

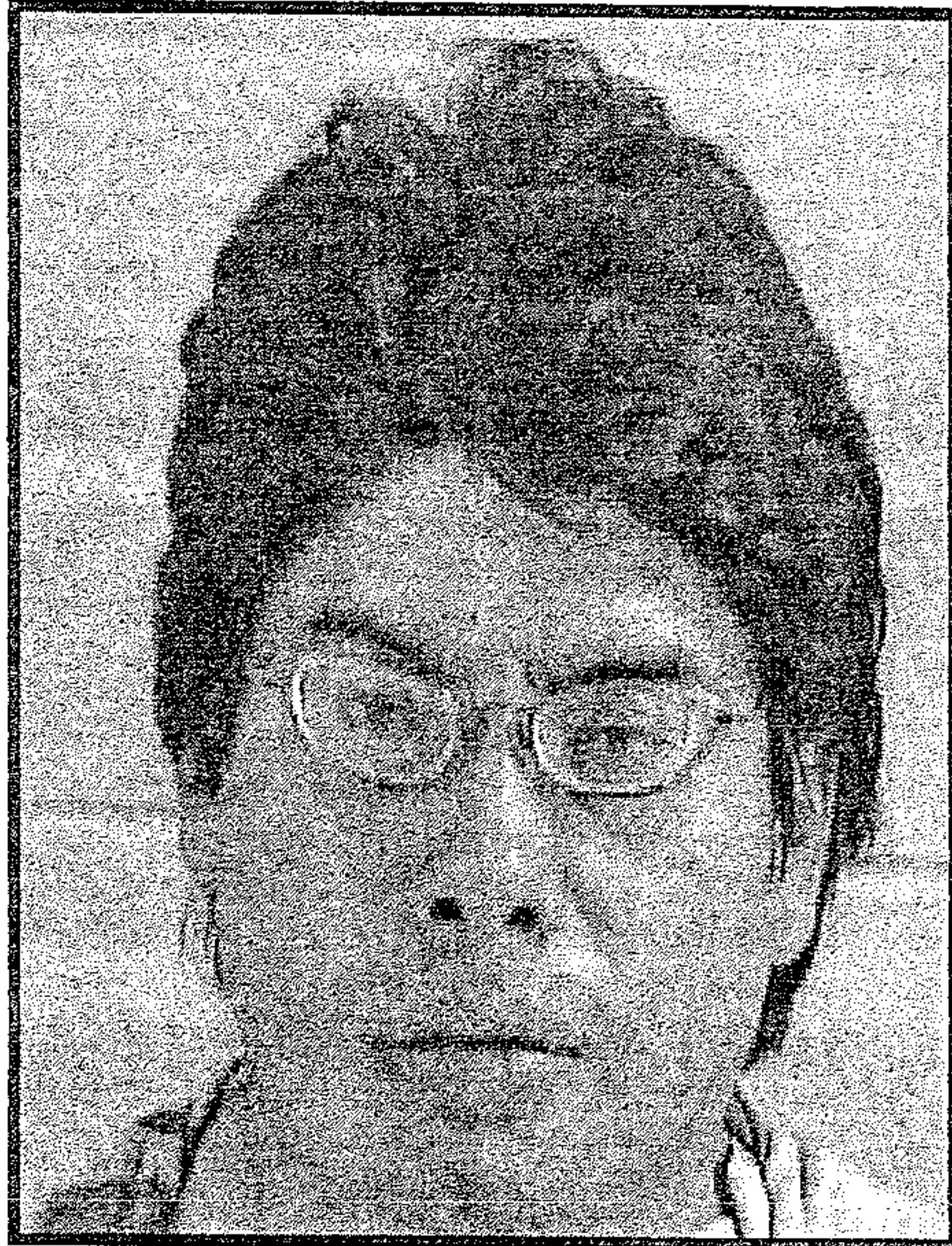
The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, June 24, 2016

One day she's hiding from being cut with a machete and 3 days later she's hiding the assailant!
(see aggravated pg. 2)



Jairo Velasquez



Carrie Velasquez

Woman charged in Ldn domestic



Candace Chambers

(see DV pg. 4)

Taken Hostage

Mexican Drug Cartel Influence Felt in Rural South Carolina

The crimes and violence associated with Mexican drug trafficking organizations can reach almost anywhere in the United States, as evidenced by a 2014 kidnapping in rural South Carolina that resulted in the convictions of three cartel-connected men—one of whom was recently sentenced to more than five decades in prison.

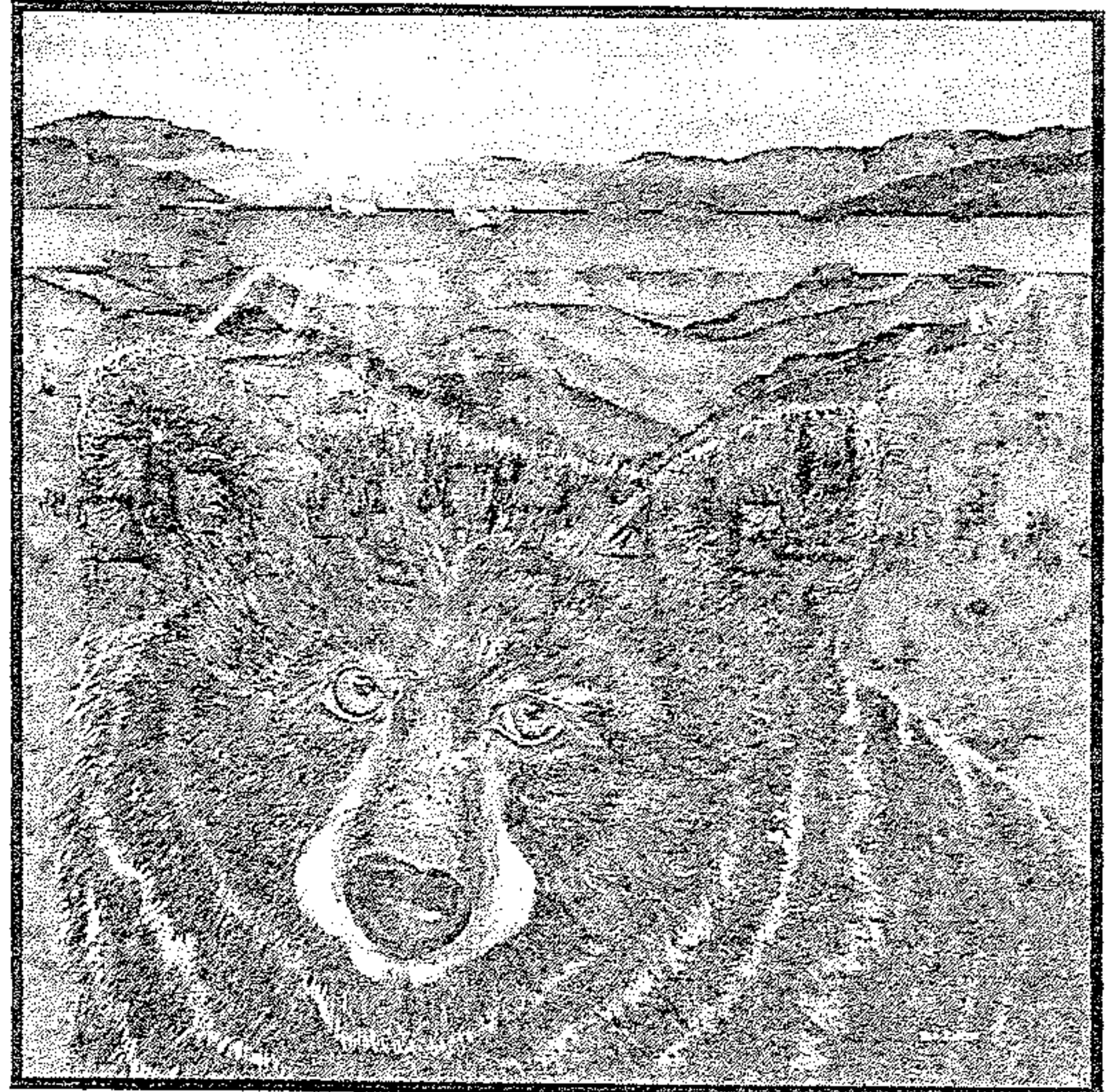
On the morning of July 9, 2014,

(see Hostage pg. 4)

Downtown Ldn Treasure found: Red Door Galleries

by Kendra McCarter

(see Red Door pg. 7)



Check out the great local artwork available at The Red Door Galleries in Loudon

High rate of speed: 59 in a 50 gets wanted woman nabbed



Jaclyn Belcher

(see wanted pg. 3)

Verse of the Day

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

— Romans 6:23

Obituaries

see inside

Wazzup

The Social Media outlets have a new member. Tell us what ya think?

Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy skies early, then partly

cloudy in the afternoon.

High around 95F.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low near 70F.

Saturday Partly cloudy. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High around 95F.

Saturday Night A mostly

clear sky. Low around 70F.

Sunday Partly cloudy early. Scattered thunderstorms developing in the afternoon. High 94F.

Sunday Night Partly cloudy skies. Low 73F.

(Continued on page 6)



aggravated

Jairo Velasquez, 34, Hackney Chapel Road Lenoir City, was charged with Aggravated Domestic Assault.

Carrie Velasquez, 30, Hackney Chapel Road Lenoir City, was charged with False Reports/Statements.

On 6/17/16, Deputy Lance Anderson LCSO, along with

Deputy Malone and Deputy Palmer, responded to Hackney Chapel Rd. in reference to a assault.

Upon arrival Deputy made contact with Carrie Velasquez, the victim. The victim stated her and her husband had been arguing and he threw a can of beer at her, striking her on the side of the head. The victim stated her husband then began strangling her with his one

hand while holding a small machete to her throat with his other hand. Deputy observed red marks and scratches on the victim's neck area consisted with strangulation. I also observed a small laceration to the victim's left ear.

The husband was identified as Jairo Velasquez, the offender. The offender had fled the residence prior to arrival. Sgt. Watkins 913 and his K9 began a track but did not located the offender. The victim received

(see aggravated ctd. pg. 3)

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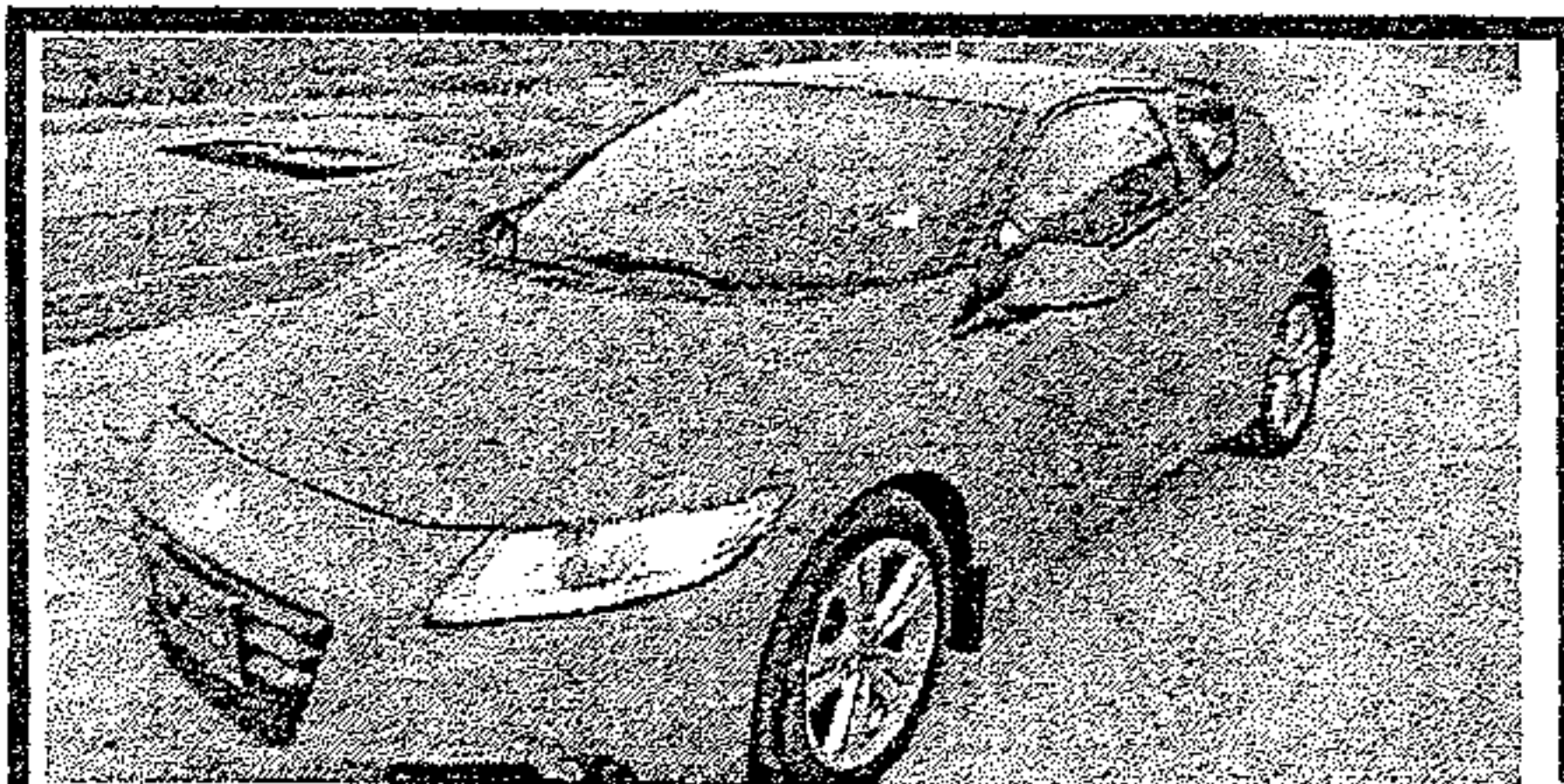
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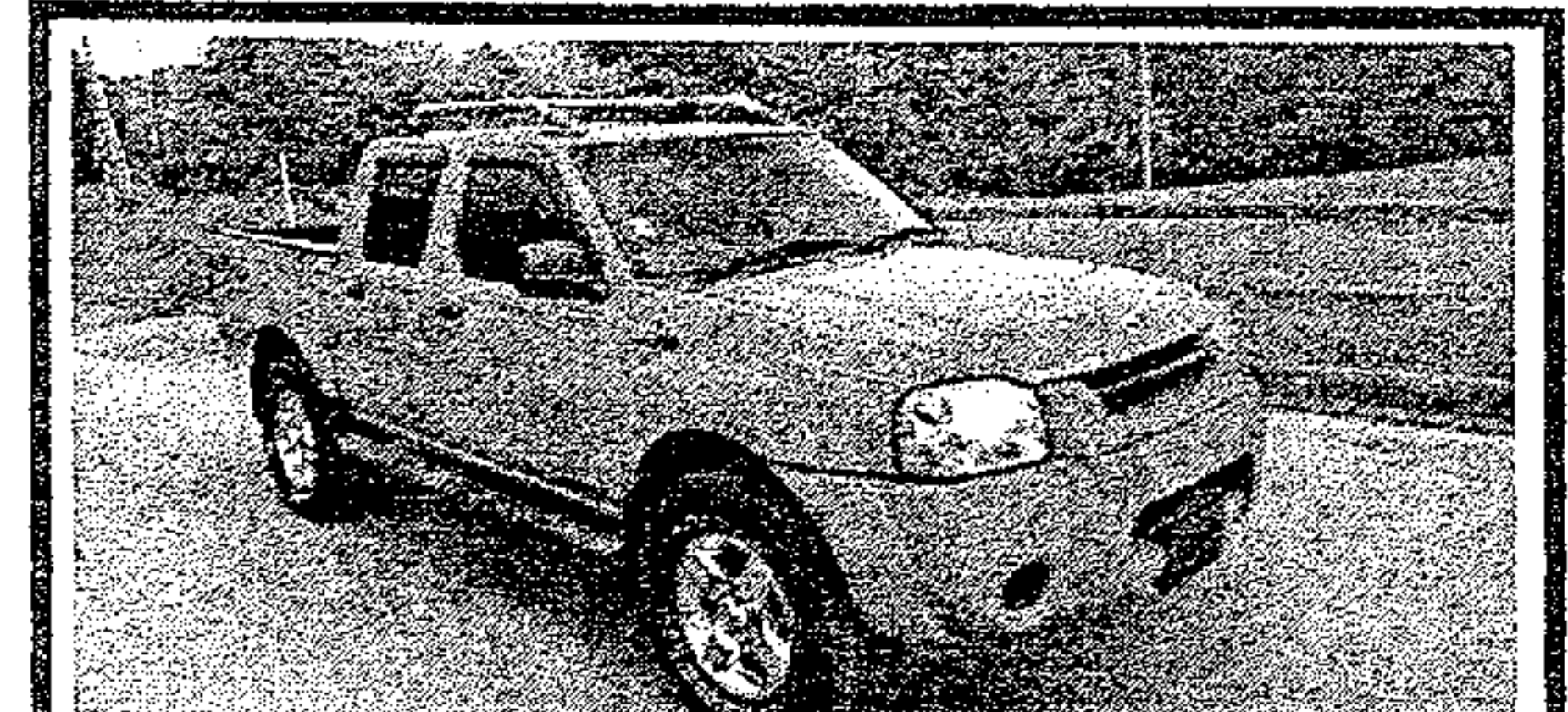
Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK



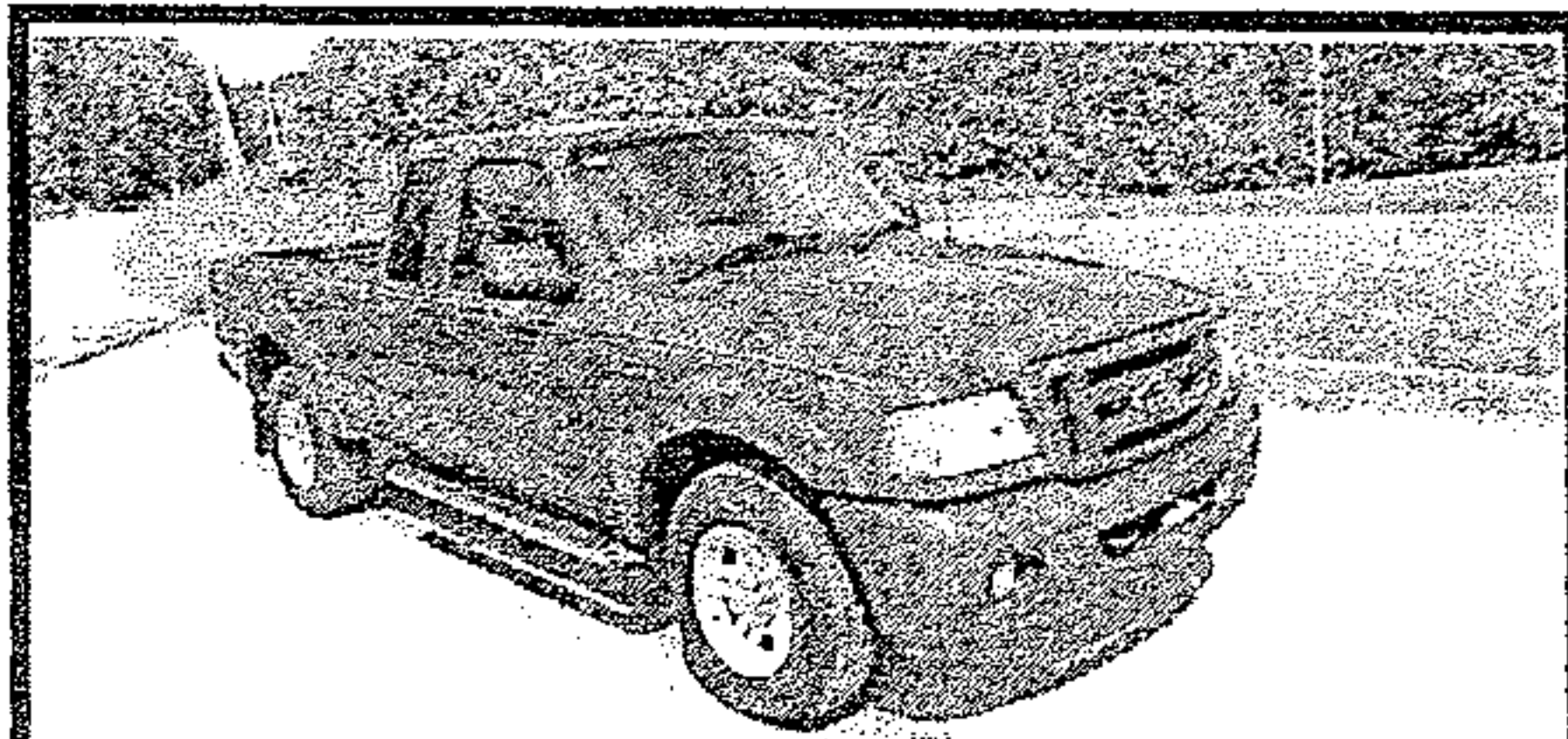
2011 Honda CR-Z Low Miles, Like New, PW, PL, 6 SPD, Hybrid, Gas \$aver



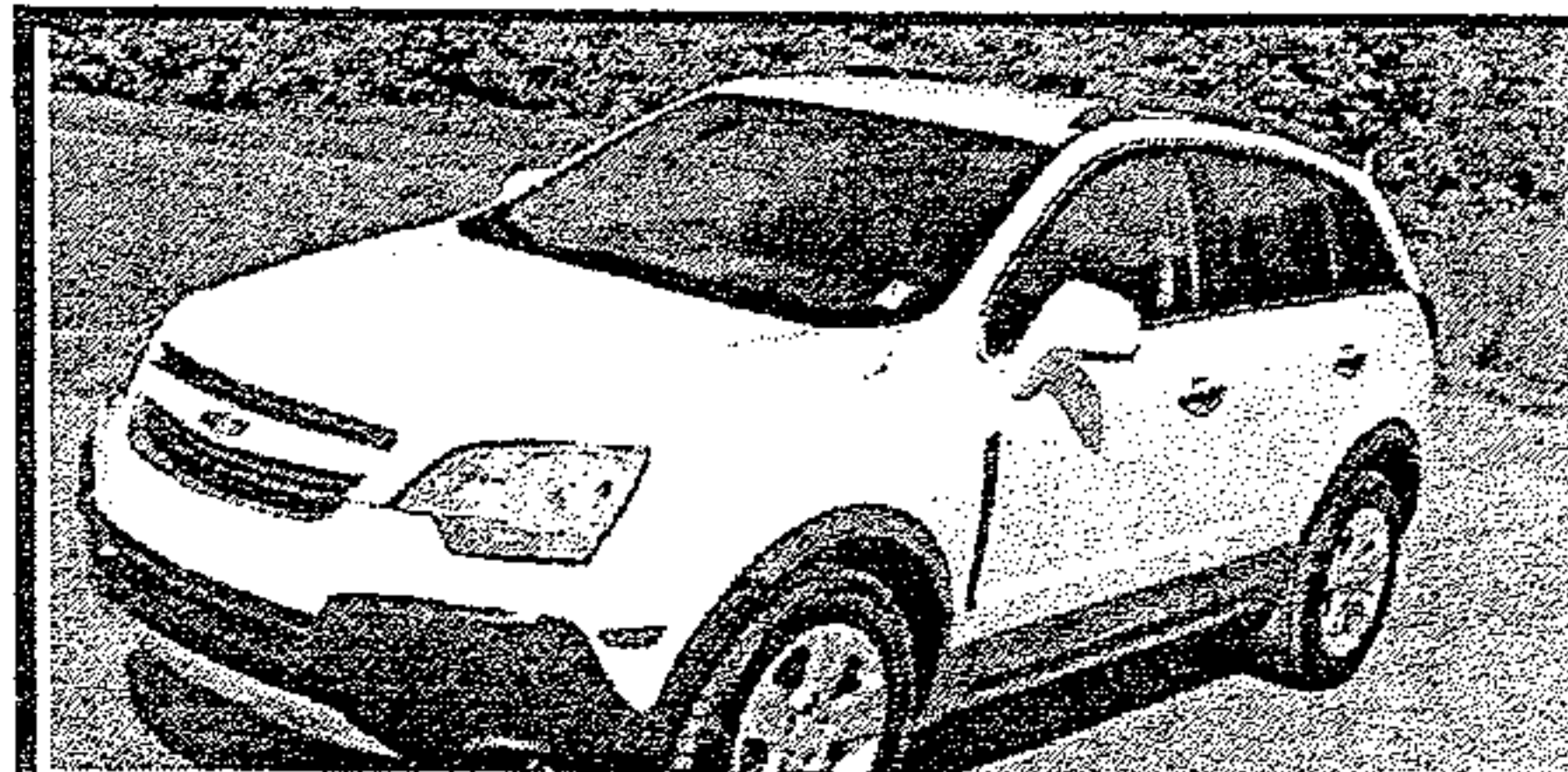
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wanted

Jaclyn Belcher, 22, Mutton Road Maryville, was charged with Driving without License, Poss. of Drug Para., and Assisting other Agency.

Deputy Charles Huskin LCSO, observed a green Ford Expedition traveling south on HWY 411 south at a high rate of speed. Deputy clocked the vehicle with radar and clocked the vehicle at 59 MPH in 50 MPH zone. Deputy made a traffic stop on the vehicle at the Marathon on HWY411 south at HWY 95. Deputy then made contact with the driver Ms. Jaclyn Belcher. Deputy ask Ms. Belcher if there was anything illegal on her person and or in the vehicle and Ms. Belcher

stated no she did not, but later confessed to having 3 used rig's(hypodermic needles) in her purse. Ms. Belcher was ran through NCIC and came back not having a valid drivers license, and also had a valid warrant Docket # CR12466 out of Blount County.

Ms. Belcher was advised of the warrant and taken into custody, and the vehicle was turned over to the valid licensed owner. Ms. Belcher was then transported to the Loudon County Jail. This did happen in Loudon County.

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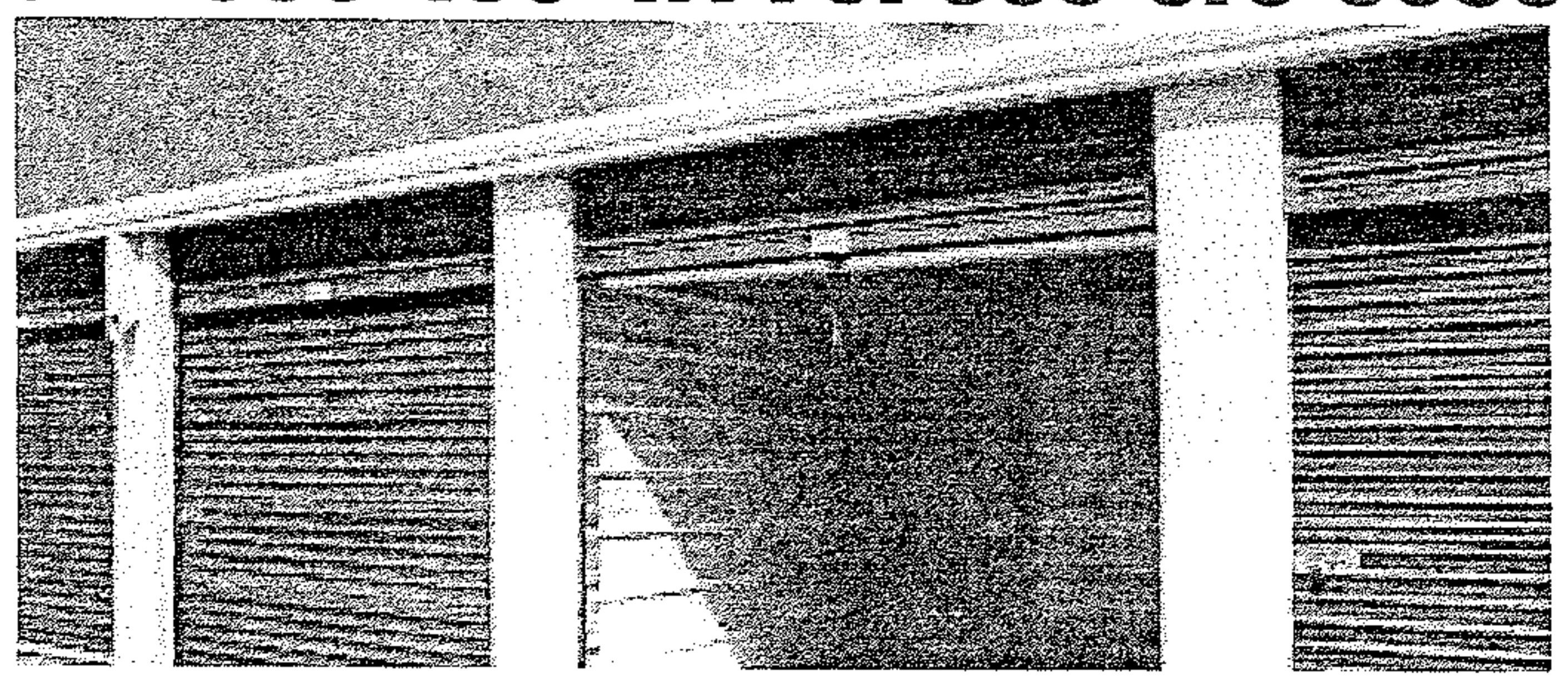
aggravated ctd. from pg. 2

medical attention at the scene. Options were explained and a warrant was issued for the offender. A small machete was found in the master bedroom and identified by the victim as the weapon used to commit the assault. The weapon was taken and placed into evidence. A written statement was taken and placed into Investigator Cosner 940 box. All occurred in Loudon County, TN.

On 06-20-2016 ,Corporal Rondel M. Branam, arrived at Hackney Chapel Road in an attempt to locate Jairo Tomas Velasquez for a Felony Domestic Assault Warrant. CPL. and Deputy Brian Smith were met by Carrie Velasquez at the front door of the residence and we advised her that we were there to arrest

(see agg. conc. pg. 4)

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DV

Candace Chambers, 26, Collins Street Loudon, was charged with Domestic Assault. Officer Garry Kerley LPD, was dispatched to a call at Collins Street concerning a domestic. Upon arrival Officer and Sgt. Newman spoke with Candace Chambers who informed Officer that she had been in a verbal altercation with her ex-boyfriend over a cell phone that they had been using. Candace told the victim to leave and he proceeded to leave physical control over the phone which the victim took with him. After speaking with all parties and witness, Candace allegedly followed the victim to the residence where the victim retreated following the incident. Based on statement Candace was placed under arrest.

Agg. conc. from pg. 3

Jairo Velasquez on the Felony Domestic Assault Warrant. At that time Carrie stated that Jairo was not there and that he was in Florida. She did give consent to search the residence for Jairo, and Deputy did locate him hiding in a closet in the bathroom of the residence. Jairo was taken in to custody at that time for the warrant. Carrie did make a false statement to law enforcement officers, who were attempting to apprehend Jairo Velasquez for a criminal warrant. Carrie Marie Velasquez was taken in to custody at the scene for false reports/statements and transported to the Loudon County Jail. This did occur in Loudon County, TN.

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Hostage

in the small town of St. Matthews, South Carolina, 23-year-old Cory Still left home for his job as a roofer, but he never made it to work. His fiancée found his abandoned truck on the side of the road a few hours later with the keys still in it, and her family filed a missing person report with the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office. When the woman's cell phone rang that night, the caller informed her that Still was alive, that instructions would come in 24 hours, and that Still's father had better be there to answer the next call.

Still—who would later be charged and plead guilty to conspiracy to distribute marijuana—had been kidnapped because of his father's \$200,000 debt to the cartel over a missing drug shipment. The FBI was contacted the next morning, and what followed was an intense, six-day law

enforcement effort that involved several FBI offices and hundreds of Bureau personnel from around the country, including crisis negotiators, linguists, SWAT, and the Hostage Rescue Team.

"We worked around the clock interviewing Still's family and associates to develop and run to ground every possible lead," said

Special Agent Luke Davis, who is assigned to the FBI's Columbia Field Office. "Thanks to a crucial error made by one of the kidnapers, within a few hours, we were able to identify a cell phone and track them to rural eastern North Carolina."

The first ransom call to Still's fiancée see Hostage ctd. pg. 5

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Hostage ctd. from pg. 4

cée showed a number that originated from Mexico. Investigation revealed that minutes prior to that call, the caller had dialed a number with a 910 area code, which is in North Carolina.

Agents worked quickly to obtain a court order to monitor those phone numbers, which would eventu-

ally lead to Still and the arrest of three subjects. But during much of the time he was held hostage, the victim was blindfolded, threatened at gunpoint, bound with zip ties and rusty chains and padlocks, and made to lie on the floor for days.

At times during more than a dozen ransom calls, the kidnappers told Still's father he

was going to find his son with his eyes cut out, Davis said. Other calls implied that if the money wasn't paid, "they were going to close the case," meaning Still would be killed. "There is no doubt in my mind that if we didn't find him, he would not be alive today," Davis added.

Based on the phone monitoring and sub-

sequent physical surveillance, it was determined that the kidnappers might be holding Still in North Carolina. In the early morning hours of July 15, 2014, six days after Still's abduction, operators with the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team executed a search warrant in Garland, North Carolina. One of the kidnappers,

Juan Fuentes-Morales, was arrested. Agents recovered the cell phone they had been monitoring and a pistol used during the abduction—but Still was nowhere to be found.

A short time later, the FBI's Charlotte and Richmond SWAT teams executed another search warrant near Roseboro, North Carolina, where they found Still blindfolded and chained to a workout bench on the floor. The other two kidnappers, Ruben Ceja-Rangel and Luis Castro-Villeda, were arrested at the scene.

In 2015, Castro-Villeda pled guilty to kidnapping and other charges and was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Last month, a federal judge sentenced Ceja-Rangel to a prison term of 56 years. Fuentes-Morales has yet to be sentenced.

Davis credits his dedicated FBI colleagues and local law enforcement personnel for Still's safe return and for taking three violent criminals off the streets. Did it surprise him that Mexican drug cartels had made it to small-town South Carolina? "Not at all," he said. "The traffickers are everywhere."

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Red Door

One of the newest additions to the Loudon Downtown shops, The Red Door Galleries offers a number of artistic experiences for locals. Tina Brunetti grew up in St. Louis & Leasburg, Missouri, and moved to Loudon with her husband and

vid in 2014. She always knew she wanted to be an artist. Her love of animals has given her the main theme of her art. The first piece of art Tina sold was a piece she worked on in a college art class

that involved using sand and glue. I asked Tina if she could tell people anything about Loudon what would it be, she said: "I would tell people Loudon is THE place to visit. We

have great antiques stores, good food, an ice cream shop, beautiful clothing, furniture store, and art galleries! Our incubator, The Red Door Galleries, is unusual because we

carry unusual items such as, Raku fired pottery, horse hair sculptures, heat sublimated dresses and skirts (featuring my artwork), handmade jewelry, watercolor, painted tiles, unusual paintings, and more!" She loves the small town feel that Loudon provides and loves that people occasionally stop in The Red Door Galleries just to say hello. The Red Door Galleries opened in October 2015, and currently has 3 shops, Brunetti Confetti Art, Water's Edge Art by Donna Fairchild & Rex Redd, with another shop expected to open in July. They also offer commission work and

(see Red Door ctd. pg. 8)

Another example of the fine art available at The Red Door Galleries



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Red Door ctd. from pg. 7
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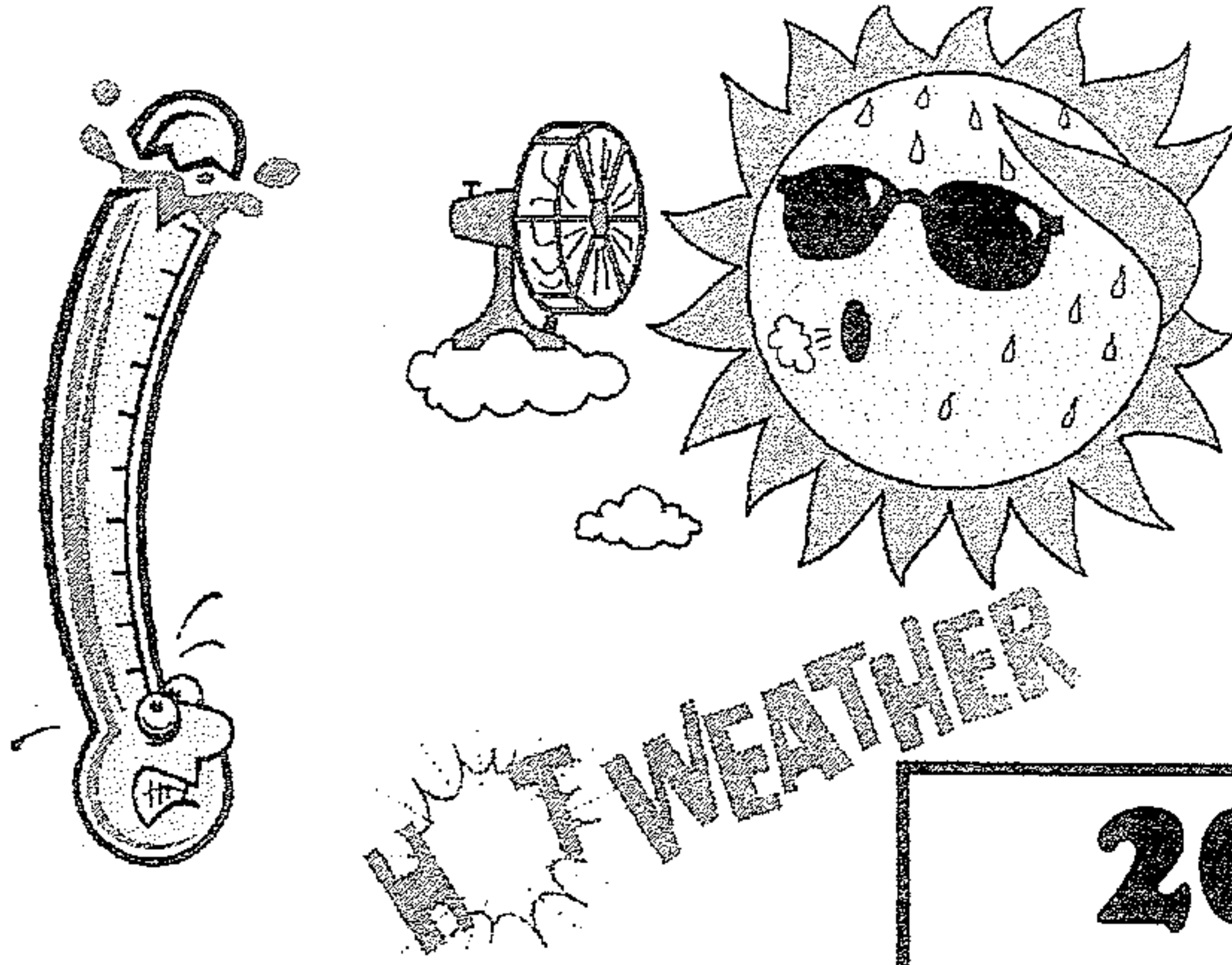


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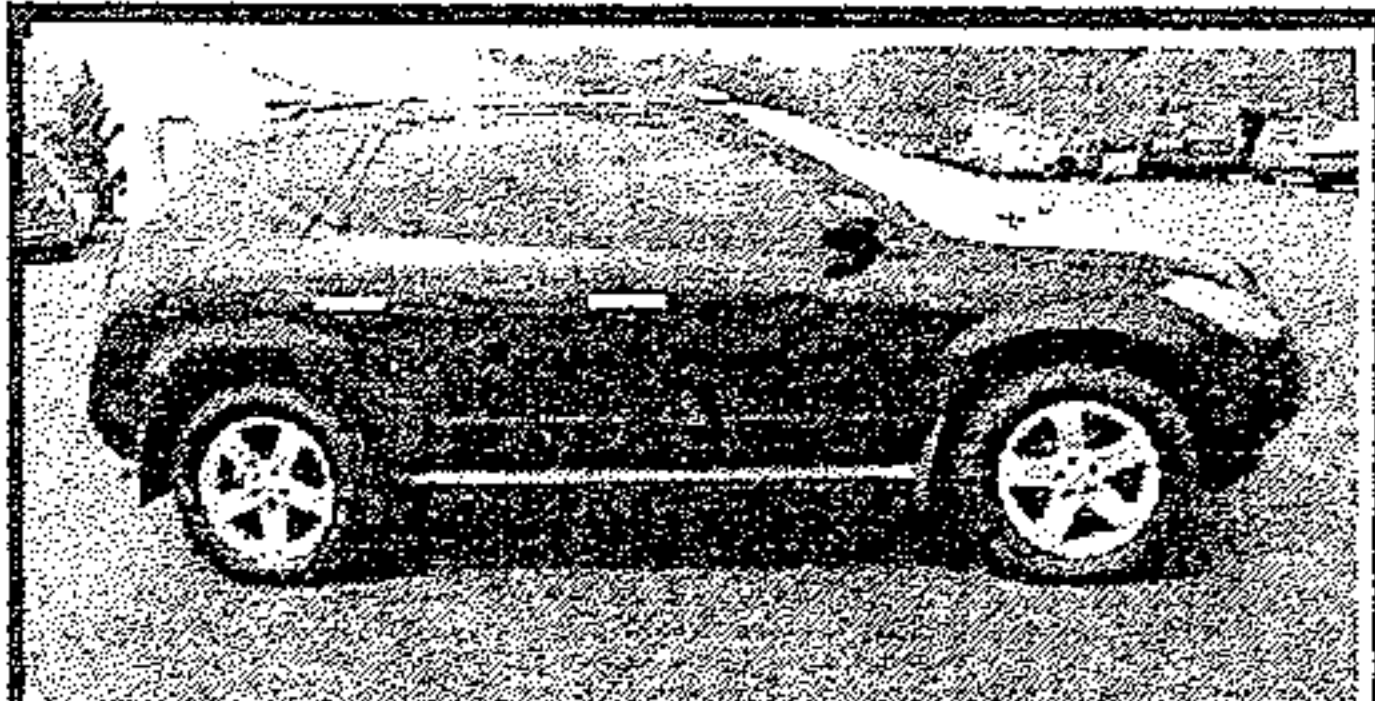
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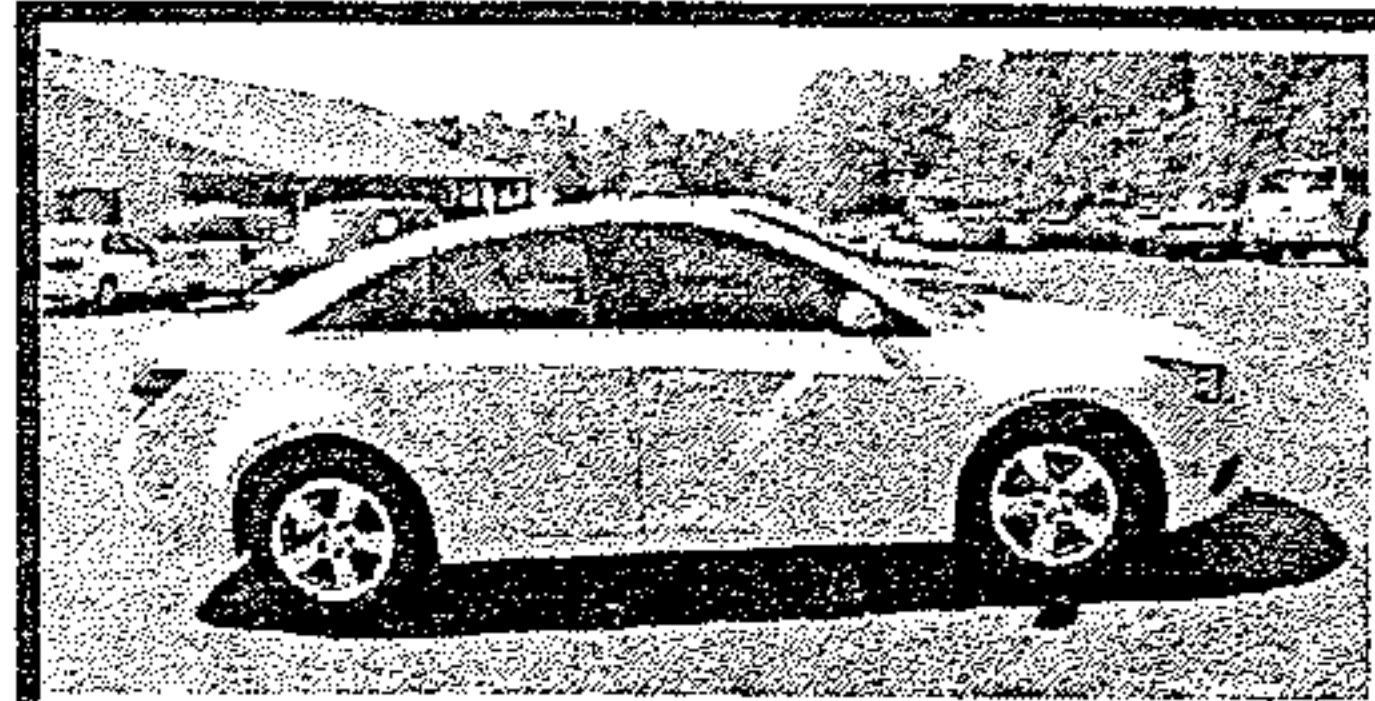
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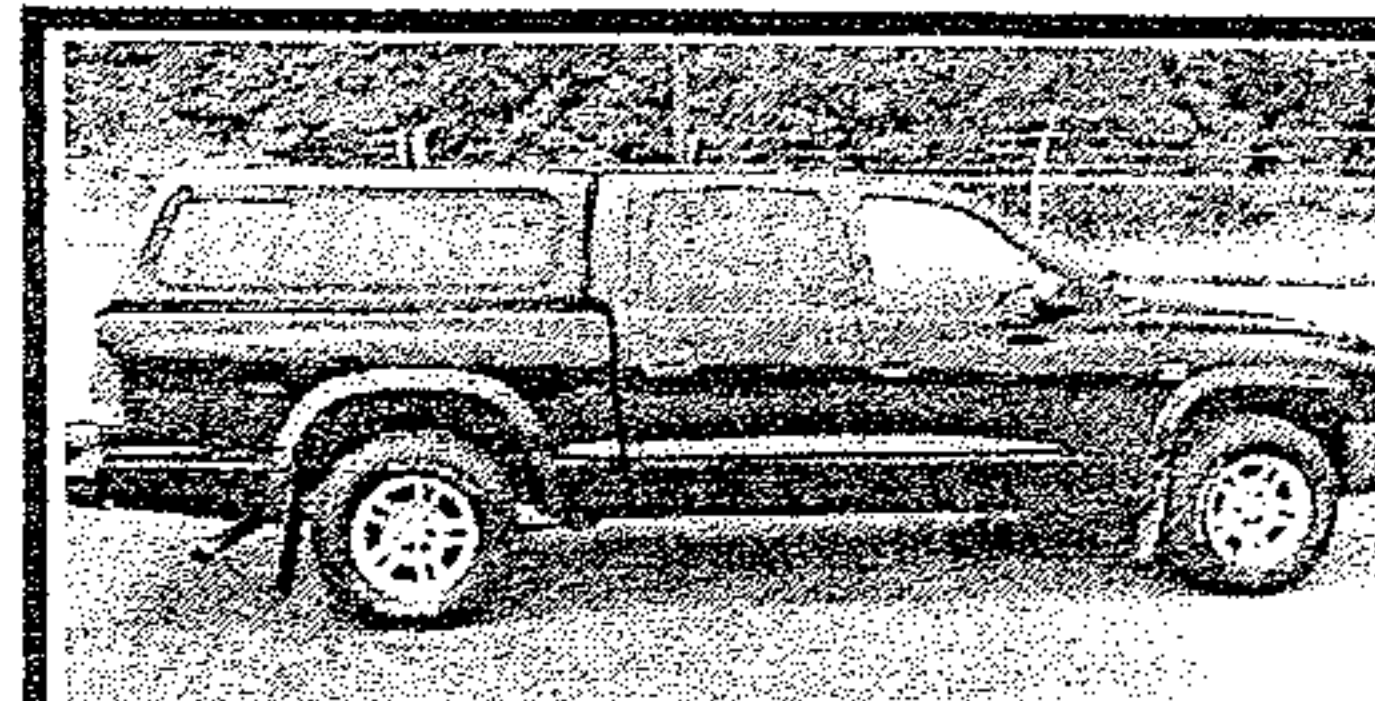
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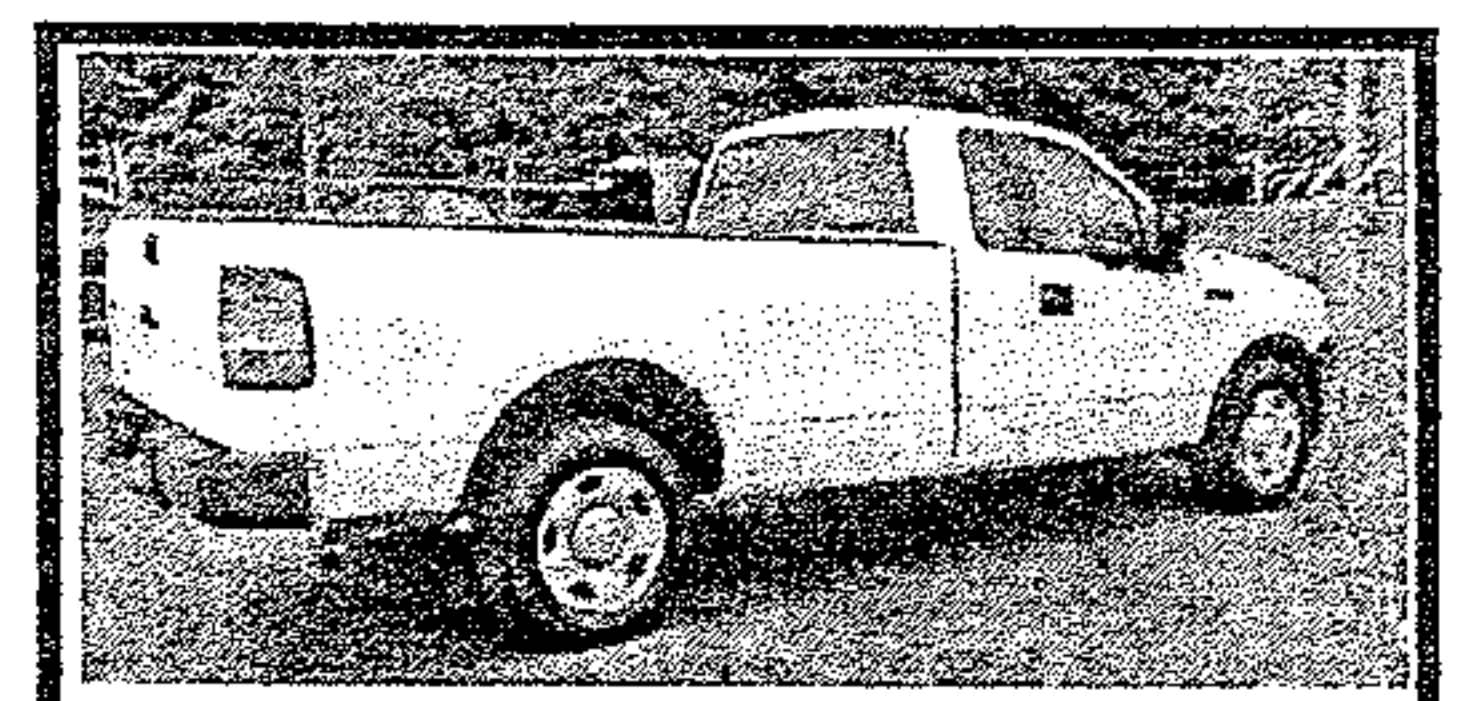
**2005 Nissan Murano, Nice,
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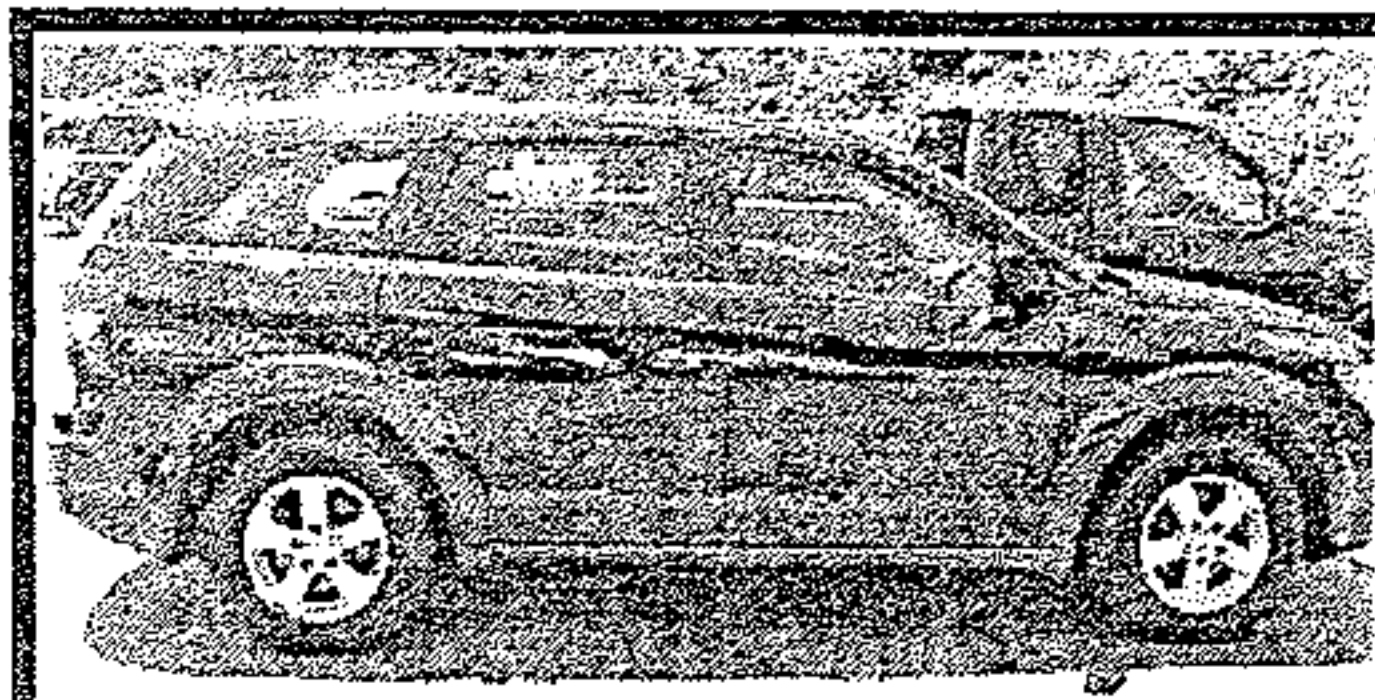
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