

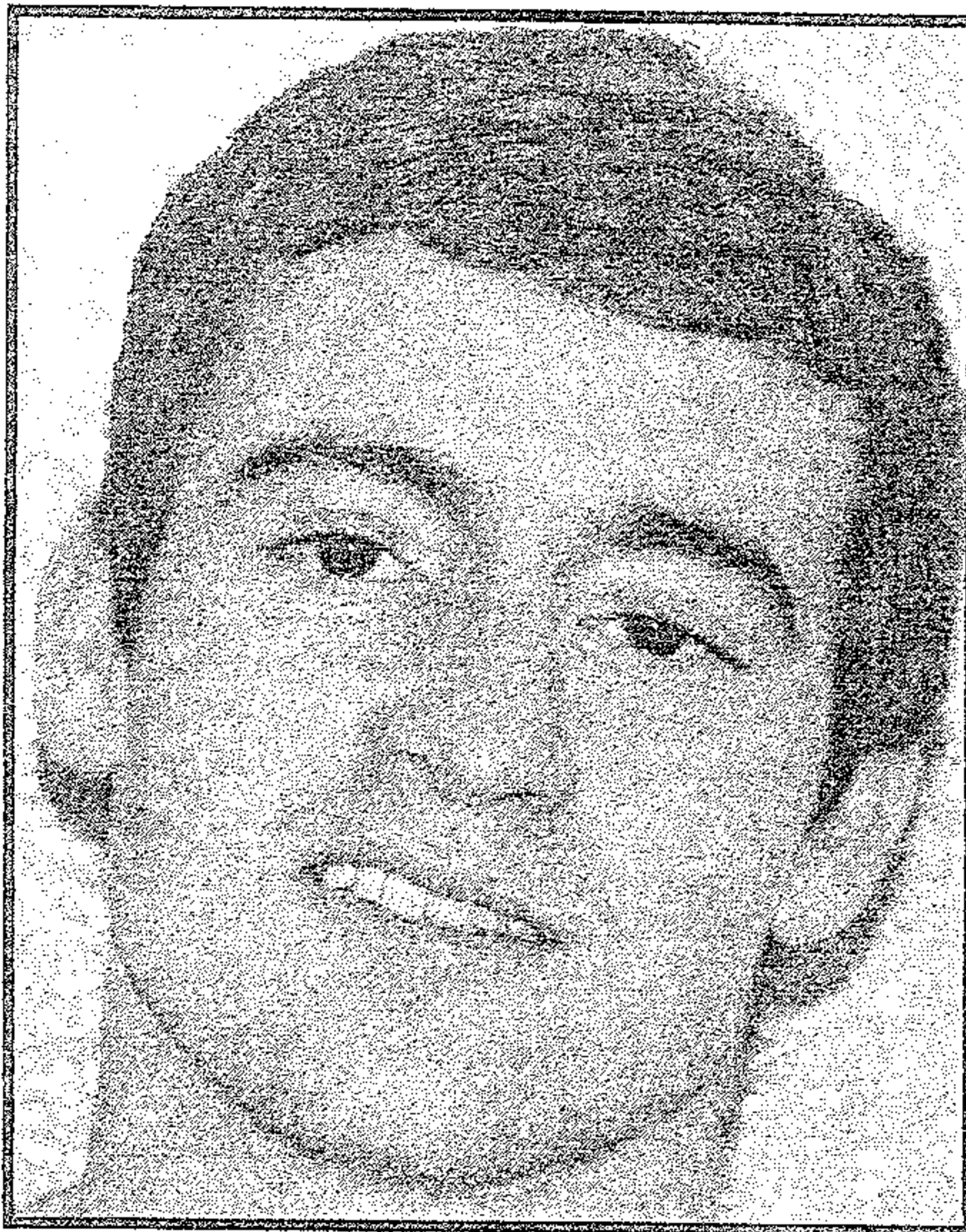
# The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, December 7, 2018

## Tis The Season for Theft At Walmart | 3 Double Well Whiskeys After Work



Brannon Hennings



Sarah Haire

### Another Makeup and Clothing Theft From WalMart Caught

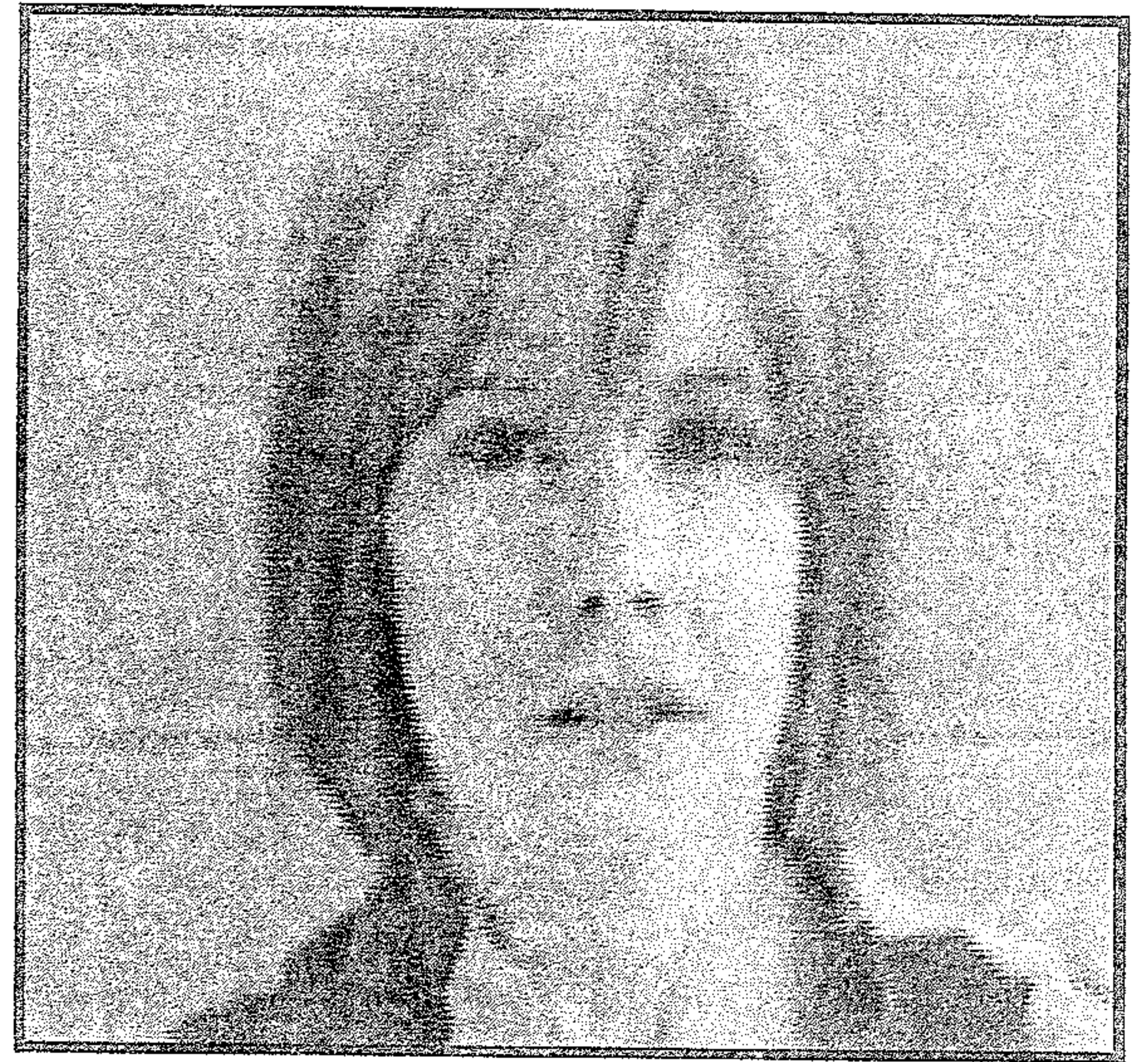


Shannon Flynn

see Theft pg. 2

Haslam Appoints Members to the Four University of Tennessee Advisory Boards  
Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam today appointed 20 members to the new advisory boards for each of the four campuses within the University of Tennessee system: The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; The Uni-

(see UT pg. 5)



Kara Wakefield

see DUI pg. 3

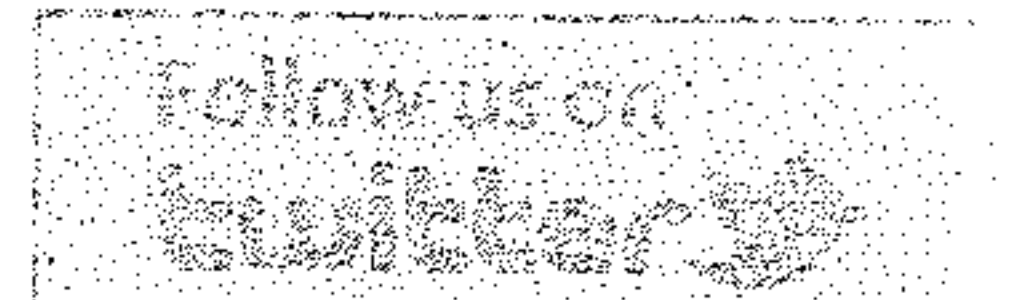
### Elder Fraud Senior Citizens Victimized in Telemarketing Scheme

It took more than 10 years for a Canadian man to face justice in the United States for a telemarketing scheme that bilked senior citizens out of millions of dollars, but the defendant is now in prison, thanks to the strong partnership between American and Canadian law enforcement.

In September, a

federal judge in California sentenced 57-year-old Mark Eldon Wilson, of Vancouver, British Columbia, to more than 11 years behind bars for orchestrating a telemarketing credit card scam that defrauded at least 60,000 victims, many of them elderly, out of more than \$18

See Fraud P.4



### Verse of the Day

Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." — John 6:35

### Wazzup

Thanks a bunch to everyone that participated in a great Parade this year! #ProudtoliveinLC

### Weather

Today: Rain. High of 46F.  
Tonight: Rain. Low of

34F.

Saturday: Rain. High of 40F.

Saturday Night: Rain. Low of 36F.

### Horoscopes

Sagittarius 11/22-12/21  
Restraining your emotional expression is no small task today. Sentiments

that have been percolating may boil over while the farsighted Sagittarius Moon hangs out with boisterous Jupiter. As you feel the pressure rise, take a moment to drop in and reestablish your center of gravity. Complete a few  
(Continued on page 6)



## Theft

Brandon Hennings, 28, Riv-erbend Drive Kingston, was charged with Criminal Trespass, and Theft of Property. Sarah Haire, 25, White Wing Road West Lenoir City, was charged with Criminal Impersonation, and Poss. Of Drug Para. Agents from the 9th DTF, and Investigators with LCSO were conducting

the Retail Theft Task Force at Walmart. Agents were notified by LP associates that a male inside the store had taken a knife from the shelves and opened it then used the knife to cut a security tag from a pair of headphones and placed them in his pants. The male left the store without paying for the items and was stopped by Agents in

the parking lot. The male was identified as Brannon Hennings, and Agents located a box of headphones in his pants and the open knife was located inside the store with the security tags. A check through Walmart data base

showed that Hennings was banded from Walmart due to thefts. The female with Hennings gave a false name and was later identified as Sarah Haire, a search of her property revealed a glass pipe used to smoke narcotics. Both were placed under arrest.

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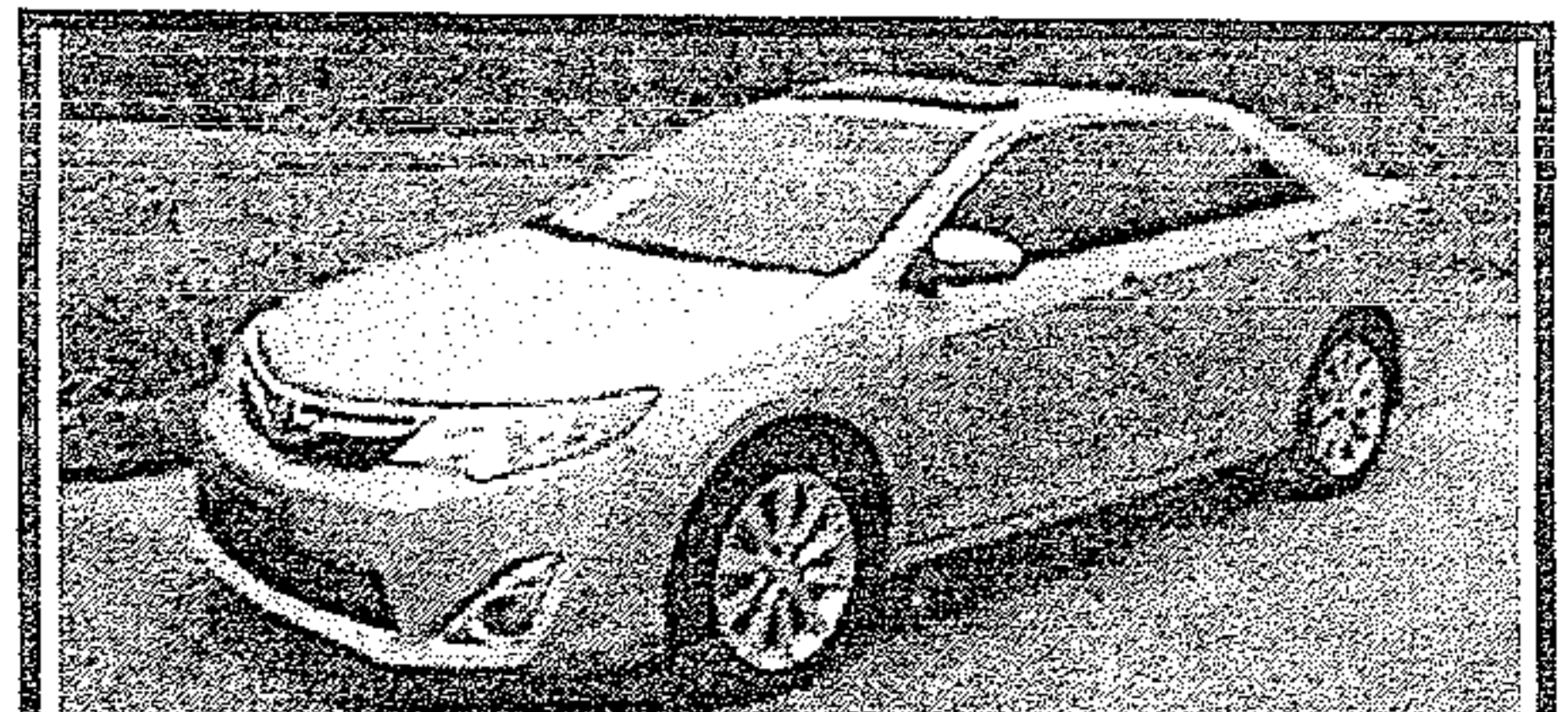
## Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK \*



2012 GMC Terrain SLT Decked Out, Leather, Alloy Wheels, PS, PW, PL, Sunroof, Low Miles



2013 Nissan Frontier Alloy Wheels, Auto Torneau Cover, Tow, PW, PL, Cold Air, Great Miles



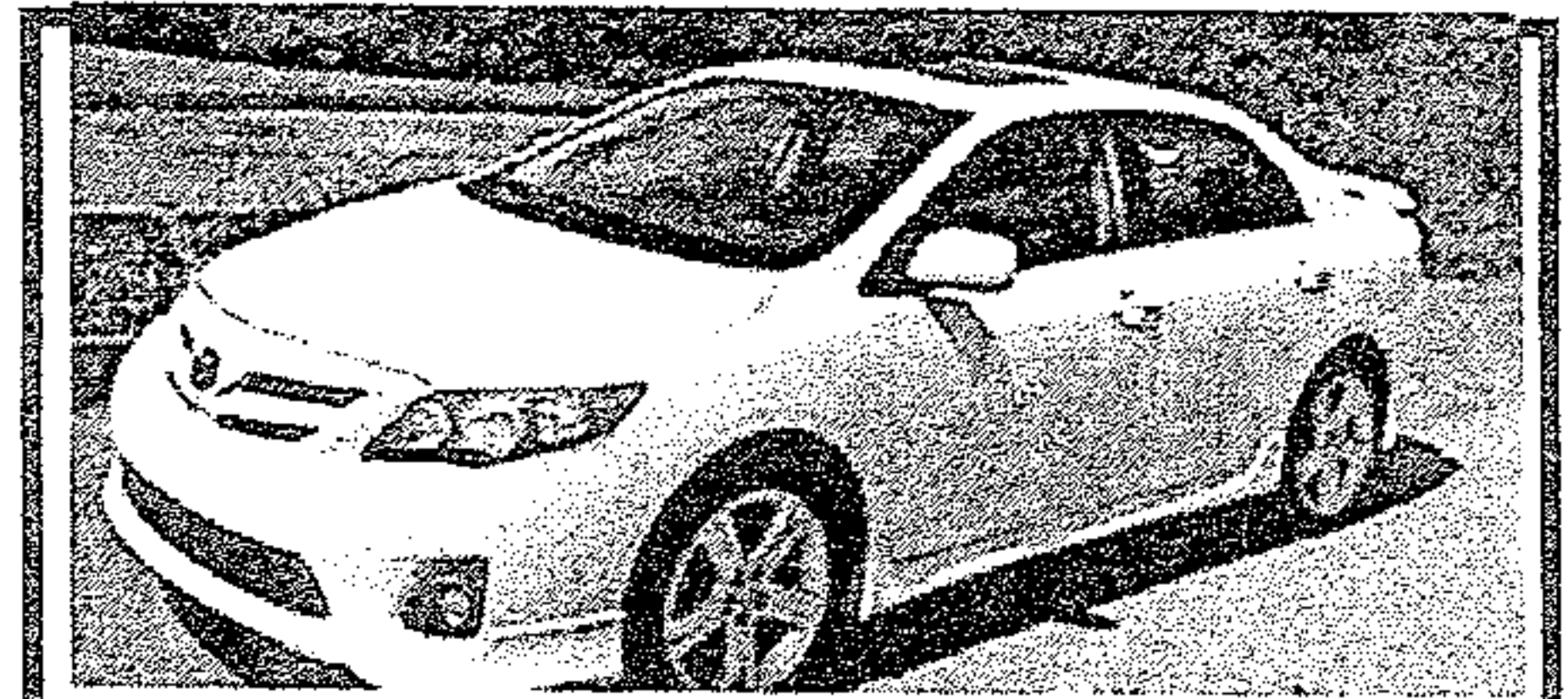
2012 Toyota Camry; 90k, Alloy Wheels, Gas Saver, Pristine Condition, Touch Screen, PW, PL



2012 Dodge Ram SLT, Crew Cab, Bed Liner, Tow, Alloy Wheels, V8, Low Miles, Spacious



2011 Honda Pilot Luxurious, Leather, 3rd Row, 4x4, DVD, NAV, PW, PL, PS, Tow, Luggage Rack



2013 Toyota Corolla Low Miles, Like New, Local Car, Alloy Wheels, PW, PL, 4 Cyl, A/C, Auto

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## DUI

Kara Wakefield, 30, Mason Lane Loudon, was charged with Simple Possession, Driving Under the Influence. Deputy C. Rogers LCSO, while traveling south on I75 observed a vehicle accelerate to around 90 mph then slow down to 60 mph as it

crossed the fog line multiple times. Deputy initiated a traffic stop in the area of 72 exit. Upon contact with the driver Kara Wakefield, she advised she was on her way home from work where she had consumed at least 3 double well whiskey drinks and smoked marijuana before she left. Wakefield per-

formed poorly on sobriety test. Deputy located 4 grams of marijuana in the center console. Wakefield was placed under arrest.

## Makeup

Shannon Flynn, 43, Hwy 70 Rockwood, was charged with Theft of Property. Agents from the 9th DTF and Investigators with LCSO were conducting the Retail Theft Task Force at Walmart. Agents were notified by LP associates that a female had concealed several items in her purse and left the store. Agents made contact with the female identified as Shannon Flynn. Flynn was found in possession of clothing, and makeup that she had passed all points of sale and failed to pay for. Total amount \$110.62.

## Former Fayette County Schools Cheer Coach Indicted for Theft

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has resulted in the indictment of Jimmy Wilson, the former cheerleading coach at Fayette Ware High School in Somerville.

Investigators determined that Wilson collected money from cheerleaders and used at least \$2,546.93 for his personal use.

All of the money should have been turned over to the school; however, during an interview with investigators, the former coach admitted to using bad judgment by commingling cheer funds with his personal funds. Most of the money collected was in the form of cash.

Wilson also admitted that he

didn't provide all of the cheer attire that was ordered by the students, and he acknowledged that he does owe some money back to the school.

Although Fayette Ware High School had established procedures for safeguarding student activity funds, it failed to enforce them. This allowed Wilson to misappropriate money without the school's prompt detection.

"It is critical that schools maintain receipts, logs, and other documentation for money that is collected," explained Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "By not following the appropriate guidelines and procedures, things slip through the cracks and funds that should be allocated to students go missing."

In November 2018, Jimmy Wilson was indicted by the Fayette County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$2,500, official misconduct, and tampering with government records

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## Fraud

of them elderly, out of more than \$18 million. Victims were conned into paying for credit card fraud protection that was nonexistent.

Wilson fought extradition in the courts for more than a decade before he was tried and convicted in U.S. federal court in March 2018. A jury found him guilty of mail fraud and wire fraud related to the scam that targeted American victims in 37 states.

“This case demonstrates that because of collaboration between U.S. and Canadian law enforcement, the border cannot be used as a shield against prosecution,” said Special Agent Nora Collas, who investigated the fraud from the FBI’s Los Angeles Field Office. “It also proves the value of international law enforcement partnerships,” she added. “We could not have successfully resolved this case without the help of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.”

Between 1998 and 2001, Wilson operated a phony telemarketing scheme through various companies, including American Fraud Watch Services and OPCO International, Inc. The victims were falsely told by the telemarketers that they were affiliated with the victims’ credit card companies. Victims were also told that they were vulnerable to credit card fraud and would be held liable for fraud-

ulent charges on their cards.

Under Wilson’s direction, the telemarketers sold victims 10-year credit card “protection” for approximately \$300, and promised a 100 percent money-back guarantee. Victims were told the fee for this service was as little as \$3 per month, but in many instances, their cards were charged the full amount whether they had agreed to that or not.

“This case demonstrates that because of collaboration between U.S. and Canadian law enforcement, the border cannot be used as a shield against prosecution.”

Nora Collas, special agent, FBI Los Angeles

The truth was that Wilson and his sham businesses were in no way associated with legitimate credit card companies, and the credit-card-monitoring and protection services he promised were a fiction. Moreover, credit card companies do not hold victims liable for charges that arise from fraud.

“The telemarketers were very persuasive and created a false sense of urgency in convincing their victims to send money,” Collas said. “They were keenly aware of how to play on their victims’ emotions and how to gain trust. This is an egregious type of fraud,” she added, “especially when the elderly are targeted. But unfortunately, anyone can be a vic-

tim.”

With the proceeds from his crimes, Wilson lived a lavish lifestyle, buying luxury boats and a fleet of cars, and traveling to Las Vegas for gambling junkets. He also set up an offshore bank account in the South Pacific in the hopes of hiding a portion of his ill-gotten gains.

When victims began to complain about the charges on their credit cards, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police opened an investigation, and, knowing there were U.S. victims, reached out to the FBI. “This was a real team effort,” Collas said.

Wilson was charged with U.S. federal crimes in 2007, but it wasn’t until 2017 that his legal battle to avoid extradition was exhausted and he was turned over to U.S. authorities. His conviction and prison term provides justice for his thousands of victims, Collas said, but the experience of being scammed can have lasting effects

on senior citizens. “Many victims lose more than just their money,” said the veteran fraud investigator. “There is an emotional price for some, who lose their sense of trust in people.”

Senior fraud victims are sometimes embarrassed at being deceived and never tell anyone, but Collas said it is important to inform law enforcement, whether by reporting fraud to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), the Federal Trade Commission, or local or state authorities. That way, law enforcement can spot trends, warn the public about specific scams, and develop strategies to stop the fraudsters.

### *Don’t Be a Victim*

It is extremely difficult to get your money back once you have been cheated over the telephone. Before you agree to buy anything over the phone, here are a few things to consider:


Fraudsters are persuasive and create a false sense of urgency

in their victims. If you feel at all pressured to make a commitment over the phone, be suspicious. Take your time making a decision. Legitimate companies won’t pressure you to make a snap decision.

Obtain a salesperson’s name, business identity, telephone number, street address, mailing address, and business license number before you transact business. Some con artists give out false information. Verify the accuracy of the information. Check if there are any victim complaints filed with any consumer agency, including with the Better Business Bureau.

If you have been victimized once, be wary of persons who call offering to help you recover your losses for a fee paid in advance.

If you have information about a fraud, report it to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) or local or state law enforcement agencies.



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**UT**

University of Tennessee at Martin; and The University of Tennessee Health Science Center. The advisory boards were created under the UT FOCUS Act passed by the General Assembly last session.

"These board members will positively impact the multiple and diverse campuses that comprise the UT system," Haslam said. "We wanted members who could focus their attention on the individual campuses and respond nimbly to the specific needs of each institution."

The UT advisory board members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly. Each board is comprised of five public members, one faculty member and one student member.

The governor's appointees are as follows:

The Honorable Muecke Barker, Signal Mountain  
 Fred Decosimo, Signal Mountain  
 Serina Desai, Chattanooga  
 Carole Hoffman, Hixson  
 Scott LeRoy, Chattanooga  
 Vicky Gregg, Chattanooga  
 Lynn Massingale, Knoxville  
 The Honorable Mark Norris, Collierville  
 Michael Ugwueke, Germantown  
 Phil Wenk, Brentwood.

**Public Notice**

The Loudon County Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2019 at the Loudon County Courthouse Annex to receive public comments regarding amending the Zoning Resolution of Loudon County, TN to amend Article 4. Supplementary Provisions Applying to Specific Districts by adding Section 4.250. Development Standards for Recreational Vehicle Parks.

**Public Notice**

The Loudon County Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2019 at the Loudon County Courthouse Annex to receive public comments regarding amending the Zoning Resolution of Loudon County, TN to amend Article 4. Supplementary Provisions Applying to Specific Districts, Section 4.240. Site Plan Review.

**Public Notice**

The Loudon County Regional Planning Commission will hold a workshop to review the Loudon County Zoning Resolution on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Loudon County Courthouse Annex, 101 Mulberry St., Loudon, TN.

**Russell's Tree**

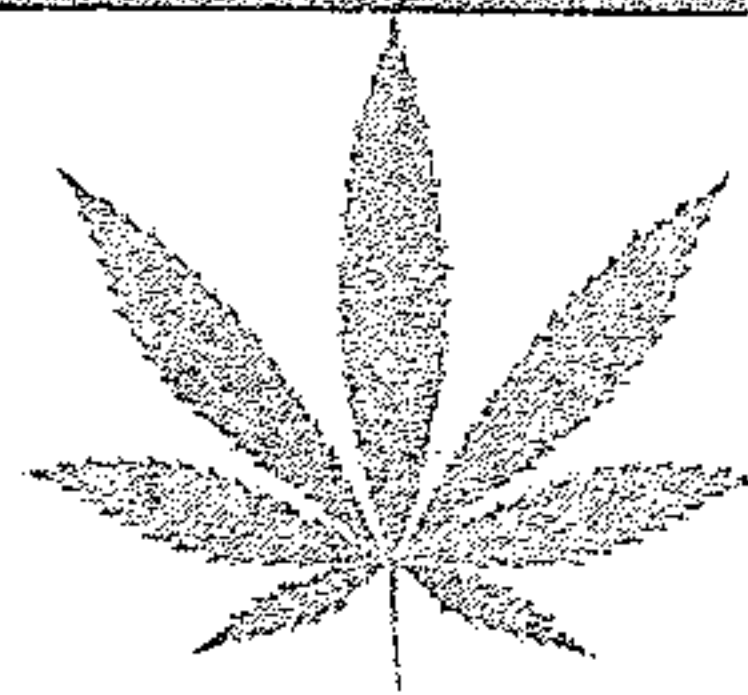
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**Public Notice**

The Loudon County Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2019 at the Loudon County Courthouse Annex to receive public comments regarding amending the Zoning Map of Loudon County, TN to rezone Parcel 303.00 Loudon County Tax 016, approximately 1.0 acre, Hwy. 11E and Old Midway Road in the 6th Legislative District, from R-1, Suburban Residential District to C-2, General Commercial District.



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