

# Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

## Couple that flees from vehicle later to be arrested

## Driver and passenger unconscious leads to drug charges



Elias James



Jade Arthure

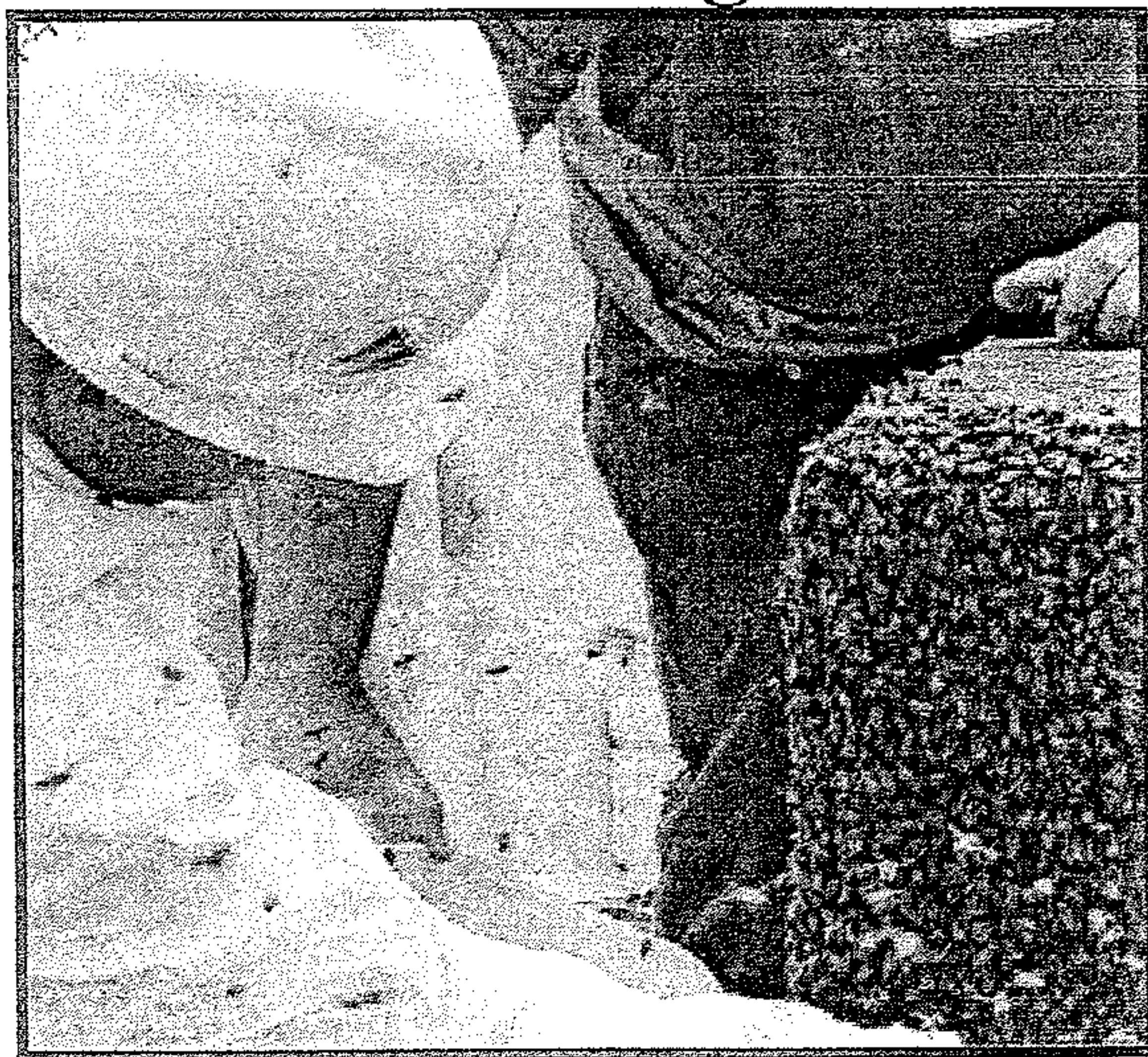
see Flee pg. 2



Michael Smallen

see Charged pg. 3

## Watts Bar "Bee-Team" Saves Swarming Hive



see Bees pg. 5

## Division Of Forestry To Create Prescribed Fire Strike Team

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), Division of Forestry is pleased to announce it has received a \$200,000 grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to expand fire implementation and management.

See Fire P.4

## Former Kingsport PTA Official Stole More Than \$5,500

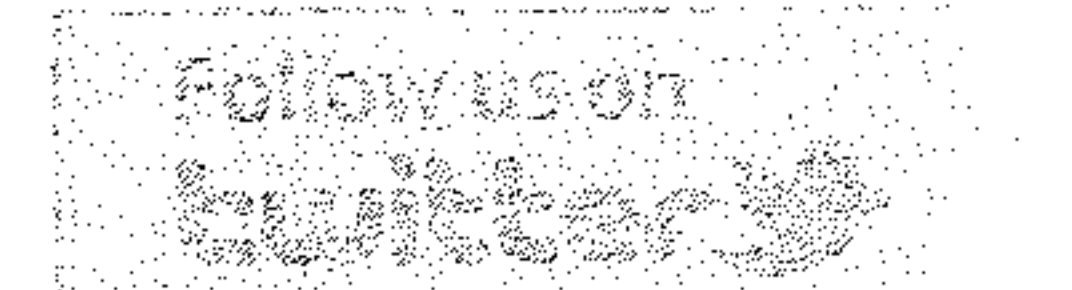
Former Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School PTA official Donna Galloway stole at least \$5,534 from her PTA organization from 2014 through 2017.

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has resulted in Galloway's indictment

after investigators determined she misappropriated over 96% of funds raised by Kingsport community members intended for the elementary school.

The investigation began after PTA board members reviewed PTA checking account records

See PTA P.4



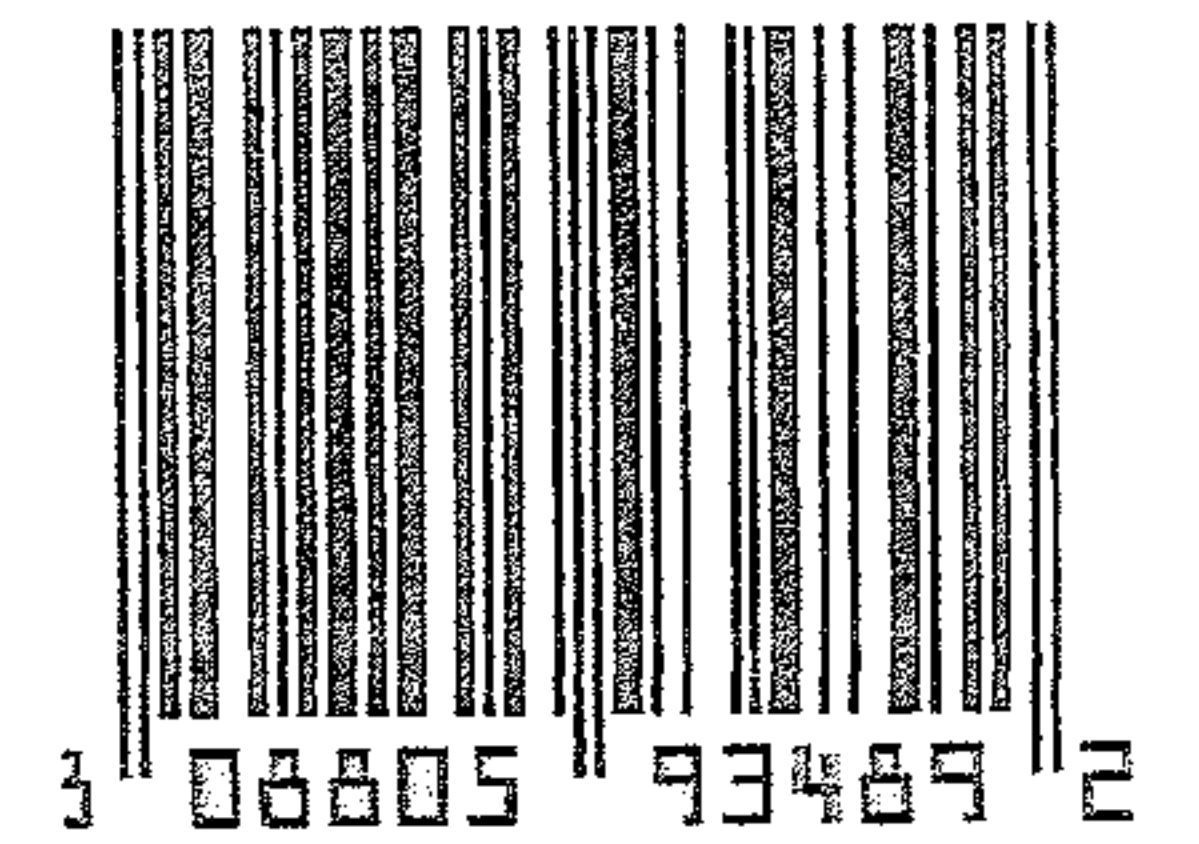
**Verse of the Day**  
Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.  
— Psalm 97:12  
**Wazzup**  
Happy Birthday Jes-

sica Garmon!! Your such a sweet sweet lady and I'm glad to know you!!  
**Weather**  
Today: Mostly cloudy. High of 57F.  
Tonight: Cloudy. Low of 36F

Thursday: Cloudy. High of 64F  
Thursday night: Clearing. Low of 51F  
**Horoscopes**  
Scorpio 10/23-11/21  
The compulsion to ferret out a guarantee can cause you to look long and

hard at another's motivations today. Ultimately, what you are hoping to find is an impenetrable shield against hurt or disappointment. But deep down, both your heart

(Continued on page 6)



**Flee**

Elias James, 21, Crawford Drive Lenoir City, was charged with Evading Arrest, Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, and Theft of Property. Jade Arthur, 20, Raleigh Street Florida, was charged with Criminal Simulation, Theft of Property, and Evading Arrest Trooper R. Fletcher THP, observed a gold vehicle traveling on I-75 northbound. Trooper

attempted to make contact with the vehicle for traffic violation. The vehicle continued until it exited the 72 exit. Trooper Stroup assisted with an attempt to locate the vehicle. The vehicle was observed at a high rate of speed entering into the KFC. Upon contact with the vehicle the occupants had fled on foot. During a search of the area the defendants were located behind a parked trailer at a business

on Hwy 72. Troopers observed the defendants attempting to conceal themselves. Upon contact the male attempted to run but were closed in by Troopers. Both parties were tak-

en into custody. The male identified as Elias James had the keys to the vehicle they were driving around his neck which came back stolen out of Flee ctd. to P. 3

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Flee ctd. to P. 2

Florida. James license came back suspended and had an active felony warrant out of Florida with full extradition. The female was identified as Jade Arthure. Both were transported to the Loudon County Jail.

### Charged

Michael Smallen, 37, Seawanee Street Harriman, was charged with Criminal Impersonation, Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch. II & VI, Simple Possession, and Attachment. Deputy A. Parton, C. Green and E. Curtis LCSO, responded to Stevens Lane in reference to a possible domestic. While leaving the area Deputy Green observed a gold vehicle on the side of the road. Inside the vehicle the driver and passenger appeared to be unconscious. Deputy then spoke to the passenger who identified himself as William, a date of birth and stated he was 27 years old. Deputy seeing the discrepancy of the date of birth and the age Deputy obtained a picture of William and it did

not match. The male was then detained and stated he was Michael Smallen. Mr. Smallen then stated that he had Suboxone and Methamphetamine in his right pocket. Smallen Stated it wasn't his he was taking it to a female up the road. Deputy received consent to search the vehicle and recovered 11 bags of green leafy substance believed to be marijuana. Smallen was then placed under arrest and stated the marijuana was his. Michael Smallen had an active Attachment Warrant. Michael Smallen was transported to the Loudon County Jail.

### Bees

When a swarm of bees descended on Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, one beekeeping employee knew just what to do. Thanks to his know-how and connections, these important pollinators are surviving and thriving today.

More than 650,000 homes enjoy the 1,150 megawatts of milk and honey that flows from Watts Bar Nuclear plant and illuminates the bulbs above the

kitchen table. But now, the Tennessee Valley Authority plant is helping pollinate Rhea County with a giant swarm of 25,000 honey bees that was rescued from its 1,700-acre reservation in June.

Today, the bees are thriving in a hive positioned by a small garden about 8.5 miles north of the plant. The hive is being cared for

by beekeeper Billy Thedford, who is a member of the Rhea County Beekeepers Association (RCBA). Thedford is preparing to split the Watts Bar bee colony into multiple hives in hopes of gradually repopulating the bee numbers in Rhea County over time. With the help of other beekeepers, he plans to position

Bees ctd. to P. 5

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**PTA**

and discovered suspicious transactions. Galloway, who served several terms as president and treasurer for the organization, assumed control over all PTA financial responsibilities with no oversight from other PTA board members. For three years, Galloway stole from the PTA by keeping fundraising proceeds for herself, making cash withdrawals from the PTA account for her personal use, writing fraudulent personal checks to herself, and using PTA funds to go on at least eight personal Walmart shopping sprees. These Walmart purchases included Easter baskets, cat food, candy, groceries, toiletries, hair products, cough syrup, and other personal items. Galloway resigned from the PTA board in December 2017 after new members asked about unexplained financial transactions. In October 2019, Donna Galloway was indicted by the Sullivan County

Grand Jury on one count of forgery over \$10,000, one count of forgery over \$2,500, and one count of theft over \$2,500. "These actions could have been prevented if the PTA had adopted financial controls, as required by state law," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "Not only did PTA officials fail to separate financial responsibilities, but they also did not retain supporting documentation for many purchases." It should be noted that the PTA ceased operations at the end of the 2019 school year.

**Fire**

The project will support a prescribed fire strike team that will implement more than 1,200 acres of prescribed burning on public and private forestland on the Cumberland Plateau. Prescribed fires help reduce the catastrophic damage of wildfire by safely reducing excessive brush, shrubs, and trees. They also encourage native veg-

etation to grow and are used to maintain the many plant and animal species whose habitats depend on periodic fire. "Prescribed fire is an important tool in overall forest health management." State Forester David Arnold said. "Our main objective is to improve the quality of forests for timber production and wildlife, especially on privately-owned land. Most of the forests across Tennessee are owned by families and individuals, making them crucial players in helping ensure healthy forests." The Division of Forestry will hire a new strike team to implement prescribed burning practices that complement the work of division staff statewide. The NFWF

grant project will engage private landowners on the Cumberland Plateau. "The Cumberland Plateau contains some of the most biologically diverse habitats in the United States," Jeff Trandahl, executive director and CEO of NFWF said. "Through the Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund, government agencies and private corporations are working together to restore native forests and enhance freshwater systems for an array of colorful and rare species, many of which are found nowhere else." TDA Division of Forestry extinguishes nearly 1,000 fires each year and helps control the disease and insect pests that plague state forests. Tennessee's forests cover 14 million acres, more than

half of the state, and provide many benefits, including beauty, wildlife habitat, timber production, recreation, air and water quality, energy conservation, carbon sequestration, enhanced property values, stormwater control, and natural heritage.

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**Public Notice**

The City of Philadelphia Mayor and Board of Aldermen will hold a public hearing at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2019 at 400 Church Street to receive public comments regarding amending the 2007-01 Philadelphia Floodplan Ordinance be replacing it with the Amended Philadelphia Floodplan Ordinance. This will be the second reading of the amended Philadelphia Floodpan Ordinance. Questions can be directed to the Floodplan Administrator at 865-458-4470.

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Bees etd. from pg. 3

each stable hive in different locations across the county — creating lasting value for the entire community.

“If we treat these bees right, the benefits of this one hive could go on forever,” Thedford says.

**Creating a Hive that Can Thrive**

The event happened when a TVA employee, Mark Porter — who happens to be a beekeeper — spotted a colony of honeybees at work.

A queen had split off and led half her colony of worker bees across the site in search of a new home. Assembled on a concrete structure outside the plant’s maintenance building, the swarm was waiting for the colony’s “scout bees” to return.

“Most people’s first instinct is to spray them dead,

but these pollinators are crucial to our food supply and need to be saved,” Porter says — not to mention it’s illegal to kill honeybees in the state of Tennessee.

After a few phone calls, the Rhea County Beekeepers Association dispatched Thedford, who specializes in relocating wild bee swarms.

Together, Thedford and Porter used a turkey feather (shown above) to gently swipe the bees into a swarm box (shown below) for transport.

“The site responded beautifully,” says Jerri Dolan, TVA environmental scientist. “Our employees made the area safe, while also looking out for the wellbeing of these important pollinators. It’s a perfect example of properly handling both safety and environmental factors.”

**The Case for Bees**

It’s no secret. Honeybee numbers are declining.

This year the nation saw a 38 percent loss in managed colonies — one of the highest on record, according to Bee Informed Partnership. Last year, Tennessee’s 65 percent winter loss was the second highest state, while Arizona’s devastating die-off topped the chart at 72 percent.

With one-third of the global food supply made by pollinators, this is a big problem. That’s one in every three bites you take.

“The losses we’re experiencing due to parasites and other diseases is intolerable. Imagine if 40 percent of America’s beef cattle were wiped out in a year,” RCBA President Diana Pace says. “That’s what’s at stake here. We’re talking about our food, and it’s essential to try to save and replenish as many of these bee swarms as possible.”

TVA’s Dolan agrees. “The worst case scenario is already a reality in other countries,” she says. “In China, they are having to hand-pollinate just to maintain their food supply.”

In addition to the pollinating food factor, consuming local

honey is believed to reduce seasonal allergy symptoms. According to Pace, bees from a single hive can forage up to eight miles, bringing pollens and other allergens back to the hive to be mixed with the golden goodness.

“By introducing small amounts of local allergens into our system, honey can help boost our immunity,” Pace says.

It’s still going to be a few years before the Watts Bar bees will be able to produce enough honey for consumption, but RCBA honey is currently being sold at the Piggly Wiggly and other locations throughout the county. Pace says if you are looking to buy local honey near you, read the labels closely.

The words “distributed by” or “produced

by” are telltale indicators that the jar’s contents is likely an imposter — regardless of other claims on the label. The honey may even be from overseas — mostly imported corn syrup from China.

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**Public Notice**

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