

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, July 21, 2017

Suspicious person call leads to drug bust at Ingle's

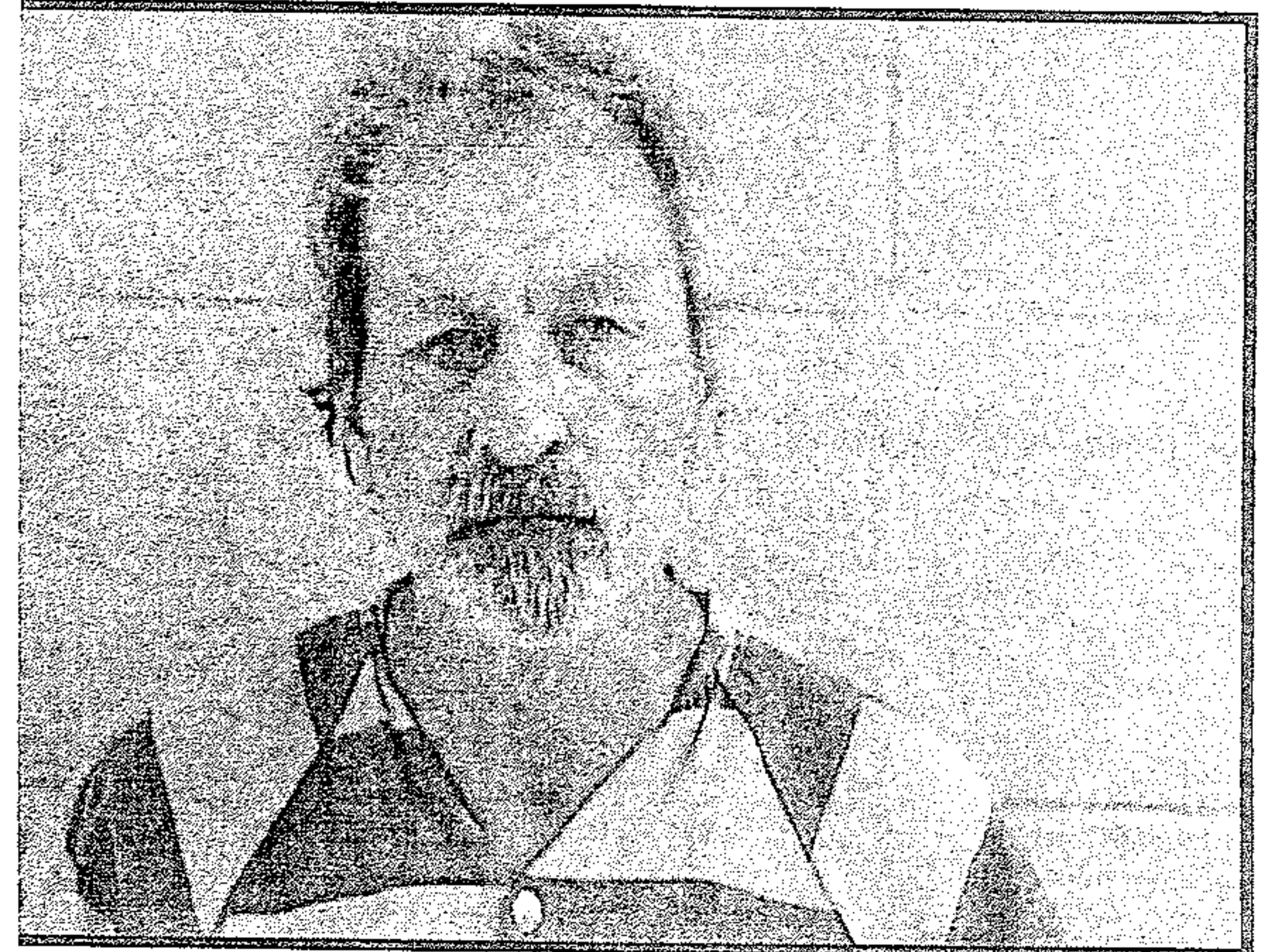
Shawn Williams, 29, Cedar Grove Road Loudon, was charged with Man/Sell/Del/Re-sale Sch. VI., Poss. of Drug Para., Failure to Appear, and Violation of Probation. Officer Keith Sennett LCPD, was dispatched to Ingles on a suspicious vehicle and person. Officer located a silver vehicle in question.

(see bust pg. 2)



Shawn Williams

Hitting the bridge not the best move for DUI driver



Michael Myers

see DUI pg. 3

False accusations lead to assault charge following slap



Leticia Cortes

see assault pg. 5

Library to introduce Teens Talk Books: A Quarterly Book Club

A new teen program from Knox County Public Library and UTK's Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature

Knox County Public Library and the Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature at the University of Tennessee are collaborating on a new book club called Teens Talk Books. This new book club is dedicated to teen literature and will meet quarterly. The public is invited to the inaugural meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 29 at Lawson McGhee Library. Teens Talk Books is free and open

see Library pg. 7

Former Wilson County Deputy Clerk Indicted for Theft

A former deputy clerk in the Wilson County Trustee's Office has been indicted on several charges after an investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

In February 2017, the Comptroller's Office was informed of irregularities within the

Trustee's Office. Investigators determined that former deputy clerk Shannon Hodgin was responsible for a cash shortage of \$14,333.74 that existed on February 28, 2017.

Hodgin removed cash that had been recorded in the office's accounting logs and substituted checks that

(see Indicted pg. 4)



Verse of the Day

Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you. — Proverbs 20:22

Obituaries

see inside

Wazzup

If you are a bicycle rider on the main roads it is not okay for you to get to the front of the traffic line and impede traffic causing several others to not be able

to go. You can wait in line like everyone else!

Weather

Today: Sunshine and clouds mixed. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High around 95F.

Tonight: Mostly clear

skies. Low 74F. Saturday Partly cloudy skies. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High 92F. Saturday Night A mostly clear sky. Low 73F. Sunday Partly cloudy in

(Continued on page 6)




Bust

While speaking with the male identified as Shawn Williams who had 2 outstanding warrants. K-9 Dagger was deployed on the vehicle for an open air sniff. Dagger alerted on the driver side of the vehicle. Located under the driver seat was a gray wooden box. Located inside the box was approx. 24.7 grams of mar-

ijuana in 2 clear baggies, a marijuana grinder, digital scales, and a glass pipe. Located in the glove box was a large quantity of clear plastic bags. Williams was placed under arrest.

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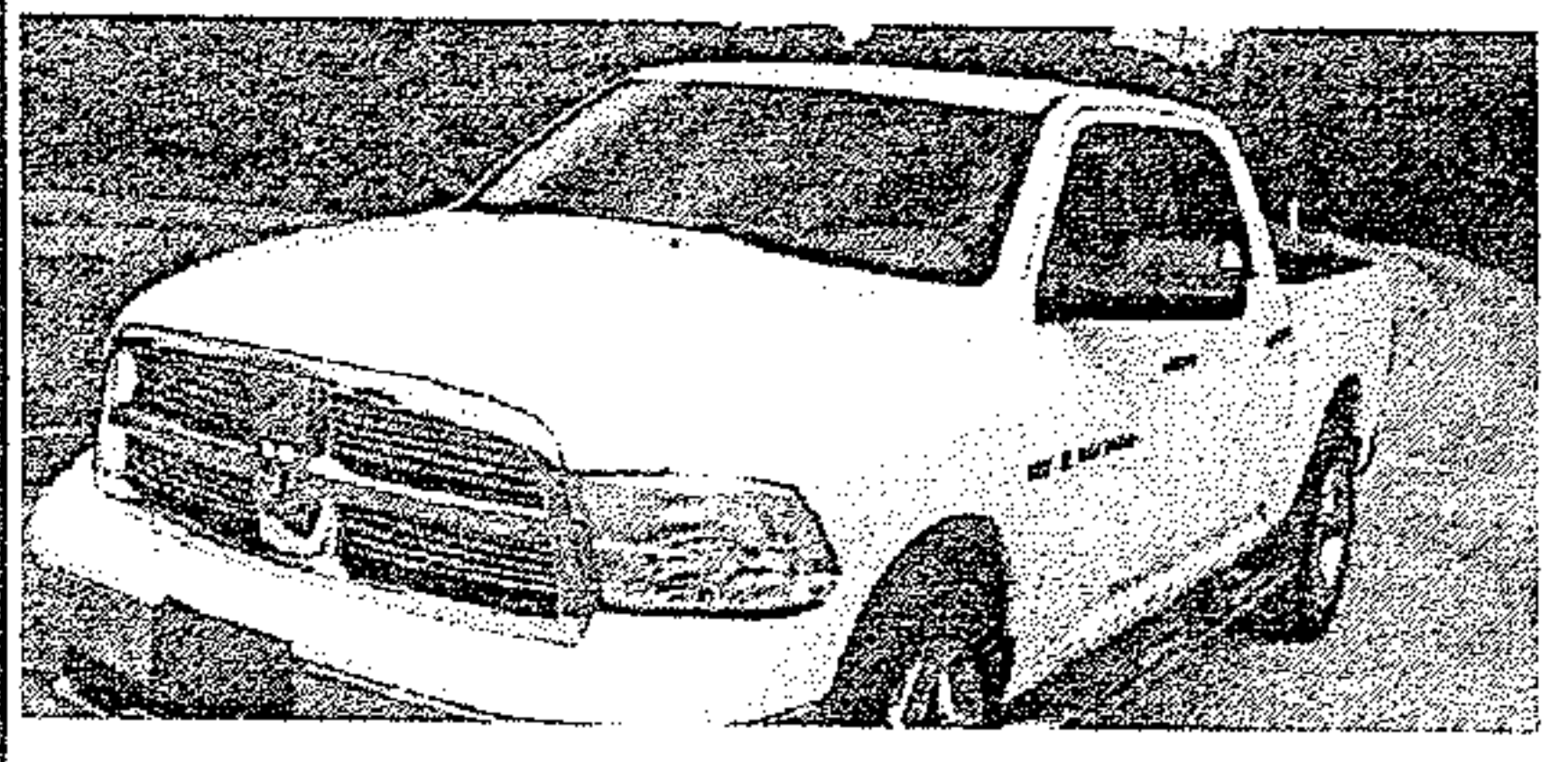
2011 Nissan Pathfinder Luggage Rack, Back Up Camera, Tow PKG, PW, PL, PS,



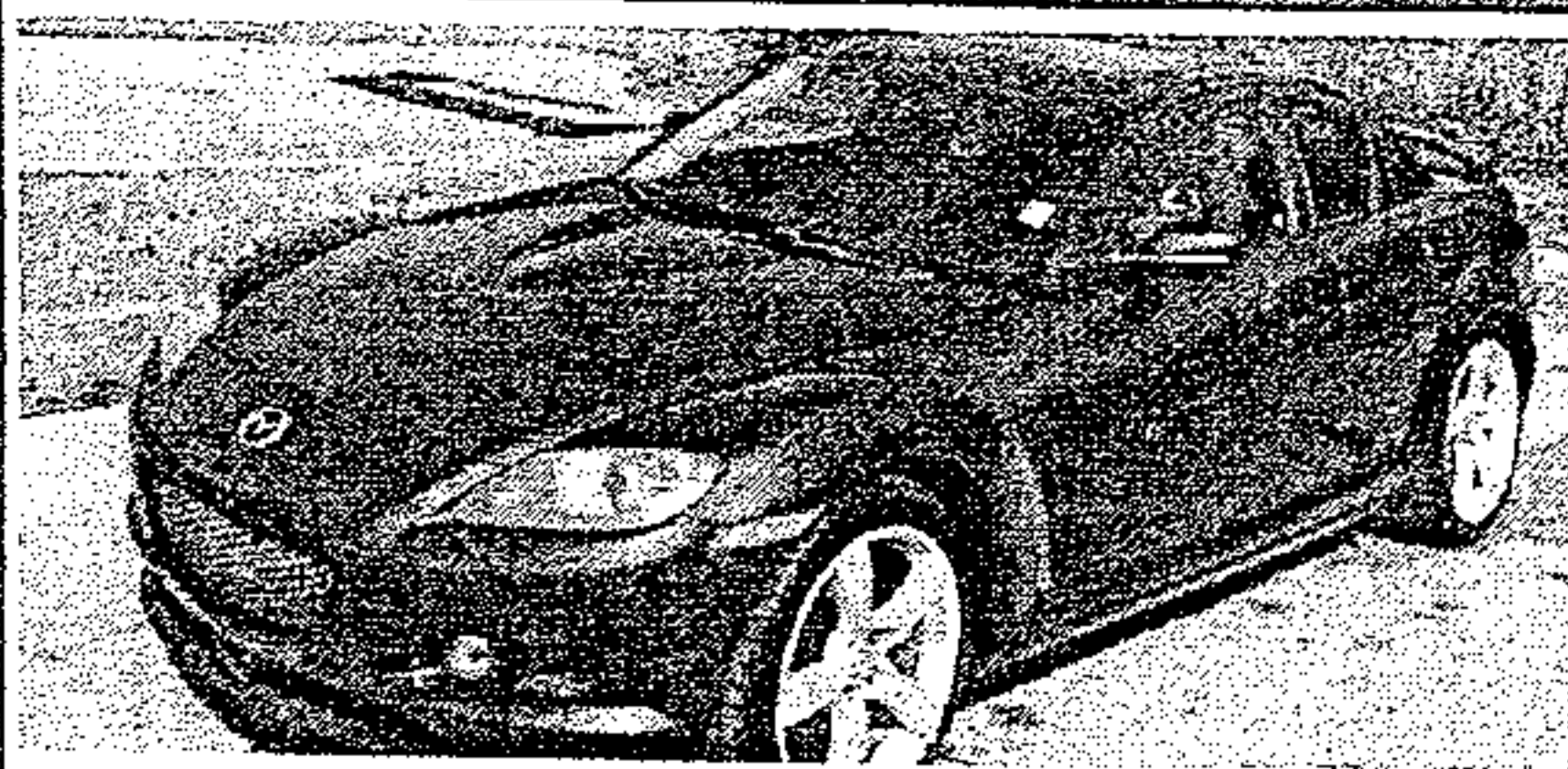
2008 Ford F350 V10, Auto, Dually, Leather, Heated & Cooled Seats, 5th Wheel Compatible, PW, PL




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DUI

Michael Myers, 51, Elmira Lane Maryville, was charged with DUI. Deputy Lance Anderson LCSO, responded to fisherman boat ramp of Hwy 444 in reference to a reckless driver that had struck the Hwy 321 bridge. complainant gave a description of a silver ford. Deputy

made contact with the vehicle and identified the driver as Michael Myers, who had a strong odor of alcoholic beverage about his person. Deputy observed an open 12oz can of Steel Reserve beer in the center console. Deputy ask Myers to exit the vehicle and perform sobriety test. Myers stumbled


several times while walking did poorly of sobriety test and to Deputies vehicle. Myers placed under arrest.

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Indicted

had not been recorded. This scheme, which is known as substitution, occurs when a transaction is properly recorded and paid for with cash, and another transaction is paid with a check but is not recorded in the accounting records.

Investigators determined the \$14,333.74 shortage occurred within a three month period between December 2016 and February 2017. The Trustee's Office has issued refunds to customers who made payments in error or whose payment was an overpayment.

Shannon Hodgin was indicted by the Wilson County Grand Jury on July 10, 2017 on one count of theft over \$10,000, one count of official misconduct, and one count of tampering with an official government record.

"The Wilson County Trustee's Office had a good system in place that allowed for relatively prompt detec-

tion of this scheme," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "Employees maintained separate cash drawers and unique computer system login credentials. This allowed the suspicious activity to be traced to one specific deputy clerk."

The Comptroller's Office recommends the Wilson County Trustee's Office take immediate steps to collect the \$14,333.74 cash shortage.

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

Investigations | Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury

www.comptroller.tn.gov

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MICHAEL ANTHONY BENANTI SENTENCED TO SERVE FOUR CONSECUTIVE LIFE SENTENCES PLUS 155 YEARS IN PRISON FOR VIOLENT BANK EXTORTION AND ROBBERY SPREE SPANNING THROUGH CONNECTICUT, PENNSYLVANIA, NORTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE

On July 18, 2017, Michael Anthony Benanti, 45, of Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania, was sentenced by the Honorable Thomas A. Varlan, Chief U.S. District Court Judge, to serve four consecutive life sentences plus an additional 155 years to be served consecutively in federal prison for his convictions involving a violent bank extortion and robbery spree spanning four states.

After a trial in Feb-

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ruary 2017, a jury convicted Benanti of one count of conspiracy to commit robbery and armed bank extortion, two counts of attempted armed bank extortion, one count of armed bank extortion, three counts of carjacking, three counts of kidnapping, three counts of being a previously-convicted fel-

on in possession of a firearm, and 10 counts of using, carrying and brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence.

"Often, severe federal penalties, such as mandatory minimum sentences, are the most effective tool to protect the American public

see sentenced ctd. pg. 5



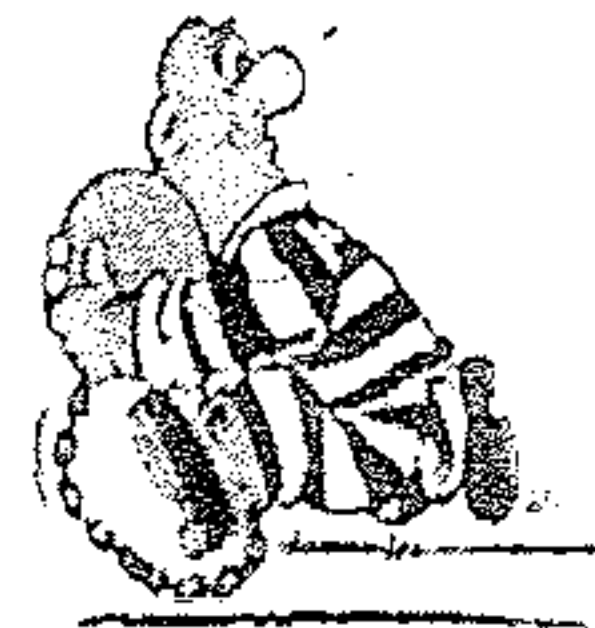
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Assault

Leticia Cortes, 31, Crooked Oak Drive Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault. Officer jimmy Yoakum

LCPD, responded to Crooked oak Drive on a possible child abuse incident. Upon arrival Officer m According to the report, ade contact with Leticia Cortes,

who stated that victim was sitting next to her daughter and touched her daughter in appropriate manner. Cortes then slapped victim, and called police. Officer spoke

with the juvenile and witness and all stated the victim never touched the daughter, and Cortes did slap the victim. Cortes was placed under arrest.

sentenced ctd. from pg. 4 from a violent criminal like Benanti. The consecutive sentences received by Benanti for firearms violations ensure he will never again be able to victimize families in east Tennessee or elsewhere. The U.S. Attorney's office is and remains committed to prosecuting these crimes and seeking the highest penalties possible to help keep the American people safe," said Nancy Harr, U.S. Attorney.

Special Agent in Charge Renae McDermott of the Knoxville Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation stated, "Today's sentencing demonstrates that the FBI is committed to investigating and pursuing prosecution of those who engage in a pattern of illegal activity. It is also one example of the close working relationship the FBI has with our law enforcement partners."

Brian Scott Witham, 47, of Waterville, Maine, also charged in the case, pleaded guilty in March 2016. He is scheduled to be sentenced on August 17, 2016, in U.S District Court in Knoxville.

Agencies involved in this investigation included the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and numerous federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in Tennessee, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Virginia, and South Carolina. Assistant U.S. Attorneys David P. Lewen, Jr., Kelly A. Norris, and Steven H. Cook represented the United States.

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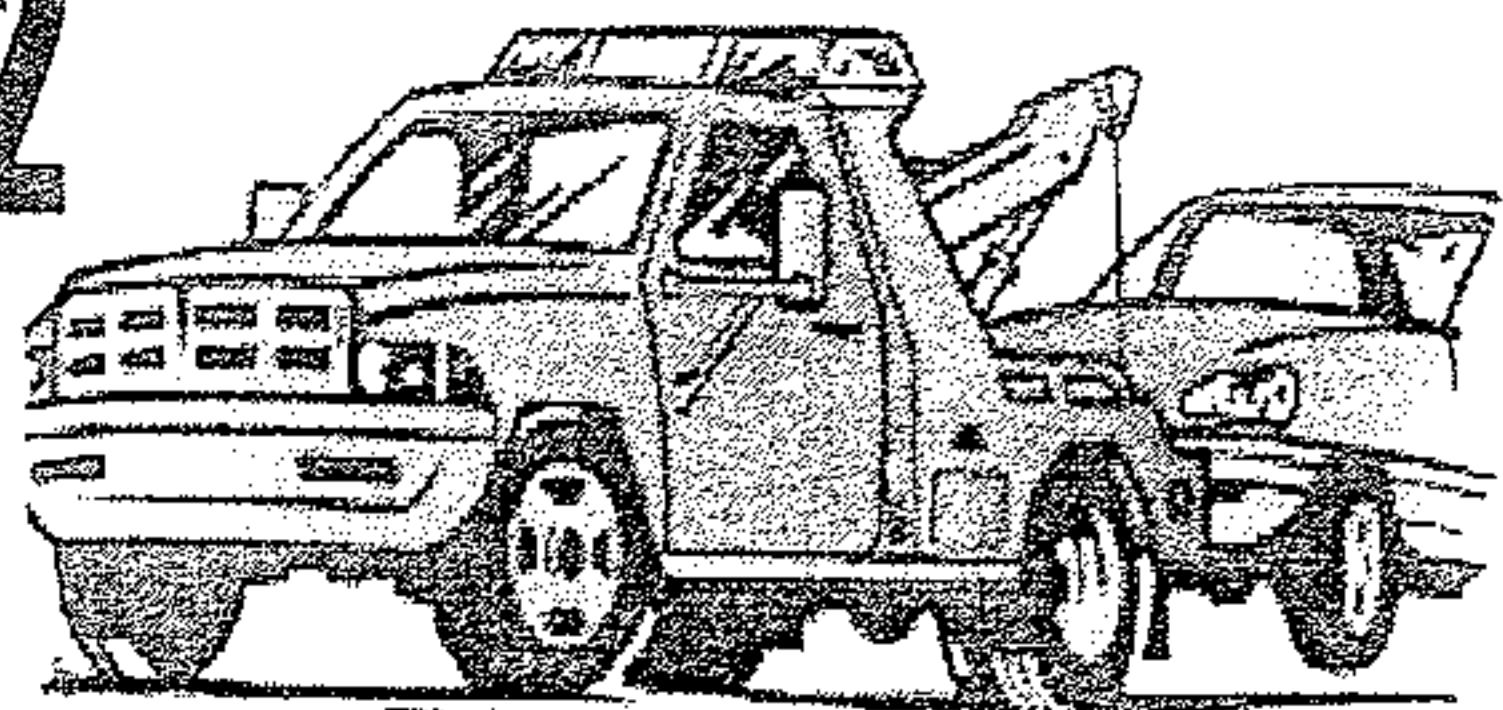
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Library

to all fans of teen lit including teens (12-17 years), parents and teachers.

This quarter's selection is the unusual sci-fi novel, *Illuminae*, written by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff. The Library has plenty of physical and digital copies of *Illuminae* available for checkout. Describing the book in an interview the authors said, "It's a sci-fi mystery/thriller/romance told through a series of hacked documents—IMs, emails, surveillance footage, medical reports, and rantings of an insane artificial intelligence. It's

Battlestar Galactica meets *10 Things I Hate About You*... In terms of the content itself, we drew on a huge variety of influences that we both grew up with, from *Battlestar Galactica* to *Firefly* to *Clarke* and *Asimov* to a pile of our favorite action movies. We were motivated by the chance to introduce these ideas and themes to a new generation of readers, and to continue on in the tradition that inspired us. And while doing all that, we wanted to challenge the conventional idea of what a book should be. Easy, right? . . . right?"

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