

# Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

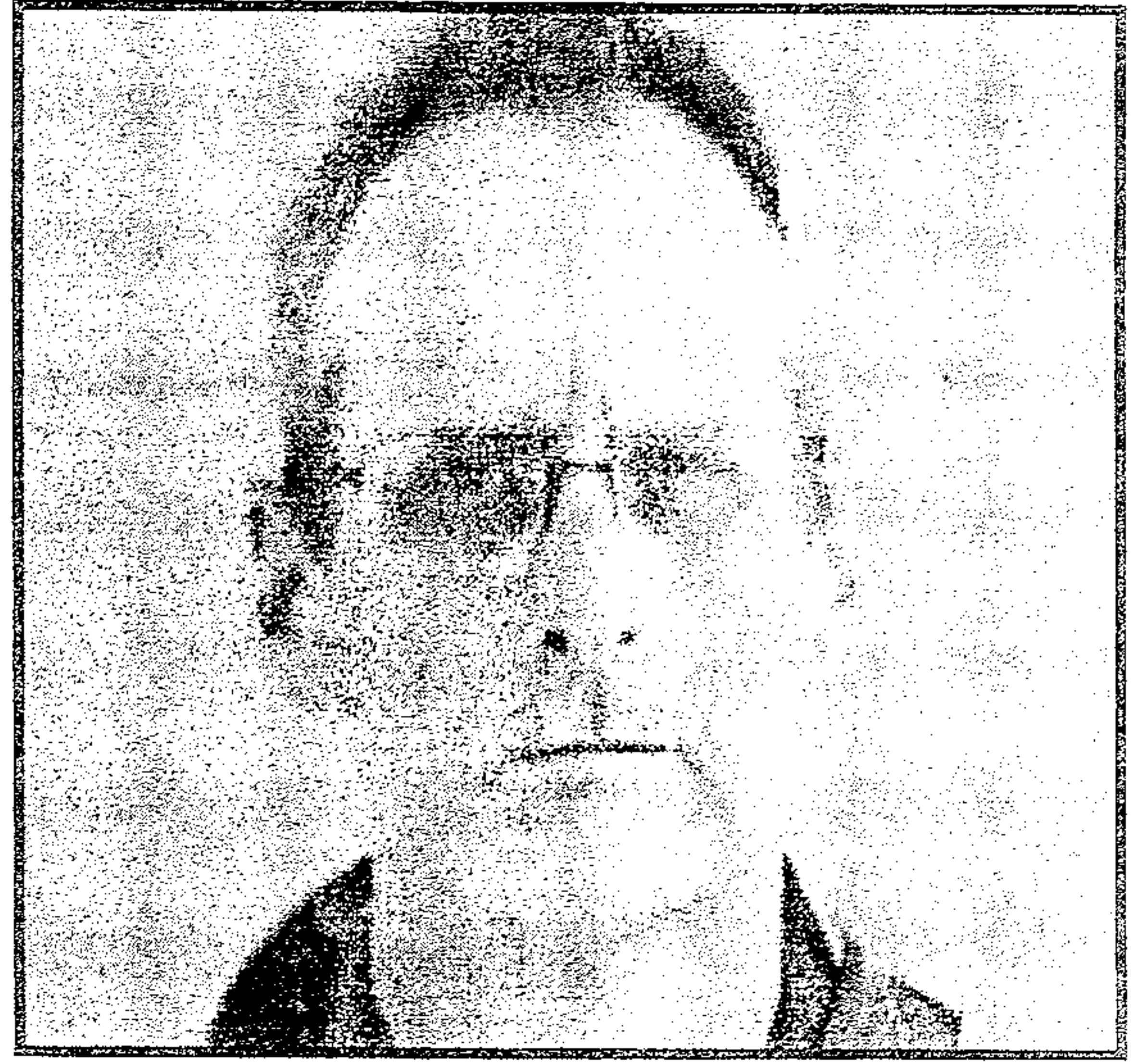
## Scared To Go To Jail After Wreck Leads To Hiding Drugs In The Woods



Preston Cooper

Matthew Cooper see Theft pg. 2

## Habitual DUI Offender Strikes Again

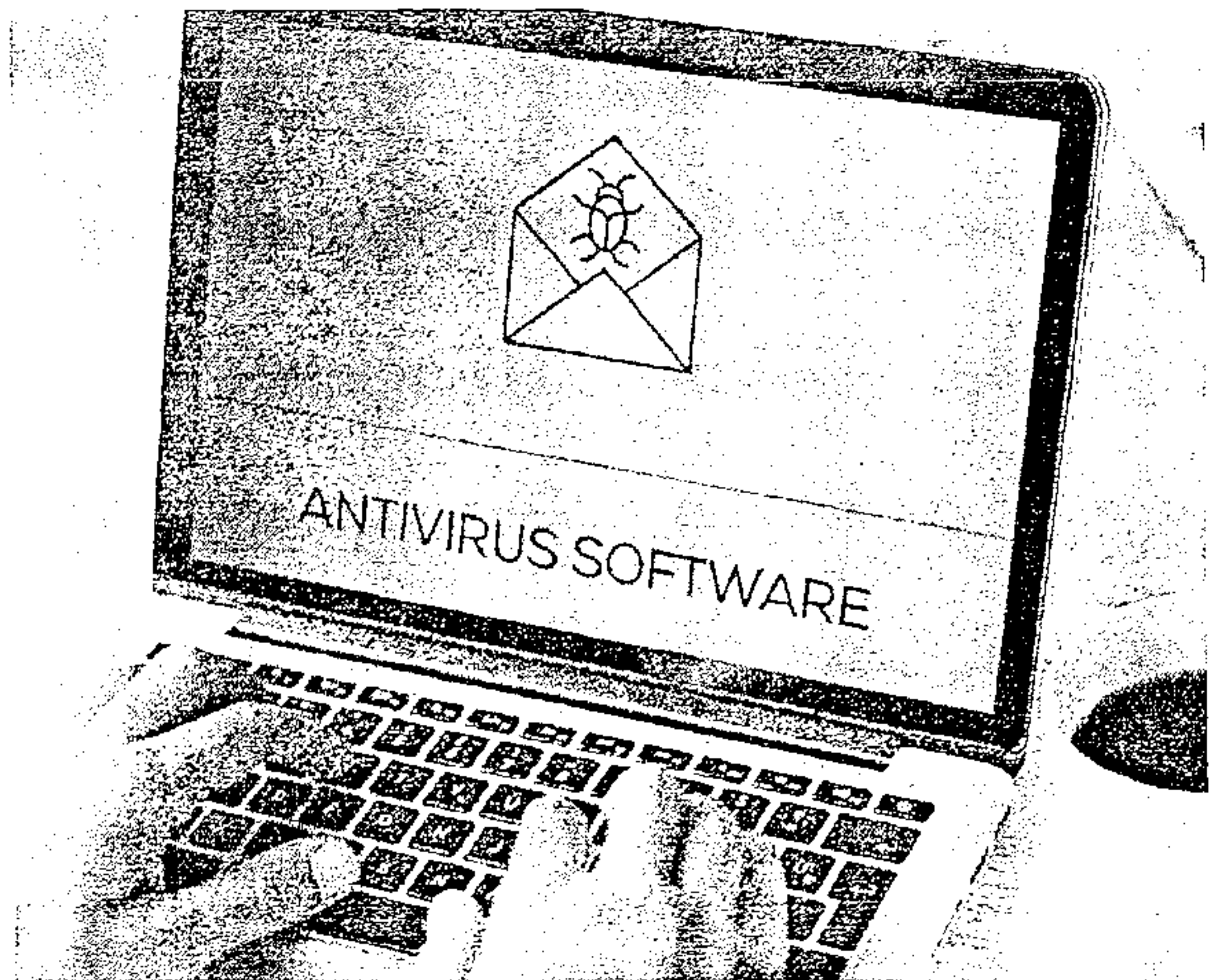


Nelson Harmon

see DUI pg. 3

## Bad News for Hacker

Latvian Man Used Fake Ads on Newspaper Websites to Spread Malware



(see Virus pg. 4)

## Justice Department's Criminal Division Creates Appalachian Regional Prescription Opioid Strike Force To Focus On Illegal Opioid Prescriptions

Eastern District of Tennessee one of nine federal districts from five states Assistant Attorney General Brian A. Benczkowski of the Justice Department's Criminal Division today announced the formation of the Appalachian Regional Prescription Opioid Strike Force (ARPO Strike Force), a joint law enforcement effort that brings together

the resources and expertise of the Health Care Fraud Unit in the Criminal Division's Fraud Section (HCF Unit), the U.S. Attorney's Offices for nine federal districts in five states, as well as law enforcement partners at the FBI, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Office of the Inspector General (HHS-OIG) and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The mission of the ARPO Strike Force is to identify and investigate health care fraud schemes in the Appalachian region and surrounding areas, and to effectively and

See Opioid P.4



### Verse of the Day

I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of wor-

ship. — Romans 12:1

### Obituaries

See Pg. 7

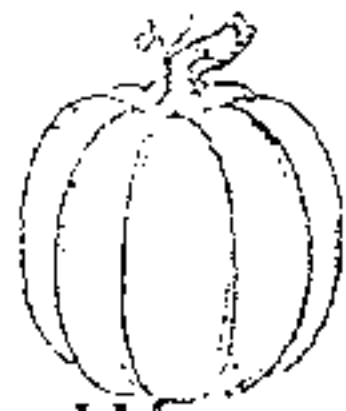
### Wazzup

Happy Halloween!!!

Everyone be SAFE!!!

### Weather

Today: Cloudy. High of 74F



Tonight: Cloudy. Low of 64F.

Thursday: Rain. High of 66F.

Thursday Night: Rain w/ Thunder. Low of 48F.

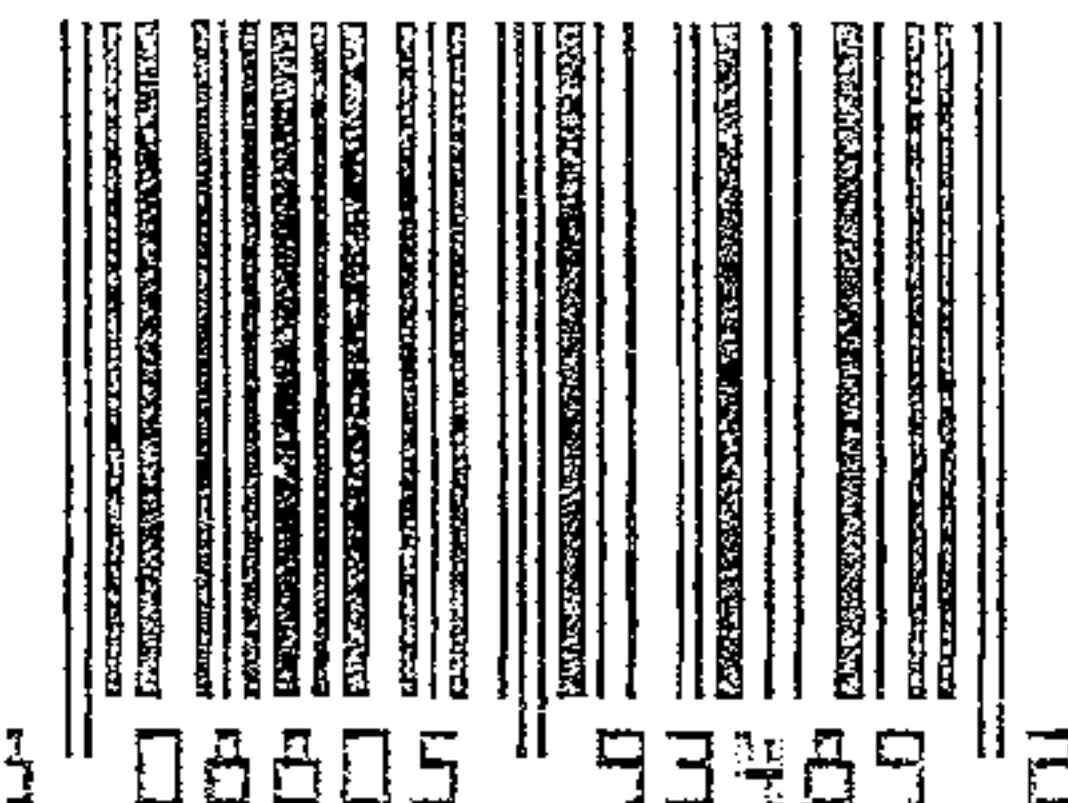
### Horoscopes

Scorpio 10/23-11/21

You're not one to embel-

lish the truth, especially because others respect your sincerity when you reveal the unvarnished facts. Your passionate enthusiasm gives special clout to the messages you deliver, and to those that you receive. If a wake-up

(Continued on page 6)



3 08805 93489 2

### Black Bag

Preston Cooper, 23, Price Ave Knoxville, was charged with Possession of a Firearm, Tampering/Fabricating with Evidence, Poss. Of Drug Para., and Man/Sell/Poss. Of Sch. VI.

Matthew Cooper, 26,

Price Ave Knoxville, was charged with Possession of a Firearm, Man/Sell/Poss. Of Sch. VI., Poss. Of Drug Para. And Tampering/Fabricating Evidence.

Trooper A. Evans THP, was dispatched to a wreck with injuries on I-75 near

mm 71. Prior to Trooper arrival dispatch advised a witness on scene watched one of the passengers take a black bag into the woods and hide it, and return to the wreck.

Also a glock 22 pistol was recovered from the wreckage with a loaded magazine inside. Upon Trooper arrival both passengers were transported

See Black Bag ctd to P.3

## HACIENDA

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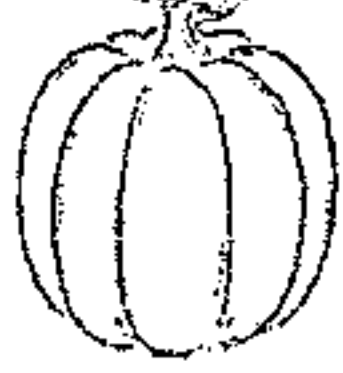
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The Daily Edition is Loudon County's premier public interest and paid advertising paper. The Daily Edition is produced and published daily Monday through Friday and is circulated throughout Loudon County and parts of Monroe and Knox Counties. Display 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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 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	 2013 Toyota Corolla Low Miles, Like New, Local Car, Alloy Wheels, PW, PL, 4 Cyl, A/C, Auto

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# DUI

Nelson Harmon, 48, Big Sandy Road Philadelphia, was charged with Habitual Motor Offender, and Driving on Revoked/Suspended License. Deputy Cody Fritts LCSO, observed a tan vehicle traveling on Fork Creek

Road. Deputy in car radar registered the vehicle traveling 45 in a 35 mph zone. Upon stopping the vehicle the driver was identified as Nelson Harmon, and back seat passenger as Marty Robinson. Upon running Harmon through dispatch he was found to be a Habit-

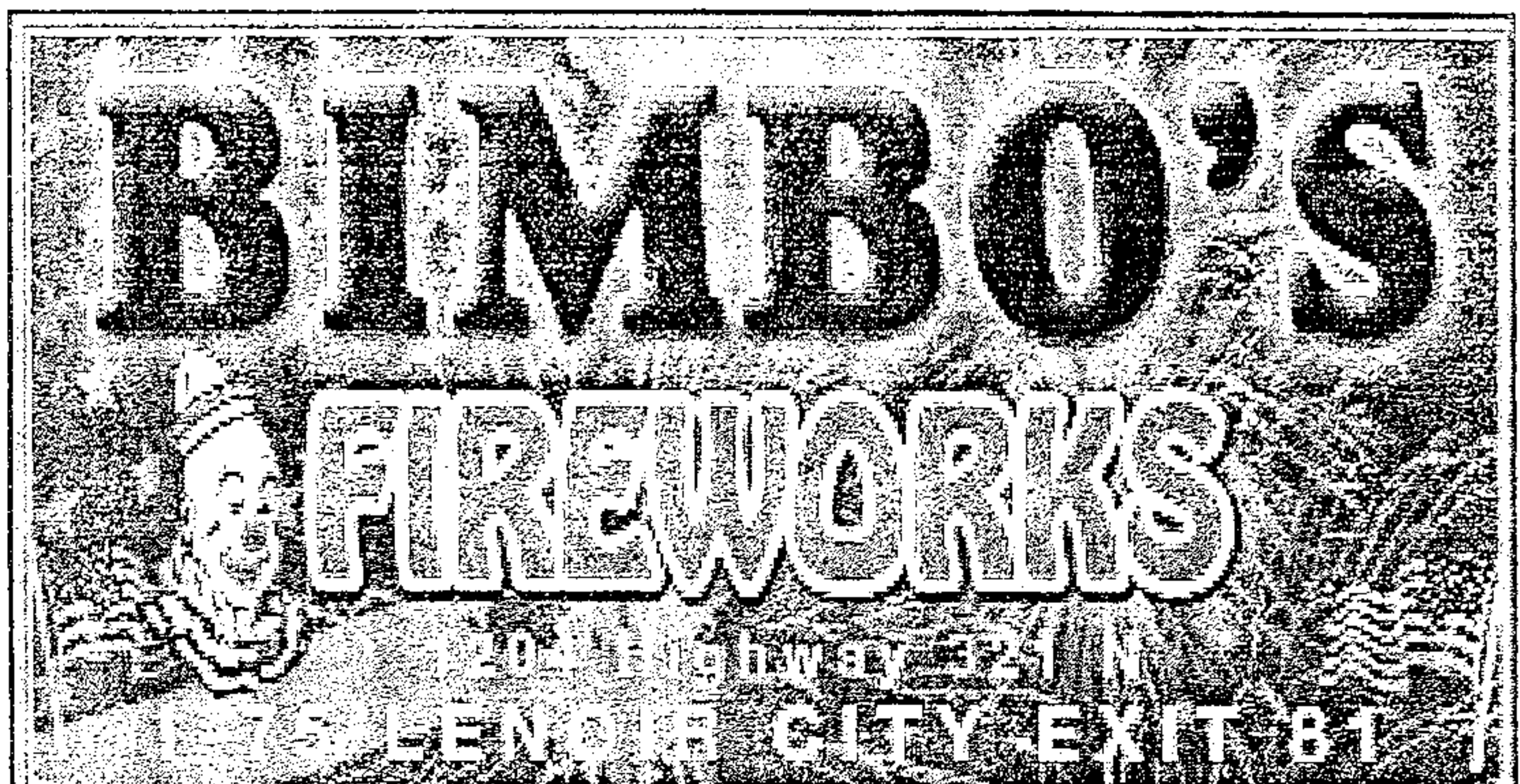
ual Offender, and Driving on Revoked License. Upon running Robinson through dispatch he was found to have warrant out of Lenoir City and Roane County. Both were placed under arrest and transported to the Loudon Jail.

Black Bag ctd from pg. 2

to Fort Loudon Medical, and the driver was transported to UT. A Loudon County Deputy retrieved the black bag from the woods and placed it on his patrol vehicle. The bag was covered in blood and had a strong odor of marijuana emitting from it. Upon opening the bag a felony amount of mari-

juana was located inside. Also in 2 floral cover bags with lots of baggies, and scales. While working the scene Trooper was notified by Deputies that 2 passengers were refusing medical treatment and was trying to leave the ER. Trooper arrived at the ER and ask about the bag both stated they had no clue. Trooper placed both parties under arrest. Both parties then insisted that they be looked over by the ER doctor. Both were cleared and transported to the Loudon Jail.

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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!

## Public Notice

The Loudon County Surplus Property Committee will hold a special called meeting on November 5th at 5:00 PM at the Annex to discuss the transfer and/or sale of select properties acquired through the tax sale.

## Virus

While waiting for a (non-government) technical training class to begin, FBI Special Agent Robert Cameron used his instructor-provided computer to check the local news.

Soon, the computer began to slow down and malfunction.

Cameron hadn't downloaded anything or clicked on any suspicious links, but just by visiting a local news site, the computer he was using had been affected by malware known as "scareware." Scareware slows the system and causes pop-ups that demand the user pay to have purported "anti-virus" software installed.

"I pulled the plug on the computer, and with the teacher's permission, I opened the hard drive to find out what happened," said Cameron, a cyber agent and computer expert in the FBI's Minneapolis Division.

The next day, the local news website ran an apology to its readers, saying that what they thought was a legitimate advertisement had actually installed a virus on the computers of many users who visited the site during the time the ad was displayed. The news website also notified the FBI.

Between the \$50 "anti-virus" program itself, the hackers' fraudulent use of the victims' credit cards after the purchase, and the failure to pay the website for the "ads" they purchased, the overall scam cost victims an estimated \$2 million. While the exact number of victims is not known, many are believed to be in the Minneapolis area because of the nature of the website.

Cameron and his colleagues began investigating and discovered a Latvian hacker was behind the attack, and his approach was highly sophisticated. After purchasing the company's fake anti-virus software, the FBI and its international partners used

several investigative approaches, including carrying out search warrants all over the world, to track down the perpetrator.

"You didn't have to interact with the website at all or click anything. There's nothing the user could have done to prevent it."

Investigators learned that, in 2010, associates of Peteris Sahurows, including his wife, created a fake advertising company, known as RevolTech Marketing, and contacted a local news website to purchase advertising for their "client," a well-known American hotel chain. (The hotel chain knew nothing about RevolTech's activities.) RevolTech created an advertisement for the hotels that redirected to what appeared to be a legitimate site. The hackers then waited until Friday night U.S. time—after the website's staff had already tested the ad—to swap out the ad to one that would direct computers to a malware-infected website instead. The malware installed whether or not the user clicked the ad. Once infected, the only way users could remove the malware was to purchase the fake anti-virus software—at a cost of \$49.95.

The investigation also showed that in addition to the ad scam, Sahurows and his associates ran a "bulletproof" hosting site that facilitated other criminal activity on the web. Bulletproof hosting sites are overseas servers that take active steps to avoid law enforcement detection of criminal activity.

The FBI and the Latvian State Police worked collaboratively to track down and arrest Sahurows. However, he fled before his extradition hearing and was added to the FBI Cyber's Most Wanted list.

Five years later, Sahurows turned up in Poland, where he was ar-

rested and extradited to the United States to face charges. In February, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and last month, he was sentenced to 33 months in prison.

"It was a great chain of events to be able to find Sahurows and bring him back to face justice," Cameron said. "There are a lot of momentum swings in these cases, and we had to be patient. I'm happy we're finally able to get closure in this case."

## Opioid

efficiently prosecute medical professionals and others involved in the illegal prescription and distribution of opioids.

Assistant Attorney General Benczkowski was joined in the announcement by U.S. Attorney Robert M. Duncan Jr. for the Eastern District of Kentucky; U.S. Attorney Russell M. Coleman for the Western District of Kentucky; U.S. Attorney Benjamin C. Glassman for the Southern District of Ohio; U.S. Attorney William J. Powell for the Northern District of West Virginia; U.S. Attorney Michael B. Stewart for the Southern District of West Virginia; U.S. Attorney J. Douglas Overbey for the Eastern District of Tennessee; U.S. Attorney Donald Q. Cochran for the Middle District of Tennessee; U.S. Attorney D. Michael Dunavant for the Western District of Tennessee; U.S. Attorney Jay E. Town for the Northern District of Alabama; Assistant Director Robert Johnson of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division; Deputy Inspector General for Investigations Gary L. Cantrell of the

Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG) and Assistant Administrator John J. Martin of the DEA Diversion Control Division.


"While the opioid epidemic continues to inflict untold pain and suffering on people across the country, the devastation in the Appalachian region and adjacent areas has been particularly staggering," said Assistant Attorney General Benczkowski. "It is all the more reprehensible when unscrupulous physicians and pharmacies contribute to the epidemic by illegally supplying dangerous prescription painkillers. Working with our partners in U.S. Attorney's Offices and law enforcement, the Appalachian Regional Prescription Opioid Strike Force will combat illegal prescription opioids and health care fraud by holding accountable corrupt medical professionals who seek to profit off the crisis of opioid addiction."

"The Appalachian Region, which includes the Eastern District of Tennessee, is unfortunately a 'hot spot' for drug abuse and overdose related deaths in the country," said U.S. Attorney J. Douglas Overbey. "We welcome the opportunity to work with our law enforcement partners in the Appalachian Regional Prescription Opioid Strike Force to identify and prosecute those unscrupulous medical professionals and others engaged in health care fraud schemes involving illegal prescription, distribution, possession, and use of opioids."

"The creation of the Appalachian Regional Prescription Opioid Strike Force will bring together critical resources from the FBI and our partners to fight health care fraud in this region and the growing opioid epidemic that faces the United States," said FBI Assistant Director Johnson. "Healthcare fraud touches every corner of the United States, and through this strike force, the FBI will continue our tireless work to combat illegal opioid prescriptions and bring to justice those medical professionals who put their greed over the health and wellbeing of their patients."

"The opioid epidemic has had a devastating impact on Americans across the country, including the people of the Appalachian region," said HHS-OIG Deputy Inspector General for Investigations Cantrell. "The Strike Force model is a proven mechanism to target illicit conduct and hold accountable criminals involved in illegal opioid prescription and distribution schemes. We will continue to work closely with our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to curb this damaging epidemic."

"Our nation's opioid crisis requires us to work with unprecedented urgency in attacking drug diversion at every level," said DEA Assistant Administrator Martin. "These joint strike force efforts will save lives, while allowing us to better target and bring to justice those

Opioid ctd to p.5 

**Opioid ctd from p.4**

who facilitate addiction and profit at the expense of the weakest and most afflicted.”

Prior to this announcement, the HCF Unit operated Medicare Fraud Strike Force’s in 12 locations across the United States including Miami, Florida; Los Angeles, California; Detroit, Michigan; Houston, Texas; Brooklyn, New York; Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana; Tampa/Orlando, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; and Dallas, Texas, along with a Corporate Strike Force located in Washington, D.C., and the Newark/Philadelphia Regional Medicare Fraud Strike Force. The Strike Forces represent a partnership between the Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney’s Offices, the FBI, HHS-OIG and the DEA.

The ARPO Strike Force will be made up of prosecutors and data analysts with the HCF Unit, prosecutors with the nine U.S. Attorney’s Offices in the region, and special agents with the FBI, HHS-OIG and DEA. The ARPO Strike Force will operate out of two hubs based in the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky, and Nashville, Tennes-

see, areas, supporting the nine districts that make up the ARPO Strike Force region. In addition, the APRO Strike Force will work closely with other various federal law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and IRS Criminal Investigation, and State Medicaid Fraud Control Units.

The ARPO Strike Force will target criminal conduct associated with the improper prescription and distribution of prescription opioids and other dangerous narcotics throughout the Appalachian region and surrounding areas – focusing on criminal conduct by physicians, pharmacists, and other medical professionals. The ARPO Strike Force will also investigate and prosecute violations of health care fraud whenever such fraud is detected throughout the region.

In June, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex M. Azar III noted the success of the Strike Force model while announcing the largest ever health care fraud enforcement action involving 601 charged defendants across 58

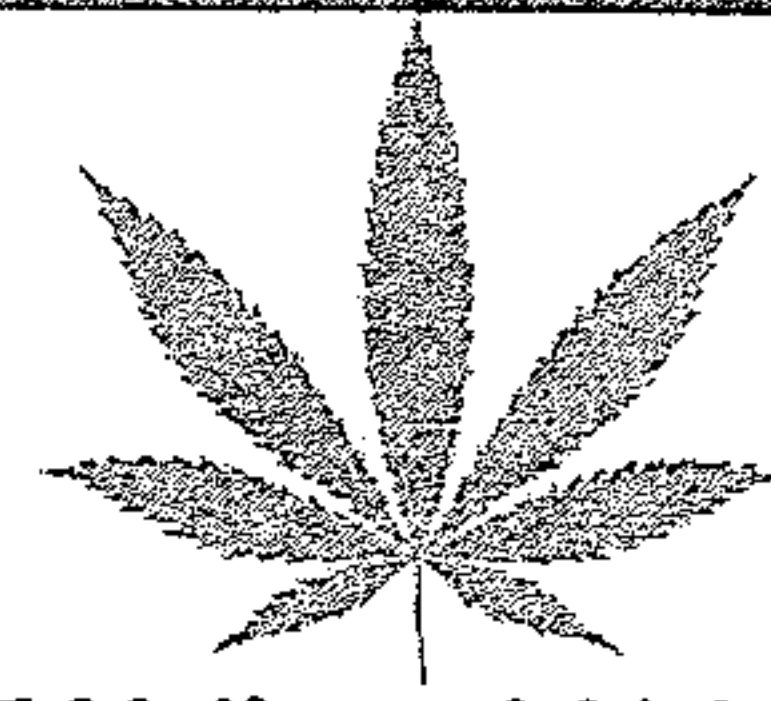
federal districts, including 165 doctors, nurses and other licensed medical professionals, for their alleged participation in health care fraud schemes involving more than \$2 billion in false billings. Of those charged, 162 defendants, including 76 doctors, were charged for their roles in prescribing and distributing opioids and other dangerous narcotics. More information can be obtained at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/documents-and-resources-june-28-2018>.

In August, Assistant Attorney General Benczkowski announced the Newark/Philadelphia Medicare Fraud Strike Force, which focuses on health care fraud and illegal opioid prescriptions in the Newark/Philadelphia region.

The Strike Force operations are part of a joint initiative between the Department of Justice and HHS to focus their efforts to prevent and deter fraud and enforce current anti-fraud laws around the country. Since its inception in March 2007, the prosecutors in the 12 Medicare Fraud Strike Force locations have charged over 4,000 defendants

who collectively have falsely billed the Medicare program for over \$14 billion. Since January 2017, the HCF Unit has charged over 85 defendants, including 33 doctors with the illegal prescription of opioids (nearly 30 million pills).

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