

Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Burglary tools, drugs for resale inside a school zone and more

Student Rodeo in Loudon a success!

by Kendra McCarter

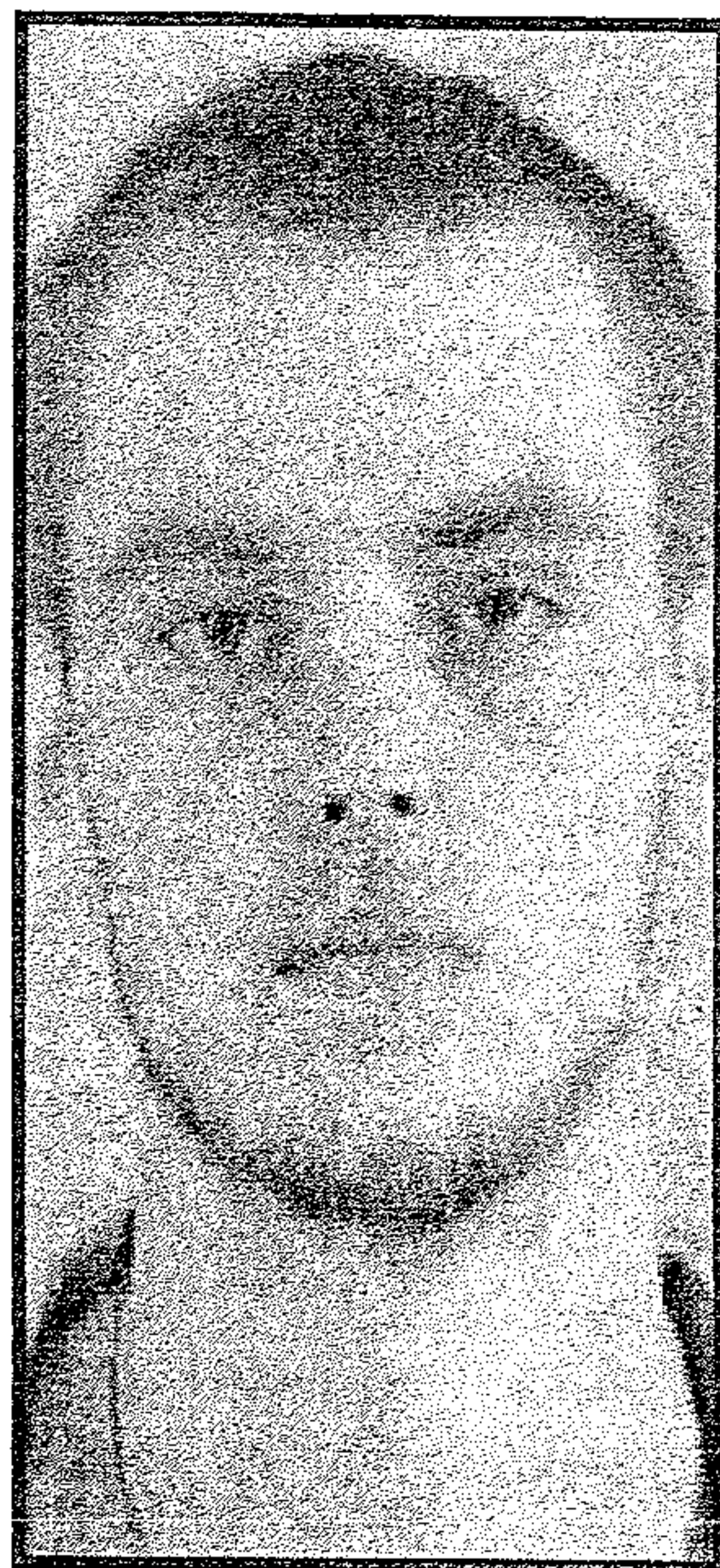


Kelly Tuttle

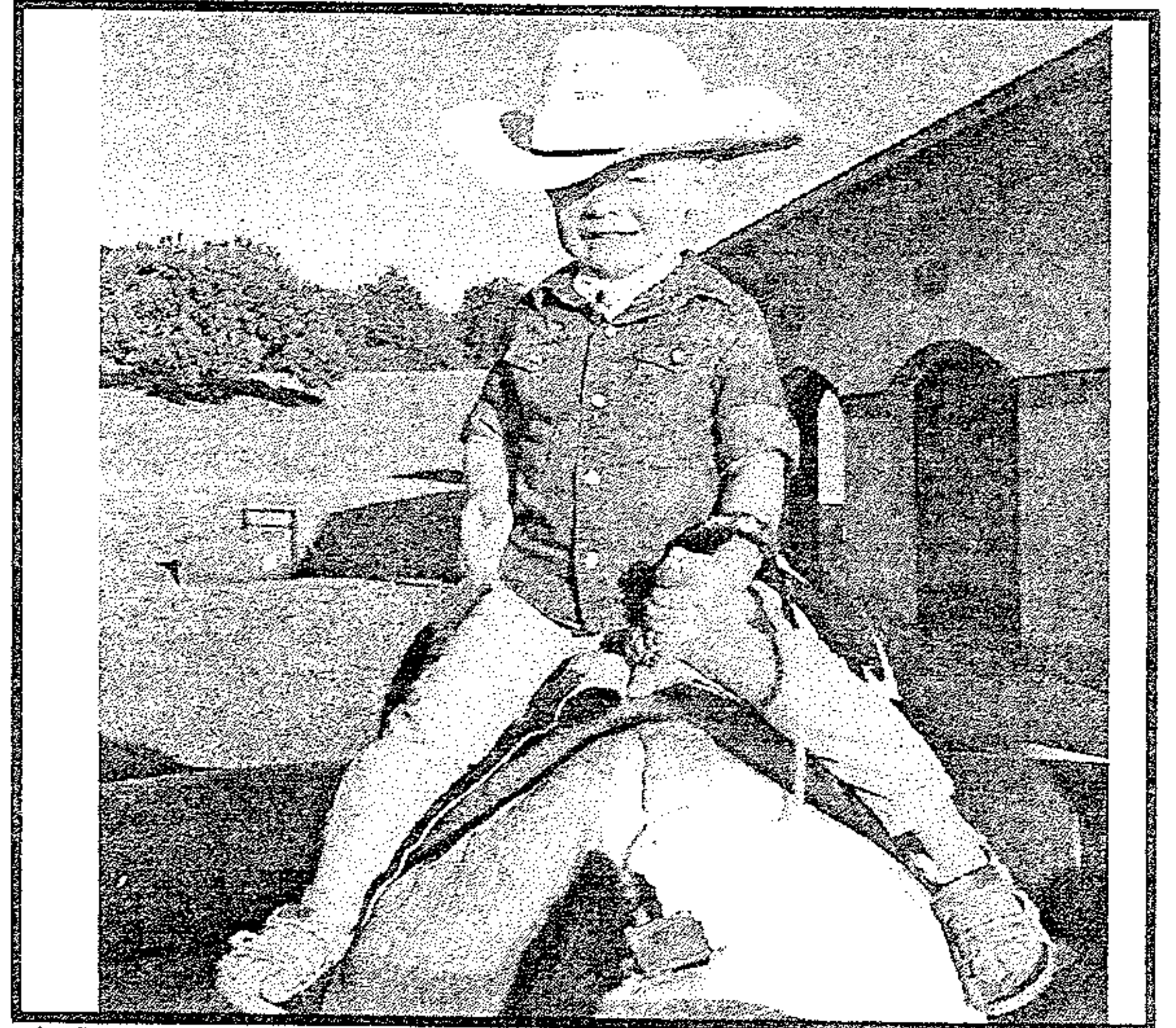
(see trio pg. 2)



James Eversole



John Stone



Asher Reed is riding the mechanical bull he is the son of Laycon & Jason Reed. (see Rodeo pg. 7)

Local artist Brian Hodges featured

by Kendra McCarter



(see Hodges pg. 4)

Using Craig's List to distribute child pornography results in a 70 month federal prison sentence

On June 13, 2016, Larry Vance, 29, of Chattanooga, Tenn., was sentenced by the Honorable Harry S. Mattice Jr., U.S. District Court Judge, to serve 70 months in federal prison for distribution of child pornography. Upon his release from prison, Vance will be supervised by the U.S. Probation Office for 15 years.

In December 2015, Vance pleaded guilty to distribution of child por-

(see craigslist pg. 5)

Ball bat used to save child from fleeing suspect



Travis Brown

(see reckless pg. 3)

Verse of the Day

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. — Ephesians 6:13

Obituaries

see inside **Wazzup**

Welcome to the Daily Edition Kendra McCarter, looking forward to more great things!

Weather

Today: Partly to mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. High around 90F. Wednesday Night Thunderstorms likely. Low 71F. Thursday Partly to most-

ly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms in the morning. High 96F. Thursday Night Partly cloudy in the evening followed by scattered thunderstorms after midnight. Low 71F.

(Continued on page 6)



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trio

John Stone, 19, Church Street Loudon, was charged with Man/Sell/Del/Resale SCH. II x2, and Poss. of Burglary Tools.

James Eversole, 21, Vonore Road Loudon, was charged with Driving on Revoked License, Man/Sell/Del/Resale SCH. II in a School Zone, and

Poss. of Burglary Tools.

Kelly Tuttle, 26, Engel Road Loudon, was charged with Man/Sell/Del/Resale SCH. II, Poss. of Drug Para., and Possession of Burglary Tools

Deputy Chris Jenkins LCSO, observed a white van traveling South on Spring Street with the driver not wearing a seatbelt. Deputy

conducted a traffic stop and identified the driver as James Eversole. Deputy had knowledge of Mr. Eversole not having a valid license. While all occupants of the vehicle were being checked through dis-

patch for warrants and drivers status, Deputy deployed his k-9 partner Deja for a drug sniff of the van. Deja gave a positive indication to a trained odor of a illegal narcotic com-

(see trio ctd. pg. 3)

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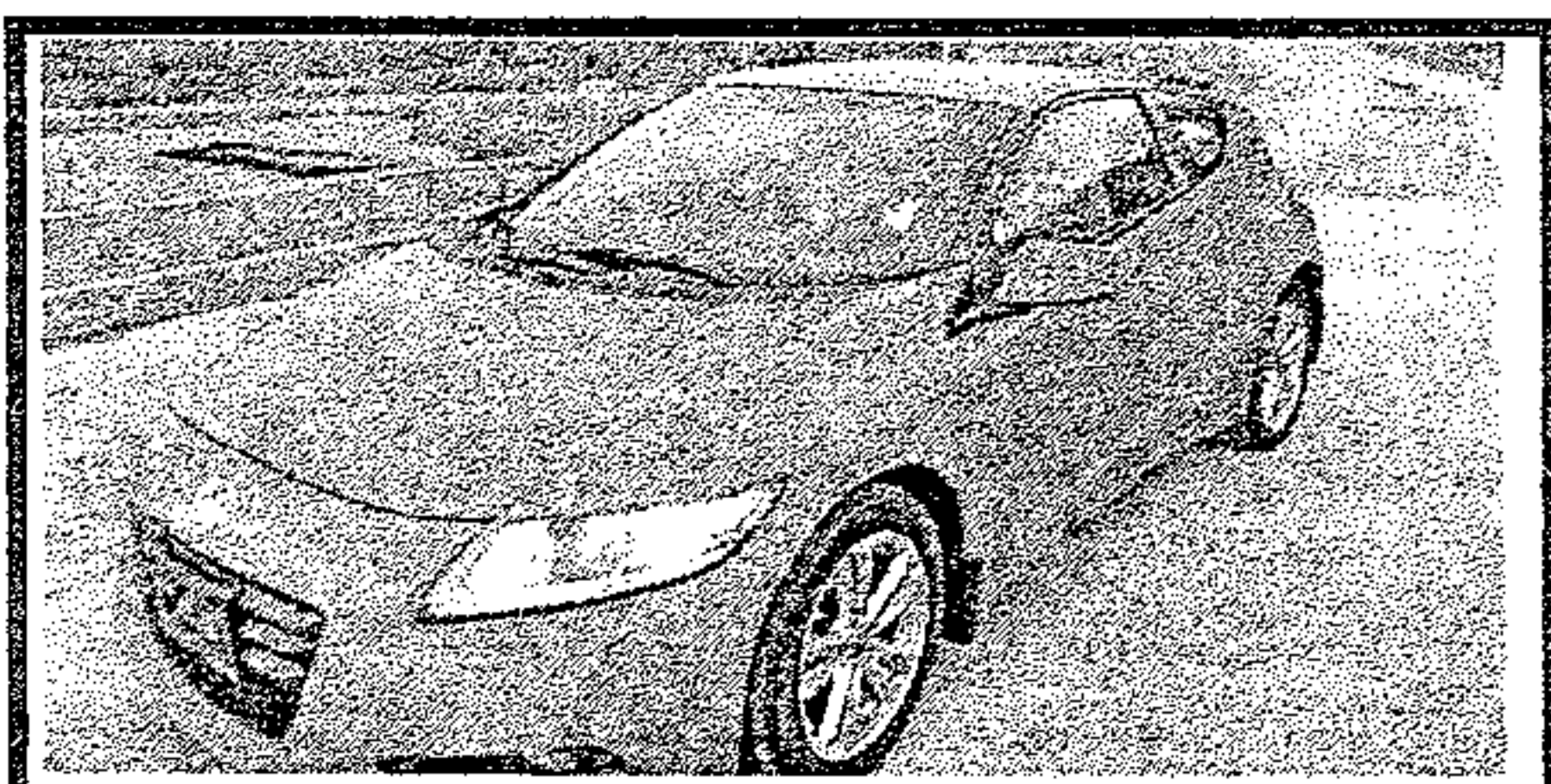
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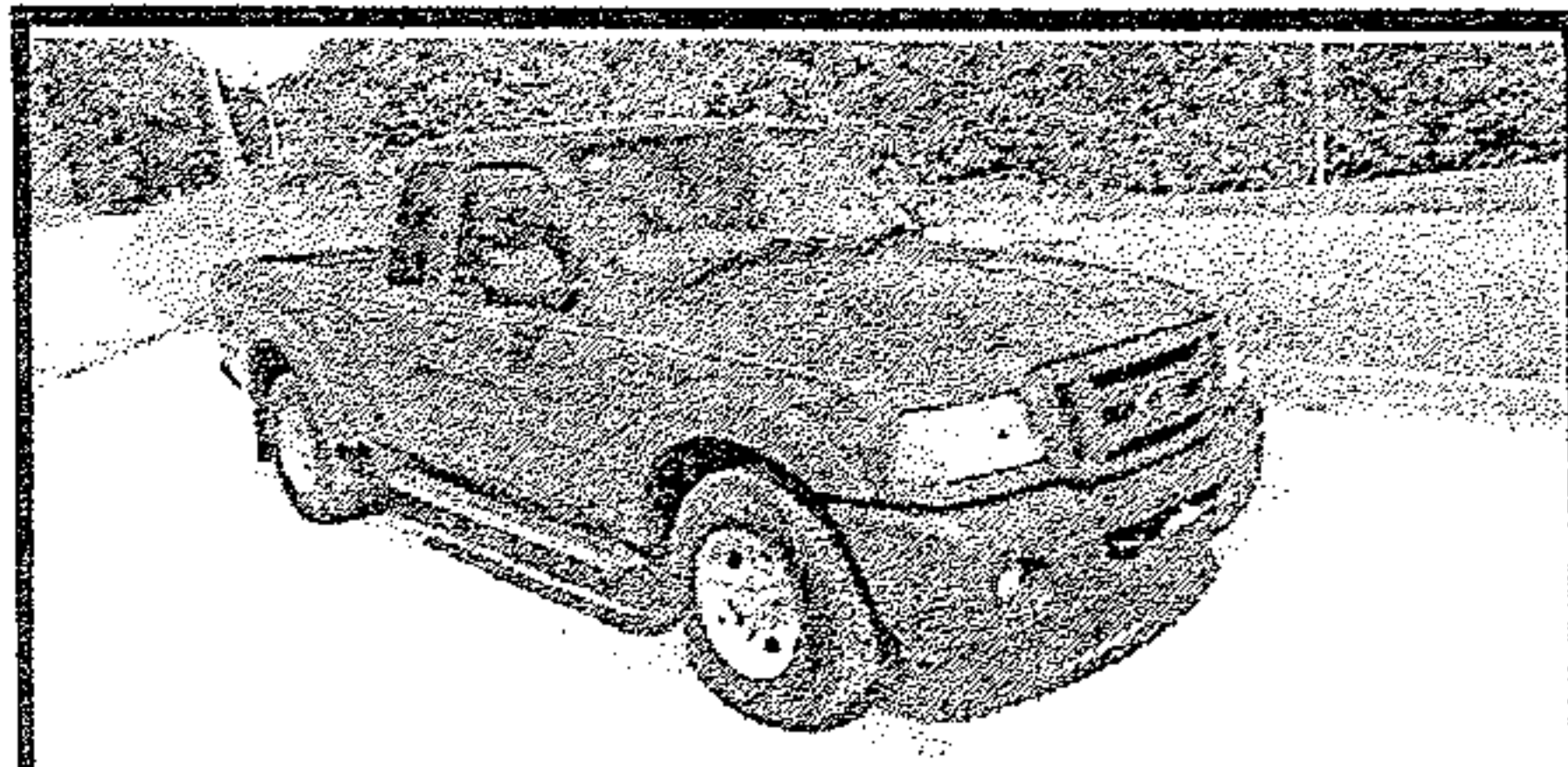
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reckless

Travis Brown, 37, Donaldson Road Philadelphia, was charged with Reckless Endangerment, Theft of Property, and Driving on Revoked/Suspended License.

Deputy Charles Huskin LCSO, was dispatched to a stolen vehicle with a small child still on board. Deputy made contact with the vehicle on Pond Creek Rd. at Dry Valley Rd. Deputy turned around on the vehicle and did make a traffic stop on the vehicle at the Marathon on Pond Creek Rd. at I-75. Deputy made contact with driver, Mr. Travis Brown, Mr. Brown was bleeding from the face and had a possible broken arm. Mr. Brown stated that he had beaten

with a ball bat over \$80.00, Deputy called for EMS and EMS transported Mr. Brown to the FT Loudon ER. LCSD C. Bowen followed EMS to the ER and then transported to the jail.

Tennessee Highway Patrol stayed on scene with the vehicle while Deputy went to the scene to search for a missing child from the same incident. When Deputy arrived on scene he made contact with victims who stated that Mr. Brown had come to his residence calling him a snitch and that victim had got his sister arrested. Mr. Brown proceeded to go the victim vehicle which was running in the back drive way jump into the vehicle and tried to leave the scene with a small child, who was strapped in a car

seat. Victim proceeded to assault Mr. Brown with the ball bat stating that if he would just let him have his baby he could take the vehicle. The small child was extracted from the moving vehicle by victim other minor daughter unharmed. The vehicle proceeded to move throwing victim on the ground nearly being ran over. Several witness' on scene stated that Mr. Brown looked inside the ve-

hicle unconcerned for the babies safety continued to drive off. LCSD Lt. INV P Upton arrived on scene to Question victim and determined that victim was not to be arrested for the assault on Mr. Brown, that there sufficient video evidence to substantiate victim defence

Several witness statements were taken along with color video. This did happen in Loudon County

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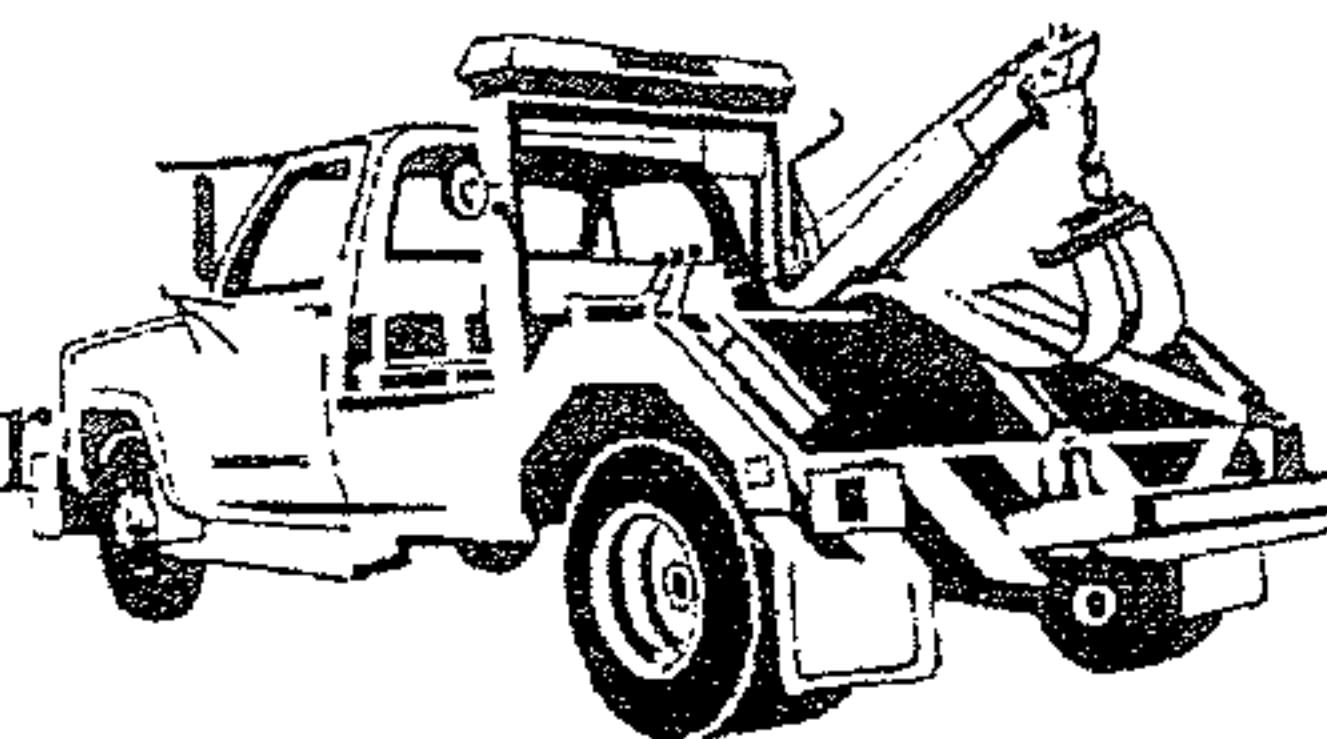
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Hodges

Brian Hodges has been playing guitar since 2011, but it wasn't until 2014 that he started performing as The Converse Cowboy. When is not playing solo, he is part of a trio known as HMCo. I had the pleasure of meeting Brian last summer when he first came to Loudon to play on the patio at Taco Loco. It doesn't matter what genre of music you like, there's a good chance he covers it. Brian tries to play a little something for everyone during one of his shows. Brian recently discussed his upcoming show at Taco Loco, as well as

fluences are George Strait, Alan Jackson, Van Morrison, John Cougar, Johnny Cash, John Mayer, Jackson Browne, and Tom Petty." Hodges says. Having been to a few shows of his I can tell you his set list includes everything from Journey to Johnny Cash. Some of his most requested songs are "Yeah by Joe Nichols and Wagon Wheel by Darius Rucker & Lady Antebellum, and if I am at the show, anything by Luke Bryan. A couple of his favorite songs to play are Amie by Pure Prairie League and Folsom Prison by Johnny Cash. Brian will be playing this Thursday at Taco Loco in Loudon start-

ing at 6pm. There is no charge for the show and everyone is welcome. You can also check out The Converse Cowboy on Facebook & Reverb Nation for latest music and upcoming shows.

trio ctd. from pg. 2

ing from the vehicle. Deja also gave positive indication inside the van at the driver side middle and rear section of the vehicle. A search of the front seat passenger identified as John Stone produced a clear plastic baggie in his right front pocket with 16 white oval pills believed to be Hydrocodone with Mr. Stone not having a valid prescription and inside a school zone. Another passenger in the vehicle was a Kelly Tuttle. Inside the vehicle was a suit case with a black purse. Inside the purse was 6 syringes and a metal spoon, with a white residue and a clear plastic wrapper with a crystal like substance believed to

be Methamphetamine, and a pill container with 2 clear wrappers with crystal substance believed to be Methamphetamine inside a school zone with no one claiming ownership. All parties were placed under arrest.

Federal Jury convicts Kingsport Attorney of Fraud

On June 13, 2016, following a five-day trial in U.S. District Court, a jury convicted Everett H. Mechem, 57, of 28 counts of wire fraud, two counts of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) fraud, two counts of providing false statements, and one count of theft from the United States. Sentencing is set for 1:30 p.m., on Sept. 21, 2016, in U.S. District Court in Greeneville.

According to the evidence presented at trial, from January 2009 to July 2013, Everett H. Mechem, act-

ing as the attorney and representative payee for his wife, Sheila A. Mechem, schemed to defraud the United States government to obtain SSI payments for her to which she was not entitled. The scheme involved false statements and misrepresentations to the Social Security Administration (SSA) regarding Sheila Mechem's living arrangements, financial resources, and income. Everett Mechem reported that he was living separately from his wife and that she had little to no income or resources; meanwhile, husband and wife rented a five-bedroom home together in Kingsport, Tenn., purchased a new home in 2012, and shared in the profits of Everett Mechem's law practice. Additionally, Everett Mechem concealed that his wife was working as a paralegal

(see fraud ctd. pg. 5)

his passion for music and performing. When I asked why he chose Loudon as a place to perform he said "I love playing in Loudon because the people there share my taste in music. It's a great community and I always feel appreciated." When it comes to influences, he has a few. "Some of my major in-



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nography. The investigation that led to the charges against Vance began when Texas law enforcement noticed that a Tennessee man was sending images of child pornography and discussing the molestation of these children through Craig's List.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations, Federal Bureau of Investiga-

tion, and Chattanooga Police Department assisted with this investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra L. Bay represented the United States.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice.

Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit

www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

fraud ctd. from pg. 4 and office manager at the Mechem Law Firm, P.C. in Kingsport. She also served as a commercial spokesperson for Everett Mechem's affiliated business, the Consumer Law Center, all while Everett Mechem collected monthly SSI payments

for his wife's claimed inability to work.

Nancy Harr, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee said, "As a program meant to help those who can't afford the basic necessities of life, the integrity of the Social Security Administration's SSI program is vital to its continued success. The U.S. Attorney's Office will continue to pursue and prosecute those who attempt to defraud that federal program and the United States."

"One of our highest priorities is ensuring that those who steal SSA payments are swiftly detected and prosecuted. I'm grateful that the U.S. Attorney's Office shares our determination to protect the integrity of the SSA's programs for those who rely on them now and into the future," Special Agent in Charge Margaret Moore-Jackson, SSA/Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

The SSA/OIG led the investigation which led to the indictment and subsequent conviction of Everett Mechem. Assistant U.S. Attorneys David Gunn and Christian Lampe represented the United States at trial.

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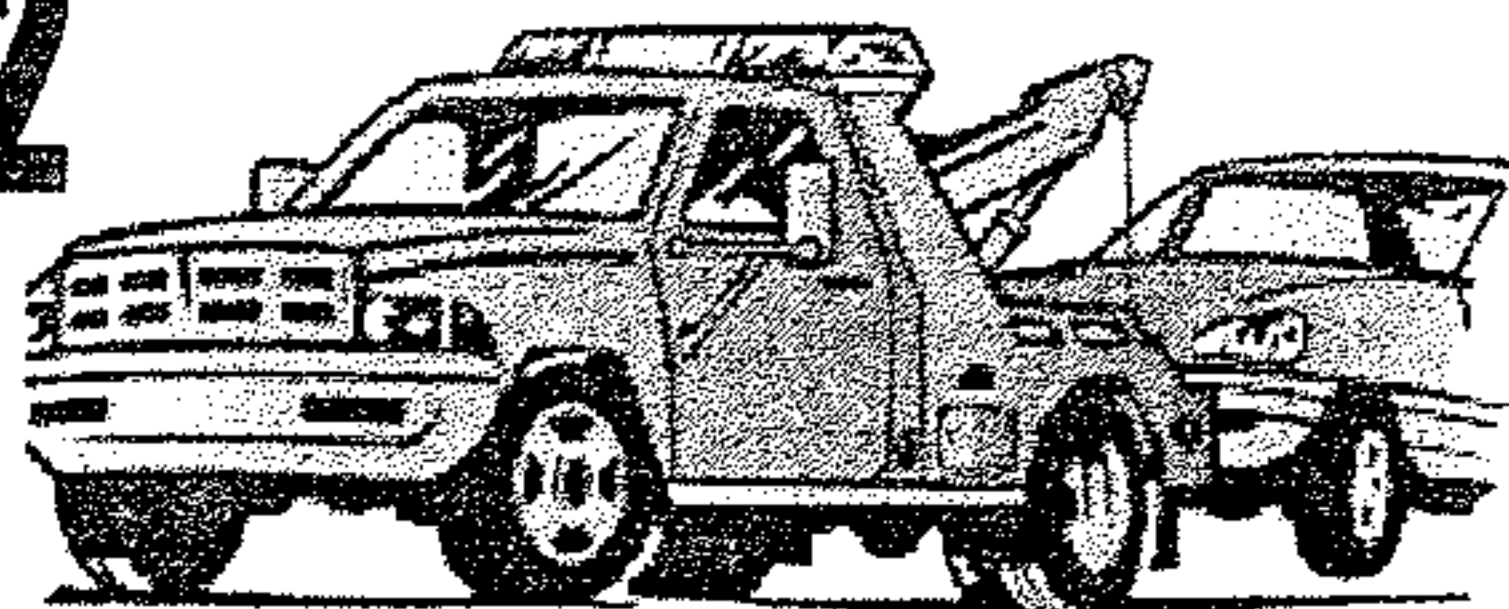
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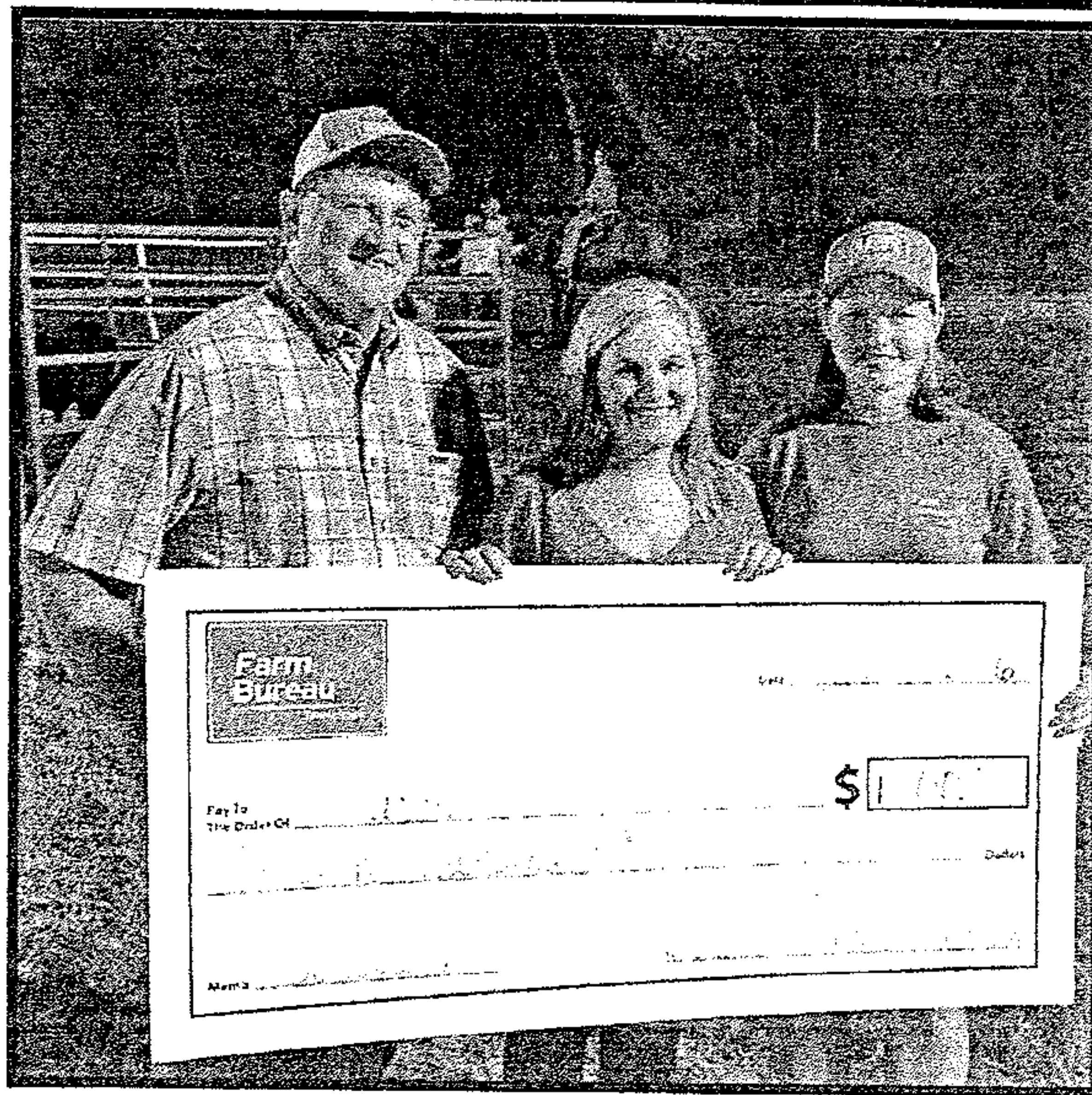
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rodeo

Loudon Municipal Park held the annual Loudon County Young Farmers and Ranchers rodeo sponsored by Farm Bureau this weekend. Some of the events that were held were Calf roping, barrel racing, bronc riding, bull riding. During the rodeo Saturday night, former Lenoir City High School student Cassie McConkey was presented with a \$1,500.00 scholarship by the Loudon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. McConkey is currently a student at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College pursuing a degree in



Layla Reed enjoying a pony ride at the rodeo, daughter of Laycon and Jason Reed. Photos of the children are courtesy of Laycon Reed



Lenoir City High School student Cassie McConkey was presented with a \$1,500.00 scholarship by the Loudon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

animal science, and she is also a member of the NEO Livestock Judging Team.

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OBITUARIES

Mary Jane Chrisman, 47, of Sweetwater, passed away June 9, 2016. She was a mother to all who would let her be, including the four legged stray animals that she took in. Preceded in death by her father, Jimmy Lones; father-in-law, Paul Chrisman; aunt, Mary Lee Pitcock and close friend, Barbara Roberts. She is survived by her husband, Mark Chrisman; sons, Justin and Devon Chrisman, Tyler Chrisman and Josh Ark; mother, Mary Ruth Lones; sisters, Rebecca (Bitt) Hutsell, and Pamela Taylor; brother, James Lones; mother-in-law,

(see obits ctd. pg. 8)

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