

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

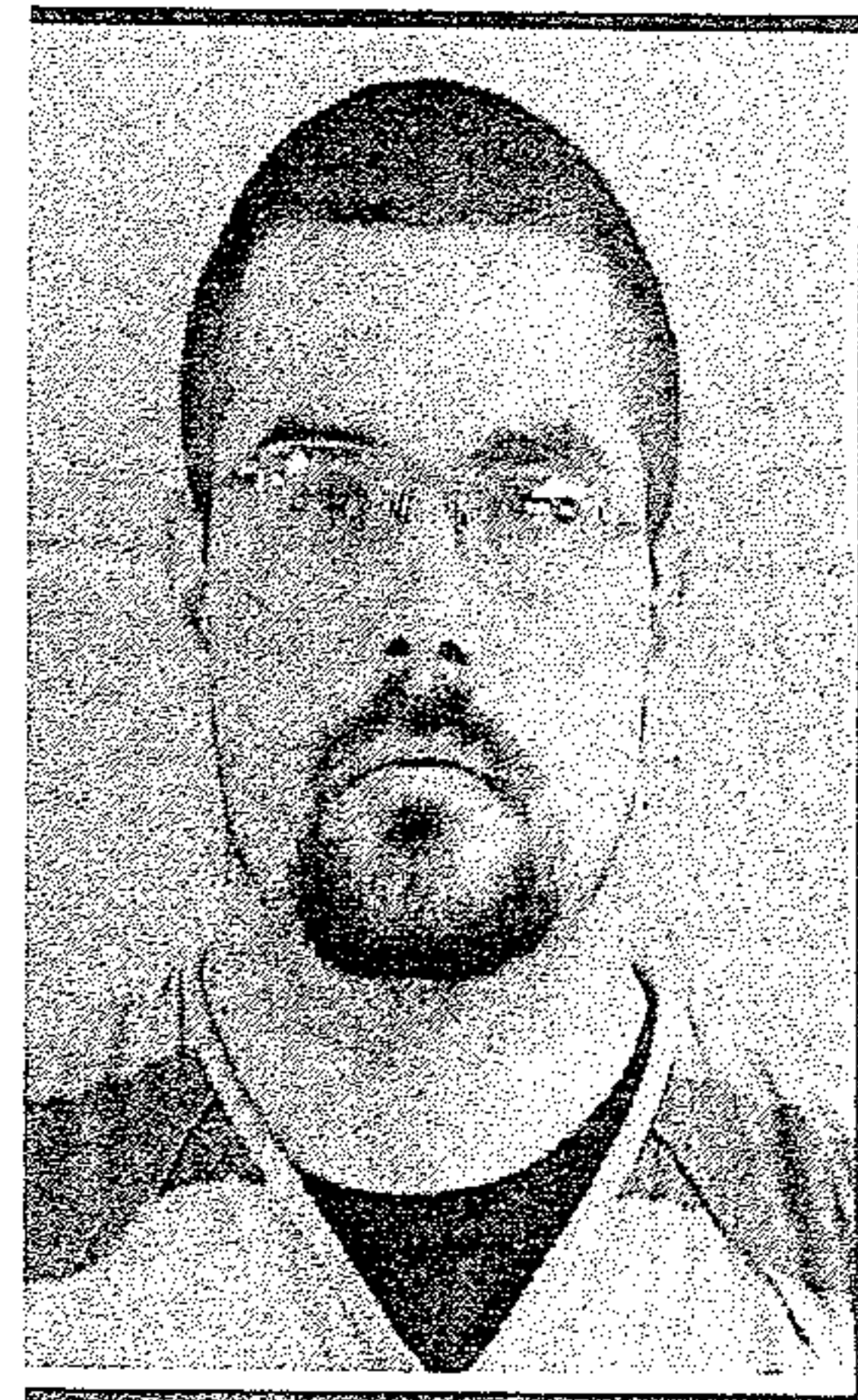
False imprisonment, Aggravated assault and more

Tanner Wilkerson, 24, Pine Top Street Lenoir City, was charged with False Imprisonment, Aggravated Assault, and Contraband in a Penal Institution. Deputy Craig Brewer LCSO, responded to Old Midway Road to a report of Tanner Wilkerson being in the owners residence and paranoid saying the police was after him and then he was walking around (see Assault pg. 2)

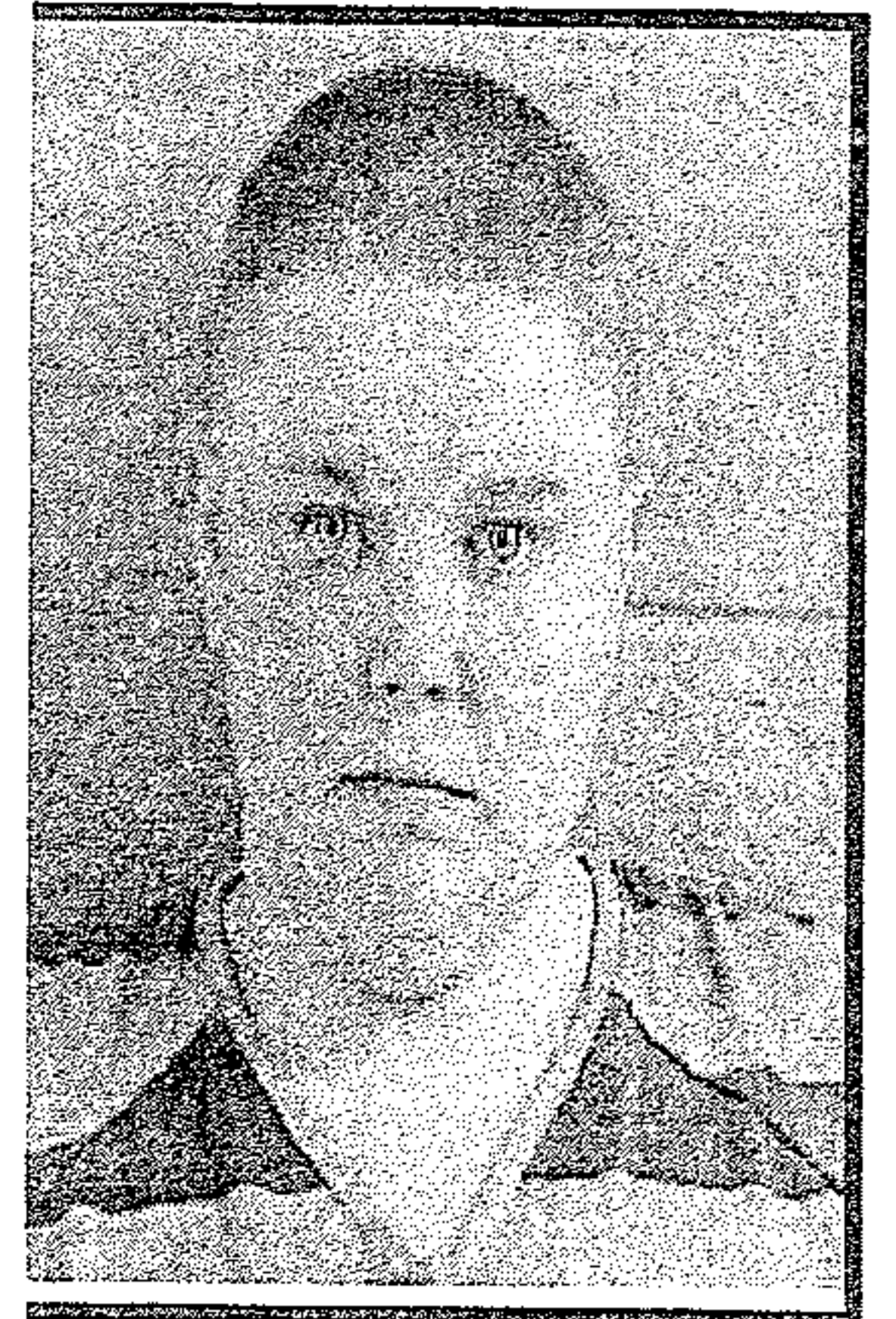


Tanner Wilkerson

Bright lights = Blue lights! 2 charged in stop



Chance Gattrell



Jonathan Moore

see LCSO pg. 3

Pharmaceutical Theft

\$60 Million Heist Largest in Connecticut History

In the middle of a powerful March nor'easter that was lashing the East Coast with rain and wind, a tractor-trailer backed into a loading dock at a secluded warehouse in Enfield, Connecticut. It was late on a Saturday night. Before dawn the next morning, thieves had made off with \$60 million worth of pharmaceuticals—the largest theft in the state's history.

The details of the heist—including a mysterious tip called in to local police a few days later—have all the mark-

ings of a Hollywood whodunit, but what's truly remarkable about the 2010 theft from the Eli Lilly warehouse is the investigative work that went into recovering the stolen goods, catching the thieves, and sending them to prison.

The small town of Enfield is about 20 miles north of Hartford. "You would never guess there was a warehouse there with millions of dollars of pharmaceuticals inside," said Special Agent Damian Platosh, who

see theft pg. 5

Knoxville police arrest man for indecent exposure at McKay's Books



David Allen-Drew Via

A man was arrested for indecent exposure after visiting a Knoxville bookstore Mon-

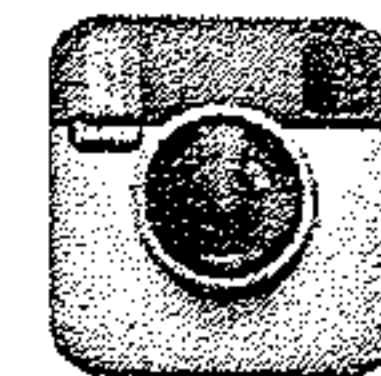
see exposure pg. 7

Domestic charge follows call to police



Thomas Nanni

(see domestic pg. 4)



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Verse of the Day

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. — 1 Corinthians 15:19

Obituaries

see inside

Wazzup

The World Series of Poker Circuit Event returns to Cherokee this week. Are you feeling lucky?

Weather

Today: Cloudy early with

partial sunshine expected late. High 78F.

Tonight: Clear skies. Low 51F.

Thursday Partly cloudy skies in the morning will give way to cloudy skies during the afternoon.

Slight chance of a rain shower. High near 80F.

Thursday Night A few clouds. Low around 55F.

Horoscopes

Aries 3/21-4/19

You aren't one to let random

(Continued on page 6)

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Assault

with a case and talking to the walls. On arrival the owner of the residence had run to the neighbors house to call the police and advised the Deputy he had a case resembling that of one for a shot-

gun and the door to the residence should be unlocked. On making entry into the residence, while clearing the residence Deputy open a bedroom door where he saw Tanner in and he was there and had a knife up above (see assault ctd. pg. 7)

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The Daily Edition also serves Monroe, Knox, Anderson, Roane and Blount counties and serves 30,000 readers weekly. Send mail to PO Box 1240, Lenoir City TN 37771. 865-771-2249. email: dan1204us@yahoo.com

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LCSO

Brittany Darnell, 26, Sunny Lane Knoxville, was charged with Simple Possession.

Chance Gattrell, 31, Daventry Drive Maryville, was charged with Simple possession and Assisting other Agency.

Deputy Kevin Dailey LCSO, observed a blue vehicle on Hwy 95 at Craigs Chapel with its high beams on. Deputy initiated a traffic stop at Hwy 95 and Morganton where he came in contact with the back passengers Brittany Darnell and Chance Gattrell. After checking sub-

see LCSOoctd. pg. 4



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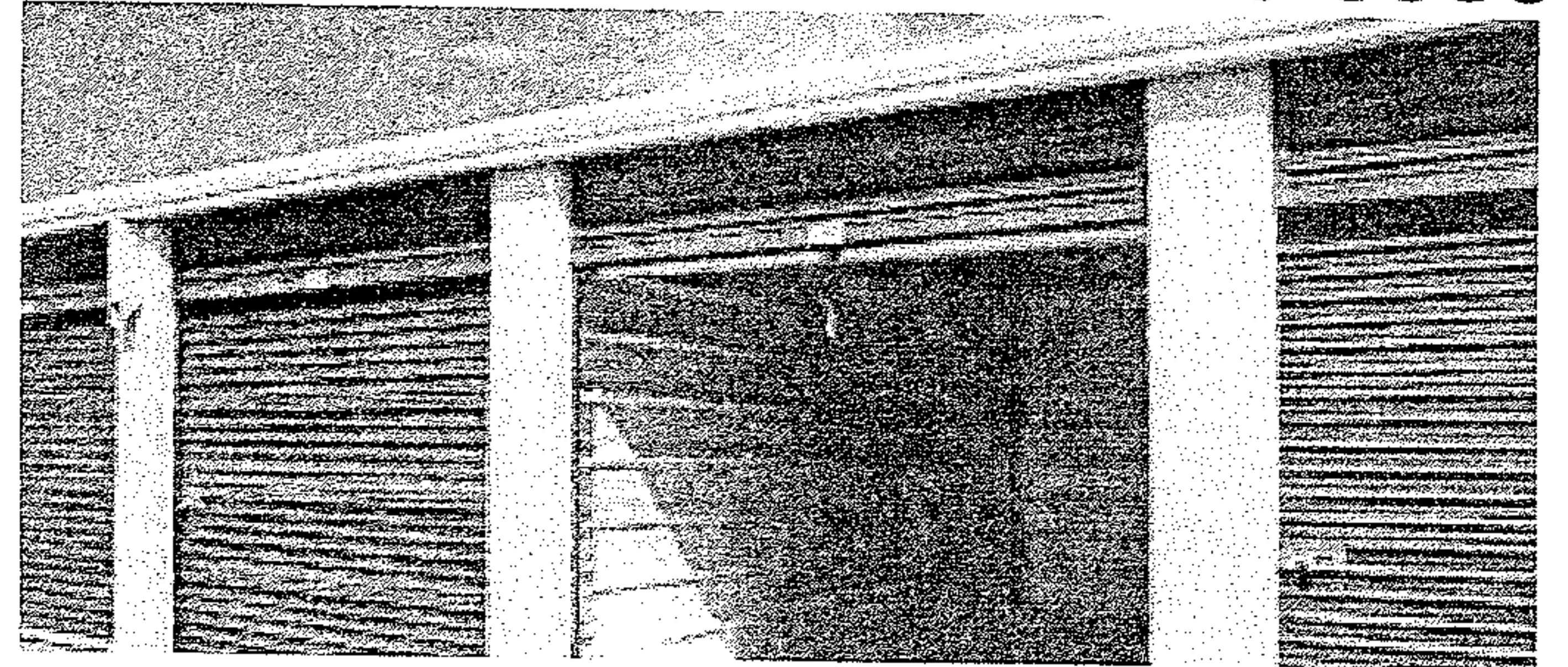
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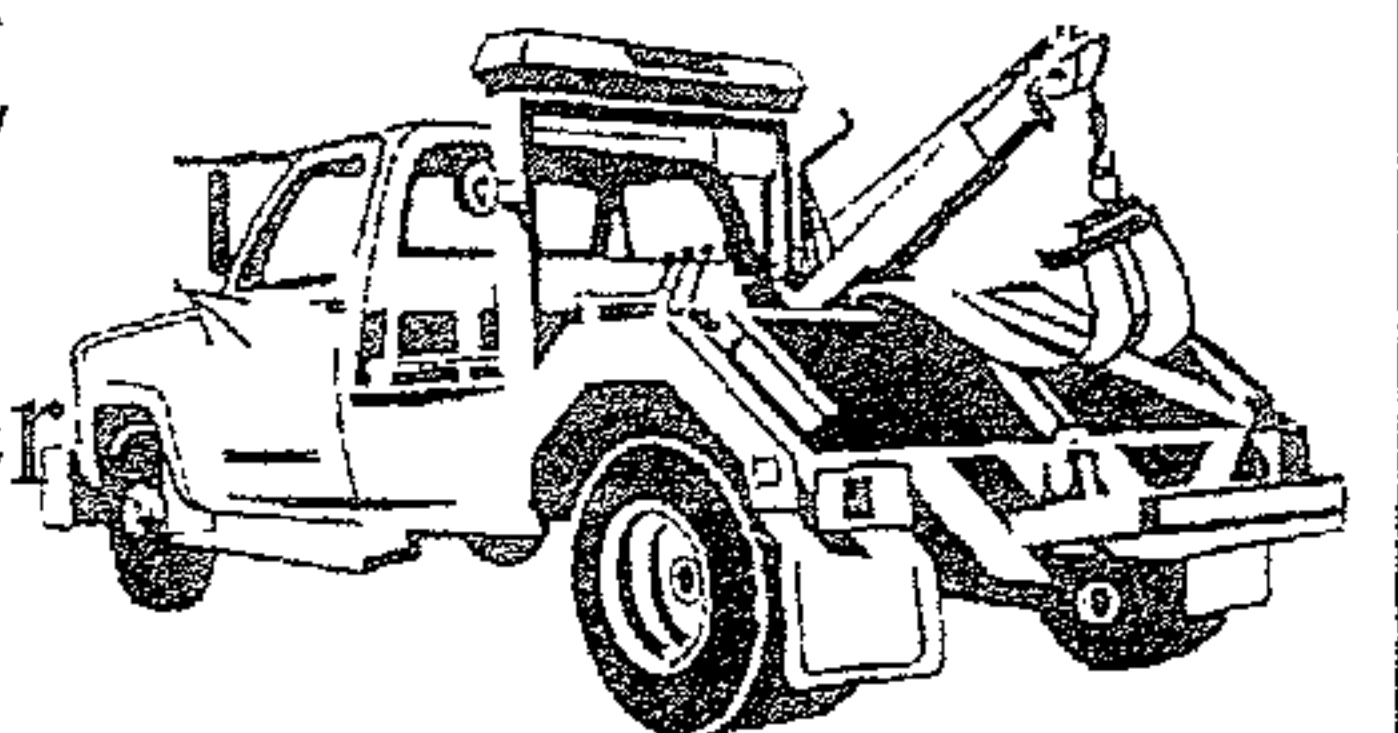
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Domestic

Thomas Nanni, 35, Galyon Road Philadelphia, was charged with Domestic Assault. Deputy Lance Anderson LCSO, was dispatched to Galyon road in reference to a domestic. Upon arrival Deputy made contact with the victim who stated that he and Thomas Nanni had been in the kitchen intoxicated and having hallucination. The victim stated he confronted Thomas about it and Thomas became upset and started assaulting victim. The victim stated Thomas charged victim tackled him to the floor and punched him in the face. Victim

stated they had to drag Thomas off the victim. Deputy did observe a torn shirt and red marks on victim face. Thomas Nanni was placed under arrest.

LCSO ctd. from pg. 3

jects Gattrell had active warrants out of Blount Co. As Deputy had Gattrell exit the vehicle Deputy noticed a small bag of

crystal meth between him and Brittany. After detaining Gattrell, Deputy had Darnell exit the vehicle Deputy located a lottery ticket with crystal meth rooled inside in Darnell's hat band. After speaking with Darnell she stated she had a needle and meth pipe in her buttocks area, stating the needle was hers but the pipe was Gattrell. Mr. Gattrell admitted that the meth

was his. Both were placed under arrest the driver was warned of driving with high beams.

Theft

supervised the investigation of the theft from the FBI's New Haven Division. Among a select group of criminals who specialize in cargo theft, however, the facility's location was well known.

These particular cargo thieves—part of a criminal group known as the Cuban Mob—were experts at their trade. They targeted facilities that stored drugs, cigarettes, and consumer electronics such as cell phones. They understood how

see Theft ctd. pg. 5

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 Lenoir City Budget Committee and Rescheduling Purchasing Committee Meeting
 The Lenoir City Budget Committee will hold the following meetings at City Hall with the purpose of preparation of the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget:

- Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 1:30 P.M.
- Monday, April 17, 2017 at 1:30 P.M.
- Monday, May 1, 2017 at 1:30 P.M.
- Thursday, May 11, 2017 immediately following regularly scheduled Purchasing Committee Meeting at 9:30 A.M.
- Monday, June 5, 2017 at 1:30 P.M.

Furthermore, the Purchasing Committee Meeting scheduled for April 20, 2017 has been rescheduled and will be held on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 1:00 P.M.
 The public is encouraged to attend.
 Thank you, Tony R. Aikens Mayor

Theft ctd. from pg. 4

to conduct surveillance, were proficient at recognizing and disarming alarm systems, and they knew how to load and move freight.

On the night of March 13, 2010, one of the

thieves stashed a ladder in the rear parking lot of the warehouse. Later that night, after checking for security guards, the tractor-trailer pulled in and two of the burglars carried the ladder to the building. They climbed atop the warehouse and

cut a hole in the roof. Using ropes, they lowered themselves into the facility and disabled the alarm system.

"They knew exactly how that type of alarm system was set up," Platosh said. To anyone monitoring the system

remotely, it looked as if the storm had knocked out the power. What warehouse employees discovered when they arrived at work was the ladder, the hole in the roof, some discarded tools, and the alarm system beeping as if it need-

ed a battery.

They also discovered the absence of 40 shrink-wrapped pallets of pharmaceuticals, including thousands of boxes of popular medicines such as Cymbalta and Prozac. "They took the cream of the crop," Platosh said, "and they loaded the exact number of pallets that would fit into the trailer. They knew exactly what they were doing."

Because of the magnitude of the crime, the Enfield Police Department called the FBI for assistance. As news of the theft spread in the media, an anonymous caller tipped the police that the people involved in the heist had Cuban names, and one of the thieves was known as El Gato—the cat.

"We started to reach out to our Bureau counterparts who were knowledgeable about see Theft ctd. pg. 7

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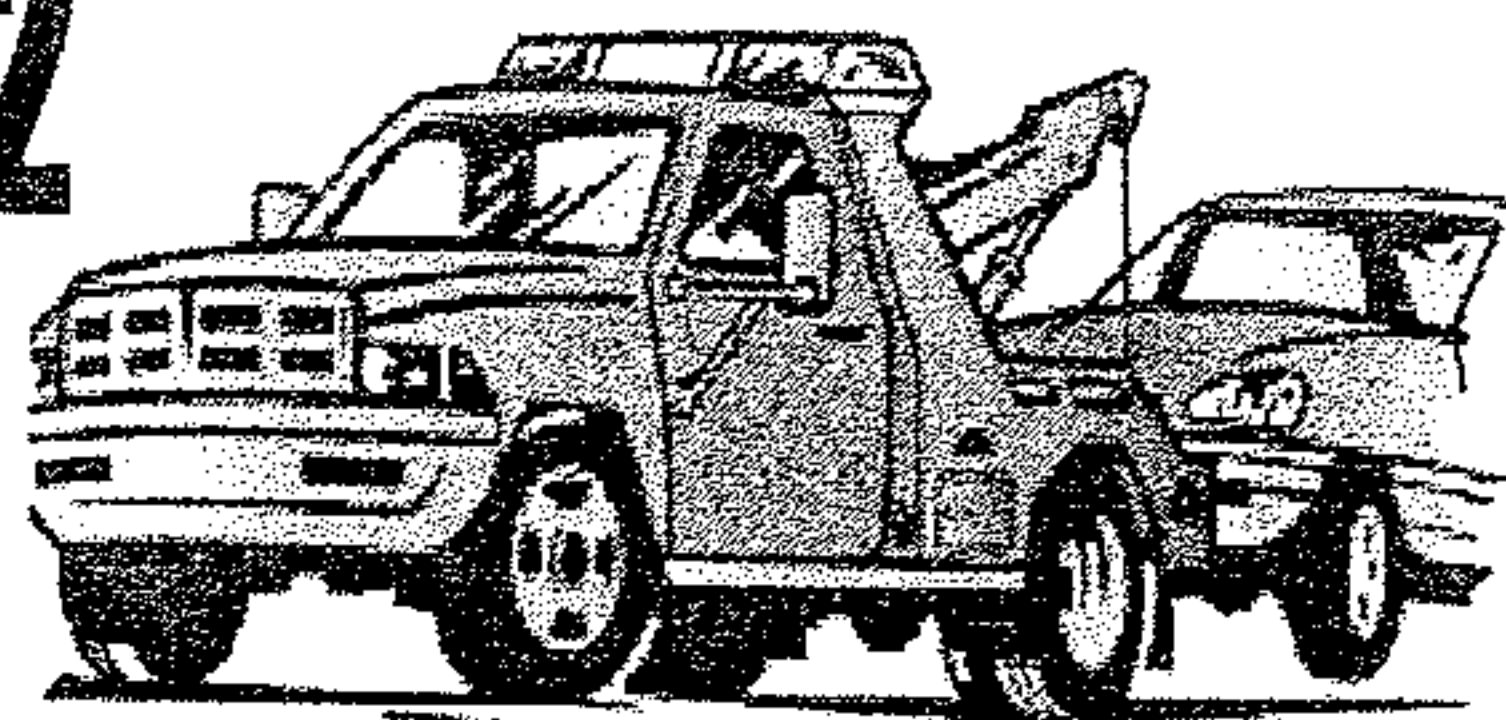
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Public Notice

The Loudon County Commission will have a special called meeting on April 17th at the County Office Building immediately following the workshop to approve a notary public bond and to approve employee health insurance provider for fiscal year 17-18

Public Notice

The Loudon County Jail Construction Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 12:00 PM at the Justice Center to discuss plans for the jail addition.

theft ctd. from pg. 5

cargo theft and the Cuban Mob," Platosh said. Subject matter experts in the FBI's Miami Division, which has a cargo theft task force, suggested that the thieves probably used a "follow car" in addition to the tractor-trailer, and that they would have likely headed south after the burglary and driven about 300 miles before needing to stop and rest.

"Armed with that information," Platosh said, "we started doing a logical investigation. It was classic gumshoe work—finding the right point on the map, checking hotels, car rentals, airline reservations, cell phone tower analysis, that sort of thing."

At the same time, the

burglary tools—a particular kind of cutter, work gloves, and other items—were carefully examined. "Our agents were able to determine that that exact combination of gear left at the warehouse was purchased the night before at a big-box hardware store in Flushing Meadows, New York," Platosh explained.

FBI agents and analysts trained in data analysis of electronic transactions also zeroed in on the follow car and where it might have been rented. And then another item left behind at the crime scene—a plastic water bottle—broke the case wide open. DNA on the bottle was matched to a Cuban individual living in Florida with a

history of cargo theft.

All of which helped to identify the four suspects involved in the theft: Amaury Villa, Amed Villa, Yosmany Nunez, and Alexander Marquez. The subjects had split up in Connecticut after the robbery and reunited in Florida, where the drugs were transferred into self-storage units in the Miami area.

Agents in Miami put the stolen merchandise under surveillance. "We thought it might be six months or more before the thieves tried to fence the drugs," Platosh said, "so we used that time trying to tie the subjects to other open cargo theft cases."

In October 2011, authorities raided a Florida storage facility and recovered the drugs stolen from the Enfield warehouse. Amed Villa and his co-conspirators were charged with that crime as well as other thefts, including:

\$13.3 million in pharmaceuticals from the GlaxoSmithKline warehouse in Virginia in 2009;

More than \$8 million in cigarettes and a cargo trailer from an Illinois warehouse in 2010;

Approximately \$7.8 million in cell phones and tablets from a Florida warehouse in 2011; and

More than \$1.5 million in cigarettes from a Kentucky warehouse in 2011.

During each of the thefts, Amed Villa and his crew gained entry into the warehouse through the roof, disabled the alarm system, and loaded the stolen goods into tractor-trailers. Villa's DNA was identified on items discarded during the thefts in Connecticut, Illinois, Florida, and Virginia.

Amed Villa pleaded guilty to several counts of theft related to the robberies, and in December 2016, the 51-year-old was sentenced to seven years in federal prison. His three co-conspirators had previously pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the Eli Lilly warehouse theft and are in prison.

"This investigation started in Connecticut and branched out around the country," Platosh said. "The combined effort drew on all of the FBI's investigative strengths and the depth of its resources. It was a great team effort," he said, adding his thanks to the Enfield Police Department, the FBI's Miami Division, and the Major Theft Unit at FBI Headquarters for their efforts.

"These criminals went on a \$100 million robbery spree," he said, "but in the end they were brought to justice."

Exposure

day.

A mother says she saw David Allen-Drew Via walking down an aisle at McKay's around 5:30 p.m. The suspect was wearing all black and was exposing himself to young girls, according to the report.

According to the arrest report, a child says the suspect approached her with his pants unzipped and his genitals exposed. The child walked away and told her sister. Another mother says the suspect tried to approach her daughter before she moved her daughter out of the way.

Law enforcement said they found the suspect in one of the aisles and told him to zip up his pants before

arresting him.

Via has been arrested on similar charges in the past. He was charged in February 2016 with exposing himself to a 10-year-old girl inside the Lenoir City Walmart where he worked at the time.

assault ctd. from pg. 2

his shoulder and in a stabbing position then took a step towards Deputy. Deputy gave commands for him to drop the knife and he did after 2 or 3 commands. On getting the owner back to the residence he told Deputy that when Wilkerson came in he was being paranoid and scaring him. Wilkerson then ordered victim into the bathroom and hallway and told victim to get down on his knees and be quiet. Wilkerson heard something in the back of the house and went to see what it was victim ran out of the house and called police. Wilkerson was placed under arrest. At the jail Wilkerson was ask if he had anything on him. After a search Deputy located a syringe in Wilkerson wallet.

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