

Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

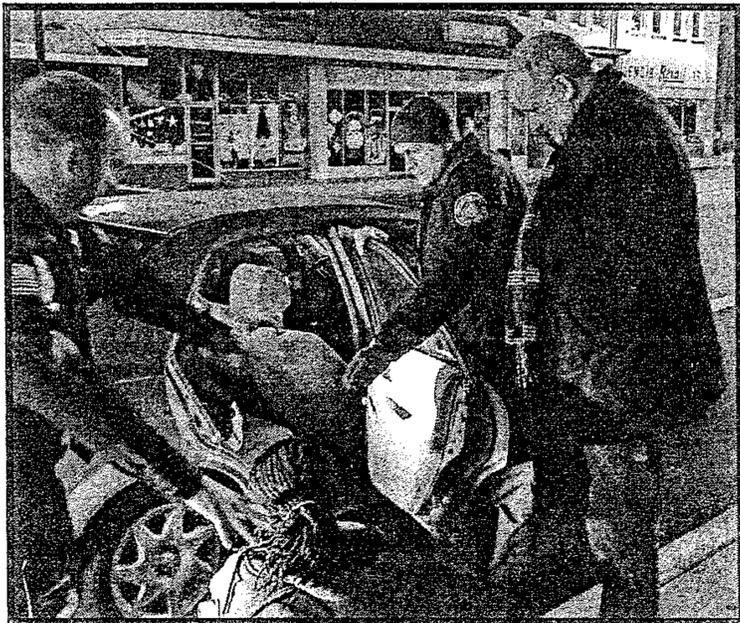
Great working relationship nabs wanted suspects in minutes in LC

Individual wanted for aggravated robbery captured

Blount County Sheriff James Lee Berrong said BCSO deputies, along with deputies with the U.S. Marshals Service Smoky Mountain Fugitive Task Force and officers and deputies with Lenoir City Police Department and Loudon County Sheriff's Office captured a man wanted for aggravated robbery Sunday.

David Anthony Yost,

(see wanted pg. 2)



Chief Aikens just days away from retirement is still working hard as officers search the vehicle of the suspects

Sword pulled in domestic rage



Charles James

(see sword pg. 4)

Task Force Works to Stem Flow of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Dismantle Criminal Networks

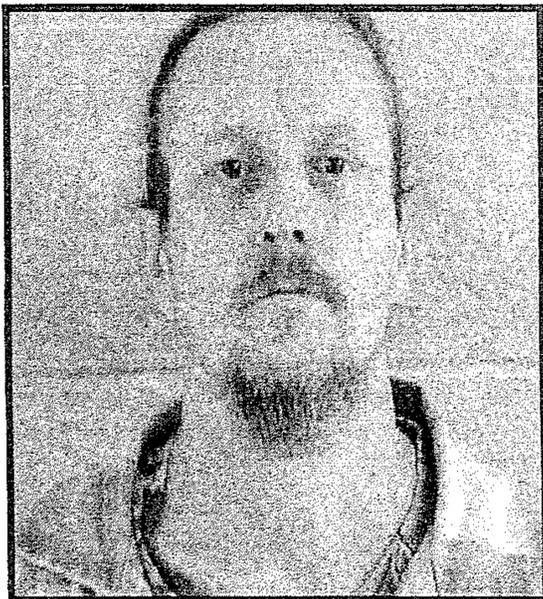
The tip came to an FBI agent in New Orleans from a source there involved with a violent Honduran street gang: A large shipment of cocaine ultimately bound for the U.S. was about to leave Costa Rica destined for Honduras.

That information was relayed to FBI personnel at the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S) in Key West, Florida, a multi-agency, international alliance whose mission is to cover 42 million square miles of territory primarily in Central and South America to stem the flow of illegal drugs and to disrupt and dismantle sophisticated narco-trafficking networks. Much of that work is carried out on the high seas.

The Honduran traffickers had set out from Limón, Costa Rica. Their "go-fast" boat—a small, low-profile vessel favored by smug-

see Task Force pg. 4

Correction: Wanted by all the courts!



Jeremiah Burchfield see courts pg. 7

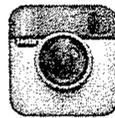
NEW CENTURY COAL FRAUD ENDS IN LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCES FOR TEN INDIVIDUALS

Scheme was based in Johnson City, Tennessee U.S. District Judge J. Ronnie Greer has sentenced 10 men to a collective total of 284 months in federal prison for their roles in the operation of a fraudulent investor scheme which defrauded 168 investors of more than \$14 million dollars. The judge also ordered terms of supervised release by the

U.S. Probation office, special assessments and \$14,092,205 in restitution to the victims of the scheme.

The 10 men and their prison sentences include: Brian C. Rose, 37, Piney Flats, Tenn., 108 months; Hugh Sackett, 86, Anderson, S.C., 12 months; Robert McGregor, 38, Bowling Green, Ky., 12 months; Johnny D. Phil-

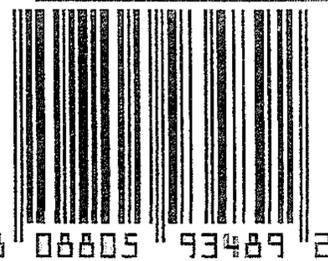
(see Coal Fraud pg. 7)



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Verse of the Day

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. — Romans 12:10

Obituaries
see inside

Wazzup

Only 11 Days til Christmas Can You Believe It's Almost Here? Are You Ready?

Weather

Today: Cloudy. High 47F.

Tonight: Partly cloudy skies. Low 24F.

Thursday Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 33F.

Thursday Night Mainly clear skies. Low 19F.

Horoscopes
Sagittarius 11/22-12/21

The fun and festive season is ramping up, but there are some stressors present which keep you from fully engaging in the excitement. The Gemini Full Moon occupies your 7th House of Relation-

(Continued on page 6)

wanted

Jr., 23, of East Edison Street, Alcoa, was taken into custody shortly after 10 p.m. Sunday on Highway 11 in Loudon County following physical surveillance from Blount County to Lenoir City, which ended in a low speed pursuit on Highway 11. Yost was arrested and charged with an Alcoa Police Department warrant for ag-

gravated robbery in connection with a robbery involving a handgun that occurred on Payne Avenue in Alcoa on November 29th. He was also charged with a warrant out of Knox County for violating his parole. He is currently being held in the Blount County Detention Facility on a \$10,000 bond pending a hearing in Blount County General Sessions Court at 1:30 p.m.

December 19th.

In addition, Chassady Tiona Fuller, 24, of Arrowhead Drive, Maryville, who was in the car with Yost, was charged with a misdemeanor violation of probation. She is being held in the Blount

County Detention Facility without bond.

Agents with the U.S. Marshals Service Smoky Mountain Fugitive Task Force and the Alcoa Police Department have been following up on

(see wanted ctd. pg. 5)

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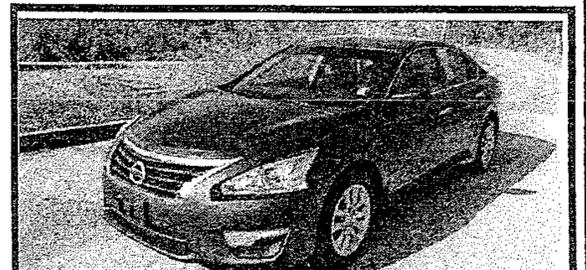
Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK *



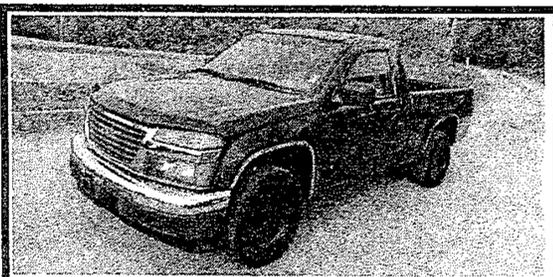
2016 Ford Fiesta 11k, 5spd, PL, One Owner, PM, A/C, Heat, Like New



2009 Jeep Liberty Chrome pkg, 52k, PW, PL, V6, Tow pkg, Luggage Rack



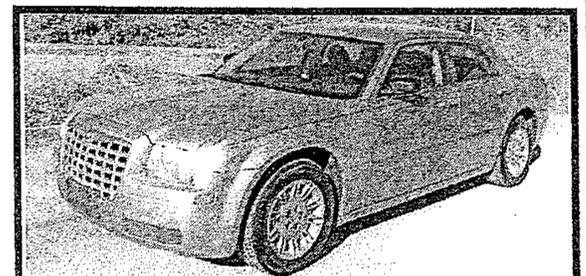
2013 Nissan Altima Remote Start, PW, PL, Auto, 2.5, Only 96k



2006 GMC Canyon Polished Wheels, Auto, Bed Liner, A/C, Heat, 2.8L, Gas Saver



2007 Chevy Tahoe NAV, Leather, PW, PL, PS, Tow pkg, Pwr 2nd Row, 3rd Row



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Sword

Charles James, 24, Kelly Lane Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault Felony.

Deputy Chris Jenkins LCSO, responded to Kelly Ln. to a report of a domestic dispute. Deputy arrived on scene and separated both parties. Deputy Brad Rayfield and Jenkins then spoke to the complainant/victim. Victim gave verbal and a written statement that she woke up to the heat on extremely high in the apartment. Victim stated she got up from bed and went and turned it down. The victim stated that when she returned to bed she must have woke her husband Mr. Charles Mathew James up. Mr. James became angry and cussed the victim. The victim stated that she stated that she told Mr. James they did not need to be together and she stated that he went crazy. The victim stated that she attempted to leave and walk out of the apartment and Mr. James shut the door and would not allow her to leave. The victim stated that Mr. James got a sword and stated that if she tried to leave that he would kill her and himself both.

The victim stated that she went back upstairs to calm down and Mr. James came upstairs got on top of her and attempted to kiss her and trying to pull her on top of him and caused a red mark on her side. Mr. James did state on scene that he did close the door and also threat-

ened to kill himself if the victim left. Mr. James also stated that he did attempt to hug and console the victim. Mr. James actions caused fear and bodily harm to the victim. Mr. James was deemed the primary aggressor in the altercation. Due to Mr. James mental state was transported to Ft. Loudon ER for evaluation and warrants was issued for his arrest. End of report. This did happen in Loudon Co., Tn.

Task Force

glers—was packed with 300 kilos of cocaine and a cache of military-grade weapons, including M16 rifles and grenade launchers.

When intelligence sources confirmed that the boat was in the water, officers on the watch floor at JIATF-S requested that the U.S. Navy launch a P3 surveillance aircraft to locate the smugglers, who were making their way up the east coast of Nicaragua toward Honduras. Because there were no U.S. Coast Guard cutters in the vicinity to make an interdiction, the watch floor commander called the Honduran liaison officer assigned to JIATF-S and asked for assistance.

In a matter of hours, radar-equipped Honduran aircraft had taken over tracking the vessel and Honduran navy patrol boats were under way. As the navy interceptors closed in, the four smugglers beached their craft and ran into the jungle, firing on their pursuers as they fled. In the end, the criminals were apprehended, along with the drugs and weapons. The four are currently imprisoned in Honduras.

From a single piece of intelligence provided to the FBI in New Orleans, an international response was quickly set in motion that kept a large quantity of drugs from entering the United States. At JIATF-S, scenarios like this play out nearly every day.

Since its creation nearly

three decades ago, the task force—composed of every branch of the U.S. military, U.S. federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies, and 15 partner nations whose liaison officers work side by side—has proven to be remarkably successful in the fight against the illegal drug trade.

“If you take the average price of a kilo of cocaine on Main Street USA,” said Coast Guard Rear Adm. Christopher Tomney, JIATF-S director, “we have taken more than \$6 billion worth of illicit profits out of the system. We’re talking hundreds of tons of cocaine that have been intercepted.”

The challenges posed by narco-traffickers, however, remain enormous. “The threats we go against know no boundaries,” Tomney said. “These are threats that affect multiple agencies and multiple nations. It not only takes a whole government approach to go after these problems, it really takes a whole hemisphere approach.”

The task force succeeds by integrating intelligence gathering and sharing with streamlined and highly coordinated tactical operations. Partner nations significantly extend the reach of U.S. capabilities. Everyone works toward the common goal of stopping the illicit drug trade. As one task force member noted, “We all take the field as one team.”

Using intelligence largely supplied by the FBI, the task force detects and monitors

the go-fast boats and difficult-to-detect semi-submersible vessels used by traffickers. Then, military and law enforcement personnel from the U.S. and partner nations step in to carry out the interdictions and arrests.

“It starts with narcotics, but the criminal networks are also smuggling weapons, bulk currency, trafficking humans, and using sophisticated money laundering techniques,” said FBI Unit Chief Brett Chianella, who heads the Bureau’s staff at JIATF-S. “Those networks are organized, armed, and well-financed, and they have ties to corrupt public officials and even foreign terrorist fighters,” he added. “The drugs are one spoke in the wheel of all this organized crime activity.”

One of the task force’s priorities is to stop the flow of drugs at their source of supply rather than after the contraband enters the U.S. and is distributed. “Either you deal with it 1,500 miles away or you deal with it after it crosses our borders,” said Chianella, who was recently appointed a JIATF-S vice director (see sidebar below).

Partner nations send their best and brightest officers to work at the task force for one- and two-year assignments, and when they return to their home countries—often to assume leadership positions in their organizations—they have built lasting relationships with their fellow liaison officers and U.S. contacts.

Lt. Col. Gustavo Alvarez, a Honduran Army officer, had just arrived in Florida as the JIATF-S liaison officer in March 2015 when he assisted with the FBI case out of New Orleans. He saw firsthand how the task force model of integrating intelligence and operations gets results.

“One of the biggest take-aways when you come here,” he said, “is that the foreign liaison officers are all just a few steps away, one office to the other.” That means information flows into the task force, Alvarez said, “but it also starts going between the other countries of interest. So the information flow really grows exponentially.”

Cmdr. Jose Jose-Vasquez, a JIATF-S liaison officer from the Dominican Republic Navy, agreed. “If I have to make a contact with the Colombian liaison, for example, I just have to look in the office. I don’t need a passport or a visa or a diplomatic procedure. In a mat-

(see Task Force ctd. pg. 5)

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Task Force ctd. from pg. 4

ter of minutes, we have the information needed to be successful.”

Where drug traffickers are concerned, minutes can make a difference. On the JIATF-S watch floor any time of day or night, targeting officers and intelligence analysts may be tracking dozens of vessels on the vast Pacific Ocean or Caribbean Sea suspected of carrying cocaine and other contraband. They must decide how to deploy limited military resources to track these vessels and to target them for interdictions.

Self-propelled semi-submersible craft (SPSS) are the most highly prized catches because they carry the most drugs, anywhere from eight to 10 metric tons of cocaine—that’s roughly \$300 million in street value. But these vessels are designed for stealth, with very little of the craft showing above the water line.

“It’s very difficult to find them on radar, said Gerry Canavan, a retired Coast Guard officer who joined the FBI as an analyst helping to target vessels suspected of carrying drugs. “If it’s not flat and calm, the radar

probably isn’t going to pick up an SPSS,” he said. The task force has other technical means at its disposal, but intelligence gained through human and other sources is critical to the process.

“The FBI doesn’t have planes or ships at JIATF-S,” said Kevin Lopez, also a former Coast Guard officer who joined the FBI to work on the task force. “The Bureau provides information that will help the task force position its aircraft and ships to locate that go-fast or SPSS.”

As successful as JIATF-S has been, Chianella and oth-

ers estimate that the drugs interdicted annually represent only about 20 percent of the total amount being smuggled into the U.S. “As long as there’s a demand for cocaine or any illicit contraband in the United States,” he said, “the cartels and criminal networks will find a way to move their product.”

The drug trade, added the Dominican Republic’s Jose-Vasquez, “is like an energy—you cannot destroy it; it only transforms in another manner. This problem is a reality that we have and that we have to work

against,” he said. “Working together makes us stronger. Being in this organization provides us with better tools to work against these common threats.”

“We are fighting a transnational threat,” JIATF-S Director Tomney explained. “No one nation, including the United States, has all the tools, all the capabilities, and all the resources to go it alone. By working together,” he said, “we can bring stability to the region and keep more than drugs in check.”

‘A Seat at the Table’

In December 2015, Special Agent Brett Chianella, who leads the FBI’s team at JIATF-S, was appointed vice director of the task force—the first FBI fully integrated Department of Defense position. Chianella’s new role is meant to further leverage the Bureau’s intelligence gathering abilities and to acknowledge the important role the FBI plays in the continuing success of the task force.

The position underscores how unified the FBI is with the Department of Defense in carrying out the task force’s mission—to monitor and detect the most violent illicit traffickers in the Western Hemisphere and to disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal organizations.

U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Christopher Tomney, director of JIATF-S. “This has been a win-win proposition,” said Rear Adm. Christopher Tomney, JIATF-S director. “The FBI vice director provides key insights and experiences that I just don’t have as a senior Coast Guard officer. Nowhere in the command group, because we are such a melting pot of organizations, do we have that senior Department of Justice investigatory experience.” The vice director position, he added, will be “completely woven into the

see St. Jude conc. pg. 7

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Coal Fraud

lips, 35, Bowling Green, Ky., 30 months; Dallas McRae, 46, Orlando, Fla., 24 months; Thomas Berry, 36, Bowling Green, Ky., 27 months; Jason Smith, 41, Franklin, Ky., 27 months; David Rose, 66, Louisville, Ky., 18 months; Jim Robinson, 57, New Albany, Ind., two months; and Brent Loveall, 33, Louisville, Ky., 24 months.

Brian Rose led New Century Coal, which advertised that it developed Blue Gem coal, a special type of coal used in the manufacture of computer electronics. New Century Coal staff sold shares in nine different limited partnerships and falsely

represented the existence of coal reserves, profitability, and ownership of the coal mines. No coal was ever developed and 90 percent of the investor funds was diverted to support the extravagant lifestyles of the men referenced above, including thoroughbred horses, multiple homes, ARCA Truck Racing, and extensive travel.

U.S. Attorney Nancy Stallard Harr said, "As a result of the investigation efforts and joint aggressive collection by the federal agencies involved with this case, the Department of Justice expects to be able to return some of what they lost to the victims of this fraud." U.S. Attorney Harr added that federal agents seized homes, cars, horses, cash, and personal property which was purchased with investor funds.

Agencies involved in this investigation included the U.S. Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations, and Securities & Exchange Commission Enforce-

ment Division. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Helen Smith, Corey Shipley, and Anne-Marie Svolto represented the United States.

Courts

Jeremiah Burchfield, 41, Matlock Bend Road Loudon, was charged with Failure to Appear, Theft of Property, and Violation of Probation.

Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, after a search of the premise at Matlock Bend Rd, arrested Mr. Jeremiah Charles Burchfield for a criminal court capias, a violation of probation out of general sessions court, and a warrant for theft out of general sessions court. Mr. Burchfield was arrested and transported to the Loudon County Jail without incident by this Deputy. This did occur in Loudon County, Tn.

Task Force conc. from pg. 5

command structure of this organization."

"The FBI and the military share the same philosophy on combating transnational criminal networks and organized crime," Chianella said. "To have the FBI fully integrated within the Department of Defense to disturb and dismantle violent networks supports a whole of government approach and takes the fight to them, before it affects us at home."

"To have the FBI fully integrated within the Department of Defense to disturb and dismantle violent networks supports a whole of government approach and takes the fight to them, before it affects us at home." - Brett Chianella, vice director, JIATF-S

By the Numbers

The Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S) was created in 1989 to monitor and detect narco-trafficking and to disrupt and

dismantle the criminal organizations that profit from the illicit drug trade. The Department of Defense-funded operation, which falls under the military's U.S. Southern Command, has responsibility for 42 million square miles of territory in the Western Hemisphere.

JIATF-S is composed of every branch of the U.S. military, U.S. federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies such as the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration, and 15 partner nations whose liaison officers work side by side at the task force headquarters in Key West, Florida. Five additional countries are in the process of joining the task force.

Since its creation, JIATF-S has intercepted hundreds of tons of cocaine worth an estimated street value of \$6 billion. It is estimated that the task force has been re-

sponsible for half of all the cocaine interdicted in the world.

Within the last three years, nearly 700 non-U.S. persons were indicted and brought to the U.S. to face criminal charges as a result of task force operations. Some 150 criminal networks were identified during that same period, and 60 of those networks were dismantled.

In 2015, JIATF-S operations led to the interdiction of seven self-propelled, semi-submersible (SPSS) vessels. Designed specifically for smuggling, these craft carry anywhere from eight to 10 metric tons of cocaine with a street value of \$300 million. The FBI provided intelligence and investigative resources in six of those seven cases.

For more information about JIATF-S: <http://www.jiatfs.southcom.mil/>

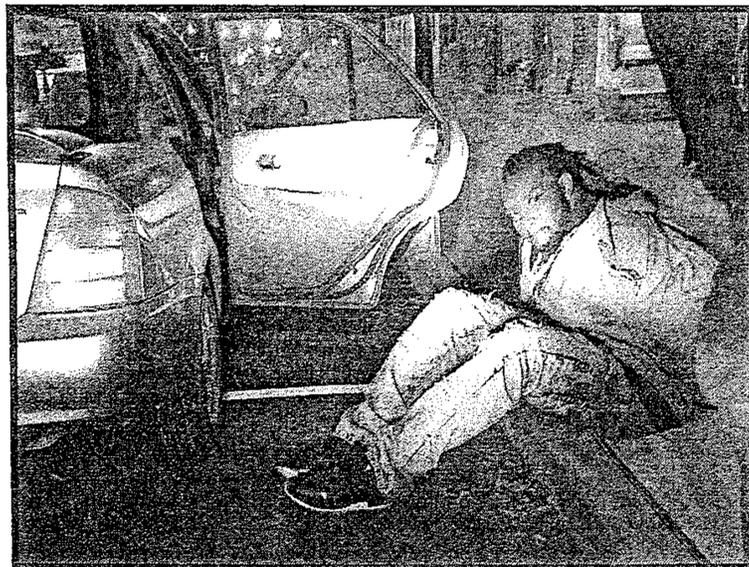
Wanted ctd. from pg. 2

leads regarding Yost's whereabouts since the November 29th incident. Yost and Fuller were taken into custody without incident.

"Yost's apprehension was the direct result of the close-working relationship between the U.S. Marshals Service and the Blount County Sheriff's Office," stated Jimmy Fowler, U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Tennessee. "His arrest highlights the effectiveness of the

Smoky Mountains Fugitive Task Force by coordinating federal, state, and local resources to protect our communities from violent offenders," he added.

On scene as always was our own Chief Deputy and Lenoir City Mayor Tony Aikens. Aikens is retiring at the end of the month. The man doesn't ever seem to sleep and is always ready to help our community at all times.



David Yost at the scene

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