Written by Steve Frank
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Wilkesboro authorities were seeking a suspect who robbed a convenience store there early Friday morning and assaulted the clerk. The incident was at the Run In Food store on Oakwoods Road in Wilkesboro just after 2am Friday, when a black male entered the store, appeared to shop for a time, then while asking the clerk about items, suddenly jumped the counter, grabbed $200 in $20 bills, then fled. The clerk jumped the counter after the suspect as he fled toward a car, and for his effort was struck twice in the face, opening a gash just above his eye. The suspect tried to get into the car in which he came to the store, but the driver refused to drive off and grabbed the keys out of the ignition as the suspect tried to reach for them. With no wheels for his escape, the suspect fled on foot toward the State Employee Credit Union. Questioning the man who drove the suspect to the convenience store, police were given several versions of the sequence, from the robber picked up along the road to the apparent truth—that the suspect promised to give the driver gas money for taking him to the convenience store. Bryan Howell was charged with Resist, Delay, and Obstruct for giving the initial false information, but his real information led police to an identification of the suspect, and warrants were drawn on the 31-year old, but there was no immediate indication of an arrest on the robbery.