

Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, November 11, 2016

Trio charged in theft after multiple times at same building

PANTHER PRIDE!!!

LCYFO sweeps the Semi - Finals



Thomas Brock

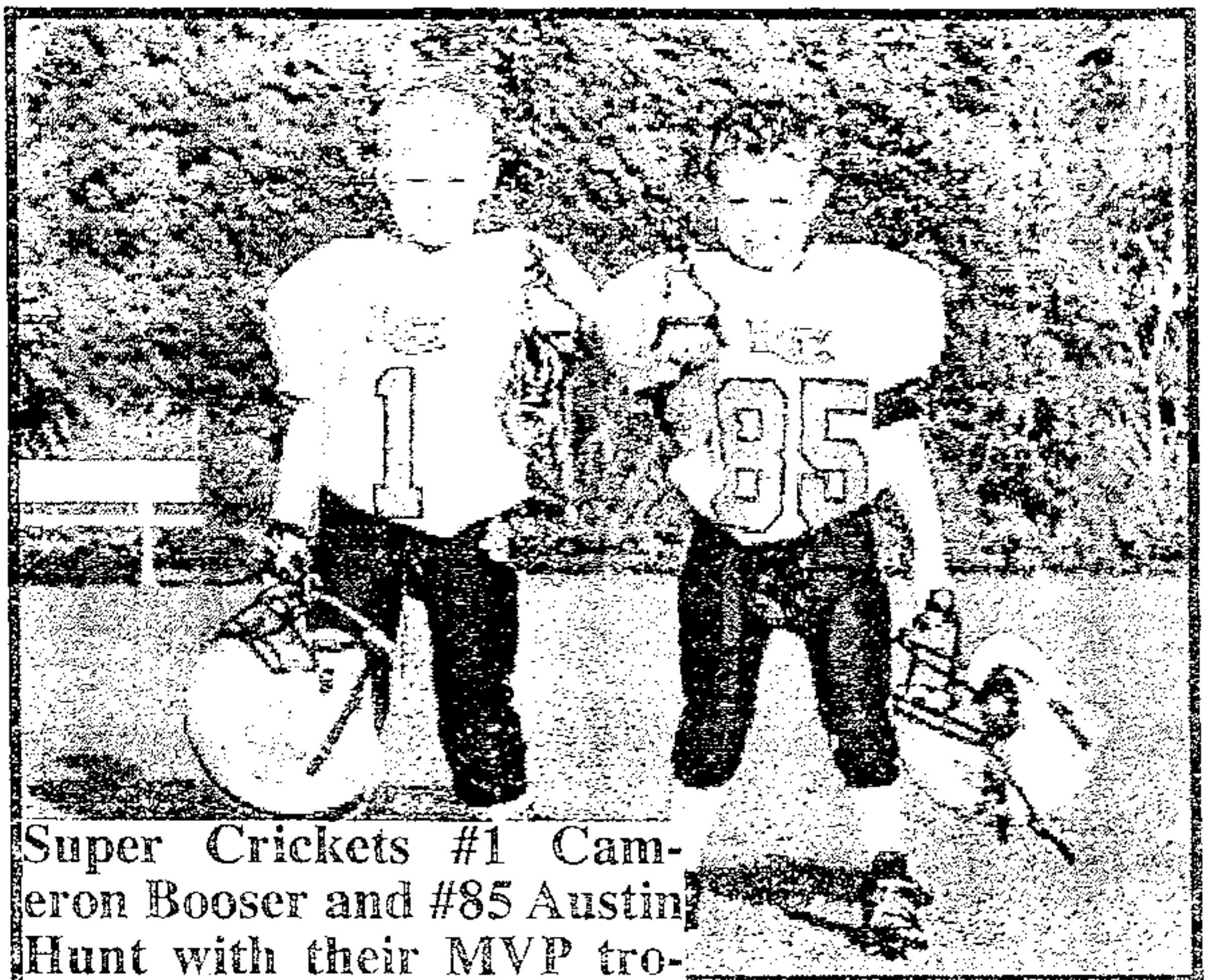
(see trio pg. 2)



Brandon Brock



Ricky Rentz



Super Crickets #1 Cameron Booser and #85 Austin Hunt with their MVP trophies after a 24-14 win over the Etowah Knights. (see LCYFO pg. 4)

Lead Methamphetamine trafficker sentenced to 23 years in prison

On Nov. 9, 2016, Richard Alan Davis, 44, of Atlanta, was sentenced to serve 23 years in federal prison by the Honorable J. Ronnie Greer, U.S. District Judge. Upon his release from prison, Davis will be supervised for five years by the U.S. Probation Office.

Davis pleaded guilty to a federal indictment charging him with conspiring to distribute methamphetamine (meth). He was a leader of a drug distribution network that trafficked high purity meth obtained in Atlanta into northeast Tennessee and south-

see Meth pg. 5

TNInvestco Program Is Slow to Produce Return on Investment

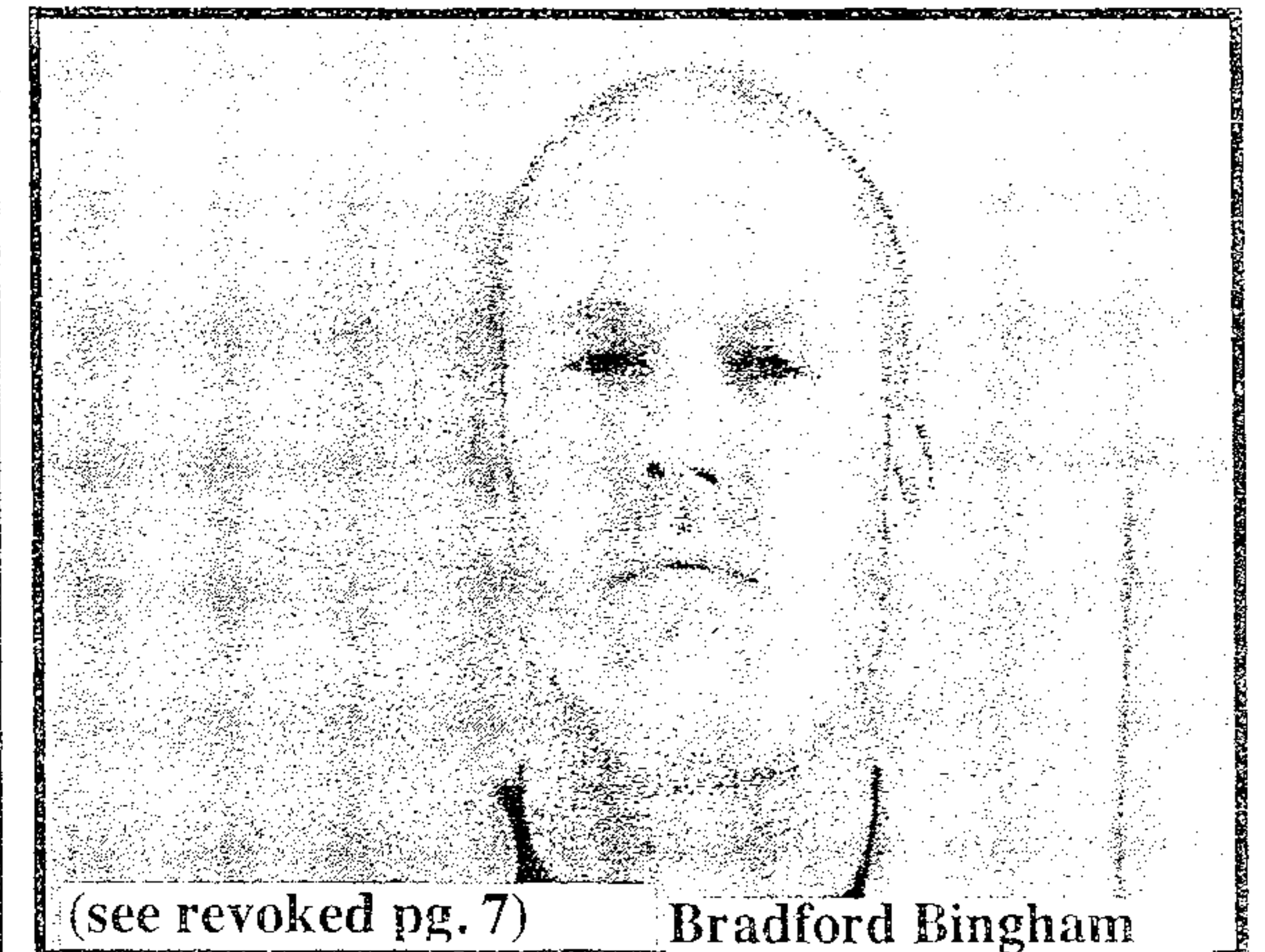
A performance audit from the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has revealed the State of Tennessee has only recovered \$5.3 million of its initial \$200 million investment in the TNInvestco program.

The TNInvestco program, which started in 2009 and 2010, is described as a public-private venture capital program intended to help start-up companies create jobs and for the state to eventually receive a return on its investment. As of December 31, 2015, the State of Tennessee has only received 2.6% of the initial investment.

The TNInvestco program will contin-

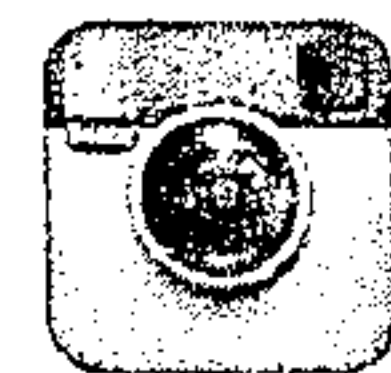
see Program pg. 7

Revoked driver charged with evading following short chase



(see revoked pg. 7)

Bradford Bingham



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Verse of the Day

They have returned to the sins of their forefathers, who refused to listen to my words. They have followed other gods to serve them. Both the house of Israel and

the house of Judah have broken the covenant I made with their forefathers. — Jeremiah 11:10

Obituaries

see inside **Wazzup**

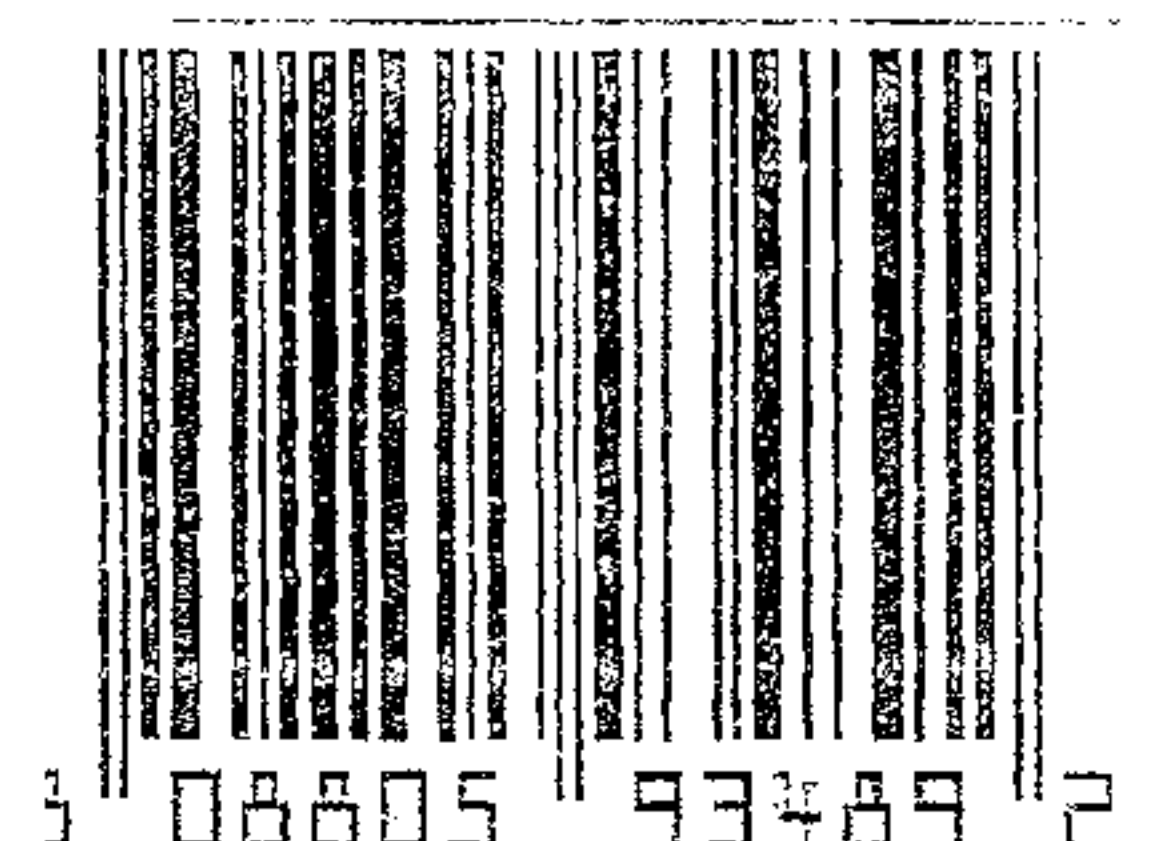
Now that the elec-

tion is Finally over, it's time to get those signs down that have littered our county for that last several months!

Weather

Today: Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 67F. Tonight: A mostly clear sky. Low near 40F. Saturday Sunny. High 62F. Saturday Night Clear skies. Low 33F.

(Continued on page 6)



3 08805 93489 2

trio

Brandon Brock, 33, Blue Bird Lane Sweetwater, was charged with Theft of Property.

Ricky Rentz, 26, County Road Niota, was charged with Theft of Property.

Thomas Brock, 34, Blue Bird Lane Sweetwater, was charged with Theft of Property.

On 10/26/16 Deputy An-

derson LCSO, responded to Vonore Road in reference to a theft. Upon arrival Deputy made contact with the victim who advised that multiple bay garage next to victim residence had been burglarized. Deputy observed the doors had been pried open, and a large glass window laying upright beside the outside wall. The window had been removed along with the

frame. Deputy made contact with several more victim's. One victim stated he observed a blue explorer and a brown explorer towing a utility trailer leaving the residence with mowers loaded

see trio ctd. pg. 7

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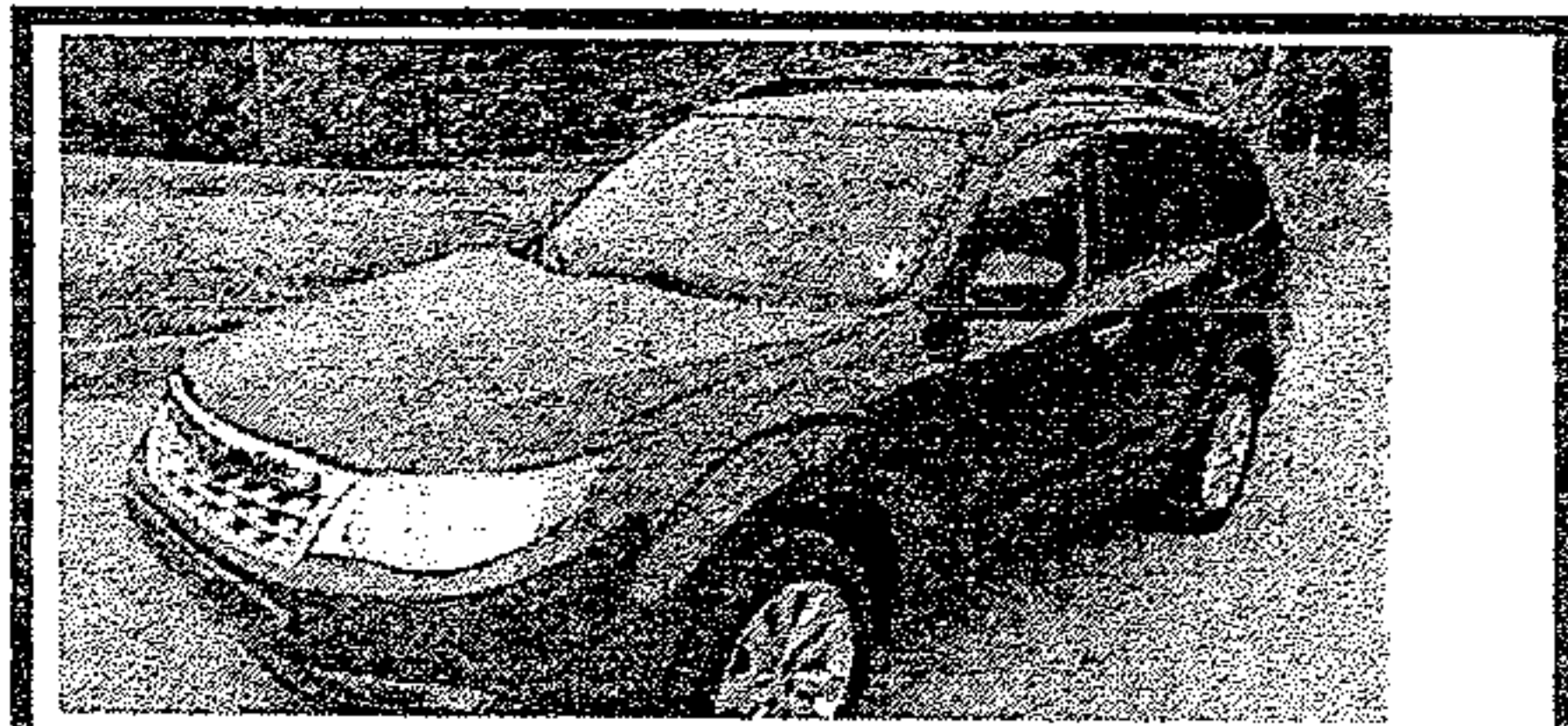
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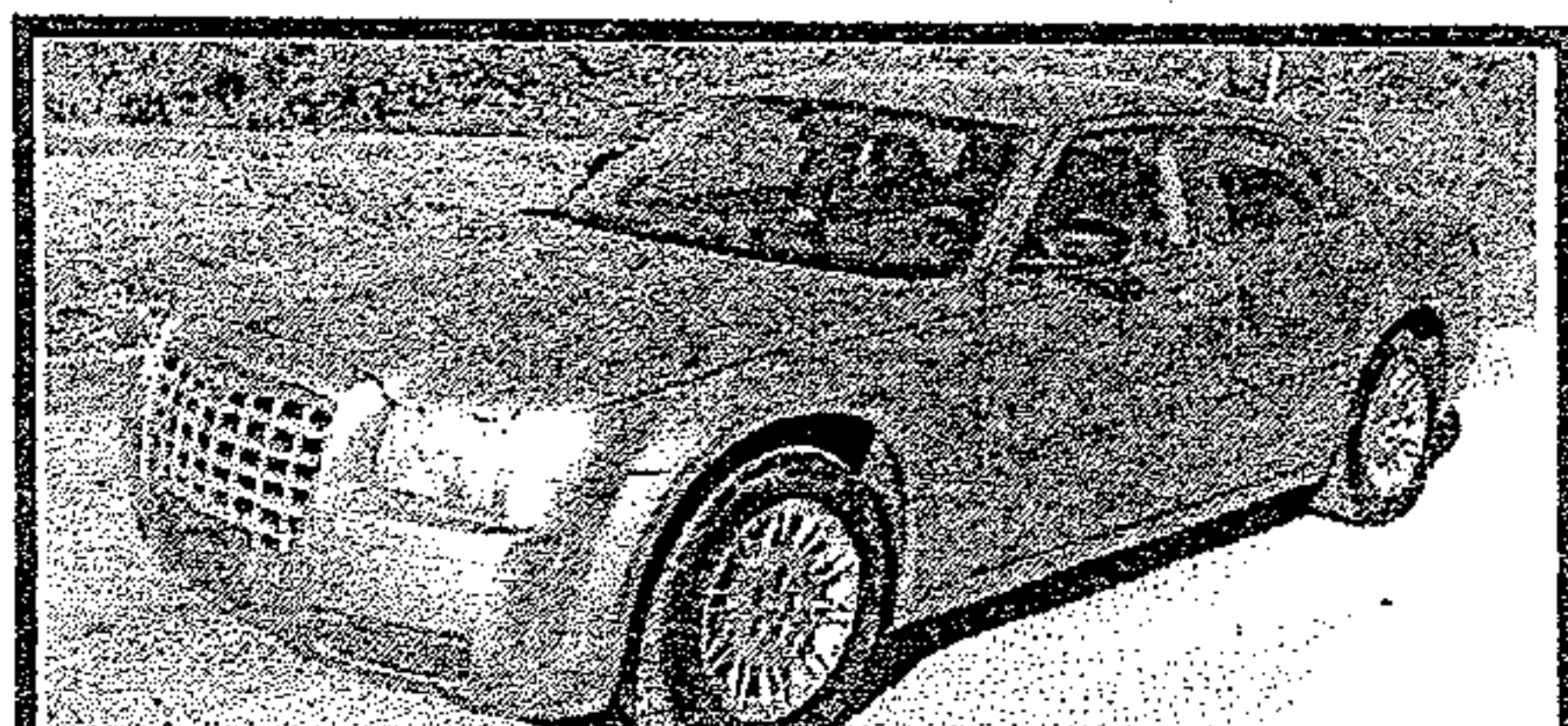
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LCYFO

3 LCYFO teams made the semi-finals of the Sequoyah conference playoffs and all 3 teams advance to the Championship.

In the first game of the day at Lenoir City, LC's cricket team with the #1 seed, faced the #4 Loudon Redskins. Loudon took the ball to start the game but LC's defense was too stubborn, holding the Redskins to a 3 and out. On LC's first play on offense, Elliot Lindsey sprinted in for a 63 yard TD. The PAT was unsuccessful but LC took a quick lead, 6-0. LC's next offensive play resulted in another score, this time Dax

Cole raced in from 62 yards. Another failed PAT attempt brought the score to 12-0. Just before halftime, the Panther offense scored again when Blake Langley dashed in from 46 yards. Lindsey added the conversion and LC went to the intermission up 20-0. In the 3rd quarter, LC scored the final points when Lindsey broke free for a 74 yard TD. Lindsey added the PAT, bringing the final to 28-0. Lindsey earned the offensive MVP award with 152 yards rushing, 2 TD's and 2 PAT's. Cole finished with 60 yards and a score, Langley added 55 yards and a score.

Brayden Gonzales collected the defensive MVP award recording 5 solo tackles and 3 assists. Jonathan Burns also had a big defensive game with 3 solo tackles and 3 assists as the Cricket defense shut out Loudon.

The next game of the morning included Lenoir City's Hopper team, also the #1 seed, against the #5 Riceville Wildcats. The first quarter was scoreless as both teams were getting a feel for the game. On the first play of the 2nd quarter, LC's Trey

Wilhite capped off a 61 yard drive with a 2 yard score. The conversion failed and LC grabbed a 6-0 lead. Wilhite scored again on the next Panther possession, this time from 4 yards away, giving LC a 14-0 lead. Just before the half, Wilhite hit Elijah Kelso on a 50 yard pass and score. Wilhite ran in the PAT and the young Panthers led 20-0 at the half. With the first possession of the 3rd quarter, Riceville answered back, scoring on a 75 yard run. The last score of the game

came in the 4th quarter, this time Wilhite capped off a 70 yard drive scoring from 2 yards out. Wilhite, with 195 yards rushing, 57 yards passing, 3 rushing TD's, 1 passing TD, and 1 PAT. Kelso

see LCYFO ctd. pg. 7

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Meth west Virginia, operating out of several high-end hotel rooms in the Atlanta area and supplying dozens of conspirators with large quantities of meth.

The investigation into Davis and his associates resulted in a series of nine federal cases in the Eastern District of Tennessee and dozens of individuals prosecuted by the state of Tennessee in the Third Judicial District. Related cases

were also brought in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia and by the Tennessee First Judicial District Attorney General. Davis was the primary source of supply of the dozens of individuals prosecuted in these related cases. The operation has also resulted in the seizure of approximately five kilograms of meth and 20 firearms.

This investigation was a multi-year collabora-

tive effort of numerous law enforcement agencies including the Greene County Sheriff's Office, Greeneville Police Department, Hawkins County Sheriff's Office, Third Judicial Drug Task Force, First Judi-

cial Drug Task Force, Sandy Springs (Georgia) Police Department, Hall County (Georgia)

Sheriff's Office, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Drug Enforcement Administration. The Third and First Judicial District Attorney's Offices in Tennessee actively partnered with the U.S. Attorney's Office in a coordinated effort to advance this operation. The Rabun County, Georgia District Attorney's Office provided critical early assistance. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia also provided assistance in the shared efforts to combat Davis' drug trafficking operations. Assistant U.S. Attorney Zachary Lee represented the United States in the Western District of Virginia. Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Christian Lampe represented the United States in the Eastern District of Tennessee.

This prosecution was brought as a part of the Department of Justice's Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program, the centerpiece of the Department of Justice's drug supply reduction strategy. OCDETF was established in 1982 to conduct comprehensive, multilevel attacks on major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. Today, OCDETF combines the resources and expertise of its member federal agencies in cooperation with state and local law enforcement. The principal mission of the OCDETF program is to identify, disrupt, and dismantle the most serious drug trafficking and money laundering organizations and those primarily responsible for the nation's drug supply.

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Revoked

Bradford Bingham, 41, Coytee Road Greenback, was charged with Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, Evading Arrest, and Failure to Appear.

Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, observed a white F-150 traveling on Axley Chapel Rd. The vehicle Tn tag # z0533L, was the same vehicle victim reported that her son (Bradford Bingham) had taken earlier this week from their residence at Coyatee Rd in Greenback. This Deputy activated his emergency equipment and attempted traffic stop

on said vehicle but the vehicle continued on turning onto Coyatee Rd, passing several driveways, a parking lot, and a subdivision before pulling into the yard at Coyatee Rd. The driver of said Ford truck waved out the window and continued around the house before stopping.

The driver was Mr. Bradford Bingham, a individual known by this Deputy to have a suspended drivers license and a warrant for driving on revoked license, as well as a Failure to Appear out of General Sessions Court. There were 5 empty Reds Apple Ale cans in the truck and one open cold Reds Apple Ale in the cup holder. Mr. Bingham was arrested for evading and transported to the Loudon County Jail by this Deputy. Dispatch advised Mr. Bingham's license was revoked. The Ford was left at Coyatee Rd because it was the only vehicle victim has left to drive. He

was mirandized. Mr. Bingham stated that he had smoked Marijuana earlier this date and drank one alcoholic beverage today. This did occur in Loudon County, Tn.

trio ctd. from pg. 2

on the trailer. Approx. 2 hours later Deputy was called back out to the scene where the vehicle had returned with the trailer empty. Suspects took off. Victim pursued the suspect but lost them. After an investigation was conducted 3 males were arrested. Thomas Brock, Brandon Brock, and Ricky Rentz. Detective Jeff Russell LCSO, made the arrest.

LCYFO ctd. from pg. 4

had 54 yards rushing, 57 yards receiving and a TD. Defensively, Colton Gatlin won the defensive MVP with 3 tackles, Bryson Reynolds also recorded 3 tackles, Bryson Daugherty and Elijah Harrison added 2 tackles each.

The final game of the day was LCYFO's Super Cricket team facing the Etowah Knights. LC's Cameron Booser scored the first points of the game finishing a 65 yard drive, scoring from 3 yards out. Booser sneaked in for the PAT and LC led 8-0. The next LC possession was almost exactly like the first, Booser capped off a 65 yard drive with a 1 yard TD. Booser again added the PAT and the LC Supers led 16-0. Etowah answered LC's second score, bringing the score to 16-8. In

the 2nd half, Etowah scored again, closing the gap 16-14. Lenoir City closed the door however on a 65 yard sprint from Bradlee Ward. Booser added his 3rd PAT of the game bringing the final score LC 24 Etowah 14. Booser won the offensive MVP, rushing for 137 yards, 2 TD's and 3 PAT's. Ward finished the offensive totals with 149 yards rushing and a score. Defensively, Austin Hunt recorded 8 tackles earning him the defensive MVP. Gabriel Gonzales added 6 tackles and 2 QB sacks and Jacob Griffin recovered a Knights fumble.

All 3 Lenoir City teams will travel to McMinn County High School to compete for the Sequoyah Conference Championships this Saturday. Game times will be posted this week on the Sequoyah Football Conference Facebook page early this week.

Program

ue until 2021, and the state should recoup more of its investment; however, the department will likely not receive a return nearing \$200 million. Although state law does not require any level of recovery, auditors recommend the Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) regularly report the amounts returned to the program to the public and the Tennessee General Assembly.

The ECD performance audit also found that in some years the department did not accurately report TNInvestco jobs created and retained, including jobs held by women and

minority employees. Additionally, the department should track the number of minority-owned and women-owned businesses that receive capital from the program.


Other findings within the report relate to the Tennessee FastTrack program which provides grants to businesses for job training, infrastructure and economic development. Auditors found several examples of businesses submitting conflicting or unclear reports on the number of new jobs created after a FastTrack grant award. A sample of final grant reports also showed the average wage of new hires was less than the wage projected in the application for incentives.

The Department of Economic Community Development frequently provides grants to businesses and local government entities; however, ECD did not comply with all requirements for monitoring how the grant money is spent. The department did not evaluate projects based on risk, issue monitoring reports for all the grants reviewed, or provide all monitoring reports to the Comptroller's Office.

"We're dealing with taxpayer money, and it doesn't appear that the TNInvestco program has been successful," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "In the future, the administration and the General Assembly should consider the effect on taxpayers before even considering similar programs."

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