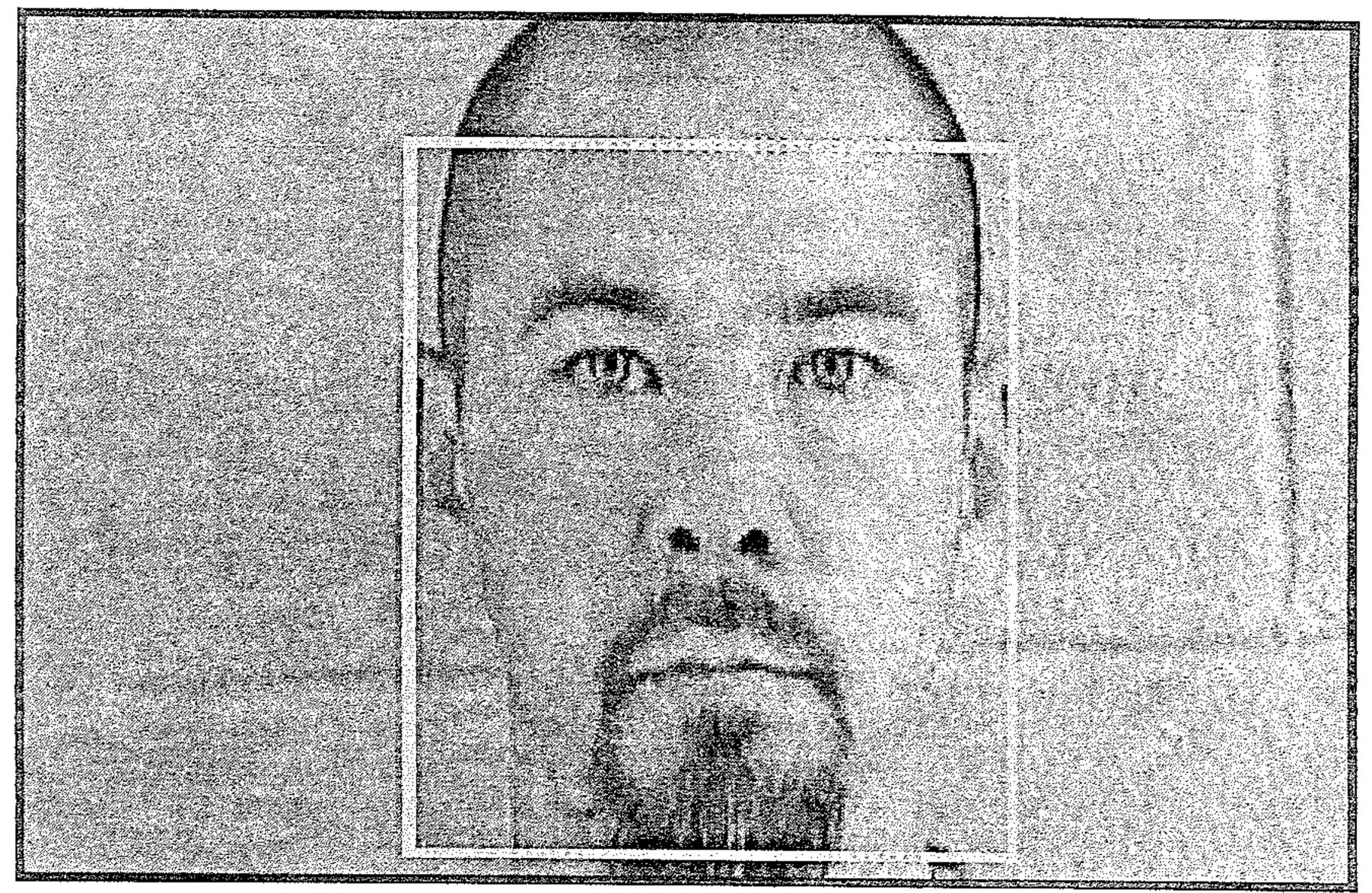
Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, August 27, 2018

# Theft of Car Parts Lead I Man To Flee



Brent Snyder

## Texas Man Charged With Assault



John Powers

Verse of the Day

When I said, "My foot

is slipping," your love,

O Lord, supported me.

When anxiety was

great within me, your

joy to my soul. —

Psalm 94:18-19 <u>Obituaries</u>

See p. 7

<u>Wazzup</u> Best wishes to Lacey and Brian, the day is finally consolation brought here!! We love you!

See Assault P.5

Weather

Today: Sunny. High of 91F.

see Starter pg. 2

The Good News

The Rev Dr Ju-

lius McCarter

Scripture: Psalm

He had profound

hearing loss and no

aids had been bro-

ken so long ago he

had forgotten what

it was like to hear

money. His hearing

TGN

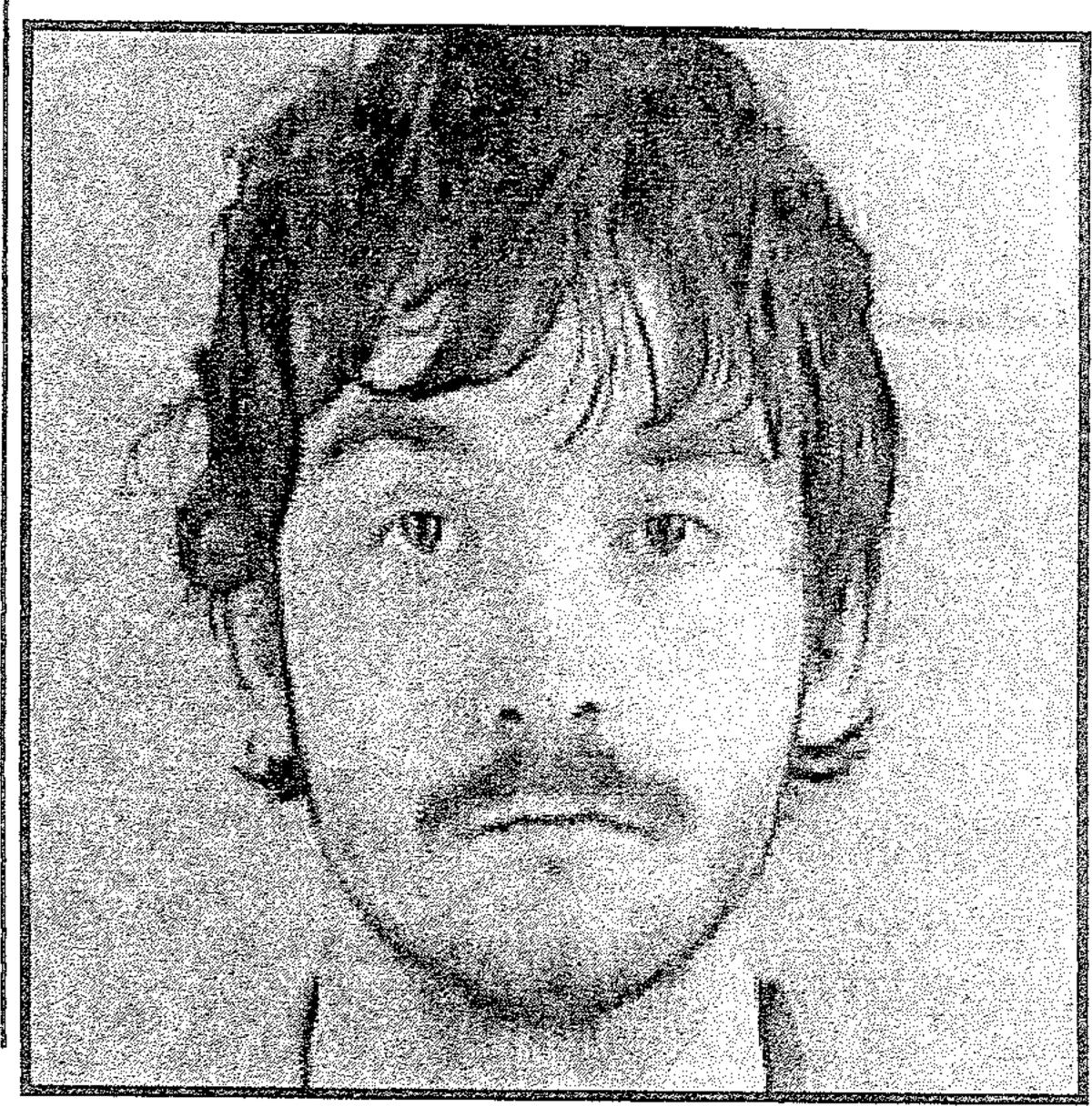
85:8-13

Tonight: Clear. Low of 70F.

Tuesday: Sunny. High of 90F.

Tuesday Night: Cloudy. Low of 70F.

# Argument Gets Violent



Benjamin Mclemore

see Choke pg. 3

#### Interstate Cargo Theft Sophisticated Crime Ring Stole Millions Before Being Dismantled

The knew exactly what disappear without a they were doing. trace. Well, almost A crew of four— without a trace. each with a specific In May 2018, a job-could steal a federal judge in Intractor-trailer full of diana sentenced four electronics or phar- leaders of the inmaceuticals worth terstate cargo theft millions of dollars ring to lengthy pris-

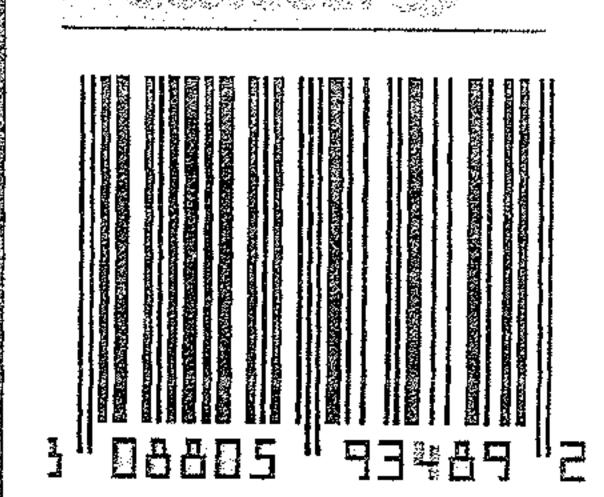
LIKEUS ON DE LIKEU LIKE US ON D

Horoscopes

Virgo 8/23-9/22 There is an odd sense of dj vu with your current situation. The same old patterns seem to sping back around, and once again you take on a very comfortable role that (Continued on page 6)

criminals and within minutes

(see FBI pg. 4)



#### Starter

Brent Snyder,

35, Caldwell Road Loudon, was charged with Aggravated Burglary, Theft, and Simple Possession x2.

Deputy Schultz LCSO, and Deputy Cody Bengel LCSO, responded to a aggravated

burglary and theft call at Caldwell Rd. Upon arrival, Ms. Deputy made contact with victims, who both gave written statements that said Mr. Brent Snyder had went into victims residence without his knowledge or consent, and was seen there by victim. Mr. Snyder then

male also gave a written statement to this affect. see Starter ctd p.3

stole a package that con- When Mr Snyder heard tained a new starter for a that law enforcement was Saturn and went to Cir- in route he brought the cle Drive in Loudon, In starter back to victims. He to try to sell the starter to then fled the scene. The a male for \$20.00. The area was canvassed to no

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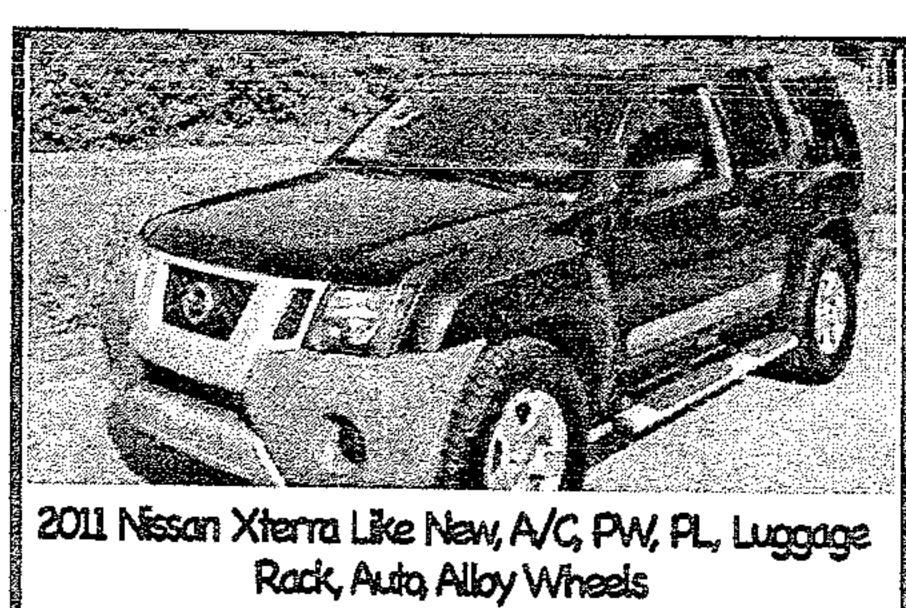
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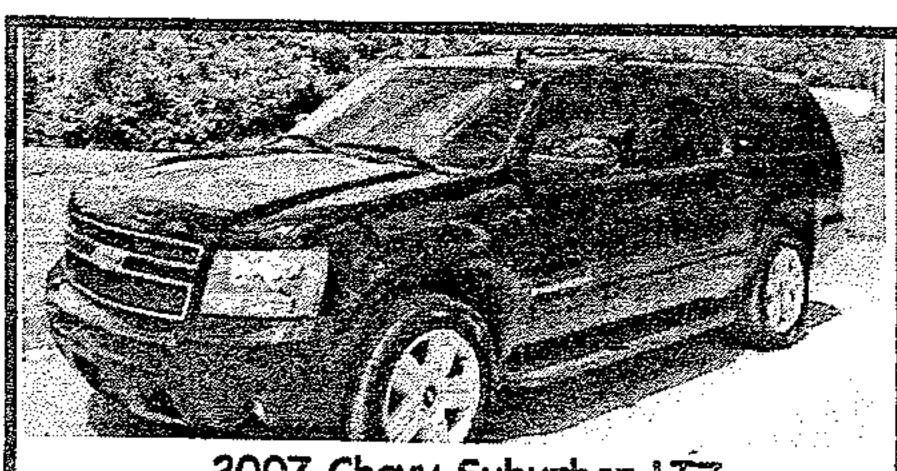


2010 Dodge Ram, Laramie, Loaded, 4X4, PW, PL, PS, V8, Leather, Tow Package, Alloy



№010 Ford F150 Platinum PKG, Power Run. Boards, NAV, Ent. PKG, Leather, Heated/ Cooled Seats





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2009 Chevy Tahoe V8, Auto, PW, PL, Alloy Wheels, Tow Package, PS, Great Shape

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### Starter ctd. from pg. 2

avail. Sgt Inv C. Cosner #940 was contacted and informed of this event. Deputy Charlie Huskins did locate Snyder and placed him under arrest. This did occur in Loudon County, TN.

## Choke

Benjamin McLemore, 22, Corinth Road Loudon, was charged with Aggravated Assault, and Vandalism.

Deputy Spears

Pesterfield Deputy responded to FIELDIE GITTELTE Best Veli in town for all you food meeds We honor all competitor's coupons.

a call of a Domestic at 3898 Corinth Rd. Upon arrival Deputy made contact with the victim. The victim stated that her boyfriend, the offender, Mr. Benjamin Mclemore had been at home with her where they were both drinking, got into an argument, and he choked her with one hand. Upon looking at the victims neck there were obvious red marks and swelling. The victim stated after being choked that she then started to choke him back when they fell onto the bed, after which she kicked him off of her. He then grabbed her .22 Caliber handgun out from under the mattress and attempted to rack the slide putting it into ty, TN. Warrant served battery; however, there was no ammunition in the gun at the time. She stated that she believes he did steal 11 rounds of .22 Caliber Ammunition for the handgun from the home at some point. After this occured the victim went outside, then returned back inside when she heard slamming inside and she told him to leave. The victim stated that he grabbed his keys at this time and walked out of the door where she told the offender to stay gone. The offender at this time drove off, but then returned shortly after and started kicking the victims door and ended up breaking the dead bolt lock and doing major frame damage

to the door. The victim then told the offender that she was calling the cops and the offender left the scene. The victim was explained options of safe places to go; however, she called her mother, who the victim rents the home from. stated that she was going to be staying with her until she took her to work at 5:00am. The victim refused any medical attention; however, she did state that she was in fear of harm. Deputy is charging the offender with Aggrivated Assault by Domestic Violence (TCA 39-13-102) and Vandalism (TCA 39-14-408). All above did occur in Loudon Counon 08-19-2018 at 3898 Corinth Rd. Loudon,

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#### FBI

on terms. In all, a defendants dozen that were part of the Kentucky-based organization—which had ties to the Cuban mob in Miamihave been convicted of stealing more than \$30 million in cargo between 2012 and 2015.

charged in the indictment exceeded \$30 million during a roughly three-year period," said Special Agent Paul Meyer, who investigated the case from the FBI's Indianapolis Division. "But we believe during a span of six or seven years, this criminal group stole over \$100 million worth of cargo."

Members of the around the country to pick their targets often shipping facilities in the Midwest used by national companies to distribute cell phones, computers, clothing, cigarettes, and a range of other products.

The criminals

would surveil a facility, target a tractor-trailer leaving the distribution center, and then follow the rig—sometimes for a day or more to find the appropriate time and place to steal it, usually when the driver pulled into a truck stop to rest or refuel.

"The crews were crimes very sophisticated," Meyer said, explaining that many of the thefts were committed at truck stops near interstate highways in Indiana, Kentucky, and North Carolina. Cigarettes, pharmaceuticals, and all types of electronics, especially cell phones, were favored targets.

The thieves typically worked in four-man crews. theft ring traveled "Two crew members would do surveillance in cars," Meyer said. "A third would break into the tractor, get it running, and then turn it over to the fourth member of the team. who would drive the stolen load away."

Within 10 or 20

miles of the theft. the crew would separate the tractor from the trailer, attach their own tractor, and drive away. First, they might paint over the trailer logos or alter license plates. Knowing that trucking companies put electronic trackers on their trailers, the crew tried to find and disarm the trackers. Sometimes they would leave the load unattended for a period of time to see if law enforcement responded. If not, Meyer said, "they would hook their own legitimate tractor to the stolen trailer and move it on."

Cargo theft ring member surveils victim driver during a 2014 theft in Illinois

Stolen merchandise was transported to locations in Kentucky, New Jersey, Florida, and elsewhere and then sold. It was a load of

cell phones, stolen in Gary, Indiana in 2013 and valued at nearly \$12 million, that got the FBI investigation underway.

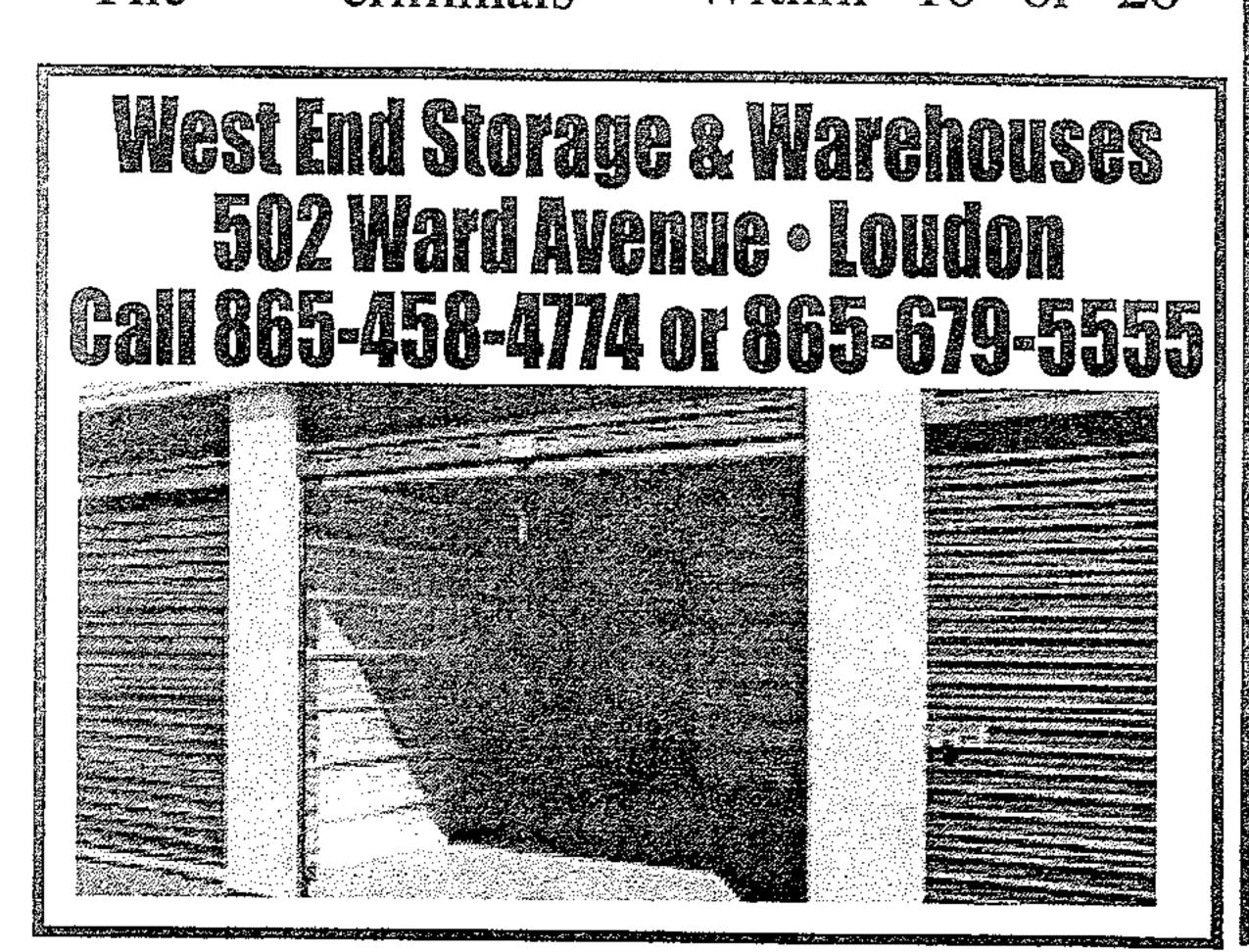
Veteran investigator Meyer had worked cargo theft cases in the past, and he had formed valuable partnerships with local law enforcement, including the Kentucky State Police, the Louisville Metro Police Department's Auto Theft Unit, trucking industry groups, as well as individual companies. "Some of the companies had been victimized time and time again," he said. "They were glad to cooperate."

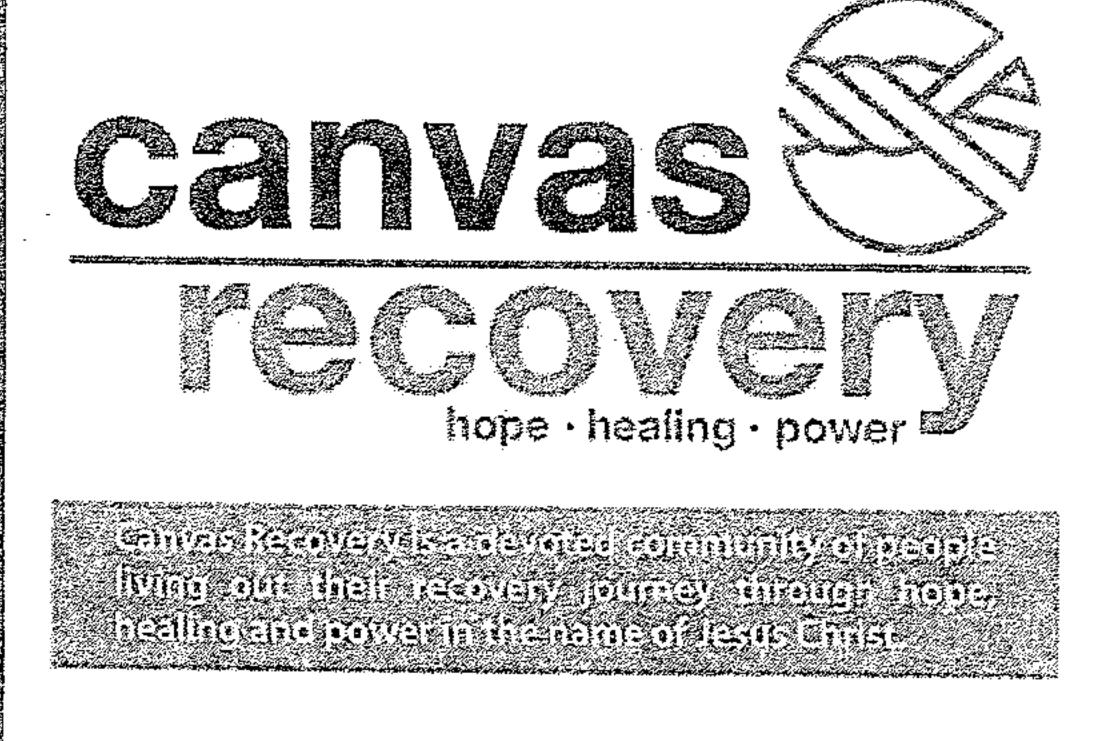
Sharing information and expertise, investigators identified suspects in the 2013 cell phone robbery that would ultimately lead to the entire theft ring. Using truck stop surveillance VIC-

eo, bank records, rental car records, cell phone analysis, court-authorized wiretaps, and confidential sources, "we put together a huge historical conspiracy case," Meyer said.

In May 2015, investigators set up a sting operation. The "bait" was a load of cell phones leaving a distribution center in Louisville. Using a confidential source, Meyer's team "injected false intel" to members of the theft ring. "We knew they were going to be watching the facility in Louisville," he said. "They took the bait. We watched them steal the load, and then we took them down."

Since then, Meyer said, "we've seen a drop in thefts in our area. We're not having the issues we used to have," he added. "That tells you we got the right people."





"A penon election plane can be dischool and delected, but two can stand back-to-lock and conques. This are even better for a bible-braided cord is not could broken." - Ecologisties 4112

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#### Assault

John Powers, 19, Saranac Trail Texas, at which time he was charged with did strike her in

patched to South a bloody nose, and Long Hollow road was checked by and HWY 321 in Maryville to as- to be transported. sist Blount County. J. Powers provid-Deputy arrived on ed a similar story scene and met with but stated that the Deputies, who had altercation part he stopped the vehi- could not rememcle containing the ber very well. J. victim, and the wit- Powers was taken nesses and the of- into custody and fender John Powers, transported to the who is the victims Loudon County younger brother. Jail for domestic Their attention was assault. This did drawn to the truck occur in Loudon. because J. Powers was in the back of TGN the truck. victim, and the two wit- and secretly renesses stated that sorted to reading. In the wondrous they had been at a lips. We learned of friends house on a generous foun-Hwy 95 in Loudon dation and found sion when "stead-County, they de- a wonderful audicided to leave and ologist who cheer-J. Powers began fully donated his trying to assert that time. he was going to be Many weeks latdriving, but he had er the two new other." When our consumed alcohol. hearing aids were ears are opened,

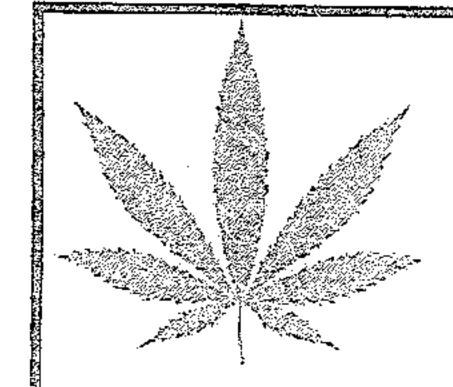
Victim attempted to prevent J. Powers from driving Domestic Assault. the face numerous Deputy was dis- times. She did have EMS, and declined

ready. On the way to the fitting he confessed he was nervous. In the chair he was trembling with fear, and said, "It's been so long. I'm afraid." Then came the miracle. When the new hearing aids were activated, his face overflowed with tears and a huge smile. Sin is like ear wax, it clogs our ears and prevents us from hearing the good news. Then the Holy Spirit opens our ears and we hear the joyous sounds of the gospel. What a song the psalmist sings to us this day! notes there is peace nand a vifast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each

then we can hear again God's glorious song.

Prayer: Lord, I'm ready. I want to hear. By the power of your Holy

Spirit, open up my ears today so I might hear the wondrous sounds the gospel. Amen.



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