

Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

He's a runner! LCSO was ready for the chase; Littleton nabbed

Derek Littleton, 36, Tinnel Lane Lenoir City, was charged with Resisting Arrest, and Theft of Property.

Deputy Lance Anderson LCSO, along with Deputy Branson and Cpl. Branam, responded to Tinnell Ln in reference to a wanted person.

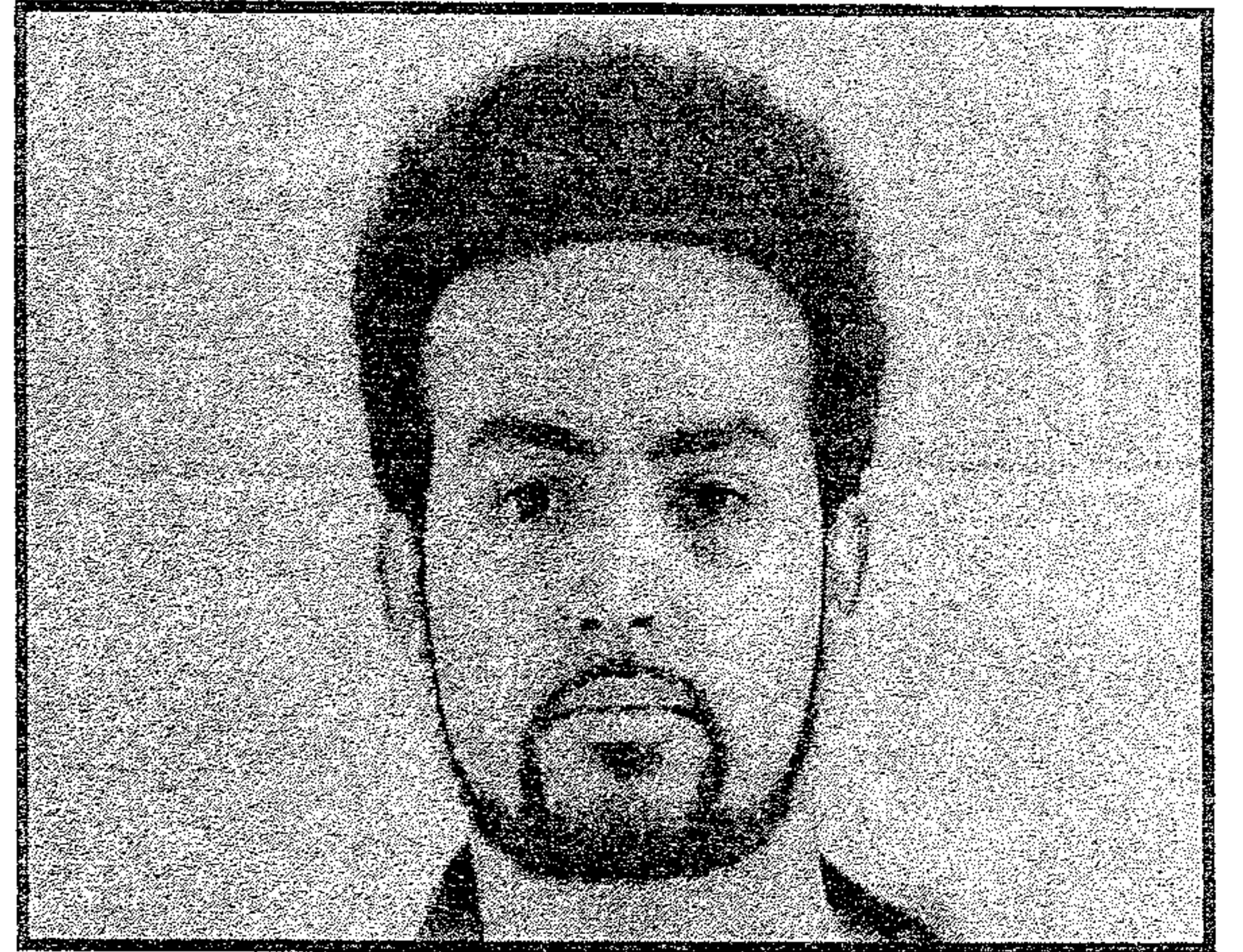
Upon arrival Cpl. Branam made contact with a male subject at the front sliding glass



Derek Littleton

(see runner pg. 2)

THP nabs driver with weed for resale



William Andrews

(see THP pg. 4)

Burn ban in effect for East TN

From the Loudon County Government, Office of the Mayor

Currently, East Tennessee weather has produced dry conditions with little or no rain fall, temperatures in the 80's, wind and low humidity for several weeks. Counties in our area have varying levels of drought conditions and these factors have created an increased brush and forest fire risk.

Because of this increased risk, Loudon County Mayor, Roland "Buddy" Bradshaw, in consultation with the state forestry office and

see Burn Ban pg. 5

Public Corruption

Chicago Transportation Official Took Bribes for a Decade

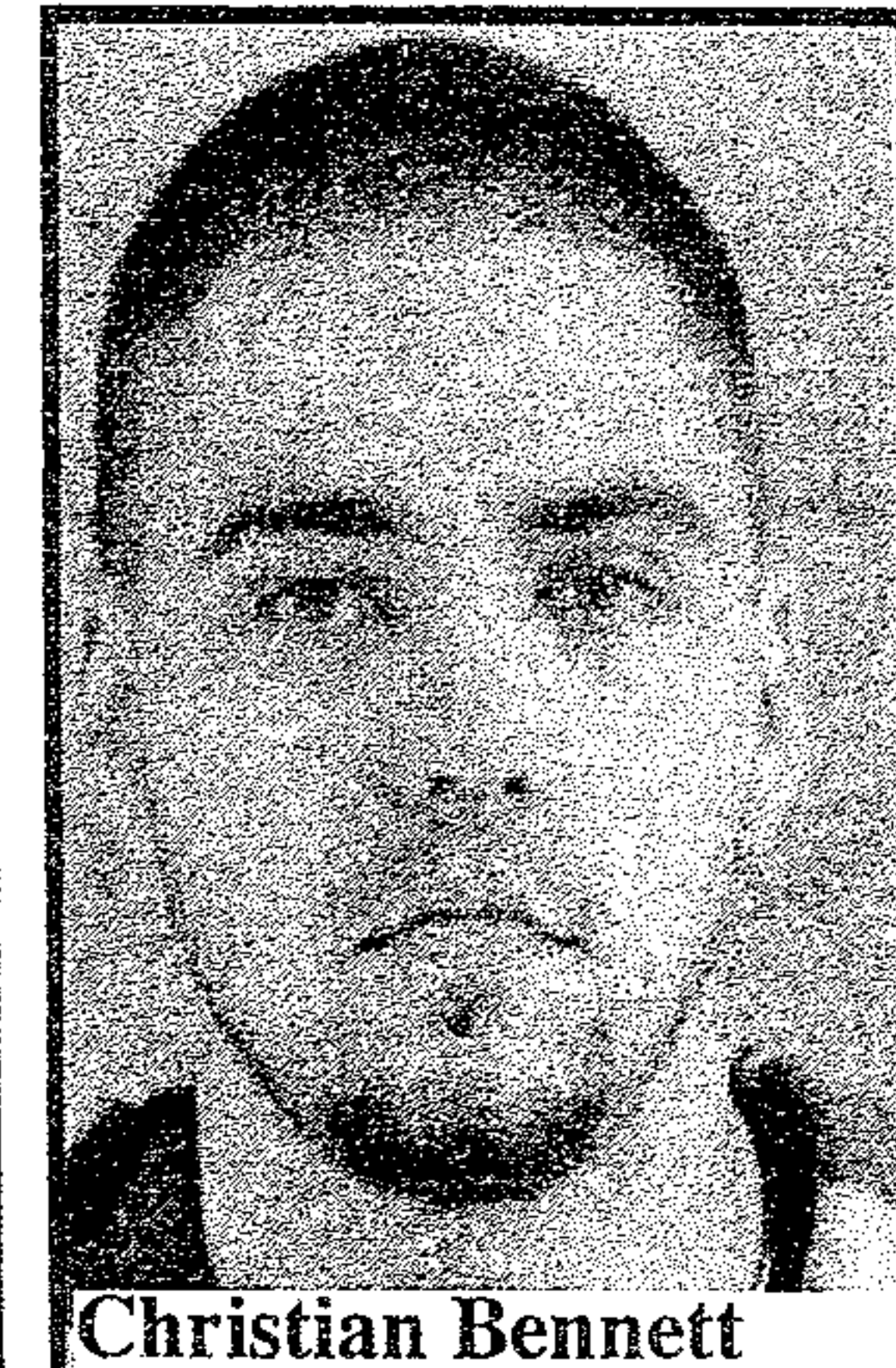
John Bills once held a position of trust as Chicago's assistant transportation commissioner. Now the 55-year-old is serving a 10-year prison sentence for his role in a long-running corruption scheme involving the city's red-light camera contracts.

"Chicago has a well-known history of public corruption," said Special Agent Brian Etchell, "but even by Chicago's standards, this case stands out."

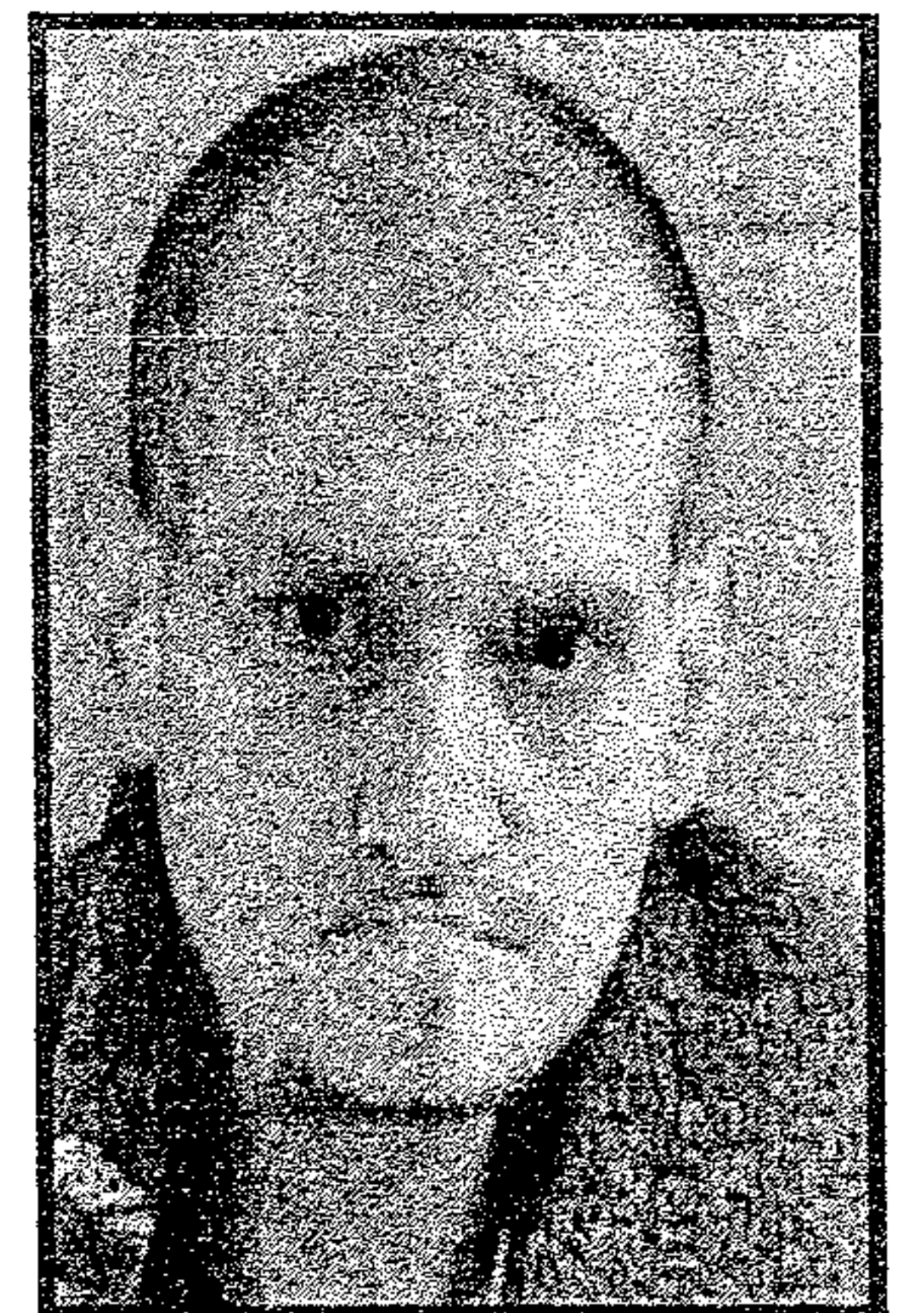
That's because the corruption went on for nearly a decade, and "the sheer amount of cash bribes to Bills—more

see Corruption pg. 4

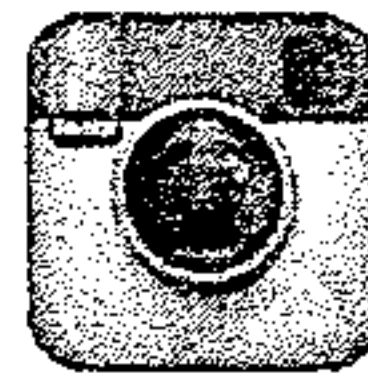
It all started over a belt? Really? 2 charged after 'belt'ing out



Christian Bennett (see belt pg. 7)



Richard Brotherton



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Verse of the Day

Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the

Jordan to possess... — Deuteronomy 11:8

Obituaries

see inside Wazzup

Championship games for LCYFO is this Saturday. Go Panthers!

Weather

Today: A few clouds early, otherwise mostly sunny. Slight chance of a rain shower. High 61F.

Tonight: Some clouds early will give way to generally clear conditions overnight. Low 38F.

Thursday Mainly sunny High 67F. Thursday Night A mostly clear sky. Low 39F.

Horoscopes

Scorpio 10/23-11/21 Knowing where you stand in a relationship

(Continued on page 6)



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Runner

door. While Cpl. Branam was speaking with the male subject Deputy observed the offender, Derek Littleton, running through the residence. The offender exited the residence at a second front door. Deputy gave the offender verbal commands to put his hands behind his back, which he did. While trying to hand-

cuff the offender he spun around and began pushing off me in an attempt to flee custody. Deputy and the offender continued to scuffle as we were both running around the residence. Deputy Bran-son was on the side of the residence and tackled the of-fender. All parties went to the ground and the offender con-tinued to resisting. The of-

fender eventually complied with commands and was taken into custody and trans-ported to the Loudon County Jail without further incident. All occurred in Loudon County, TN.

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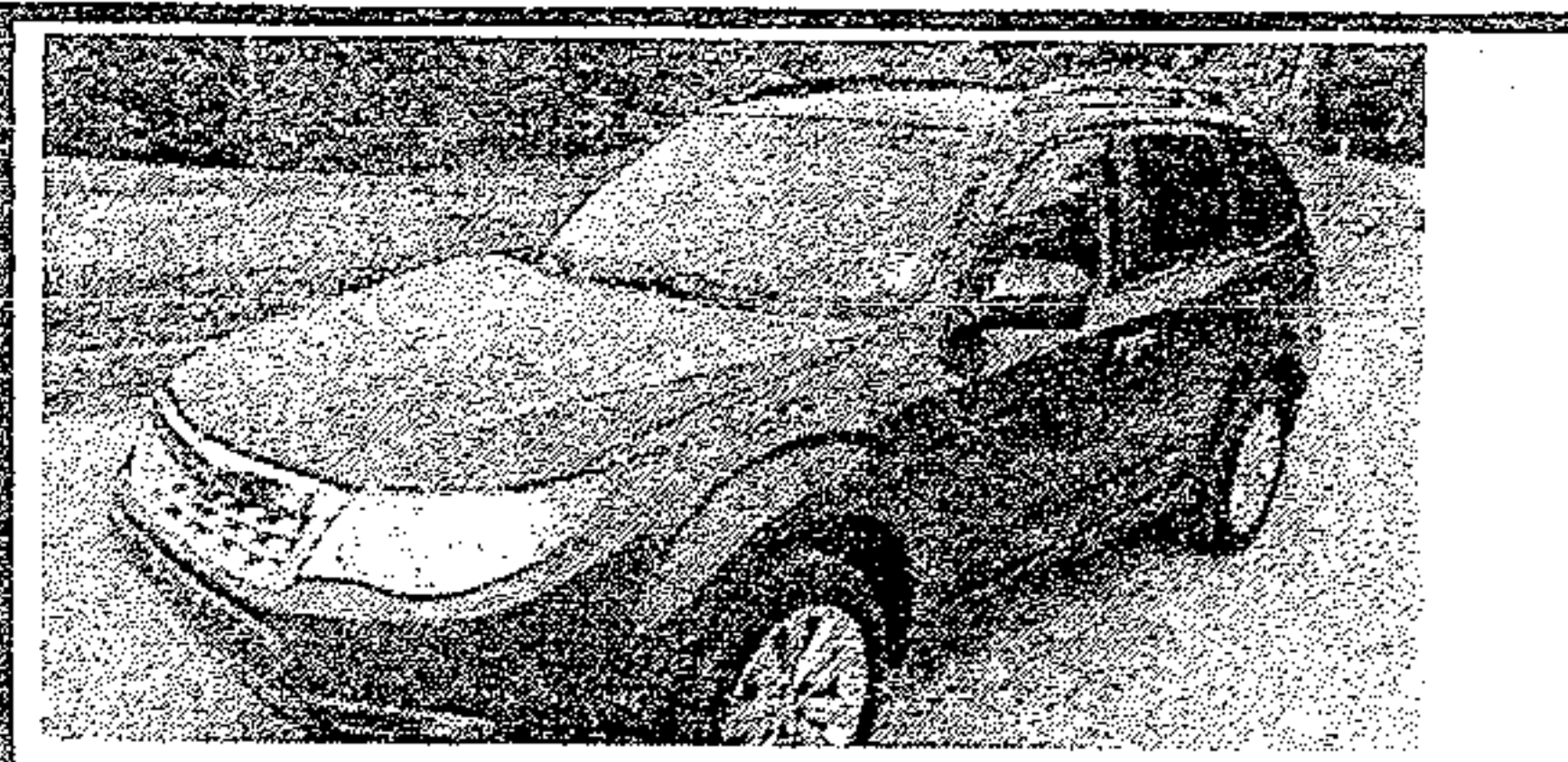
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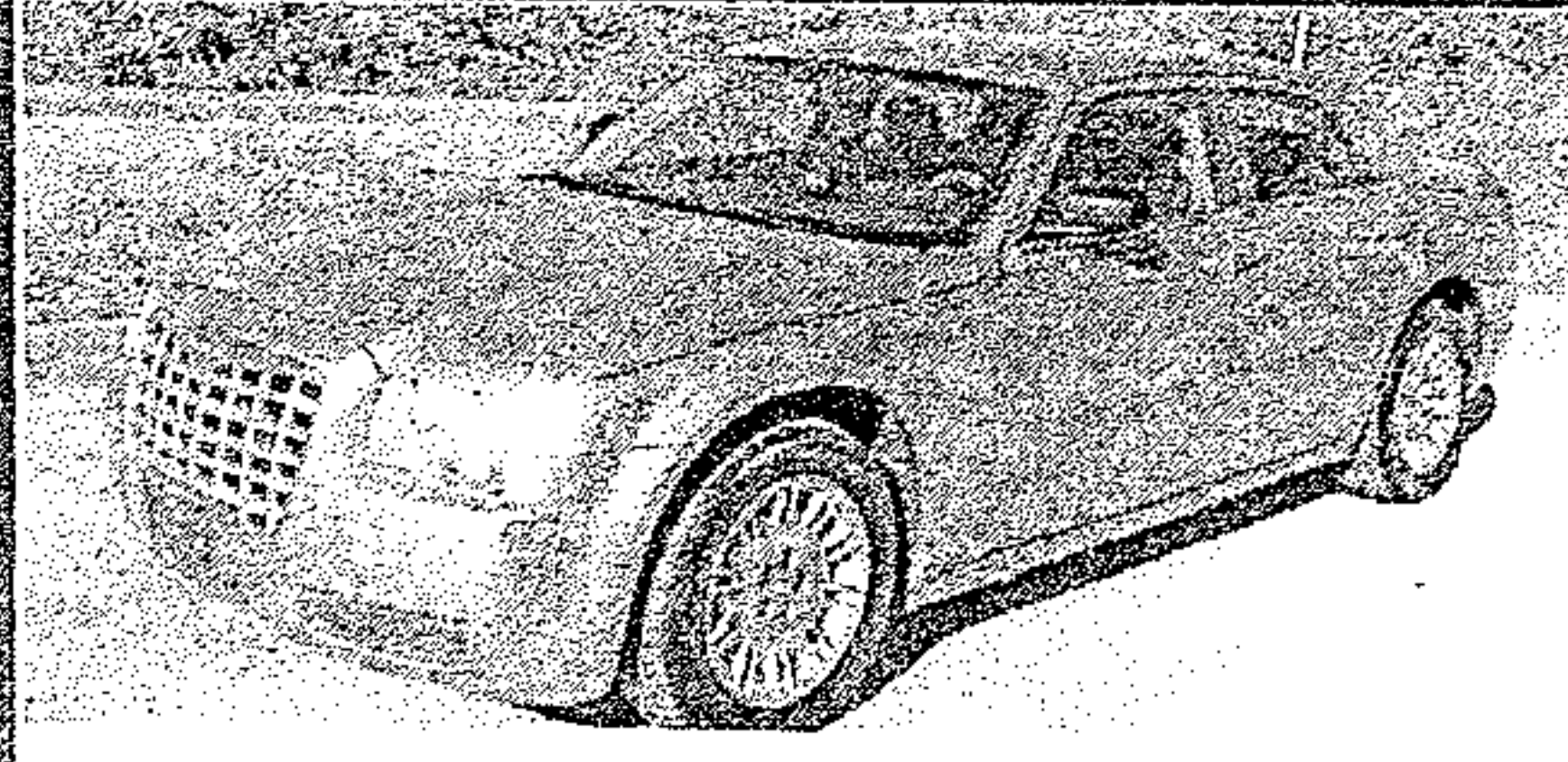
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THP

William Andrews, 26, Wilson Street LA., was charged with Poss. of Drug Para., and Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch. VI. Trooper Robert Woody THP, observed a vehicle that had stopped on the river bridge on I75 at the 74 mm. The vehicle was escorted to the 72 exit so Trooper could safely issue citation. William Andrew was a passenger of the vehicle, and was unable to produce an ID. Andrews gave a name and date of birth. Trooper was unable to find any information on Andrews. Trooper ask again for anything with his name on it. Andrews reached into

his bag he had behind his head using as a pillow. Trooper observed a large digital scale that what appeared to have marijuana residue on it. Trooper was finally able to identify Andrews. William Andrews voluntarily gave up approx. 20 grams of marijuana from the back of the vehicle, also located was several small plastic bags commonly used to sell drugs. Andrews was placed under arrest.

Corruption

than \$600,000—was stunning,” said Etchell, who investigated the case with Special Agent Craig Henderson from the FBI’s Chicago

Division. Henderson noted that the corruption scheme involved payments and perks that totaled more than \$2 million.

In 2003, Bills served on a committee seeking vendors for the city’s Digital Automated Red Light Enforcement Program. That committee recommended awarding contracts to Redflex Traffic Systems, an Arizona company eventually hired to install cameras that automatically recorded and ticketed drivers who ran red lights.

From the time Red-

flex received the contract in 2003 until Bills retired in 2011, evidence showed that the transportation official used his influence to expand Redflex’s business in Chicago. That resulted in millions of dollars in contracts for the installation of hundreds of red-light cameras. Redflex was enriched—and the company made sure Bills was as well.

The company gave Bills cash, expensive meals, golf outings, airline tickets, hotel rooms, and more. Some of the benefits were given to

him directly, while hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash was funneled to Bills through his friend Martin O’Malley, whom Redflex hired to facilitate the payoffs.

As a Redflex contractor, O’Malley was paid lavish bonuses as

see corruption ctd. pg. 5

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After working for *Knoxville Collision Center* for years before it was sold to an out of state corporation, Stan and Jake have fulfilled their dreams of owning and running their own shop.

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Burn Ban

TEMA has requested a "Ban on Open Burning" in Loudon County from the state Commissioner of Agriculture. As approved, this ban is effective immediately and will remain in place until further notice.

Until our region receives appreciable rain fall, this increased fire risk will continue and

the ban will remain in effect.

For the safety of all persons, livestock and property, we are asking our citizens to voluntarily comply with this ban.

A violation of this ban is classified by the Tennessee Code Annotated 39-14-306 as "reckless burning" and is a class A misdemeanor with up to a \$2,500 fine.

corruption ctd. from pg. 5

new cameras continued to be added in the city. O'Malley, in turn, stuffed envelopes full of his bonus cash and gave them to Bills, often during meals in Chicago

restaurants. O'Malley also used some of the money to buy and maintain a condo in Arizona

that Bills used as his own.

Bills had more cash than he knew what to do with. "He would ask co-workers to purchase airfare tickets on their credit cards," Henderson said, "and then he would repay them on the spot in cash. He had his friends write him personal checks, and then he would immediately give them cash—he would just hand over \$3,000 right there."

Government exhibit presented at John Bills' Chicago public corruption trial showing luxury condominium in Arizona purchased by a middleman for Bills' use.

When a Redflex employee alleged misconduct regarding how Chicago's red-light camera business was being conducted, the company did an internal investigation and found nothing wrong. Later, after a newspaper exposé raised questions about the relationship between Redflex, O'Malley, and Bills, the company began another inquiry, and information from that investigation was presented to the FBI and the United States Attorney's Office.

"Based on the company's investigation, we opened a case starting in 2013," Etchell said. "We were able to establish a direct link between O'Malley, Bills, and the Arizona condominium. The majority of the bribes were flowing through Redflex to O'Malley to that condominium."

Etchell and Henderson specialize in public corruption conc. pg. 7

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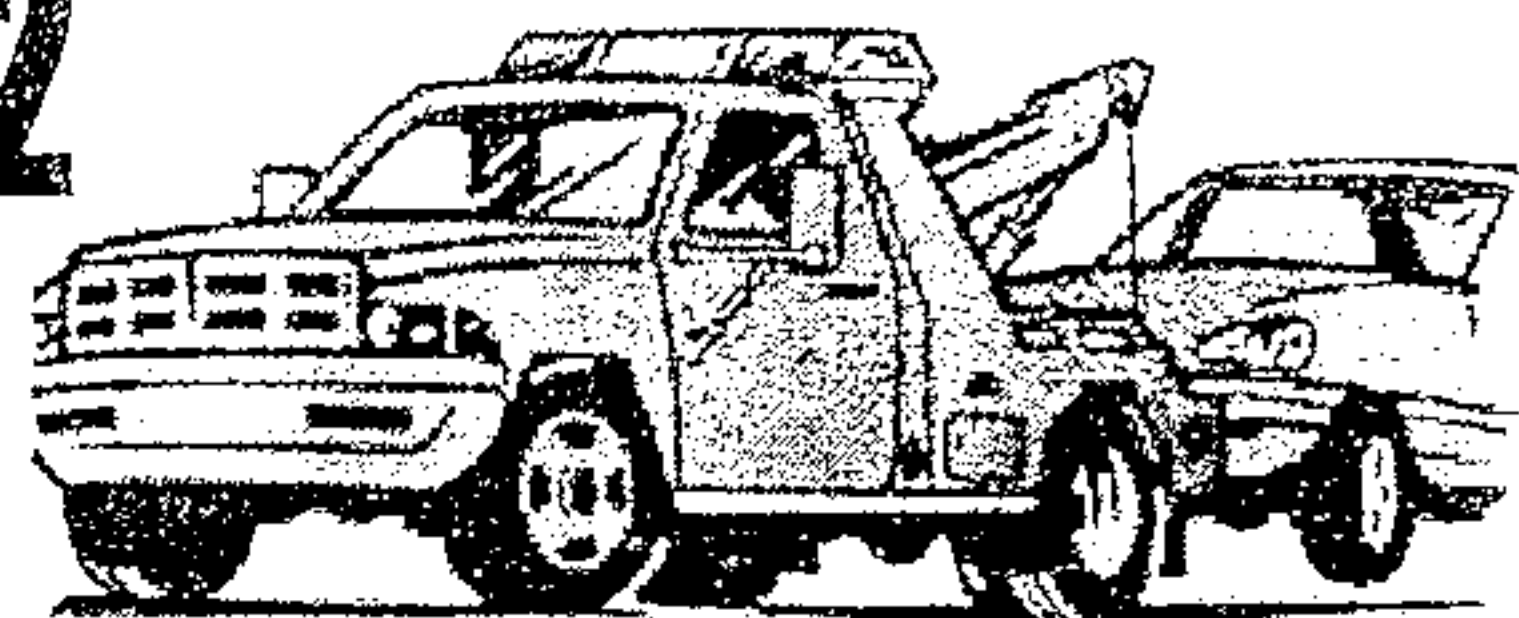
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Theft

Richard Lee Brotherton, 42, of Corinth Church Road, was charged with domestic assault.

Christian Peyton Bennett, 21, Crooked Oak Drive Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault.

Cpl. Rondel M. Brannam, was dispatched to Corinth Church Road in Loudon, TN in reference to a possible physical domestic between an uncle and nephew. Upon arrival Deputy spoke with Mr. Richard Brotherton who stated that his nephew, Peyton

Bennett, had pushed him several times and had punched him in the face and head area while cleaning out a bedroom. Richard stated that prior to the physical contact the two were arguing over a belt. Richard denied touching Peyton at any point in the altercation and that he never threatened him either. Upon speaking to Peyton he stated that Richard had come in to the bedroom, where he was working to clean for his grandmother, and began ripping open bags to see what was in them. Peyton agreed that the argument started over who owned the belt. Peyton stated that Richard kept getting in his face and at one point Richard pushed him. There are cameras inside the residence that are recorded and Deputy did review them. The video shows Richard and Peyton along

with a female walking calmly through the residence carrying bags of clothing. The incident changes when video shows female jump back and began yelling in to the bedroom where Richard was and Peyton had just entered. Female stated that the reason she jumped back was because Richard had gotten into Peyton's face and then shoved him. The two males go there separate ways in the residence. After a short period Richard joined by Peyton. At that time Richard is seen saying something Peyton which then turned to Peyton attacking Richard by striking him in the head. Due to the break in contact between the two men and each willingly attacking the other physically Deputy found both to be primary aggressors in the two incidents. Both Richard Brotherton and Peyton Bennett were placed under arrest at the scene for Domestic Assault and transported to the Loudon County

Jail. This did occur in Loudon County, TN.

corruption conc. from pg. 5

corruption investigations, the FBI's top criminal investigative priority. They painstakingly documented patterns that tied O'Malley's cash withdrawals to purchases by Bills and showed how O'Malley's cash withdrawals coincided with personal meetings with Bills.

Even so, "much of the evidence was still circumstantial," Henderson said. So the investigators interviewed countless individuals, many of whom worked with Bills and at Redflex. In 2014, O'Malley was arrested. Faced with the mounting evidence against him, he began cooperating with the investigation and laid out the entire scheme.

"He was the middleman, the bagman," Etchell said, "and he decided to cooperate with us." Bills was

indicted in 2014. In January 2016, a federal jury convicted Bills on all counts against him, among them mail fraud, wire fraud, bribery, and filing false tax returns. He was sentenced in August 2016. A month later, O'Malley, 75 and in frail health, received a six-month prison term.

Karen Finley, a former CEO of Redflex, pleaded guilty in 2015 to one count of conspiracy to commit bribery in the red-light camera corruption scheme. She awaits sentencing.

Henderson thanked the FBI's law enforcement partners—the Internal Revenue Service, the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. Attorney's Office—for making "large contributions to the case." He added, "I would like to think that with each of these investigations, we chip away, piece by piece, at this culture of corruption."

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