

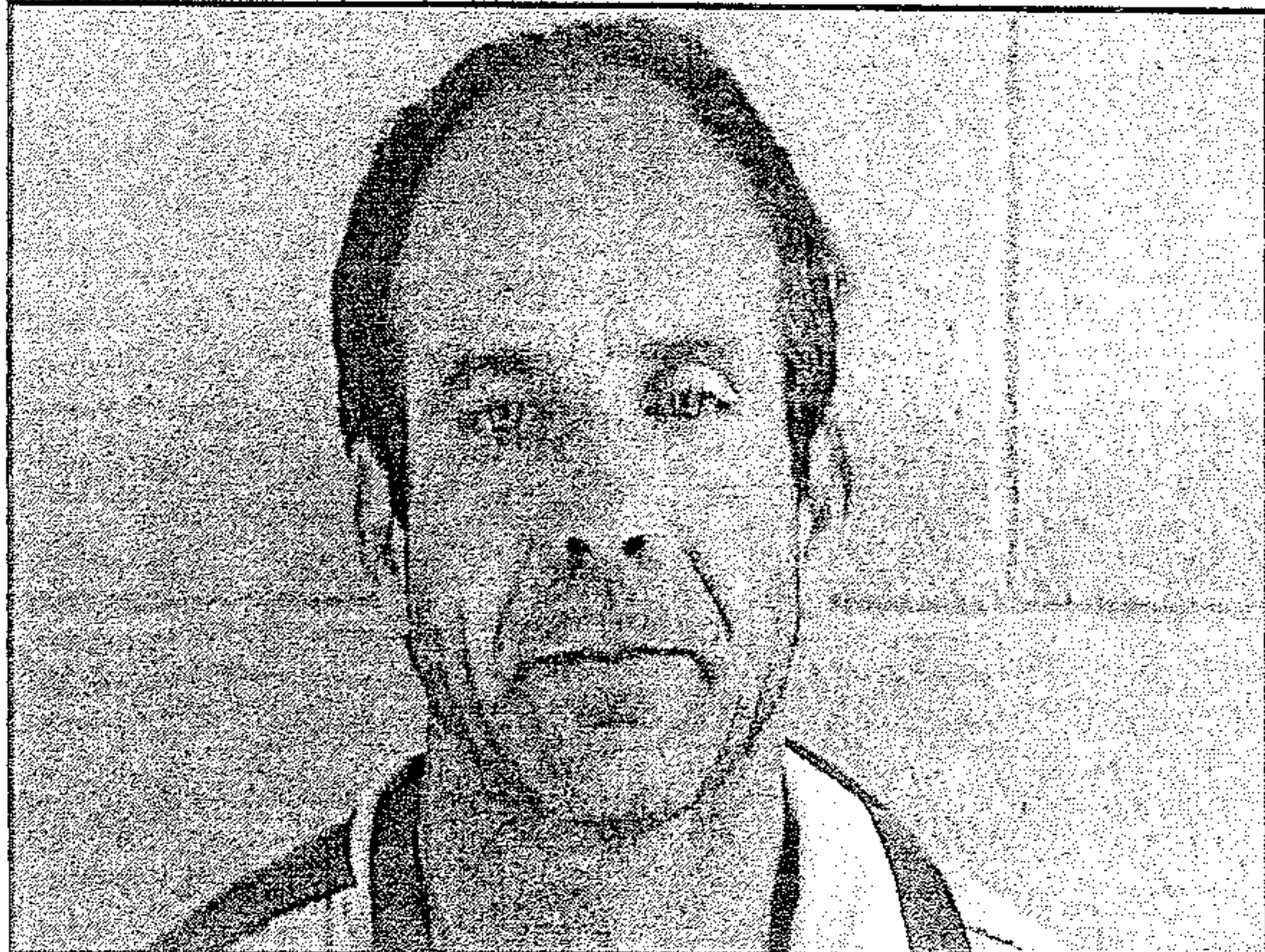
Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, July 7, 2017

Biker speeds through packed Bimbo's parking lot during chase

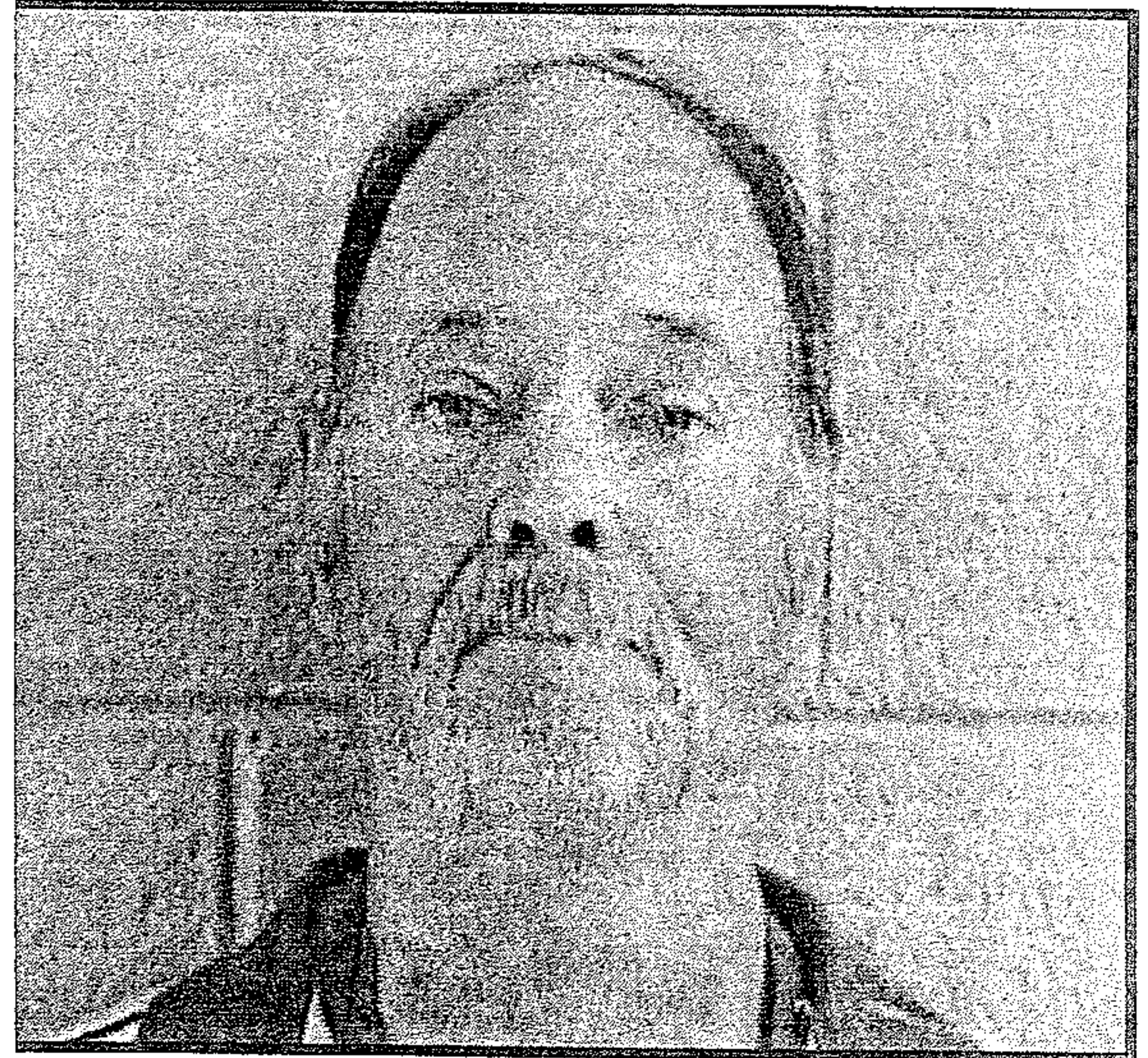
Thomas Wright, 43, 2nd Way Florida, was charged with Theft of property, Evading Arrest, Reckless Endangerment, and Driving without a Valid License. Deputy Brad Rayfield CSO, was on routine patrol South bound on I-75 near the 84 mm when he observed a motorcycle in front of him not



Thomas Wright

(see Biker pg. 2)

You'll be sorry for arresting me!



Randall Cobb

see LCSO pg. 3

High-Tech Theft

Gang Stole Jeeps to Sell Across the Border

Nine members of a Tijuana-based motorcycle gang are facing criminal charges for their roles in a brazen high-tech scheme to steal more than 150 Jeep Wranglers and motorcycles in the San Diego, California area to sell across the border in Mexico.

According to the charges announced on May 30, members of the Hooligans motorcycle gang canvassed San Diego County

looking for specific Jeeps based on the model type and accessories. The gang—a transnational criminal organization with members in the U.S. and Tijuana—was responsible for about \$4.5 million in vehicle thefts dating back to 2014.

“The joy ride is over for these Hooligans,” Deputy U.S. Attorney Mark Conover said in a statement following the arrests of two of the al-

see theft pg. 5

DUI follows THP traffic stop



Jason Wilder

see THP pg. 7

All day argument ends with charge in Loudon



Lonnie Schaffer

(see DV pg. 4)

Verse of the Day

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
— John 17:3

Obituaries

see inside **Wazzup**

Well it's official after the local parades looks like we got us an election coming up in 2018!

Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy skies during the morning hours followed by thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 86F. Tonight: Partly cloudy with late night showers or thunderstorms. Low

around 70F.

Friday: Partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms in the morning. High 86F. Friday Night Partly cloudy with late night showers or thunder-

(Continued on page 6)



Biker

wearing a helmet. Deputy initiated a traffic stop with blue lights and sirens for no helmet, the motorcycle started running at a high rate of speed. The Georgia tag on the bike was ran and came back to a Harley Davidson but the bike in question was not a Harley. The bike kept running at speeds approx. 90 mph in and out of traffic all the way to the 81 mm get-

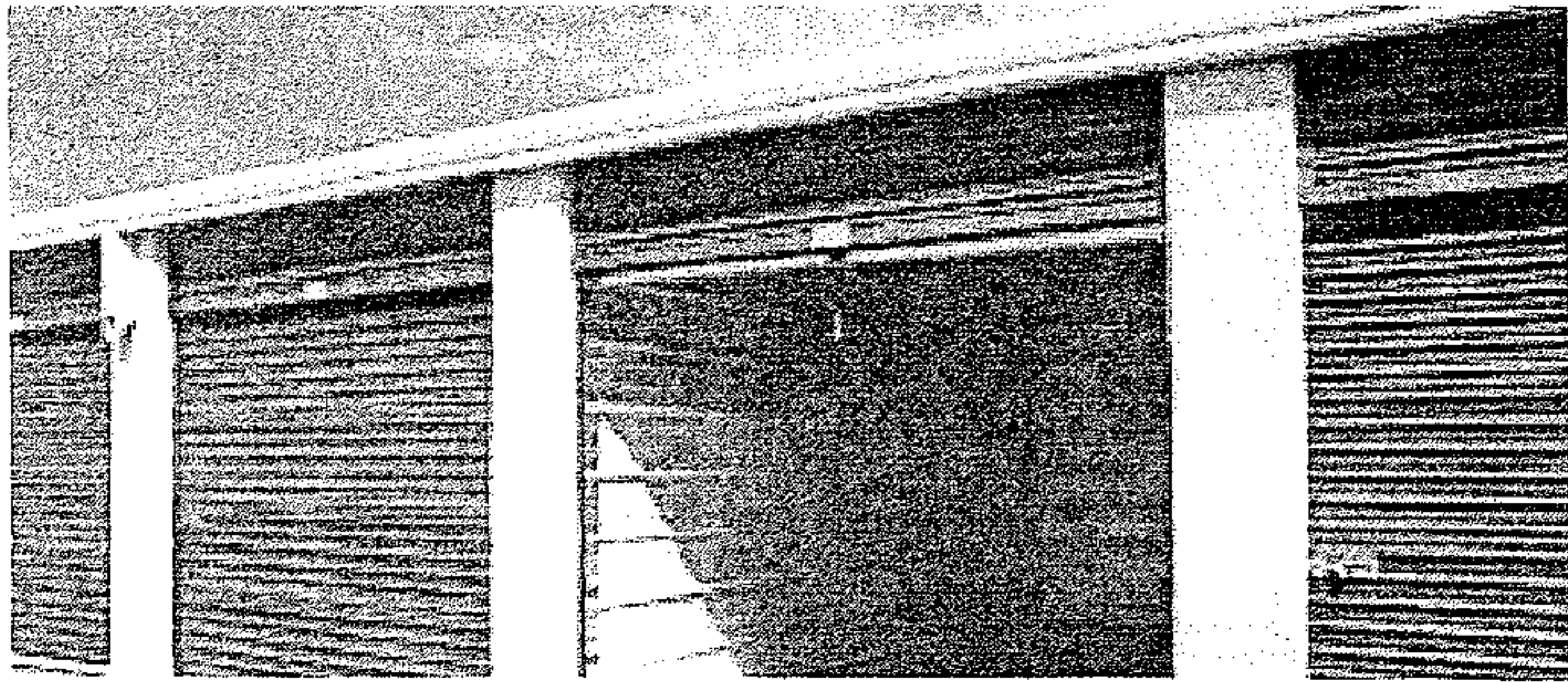
ting off the interstate, still evading the Officer on Hwy 321 circling the parking lot at Bimbo's where several adults and children were in the parking lot trying to get out of the way. The subject still evading pulled back onto 321 going the wrong direction towards Hwy 70 on the wrong side of the roadway. The bike turned left on cut-thru road and running into a driveway

on Old Hwy 95 and spun out in the grass and took off on foot. Deputy caught the male about 50 yards behind the residence, and taken into custody. The tag on the bike came back to male out of Georgia. The tag in

the males backpack went on the bike he was riding, the tag was ran and came back stolen. The male was identified as Thomas Wright. The bike was stolen out of Ohio. Wright was a inmate in Florida, and California.

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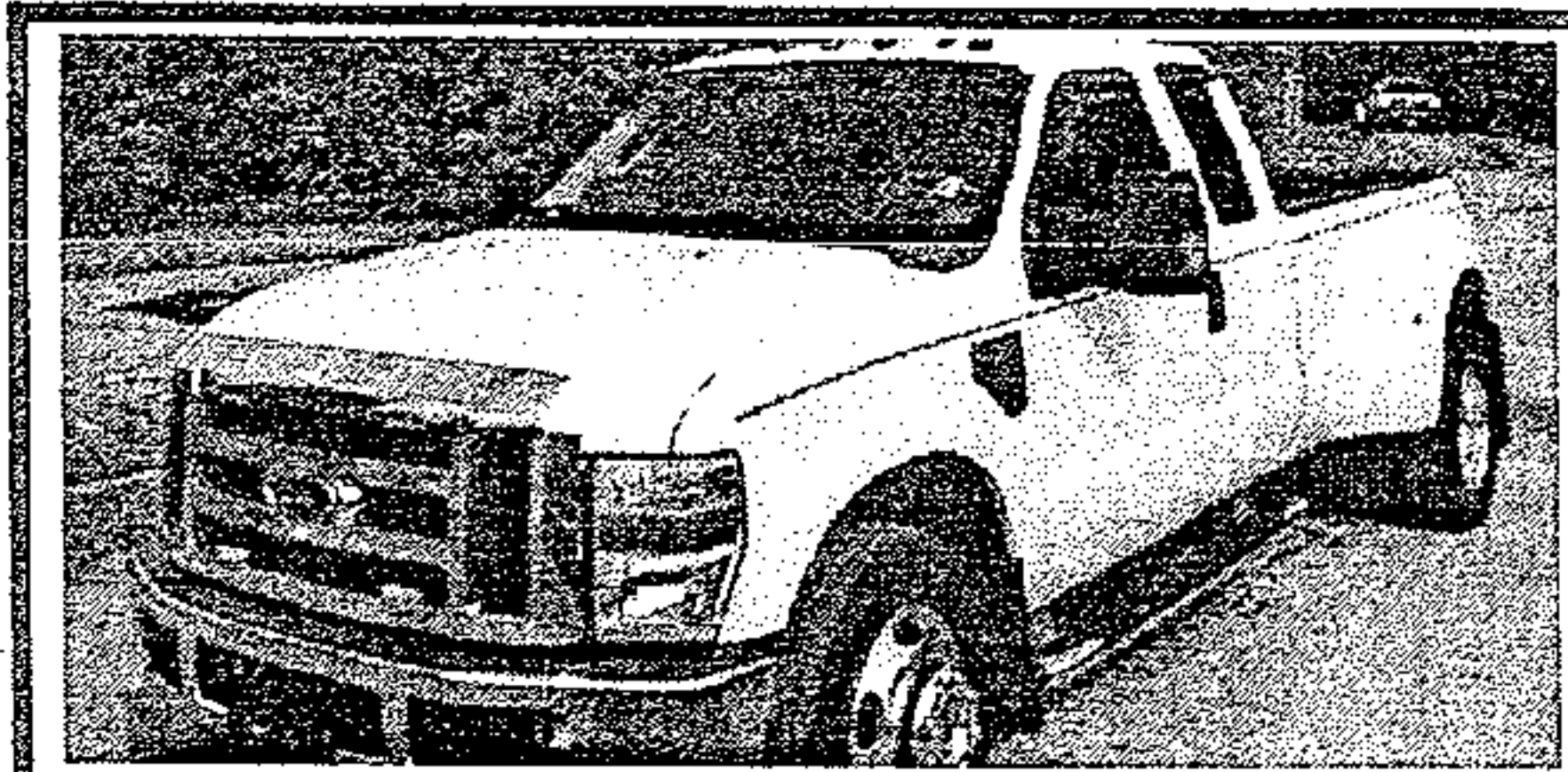
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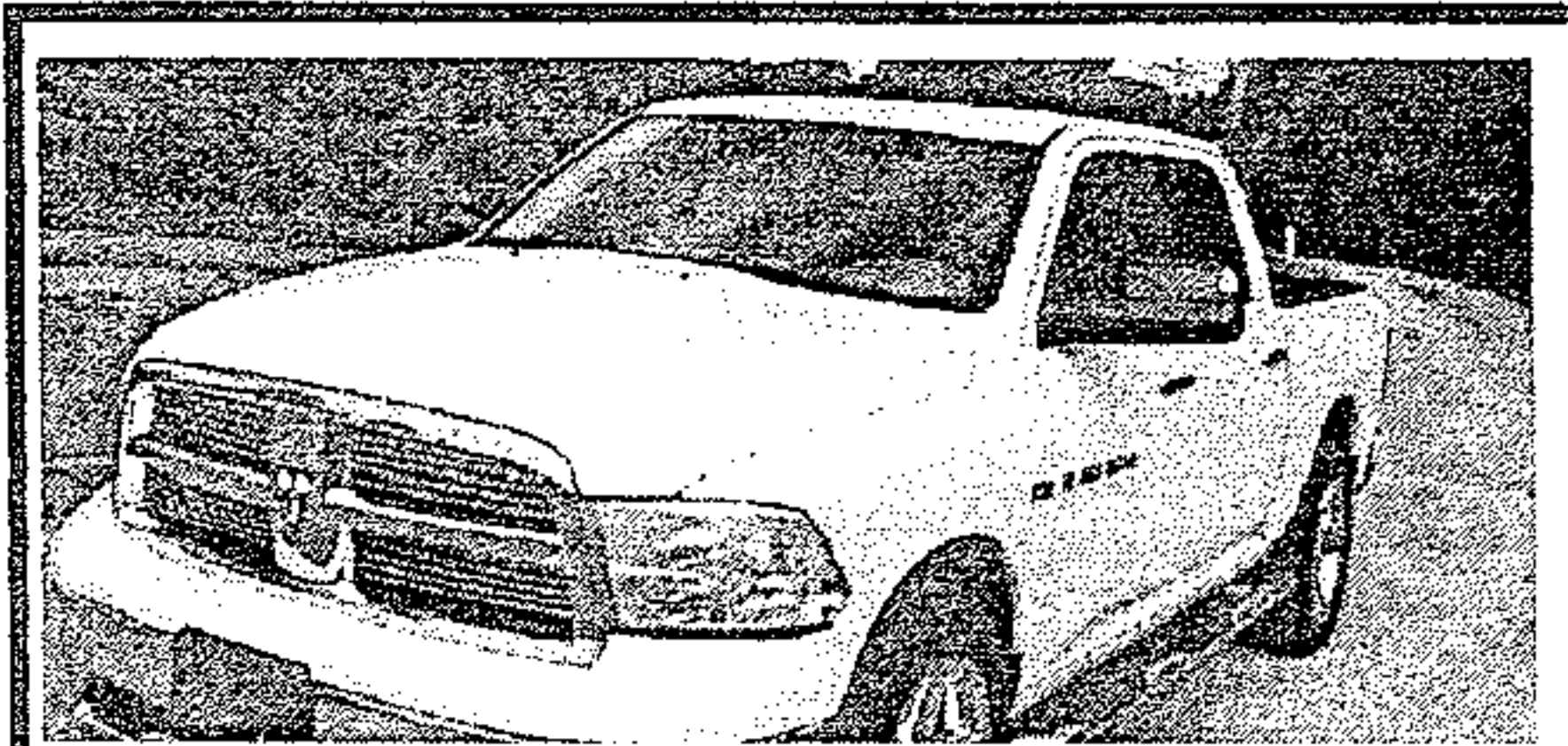
2011 Nissan Pathfinder Luggage Rack, Back Up Camera, Tow PKG, PW, PL, PS,



2008 Ford F350 V10, Auto, Dually, Leather, Heated & Cooled Seats, 5th Wheel Compatible, PW, PL



2012 Jeep Liberty Alloy Wheels, Luggage Rack, V6, Auto, A/C, Low Miles, Back-Up Camera



2012 Dodge Ram 5.7 V8, 4x4, Remote Start, Flip Up Tow Mirror, Bed Liner, Tow PKG, Chrome



2007 Mazda RX8 Alloy Wheels, Sporty, 6 Spd, Sunroof, PW, PL, Bose Premium Speakers



2014 Chevy Captiva 49k, PS, PW, PL, V6, Auto Alloy Wheels, Luggage

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LCSO

Randall Cobb, 59, Bel-leaire Drive Farragut, was charged with Public Intox-ication. Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, responded to a call of a intoxicated person at the Ace Hardware. Upon arrival Deputy encountered a white male staggering in circles by the front door. The male re-

fused to identify himself. The male had a strong odor of a alcoholic beverage coming from his person, was slurring in speech, and had red blood-shot eyes. Deputy placed the male under arrest for PI. Upon searching the male a identifi-cation for the Broward County Sheriff Office and a badge, as

well as his Tn. driver license were inside his pocket. The name was Randall Cobb. He admitted he was Cobb, and stated would be sorry for arresting him. Mr. Cobb was

transported to the Loudon Jail. Mr. Cobb was arrested in Knox. Co. in May for Aggravated As-sault, Resisting Arrest, Evading Arrest, Theft, and Reckless En-dangerment.



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DV

Lonnie Schaffer, 32, Union Street Loudon, was charged with Domestic Assault.

Officer Brandon Nix LPD, was dispatched to Union Street for a possible physical domestic. Dispatch advised victim had called and stated her brother had hit her. Upon my arrival Officer made contact with victim. The victim stated, Lonnie Schaffer had been arguing off and on all day. Victim stated she was outside sitting on the front steps talking to her mother. Victim stated Mr. Schaffer was also outside, and while outside they began to argue. At this time Mr. Schaffer attempted to sit down beside victim, but accidentally sat on her feet. Victim stated she moved her feet while the two continued to argue. At this time Mr. Schaffer did strike victim on the left side of her face with a closed fist, leaving a red and bruised area which Officer witnessed. When asked Mr. Schaffer stated he did hit victim

during the argument. Mr. Schaffer was then placed into custody and transported to Loudon County Jail. When asked, witness stated she did not see what happened.

Obituaries

James Allen Nix, age 53 of Sweetwater, passed away Thursday, July 29th, 2017.

Known by family and friends as Jamie and "Bubba" to the kids, he was born to the late Aubrey Lee and Goldie Irene (Phillips) Nix. He was a candy maker for more than 20 years for the Blanton Candy Company, Sweetwater. He enjoyed working on his old 1970 Dodge Charger and was an avid collector of KISS and Evil Knievel memorabilia.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his nephew, Scott.

Survivors include his wife of 23 years, Yvette Fridley Nix, Sweetwater; children, Jonathon Nix, Ryan and Michael Smallwood; grandchildren, Trinity and Isaac Nix; brother, Kenneth Nix; sister, Pam Traylor; sisters in-law, Katrina

Neuhard (and fiancée Donnie Erickson), and Melinda Puckett; brother in-law, Larry Grooms; nieces and nephews, Jessica Nix, Ashley, Devin and Jared Neuhard, Tori and Mitchell Puckett, Kevin Grooms and special former brother in law, Kelly Neuhard.

Services honoring and remembering Jamie will be held 11:30 AM Saturday, July 1st in McGill Click Chapel with Rev. Gail Fridley officiating. Interment to follow in Sweetwater Valley Memorial Park. Jamie struggled with cancer which spread throughout his body and ultimately took his life. The family has asked that in place of floral or charitable gifts that financial donations may be made to the funeral home to help during this difficult time. The family will receive friends 10:00 — 11:30 AM Saturday prior to the service at McGill Click Funerals & Cremations, 1366 Hwy 72 N, Loudon

Sammie Joe Lowe, 78 of Cleveland, passed away Thursday, June 29, 2017. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank "Roadman"

and Laura (True) Lowe; sisters, Nora and Dora Lowe; brothers, Jimmy, Charlie, Amos, Bill and Frank Lowe. Survivors include his daughters, Sandra and Cindy Lowe, of Calhoun; sister, Lucy (J.T.) Letterman, of Loudon; nephew, Billy (Pamela) Lowe, of Loudon; and grandchildren, nieces and neph-

ews. Funeral service will be 7:00 pm Saturday, Loudon Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Anthony Sutton officiating. Interment 11:00 AM, Sunday, Roberson Cemetery. The family will receive friends 5:00 - 7:00 pm, prior to the service on Saturday. Loudon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



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Theft

leged gang members. Three of the nine suspects are in custody; the rest are fugitives believed to be in Mexico.

Thieves are seen on

security video stealing a Jeep from a home in Rancho Bernardo, California on September 26, 2014.

Court documents in the case read like a Hollywood script: Gang leaders selected

the cars to steal, then "scouts" scoured the streets to find the desired cars and retrieve the vehicle identification numbers. With that information in hand, the leaders would get replacement keys cut.

When the thieves returned at night to steal the vehicles, they arrived in groups—often two would work on the car while another stood lookout in a getaway car. One would open the hood to disable the

horn and flashing lights while the other opened the driver's door with the new key. He then plugged a handheld device into the car's diagnostic port to program the replacement key's microchip to turn off the alarm and operate the car. With the car now under the thief's control, he quietly drove it away, followed by his accomplices, bound for Tijuana.

It wasn't until September 26, 2014 that the Regional Auto Theft Task Force, which includes 14 law enforcement agencies and the FBI, caught a break when the theft of a Jeep Wrangler was captured on home security video in Rancho Bernardo. The grainy early morning footage shows three men stealing the vehicle by disabling the alarm and using a key and a handheld device to turn on the engine. The drive-way theft took less than two minutes. Further investigation revealed a car dealership in Mexico provided the proprietary information for "replacement" keys in nearly 20 of the Jeep thefts.

"The FBI, along with our law enforcement partners, will continue to work day and night to stop these large-scale international crime rings," said Eric Birnbaum, special agent in charge of the FBI's San Diego Field Office.

In addition to laying out details of the case, court records reveal the bravado among the thieves, who coordinated their schemes and

see Theft ctd. pg. 7

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THP

Jason Wilder, 29, Dogwood Glove Lane Powell, was charged with DUI, and Driving on Revoked/Suspended License. Trooper Paul Clendenen THP, stopped a red vehicle for not wearing a safety belt. Trooper observed the driver Jason Wilder to have blood shot eyes and an odor of marijuana. Wilder stated he had smoked the night before and was prescribed Zoloft. Wilder performed poorly on sobriety test and was placed under arrest. Dispatch advised Wilder license were revoked for DUI out of Knoxville.

theft ctd. from pg. 5 bragged on social media. In one exchange in 2015, according to court documents, one

subject commented to a co-conspirator on Facebook about his prolific thefts in the U.S.

"You've already cleaned those poor people up," the subject wrote.

"They don't leave me anything outside anymore. Only garage. I have to go around jumping fences and walls," the co-conspirator responded.

"Hahaha, even with that they can't stop us," the first subject wrote back.

Seven of the suspects charged on May 30 are from Tijuana; the other two are from San Diego and Imperial Beach, California. They range in age from 20 to 33. They are all charged with conspiracy to commit transportation

of stolen vehicles in foreign commerce and face up to five years in prison if convicted.

Teen charged with indictment

Adam Walker, 18, Nelson Street Philadelphia, was charged with Criminal Court Capias. Cpl. Brandon Dishner served Adam Walker with a Criminal Court Capias(agg. assault,&burglary).



Police beat
Jeremiah James Henry, 34, of McGee

Blvd, Greenback, was charged with failure to appear in general session court.

Public Notice

Notice of Meetings

Loudon County Budget Committee will meet at 2:30pm at the Loudon County Office Building on the following dates:

Monday, July 10, 2017

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Friday, July 14, 2017

The regular July monthly meeting will proceed as previously scheduled, on Monday, July 17, 2017, 4:00 pm at the Loudon County Office Building

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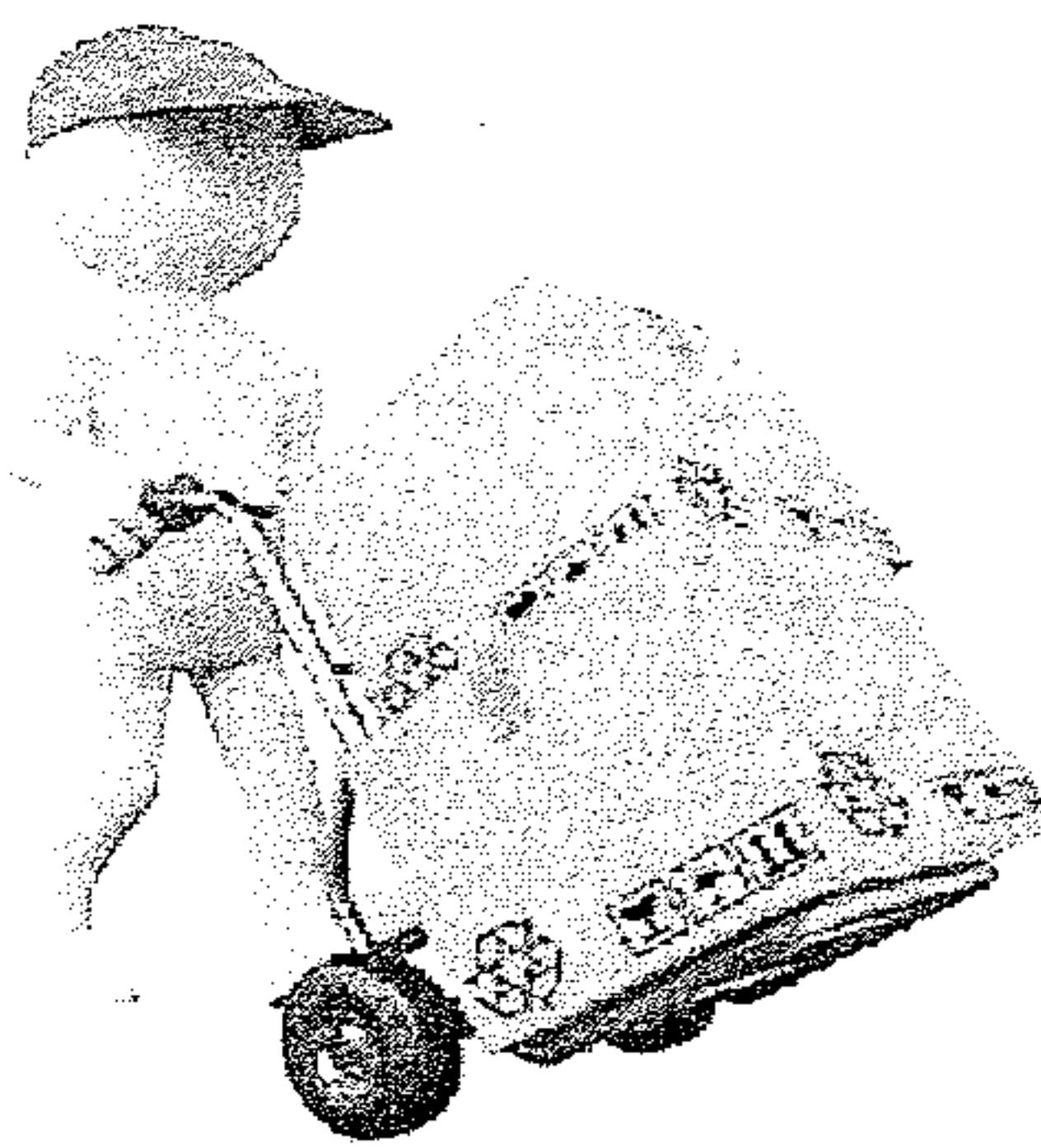
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