

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

LC Man Assaults Pregnant Woman



Matthew George

see Assault pg. 2

Man awoke to a naked stranger



Anne Pindar

see Trespass pg. 3

Bradley Romero Sentenced To Serve 19 Years In Federal Prison On Methamphetamine Conspiracy And Firearm Charges

Bradley Romero, 32, of Newport, Tennessee, was sentenced by the Honorable R. Leon Jordan, U.S. District Judge, to serve 228 months in federal prison for his role in a significant methamphetamine (meth) conspiracy and for possessing a firearm

in furtherance of his drug trafficking. According to the plea agreement on file with the U.S. District Court, Romero admitted that he was responsible for conspiring to distribute at least 500 grams, but less than 1.5 kilograms, of meth. He was arrested in furtherance of his drug trafficking. See Charges P.5

The Good News

The Rev Dr Julius McCarter
Scripture: John 6:24-35

Feeding people is a sacred task. Preparing food, cooking and serving is holy work. As followers of Jesus we are called to serve and feed others. Jesus feeds

See TGN P.3

Prolific Fraudster Sentenced to 40 Years

Fugitive Faces Justice After Extradition from Mexico

He was, in the words of the assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting him, a "financial predator." And the federal judge he recently stood before called his long-term fraud

crime spree "outrageous" and "despicable," noting the more than 500 victims ensnared by his latest scheme.

The individual in question is Harris Dempsey "Butch"

(see Fraud pg. 4)



Verse of the Day
For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation. — Psalm 149:4
Obituaries
See p. 7

Wazzup
If your traveling I-40 in Roane CO. Watch out for rocks being thrown from overpasses!!!
Weather
Today: Cloudy. High of 88F.
Tonight: Thunderstorms.

Low of 70F.
Thursday: Cloudy. High of 89F.
Thursday Night: Rain. Low of 71F.
Horoscopes
Leo 7/23-8/22
Compromise is part of the package today if you want

things to flow smoothly. You may not be happy about this cosmic turn of events but you're clever enough to realize that you need to surf this wave of pragmatism to accomplish your goals. Accept the current.

(Continued on page 6)

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Assault

Matthew George, 22, White Wing Road Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault.

Officer with LPD, was dispatched to Roberson Springs Road for a possible Domestic. Upon arrival Officer made contact with victim and Matthew

Gavin George. Victim had been crying and stated that Mr. George had grabbed her in a bear hug and tried to put her out of the car, victim is 7 months pregnant. Victim also stated that Mr. George had hit the dash on the passengers side and also hit the outside of the car

in 3 different place on the lake and a buddy dropped drivers side. Mr. George him off there and victim stated that he did grab was there to pick him up. her and that he did hit the Mr. George had drank a outside of the vehicle and few beers while on the that he would pay to have lake. The above incident it fixed. mr. George stat- happened in the City of ed that he had been at the Loudon.

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2010 Ford F150 Platinum PKG, Power Run. Boards, NAV, Ent. PKG, Leather, Heated/Cooled Seats



2007 Chevy Suburban LTZ Alloy Wheels, Leather, 3rd Row, Sunroof, Luggage Rack, PW, PL, DVD, NAV



2009 Chevy Tahoe V8, Auto, PW, PL, Alloy Wheels, Tow Package, PS, Great Shape

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Trespass

Anne Pindar, 48, County Road Sweetwater, was charged with Aggravated Criminal Trespass.

Deputy Spears LCSO, and Deputy Pesterfield LCSO responded to a call of an unwanted guest at Bat Creek Rd. East. Upon

arrival Deputy met with the owner/victim. The owner told him that a friend of hers, was woken up by the offender, Mrs. Anne Pindar who was naked in bed with him and who was extremely impaired to the point of falling down while walking away from

the residence with Deputy. When asked to leave the residence the offender stated that she was going to bed, when asked again she refused to leave. The owner, nor any of the people in the house knew the offender nor gave her permission to be in the residence. Both doors to the residence were believed to have been locked, and the residences of the home do not know which door she came in through. The offender was placed into custody and transported to Loudon County Jail. All above did occur in Loudon County, TN.

When patrons came to use the pantry, they are greeted by name. There are no restrictions on who can use the pantry or how often they can come. When people come to the church in need, we sometimes feel helpless in the face of the complex problems of poverty. Yet, knowing we always have food in the house to offer guests brings a great deal of comfort and purpose in these difficult times.

Prayer: Feeding God, help us to feed others as you feed us. Nourish our physical bodies and the bodies of those around us. Amen.

TGN

us with the bread of life, and in turn we feed and nourish the bodies of God's children.

Some years ago, the church I was humbled to served had a small food pantry. It may be small, but it is truly important work. The staff and volunteers took great pride in stocking the pantry with fresh fruits and vegetables in the summer months.

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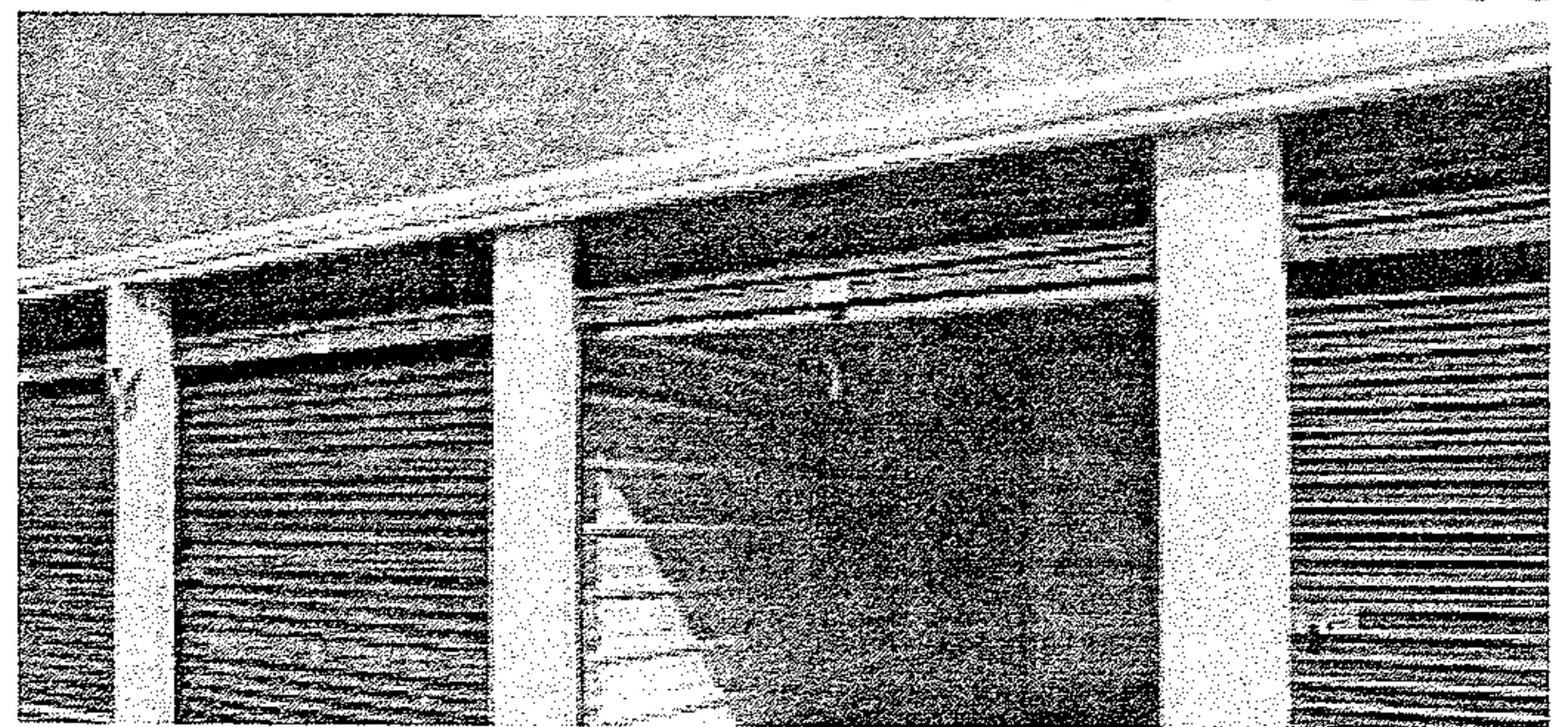
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Fraud

Ballow, a Texas man who had seemingly made a career out of separating people from their hard-earned money through various financial scams—starting back in the 1980s. But that career has finally come to end: The 75-year-old Ballow was sentenced in May to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to defrauding investors in a Nevada company. He was also ordered to pay more than \$37 million in restitution to those investors.

And according to FBI Houston Special Agent Kendall Hopper, who worked the case, what made this particular criminal scheme even worse was that Ballow had perpetrated it while he was a fugitive from justice hiding out in Mexico. “Ballow fled the United States in late 2004, right around the time he was scheduled to appear in court for sentencing

on a previous federal conviction for fraud-related money laundering,” said Hopper, “but instead of keeping a low profile, he brazenly continued his criminal ways.”

In this most recent scheme that netted him the 40-year prison term, Ballow and co-conspirators were able to buy up the majority of the publicly traded shares of a Nevada company called E-SOL International Corporation and install fictitious people as company officers. At the time, E-SOL had almost no assets and conducted no business. Ballow then rebranded E-SOL as a holding company for a couple of phony businesses—of course controlled by him and his associates—and got to work soliciting investors.

“Ballow used lies and deception to sell stock in his companies to unsuspecting investors, including many Canadians,”

said Hopper. “He hid his true identity, his past criminal convictions, and his fugitive status. He also published false and misleading information about the companies in order to tempt investors and increase stock prices.”

One of the particular scams involved Ballow—through his phony companies—selling land and ownership interests in a number of proposed resort developments in Mexico. Potential investors were even taken on tours of the properties. Of course, explained Hopper, there were never any actual resorts built.

“Ballow used lies and deception to sell stock in his companies to unsuspecting investors.”

Kendall Hopper, special agent, FBI Houston

During his five-plus years in Mex-

ico, Ballow and his criminal associates opened various bank accounts in Mexico and several other countries and transferred millions of dollars in investment money from his clients into these bank accounts—and ultimately into their own pockets.

But the gravy train ended in July 2010, when Ballow was detained by Mexican authorities on an arrest warrant issued by the Southern District of Texas related to his previous money laundering conviction. He was extradited back to the U.S. in April 2011, and not long after that, he was sentenced to 10 years on the money laundering charge. Also in July 2010, the same month Ballow had been apprehended in Mexico, he was indicted again—this time related to

the E-SOL stock fraud scheme. A few months later, his co-conspirators were indicted and additional charges were lodged against Ballow.

This complex case, which started in the FBI’s San Antonio Field Office but was eventually moved to the Houston Division, was worked closely with the Internal Revenue Service’s Criminal Investigation (CI) Division—in particular, IRS-CI Agent Aaron Gogley, who was detailed to an FBI Houston task force.

“Aaron was a vital part of the investigation,” explained Hopper. “An important aspect of these kinds of cases involves following the money trail left by the criminals—and Aaron’s expertise in doing just that


See Fraud ctd on pg. 5

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*A person wanting to leave can be attracted and recruited, but two can stand back-to-back and compare. There are more options for a high-branded card is not easily broken. -Eccl. 10:2-4

Fraud ctd from pg. 4
made a big difference in the outcome of the case.”

Gogley said that investigators in the case were motivated by a desire to stop a career criminal who had financially hurt a large number of victims from taking advantage of one more person. “Most of Ballow’s victims were not wealthy people,” the IRS-CI agent explained. “They were just regular folks planning for their financial futures—families with kids, workers nearing retirement, retirees. Some even took out loans to fund their investments, and the loss of this money had a severe impact on them.”

In addition to the IRS, the Bureau received invaluable assistance from authorities in Canada and Mexico, along with the U.S. Marshals Service and Postal Inspection Service. This case was yet another example of the importance of

multi-agency collaboration—even across national borders—in solving crimes and protecting the public.

Charges

rested in September 2017 at a motel in White Pine, Tennessee, with co-defendant Amanda Cureton, 34, of Newport, Tennessee, after a search of the room uncovered a quantity of meth and a firearm. An additional quantity of meth was found hidden within the person of Romero after his arrival at the jail.

A search warrant was obtained and executed on the contents of Romero’s cell phone. Three clear photographs of Romero holding a firearm were found as well as a photo of Romero holding up a large amount of cash. Three other photographs show varying quantities of meth in Romero’s hands. One other photograph showed meth in various

stages of the distribution process.

Others who were previously sentenced in this meth trafficking conspiracy include Randall James Stephens, 34, of Cosby, Tennessee, who was sentenced to 100 months; Christopher Justin Mixon, 33, of Parrottsville, Tennessee, who was sentenced to 110 months; Larry Michael Allison, 37, of Newport, Tennessee, who was sentenced to 98 months; and Taylor Denee Gudger, 24, of Newport, Tennessee, who was sentenced to 168 months. Cureton’s sentencing hearing is set in September 2018.

Law enforcement agencies participating in the investigation included the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Hamblen County Sheriff’s Office, Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, White Pine Police Department,

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Tennessee National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, Fourth District Judicial Drug Task

Force, Cocke County Sheriff’s Office and the Newport Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney see Charges ctd. pg. 7



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