

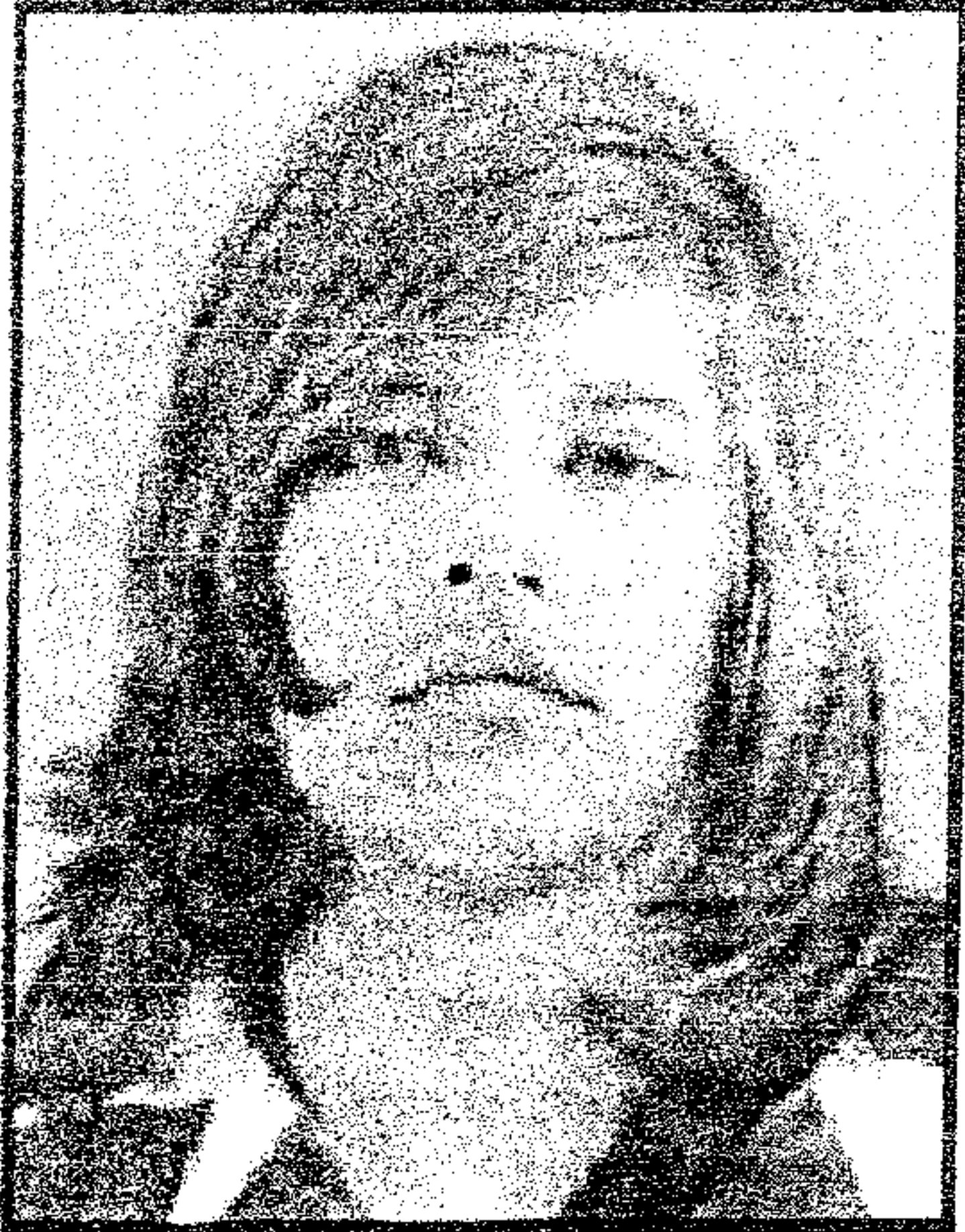
Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, January 17 2011

“Duh, I dunno,” is answer after inmates make sparks fly by sticking copper into electrical outlet

Update: more charges filed in theft case



Lee



Bounds

Two young area men reportedly told corrections offices they didn't know what they had been sticking into an electrical outlet when sparks began flying in the rec room at the jail. An further look into the matter, however, revealed the men had been poking copper wire from a nearby thermostat that had been destroyed into the outlet.

(see Busted pg. 6)



Robinson

(see Robinson pg. 3)

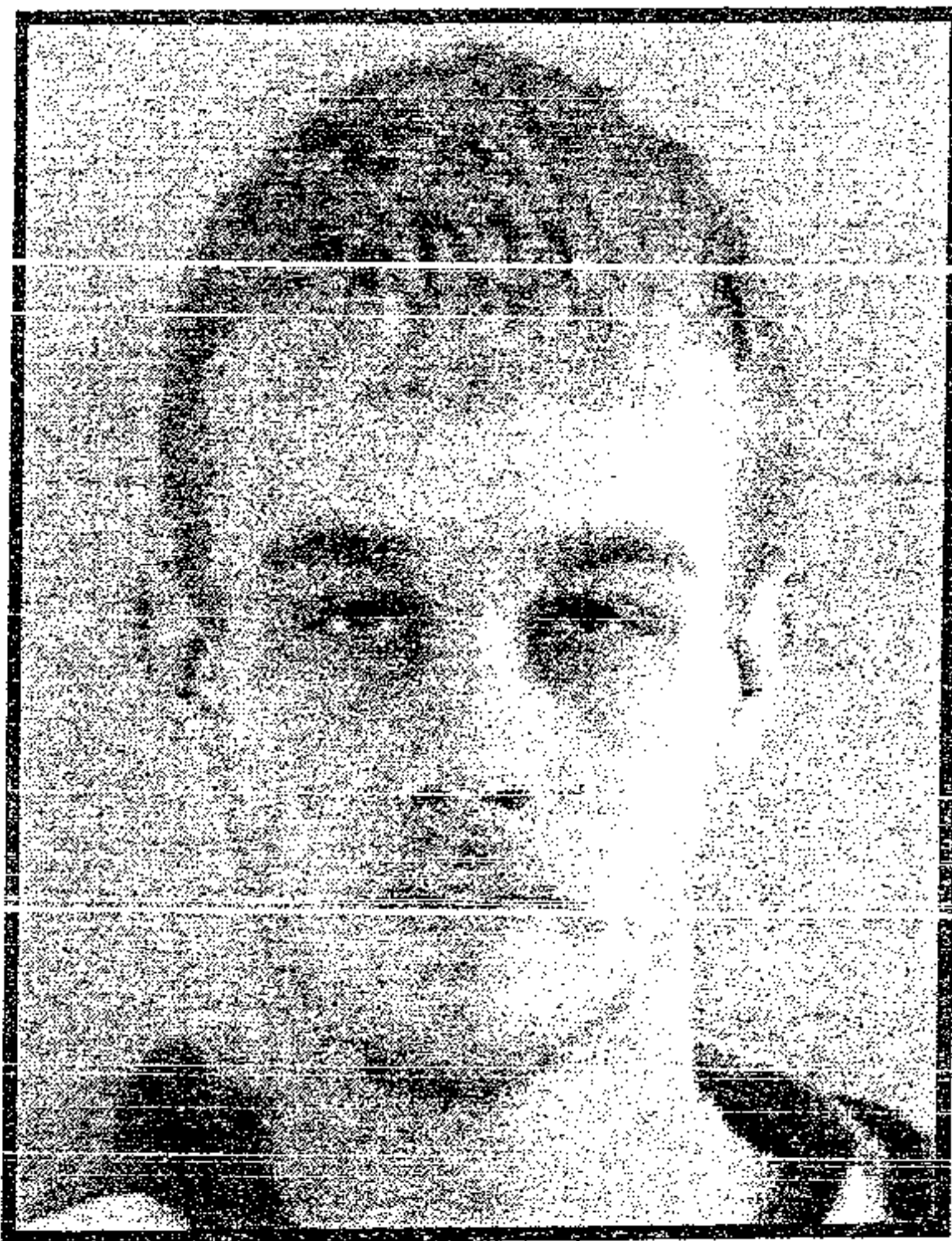
Knox man charged after shoplifting

A Knoxville man is accused of selecting a variety of items including lotions and electronics and concealing them in his clothing before trying to leave Walmart Wednesday.

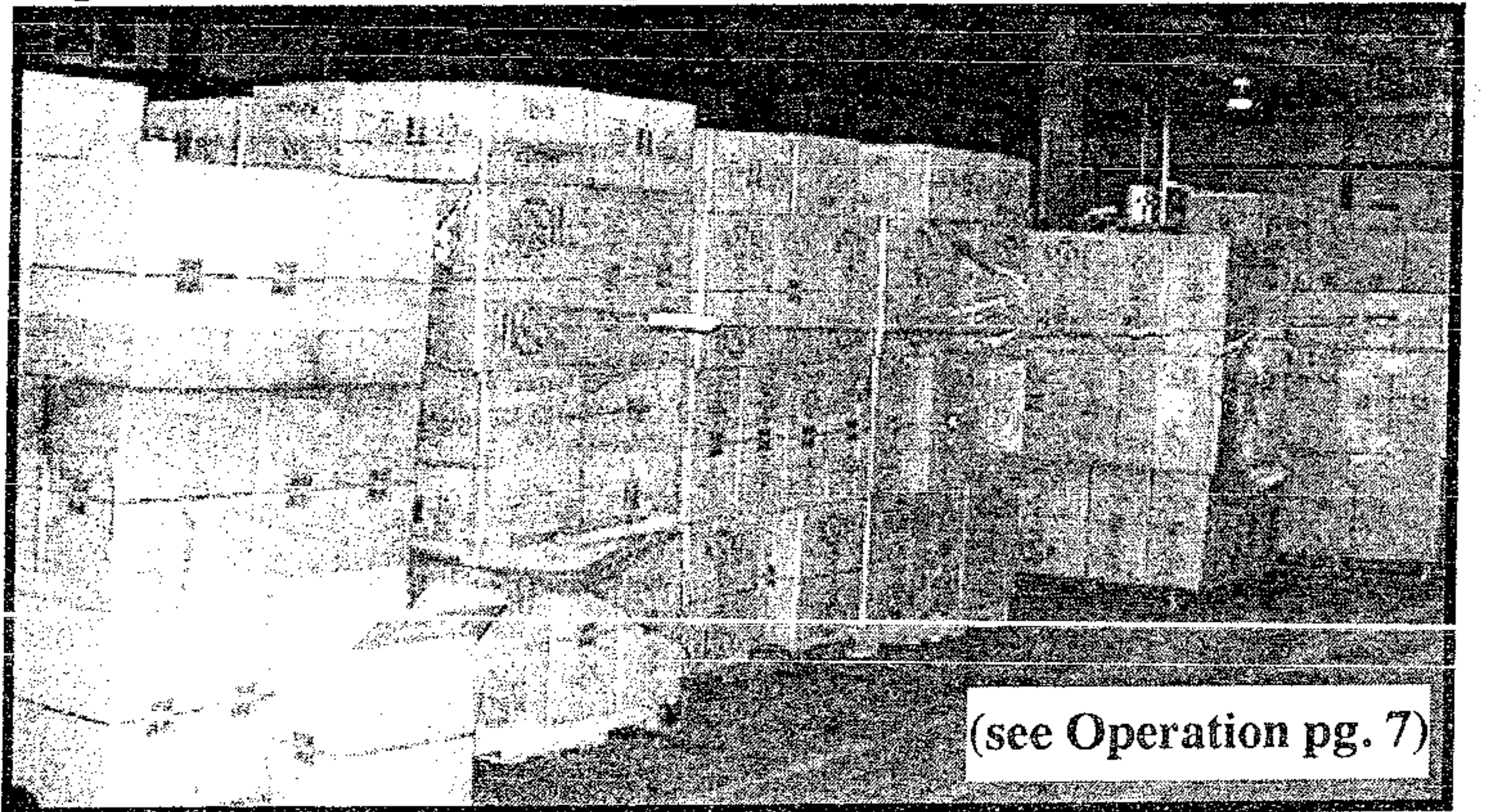
Sean Lamar Mcardle, 22, Branson Avenue, Knoxville was charged with theft under \$500.

According to records, around 4:08 PM, Wednesday, Walmart Asset Protection personnel saw Mcardle conceal a memory card and

(see Mcardle pg. 5) Mcardle



Operation Secondhand Smoke Cigarette Case Yields Unexpected Results



Boxes of seized contraband cigarettes in a Mississippi warehouse.

When the smoke cleared work of schemers trafficking from Major Case 253, a net- in contraband cigarettes was

New 2011 State Maps Now Available

NASHVILLE- The official travelers in their planning of 2011 Tennessee Transportation efforts.

Map is now available to assist “Even as motorists use other” (see Maps pg. 4)

Verse of the Day

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me

in the way everlasting.”

Psalm 139:23-24

Obituaries

Elsie Click Watkins
Lorraine Hammes
Jacquelyn Lee Petty

Herbert Roy Rush Wazzup

Have you seen the snow figures along the 600 block of West Broadway - they are really good. Go by and check ‘em out if you haven’t spotted them yet!!!

Weather

Today: Few showers.
Highs in the mid 40s.
Tonight: Lows in the mid 30s.
Tuesday: Showers.
Highs in the mid 40s

and lows in the upper 20s.

Horoscopes

Capricorn 12/22-1/19
You can afford to be more indulgent today.
(see More pg. 2)

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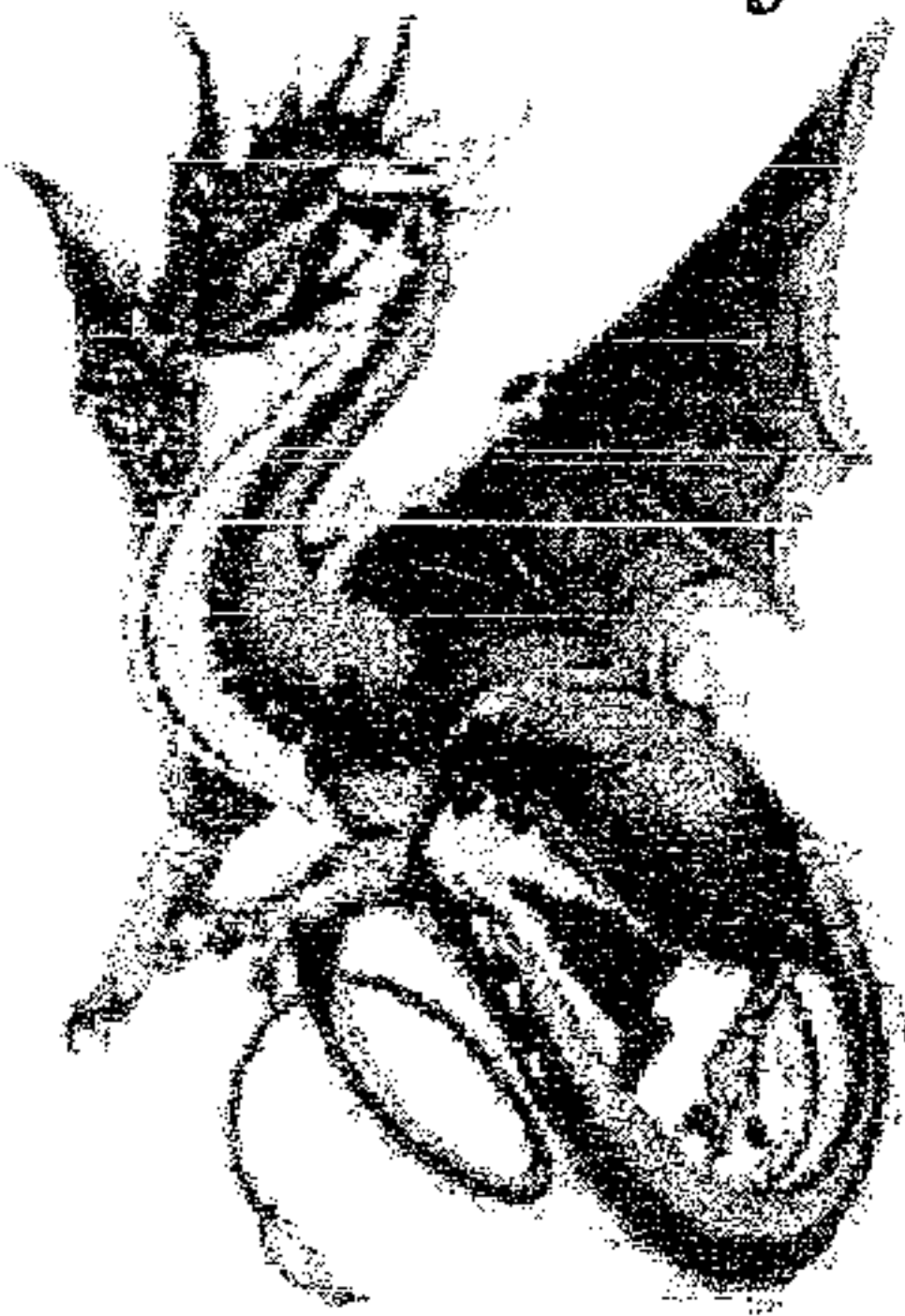
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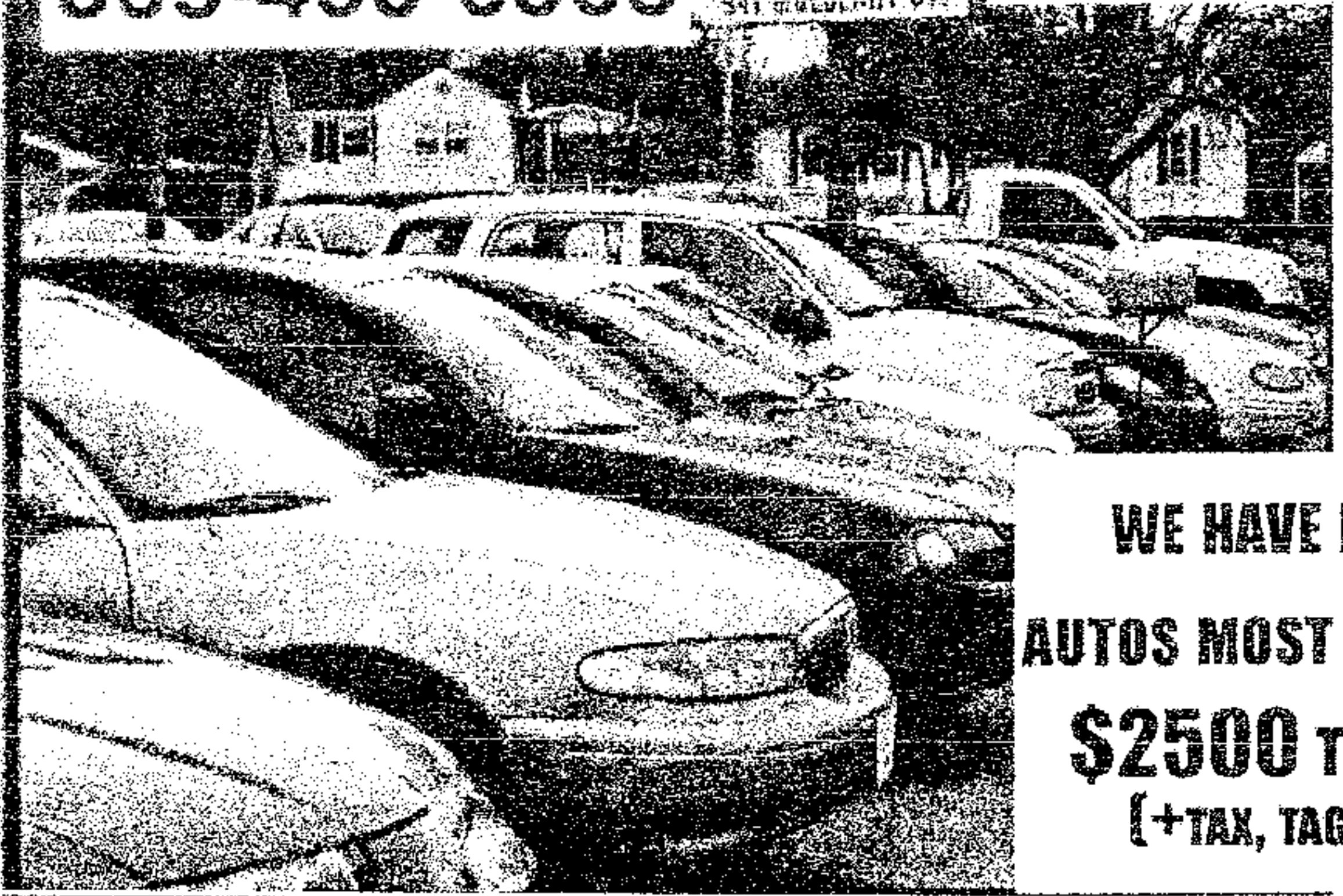
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Robinson

A Lenoir City man charged with auto burglary has now been charged in connection with the December 31, 2010 larceny of stereo speakers from a vehicle at Walmart.

Detective Jonathan Sartin, LCPD charged Bradley Ryan Robinson, 28, North C Street, Lenoir City with theft Tuesday.

Records indicate the charge was filed in connection with the theft of speakers and an amp taken out of a 1997 Subaru belonging to Larry Mueller of Hatley Drive, Lenoir City.

The theft occurred while the

vehicle was parked at Walmart, Highway 321, Lenoir City.

The stereo equipment was valued at \$400 and was found in Robinson's red, Chevy Blazer, which the detective located at a Pine Ridge Drive, Lenoir City residence during his investigation.

Police Beat

Michael S. Boyd, 35, West 2nd Avenue, Lenoir City was charged Wednesday with violation of probation and failure to appear.

Sgt. Lynette Ladd, LCPD made the arrest.

Steven Andrew Sizemore, 23, Beaver Road, Vonore was charged with failure to appear.

Deputy Robert Gray, LCSO made the arrest Wednesday at the Monroe County Jail.

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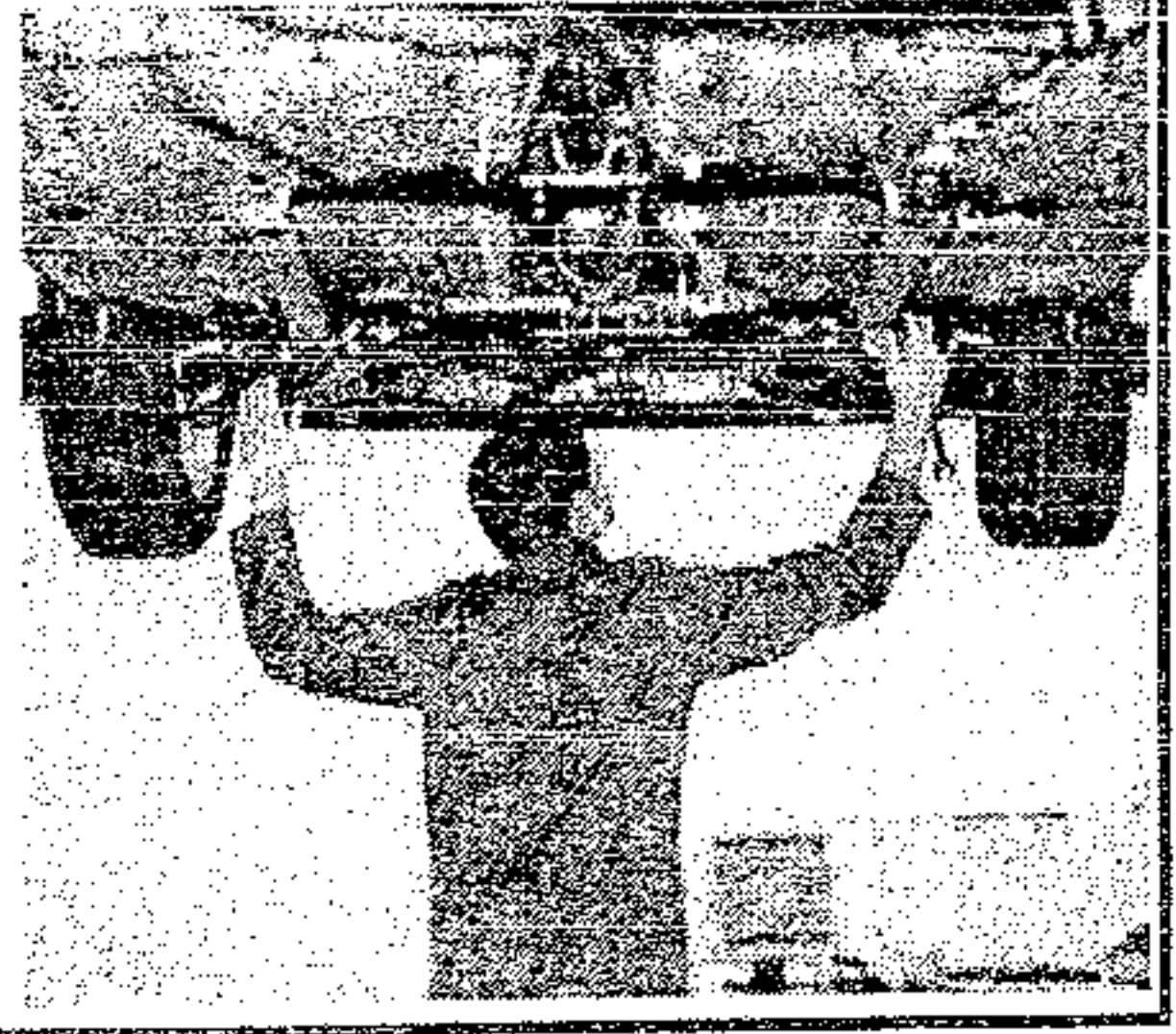
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Obituaries

Elsie Click Watkins, - age 87 of Athens passed away Thursday evening, January 13, 2011. Elsie was a member of First Baptist Church Athens. She was also a member of the Order of Eastern Star and Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She was a former bookkeeper and accountant for Graves Buttram Lumber Company for 31 years. Preceded in death by her husband, Robert Watkins; parents, James Carl and Allie Click; and brother, Blaine Click. Elsie is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Dale Reynolds of Ooltewah; Blaine Reynolds and wife, Heather of Memphis, Jimmy Reynolds and Allie Reynolds of Ooltewah, along with several cousins. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. Family and friends will gather at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Athens for graveside services. Rev. Eddie Click officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Bayside Baptist Church, 6100 Highway 58, Harrison, TN 37341. Click Funeral Home, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements. www.clickfuneralhome.com

Lorraine Hammies - age 76 of Chattanooga, formerly of Lenoir City and Oak Ridge, passed away at home peacefully with her family on Wednesday, January 12, 2011. Lorraine was confirmed by Zion Lutheran Church in Detroit, MI and was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Chattanooga. She was preceded in death by her sons, Clarence Dawn, Jr.

and Larry E. Dawn; parents, Harry and Marie Patrish Holden; brothers, Robert and Carl Holden. Survived by her daughter, Rose Greenway and husband, Gary of Chattanooga; grandchildren: April Robbins Gilbreath, Angie Robbins, Heather Bryson and Robyn Bryson; great grandchildren, Jacob and Jocelyn Gilbreath; several nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 12 to 1 p.m. Saturday at Click Funeral Home. Family and friends will then proceed to the Lenoir City Cemetery for 1 p.m. graveside services.

Jacquelyn Lee Petty - age 66 of Loudon passed away suddenly Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at her home. She was a member of Cornerstone Church of God. Jacquelyn was a former employee of ACT and J & J Insurance Agency in Lenoir City. She was a member of the Red Hat Society. Preceded in death by her mother, Anita Howell. Survived by her husband of 43 years, Billy Petty; father Delmer Howell and wife, Eunice; brother, David Howell and wife, Charlotte all of Lenoir City; nieces, Sandy Howell of Florida and Susan Howell of Loudon, and nephew, Steffen Howell of Germany. The family will receive friends from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Saturday at Click Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 3 p.m. with Rev. Steve McCullar officiating. Burial will follow in Loudon Co. Memorial Gardens.

Herbert Roy Rush - age 79 of Lenoir City passed away Monday, January 10, 2011 at his home. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert Monroe Rush and Margaret Brittan Rush, and sis-

ter, Lois Rush. Survived by his wife of 56 years, Florence Rush; daughter Dawn (Stephen) Sinkovich of Michigan; sons, Dean (Sharon) Rush of Michigan and Ian (Sharon) Rush of Lenoir City; sister, Doris (James) Clark of Michigan; brother, Howard (Doris Jean) Rush of Lenoir City; grandchildren, Robin Rush and Timothy Berna; and great grandson, Anthony Berna. The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Loudon. Memorial services will follow at 3 p.m. with Brother Tom Hunt officiating. Click Funeral Home, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements.

Maps

er tools such as smart phones and GPS systems, state maps will continue to be important in assisting motorists in their travels across our state and reaching a destination," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely.

This is the second year of a reformatting map in a large, easy-to-read format. Because of the shape of the state, it was necessary to split the display of Tennessee to the front and back sides of the map to keep costs low. The TDOT Community Relations Office is interested in hearing from motorists about this new format, now in use for a year. You may comment via email at tdot.comments@tn.gov.

The 2011 state map is available for download from the TDOT

web site at www.tn.gov/tdot/maps.htm.

Pre-printed maps may be ordered from TDOT online at www.tn.gov/tdot/MapOrder/maporder.htm or by mailing a request to:

Tennessee Department of Transportation
Map Sales Office
505 Deaderick Street
James K. Polk Building, Suite 300
Nashville, Tennessee
37243-0345

Individuals may request up to five free maps. Organizations and schools may order up to one hundred maps for their use.

The Official 2011 Tennessee Transportation Map is a joint effort between TDOT and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development.

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Mcardle

makeup in his jacket pocket in the men's department before proceeding to the toy department where he concealed lotions in his jacket pocket.

Mcardle then con-

tinued out the lawn and garden side of the Highway 321, Lenoir City store, passing all points of sale and the final point of sale.

The total amount of the ill gotten goods was \$109.52. No restitution was sought.

Sgt. Lynette Ladd, LCPD made the arrest.

Mcardle

Thomas R. Greenhill Jr., 43, State Highway 986, Olive Hill, Kentucky was charged Thursday with DUI 1st offense.

According to reports, Mr. Greenhill's red Chevrolet Impala was stopped on Interstate 75 north at the 81 mile marker for failure to maintain a single lane after other motorists called and reported Greenhill to THP. He was seen crossing the center line approximately 12 times within one mile, by Loudon County Sheriff's units 912 and 907.

Mr. Greenhill had slurred speech an extremely dry mouth and seemed very confused. He stated he had taken prescription medication, a 30 mg oxycodone and a 2 mg alprazolam earlier that day.

Mr. Greenhill

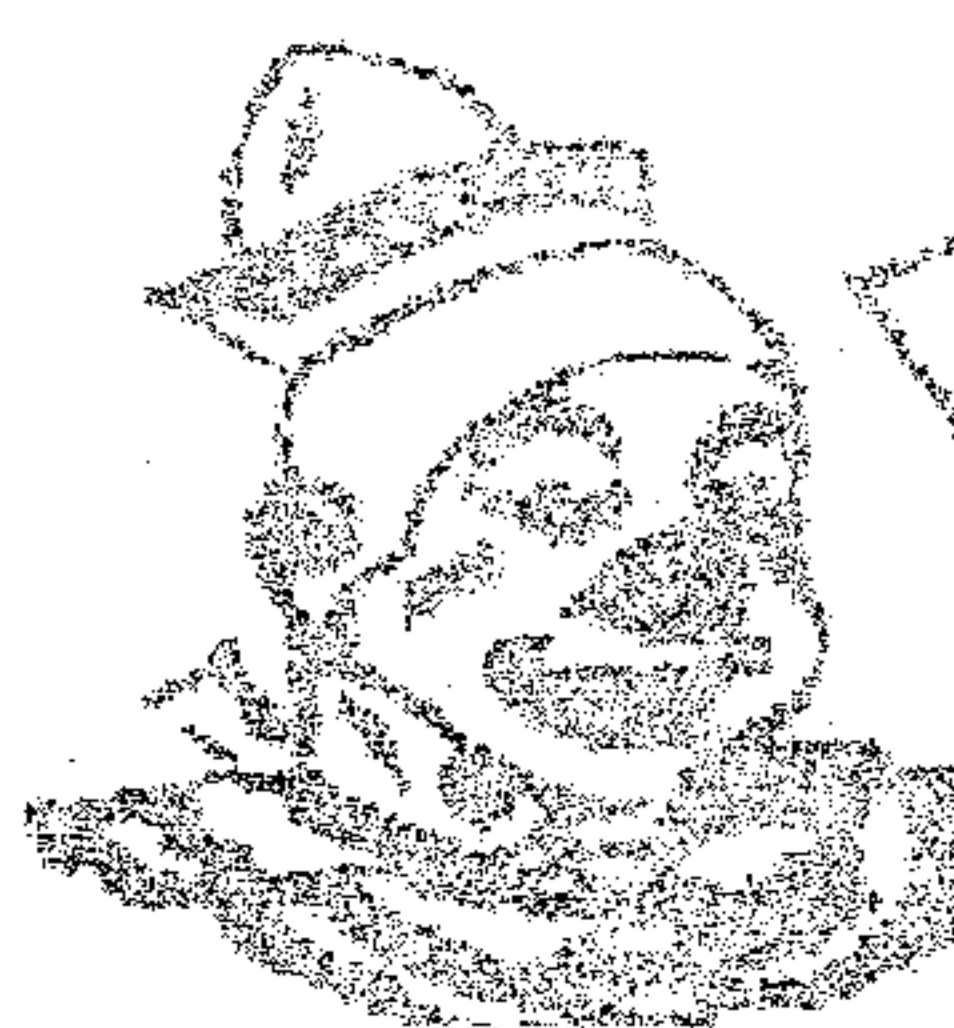
couldn't perform field sobriety tasks as instructed and was placed under arrest. He was transported to Fort Loudoun ER for a BAC and then to the Loudon County Jail. Trooper Eric Miller, THP made the arrest.

Robert Eugene Russell Jr., 23, Honey-suckle Hills, Loudon was charged Wednesday with violation of probation.

Corporal John Wilson, LCSO made the arrest.

Derek Allen Sheldon, 20, Malone Road, Loudon was charged with failure to appear.

Deputy Robert Gray, LCSO made the arrest Wednesday at Peninsula Hospital.



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Busted

Christopher Domier Bounds, 19, Dossett Lane, Clinton, and Bradley Charles Lee, 18, Blacks Ferry Road, Knoxville and Turman Drive, Lenoir City were charged with vandalism.

According to reports, Monday, at approximately 9:55 PM, Deputy Bruce Padgett,

LCSO observed inmates Bounds and Lee sticking an object into an electrical outlet causing sparks. Deputy Padgett and other deputies went into the indoor recreation room and asked inmates Bounds and Lee repeatedly what they were sticking in the outlet and they said they didn't know.

When deputies questioned both inmates individually, Bounds said he didn't know what it was and Lee advised the object was lying behind the door. Officers retrieved the object and it appeared to be copper wires from the thermostat located on the wall beside the door.

The thermostat ap-

peared to have been broken and the wires had been removed from the inside.

Additional records revealed Lee became an inmate at the jail after he was charged Monday with DUI 1st offense, driving on suspended license and implied consent.

According to those reports, Mr. Lee was driving a green Honda Accord on Interstate 75 south, when it caught fire at the 74 mile marker. When Trooper Russell Smith, THP arrived on the scene, Mr. Lee initially stated his mother was driving and then changed his story and said an unknown male was driving the car and had fled the scene.

Lee finally admitted he was the driver. A license check revealed his license were suspended for a truancy violation out of Knox County on June 26th, 2008.

A meth pipe was found on Mr. Lee during a search at the jail and he reportedly admitted doing a line of methamphetamine prior to driving.

Lee was unable to perform field sobriety as instructed.

Police Beat

Marshall Dewayne Russell, 47, Sunnyside Road, Philadelphia was charged with an attachment for child support.

Corporal John Wilson, LCSO made the arrest Wednesday.

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Operation

dismantled, a Mississippi police department earned a new headquarters, and the FBI gained one more partner in the fight against terrorism.

Those three things might not seem related, but then again, Operation Secondhand Smoke is no ordinary case. It began—as many investigations do—when a person of interest in a criminal matter offered infor-

mation about a larger criminal enterprise, a massive fraud in the cigarette industry.

Working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Tupelo Police Department, and the Marshall County Sheriff's Office in Mississippi, we began an undercover investigation into a nationwide network of retailers, wholesalers, distributors, importers, and manufacturers who were avoiding cigarette taxes to make millions of dollars in profits.

"The amount of criminal activity in this case to avoid taxes was just phenomenal," said Special Agent Carl Cuneo, one of the case supervisors based in our Oxford, Mississippi Resident Agency.

In the tobacco industry, the crime is known as "diverting," and it applies to those who scheme to avoid the various federal and state taxes levied on cigarette sales. Operation Secondhand Smoke involved the so-called fourth-tier market—not well-known cigarette brands, but off-labels such as those manufactured in Armenia.

Taxes represent the majority of the total retail cost of a pack or carton of cigarettes. By illegally avoiding those taxes—through schemes including hiding shipments from auditors and regulators and creating false invoices, bank, and tax records—the crooks pocketed the tax money they should have paid when the cigarettes were sold.

"Every time you avoid a tax, it's pure profit," Cuneo said. "You're talking about as much as a million dollars of profit in just one tractor-trailer of diverted cigarettes." The subjects in the case—six have pled guilty so far to a variety of federal charges—made so much money they bought mansions, vacation properties, boats, and airplanes. "During the execution of just one search warrant," Cuneo said, "we seized \$12 million in cash and certificates of deposit. They just had it lying around."

In one 2009 raid on a warehouse, 28 truckloads of contraband cigarettes were seized (see Operation cont. pg. 8)



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Operation cont.

worth an estimated \$15-\$20 million—bad news for the criminals, but very good news for law enforcement. That's, because according to federal law, criminal seizures can be legally forfeited so that cash and property may be returned to victims of crimes or used by law enforcement.

Part of the seized property in Operation Secondhand Smoke was a 100,000-

square-foot warehouse located in Tupelo, valued at \$1.6 million. Because the Tupelo Police Department played an active role in the investigation from the beginning, that warehouse is in the process of being forfeited to the town, and will become the site of the department's new headquarters. (The Marshall County Sheriff's Department, also part of the investigation from the start, stands to re-

ceive as much as \$1 million in forfeitures.)

"We're ecstatic about getting a new headquarters," said Tony Carleton, chief of the Tupelo Police Department, which has 115 sworn officers. The city plans to demolish the old warehouse and build a new building.

Based partly on the relationships built between the Tupelo Police Department and the FBI during the Secondhand Smoke inves-

tigation, one of the newest members of our Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) in Mississippi is a detective from the police department.

"This case really facilitated the relationship between the FBI and the police department," Cuneo explained. "Everybody worked very hard on this investigation, and the partnerships are continuing to pay off."

Police Beat

Darrell Dean Stevens Jr., 28, Hillcrest Drive, Lenoir City was charged with public intoxication.

According to records, Sgt. Jerramie Bowen, LCSO was on patrol on Highway 11 early Friday morning when he noticed Mr. Stevens staggering across the highway at United Grocery Outlet. Stevens had a strong odor of alcohol coming from his person and performed poorly on field sobriety tasks.

Stevens told the sgt. he and his wife had a verbal argument and that's why he was walking in the middle of the road.

Mr. Stevens was deemed a danger to himself and others if left in the public and was taken into custody.

Issac Lee Kirkland, 46, Lou Goddard Lane, Greenback was charged Friday with failure to appear.

Corporal John Wilson, LCSO made the arrest at the Knox County Detention Center.

Isaiah Daniel Ramirez, 28, Toby Hollow Lane, Knoxville was charged with failure to appear.

Deputy Nathan Wilson, LCSO made the arrest Thursday at the Knox County Detention Center.

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