

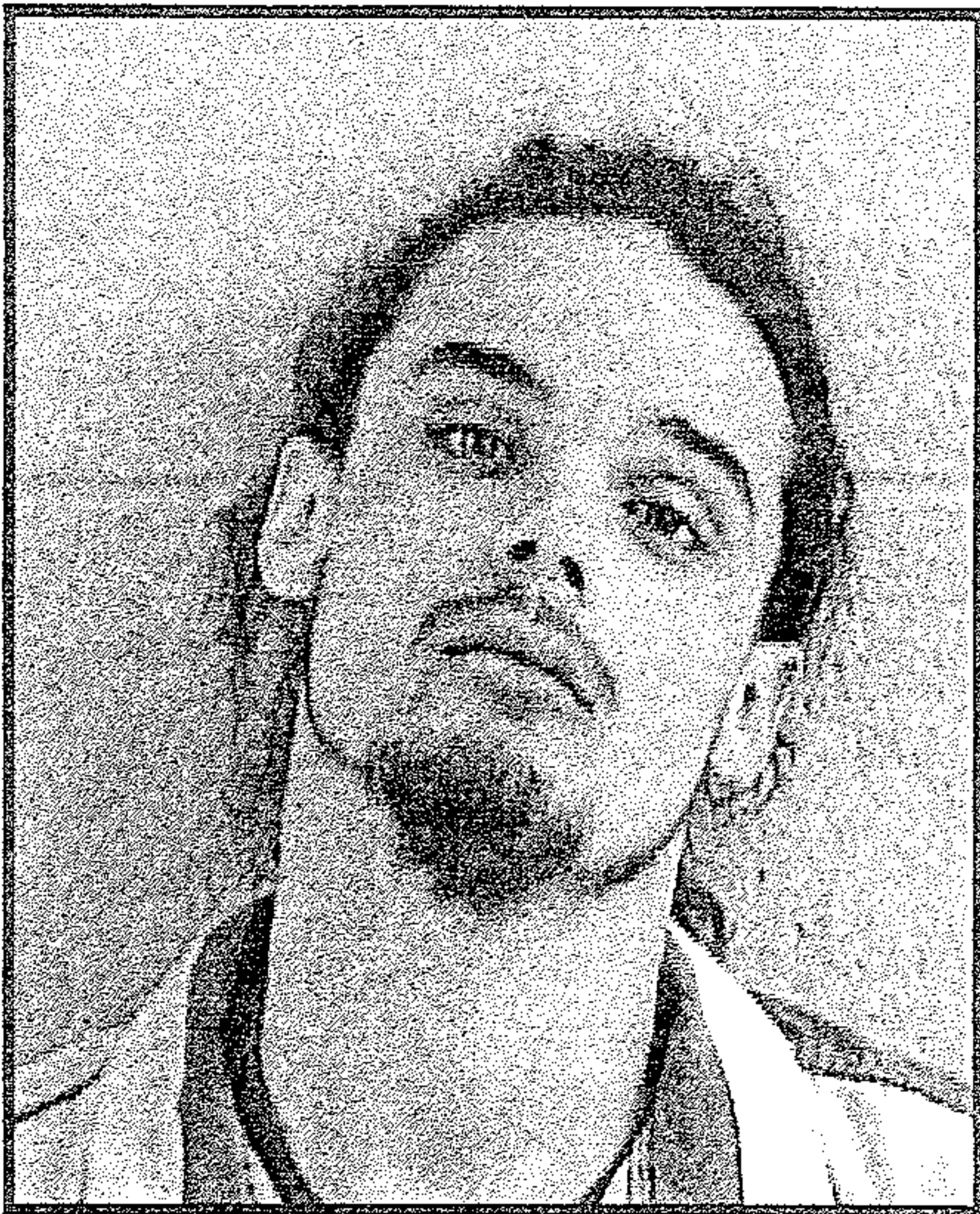
The Daily Edition

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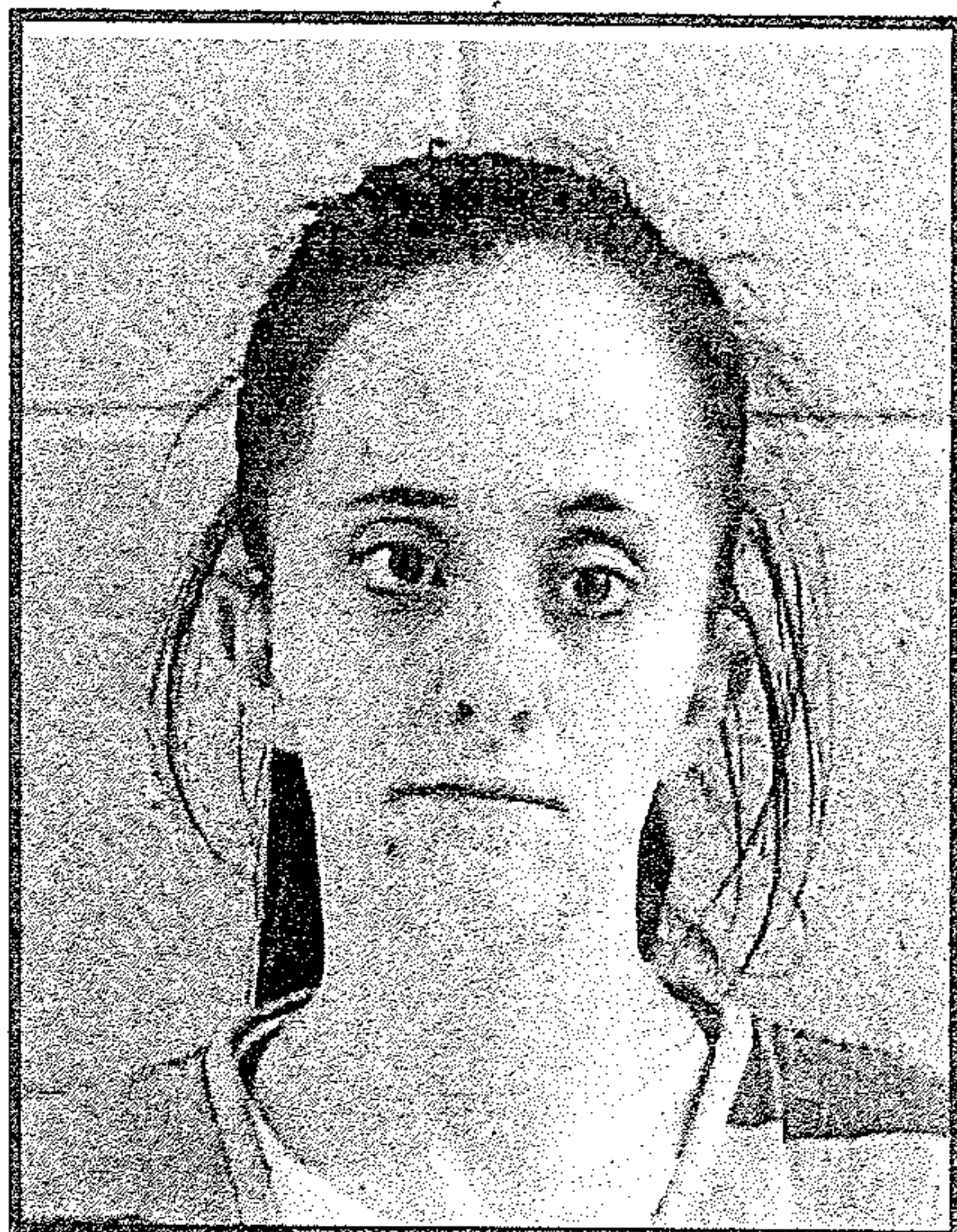
Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Should have had your lights on



Christopher Bowes



Erica Isbell

“I am trying to save a life get off my bumper”



Kelley Garcia

See Reckless P.5

(see Needles pg. 2)

Leaving the scene after wreck



Jaharra Dowdell

See DUI p.4

Easter Sunday Traffic Stop Brings Largest Meth Haul in Loudon County History



30 lbs of methamphetamine found in drug bust

see Bust pg. 3

Stolen Identities

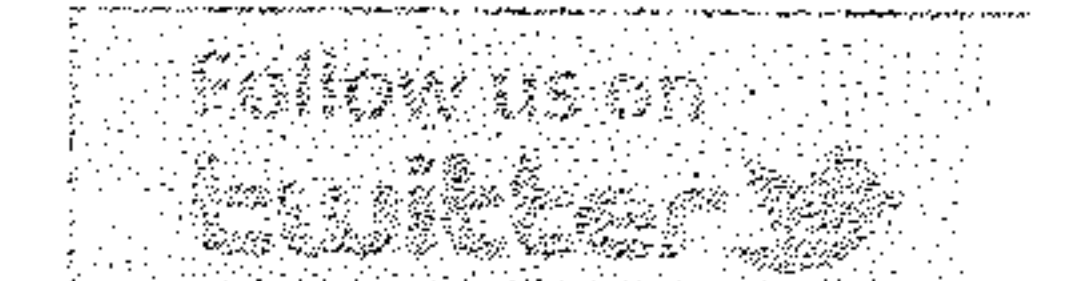
Hackers Infiltrated Mortgage Company Computers to Steal Customer Information

A recently closed California hacking and identity theft case sadly illustrates the misery that can be visited on unsuspecting victims when their personal information is compromised.

Between 2011 and 2014, four U.S. citizens who resided in San Diego—but carried out their crimes from across

the Mexican border in Tijuana—hacked the computer servers of major U.S. mortgage brokers, stealing detailed loan application information from thousands of customers and then using the victims' Social Security numbers, addresses, dates of birth, and driver's license numbers to open unauthorized lines of

(see FBI pg. 4)



Verse of the Day

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in

its proper time. — 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Obituaries

See p.4

Wazzup

Big shout out to Loudon County Sheriff's office on a job well done with the BIG meth bust!!!

Weather

Today: AM Clouds. High of 55F.

Tonight: Clear. Low of 34F.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. High of 62F.

Thursday Night: Overcast. Low of 48F.

Horoscopes

Aries 3/21-4/19

The road to success stretches out before you and disappears into the distant horizon. Although your ambitions continue to fuel your actions in the present moment, you

(Continued on page 6)



Needles

Christopher Bowes, 25, Atchley Drive Maryville, was charged with DUI, and Driving on Revoked/Suspended License.

Erica Isbill, 26, Maple Crest Drive Louisville, was charged with MFG/Del/Sale or Poss. of Meth,

and Contraband in a Penal Institution. Deputy Kevin Dailey LCSO, observed a blue ford vehicle without its headlights on during inclement weather. After running the registration it came back on a Mazda. Traffic stop was initiated at Hwy 411 at WYKO, where Deputy came in contact

with the driver Christopher Bowes and passenger Erica Isbill. After observing Bowes Deputy noticed his pupils were constricted, had a raspy voice, track marks, dry mouth, and appeared drowsy. Bowes did poorly on sobriety test.

Bowes stated he had done meth. Bowes was placed under arrest. Erica Isbill gave consent to search the vehicle, where Deputy located a small bag of what she stated was crystal meth.
see Needles ctd. pg. 4

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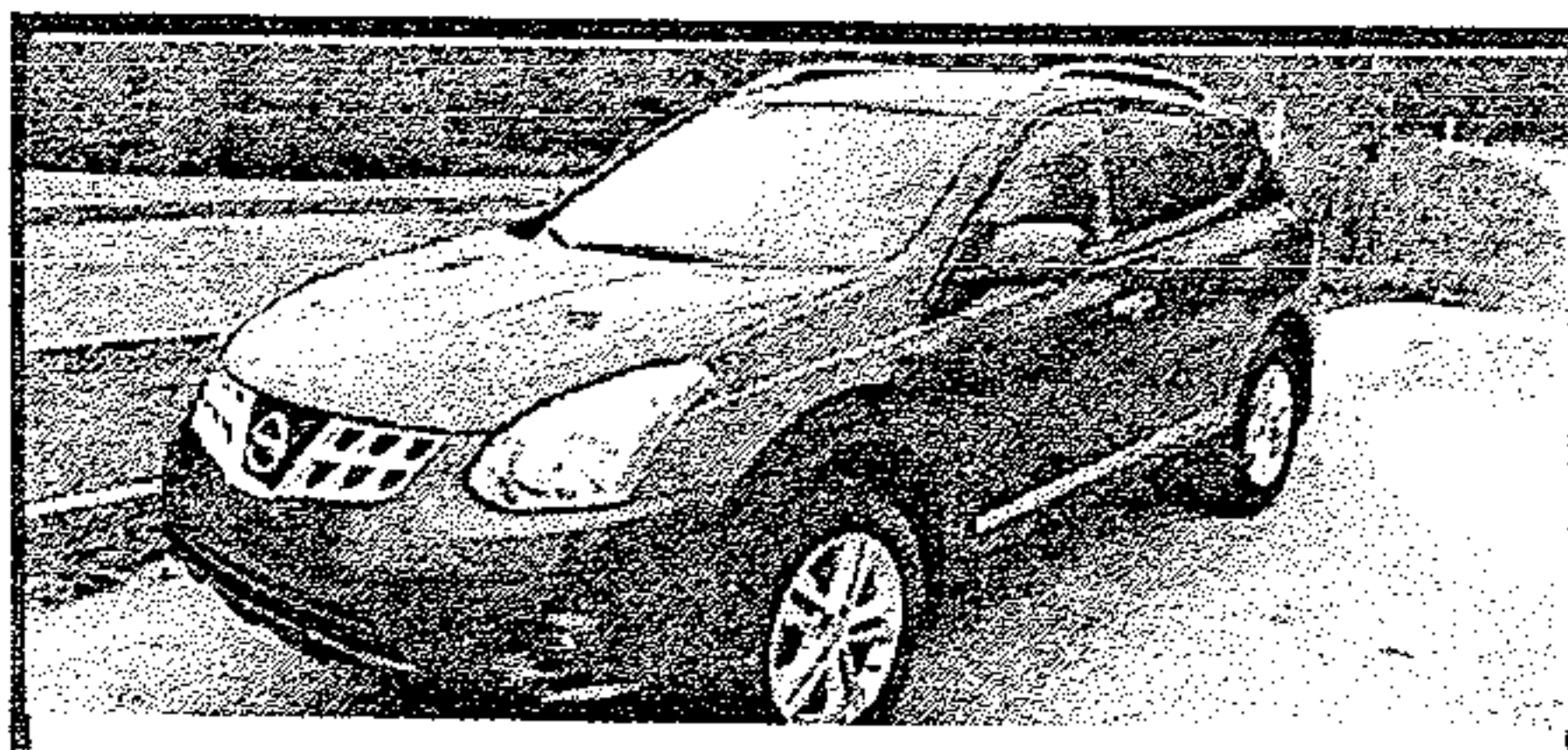
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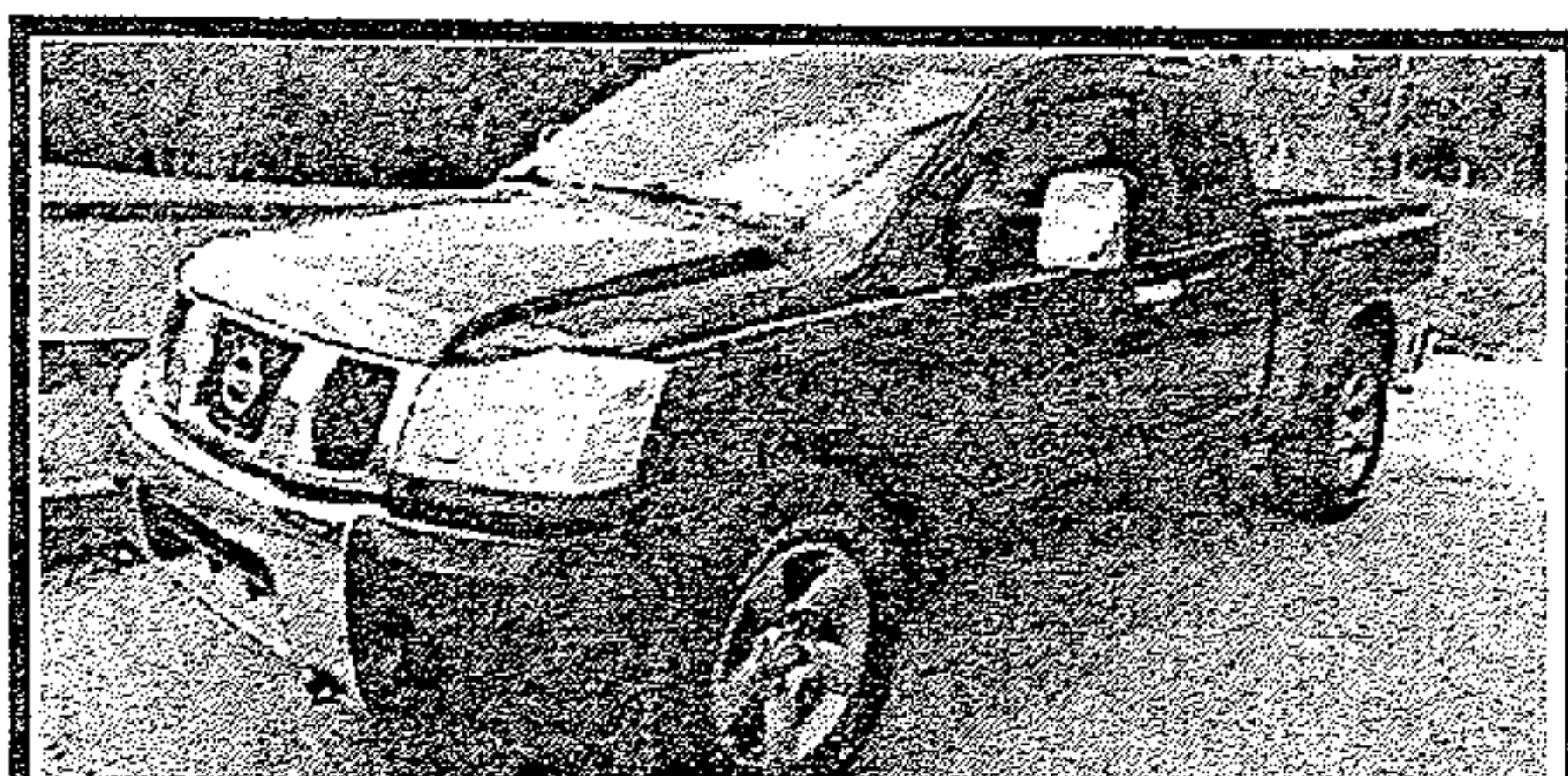
2013 Nissan Rogue AWD, PW, PL, PS, Sunroof, Alloy Wheels, V6, Luggage Rack



2009 Ford F150 Crew Cab, XLT, V8, Auto Tow Pkg, Bed Liner, AC, PW, PL, Alloy Wheels



2011 Buick Lucerne, Immaculate condition, Like new, Only 69k, Alloy Wheels, PS, PW, PL, 27 MPG!



2005 Nissan Titan Ext Cab, V8, Auto, Like New, Low Miles, AC, PW, PL, Tow PKG, Bed Liner



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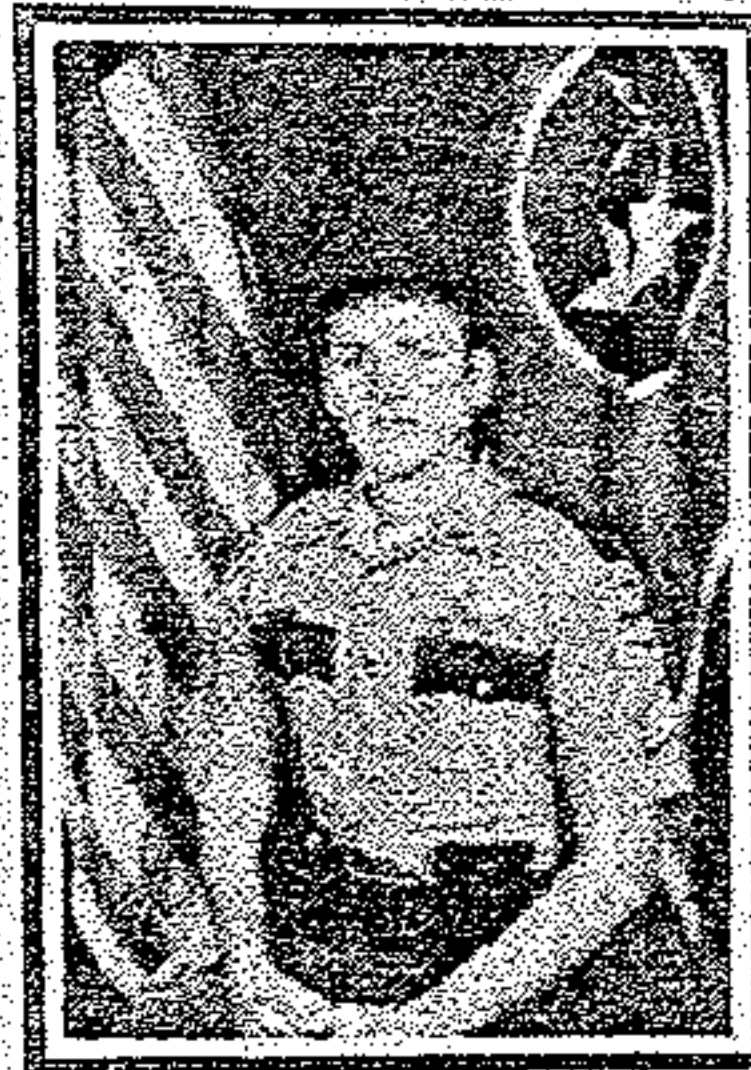
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Bust

On April 1st, 2018, a traffic stop for a traffic violation led to the seizure of approximately 30 pounds of methamphetamine. Deputy Fritts with the Loudon County Sheriff's Office encountered this vehicle at approximately 10:20 in the morning on Easter Sunday. Corporal Jenkins, also with the Loudon County Sheriff's Office, assisted Deputy Fritts and deployed his drug detection dog on the vehicle which resulted in a positive indication for the presence of drugs. Officers searched the vehicle and uncovered a bag in the trunk of the car that contained several large bundles of suspect-

ed methamphetamine. The driver of the vehicle, Ariel Vera-Medina from Camden New Jersey, was arrested and charged under TCA 39-17-434, Possession of Methamphetamine for Resale, a class B Felony. Ariel Vera-Medina was arraigned in Loudon County Court on April 2nd, 2018 and is being held on a bond of \$500,000 dollars. His next court date is set for April 11th, 2018 in Loudon County. Agents from the 9th JDTF, 5th JDTF, Lenoir City Police Department and Loudon City Police Department were called in to assist in the investigation. This seizure of methamphetamine has a combined street value of well over half a million dollars.



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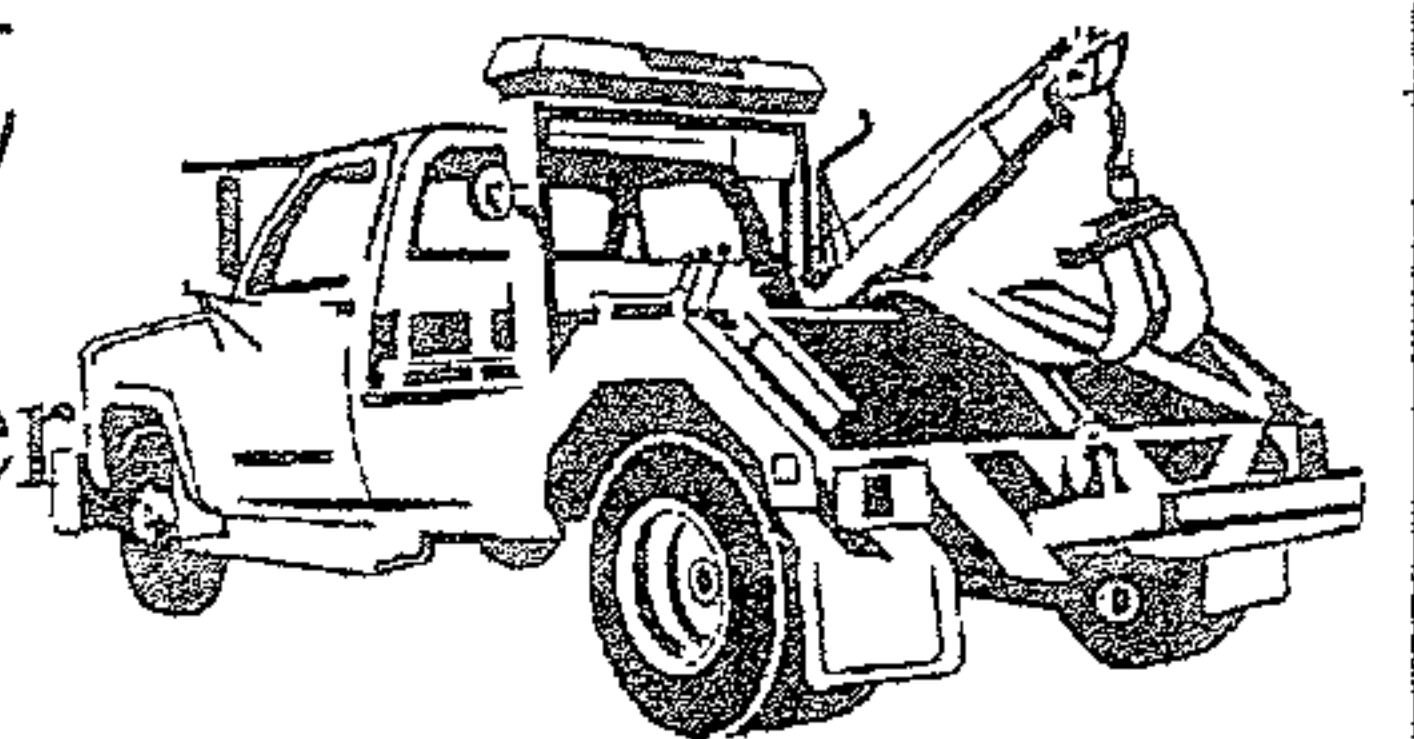
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DUI

Jaharra Dowdell, 25, Dogwood Valley Road Kingston, was charged with DUI, Simple Possession, Poss. of Drug Para., Leaving the scene of Accident, Vandalism, and Financial Responsibility. Deputy Zack Frye LCSO, along with Cpl. Hutchens responded to a single vehicle wreck in the area of Wamplers Sausage on Hwy 70. Once on scene the driver could not be located in or around the vehicle. Cpl Hutchens was able to locate the driver walking down Hwy 70 towards Roane County line. Cpl. then transported the driver back to the wreck scene. The vehicle was located in a ditch, and had struck several mail boxes before coming to a stop. The driver was identified as Jaharra Dowdell. Deputy could smell the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from her person, and was unsteady on her feet. Deputy ask Dowdell if she had anything to drink she stated 4 shots. Dowdell did poorly on sobriety test and placed under arrest. While at the jail Deputy ask if there was anything illegal in her backpack, she stated there was a set of scales and a small amount of marijuana. Deputy did locate one scale and .5 grams of marijuana.

The Daily Edition
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 counties since 1986

FBI

credit and take over and drain victims' retirement accounts. "The damage crimes like these have on victims, the economy, and society in general are significant," said Special Agent Chris Christopherson, who investigated the case from the FBI's San Diego Division. "Individuals had their finances wrecked and their credit destroyed, through no fault of their own. For many of them," he added, "the impacts are still being felt." One of the fraudsters in the conspiracy, John Baden, was the chief hacker. He infiltrated mortgage companies using a common hacking technique known as "fuzzing," which works by overloading a web server with massive amounts of data that can lead to the server revealing security loopholes. Once Baden had access to victims' information, he and his conspirators, Victor Fernandez, Jason Bailey, and Joel Nava, went to work. Fernandez—the group's ringleader—identified multiple victims' brokerage accounts and took control of them by calling the companies and providing the victims' personal information to change passwords and contact information. Then it was simple for him and his conspirators to wire funds—sometimes up to \$30,000 at a time—from the victims' accounts to accounts they controlled.

see FBI ctd. pg. 7

Obituaries

Judy Bailes Poteat, age 72 of Baltimore, MD, former resident of Lenoir City and Hawkins County passed away March 31, 2018 in Maryland. She retired from Baltimore City Public Schools and was of the Methodist faith. Judy loved singing with her sisters, traveling, and being with family. She was preceded in death by her husband, James. "J. P." Poteat; parents, Helen and Philip Benson, Clayton and Bessie Bailes; siblings, Jan Sica, Lawrence "Tinker" Bailes and Suzie Dinsmore. Survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen and Brian Hasson, Nikki and Steve Johnson; grandchildren, Alora, Gavin and Jordan; sisters, Patricia Swann, Shirley Reno, Lisa Benker, Tinnie LaFollette, and Lora-Lynn Daugherty; many nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5th at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. Funeral services will follow at 7 p.m. in the Click Funeral Home Chapel. Family and friends will gather at the Lawnville Cemetery at 11 a.m. Friday morning for graveside services. Click Funeral Home, 109 Walnut Street, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements.

Needles ctd. from pg. 2

tal meth.2 grams in her wallet but stated it was not hers. Inside the vehicle were multiple needles in the glove box, and one inside a drink can. Isbill was placed under arrest. While being searched at the jail Cpl. Snow located 2 small baggies of meth in Isbill's private area.

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Reckless

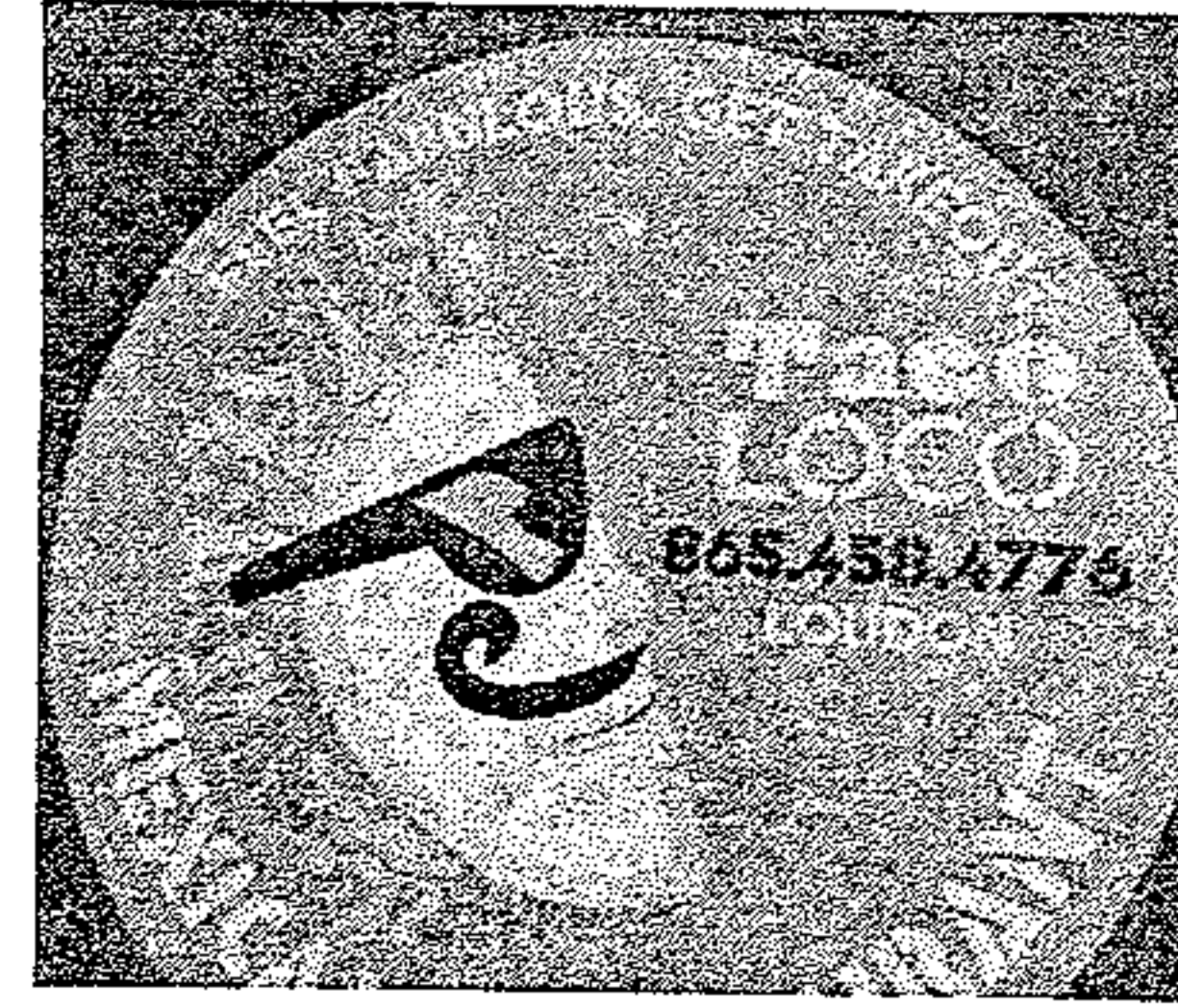
Kelley Garcia, 41, Bowman Bend Road Harriman, was charged with Evading Arrest, Reckless Driving, and Reckless Endangerment. Officer Cole Morgan LCPD, attempted to traffic stop on a purple vehicle for speeding in a construction zone. Once Officer initiated his lights the vehicle ran through 2 red lights before break checking Officer almost causing him to hit the vehicle. The driver Kelly Garcia then came to a complete stop in front of the Lenoir City Ford Dealership, and proceeded to jump out of the vehicle and yell she was trying to save a life get off her bumper. Garcia then jumped back in the vehicle and took off down 321 at

speeds up 60 mph. Officer then initiated pursuit and advised dispatch the direction of travel. Garcia traveled down 321 doing 2 u-turns before coming to a stop in front of Dunkin Donuts where she said the same thing and fled again doing a U-turn into on coming traffic where officer and Deputy boxed her in. Garcia was taken to the ground and placed under arrest.

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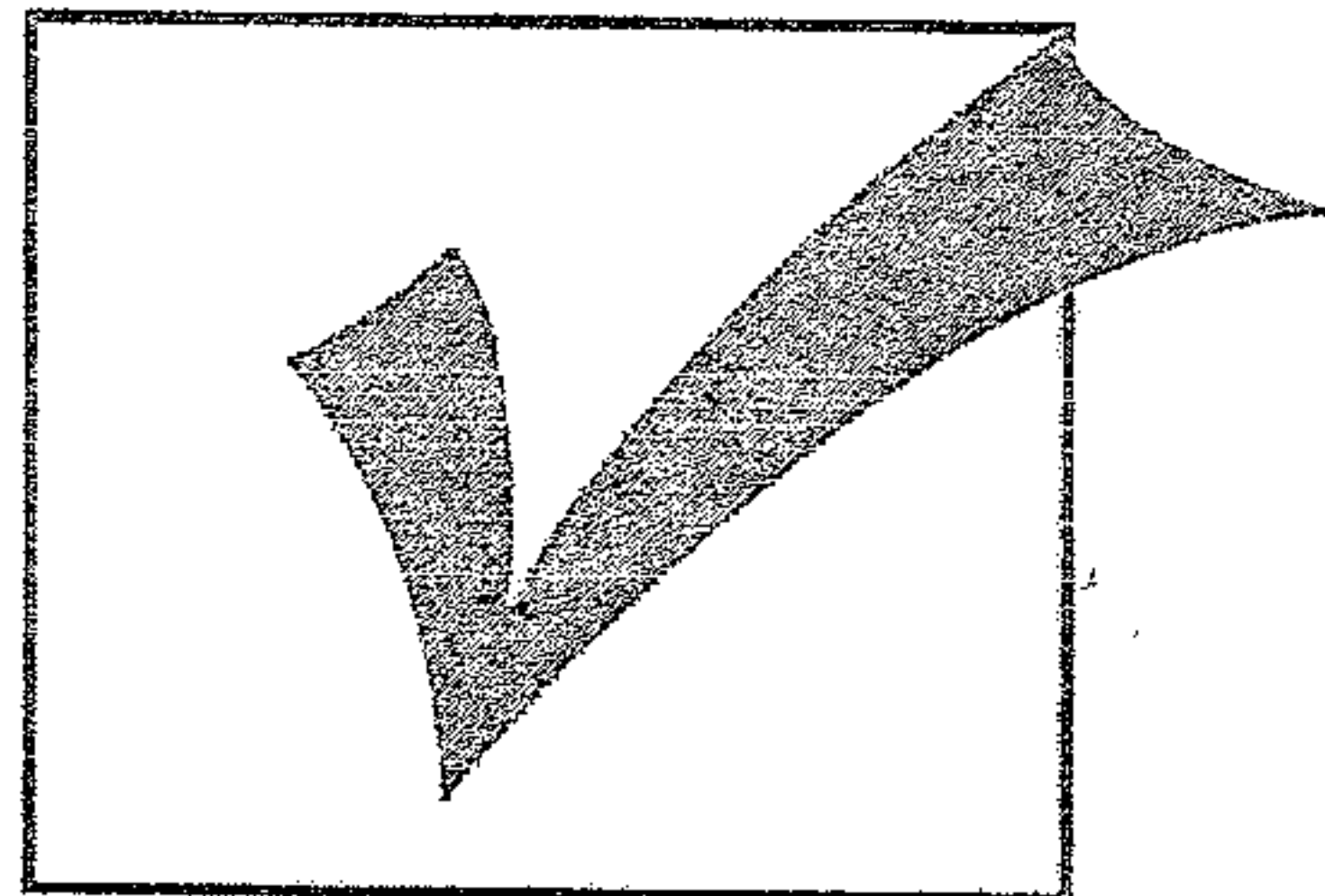
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FBI ctd. from p. 4

Victims stretched from California to Florida, and one individual lost nearly \$1 million in the scheme, Christopherson said. A second part of the scheme involved extensive credit fraud. The criminals used victims' detailed personal information to set up bogus lines of credit and retail credit card accounts to which they charged thousands of dollars for goods and services. Most of the proceeds from the sale of items in these crimes were used to buy drugs.

In all, Christopherson estimated there were more than 25,000 victims, and although charging documents

listed victim losses at approximately \$2.5 million, "in reality the amount was much higher than that," he said. "There was so much retail fraud over such a long period of time, it was impossible to calculate an accurate and provable loss amount."

The FBI was alerted to the fraud by a financial institution that noticed irregularities, and about the same time, FBI cyber investigators detected that many victims had a "common point of compromise," Christopherson said. "They had all recently applied to the same mortgage company."

Armed with that information, investigators worked backward from the mortgage

company, eventually identifying the hack—and the hackers. By that time, Baden was hiding in Mexico. In 2014, he was named to the San Diego FBI's Most Wanted Cyber Fugitives list, and the reward offered in the case eventually led to his capture in Mexico, Christopherson said.

All four subjects pleaded guilty to their roles in the fraud scheme. In 2015, Baden was sentenced federally to nine years in prison. In January 2018, Fernandez was sentenced to more than 10 years in prison. Bailey received a sentence of more than five years, and in February 2018, Nava was the last subject to be sen-

tenced, to 44 months in prison.

But even years after the crimes were committed, Christopherson said, "the court was still receiving victim impact statements." Many victims were unable to get jobs or be approved for mortgages or car loans because their credit had been ruined by the fraudsters.

"We are pleased that these criminals are now behind bars and will not be able to victimize anyone else," said Christopherson, who encouraged the public to regularly check their credit information to make sure their personal information has not been compromised.

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