

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

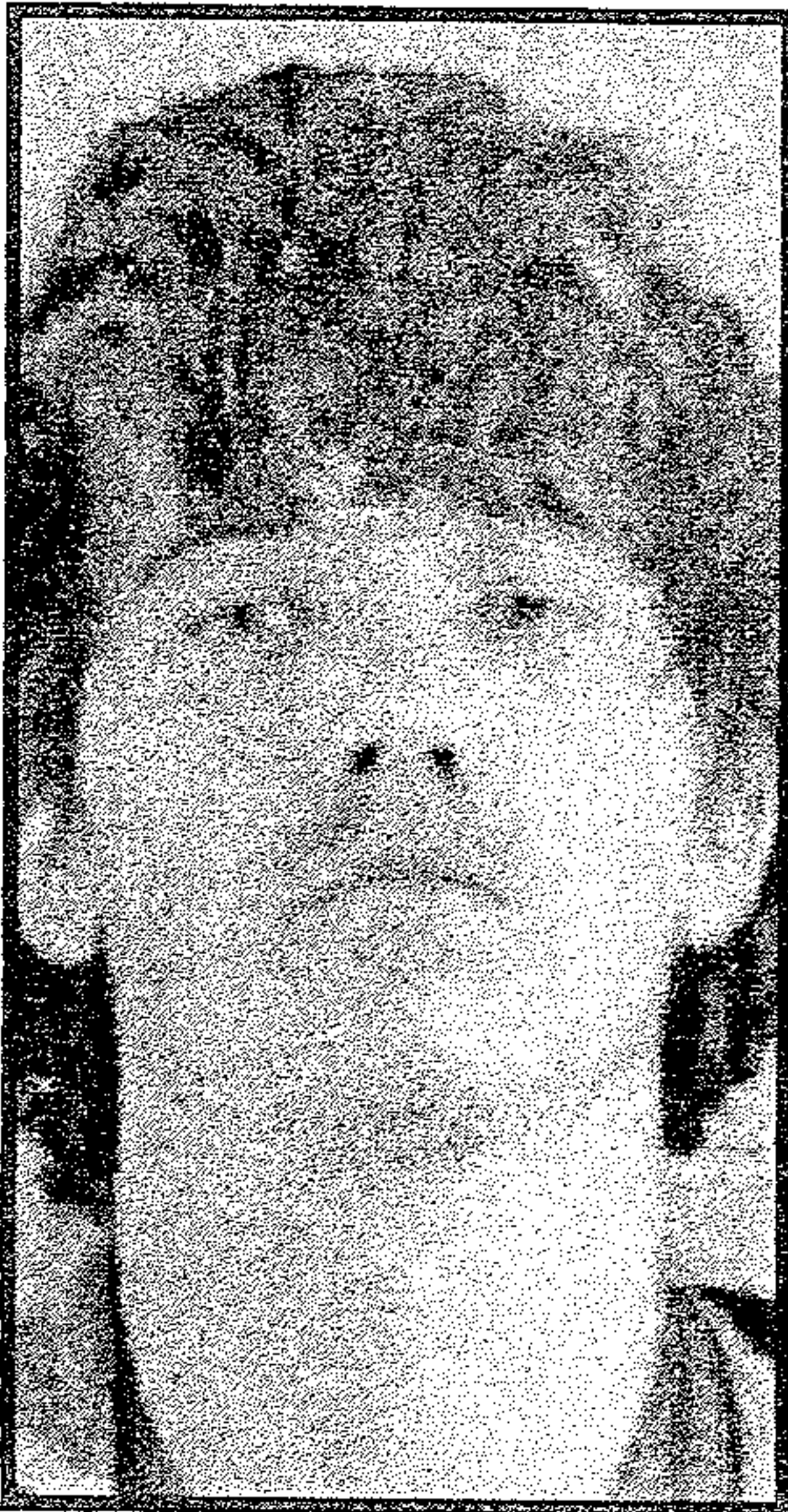
Friday, August 17, 2018

Assault With Blocks And Poles

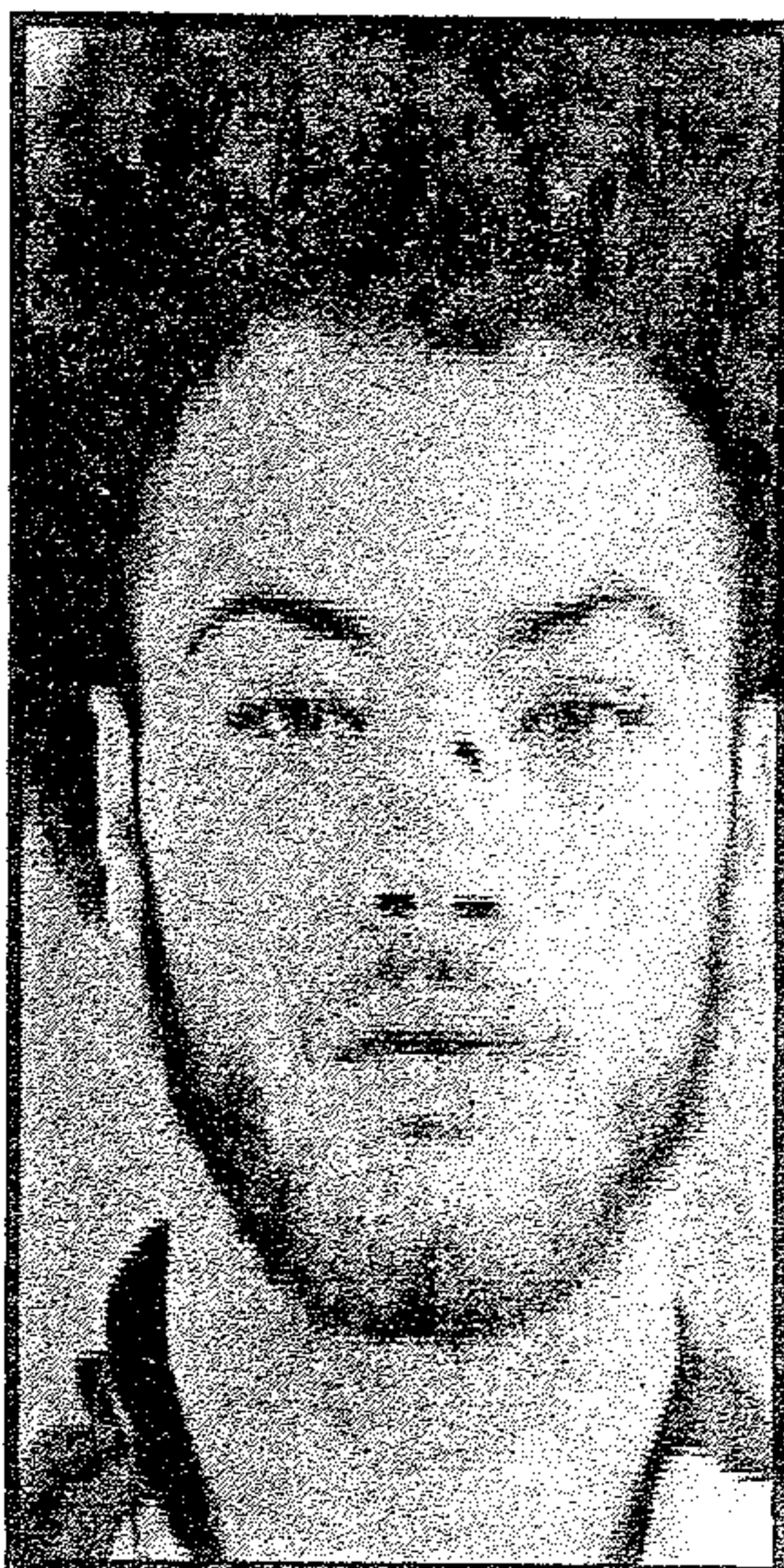
He claimed the hit and run car



Daniel Hardin



Glenn Feezell



Ashaunde Thaxton
see Assault pg. 2



Jason Williams

see Run pg. 3

Woman Thought Her Cat Was In The Dirt



Clara Robinette

See Possession P.5

The Good News

The Rev Dr Julius McCarter
Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-20

Everything we have -- every breath in our lungs, every morsel of food, every sip of drink; every gift, moment, loving relationship; every

See TGN P.3

Dismantling a Violent Gang Behind the Scenes of a Rare RICO Case in Indian Country

They called themselves the Red Skin Kingz, or RSK for short. And unlike most gangs on the sprawling Navajo Nation Indian Reservation that occupies portions of Utah, New Mexico,

and Arizona, this criminal group was highly organized and extremely violent.

"Unfortunately, violence in Indian Country is common," said Mike Caputo, assistant

(see Gang pg. 4)



Verse of the Day

We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. — Ephesians 2:10

Obituaries

See p. 7
Wazzup
Prayers for you loss Sis-co family. God Bless
Weather
Today: Cloudy. High of 88F.
Tonight: Thunderstorms.

Low of 70F.
Thursday: Cloudy. High of 89F.
Thursday Night: Rain.
Low of 71F.
Horoscopes
Leo 7/23-8/22
You are on a mission, yet you are unsure if you can

trust the process. The trick is to become crystal clear about what you want. Otherwise, you end up starting something but fail to finish it. Unfortunately, you may be so eager to accomplish your goal that you exhaust

(Continued on page 6)



Assault

Daniel Hardin, 21, Church Street Loudon, was charged with Aggravated Assault, and Aggravated Burglary.

Glenn Feezell, 19, Ferry Street Loudon, was charged with Aggravated Assault, and Aggravated Burglary.

Ashaunde Thaxton, 20, Ferry Street Loudon, was charged with Aggravated Assault, and Aggravated Burglary.

On 8/7/2018 according to witness statements and evidence at the scene. At around 1am Glenn Holden Feezell, Daniel Hardin, and Ashaunde Thax-

ton did enter the Home of As Feezell was leaving he victim located at Church Street without consent for the purpose of committing an assault. Feezell did commit an Aggravated assault by striking the victim with a metal pole.

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Run

Jason Williams, 39, Poplar Street Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault. Deputy Steve Holcomb LCSO, arrested Jason Williamson a domestic assault warrant at Moneymakers Wrecker Service where he was at-

tempting to pick up a vehicle that belonged to him that was involved in a hit and run and the driver fled the scene. Deputy Brewer had placed a hold on the vehicle. Williams was placed under arrest and transported to the Loudon Jail.

TGN

bit of our story -- comes as a gift from the hand of our gracious God. We have choices about how to receive and what to do with the gifts that have come our way. God's Wisdom has something to say about how we live. We can live self-serving lives of indulgence, debauchery and foolishness. Perhaps we might dress it up a bit and say "I have amassed much; I shall eat, drink and be merry." But the intent is the same. So is God's response.

Or perhaps we shall remember Whose we are and from whence come our blessings. We can remind ourselves in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs that we are called to lives of infectious servant love in God.

We can make the most of our time loving God and inviting others to share in the blessings we have so undeserved-

ly received.
Prayer: God, thank you. Help us live gratefully and generously, all to your glory. Amen.

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Gang

special agent in charge of the FBI's Phoenix Field Office, explaining that the violent crime rate on the nearly 200 Indian reservations within the FBI's investigative jurisdiction is about three times the national average. But RSK, whose top leaders were a mother-son team, "was one of the most violent gangs we have ever seen."

In May 2018, a federal judge in Phoenix sentenced 28-year-old Devan Leonard to 50 years in prison. His mother, Lucille Leonard, was given a 10-year sentence, and a third gang leader, 26-year-old Kyle Gray, received a 30-year prison term. In a rare occurrence, the three were charged with racketeering offenses typically reserved for the Mafia and other highly structured criminal groups.

The Racketeer Influenced and Cor-

rupt Organizations (RICO) Act is a federal statute that provides penalties for actions performed as part of an ongoing criminal organization. In this case, RSK had been engaged for years in drug trafficking, carjacking, kidnapping, and murder.

"There was a clear hierarchy," said Special Agent Bradley Smith, who investigated the case from the FBI's Gallup Resident Agency in New Mexico. "And they committed crimes in furtherance of the gang. Within the span of four days in 2014," Smith said, "they murdered, dismembered, and burned the bodies of three people."

RSK members primarily operated in and around the remote northern Arizona town of Lukachukai. Devan Leonard and his mother had a legitimate business there, but selling cocaine and methamphetamine was

the gang's priority. It was a drug-related murder near Gallup in 2014 that triggered the investigation that eventually brought the gang down.

On December 16, 2014, Gray and Devan Leonard shot and killed a Gallup man after a drug deal in nearby Wheatfields Lake, Arizona. Then they took the victim to a remote camp on the Navajo Nation, where they dismembered and burned the body—and forced the victim's girlfriend to watch.

Investigation by the FBI-led Safe Trails Task Force—which consists of local, state, federal, and tribal authorities, including the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety—led to Devan Leonard and Gray, who were in-

dicted for the murder in 2015.

"When we started a closer investigation into the two subjects," Smith said, "we learned of their long history of previous violent crimes."

Many of those crimes went largely unreported because they occurred in and around Lukachukai, an area so remote from law enforcement that community members who had witnessed RSK's criminal activity were afraid to come forward for fear of reprisals from the gang.

"This community was being held hostage," Caputo said. After Devan Leonard and Gray were indicted for the Wheatfields Lake murder, however, and task force members conducted hundreds of interviews in the area, residents gained trust in law

enforcement and began to cooperate.

Devan Leonard was eventually linked to two other homicides that occurred four days before the Wheatfields Lake murder. Evidence revealed that Leonard and another RSK leader shot and killed two men and transported their bodies to a remote area in Lukachukai, where they were dismembered, burned, and buried.

According to court documents, Lucille Leonard did not take part in the violence, but did hold a leadership role in RSK, mostly overseeing drug trafficking and the collection of debts owed to the gang.

In all, eight RSK members were indicted and have pleaded guilty as a result of the task force investigation.


See Gang ctd on 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-braided cord is not easily broken." - Ecclesiastes 4:12

Gang ctd from pg. 4

"We dismantled the gang," Smith said. "We put a complete stop to their activities."

"The success of this case can only be attributed to the collaboration of our partner agencies," Caputo added. "And the community getting on board, providing lots of tips, was invaluable. We are proud of our work on this case," he said. "We were able to hand the community back to the residents."

Charges

Clara Robinette, 58, Hickory Creek Road Lenoir City, was charged with Simple Possession.

Deputy Cody Fritts LCSO, was dispatched to Hickory Creek Road in reference to Clara Robinette trespassing on neighbors property. Upon arrival I located Ms.

Robinette on her neighbors property digging in the dirt with a stick. Ms. Robinette had spider webs on her face and looked like she had been rolling on the ground. Deputy asked Ms. Robinette what she was doing and she stated looking for her cat. Ms. Robinette was very fidgety, had pin point eyes, and appeared to be under the influence of a narcotic. I asked Ms. Robinette what she had in her pockets and she pulled a lighter and a ring out of her back pocket. Ms. Robinette then pulled a ball of paper from her pocket and threw it on the ground behind her. Found inside the paper was a gray pill with imprint K 57 (Oxycodone) 20 mg. Deputy asked Ms. Robinette about the pill and she stated she had a friend bring it to her. Ms. Robinette was taken into custody and transported to the Loudon County Jail.

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