

The Daily Edition

50¢

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Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Woman charged with arson after setting apartment on fire

A Loudon woman has been charged with aggravated arson after reportedly setting a Lenoir City apartment on fire where her estranged boyfriend lived following a domestic dispute. The woman had already busted the window of the victim's truck out.

Melody Shaver, 46, Carding Machine Road Loudon, was charged

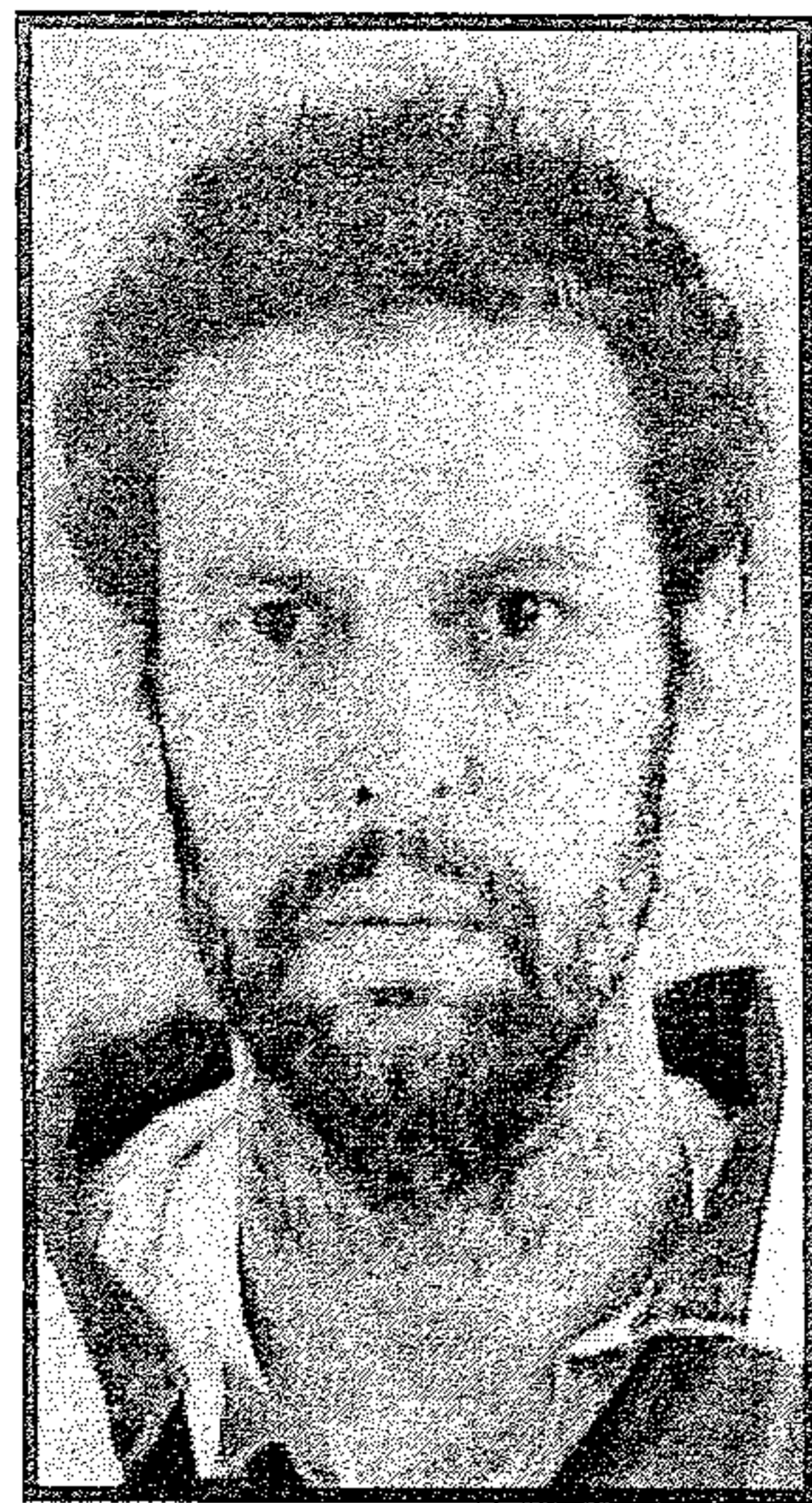


Melody Shaver

DUI for anxious intoxicated driver

Matthew Bricker, 43, Laurel Bluff Road Kingston, was charged with DUI, Driving without a valid License, and Violation of Implied Consent. Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, observed a silver vehicle traveling on Hwy 11. The vehicle then abruptly swerved onto the shoulder and stopped. The driver exited the vehicle and approached Deputy's

(see DUI pg. 7)



Matthew Bricker

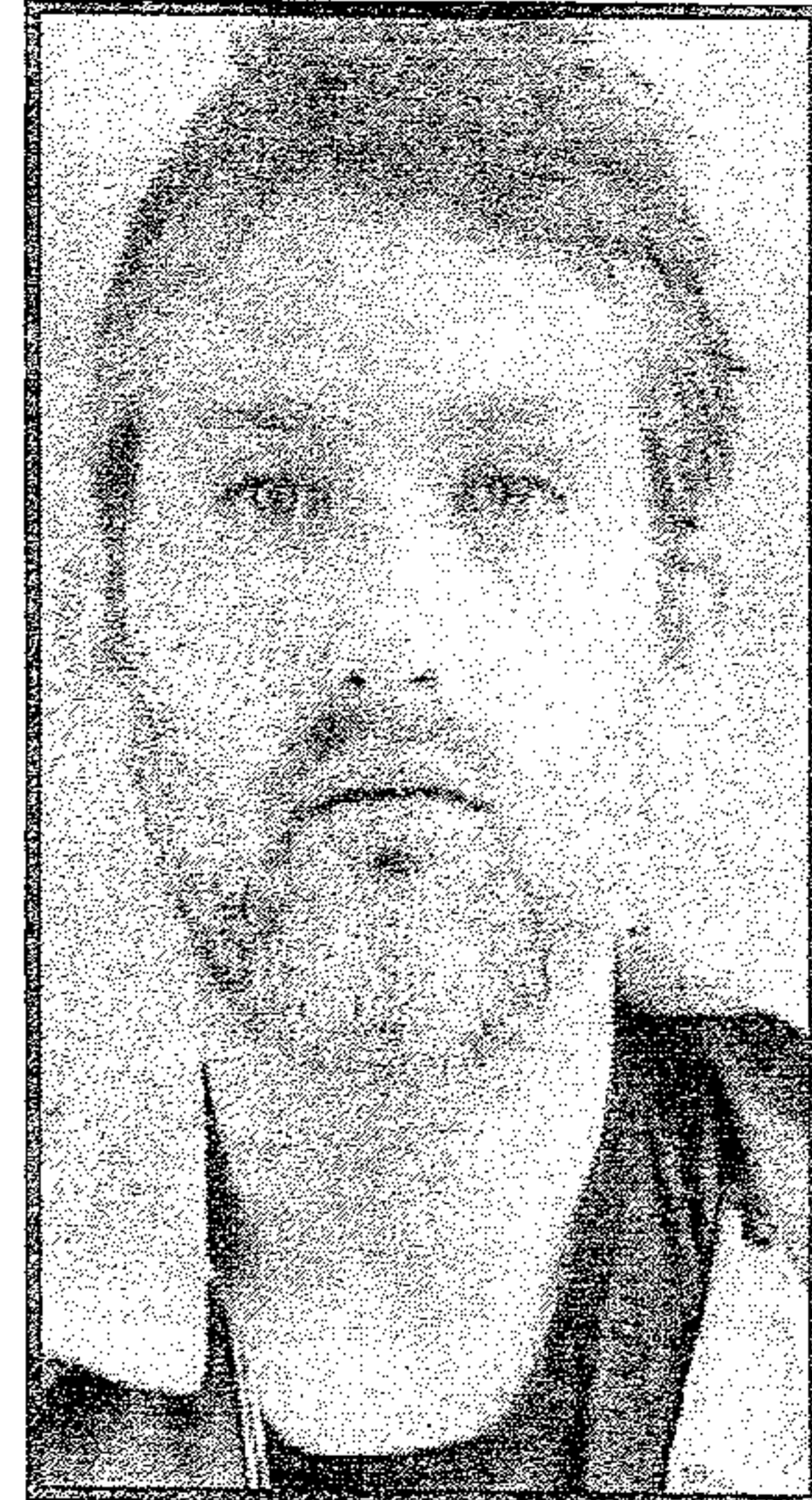
with Aggravated Arson, and Vandalism. Melody Shaver did intentionally set fire to an occupied dwelling. This fire caused extensive damage to the dwelling and placed occupants at risk of death or serious injury. Melody set the fire in the bedroom of the down stairs apt. lo-

(see arson pg. 2)

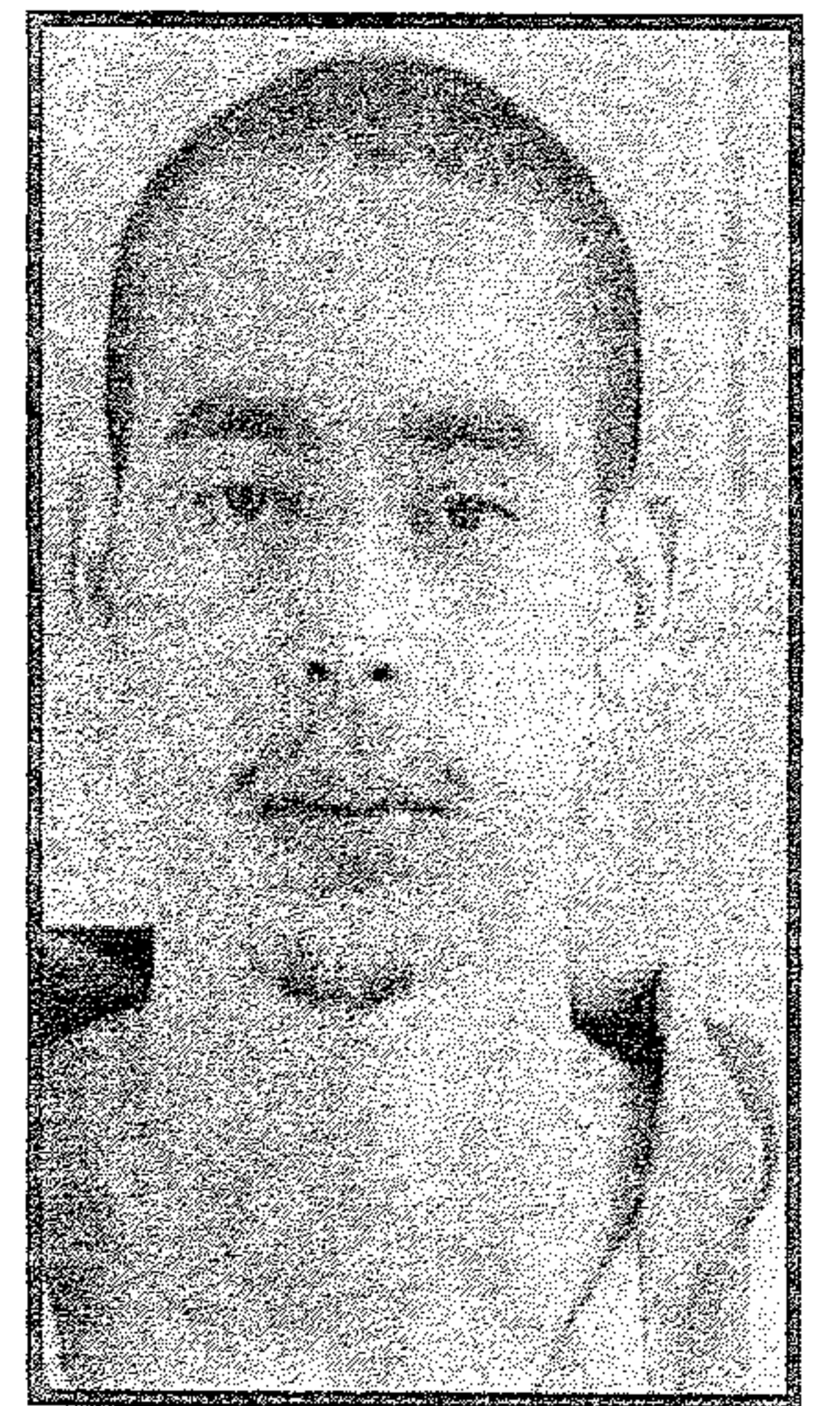
Sullivan County Receives Clean Audit Report

The Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury is recognizing a significant

Trio charged after shoplifting call in Loudon



William Hout



Dylan Burns

(see trio pg. 5)

Financial Fraud The Disney Resort That Never Was

Thomas W. Lucas, Jr. was such an effective liar that he was able to convince hundreds of investors—even members of his own family—that he had inside information about a Disney resort to be built in Texas that would make the

nearby scrubland worth a fortune for those who bought it ahead of time.

Of course, there was no "Frontier Disney," as Lucas claimed, but using false documents, forged signatures, and phony presentations, he was able to pocket nearly \$450,000 in real estate fees over a four-year period and cause investors to lose approximately \$20 million.

"Thomas Lucas Jr. fooled savvy investors (see fraud pg. 4)

achievement by Sullivan County government leaders and elect-

(see audit pg. 3)

Verse of the Day

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the

ground." — Genesis 1:26

Obituaries

see inside

Wazzup

Thanks for your help Officer Dennis Guider, LCPD it was a long walk but we got 'er done!

Weather

Today: Sunshine along with some cloudy intervals. High 44F.

Tonight: Partly cloudy skies. Low 27F.

Thursday Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afternoon. High 52F.

Thursday Night Clear skies Low around 30F.

Horoscopes

Aquarius 1/20-2/19

You might be concerned that something is lurking on the outskirts of your awareness today. Unfor-

(Continued on page 6)



3 08805 93489 2

arson

cated on Broadway in Lenoir City. Melody had been involved in a domestic dispute with her boyfriend who lived in the apt.

The victim had left the apartment to get away from Melody to avoid any other conflict. Melody had already smashed the victims windshield of his truck.

When victim returned to the apartment it was on fire and Melody had fled the scene.

LPD Officers Mike Newman, and John Yates, located Melody at the Carding Machine Road address and transported her to the Loudon Jail where Capt. Kevin Condee LCPD, charged Melody and made the arrest.

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audit

ed officials.

Sullivan County's audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 contains no audit findings. Very few Tennessee counties can claim

this distinction.

Sullivan County officials have worked hard to correct previous audit findings, and the government has continued to operate with a high level of financial integrity. County leaders have made a commitment to reduce risk through a strong system of internal controls.

"Sullivan County's elected leaders and employees should be commended for this exemplary audit report," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "A clean audit indicates that many steps have been taken to protect taxpayers' money. Sullivan County can claim to have one of the strongest systems of county government in the state."

The Tennessee Comptrol-

ler's Office audits 89 of Tennessee's 95 counties. Last year only two of the 89 counties (Hamblen and Robertson) received clean audit reports. Sullivan County joins Blount County and Tipton County as the only counties who have received clean reports in fiscal year 2015, so far. County audit reports will continue to be released through March.

View the full Sullivan

County Audit Report at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/la/>

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, call the Comptroller's toll-free hotline at (800) 232-5454, or file a report online at: www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline. Follow us on twitter: @TNCOT

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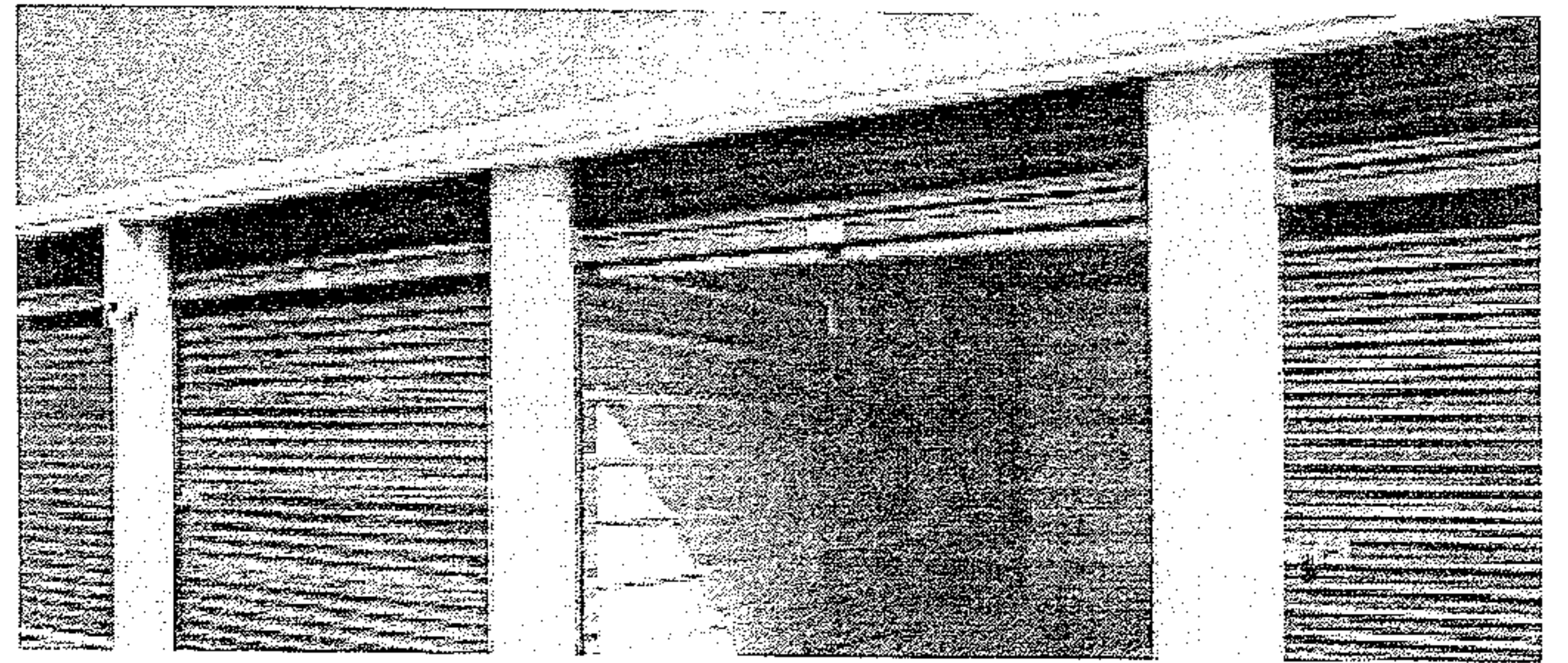
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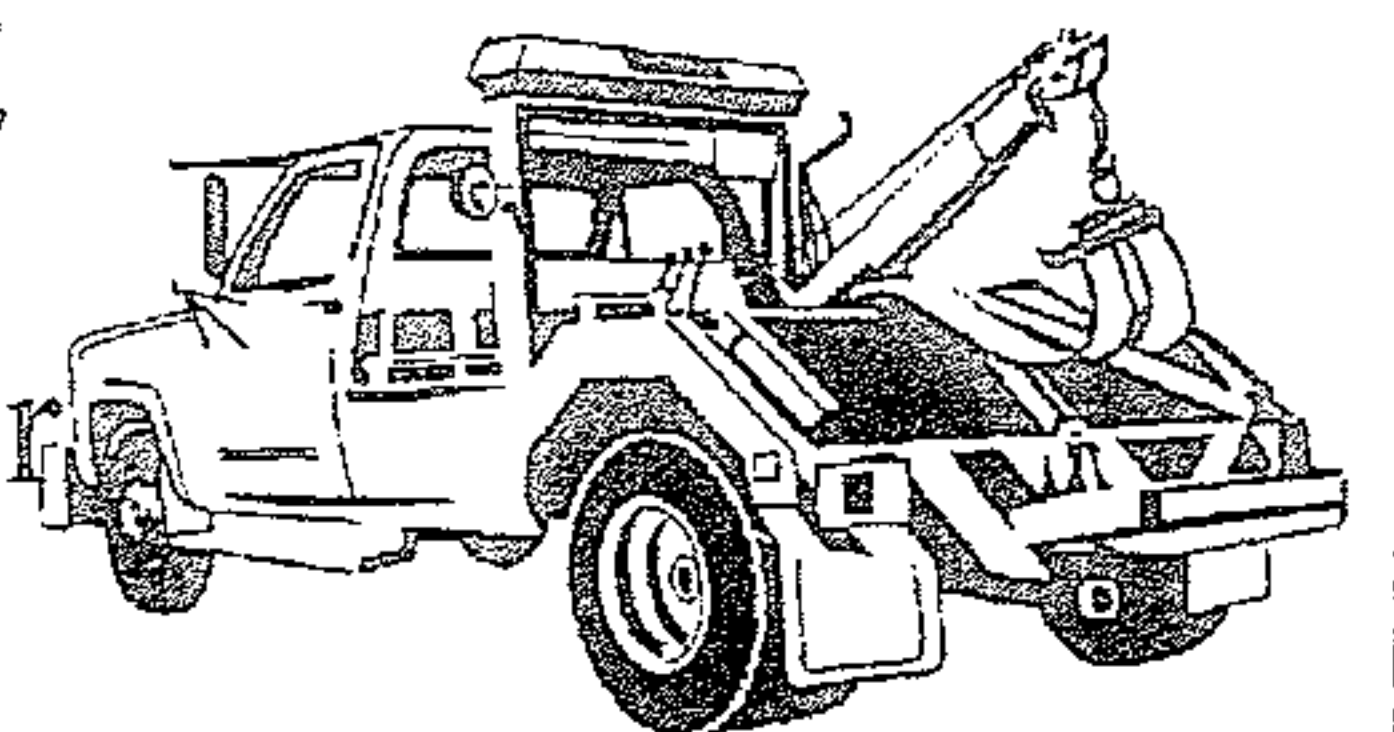
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fraud

and very intelligent people," said Special Agent Rick Velasquez, who investigated the case from the FBI's Dallas Division. "He was a very believable guy."

From 2006 to 2010, Lucas defrauded more than 250 investors. He claimed to have insider information regarding a Disney resort and theme park planned for a rural area about 50 miles north of Dallas. He was giving investors a chance to buy surrounding land outright, or to purchase options to buy the land near the supposed resort. The 65 investors who purchased options lost every cent they invested—more than \$8 million. Some investors, including Lucas' father and uncle in the family real estate business, purchased land outright, believing

the Disney story.

"There was not one grain of truth in Lucas' presentations," Velasquez said, "but his pitch was very elaborate, and it fooled a lot of people. He duped his own family."

Lucas claimed to have letters between Disney and a management firm saying that the company had acquired enough land to make the deal happen. He included

the letters—complete with forged Disney officials' signatures—in his presentations to investors, along with detailed maps, concept plans, and images that were later discovered to be lifted from the Internet, some from Disney websites.

According to Lucas, Disney planned to make the big announcement about the resort at a Dallas Cowboys foot-

ball game on Thanksgiving in 2006. When that didn't happen, he told investors there were delays. "Then the announcement was going to be Super Bowl 2007, 2008. Then it was Fourth of July at the Beijing Olympic games," Velasquez said. "He was just trying to keep investors and potential investors on the

hook."


With each delay, Lucas would sweeten the pot with some new bogus e-mail from a Disney executive or other bit of tantalizing information meant to persuade people the project was still on track. Eventually, investors became suspicious, and one made a complaint

(see fraud ctd. pg. 5)

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busted

William Hout, 32, Rock Springs Road Lenoir City, was charged with PI, Simple Possession x2, and Man/Sell/Poss. of Controlled Substance x2.

Dylan Burns, 20, Hines Valley Road Lenoir City, was charged with PI, and Simple Possession x2.

Rebekah Roberts,

18, Hines Valley Road Lenoir City, was charged with PI.

Officer Jonathan Yates LPD, responded to a disturbance at the Shell station on Hwy 72. Complaint of three intoxicated persons possibly shoplifting. Upon arrival Officer identified one person as William (Billy) Hout. All three were obviously impaired.

Mr. Hout was unsteady on his feet, spoke with a thick tongue and was very lethargic. He was spilling coffee on himself and the counter and made a mess of the condiments. Mr. Hout voluntarily removed the items from his pocket which included several pills. He had one morphine pill and 3 Xanax in an unlabeled pill bottle

and two clear plastic bags which contained the following: Bag#1-48 green oblong pills believed to be clonazepam. Bag#2-18 more clonazepam and 12 yellow oblong pills inscribed with the word percocet. All the pills are scheduled narcotics and were possessed without a valid prescription, bottle and with the intent for re-



Rebekah Roberts

sale. Mr. Hout was a danger to himself and others if left in his condition. The other two were identified as Dylan Burns, and Rebekah Roberts all parties were placed under arrest. Said happened in Loudon, TN. Officer Jonathan Yates LPD, made the arrest.

fraud ctd. from pg. 4

to the FBI.

Velasquez, who specializes in financial fraud cases, says the scheme went on for so long because Lucas was believable—and also because investors could not resist the temptation of making large returns on their money.

When confronted by investigators about his claims, Lucas falsely blamed the supposed Disney information he received on a man he met at a methadone rehab clinic, who had since died. In 2014, Lucas was indicted by a federal grand jury on seven counts of wire fraud and one count of lying to the FBI.

Last September, after a jury trial in which Lucas maintained his innocence but was found (see fraud conc. pg. 7)

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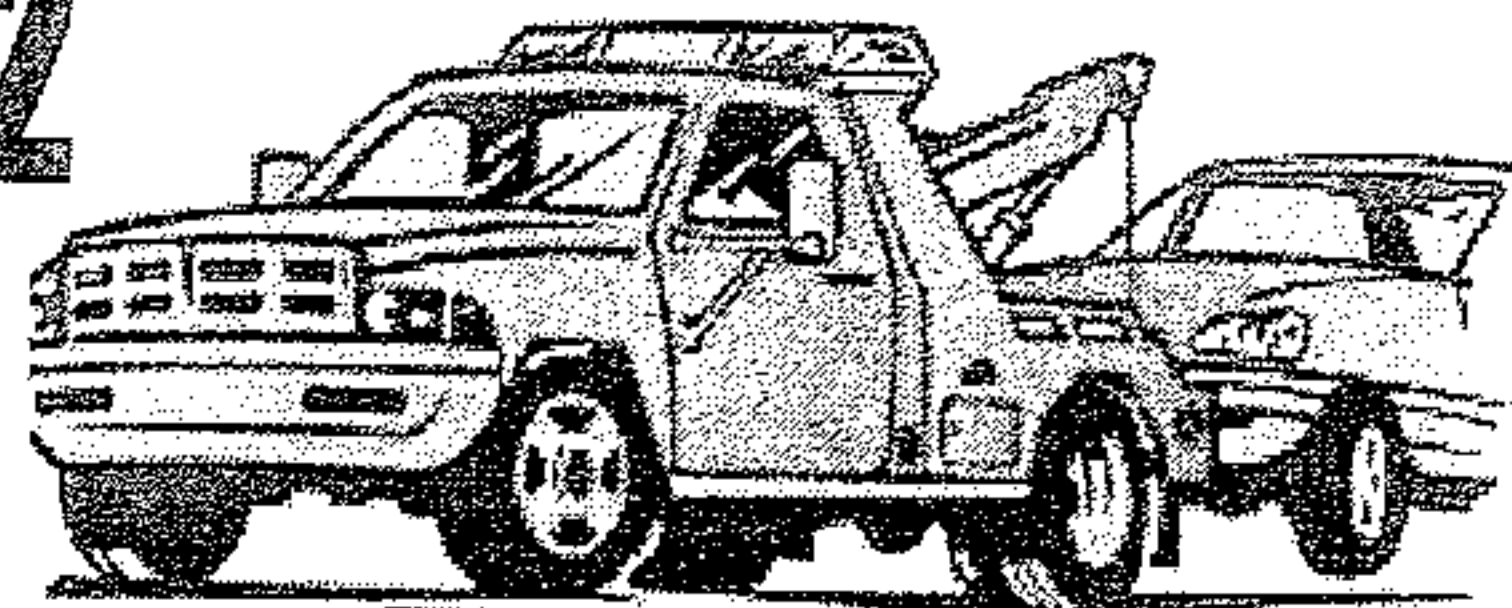
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DUI

patrol vehicle after Deputy stopped to check on the vehicle. The driver identified as Matthew Bricker, was unsteady on his feet and had a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage about his breath and person. Matthew started sobriety test then refused to finish. Matthew was placed under arrest. Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, made the arrest.

fraud conc. from pg. 5 guilty on all charges, a judge sentenced the 35-year-old to 17.5 years in prison. "That was a stiff sentence for a white-collar crime," Velasquez noted, "but

he defrauded a lot of people and showed no remorse."

Obituaries

Carol Jane Naumann King formerly of the Tellico Village Community, Loudon, TN passed away January 22, 2016 in Oregon. Carol was born on September 22, 1942 in Los Angeles, CA to Carl and Sophie Naumann. She graduated from Whittier College with a BA in Education and a Masters degree from Azusa Pacific University. She taught in both the LaHabra and East Whittier City School Districts for 31 years. Carol was married to Wallin "Woody" King for 47 years. They moved to Loudon, TN upon retirement and enjoyed traveling, volunteering, and the

joy of being with their children and grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Wallin "Woody" King. Survivors include her son Christopher King of Renton, WA, son and daughter-in-law Douglas and Donna King of Wilsonville, OR, and grandchildren Riley and Anna King. A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Tellico Village. The family will receive friends immediately following the service. In lieu on flowers, donations to the First Baptist Church of Tellico Village, The Community Church of Tellico Village, or the St Jude's Research Hospital would be appreciated. Click Funeral Home &

Cremations - Tellico Village Chapel is serving the family of Carol King.

Major Walter Roach - age 82 of Rockford passed away Tuesday morning, January 26, 2016 at his home. He was an avid dirt track racing and wrestling fan. Preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Gracie Roach; several brothers and sisters. He is survived by his signifi-

cant other, Janice Roach; six daughters: six sons: many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; five brothers and sisters; many nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, January 28th at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. Click Funeral Home, 109 Walnut Street, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements.

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