

Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, February 26, 2018

Man points gun after wreck

Brandon Sherwood, 24, Alabama Street Delano, was charged with Aggravated Assault.

Deputy Kevin Kirkland LCSO, was dispatched to a wreck no-injury involving a weapon. The complainant stated to dispatch that he was involved in a wreck and the male in the other vehicle (Black car) pulled a gun on him. Upon arrival Blount Coun-



Brandon Sherwood
(see Gun pg. 2)

Former CEO and Executive Management of Defense Contractor, Welco Enterprises, Inc., Pleads Guilty to \$8.1 Million "Made in the USA" Marketing Scheme and Government Contract Fraud

On February 15, 2018, the former President and Chief Executive Officer of Welco Enterprises, Inc. (Welco) and Tactical Holdings Operations, Inc. (Tactical Holdings), Vincent Lee Ferguson, 66, of Knoxville, Tennessee, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Welco's former Senior Vice President of Sales, Matthew Lee Ferguson, 41, of Geneva, Illinois, and former Director of Marketing and Communications, Kerry Joseph

Ferguson, 36, of Houston, Texas, also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Welco's former Vice President of Government Contracting, Neil Streeter, 55, of Warren, Massachusetts, and former Operations Manager, Stephanie Lynn (Ferguson) Kaemmerer, 45, of Knoxville, Tennessee, pleaded guilty to smuggling goods into the United States.

Sentencing has been

See USA P.5

False registration gets drug charges



William Riden
see Drugs p.4

Sleeping at the pump

James Foist, 41, Saint Johns Drive Maryville, DUI, and Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. of Meth.

Officer Morgan LCPD, was dispatched to the Hwy 321 N, Lenoir City TN 37771 for a suspicious vehicle that had been parked at the pumps for about an hour. Upon arrival Officer and Officer Samuels found James Allen Foist passed out in his truck. We asked Foist if he had been drinking and he stated



James Foist
see Meth pg. 3

DUI charge after taking on a tree



Amanda Endley
(see DUI pg. 4)

Verse of the Day

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. — Ephesians 2:4-5

Obituaries

see inside p.4

Wazzup

Looks like the Election is gearing up to be a good one

Weather

Today: Sunny. High of 62F.

Tonight: Clody. Low of 39F.

Tuesday: Sunny. High of 67F.

Tuesday night: Clody. Low of 49F.

Horoscopes

Aquarius 1/20-2/19
You are surfing on a wave of

creativity now, but it may be tricky to fit your brilliance into your schedule of daily obligations. Dont let your penchant for self-expression interfere with your previous commitments, especially if they are related to making money. Ideally, you can perform your
(Continued on page 6)



Gun

ty Officers were on scene and advised me they had recovered a weapon from the Black Nissan Altima. Deputy then detained the male passenger, Brandon Sherwood (Offender) for questioning and placed him in Deputy vehicle. After speaking with

all parties involved it was determine that Mr. Sherwood did pull a Silver gun and pointed it at victim putting him in fear for his life. Victim did described the weapon to look like a Judge 410 pistol with a dull silver barrel which matched the description of the firearm that was found in Mr. Sherwood's vehicle. Mr.

Sherwood admitted to grabbing the gun but stated he did not point it at victim however Mr. Sherwood and his wife's, (Driver) stories did not match and were heard on recording through dispatch saying they needed to get their stories straight before the cops

got there. It was determined that Mr. Sherwood did place victim in fear for his life by pointing a firearm at him and Mr. Sherwood was placed under arrest for Aggravated Assault. This did occur in Loudon County Tennessee.

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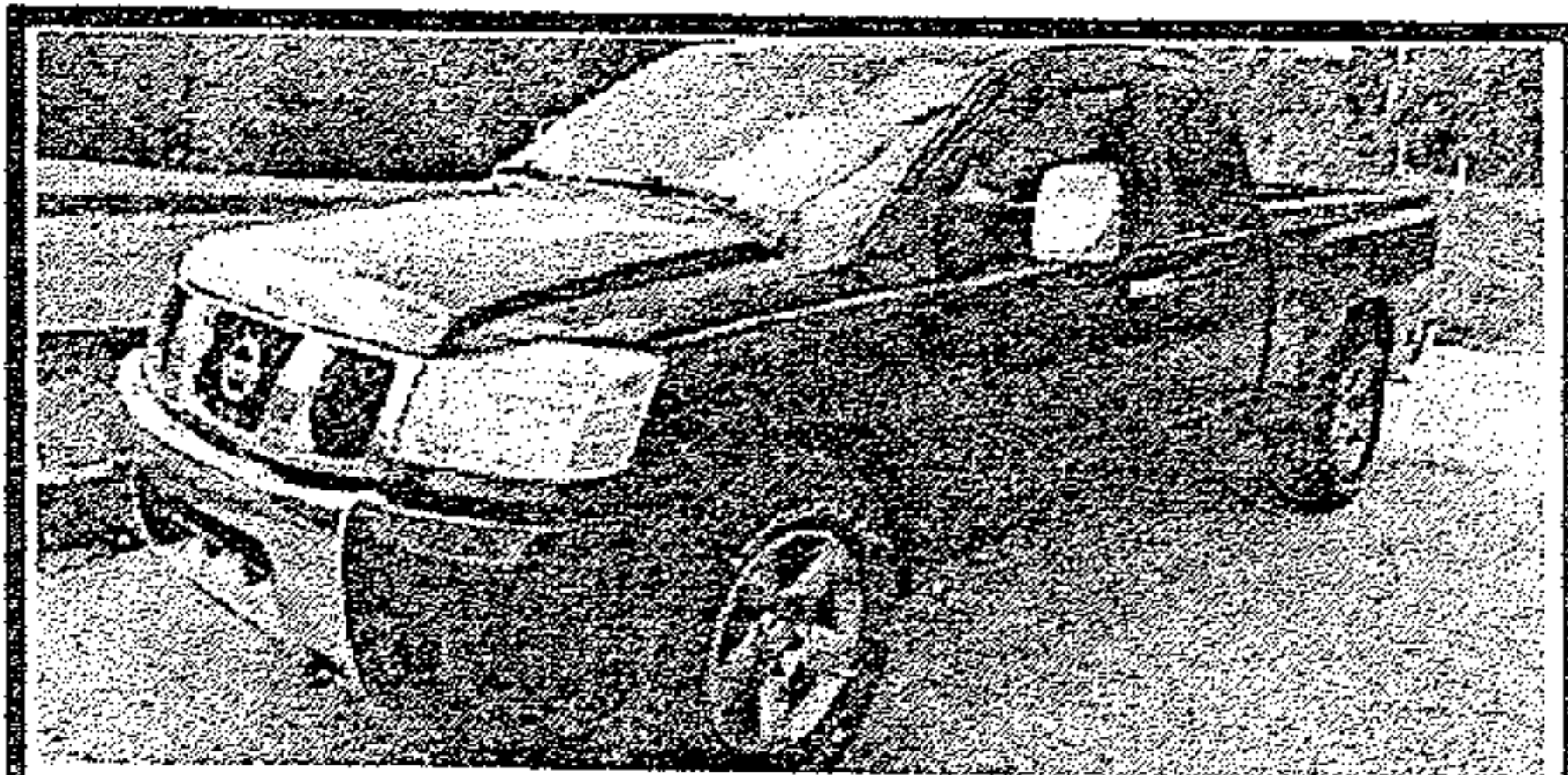
2013 Nissan Rogue AWD, PW, PL, PS, Sunroof, Alloy Wheels, V6, Luggage Rack



2009 Ford F150 Crew Cab, XLT, V8, Auto, Tow Pkg, Bed Liner, AC, PW, PL, Alloy Wheels



2011 Buick Lucerne, Immaculate condition, Like new, Only 69k, Alloy Wheels, PS, PW, PL, 27 MPG!



2005 Nissan Titan Ext Cab, V8, Auto, Like New, Low Miles, AC, PW, PL, Tow PKG, Bed Liner



2015 Chevy Cruze, 52k Miles, Gas Saver, 42 MPG, PW, PL, Local Car, Auto, 4 Cylinder, LT

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Meth

yes a few shots. We asked if he was on any narcotics prescribe or not he stated he was on Hydrocodone. Officer had Foist perform Standardized Field Sobriety Test in which he performed poorly on all 3 test. Foist was then taken into custody and asked if he would consent to blood or breathe test in which he stated no. A inventory was taken of his truck before being towed where Officer found a small baggie with a white crystal like substance 1.2 grams in the passenger seat. Foist was then transported to the Loudon County Jail where he then changed his mind and decided to give a breathe sample which came back .000 but would not give a blood sample. All of this did occur in Lenoir City - Loudon

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*A person standing alone can be checked and detected, but two can travel together back and forth. There are a few better, for a triple bonded cord is not easily broken. - Ecclesiastes 4:12

Help Wanted

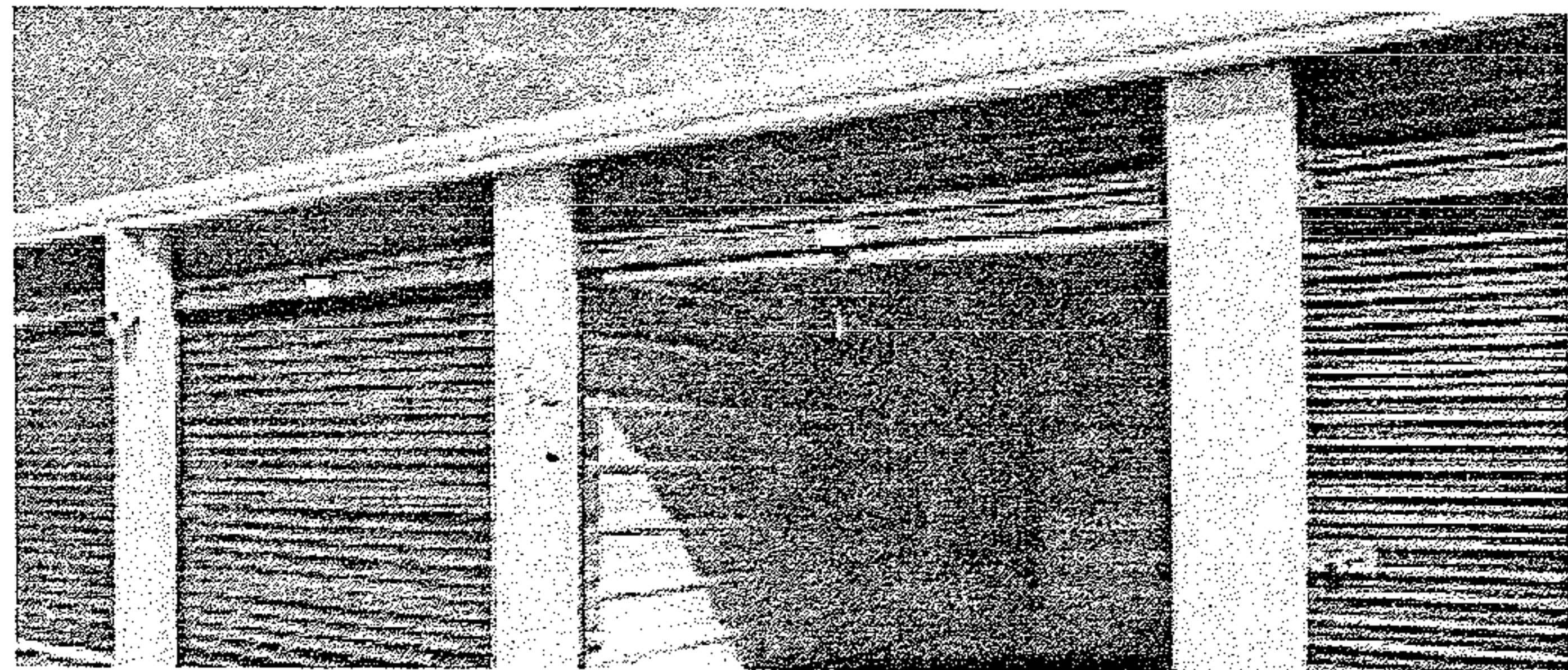
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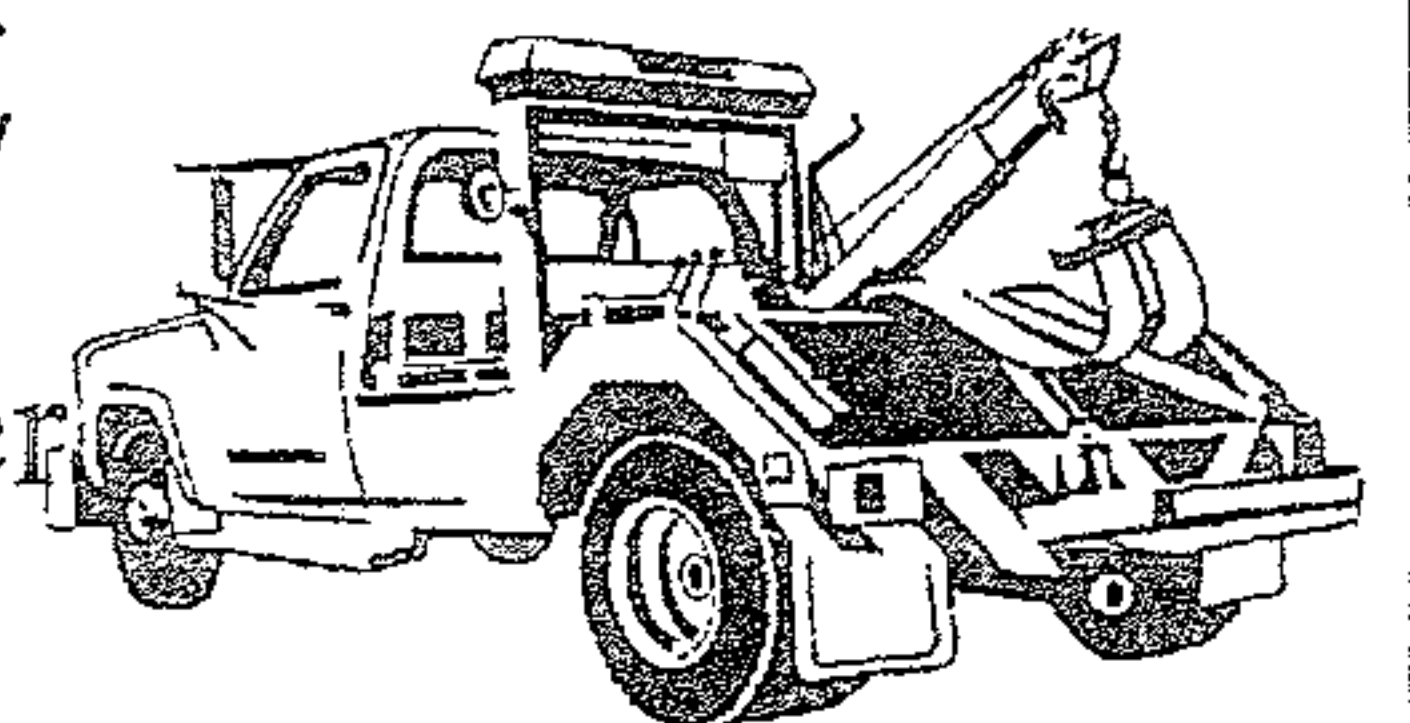
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Drugs

William Riden, 55, Riden Road Greenback, was charged with MFG/Del/Sale or Possession of Meth.

Deputy Kevin Dailey LCSO, observed a 2000 red GMC Jimmy with the incorrect registration, the registration came back to a 1989 pickup. Also, the vehicle's drivers side tire was nearly flat, the driver William Riden had passengers with him. As Deputy was speaking to Mr. Riden the front seat passenger appeared to be nervous and was searching as well as hiding something in her purse. While Deputy was speaking to her he observed a burnt spoon inside her bag, she then stated she had needles in her bag. After searching Mr. Riden Deputy recovered a small bag of what Mr. Riden stated was Crystal Meth in his left rear pocket, dispatch confirmed Mr. Sutton to have a warrant out of Monroe County, Tennessee. The vehicle was towed by Money-makers with female passenger getting a ride from Blount County Sheriff's Office to the Marathon on Highway 411 in Greenback. The two males were transported to the Loudon County Jail without incident with this all occurring in Loudon County, tn

DUI

Amanda Endsley, 29, Braircliff Ave Oak Ridge, was charged with DUI. Trooper Lael Justice THP, was dispatched to a crash on I40 at mm 364. When Trooper arrived he noticed tire marks in the grass starting at the 364 exit and ending at the vehicle that had hit a tree. The driver identified as Amanda Endsley stated she changed her mind getting off the exit and ran off the roadway. Trooper observed Endsley having to be held up due to the fact she could not keep her balance. Deputies on scene that Endsley smelled of a strong odor of alcohol that she was possibly intoxicated. EMS offered to transport Endsley to the hospital which she declined. EMS worker also stated the smell of a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage about her person. Upon Trooper talking with Endsley she stated she had 2 drinks and was still having trouble keeping her balance. Trooper also noticed a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage about her person. Endsley did poorly on sobriety test and was placed under arrest.

Obituaries

Leonard Michael Bierman age 87 of Greenback, TN, formerly of Middleton, WI and Deerfield, Ill., passed away February 9, 2018 at his home. He was a member of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church and retired after a lifelong career in the hardware industry. Leonard was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Katherine Frances; parents, Michael and Marie Bierman of Effingham, IL; sister, Lois Ludwig of St. Louis, MO. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Phyllis Williams Bierman; daughters, Jeanna Nix and husband, Conrad of Pompano Beach, FL, Karena J. Bierman and Christopher of Evanston, IL; grandchildren, Sebastian Van Tassel of Middleton, WI and Townes Leonard Bierman-Casas of Evanston, IL; sisters, June Cheatum and Susan Andes of Effingham, IL along with several nieces and nephews. Memorial services are being planned. The family wishes to express their appreciation to Blount Memorial Hospice and his special caregiver, Mechelle York. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 29th at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Loudon, TN.

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USA

set for Vincent Lee Ferguson, Matthew Lee Ferguson, and Kerry Joseph Ferguson for June 6, 2018, before the Honorable J. Ronnie Greer, U.S. District Judge. Sentencing for Neil Streeter and Stephanie Lynn Kaemmerer is set for June 11, 2018, also before Judge Greer. Conspiracy to commit wire fraud and smuggling goods into the United States both carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Each defendant was released pending sentencing.

According to information on file with the U.S. District Court, Wellco was a leading manufacturer and supplier of military footwear to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and to civilian (commercial) customers for over 70 years. From 2006 through 2012, DoD alone paid in excess of \$138 million to Wellco for the supply of combat boots. Wellco pioneered and patented the first practical method for molding and attaching a rubber sole to

a shoe upper in a single operation. During the Vietnam War, the U.S. Army adopted Wellco technology for the manufacture of its hot-weather boots for the jungles of Vietnam, a boot that became known as the "Vietnam Boot" or the "jungle boot." In May, 2007, in a deal involving approximately \$22 million, Wellco was acquired by two investment firms, Golden Gate Private Equity, Inc. and Integrity Brands, Inc. Wellco became a wholly owned subsidiary of Golden Gate's portfolio company, Tactical Holdings.

In March 2006, Vincent Lee Ferguson was made President and CEO of Wellco. At that time, he discussed with Wellco's Board of Directors, his turnaround plan for the company to increase commercial sales and "aggressively pursue" sales to the U.S. government. From December 2008 through August 2012, he conspired with his executive team to import military-style boots that were made in China into the United States and then deceptively market and

sell those boots to DoD (and other federal departments and agencies), government contractors, and the general public as "Made in the USA" and as compliant with the Berry Amendment and the Trade Agreements Act (TAA). The Berry Amendment prohibits DoD from buying clothing that is not grown, reprocessed, reused or produced in the United States. The purpose of the Berry Amendment is to protect the viability of

America's textile and clothing production base. The TAA provides that the government may acquire only "U.S.-made or designated country end products" and requires government contractors to certify that each "end product" meets applicable requirements.

By December 2008, Wellco was manufacturing certain mil-

see USA conc pg. 7

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USA conc. from pg. 5

itary boot model uppers and insoles in China. In order to conceal this fact, the conspirators required the Chinese manufacturing facility to include the American flag and "USA" on labels of certain boot uppers. After two shipments of these deceptively marked boots were detained and seized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, the conspirators ordered the Chinese facility to stitch tear-away "Made in China" labels in Wellco boot uppers. After importation, the conspirators instructed Wellco factory workers in Morristown, Tennessee to tear out the "Made in China" tags prior to shipping the boots to government and commercial purchasers.

The defendants mar-

keted and sold these Chinese-made Wellco boots as "Made in the USA." They also submitted false certifications to DoD and other federal agencies, and to government contractors that these boots complied with the Berry Amendment and TAA and met certain safety standards, including electrical hazard and blood-borne pathogen protections for U.S. troops. For example, on August 15, 2012, the defendants submitted a signed "Certificate of Conformance" to a government contractor,


representing that Wellco's boot model S161 was "100% Berry Compliant" and "fully protective against Electrical Hazard," even though the model was imported from China and not safety tested. The boots were then supplied to troops stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. In total, Wellco sold at least \$8.1 million of fraudulent boots.

This case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Air

Force Office of Special Investigations, General Services Administration Office of Inspector General, and Defense Contract Audit Agency. Assistant U.S. Attorneys David L. Gunn and Timothy C. Harker represented the United States.

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