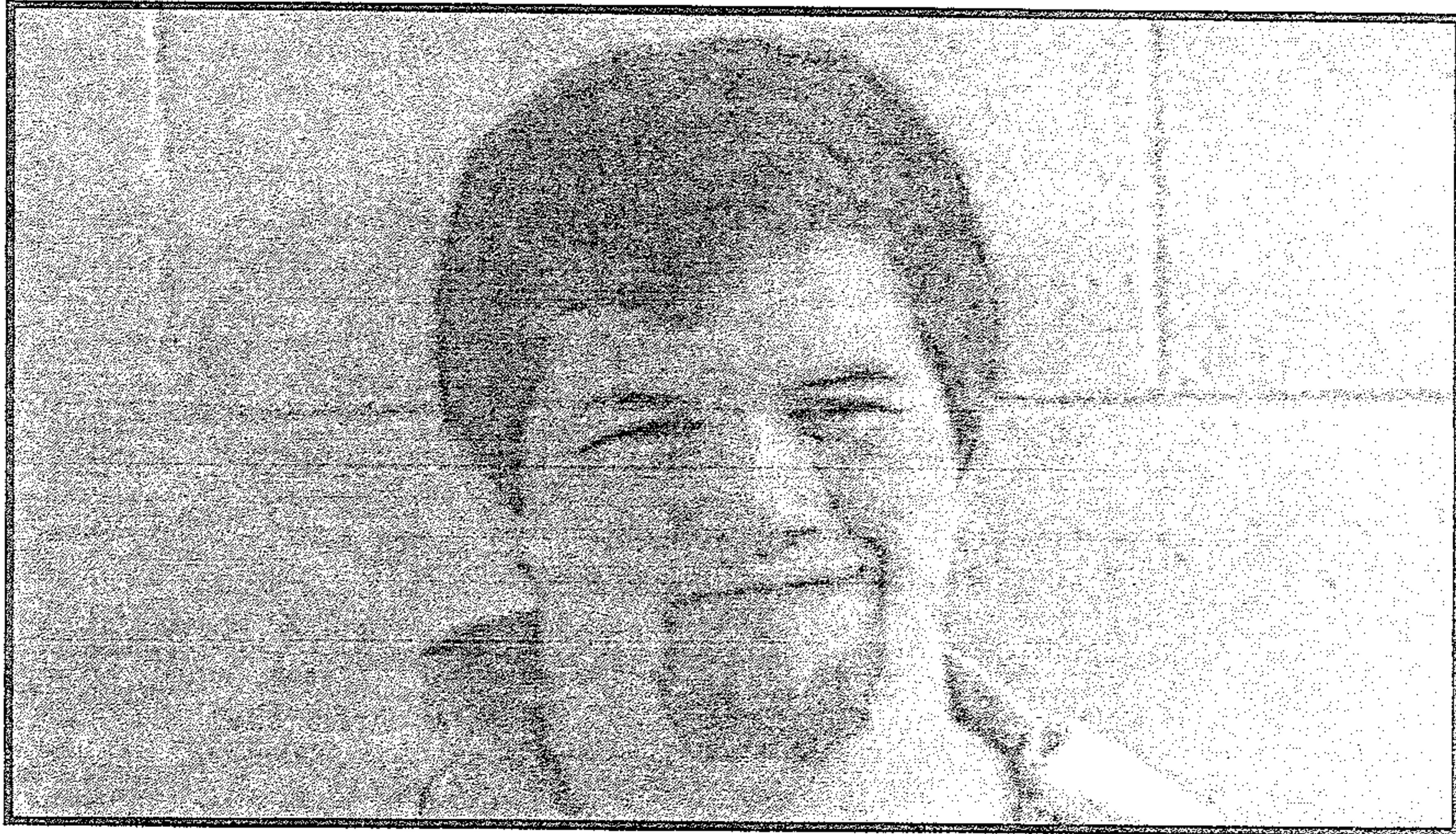


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Monday, December 9, 2019

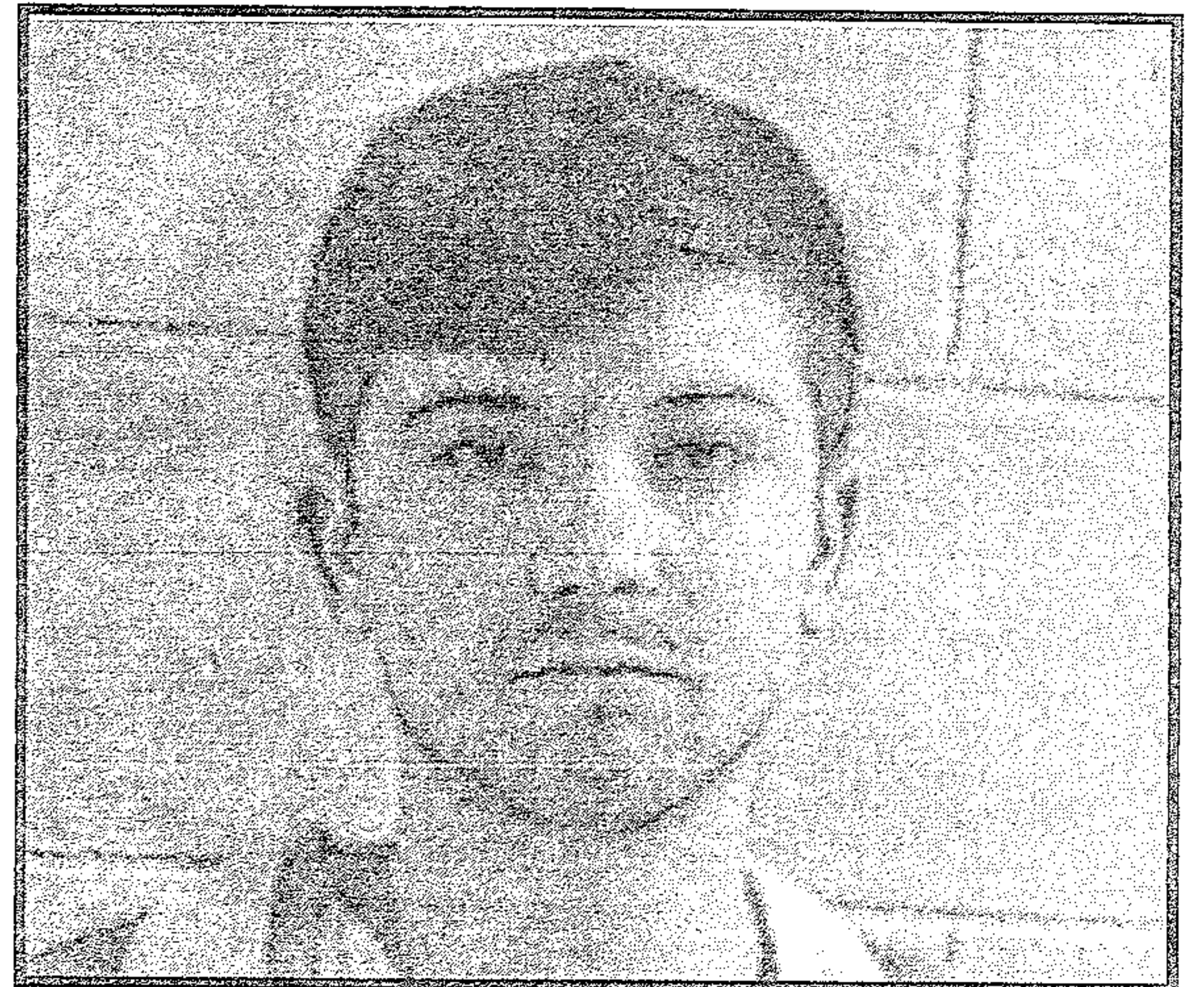
## Man charged after break in and assault of exes new man



Brody Spoon

see Assault pg. 2

## Truck takes a swim; driver goes to jail



Hutson Smith

see Lake pg. 3

## Reckless driver calls end with driver jailed



Amanda Dunlap

see Reckless pg. 3

## Man charged after punching holes while intoxicated



Kolomona Kipilii

See DV P.5

## Your Bank Account Could Be Fueling Crime Money Muling Is Illegal and Helps Criminals

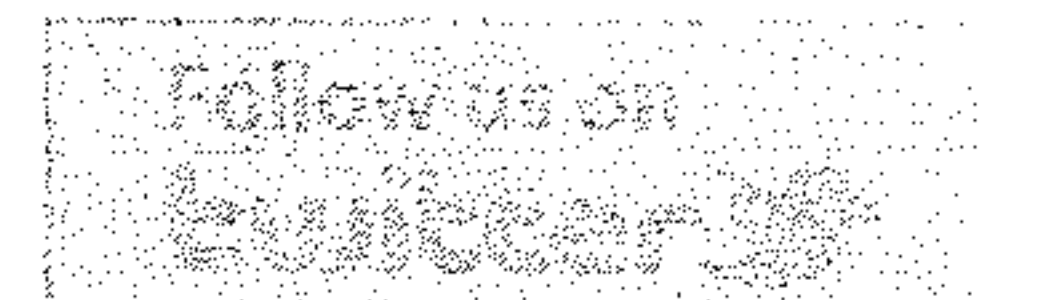
Like many Americans, Aaron Cole and his wife had been able to save up a nest egg through the rising value of their home. But after six years there and the births of their two children, the Oregon couple decided to sell and use the equity they had built up to purchase a slightly larger place.

After they had sold their current home, Aaron Cole received word that his title company would be in touch soon with the wire

instructions for sending the down payment required to close on the new house. When an email arrived on December 4, 2018, from what appeared to be the title company, Aaron's wife went to the bank and sent \$122,850 to the account number provided in the message.

A few days later, the title company called to tell Aaron Cole it was time to wire over the down payment. Was he ready

See FBI P.4



### Verse of the Day

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

—John 8:12

### Wazzup

A Big Shout Out to Vice Mayor Jennifer Wampler for all her hard work improving the downtown area!

### Weather

Today: Showers. High of 59F.

Tonight: Showers. Low of 50F

Tuesday: Showerd. High of 60F.

Tuesday night: Showers. Low of 40F

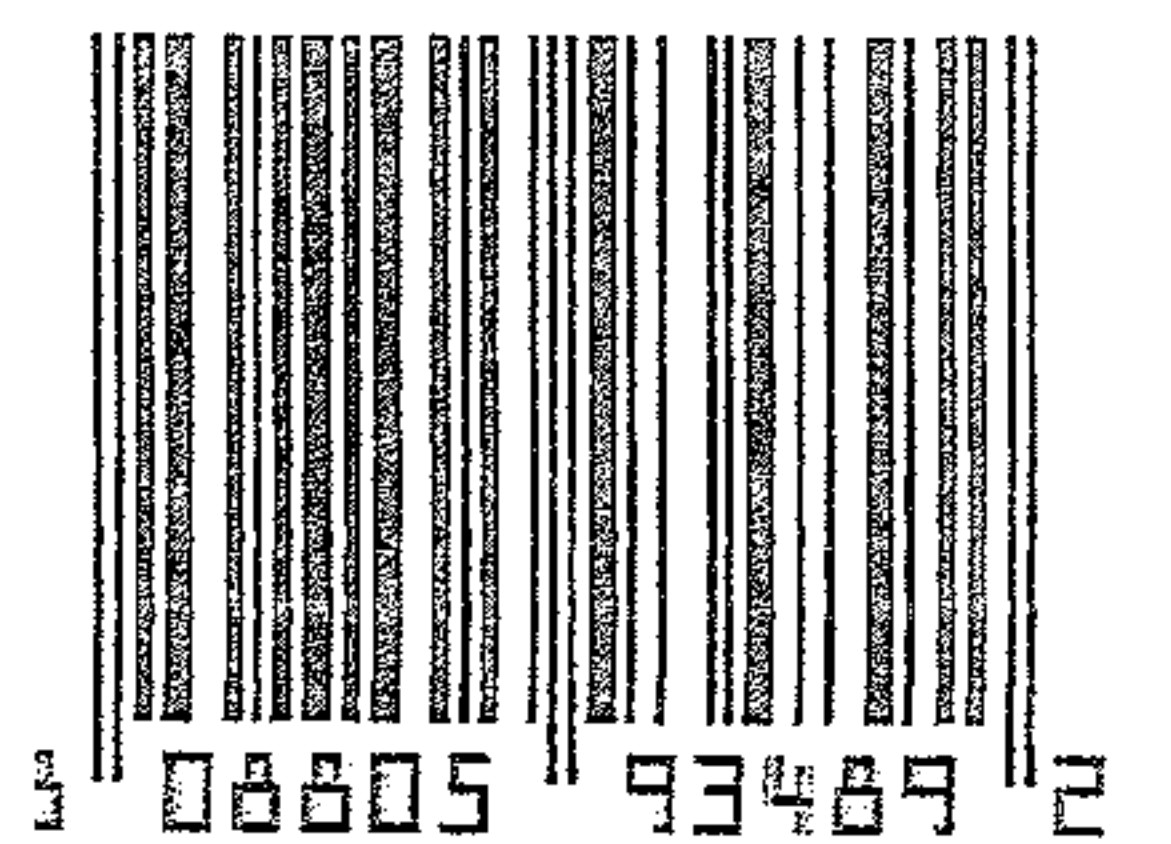
### Horoscopes

Sagittarius 11/22-12/21

Too many measures of

self-worth come from self-judgment. When you consider the opinions of your peers, you might welcome their criticism from a personal perspective. However, they do not

(Continued on page 6)





**Assault**

Brody Spoon, 21, Highland Avenue Lenoir City, was charged with Aggravated Burglary, and Assault.

According to the report, Deputy Brandon Dishner LCSO, responded to Hines Court to a physical fight in progress. Upon arrival Deputy and Sgt. Bowen made contact with Brody Spoon standing inside the

residence along with victims. Deputy observed the male victim and Spoon to have blood on their arms and face.

The female stated that her and the male victim were laying in bed asleep when Spoon entered the residence, and began assaulting the male victim. Spoon stated that he became upset when he found his ex-girlfriend(female victim) and

his child asleep in the bed with the male victim. Deputy observed a large hole in the drywall that occurred from the altercation between the two males. Both were separat-

ed before Deputy arrival and both refused medical treatment.

Brody Spoon was placed under arrest, and transported to the Loudon County Jail.

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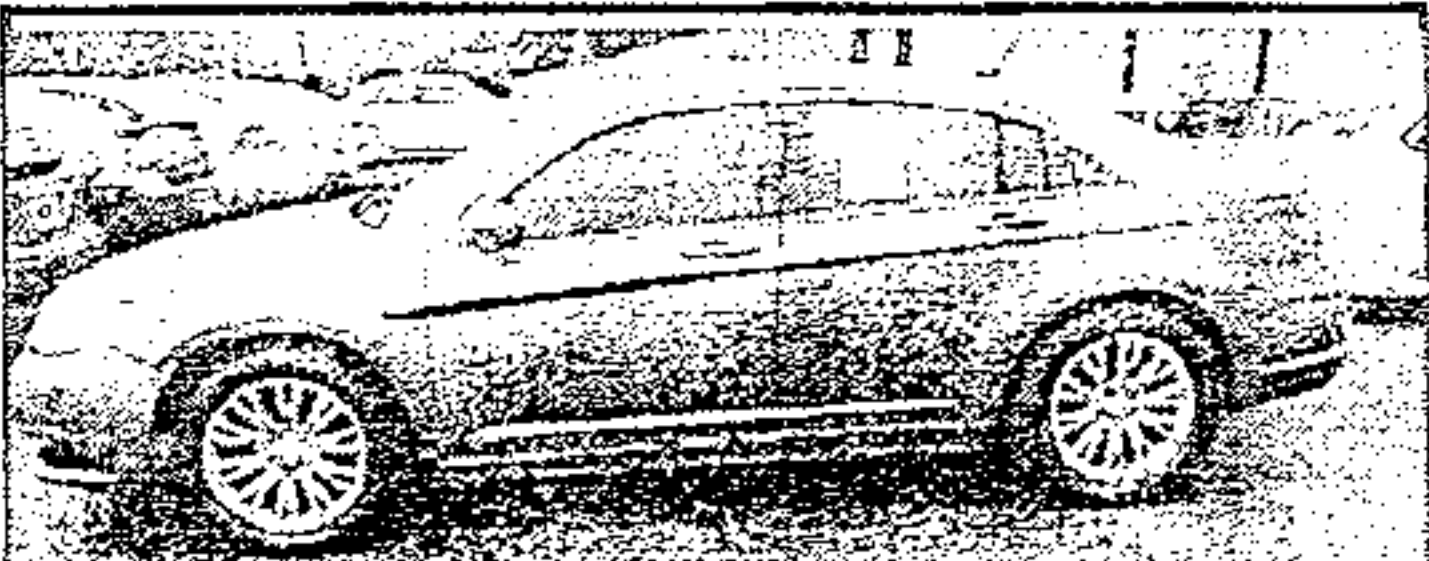
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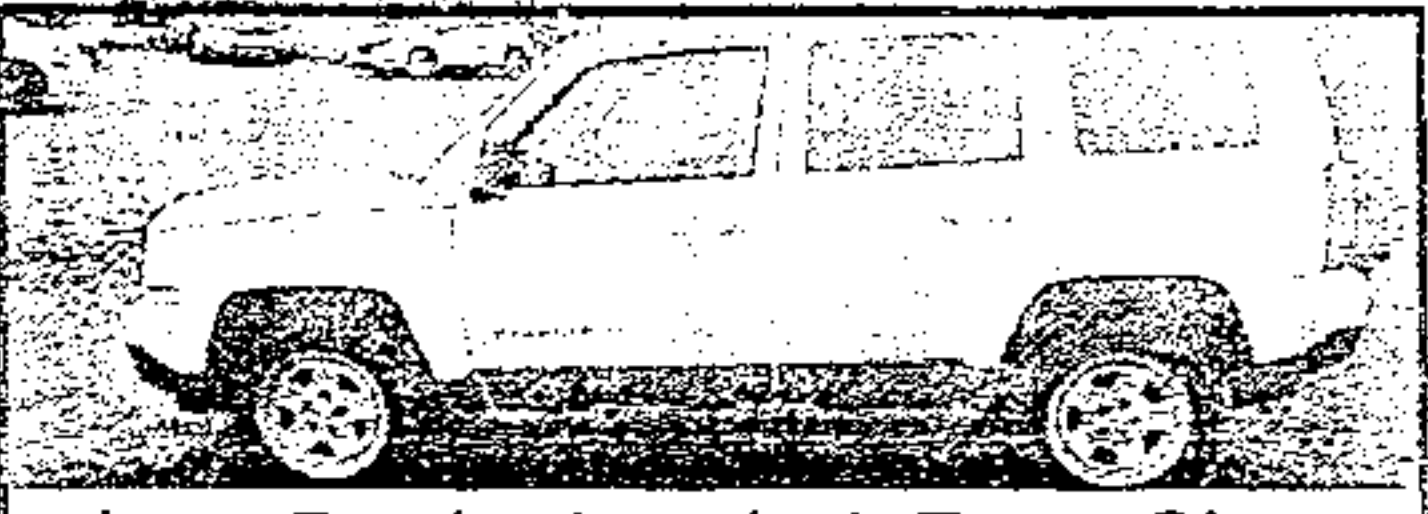
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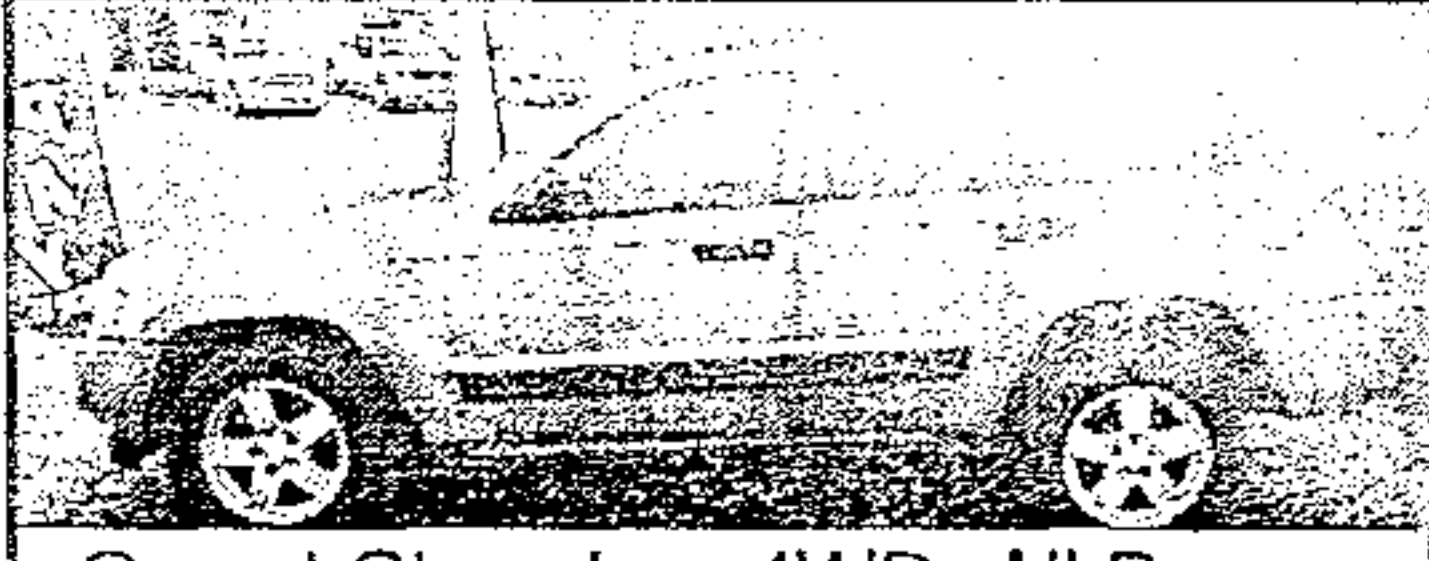
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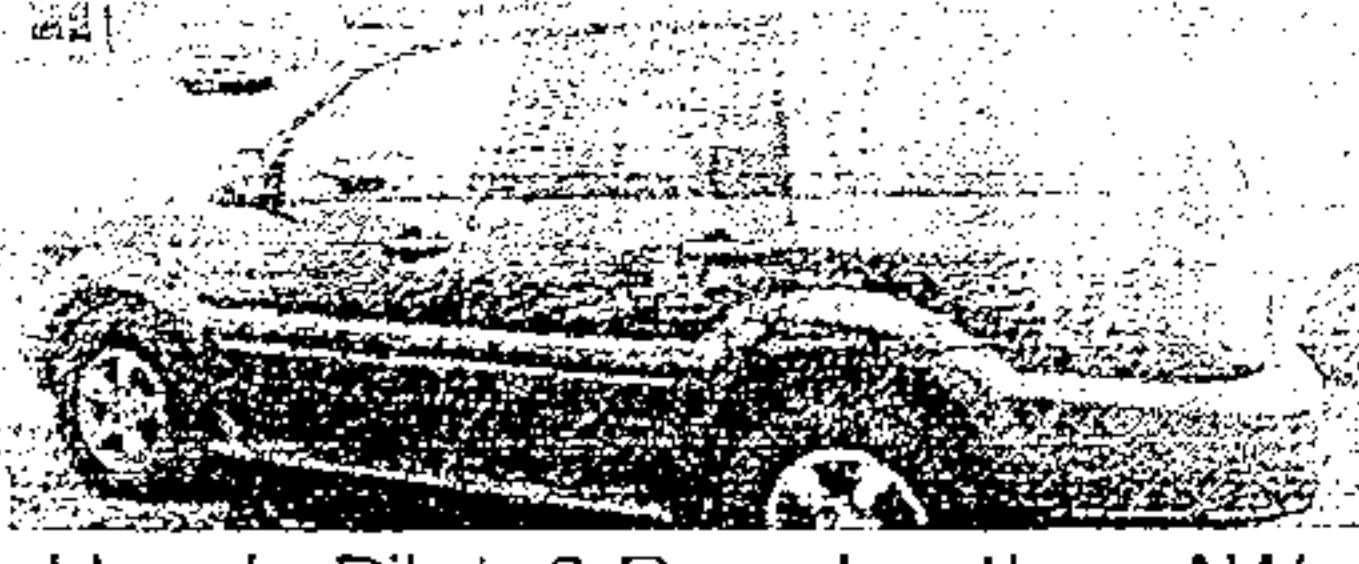
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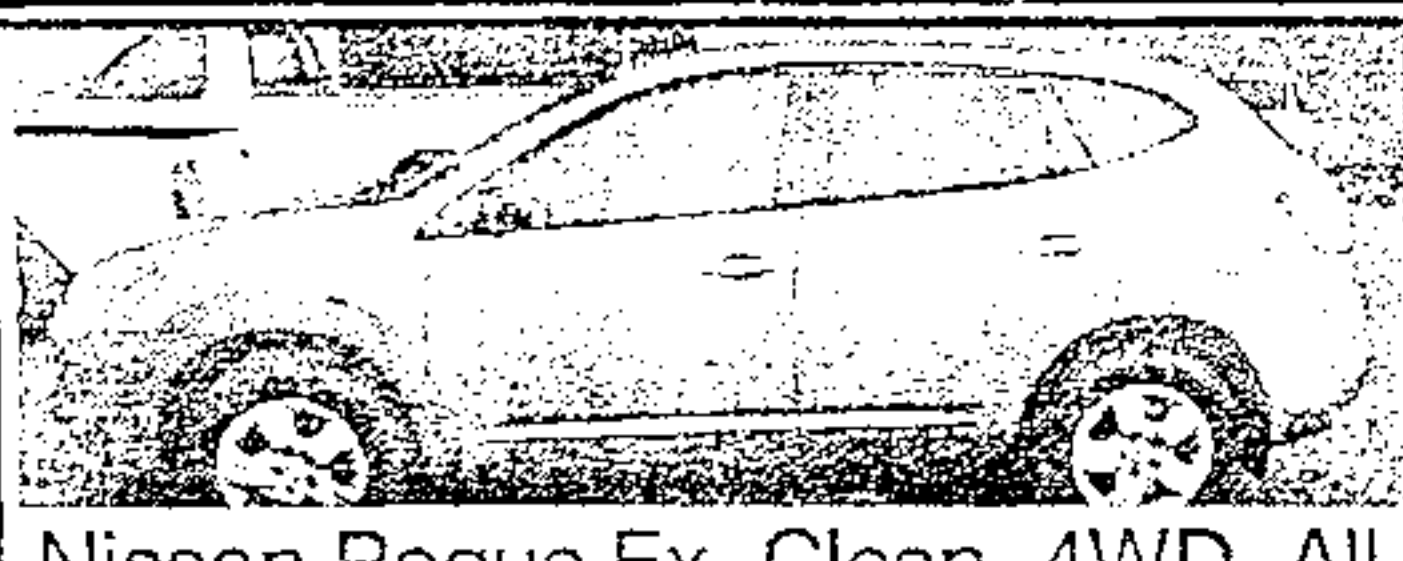
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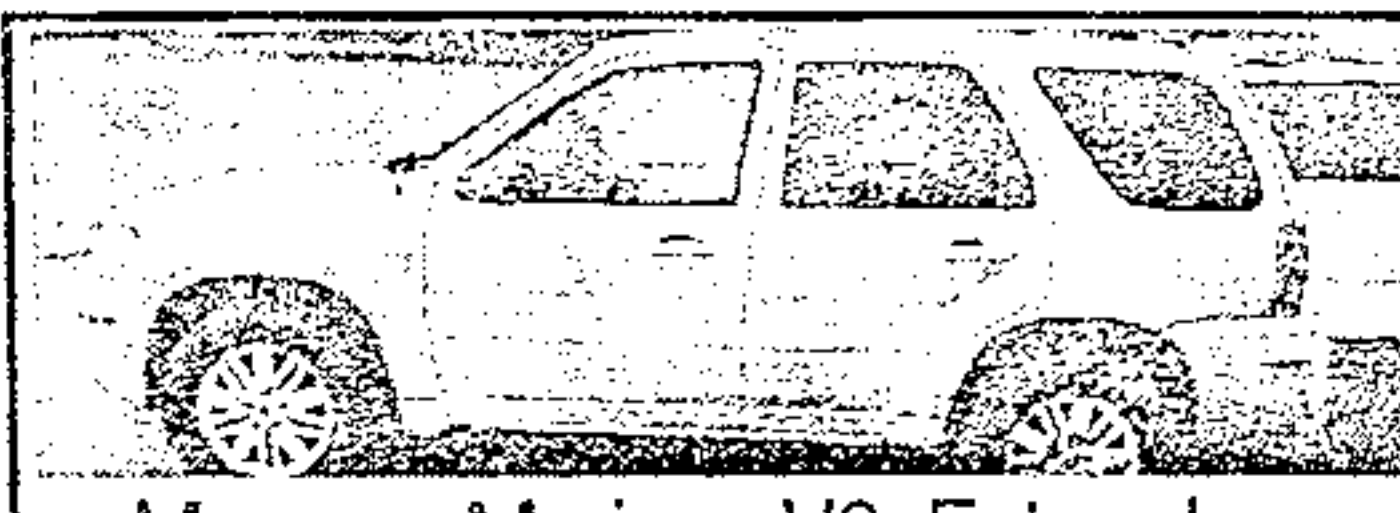


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**Lake**

Hutson Smith, 21, Sunny Acres Drive Crossville, was charged with DUI, and Violation of Implied Consent. Deputy Eric Curtis LCSO, responded to a wreck on Lakeview Drive reported by Chief T. Arden LCSO. Upon arrival Deputy observed a blue vehicle on its side and partially submerged in the creek. Chief Arden advised Deputy that Hutson Smith was the driver of the vehicle. When Deputy made contact with Smith he observed Smith to be swaying on his feet, slurring his speech, repeating himself, and holding his arms out from his sides for no apparent reason. Deputy observed an odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from Smith. Deputy ask Smith to perform sobriety test which he did poorly on and could not follow instruction. Hutson Smith was placed under arrest, and agreed to blood draw. Smith then stated he needed medical treatment and was transported to the Fort Loudon ER. Once at the ER Smith refused medical treatment and blood draw. Hutson Smith was transported to the Loudon County Jail. Smith was ask once at the jail if he wanted to provide a breath sample he refused.

**Reckless**

Amanda Dunlap, 40, Dogwood Road Rockwood, was charged with DUI. Officer Trey Clemmer LPD, was notified by dispatch of reckless driver on the interstate heading towards Loudon. Dispatch advised they received several calls on a silver vehicle with Texas tags was swerving in and out of traffic and the tail-lights were not working. Officer arrived in the area and noticed the vehicle get off the exit and made a left turn in the wrong lane heading towards city limits. Officer followed the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. Officer made contact with the driver Amanda Dunlap and informed her why he stopped her. Officer noticed Dunlap speech was slurred, and she couldn't obtain eye contact with Officer. Officer had Dunlap perform sobriety test which she did poorly on. Dunlap stated she was pre-diabetic. Officer had EMS check Dunlap out and was cleared. Amanda Dunlap was placed under arrest, and transported to the Loudon County Jail.

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**Public Meeting Notice****Rescheduled Regular Meeting  
Martel Utility District Board of Commissioners**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Martel Utility District of Loudon County, Tennessee (the "District") for this December has been rescheduled. Pursuant to TCA §7-82-308(e), the District's Board of Commissioners (the "Board") will meet in open, regular session on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. (local prevailing time) at the District's office located at 6875 Lakeview Road in Lenoir City, Tennessee for the purpose of conducting its regular monthly agenda and considering all matters presented by the District's general manager or legal counsel, which shall include without limitation reviewing, discussing, considering for approval, or taking other action as may be necessary or required on the following agenda items:

- (i) a utility agreement between the District and the City of Lenoir City, Tennessee (the "City") providing for the consolidation of the District with the City as a separate City utility department (the "Consolidation Agreement");
- (ii) a resolution of the Board proposing the consolidation of the District with the City as a separate City utility department by transferring all of the District's property and obligations to the City as authorized by T. C. A. § 7-82-202(f), approving the Consolidation Agreement, and authorizing all necessary or required actions related thereto;
- (iii) a winddown plan for the District detailing various target dates for taking action and providing other final directions to District management and employees for the planned winddown of the District's business affairs and operations, including without limitation the payoff of the District's outstanding RUS bond, payment of final salaries, benefits and severance payments to District employees, submittal of all required tax reports and any required payments of sales tax and withholding obligations to the State of Tennessee and the Treasury of the United States as applicable, purchase of tail insurance coverage, and all other items necessary to properly winddown the District's operations and affairs and transfer the same to the City without interruption of service and a minimum of inconvenience to the District's customers; and
- (iv) such other documents, agreements or matters that may be brought to the attention of the Board by its general manager or legal counsel and recommended to the Board for consideration, approval or other action by the Board and that are necessary or required to properly prepare for and complete the proper winddown of the District's business affairs and operations and the transfer of the District's property and obligations to the City in accordance with the Consolidation Agreement and all applicable provisions of law.



**FBI**

for the account information?

It took the representative from the title company just moments to figure out what had happened: The Coles had been the victims of a business email compromise scam and had wired their money to a criminal who had spoofed the title company's email address and sent them fake wire instructions. The family's savings was gone. Their down payment had been funneled into one account and then broken up and sent to four other banks. Within days, the money would be on its way out of the country and into the control of those who carried out the scheme.

The Cole family had already sold their existing home with a move out deadline of December 23. Now, they couldn't complete the sale of their new house, had little left in savings, and in a few weeks would have nowhere to call home.

"I'm never at a loss for words," said Aaron Cole. "When this happened, I couldn't come up with the words to tell my wife." What happened to the Coles was due to the deliberate actions of the online criminals who compromised an email account to steal from them, but the criminals could not have carried out the scheme without the involvement of money mules.

The FBI defines a money mule as a person who transfers illegally ac-

quired money on behalf of or at the direction of another person. Money mules often receive a commission for the service or provide assistance because they believe they have a trusting or romantic relationship with the individual who is asking for help moving money.

"Mules are laundering money for people who have done some major damage. Who's losing the money? It's average people. It's small companies." - Yaqub Prowell, special agent, FBI Portland

Money mules may or may not be aware of the role they are playing in a crime, but the actions they take do serious harm to people like the Coles and millions of other innocent victims of online scams and frauds.

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) received more than 20,000 complaints in 2018 from victims of business email compromise alone. These victims reported losses of more than \$1.2 billion.

"Mules are laundering money for people who have done some major damage," said FBI Special Agent Yaqub Prowell, who worked the Coles' case through the FBI's Portland Field Office. "Who's losing the money? It's average people. It's small companies."

Aaron Cole will be the first to tell you how devastating the loss was. "The equity in the house was our way to move forward," he said of the theft. "I put myself back

15 years."

In the Coles' case, the title company generously helped the family cover their down payment in exchange for Aaron Cole's help alerting others about business email compromise. The title company was seeing homeowners hit with this crime despite the warnings about fraud and account security they put on every document they send to clients.

Aaron Cole, like many people, skimmed right over those messages in the mass of paperwork that accompanies the process of buying and selling a home. Cole said, "I grew up with computers. I know not to click on anything suspicious. Nothing about this looked suspicious."

The title company hopes that a human face and a very human story about what can happen will make more people aware of the crime and on guard against it.

Prowell, who spent days tracking the path the Coles' money made from bank to bank, was successful in seizing some of the assets and saving about 30 percent of the funds the Coles lost. But those assets, because of the legal pro-

cess involved, would not have made it back to the Coles fast enough to save their home. "The quickest forfeiture process I've seen has been about 12 months," said Prowell.

He stressed that even though it was a good ending for the Cole family, the title company will absorb the rest of the losses. "This is a small title company," Prowell said "But it was a small company with a heart."

Prowell is also hopeful Aaron Cole's story will raise awareness about business email compromise and the need to be vigilant about online security.

Cole said he used the same password for several email and social media accounts and hadn't changed them for a while. The criminals could have been monitoring his accounts for years using a simple software that watches for keywords that may indicate money is about to move.

In addition to strong passwords and better awareness, Prowell says people should revert to old fashioned means of verification before sending money. "Go check in person," he said. "Or pick up the phone and make a call."

But Prowell also wants those who act as money

mules to understand the harm they are doing to others and the peril they are exposing themselves to. First and foremost, acting as a money mule is illegal. Those performing the function can face criminal prosecution, damage to their credit standing, and financial liability for the money they move.

Money Mule Awareness Booklet

People who agree to al-

See FBI ctd to pg. 5

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**Public Notice**

The Loudon County Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2020 in the boardroom at the Loudon County Courthouse Annex to receive public comments regarding amending the Loudon County Zoning Resolution, Section 4.090. Standards for Signs, Billboards, and Other Advertising Structures

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FBI ctd from pg. 4

low others to use their bank accounts or open new accounts for these purposes are also linking themselves to criminal organizations. One of the money muling groups involved in Aaron Cole's case was part of a separate FBI investigation into financial and violent crimes. "These groups are not always just fraudsters," Prowell said. "That particular group was also dangerous."

"If you send and receive money at someone else's request—especially someone you've never met—you are likely helping criminals to steal from hardworking people; senior citizens, and small businesses," said Supervisory Special Agent James

Abbott of the FBI's Money Laundering, Forfeiture, and Bank Fraud Unit.

During a recent eight-week campaign to combat money mules, the FBI partnered with other federal law enforcement agencies to interview more than 550 individuals. They served more than 500 warning letters on individuals who served as money mules for fraud schemes. The letters informed recipients that they could be prosecuted if they continue.

Additionally, more than 30 individuals were criminally charged, in part, for their roles in receiving victim payments and providing the fraud proceeds to accomplices. Abbott stressed that banks and law enforcement take note of unusual account activity: "Anyone

who continues to participate in this type of activity should be prepared to hear from the FBI or our partners."

### DV

Kolomona Kipilii, 27, Simpson Road Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault, and Vandalism. Officer R. Miller LCPD, responded to the area of W 4th Ave. in reference to people fighting. While in the area Officer made contact with subjects yelling outside the residence. Officer made contact with the victim and ask what was going on she stated that she had been arguing with her roommate the witness about the dogs using the bathroom inside the residence. Officer followed victim back into the residence where he observed a hole had been punched in the wall, and what looked like a struggle took place. Officer ask victim what took place she stated her ex-boyfriend Kolomona Kipilii had come over to the residence after they returned from Knoxville. Victim stated Kipilii was intoxicated and they began to argue. Victim stated she tried to get Kipilii to leave the residence and he started to fight with victim and began to throw stuff and punch holes in the wall. Sgt. Rayfield made contact with Kipilii's vehicle abandon in a parking lot with the keys in it. Sgt. Rayfield went to Kipilii's residence where he made contact with him and placed him under arrest.

## Public Notice

### LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED, SECTION 57-7-105, notice is hereby given that Pramukhswami & Manhantswami LLC has made application to the Loudon County Beer Board for an on and off premises beverage permit for a business to be known as Lake Country Market, at 10490 Beals Chapel Rd. Lenoir City, TN 37772. The Board will consider said application at a special called meeting to be held on the 17th day of December, 2019, at 5:30 pm located at: Roane State Community College 100 West Broadway Lenoir City, Tennessee 37771

This the 6th day of December, 2019.  
Loudon County Beer Board  
Carrie McKelvey  
Loudon County Clerk

## Public Notice

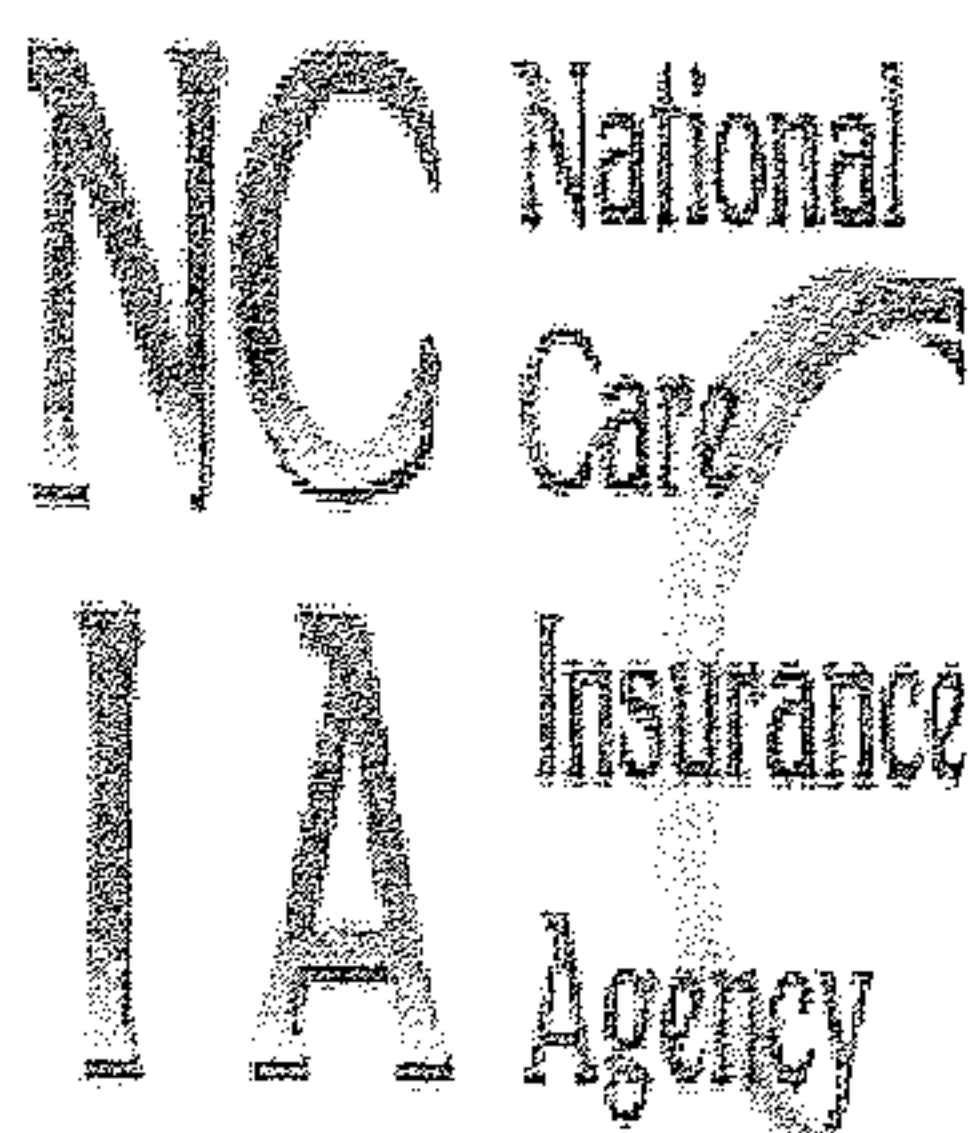
The Loudon County Regional Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 in the boardroom of the Loudon County Courthouse Annex, 101 Mulberry St., Loudon, TN to receive public comments regarding amending the Subdivision Regulations, Article III, C., Lots, subsection 2. Arrangement.

## Public Notice

The Loudon County Regional Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on January 6, 2020 in the boardroom at the Loudon County Courthouse Annex to receive public comments regarding amending the Loudon County Zoning Resolution, Article 7. Administration and Enforcement

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