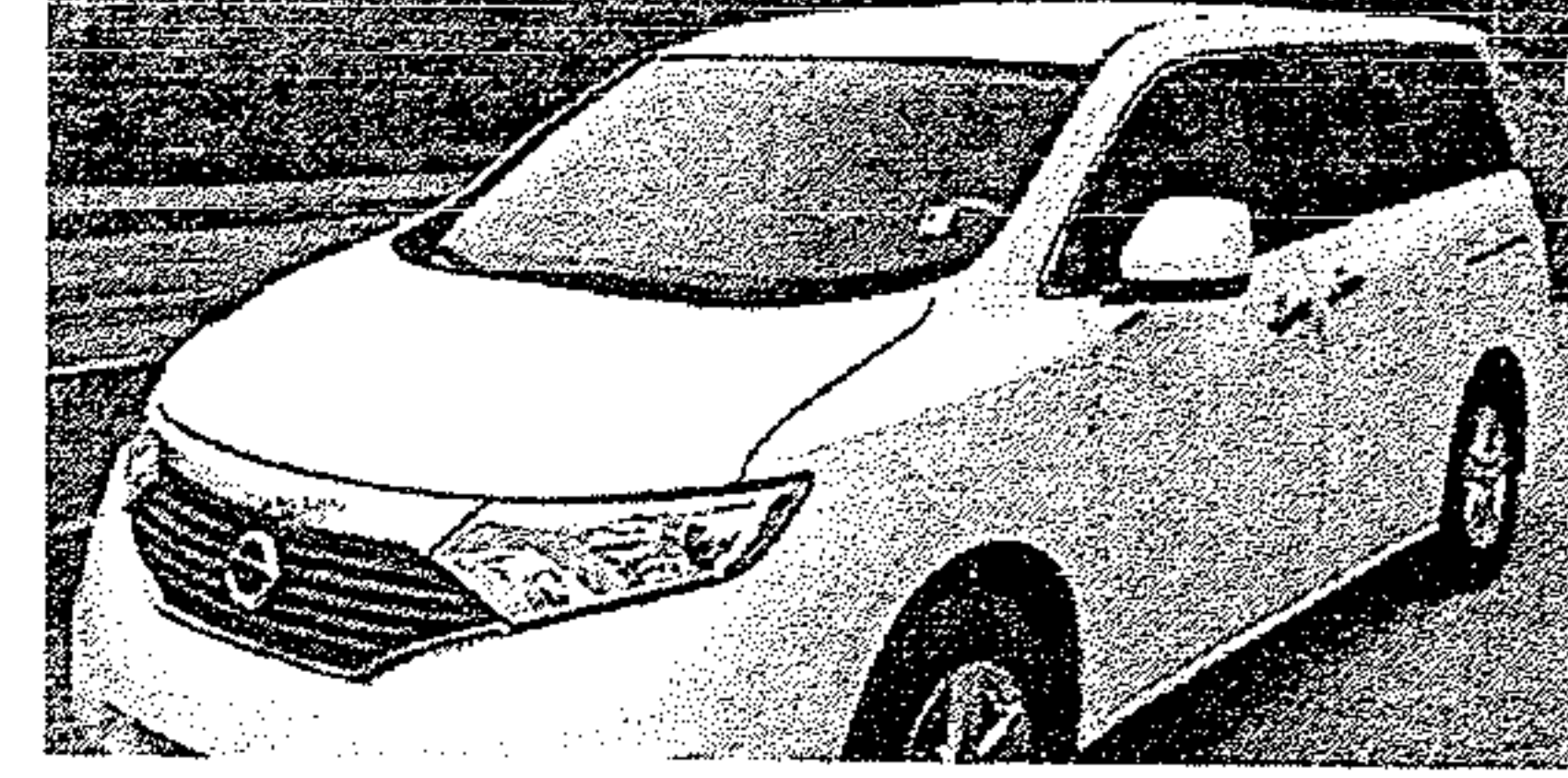
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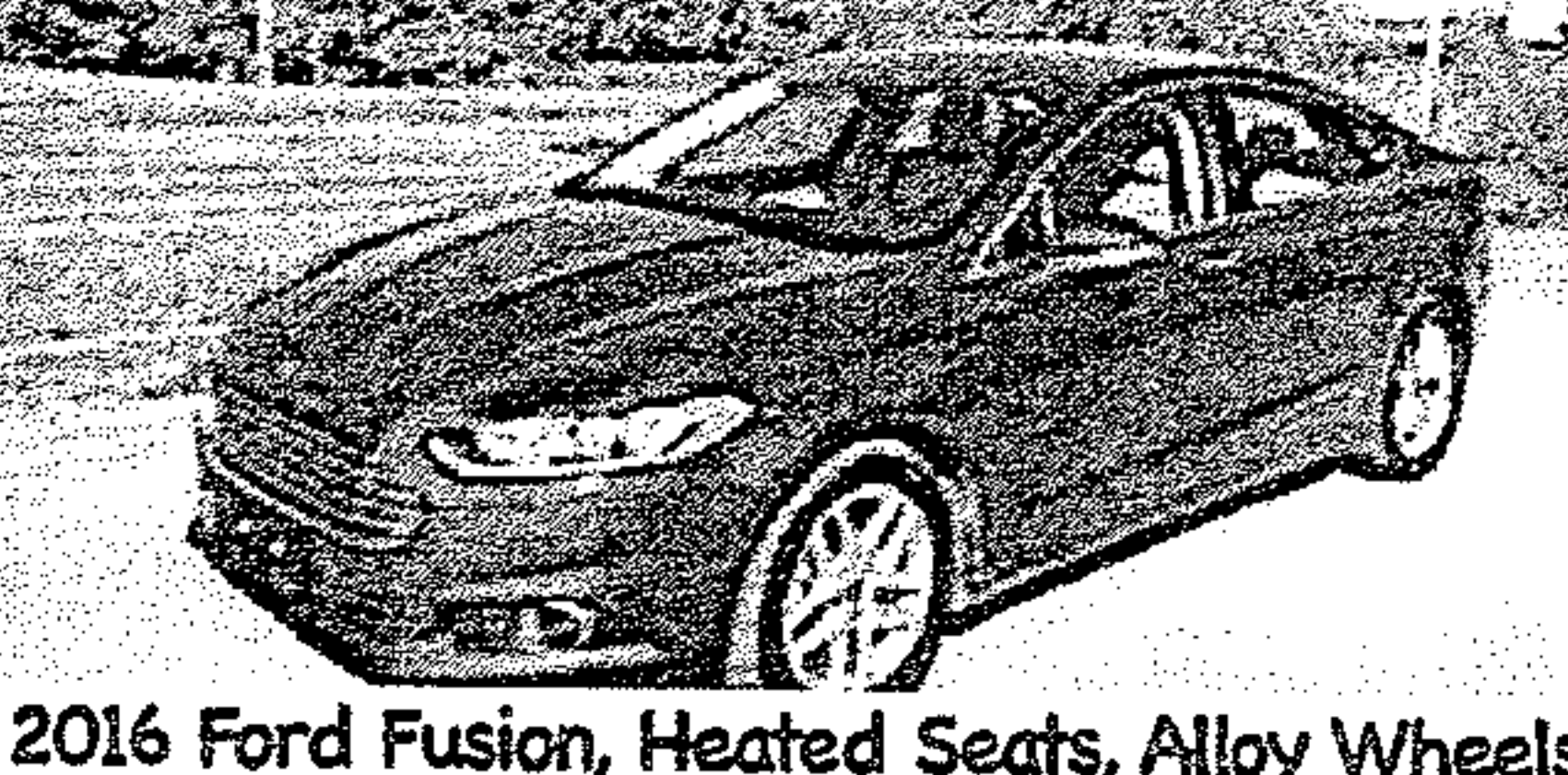
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Assault

Scott Rogers, 32, Davis Ferry Road Loudon, was charged with Domestic Assault, and Public Intoxication. Officer Brandon Nix LPD, was dispatched to Grove Street for a physical domestic. Upon arrival Officer made contact with Roger Scott who was swearing profusely in the parking lot. Rogers advised his girlfriend the victim were involved in a heated argument. During the argument both parties made there way outside to a grassy area. An anonymous witness at the scene stated she heard Rogers yell bitch your not going anywhere. Witness stated at that time she witnessed Rogers throw victim to the ground. Officer did witness a red mark on victim neck that was bleeding. Rogers did have a cut on his hand and blood on his clothing that would lead a reasonable person to believe a physical altercation had occurred, on evidence at the scene and the witness statement. Officer believed Rogers to be the primary aggressor. Officer also noticed while speaking with Rogers he had slurred speech, and trouble maintaining balance. When ask if he had taken anything he stated he took his suboxone earlier that day. Rogers was placed under arrest.

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counties since 1986

DUI

Elmer Cano, 25, Butter-milk Road West Lenoir City, was charged with DUI, Driving without a Valid License, and Violation of implied Consent. Deputy Steve Holcomb and JC Schultz LCSO, responded to a wreck with injury at Hwy 11 near Old Midway Road. Upon arrival a Toyota was sitting off the roadway and had impacted a tree with the front end of the vehicle. Deputy Holcomb made contact with Elmer Cano who had been ejected out of the vehicle, and had a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from his person, red blood shot eyes and was unsteady on his feet. Mr. Cano stated that he did not have a license. Cano also stated he had consumed a liquor drink and four beers over the last 3 hours. Deputy located five cold beers and an empty bottle in the floorboard of the vehicle. Cano was transported to Ft. Loudon ER for treatment. Ft. Loudon conducted a blood draw and advised Deputy that Cano blood alcohol content was .21. Ft. Loudon released Cano after checking him for injuries. Cano was transported to the Loudon Jail.

Under age ctd from p.2

while speaking with Watkins Deputy noticed him to have bloodshot watery eyes. Deputy ask if he had smoked anything illegal he stated no. Deputy made contact with the passenger Justin Richey and 2 juveniles. Deputy noticed a pill

bottle with a green leafy substance in it believed to be marijuana on one of the juveniles. Deputy ask Watkins if there was anything in the vehicle, which he stated they may be ice in the vehicle. Deputy located a camo box in the box located was a baggy containing a white crystal substance believed to be methamphetamine.

The box also contained multiple baggies and a digital scales. Deputy also located another scale under the driver seat, and in the passenger door a straw containing a white powder substance. Richey did have a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his person his id 19.

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DV

Billy Hill, 38, Benjamin Drive Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault, and Domestic Assault Felony. Officer S. Runyan LCPD, assisted by Officer Bialek, was dispatched to Finley Drive in regards to a domestic. Dispatch advised that Billy Hill and victim left the residence in a silver vehicle headed towards Harrison Road. Received a second call from Pleasant Hill Church in regards to Hill stating he was having chest pains. Upon arrival Officer spoke with the victim who stated he and her boyfriend were arguing and Hill shoved her up against the trampoline, which resulted in victim cut on her right elbow. Victim then stated Hill started to drive off in the silver vehicle and she got in the car before he left. Victim also stated while driving they ran out of gas and ended up at Pleasant Hill at which time EMS transported Hill to Fort Loudon Medical. Hill had fresh needle marks in his arm possibly used for drugs. Officer was called back out to Fort Loudon Medical due to Hill being combative and refusing treatment. Hill was then placed under arrest.

TGN

The Rev. Dr. Julius McCarter
Scripture: John 16:4-15

The gospel writer Mark, in chapter 16, tells the story of women coming early to anoint the dead body of Jesus. But when they find the tomb empty and are trembling with fright, an angel appears announcing, "Do not be afraid. He is not here. Look, there is the place where they laid him. He is risen and is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him, just as he told you." Imagine being there! Seeing these women breathless, amazed and barely able to take in such good news.

But those faithful women, first to be told of his resurrection, went as they were told and were the first witnesses to tell this good news. They had to tell others that they had seen Jesus alive again. After seeing our Lord with eyes of faith, we too must testify of what we have seen. It's our call, "You are to testify."

Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for your presence with us in the person of the Holy Spirit who even now is transforming my fears into a living hope. Amen.

A Pyramid of Lies

Man's \$43 Million Ponzi Scheme Fleeced Tennessee Friends and Neighbors

Nobody would have suspected that the affable Tennessee tractor salesman who was raised among them, tended their lawns in high school, and prayed beside them at Sunday services was scamming them by the millions. Indeed, that's probably wrong.

Jeffery Gentry, 40, pleaded guilty in federal court last August to charges related to his \$43 million scheme that bilked investors—including friends, family, neighbors, and fellow parishioners—out of more than \$10 million.

Gentry, who owned Brothers Tractor Supply and Gentry Auto in the Middle Tennessee town of Sparta, was sentenced on May 14 in U.S. District Court in Nashville to three years in prison. He was also ordered to pay \$10.4 million in restitution to his victims. Gentry's scam was a textbook Ponzi scheme that promised investors high guaranteed rates of return on investments. He told investors the funds would finance the purchase of mowers and farm equipment to satisfy lucrative state contracts. In return, investors could expect monthly proceeds as high as 10 percent,

fore Christmas in 2016, when the police station lobby filled up with distraught investors fearing they had been duped. Gentry's tractor store—an informal gathering spot where many of the investment transactions occurred—had shut down without explanation, suddenly casting doubt on their guaranteed returns. At the police station, former farmers and other retirees waved handwritten statements revealing their six-figure outlays, much of it from savings and retirement accounts. Suspecting there would be still more victims, Guth called the FBI in

see FBI ctd. pg. 5



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Crimes

the internal revenue laws over a period of at least nine years by, among other things, filing false tax returns; filing false UCC Financing Statements against individuals seeking to collect his back taxes; and by filing a document with Hawkins County Register of Deeds in an attempt to terminate tax liens filed against him by the IRS.

The indictment further alleges that Snow has not filed timely and accurate income tax returns in almost two decades and owes the IRS over \$150,000 in taxes. In response to IRS collection efforts, Snow allegedly filed false retaliatory liens worth millions of dollars against government officials including an IRS revenue officer, an Assistant United States Attorney, and a federal judge.

The indictment also charges that Snow filed three false claims with the IRS claiming over \$144 million in tax refunds to which he was not entitled.

If convicted, Snow faces a statutory maximum sentence of five years in prison on the tax obstruction charge, 10 years in prison on each of the false retaliatory lien

counts, and five years in prison on each of the false claims counts. In addition, he faces a period of supervised release and monetary penalties. An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Zuckerman commended special agents of the offices of Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration and IRS Criminal Investigation, who conducted the investigation, and Tax Division Senior Litigation Counsel Jen E. Ihlo and Trial Attorney Jason M. Scheff, who are prosecuting the case.

see FBI ctd from pg. 5

nearby Cookeville—a satellite office of the Bureau's Memphis Division—for support.

"He said he had some people in his office who felt they may have been the victim of a crime," recalled FBI Special Agent Traci Lovell. "I don't know if they used the term 'Ponzi scheme,' but their money had been stolen—a large amount of money." Lovell and fellow agent Ric Fagan began interviewing

more than 50 victims who had invested as far back as 2012. The picture that emerged was a typical pyramid scheme: Gentry's initial investors may have seen promising returns early on, but without new money coming in—to pay investors their guaranteed returns and support Gentry's increasingly lavish spending—the ruse ultimately fell apart, leaving many underwater and angry.

"That was a hard day for a lot of people, because they were finally coming to the realization that they had been duped and that they would be lucky if they got anything back at all," Guth said.

In addition to funneling investor cash into real estate, livestock, vehicles, and farm equipment, Gentry spent \$365,000 in March 2016 to launch a used car business, Gentry Auto, in Sparta.

"He sold for a living," said see FBI ctd to pg. 7

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Lenoir City Budget Committee

The Lenoir City Budget Committee will hold the following meetings at City Hall with the purpose of preparation of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget:

- *Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 9:00 A.M.*
- *Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 1:00 P.M.*

The public is encouraged to attend.



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FBI

Special Agent Fagan. "He could talk to people. Just what every scam artist needs is the ability to convince you that giving me your money is the best thing to do."

The FBI investigation required months of work with local task force officers in Sparta, the Internal Revenue Service, and the U.S. Marshals Service—which seized Gentry's assets, including businesses, houses, and land financed through the scheme, as well as \$300,000 in cash. An FBI forensic accountant was brought in to make sense of the accounts and handshake contracts, including handwritten notes acknowledging single

investments of more than \$1 million. Gentry was charged on July 5 with wire fraud and money laundering. An auction last August on the site of Gentry's former tractor business sought to recoup some money for the victims, though it only resulted in \$1.3 million for victim restitution—not nearly enough to make them whole. Guth said some bidders at the auction altruistically overbid certain items "to help their neighbors out a little bit."

"Many of them, they are never going to see the amount that they had put into it," Guth said. "But they will be able to benefit from some of it. And some of it may be better

than nothing at all." The FBI agents said secrecy was a key element of Gentry's ploy—as it is in most Ponzi schemes. Potential investors are lured into thinking they are lucky to get access to this kind of lucrative investment, and that if too many people know about it, their own windfall might be diluted. The air of secrecy also keeps victims from swapping notes, which can reveal inconsistencies and irregularities. That's what happened in Sparta.

"When the victims started comparing notes, they realized the basis of this scam was implausible," said Lovell, referring to the sheer

volume of tractors Gentry would have needed to sell to justify what he promised investors. "The victims can see in hindsight how ludicrous it was to believe that this scheme was true."

In hindsight, there were warning signs: guaranteed high returns, secrecy, and a fundamentally flawed investment model. Investigators cautioned anyone entering into an investment opportunity to do their homework before handing over money. "If someone tells you to keep it a secret, that should be a red flag," Fagan said. "If someone uses the words 'guaranteed return,' that should be a red flag. If a contract

you're looking at doesn't make sense, ask more questions and try to understand it. Don't make yourself an easy target." Guth said some victims, including retirees on fixed incomes, lost their life savings. Their trust and faith has also been tested. "People are more on guard than they were before, and they are probably having a hard time trusting anybody," he said. "It was hard to take. But being a small, close community, I think people have kind of wrapped their arms around some of these people [who were victims]. I'm sure it'll take a while, but we'll get through this."

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