

Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, July 3, 2019

Loudon Co. Woman Charged with Tenn Care Fraud



April Finger

see TNcare pg. 2

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 rescued 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 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

see Dogs pg. 3

The Good News The Rev Dr Julius McCarter

Scripture: Psalm 66:1-9

This is not the psalm that those who know me well would associate with me. Very rarely has anyone ever accused me of being gushy with praise! This psalm raises an important question though: How do we bless God?

Typically, we don't see TGN pg. 7

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Knox County to thank mail carriers

On Monday, July 1, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Knox County will deliver thank you cards and cookies to local post office locations for a job well done on the occasion of National Postal Worker Day.

The goodie trays are meant to thank postal workers for delivering MILLIONS

of Imagination Library books. In Knox County alone, close to 3 million books have been delivered since the program began in 2005. Every month, postal workers deliver more than 20,000 books across the county. They are directly responsible for getting high quality books in the hands

see Dolly pg. 3

Terror Comes to U.S. Soil The Bomb 'Outrages' of 1919

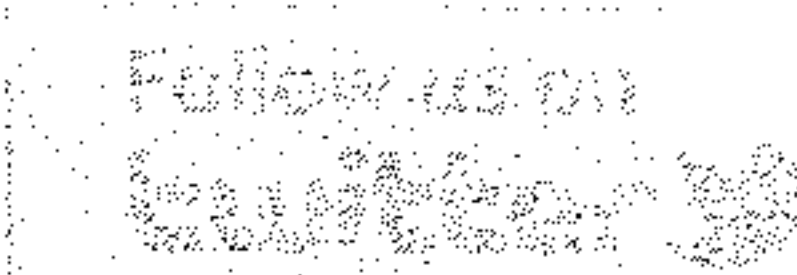
Late one evening, a series of mysterious figures placed powerful bombs outside nine deliberately chosen residences stretching from Boston to Cleveland. A carefully coordinated campaign of terror had begun.

The targets included three judges, a state representative, a silk

manufacturer, an immigration official, a mayor, Catholic priests, and the U.S. attorney general.

The first two bombs exploded at around 11:15 p.m. on June 2, 1919—a century ago this month. By 1:00 a.m. the next morning, all of the devices had detonated.

See Bombs P.4



Verse of the Day

I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know

that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.

Wazzup
The 4th of July is tomorrow dont

forget to put your animals up. They DON'T like fireworks!!!

Weather
Today: Cloudy. High of 89F.
Tonight: Thunderstorms.

Low of 72F
Thursday: Storms. High of 90F
Thursday night: Rain. Low of 71F.
Horoscopes
Cancer 6/21-7/22

(Continued on page 6)



TN Care

A Loudon County woman is charged in Knox County with doctor shopping for prescription drugs, using TennCare as payment for the pills.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), with the assistance of the Knox

County Sheriff's Office, today announced the arrest of April L. Finger, 45, of Loudon. An investigation led to the identification of five different instances in which Ms. Finger failed to disclose to her medical providers that she had been receiv-

ing prescriptions for the painkillers hydrocodone and Tramadol from other providers, using TennCare as payment. A review by the Knox County District Attorney's Office led to

criminal charges for three counts of TennCare fraud. "Pharmacists are one of our greatest community partners," Inspector General Kim Harmon said.

See TNcare ctd to pg. 3

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TNcare ctd from pg. 2

“Tennessee pharmacists have first-hand knowledge and are willing to assist law enforcement in combatting the opioid crisis.”

District Attorney General Charme P. Allen is prosecuting. TennCare fraud is now a Class D felony punishable by up to four years in prison.

The OIG, which is sep-

arate from TennCare, began full operation in February 2005 and has investigated cases leading to more than \$3 million being repaid to TennCare, with a total estimated cost avoidance of more than \$163.6 million for TennCare, according to latest figures. To date, 3,097 people have been charged with TennCare fraud.

Dolly

of children so families can read together. Volunteers and board members will deliver cookies donated by Sam’s Club.

The program, administered by the Knox County Public Library, is asking families to join the celebration by decorating their own thank you cards to place in their mailbox on July 1. Imagination Library wants everyone who receives their books to let postal workers know how much they appreciate their hard work.

“We just want our mail carriers to know that they are a very important part of the effort to raise literacy rates in Tennessee,” commented Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. “The first step is getting books in the hands of children, and the Postal Service literally does that. Imagination Library is a success in large part because of this great partnership with the Post Office. Thank you.”

Dogs

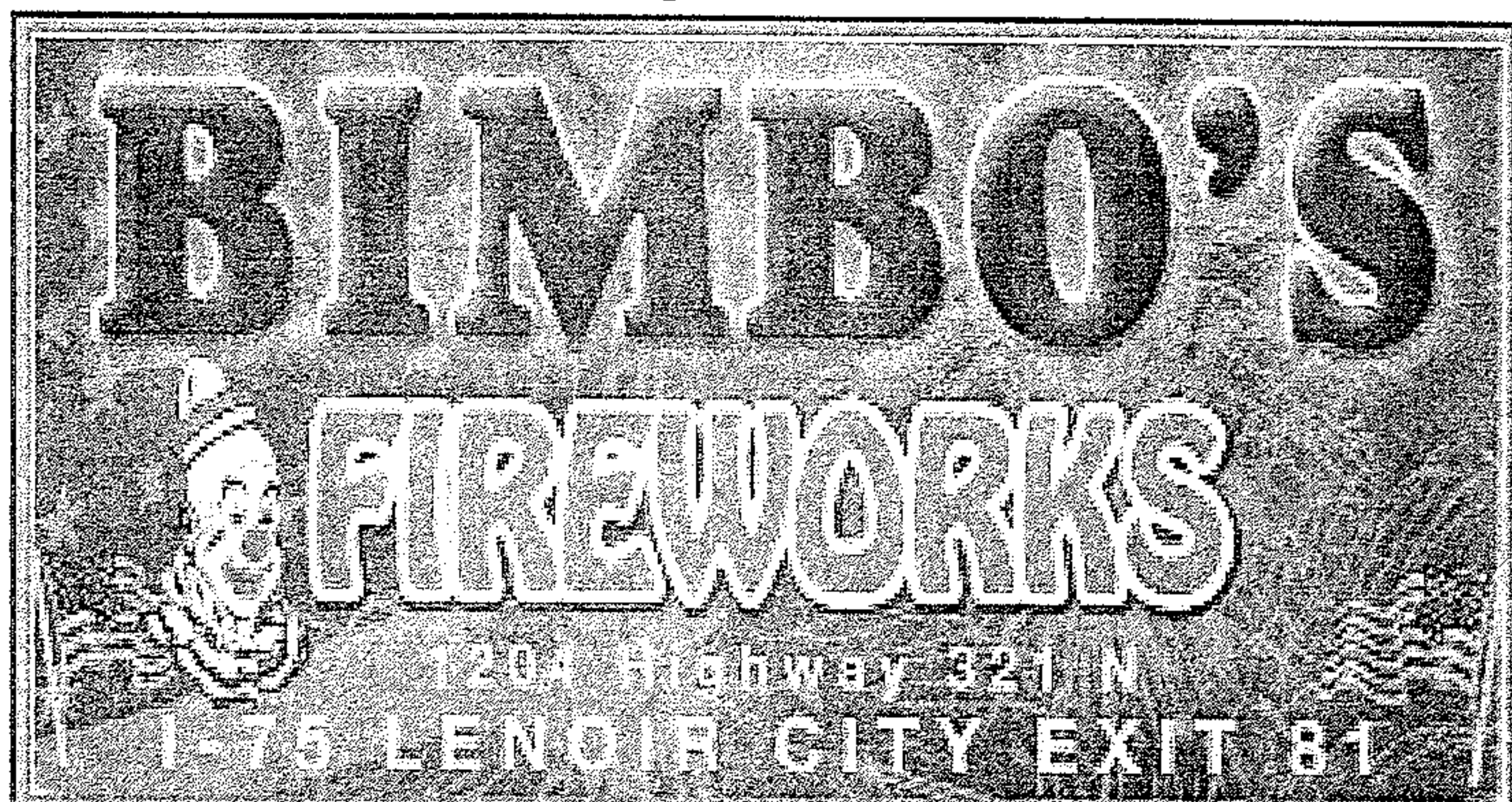
recovered dogs screened, treated, rehabilitated when feasible, and, if appropriate, adopted out to new families as soon as possible.

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 dog-fighting 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

See Dogs ctd. to pg. 5



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Public Notice

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the City of Philadelphia will meet in their regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church of Philadelphia

Bombs

The force of the explosions, each fueled by around 20 pounds of dynamite, was massive. Entire neighborhoods were shaken by the blasts. Homes were destroyed or badly damaged. Many windows were completely blown out. Flying glass and debris wounded several people, including a young girl. One night watchman was killed.

In the nation's capital, Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer and his wife Roberta were lucky to escape. They were upstairs when a huge explosion rocked their home. The bomber was not so fortunate. His device went off too early as he approached the front door, killing him instantly.

The June 2 bombings were hardly the first of their kind.

In late April, bombs had been mailed to around three dozen government and business leaders nationwide, including a Bureau agent. Alert postal workers intercepted many of the packages, but a housekeeper in

Georgia had her hands blown off after opening one of the parcels. Similar bombings had also taken place across the country in previous months; one killed 10 police detectives. Although it was thought the various attacks might be related, a widespread conspiracy could not be proven.

Who was behind this wave of attacks? All signs pointed to anarchists, a group of radicals who wanted to get rid of capitalism, organized religion, and government itself. Violence and bloodshed were their main weapons. Over the years, anarchists had gone so far as to kill several world leaders, including U.S. President William McKinley in 1901.

At the time of the 1919 attacks, the Bureau of Investigation, the forerunner of today's FBI, was just over a decade old. It had limited resources and was filled largely with inexperienced investigators; most of the tools and technologies that we associate with modern-day policing—many pioneered by the FBI—had yet to be invented.

After the June bombings, Attorney General Palmer sprung into action, putting significant resources into finding those responsible for what he and others called the "outrages." He named William Flynn, former head of the U.S. Secret Service, to lead the Bureau.

Flynn began work immediately, convening a conference of federal and local law enforcement officials to coordinate efforts. He also traveled to Philadelphia and New York to parcel out leads based on incoming evidence.

Much of that evidence came from the D.C. explosion. Investigators painstakingly traced what was left of the bomber and his effects—train ticket stubs, bits of clothing, and more.

Two clues proved most useful. Scraps of a pink flyer titled "Plain Words"—an anarchist call to action linguistically linked to the Italians—were found scattered nearby and

at every bomb site. Also located was a piece of the bomber's scalp. The thick, dark hair helped investigators figure out that the D.C. bomber almost certainly was Carlo Valdinoci, a young Italian anarchist.

Agents and police also conducted many interviews, worked with informants, and drew links to the intended targets, all of whom had angered anarchists in some respect.

No other bombers were directly identified. The anarchist movement in the U.S. lost steam, and the threat faded as the nation turned its eyes toward the "normalcy" President Harding had promised in his campaign for president.

In both the short and long run, the attacks had a profound impact on the Bureau. The organization gained new resources and valuable experience in addressing na-

tional security threats. At the same time, Flynn brought in a 24-year-old Justice Department lawyer named J. Edgar Hoover to run a new division of intelligence. Within five years, Hoover would take the helm of the Bureau, ushering in a series of reforms that created the modern-day FBI.

American Legion Post 256 extends an invitation to all Veterans to join us at our meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month (This month 4 April) The meeting begins at 9 AM with an informative guest speaker and updates on community and veteran's services projects. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at The First Baptist Church of Tellico Village. For directions and more information visit :www.Tellico-LakePost256.org.

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Dogs ctd from pg. 3

animals. In some cases, criminal suspects simply relinquish their dogs upon arrest or shortly thereafter. "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 ven-


dors who specialize in animal care and management to assist with the on-site seizure of the animals; provide veterinarian care, kenneling, 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 large family. She was able to find adoptive homes for the dogs while they were still puppies because of the civil forfeiture. A pit bull terrier recovered during a 2016 operation against a dogfighting ring in Illinois had six puppies, who were put up for adoption in a timely manner thanks to civil forfeiture laws aimed at animal welfare. Asset Forfeiture: Cage in Dogfighting Operation A dog recovered from an Illinois dogfighting ring was kept in a container in the basement of a residence that was part of an FBI task force investigation in 2016. A pit bull terrier recov-

ered during the operation had six puppies shortly after her rescue. She had to be euthanized, but the puppies were put up for adoption in a timely manner thanks to civil forfeiture laws aimed at animal welfare. "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

See Dogs ctd from pg. 7



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The Loudon County Public Records Commission will meet July 22nd at 4:00 PM in the County Office Building.



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TGN

think about our relationship with God in those terms. We tend to see ourselves as the receiver of blessings: we ask for them, we give thanks for them, we lament when they are absent in our lives. Yet, the psalmist exhorts us, "Bless our God, O peoples."

So what would it mean for us to bless God in and with our lives? Perhaps we would see God's place in our life as less transactional, and more relational. Blessing would become less of a "thing" we give or get and more an ex-

pression of the freedom and strength that come when we live in intimate relationship with God.

Prayer: Gracious God, help us to bless you with every breath of our being, whether we are young, old, or anywhere in between. Amen.

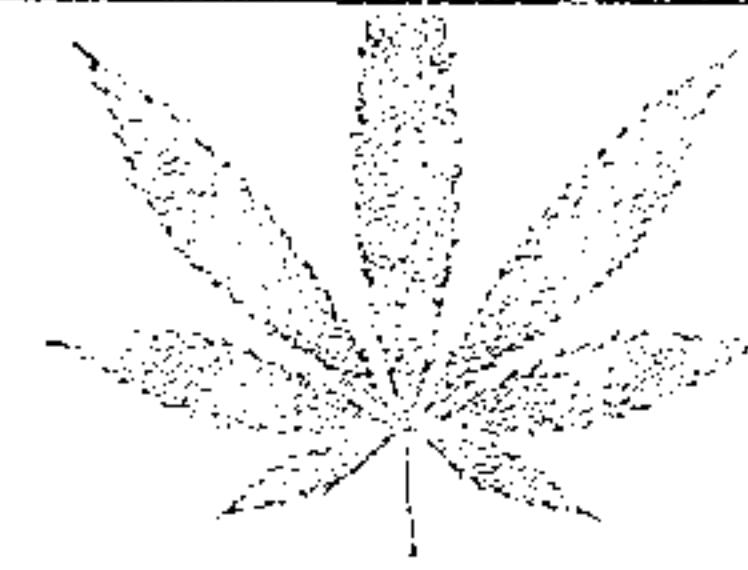
Dogs ctd. from pg. 5

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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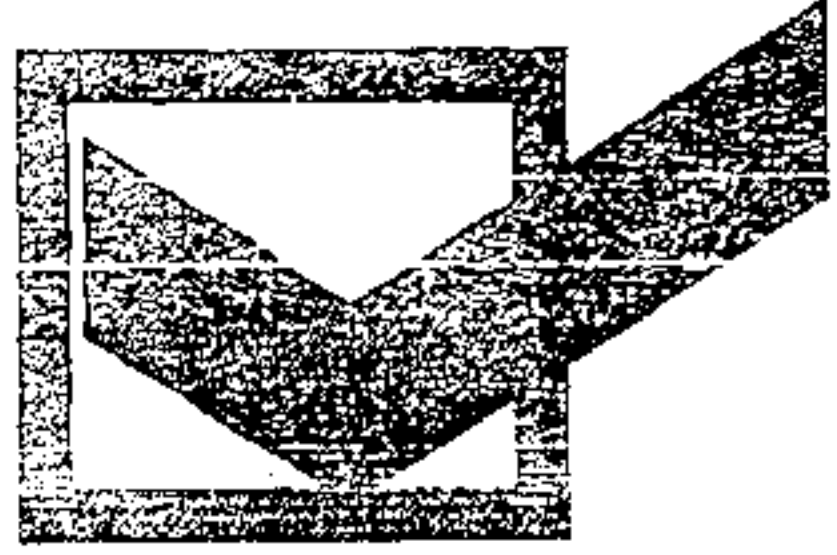
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