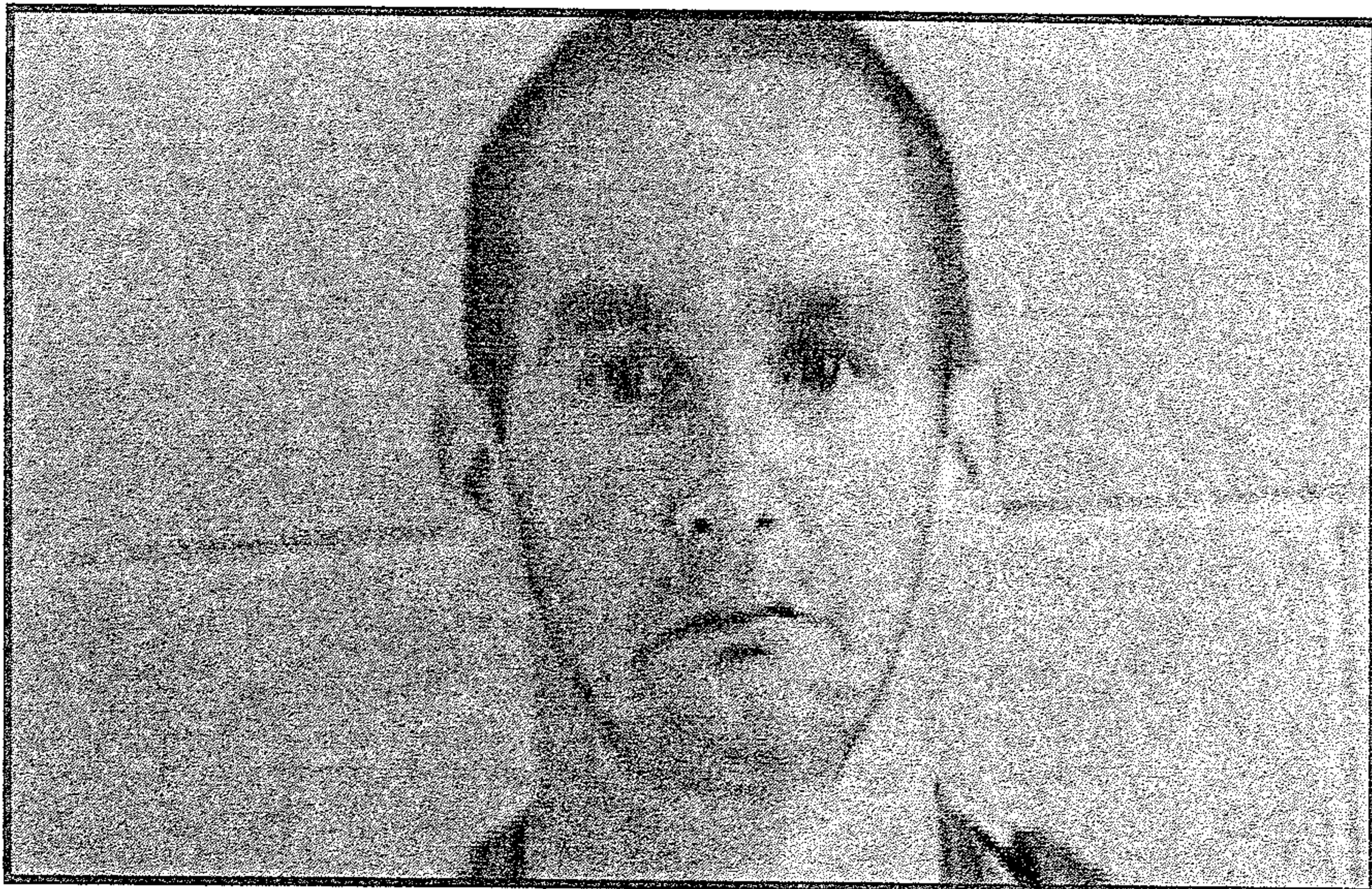
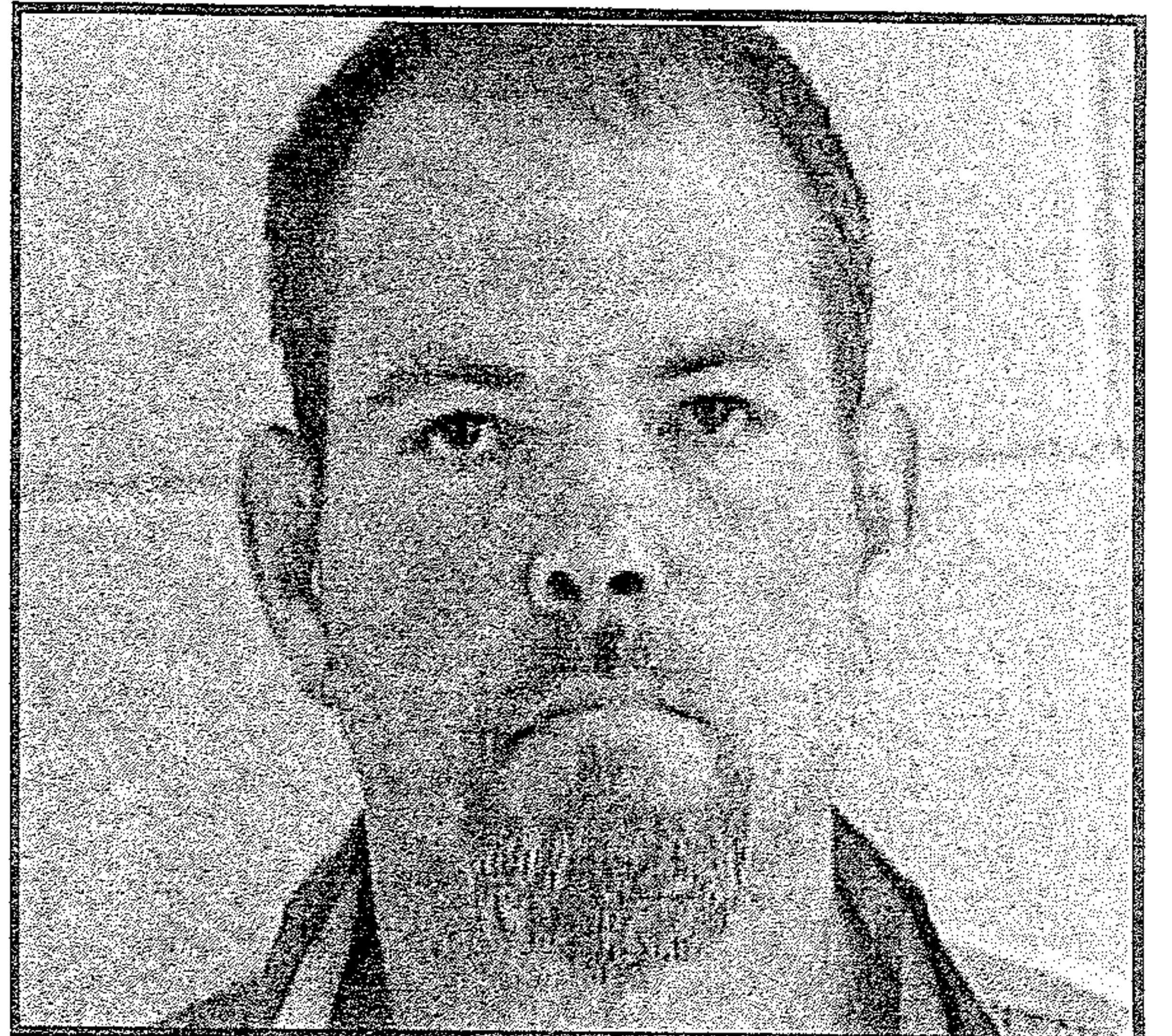


## Man Threatens To "Whip" Step Brother



Christopher Neely

## Man Tries To Abandon Stolen Car, Caught at Stop-N-Shop



Michael Holcomb

see Stolen pg. 3

## American Legion Post 256 Visited by Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant



Lena Moody Fields, E.C. Fields, Jr. Ph.D. and Post 256 Vice Commander, Arlen Bee (see Legion pg. 4)

see Fight pg. 2

## Four Men And Seven Companies Indicted For Billion-Dollar Telemedicine Fraud Conspiracy, Telemedicine Company And CEO Plead Guilty In Two Fraud Schemes

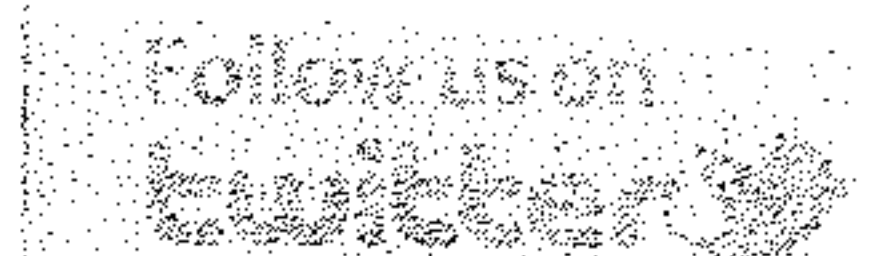
On October 12, 2018, the District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee unsealed a 32-count indictment charging four individuals and seven companies in a \$1 billion health care fraud scheme. The court also unsealed an additional two plea agreements and an information

charging another individual and his company for their role in the scheme.

Andrew Assad, 33, of Palm Harbor, Florida, Peter Bolos, 41, of Lutz, Florida, and Michael Palso, 44, of Odessa, Florida, were in-

dicted along with their compounding pharmacies, Synergy Pharmacy Services, located in Palm Harbor, and Precision Pharmacy Management, located in Clearwater. Co-conspirator Larry Everett Smith,

See Schemes P.4



### Verse of the Day

How great you are, O Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. — 2 Samuel 7:22

### Obituaries

See P. 7

### Wazzup

Be on the lookout for signs all over town about event going on this weekend! Lots of FUN and Family things going on!

### Weather

Today: Cloudy. High of 68F.  
Tonight: Cloudy. Low of 43F.  
Thursday: Partly Cloudy. High of 63F.  
Thursday Night: Rain.

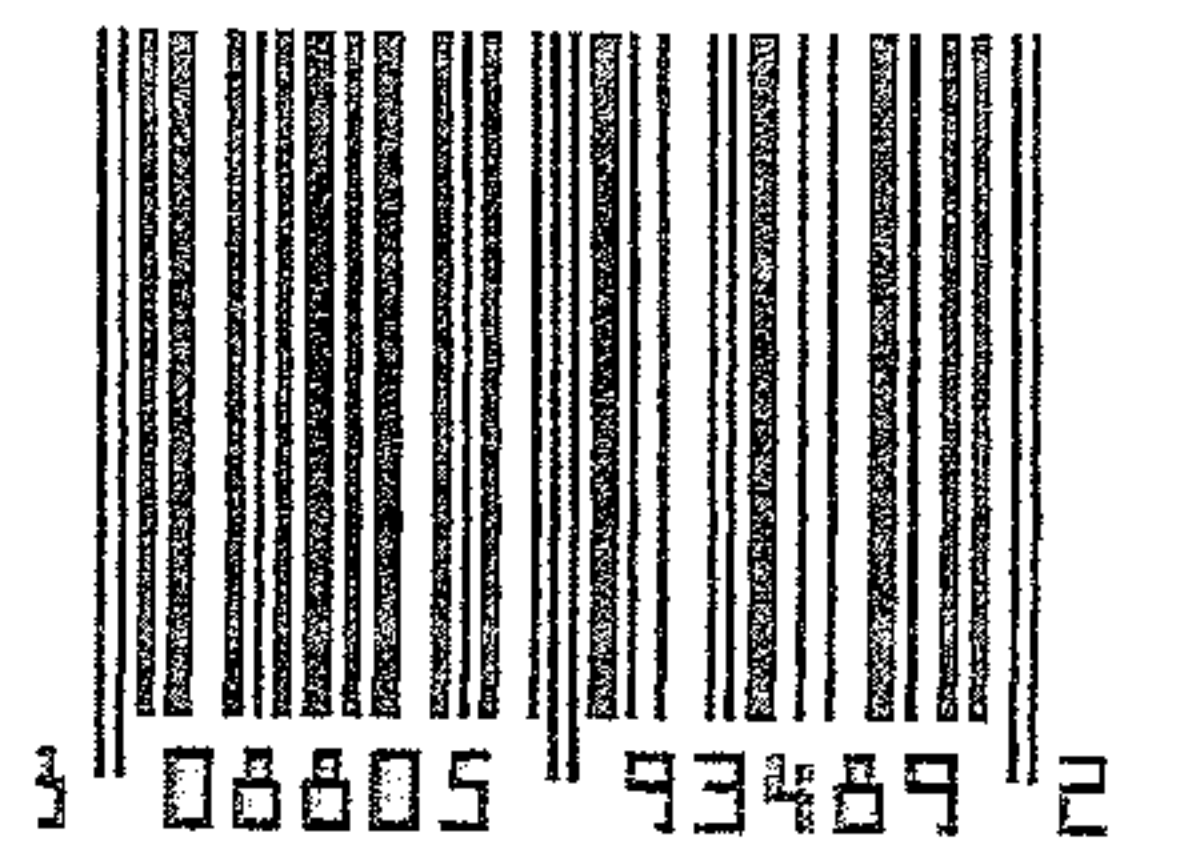
Low of 44F.

### Horoscopes

Libra 9/23-10/22

Returning your attention to a job previously set aside or delayed is prudent today. This could be a matter of necessity if something goes on the

(Continued on page 6)



3 08805 93489 2

**Fight**

Christopher Neely, 30, Price Road Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault. Deputy Chance Gray, and Deputy Austin Parton LCSO, was dispatched to Price Road in reference to a possible un-

wanted guest. Upon arrival Deputy made contact with the victim, who stated that his step brother Christopher Neely had become very angry with him thinking that his family was talking about him. Victim stated Neely walked up and stated he was go-

ing to whip him. Victim stood up and Neely hit him and jumped on him and started hitting him. Deputy did observe red marks on victim. Neely was placed under arrest.

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2012 Dodge Ram SLT, Crew Cab, Bed Liner, Tow, Alloy Wheels, V8, Low Miles, Spacious



2011 Honda Pilot Luxurious, Leather, 3rd Row, 4x4, DVD, NAV, PW, PL, PS, Tow, Luggage Rack



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### Stolen

Michael Holcomb, 39, Graham Loop Tellico Plains, was charged with Theft of Property. Sgt. J. Bowen LCSO, responded to the area of pole cat bridge. Officer Harrison LPD, located a stolen vehicle on Marble

Bluff Road. Dispatch did send a hit to Monroe County, and they did confirm the vehicle stolen. The vehicle did have a wallet inside the vehicle with Michael Holcomb's name. Deputy Everett and LPD was out with the subject at

the Stop-N-Shop, where he refused a ride earlier where he was walking on Hwy 72 @ Prospect Church Road. Holcomb was detained. Deputy did find Holcomb wallet in the console of the vehicle and a light bill in the back seat. Holcomb was placed under arrest.

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### CALL to PRAYER Loudon and surrounding areas

A prayer meeting will be held on November 4 at 6:00 pm in the Loudon High School auditorium. Prayer for our city, our children, our schools and our country. And our election.

Several pastors in the area are sponsoring this meeting. We need many more pastors involved. Everyone is welcome!

There will be a meeting on October 22 at 6:00 pm at the LaQuinta Inn (Hwy 72 at I-75 interchange) for pastors for meeting information. We need as many pastors that are able to attend this October meeting.

### Public Notice

The Loudon county commission will be holding a public hearing on November 5, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Annex to amend the Loudon County zoning resolution

1. Eliminate the \$100 fee to appeal to the Loudon County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).
2. Accessory structures may be allowed in the front yard.
3. No building permit or fee required for construction of any accessory structures of under 500 sq. ft.

## Legion

In his second appearance in front of American Legion Post 256 members, Dr. Curt Fields, began his introduction by explaining he was going to provide an insight into "the young" Ulysses Grant. Grant may have grown up like most young boys during this time period, but a few things did stand out, such as, his love for horses and his natural ability to ride, he was an expert horseman. In school he was always an average student, but with an above average understanding of arithmetic. A surprising note about the young Grant, he never aspired to go into the military let alone pursue a military career. But, through circumstances and connections young Grant entered into West Point. Though not aspiring to climb the military career ladder, Grant did possess special leadership qualities and

an uncanny ability to be in the mist of many battles within The Mexican War and the Civil War and never be shot or injured. We know Ulysses S. Grant as the 18th President of the United States and at one time commander of the Federal Armies for President Lincoln, but a notable mention in his history, he had once been made commander of West Tennessee armies. Dr. Curt Fields, a truly professional historian and an inspiring re-enactor is so believable with his presentations you feel you are there in the 1800's with General Grant himself. For additional information about the American Legion visit the Post 256 website: [www.tellicolakepost256.org](http://www.tellicolakepost256.org).

## Schemes

48, of Pinellas Park, Florida, also a pharmacy compounder, and his companies Tanith Enterprises, ULD Wholesale Group,

Alpha - Omega Pharmacy, all located in Clearwater, Germaine Pharmacy located in Tampa, Florida, and Zoetic Pharmacy located in Houston, Texas, were all also named as defendants. All the defendants were charged with conspiracy to commit health care fraud, mail fraud, and introducing misbranded drugs into interstate commerce.

On September 26, 2018, HealthRight LLC, a telemedicine company with locations in Pennsylvania and Florida, and Scott Roix, 52, of Seminole, Florida, and the CEO of HealthRight, pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy for their roles in the telemedicine health care fraud scheme in a criminal information. Roix and HealthRight LLC, also pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit wire fraud in a separate

scheme for fraudulently telemarketing dietary supplements, skin creams, and testosterone.

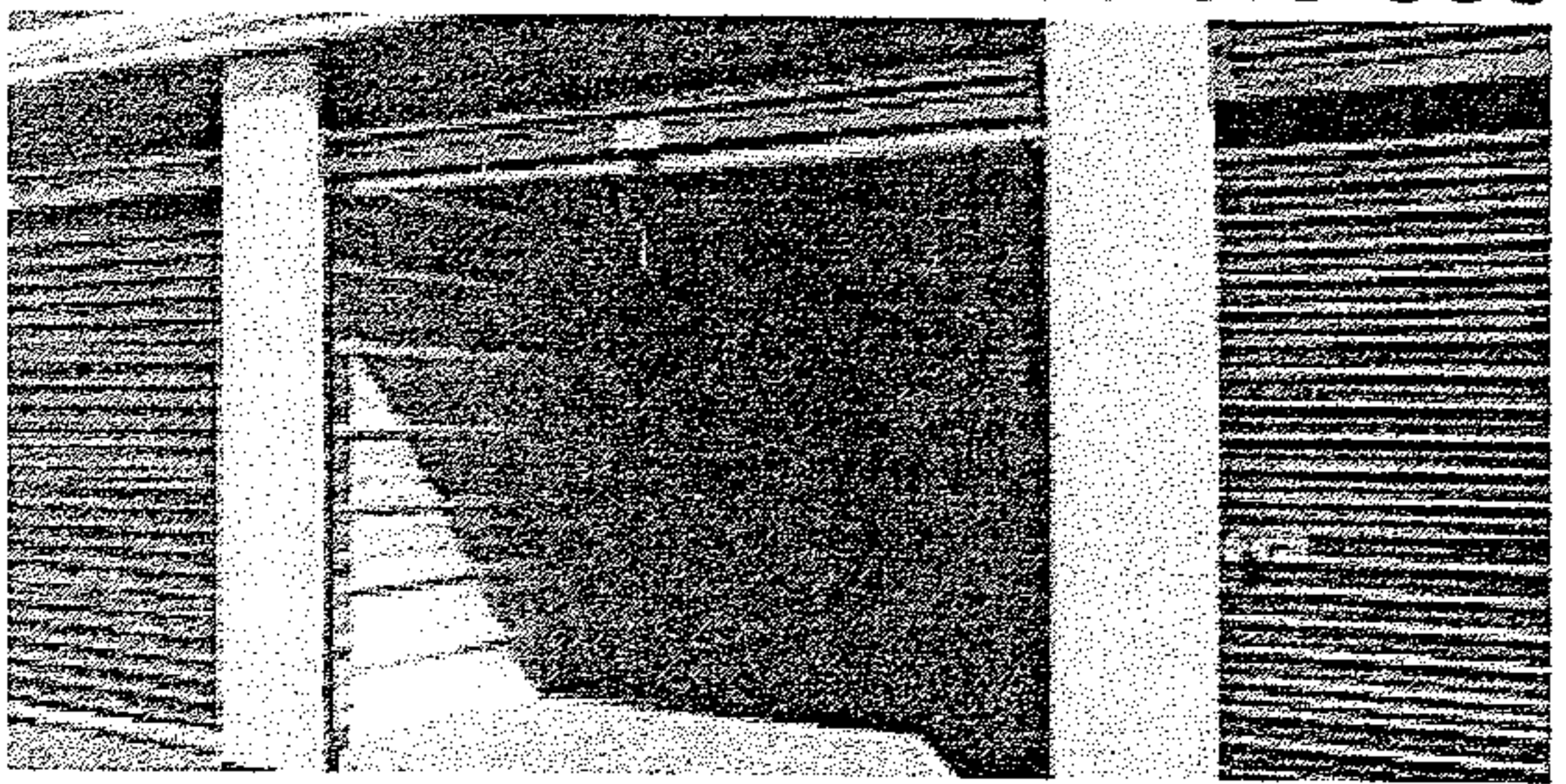
The indictment alleges that from June 1, 2015 through April 1, 2018, these individuals and companies, together with other persons and companies known to the grand jury, conspired to deceive tens of thousands of patients and more than 100 doctors located in the Eastern District of Tennessee and across the country for the purpose of defrauding private health care benefit programs such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee out of approximately \$174,000,000. The indictment further alleges that the defendants submitted not less than \$931,000,000 in fraudulent claims for payment. According to the indictment, the defendants set up an elaborate telemedicine scheme in which HealthRight fraudulently solicited insurance cov-


erage information and prescriptions from consumers across the country for prescription pain creams and other similar products. The indictment states that doctors approved the prescriptions without knowing that the defendants were massively marking up the prices of the invalidly prescribed drugs, which the defendants then billed to private insurance carriers.

Assad, Bolos, Palso, and Smith appeared in court on October 11, 2018 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Anthony E. Porcelli in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. All four individual defendants were released on bond and are scheduled for an initial appearance and arraignment in the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Ten-

Schemes ctd. to pg. 5

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\*A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a three-branded cord is not easily broken.\* - Ecclesiastes 4:12

Schemes ctd from p.4

nessee before U.S. Magistrate Judge Clifton Corker on October 25, 2018.

If convicted, Assad, Bolos, Palso, and Smith face a term of up to 20 years in prison as to each mail fraud charge, up to 10 years in prison for the conspiracy, and up to three years in prison for introducing misbranded drugs into interstate commerce. Additionally, they face fines of up to \$250,000 and up to three years of supervised release as to each count. The companies face fines of up to twice the gross loss sustained as a result of the conspiracy. The indictment also seeks forfeiture of approximately \$154,000,000.

In addition to their roles in the health care fraud conspiracy, the Information filed against Roix and HealthRight charged each of them with conspiring to commit wire fraud as part of a scheme to use

HealthRight's telemarketing facilities to fraudulently sell millions of dollars' worth of products such as weight loss pills, skin creams, and testosterone supplements through concocted claims of efficacy and intentionally deficient customer service designed to stall consumer complaints.

Roix and HealthRight pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge J. Ronnie Greer of the Eastern District of Tennessee. Roix faces a statutory maximum sentence of 5 years of imprisonment for each conspiracy. The Court set sentencing for February 13, 2019.

The investigation was coordinated by Assistant U.S. Attorneys T.J. Harker, David Gunn, and Anne-Marie Svolto of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and Trial Attorney John Claud for the Department's Consumer Protection Branch. Assistant U.S. Attorneys T.J. Harker and Da-

vid Gunn will prosecute the telemedicine conspiracy for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Tennessee. Trial Attorney John Claud will represent the Department's Consumer Protection Branch in court proceedings.

The investigation was conducted by the Nashville, Tennessee, office of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Inspector General; Nashville, Tennessee, office of the Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations; Buffalo, New York, office of the U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General; Knoxville and Johnson City, Tennessee, offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Atlanta, Georgia, Office of Personnel Management Office of the Inspector General; and Tampa, Florida, office of Homeland Secu-

rity Investigations. The U.S. Marshals Service also assisted in the investigation and the forfeiture of assets.

Members of the public are reminded that an indict-

ment constitutes only charges and that every person or company is presumed innocent until guilt has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt.



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