

The Daily Edition

50¢

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Thursday, February 4, 2016

Update: charged man shot to death; girlfriend now charged

Melody Telfer, 34, Grandview Drive Lenoir City, was charged with Aggravated Statutory Rape x2. On 1/26/16 Sgt. Detective Charlie Cosner LCSO, went to speak with Cpl. Estes who sated that he had received information that a juvenile had been a victim of statutory rape.

(see rape pg. 2)



Melody Telfer

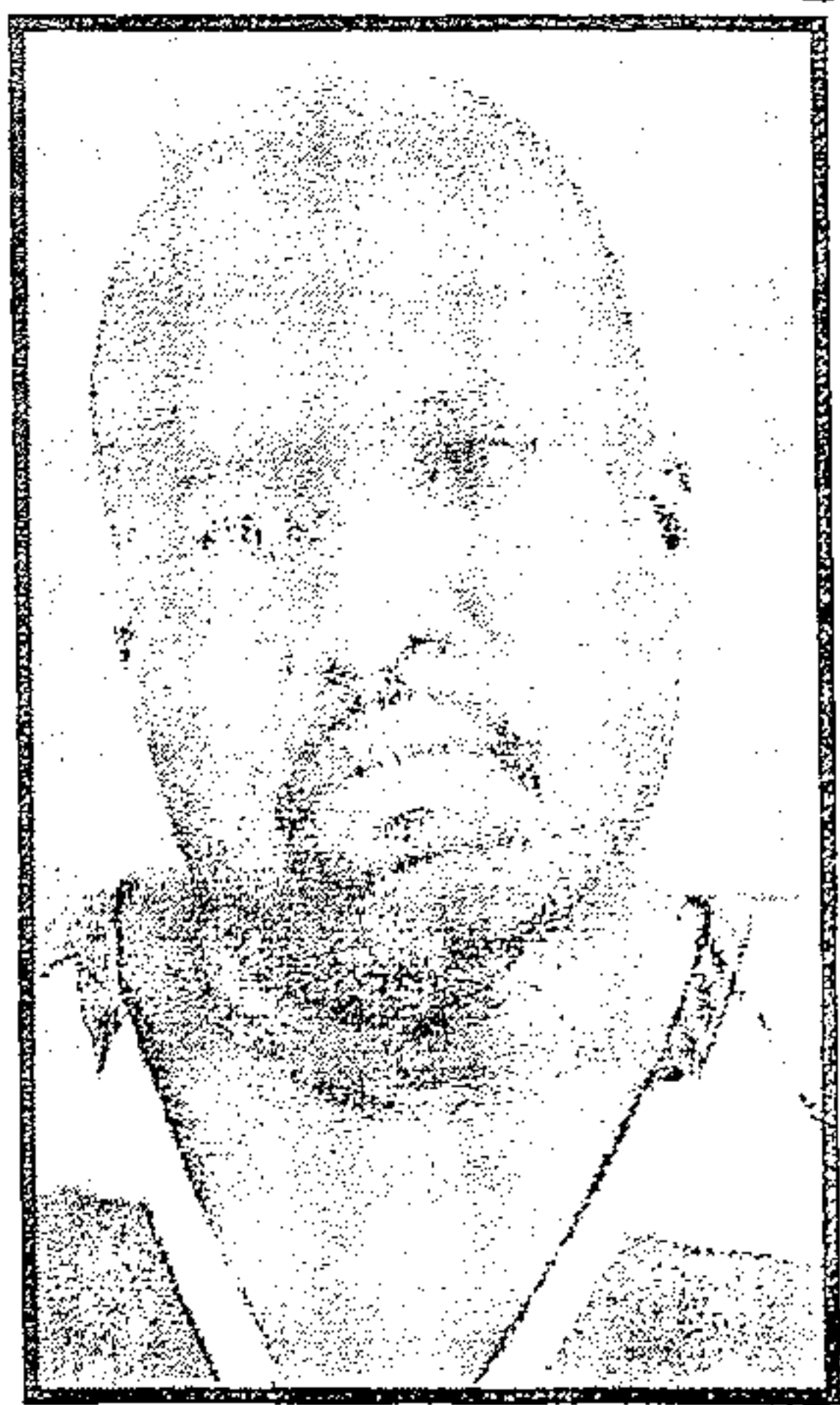
Beer dropped by DUI driver after collision



Jare Barkley

(see DUI pg. 5)

Over \$800 stolen in shoplifting spree



Bobby Bell

(see theft pg. 7)



Steven Brannan

Michael Schmidt sentenced to serve 33 months in prison for wire fraud

Michael Frank Schmidt, 60, of Jonesborough, Tenn., was sentenced on Feb. 2, 2016, by the Honorable R. Leon Jordan, U.S. District Court Judge, to serve 33 months in federal prison. Judge Jordan also imposed a three-year term of

(see fraud pg. 5)

Pot prosecution bill clears key hurdle

A Republican-sponsored bill that would make three or more convictions for simple possession or casual exchange of marijuana a misdemeanor rather than a felony passed a key hurdle on Tuesday.

With a unanimous 9-0 vote, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill that would make changes to the prosecution of those found guilty of possessing marijuana and other controlled substances three or more times.

The move is expected to decrease the state's incarceration costs by as much as \$2 million, according to the bill's fiscal note.

(see bill pg. 4)

Comptroller Releases Report on Charter School Facilities

The Comptroller's Offices of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) has released a re-

port that examines the way charter school facilities are funded in Tennessee. The

(see report pg. 3)

Verse of the Day

.Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD ... they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. — Proverbs 1:29,31

Obituaries

see inside Wazzup

A super-duper thank you, thank you, thank you to the crew at LUB for your extraordinary service. LUB goes

above & beyond for it's customers and it is appreciated!!!

Weather

Today: Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 48F. Tonight: Clear skies. Low near 25F. Friday A mainly sunny sky.

High 48F. Friday Night A few clouds. Low 28F.

Horoscopes

Aquarius 1/20-2/19

Dig down to the source of your uneasiness today if you're uncomfortable

(Continued on page 6)



Public Notice

The Lenoir City Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2016 has been cancelled. The next scheduled City Council Meeting will be held on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

Thank you.

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rape

The girlfriend of the suspect Thongsavanh Vandarack had told another individual. The girlfriend was identified as Melody Telfer, both live on Grand View Drive. After an investigation warrants were

issued for Vandarack. Melody was taken into custody for further investigation.

Upon completion of the investigation, Det. Charlie Cosner charged Melody with 2 counts of Aggravated Statutory Rape.

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The Daily Edition also serves Monroe, Knox, Anderson, Roane and Blount counties and serves 30,000 readers weekly. Send mail to PO Box 1240, Lenoir City TN 37771. 865-771-2249. email: dan1204us@yahoo.com

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report

report provides information on the facilities arrangements for Tennessee's charter schools and describes efforts in Tennessee and other states to provide charter schools with facilities-related assistance.

Charter schools are public schools operated by independent governing bodies and are authorized by one

of the following three entities in Tennessee: local boards of education, the Achievement School District (ASD), or the State Board of Education (SBOE). The majority of charters in Tennessee are authorized by local boards of education. As of the 2015-16 school year, 97 public charter schools operate in Tennessee. These schools are located in Hamilton County (3), Knox County (1), Metro Nashville (27), Shelby County (45), and the Achievement School District (21).

Charter schools authorized by school districts and the State Board of Education must secure their own facility arrangements. Once a charter school's application is approved, it is the responsibility of the school operator to secure its own school facility; neither the local board of education nor the SBOE is required to provide a facility to the charter schools they authorize. ASD charter schools neither lease nor own their school facilities and are not responsible for securing a school facility. Almost all charter schools in the ASD are instead located in a school facility previously operated by a local school district and subsequently

taken over by the ASD because of low academic performance.

Unlike traditional schools, which are the property of the local board of education, most charter schools either lease, own, or have financed to own their school facility. The majority of Tennessee's charter schools lease their facilities, either from private property owners (50 percent), their authorizing school district (22 percent), or public entities such as a city or county government (9 percent). The remaining schools own or have financed to own their buildings.

Nationally, programs to provide charter schools with facilities-relat-

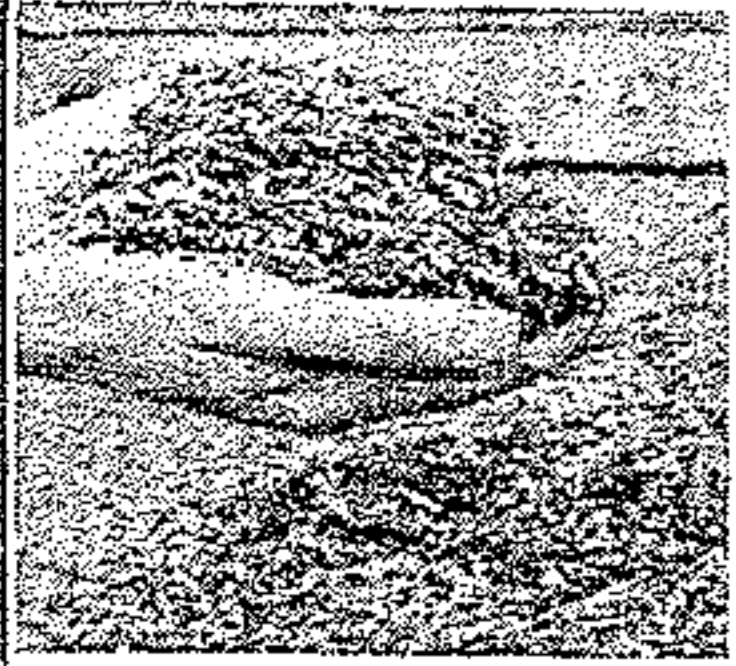
ed assistance typically fall into four general categories:

- Access to district facilities,
- Assistance with borrowing money,
- Dedicated per-pupil funding, and
- Competitive state grants

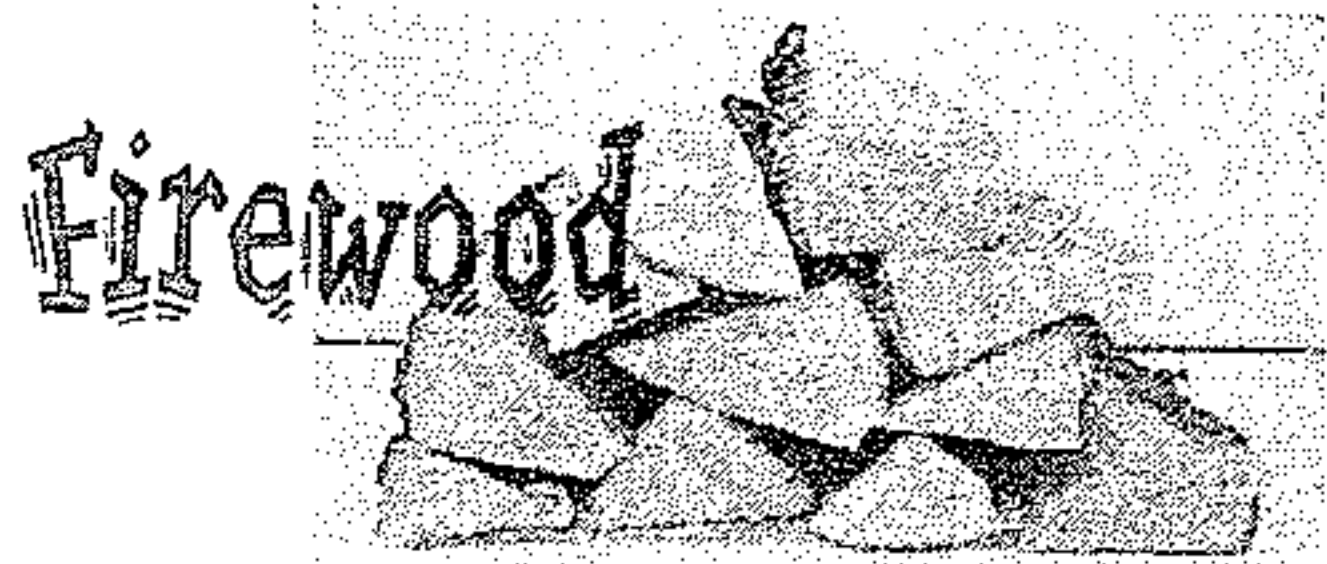
OREA is a division within the Comptroller's Office that is charged with providing accurate and objective policy research and analysis for the Tennessee General Assembly and the public.

To view the full report online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/OREA/>

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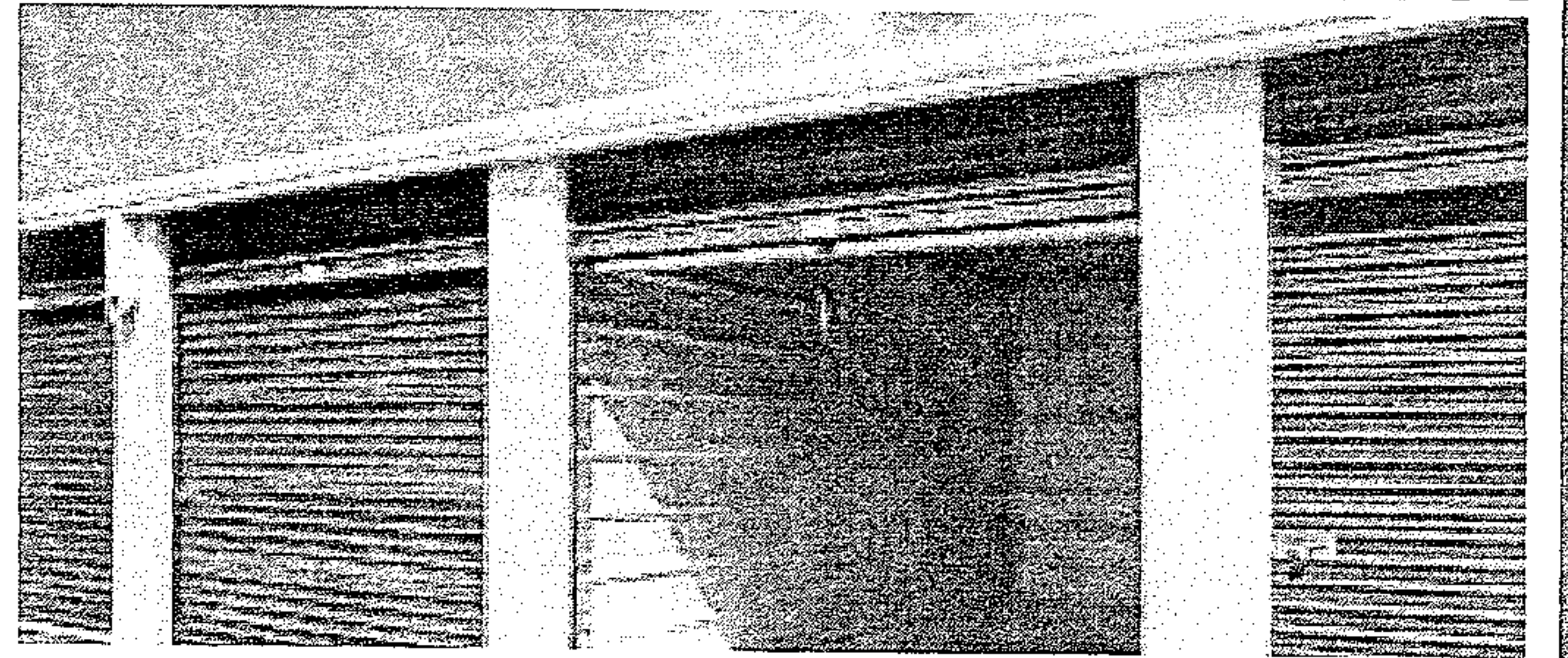


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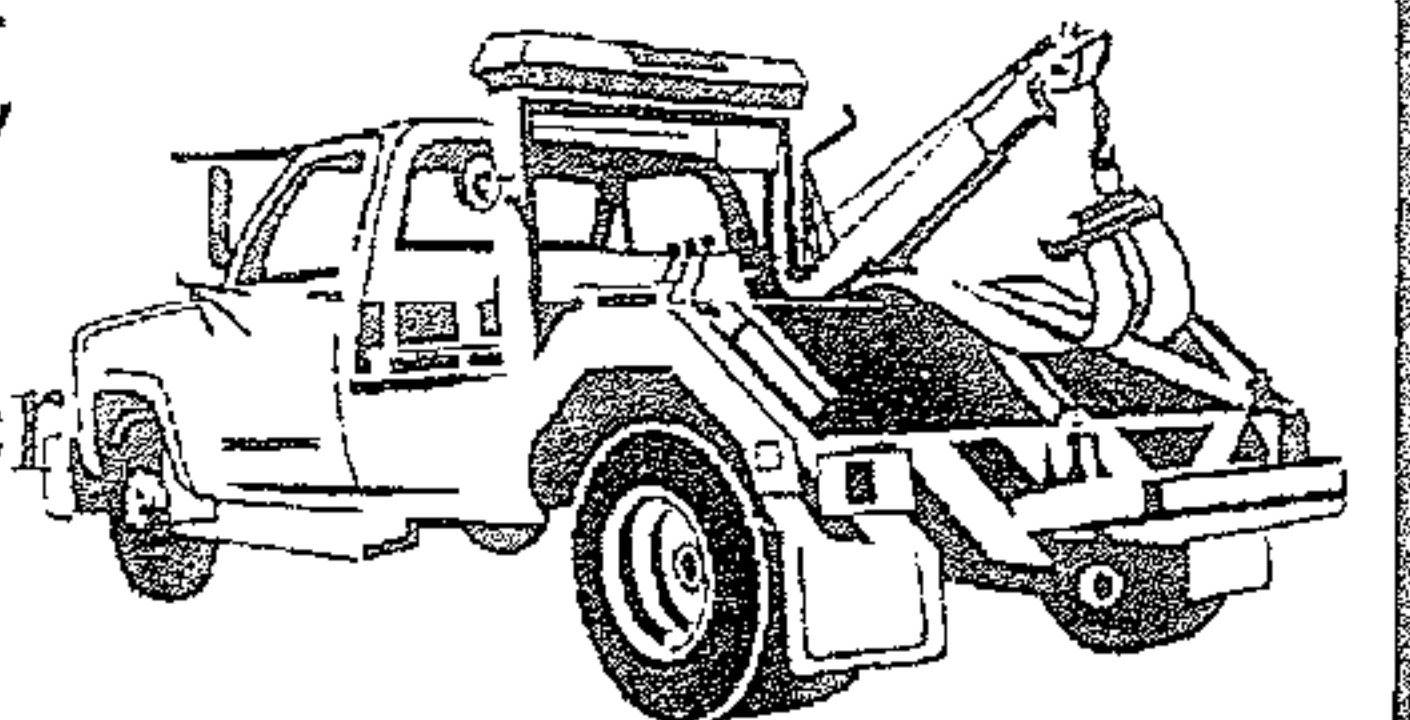
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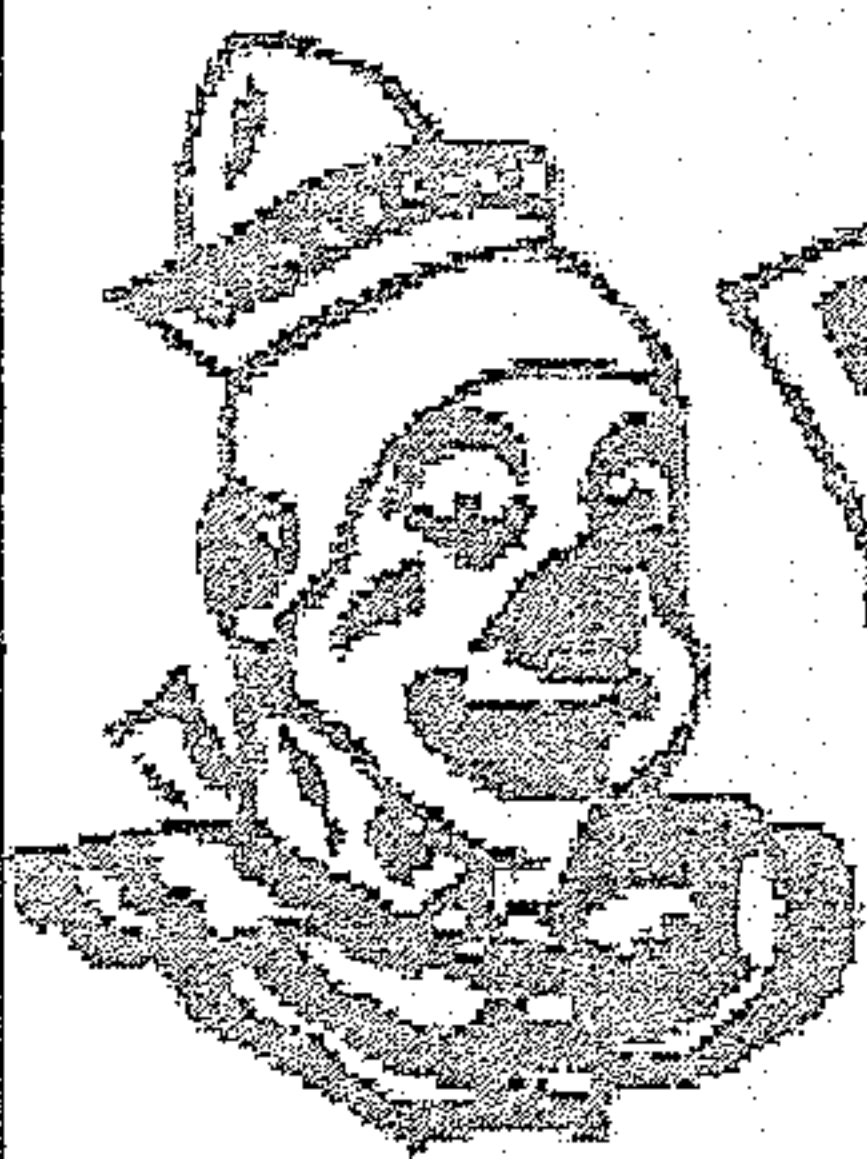
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bill

The change comes as part of a package deal. The heart of the bill was actually centered on enhancing the state's DUIs laws.

Current law hands out a Class E felony to any person with four or more DUI convictions. The bill would alter the state's law and give a Class C felony to anyone with six or more DUI convictions.

According to the bill's fiscal note, Tennessee annually averages about 456 convictions for four or more DUIs. If the changes proposed in the bill were implemented, the state's correction system would increase by 61 people, including estimates for population growth.

Factoring in recidivism rates, the fiscal note found that the

state could reasonably expect 34 additional offenders, which would cost \$1.6 million, to enter Tennessee's correctional system each year as a result of the DUI changes.

With that in mind, the bill's sponsors — Sen. Randy McNally, R-Oak Ridge, and Rep. William Lamberth, R-Cottontown — amended it to include the changes to

the state's prosecution of offenses involving the possession of controlled substances.

Passage of the bill would actually result in a \$342,600 decrease in incarcerations, according to the fiscal note.

"In order to reduce the fiscal effects of the bill it does reduce the simple possession or casual exchange of a controlled substance,"

McNally said while introducing the bill.

Simple possession is when someone has an illegal substance and they don't possess it for delivery or sale, said Brent Cooper, District Attorney General for the 22nd Judicial District.

"Typically, 99 percent of the time, it's

possessed for personal use," he said.

When asked whether he supports the legislation, Cooper said although he only recently heard about the bill, a colleague of his was in favor of it.

The bill was also amended by Sen. Brian Kelsey, R-Memphis, who sought to make (see bill ctd. pg. 5)

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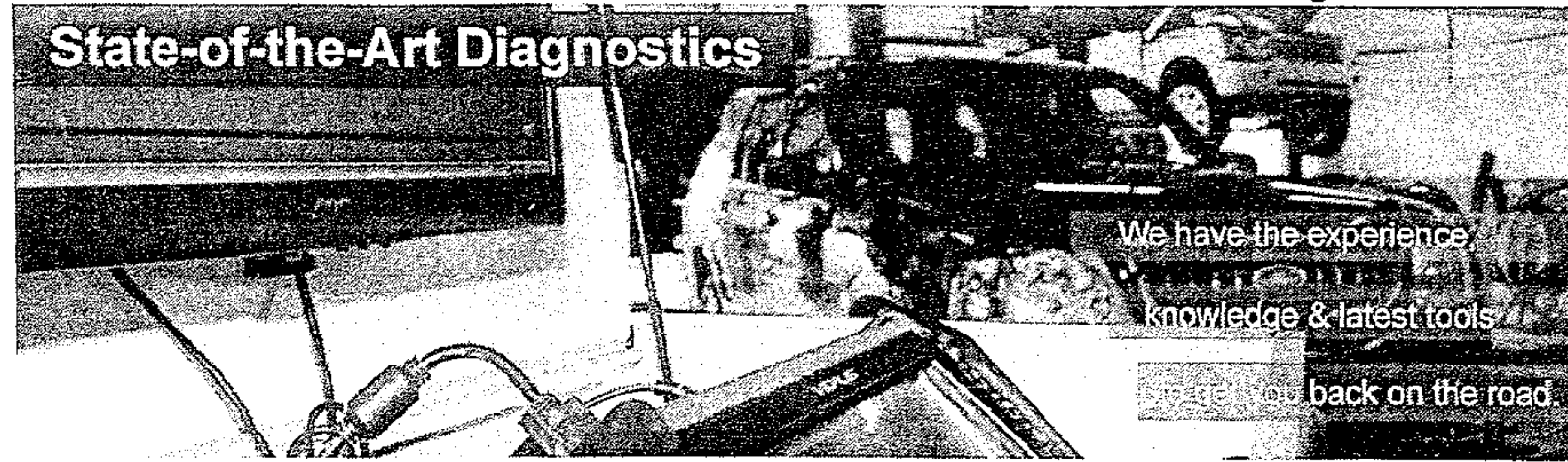
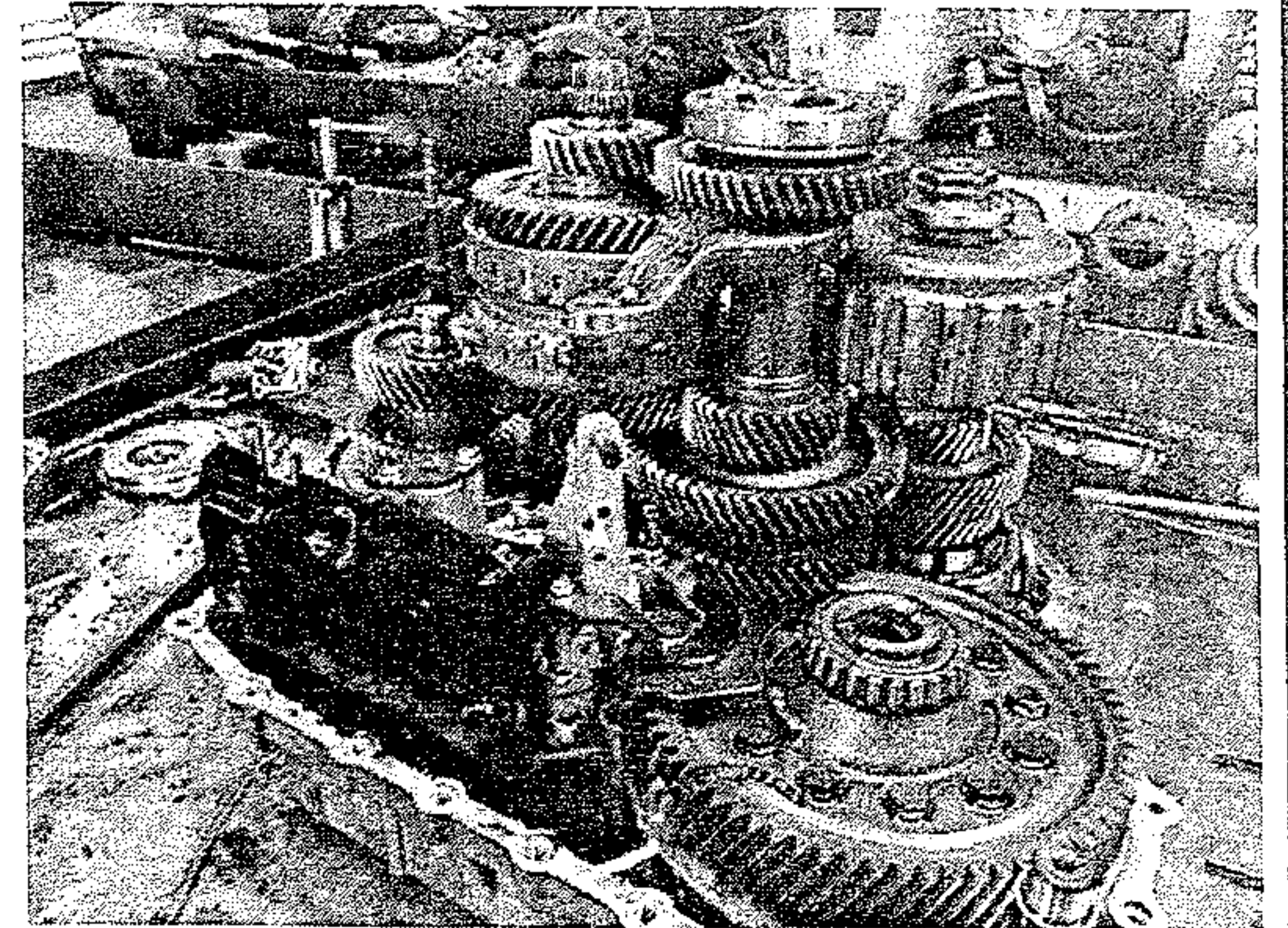
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DUI
 Jare Barkley, 50, Peach Orchard Maryville, was charged with DUI, Legend Drug, Open Container, Simple Possession, Following Too Close, and Violation Implied Consent. Deputy Brian Smith LCSO, observed a tan vehicle traveling south on Hwy 321. Deputy did observe the vehicle cross the fog line several times then strike a

horse trailer in the rear. Upon stopping the vehicle Deputy identified the driver as Jare Barkley, who had a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the vehicle. Once Deputy had Jare exit the vehicle Deputy noticed the same odor coming from Jare person. Jare was unsteady on his feet while walking and standing. Deputy noticed spilled beer in the vehicle. Jare did

poorly on sobriety test and was placed under arrest. Upon inventory of the vehicle Deputy located a bottle of Gabapentin, Xanax, and an open beer in the floor board. Deputy Brian Smith LCSO, made the arrest.

fraud supervised release and ordered Schmidt to pay full restitution to his victims and a \$100 special assessment.

Schmidt pleaded guilty in September 2015 to wire fraud. According to information included in documents on file with U.S. District Court, Schmidt devised and executed a Ponzi type investor scheme which defrauded 30 individuals of approximately \$744,000, over a six-year period of time. He falsely convinced his victims that they were investing in Ton-

er Depot, a business which had contracts with Tennessee Eastman Company.

Agencies involved in this investigation included the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Morristown, Tennessee Police Department, and Jonesborough, Tennessee Police Department. Suzanne Kerney-Quillen and Helen Smith, Assistant U.S. Attorneys represented the United States.

bill ctd. from pg. 4

changes to those convicted of carjacking.

Kelsey noted that under current law, offenders convicted of carjacking can serve as little as 30 percent of their sentence before being released on parole.

His amendment, which was adopted by the committee, sought to require any person convicted of carjacking to serve 75 percent of the sentence imposed by the court, minus any earned and retained sentence credits. Kelsey's amendment does not allow the service credits to reduce the time served below 60 percent.

While some on the committee, including Sen. Douglas Overbey, R-Maryville, were hardly enthusiastic about the changes to the prosecution of those in possession of marijuana, it was seen as a necessary compromise due to financial reasons.

"The trade-off is to strengthen our laws against driving while intoxicated to those

(see bill ctd. pg. 7)

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theft

Bobby Bell, 34, Duncan Ave Chattanooga, was charged with Theft of Property.

Steven Brannan, 33, Chadwick Way Blaine, was charged with Theft of Property.

Officer Brandon Johnson LCPD, responded to Walmart for a theft call. Walmart Loss Prevention observed Bobby Bell take possession of a shopping cart full of unpaid merchandise from an unknown female. Bobby pushed the cart through the register line without paying. Bobby passed the shopping cart off to Steven Brannan, who exited the store with the merchandise with-

out paying. Merchandise total was \$856.59. Officer Brandon Johnson LCPD, made the arrest.

bill ctd. from pg. 5

that are the most grievous offenders and those that are most likely to cause serious bodily injury or death on the highways," Overbey said.

After the committee concluded its discussion on the bill and ultimately voted in its favor, the conversation was moved to another bill aimed at making changes to the prosecution of marijuana possession.

But that bill, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Yarbro, D-Nashville, was ultimately cast aside.

Yarbro's bill focused on making changes to the prosecution of marijuana possession and did not include the DUI enhancements that McNally's bill did.

Yarbro argued that McNally's bill would not only make those convicted of possessing marijuana three times or more guilty of a misdemeanor, it would do the same for cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin.

But several senators said they were against Yarbro's bill.

"I favor Sen. McNally's approach with the third conviction not being a felony for simple possession," said Sen. John Stevens, R-Huntingdon. "Under your bill, they

will still be felons potentially if they have controlled substances, not marijuana, in small amounts."

Sen. Mike Bell, R-Riceville, laid out his reasons for opposing Yarbro's bill, saying, "Lessening the punishment for the crime

gave me some heartburn. But with the previous bill I got a little sugar with the bill that helped the medicine go down. With this bill I don't."

Yarbro encouraged the committee to pass his bill in the event that Mc-

see bill conc. pg. 8

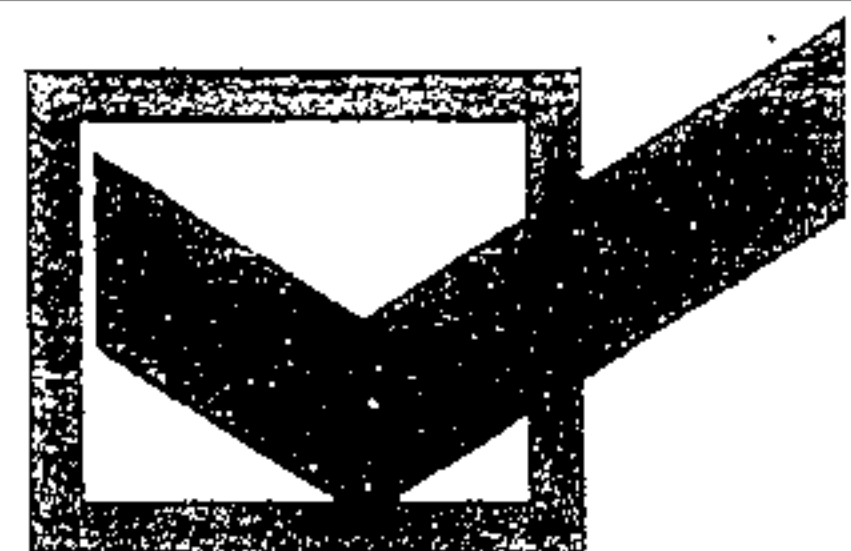
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bill conc. from pg. 7

Nally's legislation were to fail to make its way through the Senate and House. But Yarbro ultimately agreed to place his bill on the committee's last calendar. The move allows Yarbro to bring his bill back before the committee in case it is necessary.

With the committee's action, McNally's bill is now headed to the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee.

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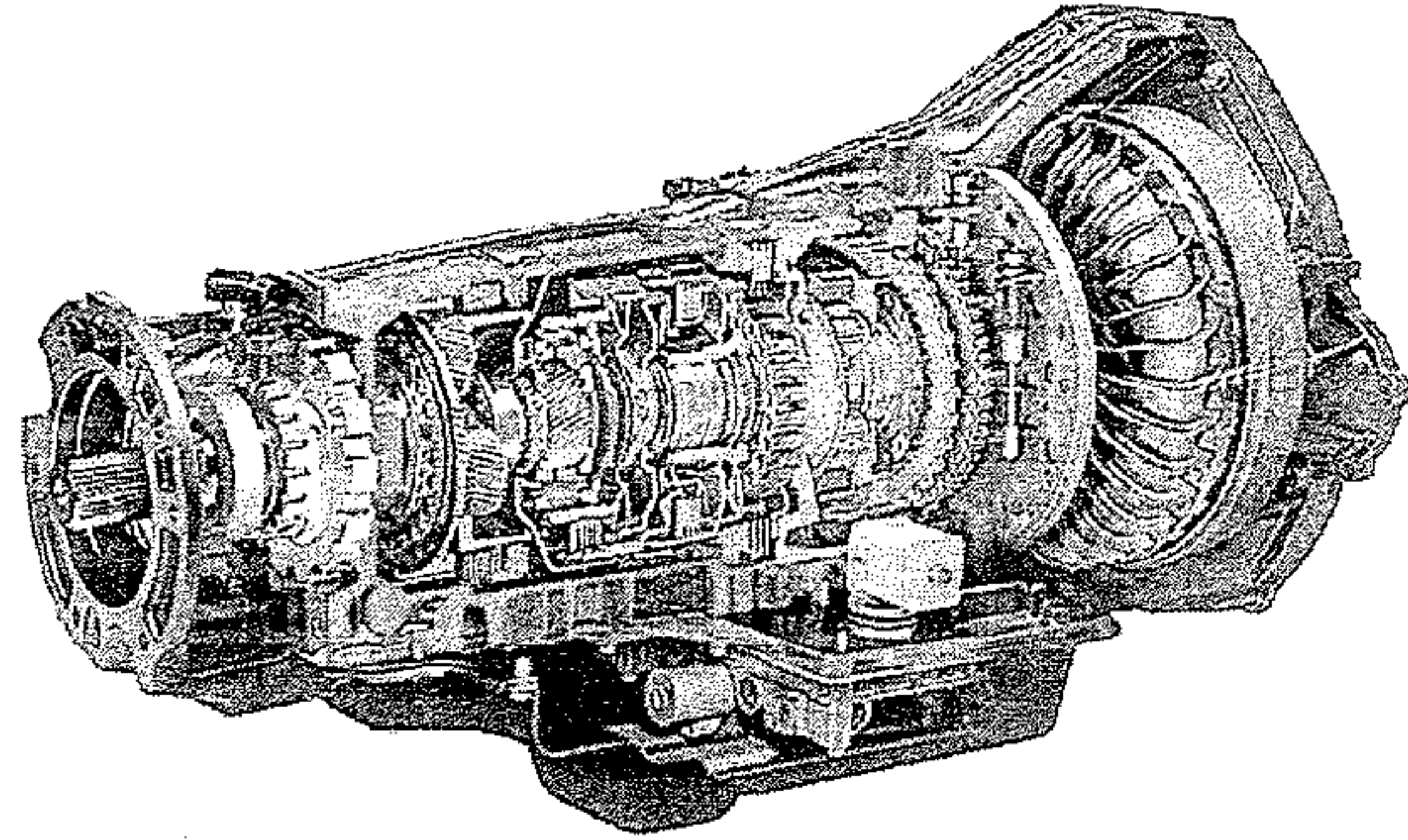
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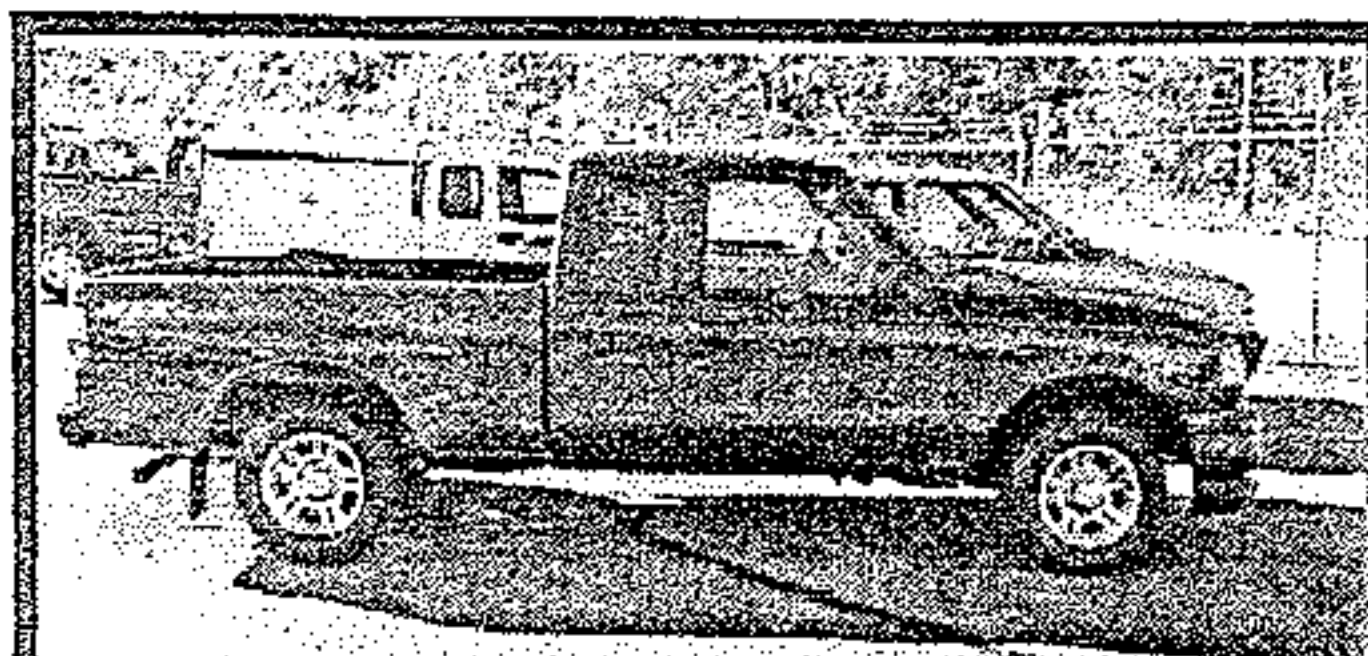
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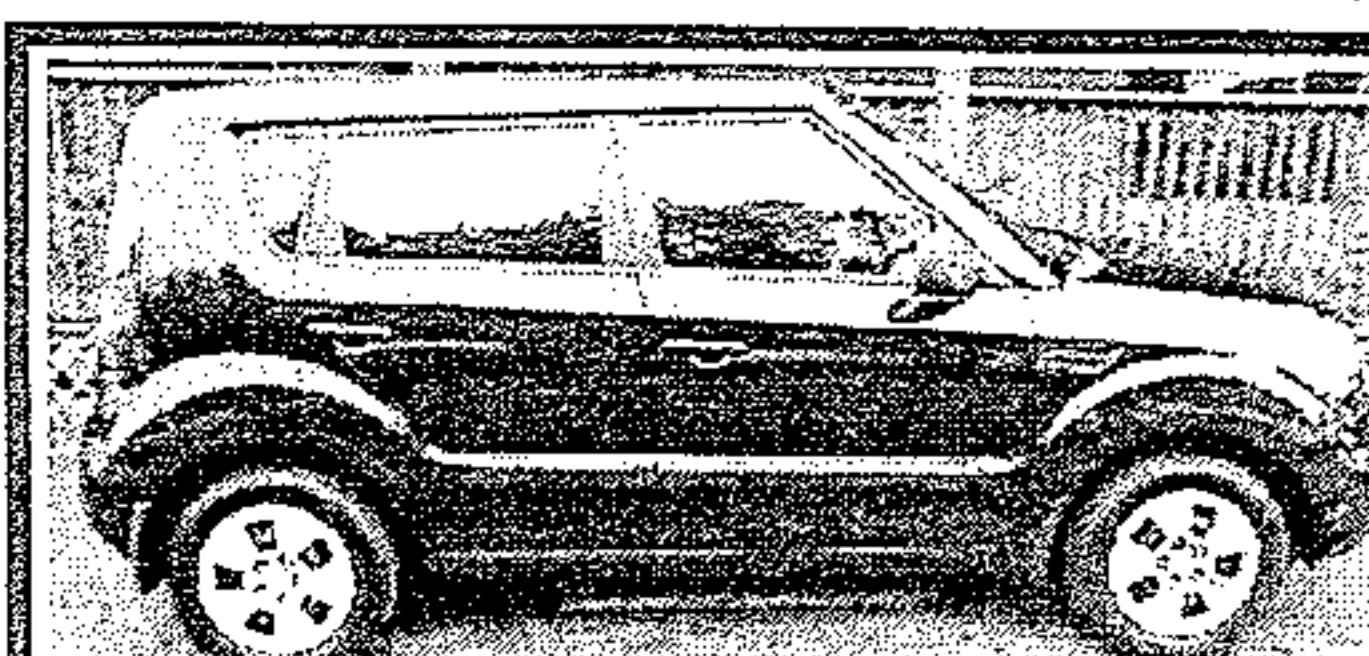
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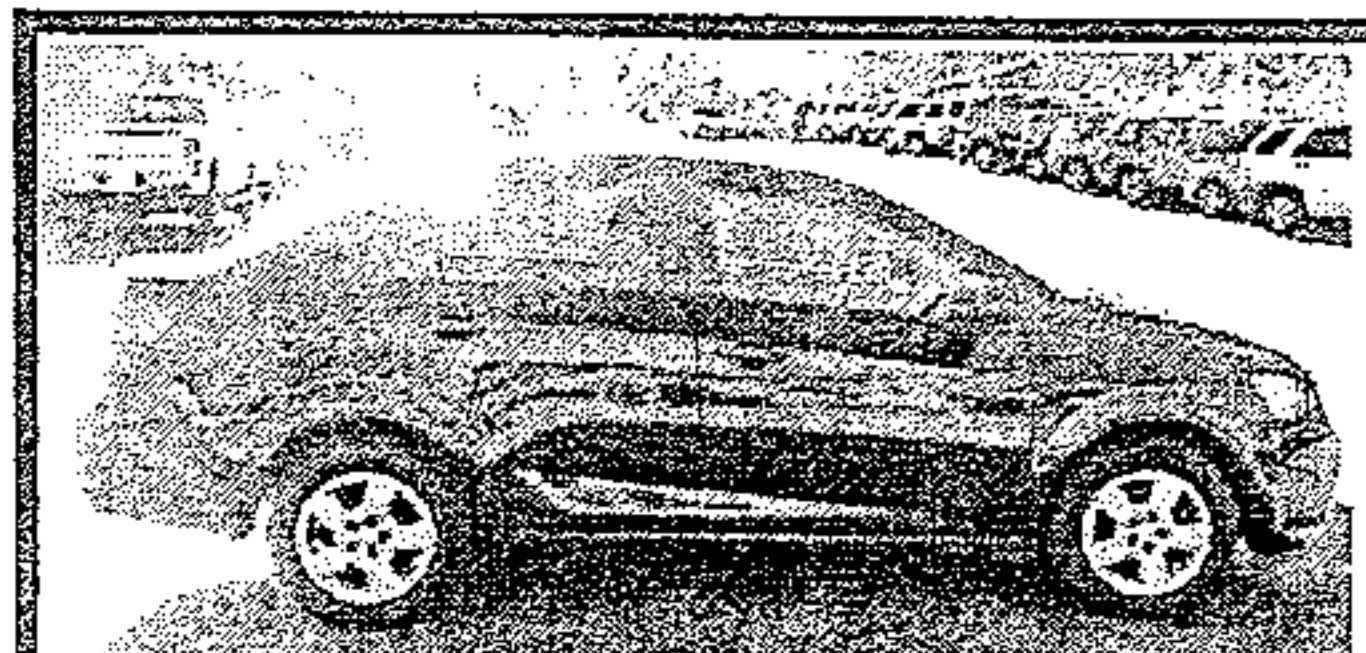
2011 Kia Soul, 5 speed, 4 dr,
Gas Saver, Nice & Clean



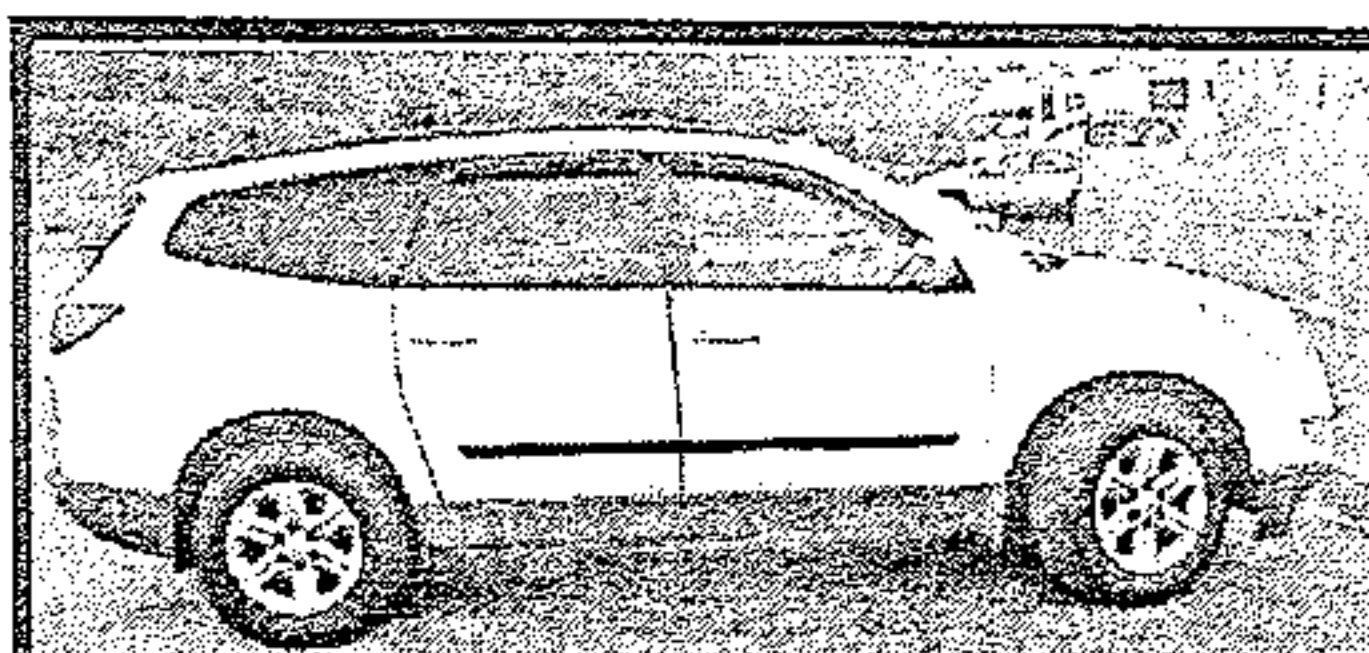
2007 Chevy Equinox, 4dr, Extra
Clean, lots of room



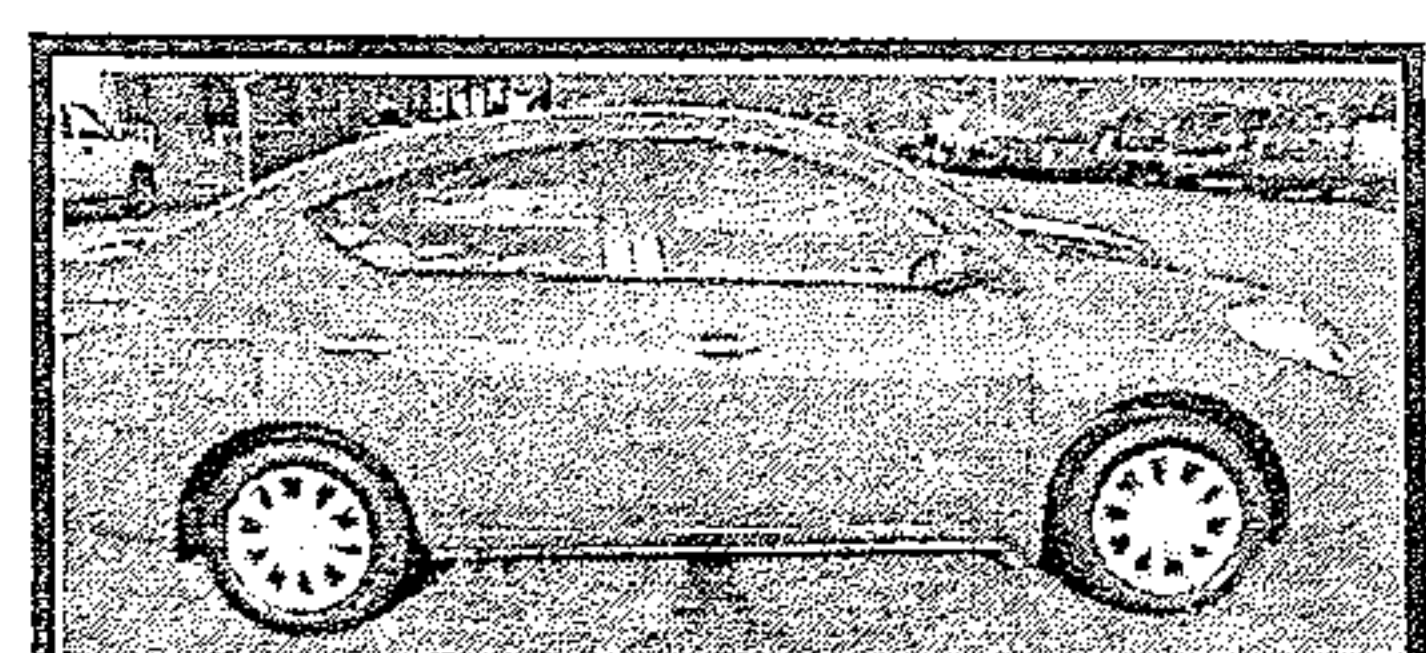
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