

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, June 28, 2019

Meth charges follow shoplifting call at Walmart



Jonathan King

see Meth pg. 2



Amber Warwick

Man with needles and meth found passed out on Broadway



Richard Beukeman

see LC pg. 7

Mario Ambrosio Lewis to serve 20 years in prison for distribution of Fentanyl resulting in death

Distribution of Fentanyl resulted in death of 31-year-old Bristol Tn. woman.

Mario Ambrosio Lewis, 34, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced on June 25, 2019, by the Honorable Leon Jordan, Senior U.S. District Court Judge, to serve 20 years in federal prison. There is no parole in the federal system.

Lewis pleaded guilty

in March of 2019 to distributing fentanyl to Calvin Richard Campbell. Campbell admitted to a Bristol PD Detective and an agent of the Second Judicial District Drug Task Force that he had provided the substance, which contained fentanyl, to the victim. Camp-

see Fentanyl pg. 3

The Good News

The Rev. Dr. Julius McCarter
Scripture: Luke 9:51-62

One of my congregation's mission statements over the years began, "Our journey of faith leads us ..." It's a nod to the many travels in the Bible--from Abraham and Sarah obediently following God's call, to the searching of the magi, to the determination with which Jesus followed the path to the cross.

That journey of faith isn't always easy. The disciples learned as

see TGN pg. 7

Fighting for the Dogs

Civil Forfeiture Speeds Recovery for Dogs Rescued From Fighting Rings

A New Mexico man's long journey through the legal process for his extensive role in a dogfighting network—from his arrest in 2016 to his guilty plea last year to his sentencing last month—raises a logical question: What happens to the res-

cued dogs as the case is wending its way through the courts?

Robert Arellano, of Albuquerque, was sentenced April 4 in federal court in New Jersey to four years in prison for his involvement in a multi-state dogfighting network. When he and others

See Dogs P.4



Verse of the Day

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah!"

—John 1:41-42

Wazzup

It's the end of the fiscal year for our government bodies, let's give a big shout out to the finance folks, they works their you know what's off to

make sure the budget balances each year! Thanks for all your hard work!

Weather

Today: Storms. High of 88F.

Tonight: Storms. Low of

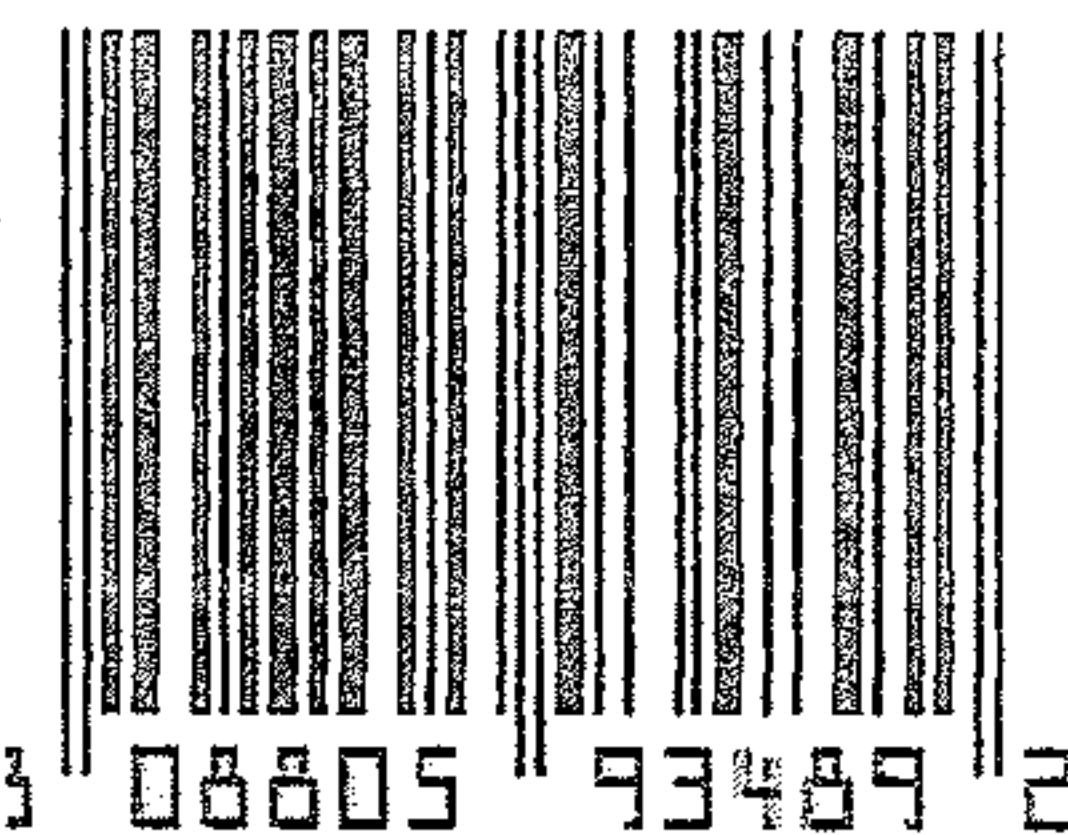
69F

Saturday: Partly cloudy. High of 89F

Saturday night: Overcast. Low of 69F.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. High of 89F.

(Continued on page 6)



Meth

Jonathan King, 34, Hwy 61 Luttrell, was charged with Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. Of Meth, Poss. Of Drug Para., and Burglary. Amber Warwick, 42, Briscoe Circle Knoxville, was charged with Poss. Of Drug Para., and Mfg/

Del/Sale or Poss. Of Meth. Dispatch advised LCPD of a male shoplifter that attempted to push out a buggy with multiple items of merchandise totaling 503.86. Loss prevention attempted to stop the male as he was exiting the store after passing all points of

sale. The male later identified as Jonathan King then fled on foot running through the parking lot. Amber Warwick a female that was with King was detained by Inv. Brown at Walmart.

Officer observed a male walking with no shirt, muddy and wet come out of the wood line on Shaw Ferry Road. Officer identified himself and told King to get on the ground. See Meth ctd to pg. 3

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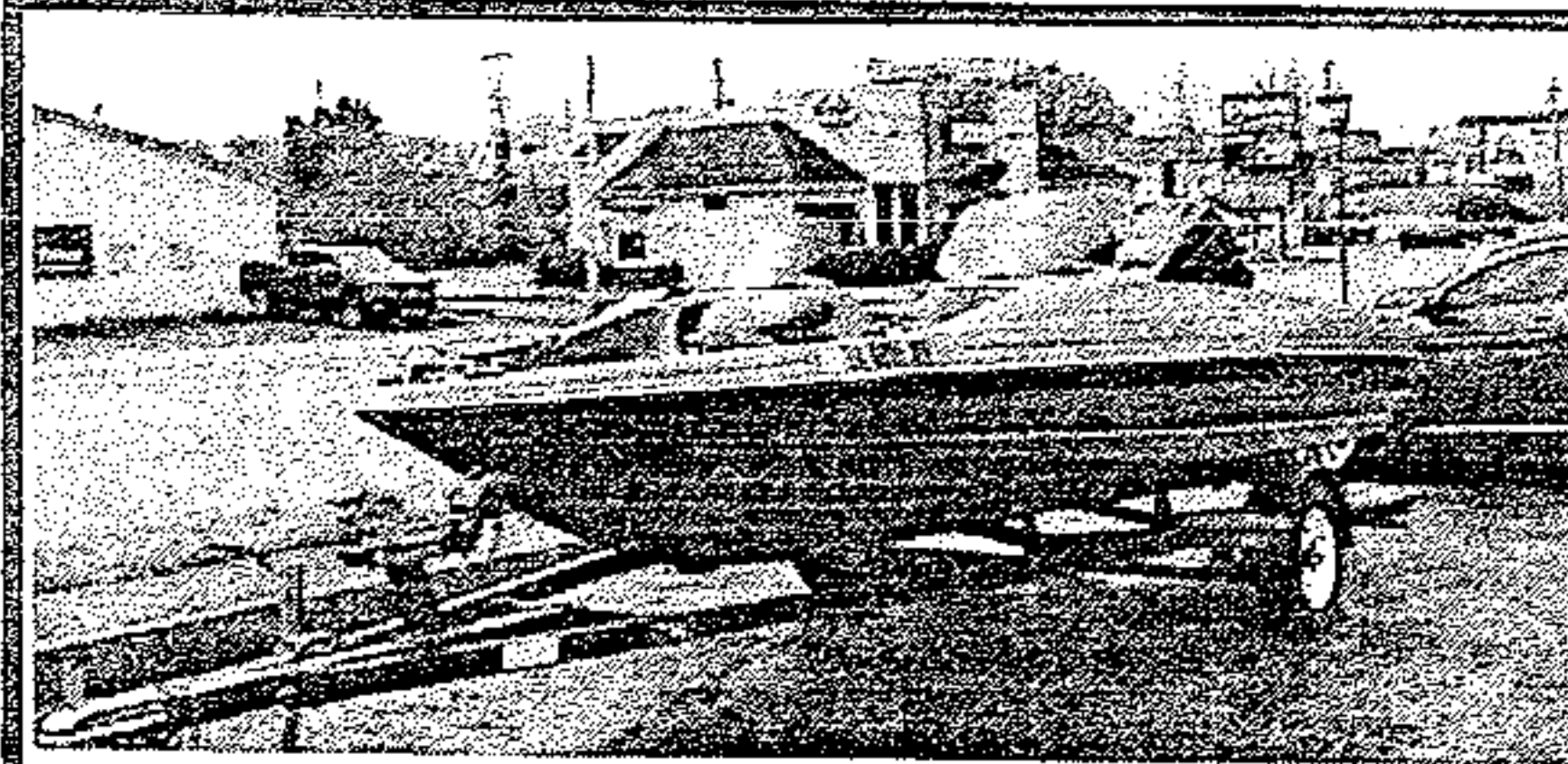
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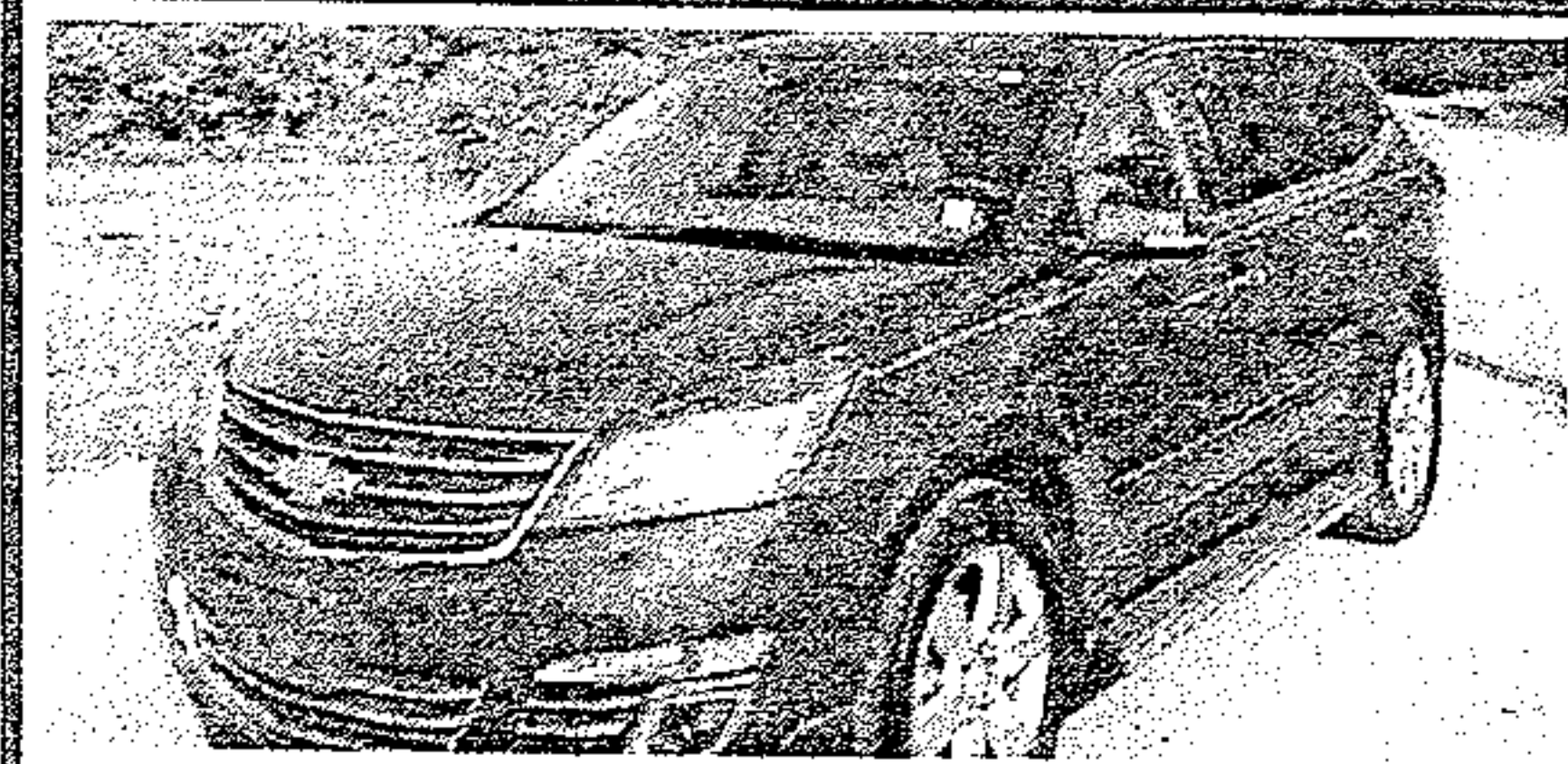
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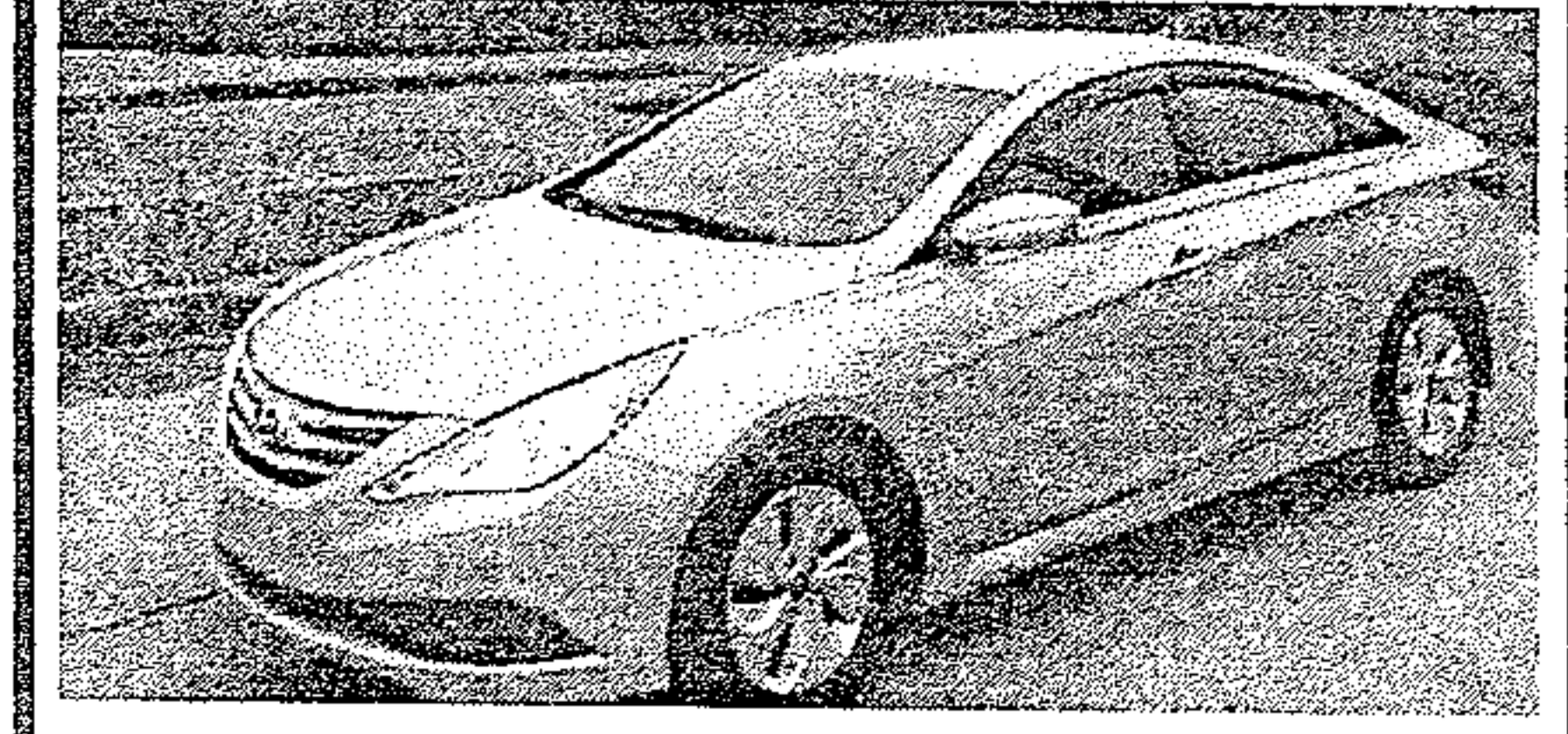
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Meth ctd from pg. 2

King then took off on foot again into the woods.

King then exited the woods on Town Creek Road and taken onto custody. Inv. Brown was speaking with King he stated he had some meth in the center console of the vehicle. Brown ask for consent to search and was granted. A search revealed a baggie with approx. .5 grams of meth.

Found in Warwick makeup bag were 17 syringes, a cotton filter, and a burnt spoon. King was trespassing and banned from all Walmarts.

Both were transported to the Loudon Jail.

Fentanyl

bell identified Lewis as his heroin supplier and the source of the fentanyl that resulted in the overdose death of a Bristol woman

on April 23, 2017, due to acute fentanyl toxicity. Agents of the Second Judicial District Drug Task Force, Bristol Tennessee Detectives and the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office began an undercover and financial investigation into Lewis and his drug trafficking and were joined by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) over the course of the investigation. Campbell pleaded guilty in Sullivan County Criminal Court to 2nd degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

United States Attorney J. Douglas Overbey commended investigators on their dedication and tenacity. U.S. Attorney Overbey also noted that, unfortunately law enforcement agencies are facing more and more cases where drug dealers are mixing fentanyl with other illegal drugs to increase profits. This business decision by drug dealers sometimes has deadly consequences. Often users and lower level dealers are not aware that the drugs contain fentanyl.

Since this death occurred, the Drug Overdose Death Task Force has been formed in Sullivan County. The task force is headed by Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) and funded by grants from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Initiative. HIDTA provides federal funds to state and local law enforcement to disrupt and dismantle

drug organizations. The District Attorney's Office and all other law enforcement in Sullivan County have partnered with TBI under this initiative to aggressively identify and target those who place profit above the value of human life. U.S. Attorney Overbey has pledged the continued support of his office and our federal partners in this effort.

Agencies involved in this investigation included the Second Judicial District Drug Task Force, Bristol Tennessee Police Department, the Second Judicial District Attorney Office, ATF and DEA. B. Todd Martin and Robert Reeves, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, represented the United States.

Rockin the Docks Saturday

Saturday, June 29, 2019 from 1:00 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.

Rockin' the Docks is an all day festival that takes place each year on Fort Loudon Lake. Each summer, thousands of people gather at Lenoir City park to enjoy live bands, food, fireworks, rock climbing wall and much more. This year we have some of our best performers ever.

Food vendors will be providing a wide variety of your favorites so there is no need to bring any food. They will also provide plenty of beverages to drink. The children's play area will also be back for the kids to enjoy.

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Dogs

were arrested in a coordinated operation spanning five states and the District of Columbia, investigating agencies, including the FBI, rescued 85 dogs.

What happened next was a tightly orchestrated process involving the U.S. Marshals Service, animal rescue organizations, federal agents, and a small cadre of Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecutors and federal forfeiture attorneys. Their collective goal, refined over years, is to get recovered dogs screened, treated, rehabilitated when feasible, and, if appropriate, adopted out to new families as soon as possible.

Most dogs found in fighting operations used to be euthanized, in part because they could not be adopted until a criminal case ran its lengthy course, leaving the animals to languish. But in recent years, the recovery and placement process has been streamlined by using a legal technique commonly

associated with drug dealers, fraudsters, and terrorist financiers—civil forfeiture, in which property involved in a crime can be legally seized before an indictment or a conviction (in this case, the dogs).

“Typically, when you’re dealing with cash or jewelry or some other inanimate object, it doesn’t matter if you wait until the end of the criminal case to deal with it,” said Mary Hollingsworth, an attorney with the Wildlife and Marine Resources Section in DOJ’s Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD). “Dogs may start to decline physically and psychologically after about six months, even in the best shelter setting. They are not meant to be in cages with limited human interaction and exercise for long periods of time.”

Federal enforcement of dogfighting falls under the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007, which targets individuals directly involved in animal blood sports and prohibits interstate

trafficking of animals for fighting. In 2014, federal animal protection statutes were added to ENRD’s portfolio. The division quickly established best practices, including using civil forfeiture laws to expedite the care of seized dogs while ensuring property owners are afforded an expedient opportunity to assert their interest in the animals. In some cases, criminal suspects simply relinquish their dogs upon arrest or shortly thereafter.

“This is all just for the better welfare of the animals. Because the more efficiently we can get through this process, the quicker these dogs can get adopted out to better homes.” Shellie Roth, forfeiture paralegal, FBI Columbia

“If we have to go through the civil forfeiture process in dogfighting cases, it takes on average about three to four months,” said Hollingsworth.

“That’s significantly shorter than the criminal forfeiture process, which addresses forfeiture only after conviction or through plea negotiations.”

Almost 1,000 dogs have been seized through ENRD’s civil forfeiture process in the past three years, Hollingsworth said.

FBI operations involving animal seizures are well planned, with ENRD lawyers and the U.S. Marshals—who contract with animal rescue organizations— notified well in advance so they are prepared to sweep in after arrests. The process allows for qualified vendors who specialize in animal care and management to assist with the on-site seizure of the animals; provide veterinarian care, kenneled, and adoption services; and support investigators and prosecutors on their case. Meanwhile,

ENRD works closely with federal agencies, such as the FBI, to efficiently complete the forfeiture so the adoption process can start.

That’s how Laura Donaldson ended up with six puppies to foster in 2016. They were among 64 dogs seized from 10 homes in Illinois as part of a coordinated operation by the FBI’s Quad-Cities Federal Gang Task Force and the Rock Island Police Department. A rescue organization took custody of all the dogs, and the six littermates were taken in by Donaldson, a veterinary technician with a soft spot for big dogs. She said the puppies were only three weeks old when she got them. They were offspring of another rescued dog who had been groomed to fight and had to be euthanized. Donaldson spent a few months socializing the puppies with her other four dogs and a neighbor’s

see Dogs pg. 5

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Dogs *ctd.* from pg. 4
 large family. She was able to find adoptive homes for the dogs while they were still puppies because of the civil forfeiture. "They're just happy little guys," said Donaldson, who kept one of the puppies. She named him Porkchop; he's now 3 years old and weighs 60 pounds. "I certainly was very happy when things went through quickly." Three years later she still gets pictures and notes from the families of her former foster pups. "They've all turned out great," she said. Animal welfare experts and law enforcement officials say dogfighting is more common

than most people think. A 2015 poll by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) indicated that half of law enforcement officers nationwide encountered dogfighting—a felony in all 50 states—in their line of work. FBI investigations, meanwhile, have shown there is often a nexus with other forms of criminal activity, such as drug dealing or gambling. "It's very organized and very underground," said Samantha Maxwell, a special agent in the FBI's Springfield (Illinois) Field Office, who was the FBI gang task force coordinator


during the 2016 investigation. The U.S. Marshals and the ASPCA managed the dogs' rescue and seizure. In January 2016, the FBI began tracking crimes against animals the same way it tracks other felony offenses like homicide and kidnappings. By creating a category within the Bureau's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), law enforcement agencies can get a better handle on the problem—and how to assign resources to it. The most recent NIBRS report for 2017 shows more than 3,200 animal cruelty incidents were reported during its first year of data collection. The increased focus

on animal cruelty has resulted in more prosecutions and forfeitures and closer relationships between the agencies dealing with it. "As soon as we know there are going to be dogs involved in a takedown, we reach out to ENRD and the U.S. Marshals to get them involved," said Shellie Roth, a forfeiture paralegal in the FBI's Columbia (South Carolina) Field Office, which has led a series of takedowns of dogfighting ventures in recent years. In one case last year, agents seized 13 dogs, cash, and dogfighting paraphernalia at a Columbia man's house. He was sentenced in February to two years in prison. Roth said ENRD's civil forfeiture process, which is parallel to the criminal prosecutions, has vastly improved getting seized dogs through the system in a timely way. "As more

cases happen, they're figuring out the more efficient and better ways to go," Roth said. "This is all just for the better welfare of the animals. Because the more efficiently we can get through this process, the quicker these dogs can get adopted out to better homes."

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much when they were rejected by the Samaritans as they traveled with Jesus to Jerusalem. Sometimes your path takes you places you don't want to go. Sometimes you have to cut your losses. How did the disciples keep moving forward? By taking their cues from Jesus. He knew he had a bigger mission, and he trusted that he was on the right path to fulfill it. You may encounter obstacles or potholes on your journey today. That's OK. Keep the faith and take your cues from Jesus. He will take you where you need to go. Prayer: Wherever my journey of faith leads me today, Jesus, remind me that you are one step ahead of me. Amen.

LC

Richard Beukeman, 28, Well Street Maryville, was charged with Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. Of Meth, Poss. Of Drug Para, Public Intoxication, and Simple Possession. Officer S. Runyan LCPD, was dispatched to the EZ Stop on West Broadway to a male possibly passed out in a vehicle in the side parking lot. Complainant stated he sees needles beside the male inside the vehicle. Upon arrival Officer identified the male as Richard Beukeman. Officer ask him where he was Richard replied Vonore. Due to Richard impairment lev-

el he was checked by EMS and cleared on the scene. Officer did observe a needle and a baggie containing a clear crystal substance believed to be methamphetamine, Richard was detained and a probable cause search initiated. Officer located two more black baggies containing crystal substance, one white baggie containing 1 1/2 pills identified as Gabapentin, and a large shard of what believed to be methamphetamine in the center console. Meth weighed 1.12 grams. Two glass pipes were also located. Richard Beukeman was transported to the Loudon County Jail.



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