

The Daily Edition

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Friday, January 22, 2016

Stolen vehicle and meth found after break down



Heather Schlichting



David Smith

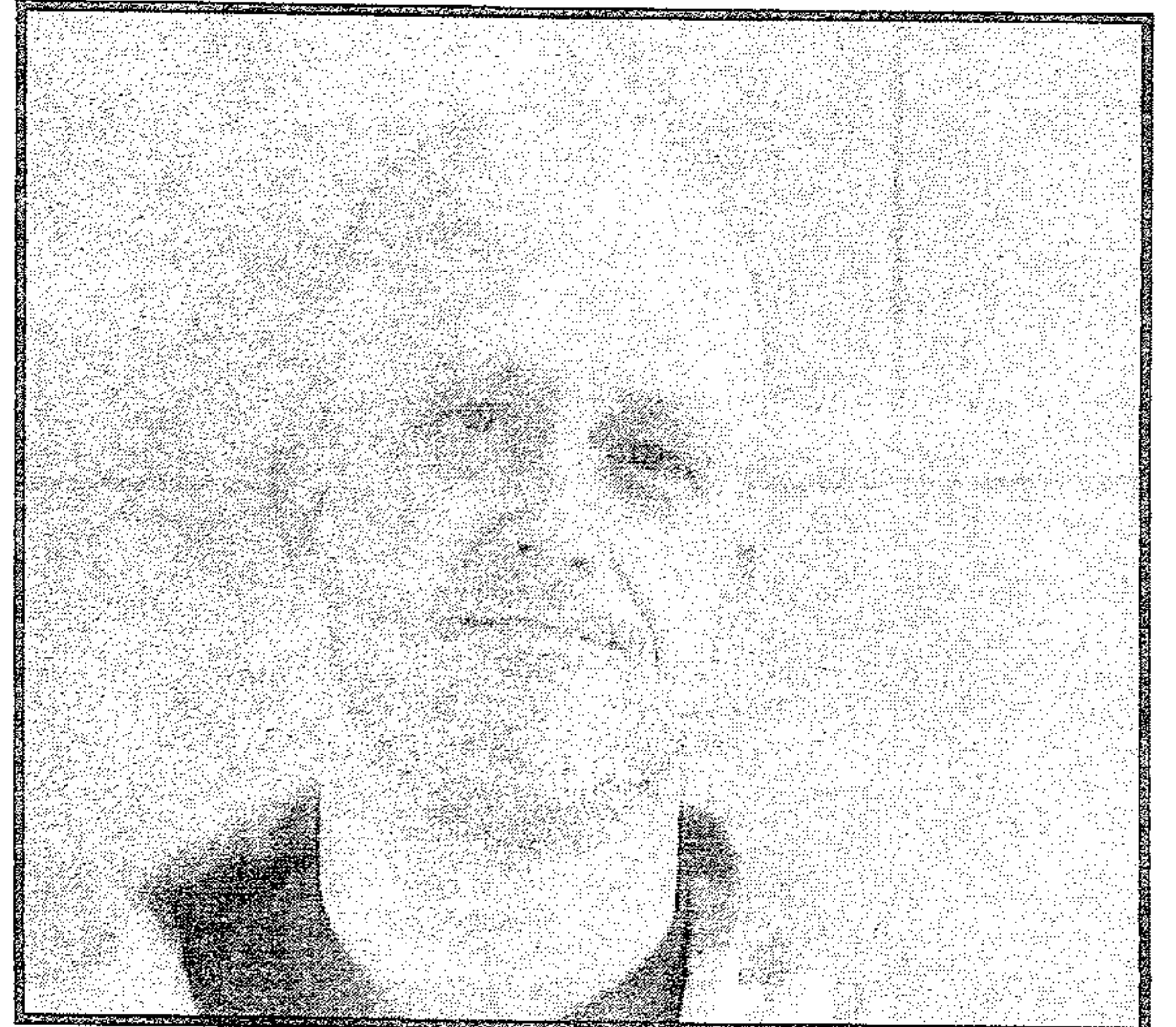
Heather Schlichting, 31, Homeless Lenoir City, was charged with Man/Sell/Del/Resale SCH. II, and Theft of Property.

David Smith, 32, Little Valley Road Maynardville, was charged with Criminal Impersonation, Theft of Property, and Failure to Appear.

Deputy Robbie Lane LCSO, was dispatched to Hotchikiss Valley Rd East and Happy Hollow rd for a DAV. Deputy arrived on scene to find a Maroon Ford F150 on the side of the road no onearound it. Deputy ran the Tennessee registration with dispatch. Dispatch advised that the truck was

(see meth pg. 2)

Meth maker busted by 9th DTF and LCSO



Christopher Raper

(see busted pg. 5)

Man prevents victim from leaving by threats with stick

Israel Gonzalez, 24, Corinth Church Road Loudon, was charged with Domestic Assault, and False Imprisonment.

Deputy Craig Brewer, met with victim at Hope Way Loudon Tennessee. She advised that on this date she was getting ready for work and her boyfriend Israel Gonzalez prevented her from leaving and made her

(see domestic pg. 7)



Israel Gonzalez

Marion County Audit Finds County Employee Profiting on Taxpayer Time

The Tennessee government found that one county employee

(see audit pg. 3)

Financial Fraud

The Disney Resort That Never Was

Thomas W. Lucas, Jr. was such an effective liar that he was able to convince hundreds of investors—even members of his own family—that he had inside information about a Disney resort to be built in Texas

that would make the nearby scrubland worth a fortune for those who bought it ahead of time.

Of course, there was no "Frontier Disney," as Lucas claimed, but using false documents, forged signatures, and phony presentations, he was able to pocket nearly \$450,000 in real estate fees over a four-year period and cause investors to lose approximately \$20 million.

(see fraud pg. 4)

Verse of the Day
Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." — Ruth 1:16

Obituaries
see inside
Wazzup
Talk about snow coming outta nowhere, Wow! Looks like we might be getting some more too! Be safe on the roadways and

watch for slick spots.
Weather
Today: Rain likely. Thunder possible. High near 40F.
Tonight: Rain and snow in the evening transitioning to snow showers late. Low 29F.
Saturday Cloudy with snow showers mainly during the

morning. High 34F.
Saturday Night Cloudy skies early will become partly cloudy later at night. A few flurries or snow showers possible. Low 19F.
Sunday Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the
(Continued on page 6)



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meth
stolen out of Monroe County. Deputy drove up Hotchikiss Valley Rd looking for anyone walking. Dispatch advised a male and female was seen at the vehicle and ran up under the bridge. Deputy turned back onto Hotchikiss Valley Rd East from Oak Grove Rd to find the truck pulling onto the road. Deputy conducted

traffic stop with the vehicle under Interstate 75. Deputy made contact with the driver Mrs. Heather Schlichting, and a male passenger. Deputy placed into custody without incident. The male advised he had no ID and stated that he name was Samuel Smith and a date of birth . Deputy found a wallet in the drivers seat of the truck with Mrs. meth ctd. pg. 7

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audit was being paid by private businesses while working on government time.

Auditors found that a deputy clerk in the Circuit and General Sessions Courts Clerk office was personally

paid by five different companies to run background checks. Auditors determined the deputy clerk performed some of this work during business hours and was paid at least \$36,617 over a five year period. A similar issue was also noted in Bledsoe County's fiscal year 2015 audit. This deficiency has been reviewed with the district attorney general.

Marion County's audit identified a total of 10 areas of concern, many of them related to financial operations. Five of the ten findings were also noted in last year's report but had not been corrected.

Auditors examined the county's operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 and found several issues spread across multiple county departments and of-

fices. Some of the repeat issues included multiple employees using the same cash drawer, not depositing funds within three days, and failing to separate financial responsibilities between more than one person.

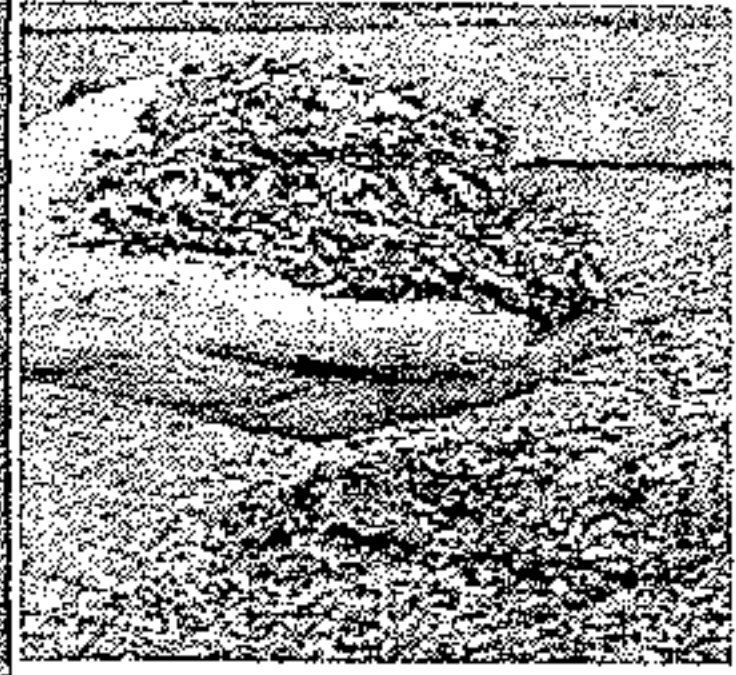
The Comptroller's audit report also includes recommendations to address each of the findings.

"Unfortunately, multiple counties have now had issues

with employees being paid to do background checks while on taxpayer time," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "This activity is not appropriate and must be corrected. I am also particularly concerned when I see half of a county government's findings come from repeat issues."

To view the audit online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/repository/CA/2015/> (see audit ctd. pg. 5)

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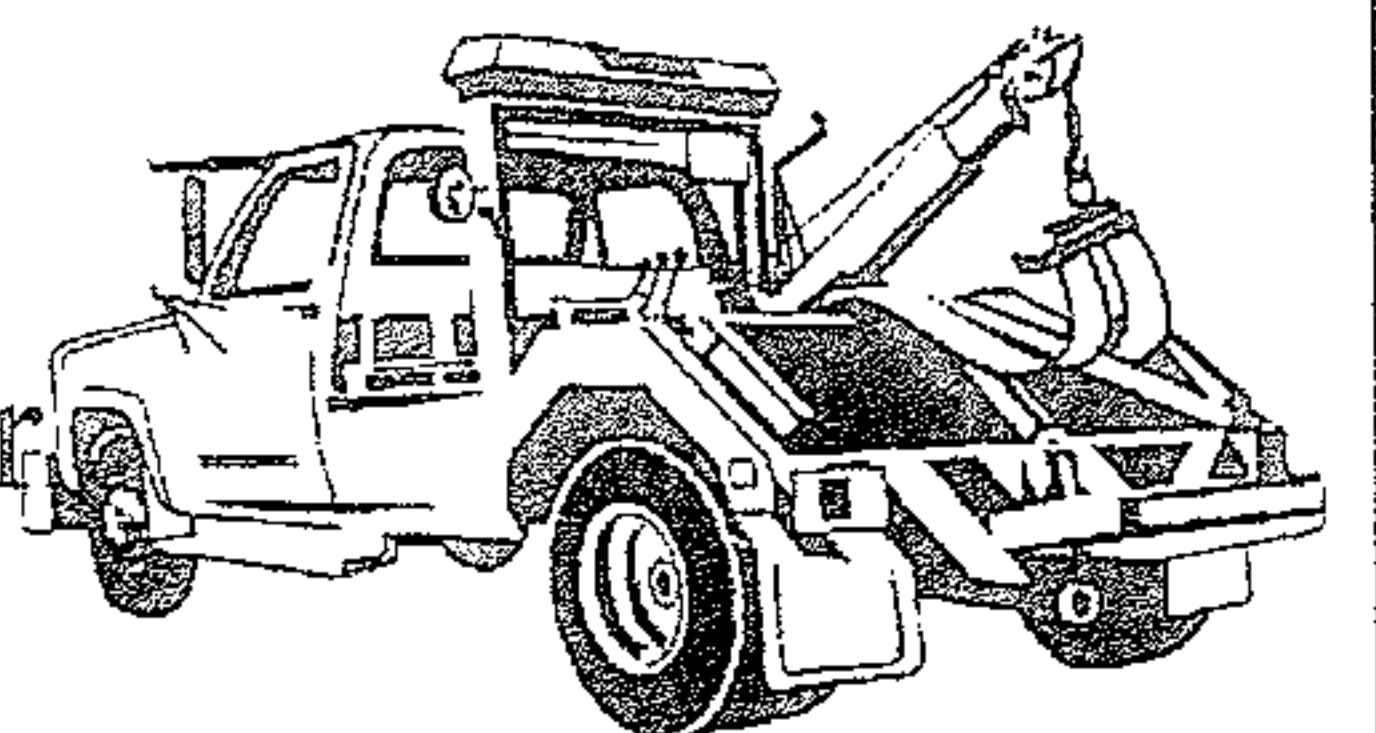
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fraud

“Thomas Lucas Jr. fooled savvy investors and very intelligent people,” said Special Agent Rick Velasquez, who investigated the case from the FBI’s Dallas Division. “He was a very believable guy.”

From 2006 to 2010, Lucas defrauded more than 250 investors. He claimed to have insider information regarding a Disney resort and theme park planned for a rural area about 50 miles north of Dallas. He was giving investors a chance to buy surrounding land outright, or to purchase options to buy the land near the supposed resort. The 65 investors who purchased options lost every cent they invested—more than \$8 million. Some investors, including Lucas’ father and uncle in the family real estate

business, purchased land outright, believing the Disney story.

“There was not one grain of truth in Lucas’ presentations,” Velasquez said, “but his pitch was very elaborate, and it fooled a lot of people. He duped his own family.”

Lucas claimed to have letters between Disney and a management firm saying that the company

had acquired enough land to make the deal happen. He included the letters—complete with forged Disney officials’ signatures—in his presentations to investors, along with detailed maps, concept plans, and images that were later discovered to be lifted from the Internet, some from Disney websites.

According to Lu-

cas, Disney planned to make the big announcement about the resort at a Dallas Cowboys football game on Thanksgiving in 2006. When that didn’t happen, he told investors there were delays. “Then the announcement was going to be Super Bowl 2007, 2008. Then it was Fourth of July at the Beijing Olympic

games,” Velasquez said. “He was just trying to keep investors and potential investors on the hook.”

With each delay, Lucas would sweeten the pot with some new bogus e-mail from a Disney executive or other bit of tantalizing information meant to persuade people the proj-

(see fraud ctd. pg. 5)

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busted

Christopher Raper, 46, Clark Road Lenoir City, was charged with Promotion of Methamphetamine Manufacture, and Poss. of Drug Para.

On January 14, 2016 the Loudon County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit and the 9th DTF conducted a search warrant at the residence of Chris-

topher Lee Raper located at Clarke Road, Lenoir City. Used coffee filters with blue and white powder that were used to siphon off a "one pot" to remove discarded chemicals from the cooking process, several empty boxes of pseudoephedrine and the empty blister packs from the pills (pseudoephedrine is the precursor

to manufacture methamphetamine in the "one pot" method, two bags of broken down lithium batteries with the lithium removed (the lithium creates the chemical reaction in the manufacturing process), an empty bottle of fuel or lighter fluid and other paraphernalia like burnt tin foil and hypodermic needles were located in

the household garbage outside the residence. A clear plastic baggie containing Ammonium Nitrate, a set of digital scales, empty box of pseudoephedrine, and coffee filters were found inside Christopher Lee Rapers bedroom. These items are used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Investigator Shane Ezell LCSO,

made the arrest.

audit ctd. from pg. 3

FY15MarionAFR.pdf
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fraud ctd. from pg. 4

ect was still on track. Eventually, investors became suspicious, and one made a complaint to the FBI.

Velasquez, who specializes in financial fraud cases, says the scheme went on for so long because Lucas was believable—and also because investors could not resist the temptation of making large returns on their money.

When confronted by investigators about his claims, Lucas falsely blamed the supposed Disney information he received on a man he met at a methadone rehab clinic, who had since died. In 2014, Lucas was indicted by a federal grand jury on seven counts of wire fraud and one count of lying to the FBI.

Last September, after a jury trial in which Lucas maintained his innocence but was found guilty on all charges, a judge sentenced the 35-year-old to 17.5 years in prison. "That was a stiff sentence for a white-collar crime," Velasquez noted, "but he defrauded a lot of people and showed no remorse."

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domestic

call into work for the day. During the day he had been accusing her of several things and would threaten to hit her with a stick that he had in hand. At one point during the day he had swung the stick to hit her but hit the ceiling light. The children then came in to the room and he stopped trying to hit her. He went out on the porch that afternoon and she was able to grab the children and a few things and ran out of the residence and was able to go to a place of safety where she could finally call the police and report the

incident. Victim is in fear that Mr. Gonzalez will do harm to her or children if she returns to the residence. Victim and Mr. Gonzalez are boyfriend and girlfriend, reside together and have children in common. This did happen in Loudon County Tennessee. Deputy Craig Brewer LCSO, made the arrest.

meth ctd. from pg. 2

Schlichting's license inside. Deputy ran Mr. Smith with Dispatch and they could not find a license with that name and date of birth. Mrs. Schlichting advised that the males name was David. Had Dispatch run the male

with the first name David and was able to identify via license picture. Mr. Smith then stated that he was Mr. David Smith.

The VIN number was ran and confirmed stolen out of Monroe County.

Money makers Towed the truck and a hold was placed for Monroe County. A search of Mrs. Schlichting's wallet a small plastic bag was found hidden inside with white powder inside. Mrs. Schlichtin stated it was Meth. This Did Happen In Loudon County TN. End of report. Deputy Robbie Lane LCSO, made the arrest.

McFarland appealing his judgeship case to Tennessee's highest court

Tom McFarland still has his sights set on the circuit court judge position.

On Friday, he asked the Tennessee Supreme Court to hear his appeal of a lower

court's decision to toss out his election loss complaint. The court does not have to hear the appeal.

McFarland, a Kingston attorney, ran for circuit court judge of the 9th Judicial District in 2014.

He was defeated by Mike Pemberton.

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