

Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, July 29, 2016

Officer nearly struck head on by fleeing DUI driver

Oscar Eugenio, 27, Maremont Pkwy Loudon, was charged with Evading Arrest, Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, and DUI.

Officer Anthony Akins LPD, was traveling west bound on Hwy 72 at Hwy 11 when he noticed a silver vehicle traveling east bound lane coming head on with Of-

(see evading pg. 2)



Oscar Eugenio

Second of three charged in Oxycodone distribution conspiracy sentenced to serve over six years in federal prison

On July 27, 2016, Rocky Wayne Hendrix, 48, of Johnson City, Tenn., was sentenced to serve 78 months in federal prison for conspiring to unlawfully distribute and dispense oxycodone.

Hendrix pleaded guilty in February 2016 to conspiring with Sherry L. Barnett, who was a licensed nurse practitioner, Robert Randal Stanton II, and others, to unlawfully distribute oxycodone from October

see prison pg. 4

Gun and DUI charge for man at motel

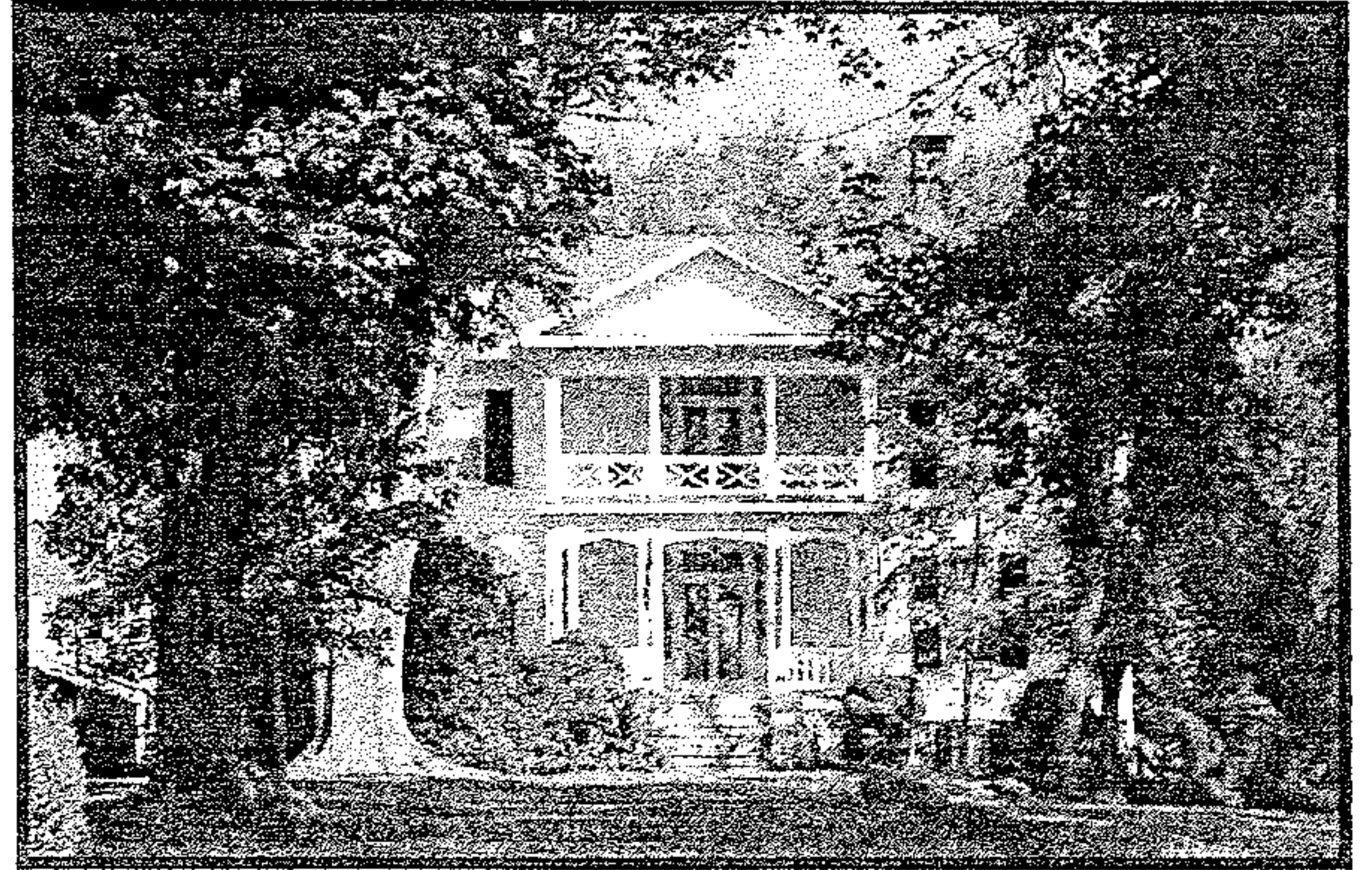


Paul Mercer

see gun pg. 4

County Corner The Mason House

by Kendra McCarter



Mason Place in Loudon

(see corner pg. 3)

Tax Free Weekend to be held in July for First Time

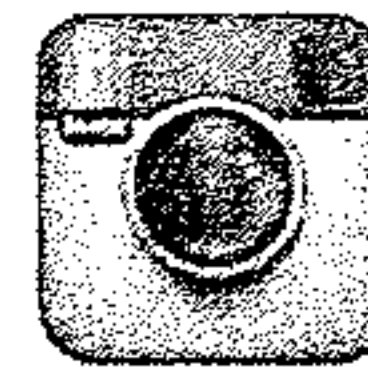
Kendra McCarter
After years of complaints from shoppers that the annual sales tax holiday weekend came too late for them to actually do back-to-school shopping, this year is different.

Tennessee's sales tax holiday will now be one weekend earlier - before school starts - thanks to the Legislature changing the law

and setting the holiday on the last weekend in July instead of the first weekend in August.

So get ready to shop next weekend. Starting Friday, July 29, at 12:01 a.m. through Sunday, July 31, at 11:59 p.m., you'll save 9.75 percent on clothing, school supplies and computers, along with other items classified by the Tennessee

(see tax pg. 7)



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Verse of the Day

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. — Matthew 7:28-29

Obituaries

see inside Wazzup

A Big Shout Out to Sgt. Billy Hall, LCSO sure do appreciate the good advice! Your a social media guru!

Weather

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. High 86F.
Tonight: Variable clouds with scattered thunderstorms. Low 71F.
Saturday Partly cloudy in the morning followed by

scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 89F.
Saturday Night Generally fair. Low 71F.
Sunday Partly cloudy in the morning followed by scattered thunderstorms

(Continued on page 6)

evading officer.

Officer stopped his vehicle to avoid a head on collision. Officer turned around and attempted to traffic stopped the vehicle. The vehicle failed to stop and turned on Mulberry Street. Officer continued on until Maramont Pkwy, and turned into West Side Terrace Apt. Officer made contact

with the driver Oscar Eugenio, who exited the vehicle and Officer noticed he had urinated himself.

While speaking with Eugenio Officer noticed a strong odor of alcoholic beverage about his person, slurred speech and very lethargic. Eugenio failed all sobriety test and was placed under arrest.

A check through dispatched revealed his license were suspended. Officer Anthony Akins, LPD made the arrest.

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The Daily Edition is Loudon County's premier public interest and paid advertising paper. The Daily Edition is produced and published daily Monday through Friday and is circulated throughout Loudon County and parts of Monroe and Knox Counties. Display advertising rates \$5.00 per column inch and quantity discounts available. Call for information on upcoming promotions and events.

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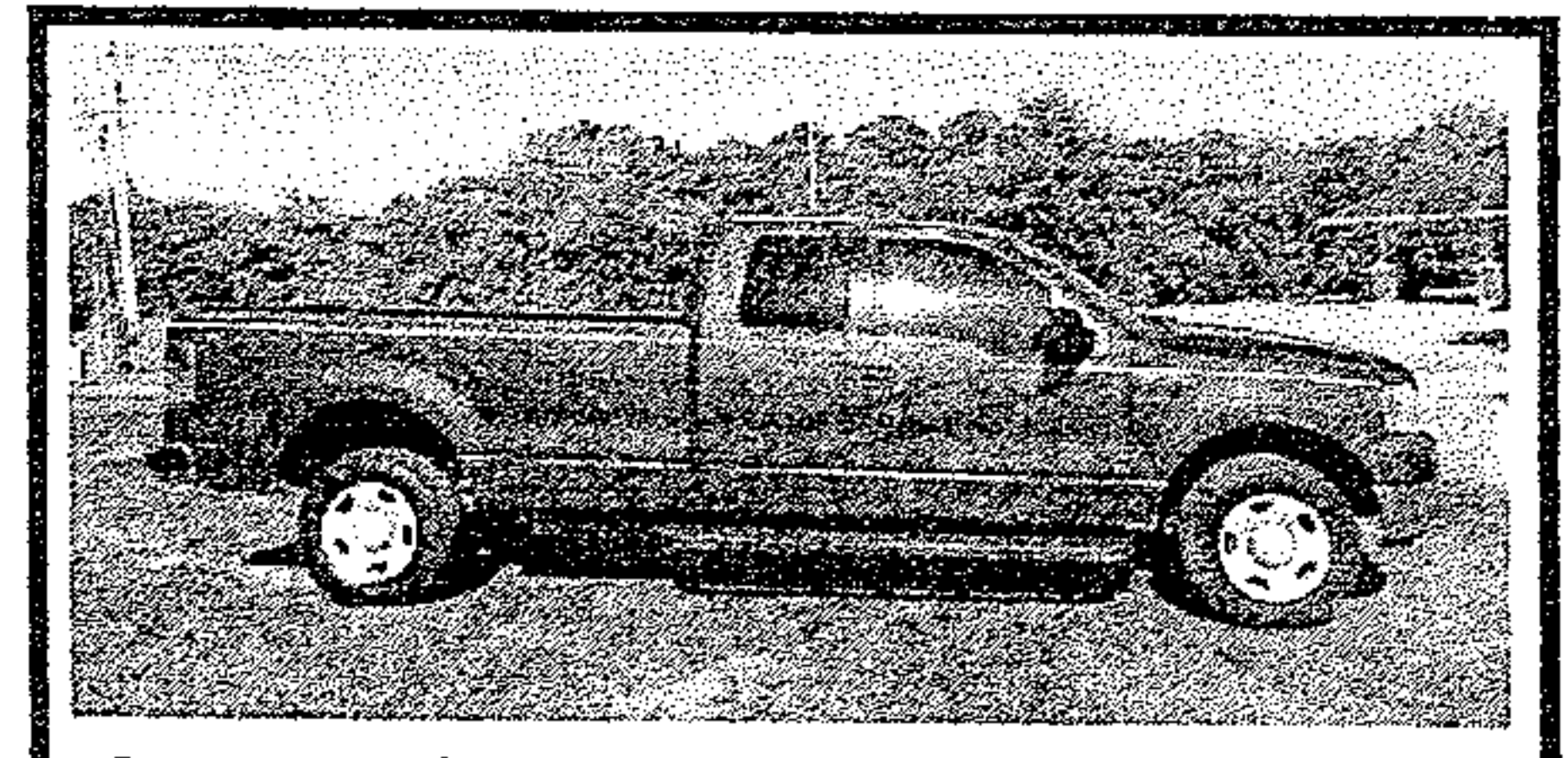
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corner

The Mason Place was built by Thomas Jefferson Mason, a river boat captain and a Union sympathizer. William Cassada, who was the contractor, Mason's son-in-law and a Confederate sympathizer, built into the upstairs porch balustrade the stars and stripes of the Confederate flag. Prior to the Civil War and construction of the house, slaves had made and stacked a quarter million bricks for the home. During the conflict, the bricks were used for a gun replacement at Fort Hill. Rather than wait for replacement bricks, Captain Mason decided to build the house out of heart-of-pine. The house originally sat on

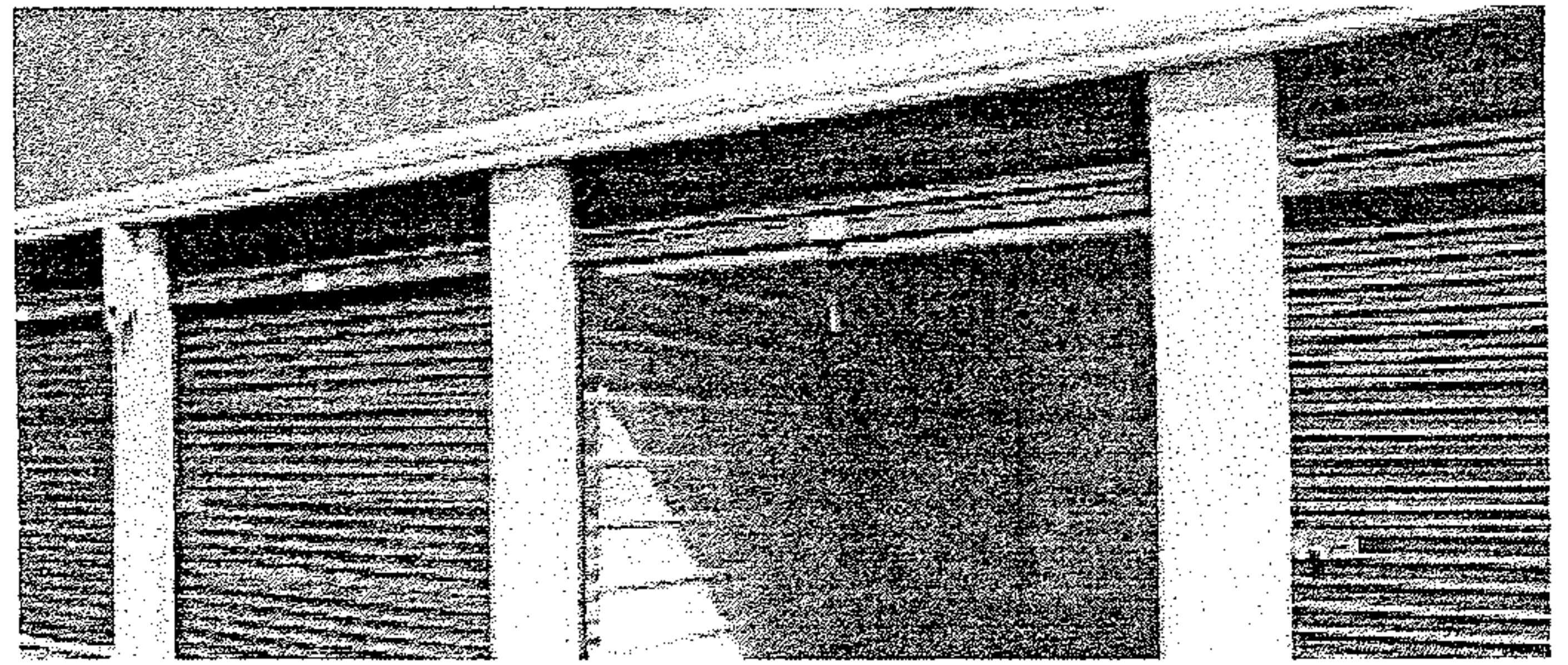
a plantation that contained 1200 acres. During the Civil War, it was occupied by both the Northern and Southern armies.

The Mason Place is currently a bed and breakfast located in Lenoir City, having opened in 1991. The large, white structure, with decorative cornices, now surveys three acres of lawns, gardens and grounds, which include a new swimming pool and old orchard. The house has 10 fireplaces and 14 rooms. They include six bedrooms, a parlor, a dining room, keeping room and garden room. The large entrance hall was once a site of dances hosted by the Mason family. It contains a loveseat said to have been sat on by Harry Tru-

man and Bette Davis. The 7,000-square foot house was occupied by five generations of the Mason and McQueen families – Thomas J. Mason's daughter married a McQueen. Present owners, the Siewerts, purchased the home in 1986 and spent six years restoring it and having it placed on The National Registry of Historic Places. They received an award for

outstanding restoration from East Tennessee Development District. Feather beds and working fireplaces await tired travelers, and a special feature, the smokehouse suite, offers a romantic hideaway. Outdoors, the Grecian swimming pool, a gazebo, hammock and wisteria-covered arbor provide a real get-away from the rest of the world.

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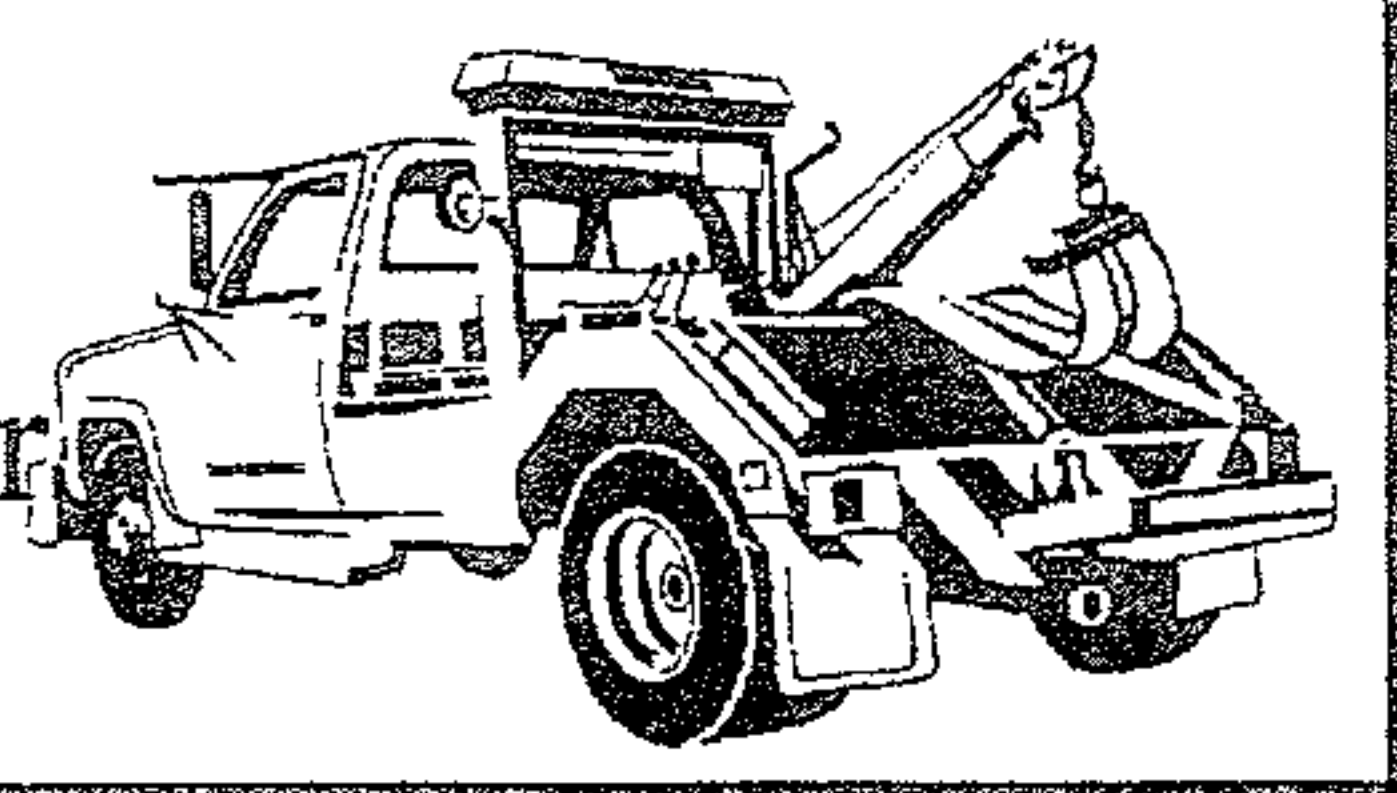
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gun

Paul Mercer, 27, Midland Arkansas, was charged with DUI, and Possession of a handgun while under the influence. Officer Benny Houser LPD, was dispatched to the America's Best Inn for a red vehicle was driving through the parking lot yelling at people and drove over the curb. Officer made contact with the vehicle matching the description in the Weigles parking lot. Officer made contact with the driver Paul Mercer, who stated he had been in a fight at the America's Best Inn and as soon as he sobered up he was going back to Arkansas. Mercer stated he had drank pint. Officer ask Mercer if he was injured and could perform sobriety test, he stated he was ok and just wanted to go home. Officer ask if he had any weapons on him, he stated he had a handgun in the vehicle. Mercer did poorly on sobriety test then

stated he needed to be check out . Mercer was transported to the ER where he was treated and released. Mercer was then transported to the Loudon Jail.

prison

2011 through August 2014. Barnett owned and operated Resolutions HealthCare, PLLC in Johnson City, Tenn., from which she issued unlawful prescriptions to Hendrix, Stanton, and other patients without proper medical examinations and for no legitimate medical purpose. Hendrix recruited friends, family members, and employees at his business, Rocky's Pizza, to become new patients of Barnett in order to obtain additional unlawful prescriptions. According to documents on file with the U.S. District Court, during the course of the conspiracy over 60,000 pills were illegally dispensed and distributed.

All three charged in the indictment have now pleaded guilty. In April 2016, Stanton was sentenced to 60

months in prison. Barnett is scheduled for the final sentencing on September 28, 2016. U.S. Attorney Nancy

S. Harr praised the hard work of law enforcement in this extensive investigation, stating "Oxycodone is a high-

ly addictive prescription medication, and the U.S. Attorney's Office takes cases in- see prison ctd. pg. 5

good to know your

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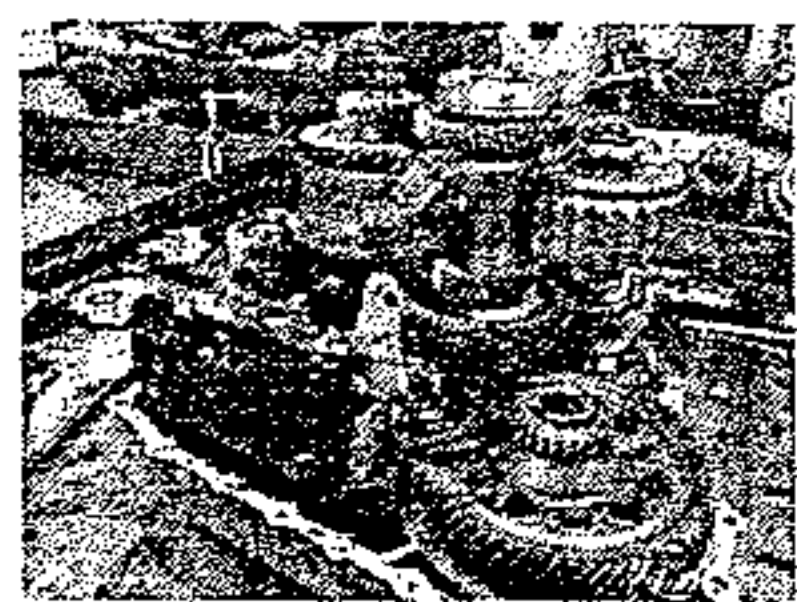
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prison ctd. from pg. 5

volving its unlawful distribution very seriously. We will continue to work together with the TBI and other law enforcement agencies to prosecute these types of offenses.”

The investigation was conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys David Gunn and Donald Wayne Taylor represented the United States.

Obituaries

John H. (Buck) Mitchell, 88, of Loudon, passed away July 25, 2016 at Ben Atchley Veterans Home in Knoxville. Buck was a member of Loudon United Methodist Church. He was also a 57 year member of the Tennessee Lodge # 204 F&AM, the American Legion for 38 years and the Loudon Lions club. Preceded in death by parents, John and Hazel (Rynes) Mitchell; brother, “Red” Mitchell; son, Randy Mitchell; sister-in-law, Betty Mitchell; and brother-in-law, Paul Chrisman. Survivors: sons, Mike and Gina Mitchell, of Knoxville, and Scott Mitchell, of Leviltown, PA; daughter, Tammy and Neil Morton, of Denver, CO; grandchildren, Bryan, Adam, Andrew, Sarah, and Stephen; sister, Tina Chrisman, of Sweetwater; brother, Henry and Pat Mitchell, of Maryville; and several nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank the caregivers at Ben Atchley Veterans Home who provided care for Buck the last four years. Funeral service will be 7:00 pm Tuesday, Loudon Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Walt Simmerman officiating. Masonic service provided by Tennessee Lodge # 204 F&AM. Graveside service 10:00 am, Wednesday, at Steekee Cemetery. Military Honors provided by the Loudon County Veterans Honor Guard. Family will receive friends Tuesday, 5:00 - 7:00 prior to the service, at Loudon Funeral Home.

Benjamin “Ben” Harrison Ward, 28, of Paint Rock, TN, went home to be with his Heavenly Father on July 23, 2016. A graduate of Midway High School and Boatswain’s Mate in the US Navy, Ben was a Plank Owner on the USS Arlington LPD24. Ben had recently re-enlisted after returning from a successful seven-month deployment to the Middle East. Ben was a kind and loving son and brother, who was soon to be promoted to 2nd Class Petty Officer in September. Among his accomplishments were; Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS), Division Damage Control Petty Officer (DCPO), Reaction Team Leader, Repair Party Investigator, Advanced Damage Control (DC), Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (11 meter RHIB) Coxswain, Small Boat Coxswain/Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (7 meter RHIB) coxswain and M-2 .50) Cal Heavy Machine Gun Operator. Ben was a very accomplished Sailor in a short period of time. Ben is preceded in death by grandparents: Frank and Barbara Ward, Paint Rock, TN; Dr. Kenneth R. Morgan and Joan M. Morgan of Fairfield, CT; Richard and Jackie Corbin of Clarksville, TN. Ben is survived by his parents: Marty (Nancy) Ward, Loudon, TN and Kathy (Greg) Corbin, Paint Rock, TN; sisters and brothers: Lorra (Skee) Orr, Murphy, NC, Jackie Corbin, Knoxville, TN, Amanda (Brian) Wasinger, and Aaron (Stacy) Robbins, Maryville, TN; grandparents, Warren and Bobbie Thompson, Maryville, TN. He is also survived by a host of loving aunts, uncles, cousins, and special friends.

Receiving of family and friends will take place at Loudon Funeral Home Loudon, TN, on Sunday, July 31 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. With funeral service to follow at 7:00 p.m. Family and friends will meet at the funeral home Monday August 1st at 11:15 AM for final viewing and motorcade from Loudon Funeral Home to the Tennessee Veterans Cemetery at 2200 E. Governor John Sevier Hwy. for graveside service at 1:30 PM. The Ward family would like to thank the US Navy and the local first responder community for their special care and support. Arrangements provided by Loudon Funeral Home.

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Department of Revenue as exempt from sales tax for this one weekend.

Consumers will not pay state or local sales tax on clothing, school and art supplies that cost \$100 or less per item and computers that cost \$1,500 or less. Tennessee had its first sales tax holiday in 2006.

This is a weekend when every little bit of savings adds up – from a few cents on some school supplies, to \$10 on a \$100 outfit or pair of shoes to almost \$150 on some computers.

Happy shopping and happy savings!

For more information about the sales tax holiday, see www.tntaxholiday.com.

Tips on Saving on Tax Free Weekend

Every family dreams of taking the most advantage of the up-coming tax free weekend. Here are The Daily Edition's advice for making the most of the savings.

- Know what is included in the tax free weekend savings. Some of it is a bit confusing – computers are included, but smartphones are not. Backpacks are included, but briefcases are not. Hiking boots and cowboy boots are exempt, but ski boots are not. In addition to diapers being exempt, some other surprising exemptions include corsets, choir robes, costumes, baby receiving blankets and bandanas. The list (at www.tntaxholiday.com) is long. Some exemptions, like diapers for

adults and children, and art supplies, will surprise you. Take time to familiarize yourself with the list before the weekend savings begin.

- Don't think the tax free weekend is just for families with children. Many of the items on the exempt list are things we all need and want, like computers, tennis shoes and clothes.

- Get organized before Friday. Take an inventory of what you have on hand and what you need. I'm talking about clothes for the school year, school supplies, etc. Make a list of what you plan to purchase. If you're not sure what you'll need for school supplies, lists are available at places like Walmart or may be obtained from your child's school.

- If you're looking to buy a computer or a tab-

let, this weekend is the perfect time. In some cases, the savings will be around \$100! The exemption is on computers that cost less than \$1,500, and there are always some great offers that give you a good deal, plus the tax advantage.

- Think ahead about other exempt items you will likely purchase over the next few months, such as Halloween costumes and school-related holiday stocking stuffers. Buy them during tax exempt weekend and you're ahead of the game. Planning is the key.

- Piggyback your coupons and store promotions with the tax savings to save even more. If you take advantage of promotions and coupons, you'll be saving even more money!

- Watch the register when they're ringing you up! Make sure you're

getting the tax free savings you're supposed to be getting. Every year, folks are charged tax on items that should be tax free, usually because the store isn't careful at the register. Be aware of what should be tax free and don't be afraid to speak up.

- Maximize your savings by using any "memberships" you might have. Supply stores like Office Max, Office Depot and Staples have membership savings programs on things like printer ink where you receive rewards for recycling. There's lots of money to be made doing something so simple as recycling your family's old printer cartridge.

- Know your prices. Don't buy something just because it's tax free weekend. Buy something because it's a real deal!

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