

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Thursday, December 3, 2015

**Tis the season:
Shoplifter nabbed
at Walmart**



Chasity Lynn
(see theft pg. 3)

**Shots of rum always bad
news when you're driving**



Kassandra Ellis (see rum pg. 2)

**Bristol businessman sentenced to
serve 24 months in prison for conspir-
acy to distribute synthetic drugs**

*Defendant operated
retail stores selling
"bath salts" and
"fake weed"*

On Nov. 30, 2015,
Daniel Guy Bickley,
56, of Bristol, Va.,
was sentenced by the
Honorable J. Ronnie
Greer, U.S. District
Court Judge, to serve
24 months in federal
prison. Bickley was
also ordered to serve

three years of super-
vised release after his
prison term and forfeit
over \$300,000 in as-
sets.

Bickley was indicted
in January 2014 and
pleaded guilty in Sep-
tember 2014 to con-
spiracy to distribute
controlled substance
analogues intended
for human consump-
tion and conspiracy to

(see drugs pg. 5)

**THP ends reckless drivers trip;
license suspended indefinitely!**

Charles Ramsey,
28, West Oak Hill
Road Knoxville, was
charged with Driving
on Suspended License,
Simple Possession,
and Assisting other
Agency. Sgt. Russell
Smith THP, received
a BOLO out of Chat-
tanooga for a reckless
driver.

Trooper was con-
tacted by dispatch
that the vehicle was
all over the roadway
(see wanted pg. 7)



Charles Ramsey

**Investigation of Gibson
County Sheriff's Department
results in 12 indictments**

Former Gibson
County Sheriff Charles
Arnold and former
Chief Deputy Jeffrey
Maitland are just two
of the 12 people facing
indictment after an in-
vestigation by the Ten-
nessee's Comptroller's
Office in conjunction
with the Tennessee
Bureau of Investiga-
tion.

The investigation
details a long list of
abuses including falsi-
fying payroll records,

questionable payroll
expenses, improperly
disbursing drug funds,
missing equipment,
and purchasing pre-
scription drugs that
never reached jailed
inmates.

The Comptroller's
investigation revealed
a cash shortage of at
least \$109,429, which
includes the follow-
ing:

- Seven department
employees falsified
payroll records to re-

(see Gibson pg. 4)

Verse of the Day
Those who are wise
will shine like the
brightness of the
heavens, and those
who lead many to
righteousness, like the
stars for ever and ever.

— Daniel 12:3
Obituaries
see inside
Wazzup
Good luck to those who
are in Cherokee playing
in the World Series of
Poker Circuit Event.

Weather
Today: Mostly sunny.
High near 50F.
Tonight: Clear. Low 31F.
Friday A mainly sunny
sky. High around 55F.
Friday Night Clear skies.
Low 32F.

Horoscopes
Sagittarius 11/22-12/21
The last several days
have been a bit of an
ordeal, so you could be
surprised by the bright-
ness of the day ahead.

(Continued on page 6)



rum

Kassandra Ellis, 23, Salem Valley Road Ten Mile, was charged with DUI. Cpl. Rondel Branam LCSO, was dispatched to a possible intoxicated driver on Hwy 11 approaching Sugarlimb Road. Deputy observed the white vehicle cross the center line numerous times on

Sugarlimb Road. Deputy attempted to stop vehicle by activating his emergency lights, the vehicle pulled to the shoulder but kept driving down the shoulder of the road.

After the vehicle stopped Deputy made contact with the driver identified as Kassandra Ellis, who had red watery eye and had an odor

of an alcoholic beverage emitting from the vehicle. Kassandra finally admitted to consuming shots of rum. Kassandra was placed under arrest. Cpl. Rondel Branam LCSO, made the arrest.

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2008 Ford Explorer 84k, 3rd Row Seating, Luggage Rack, Tow Pkg, PW, PL



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theft

Chasity Lynn, 27, Boardman Ave Maryville, was charged with Theft of Property. Officer Brandon Johnson LCPD, was dispatched to Walmart for a shoplifter.

Officer made contact with Chasity Lynn, who was observed by Loss Prevention selecting merchandise and concealing it on her person and purse.

Chasity did pass all points of sale with merchandise totaling 29.44.

Officer Brandon Johnson LCPD, made the arrest.

Obituaries

Edna Jean Rodgers nee Plemons, age 90, of Whiting, IN, formerly of Lenoir City, TN, passed away on Friday, November 27, 2015 surrounded by her loving family. Proud daughter of the late Carrie (Pogue), and late James Plemons. Beloved wife of the late Thomas Garland Rodgers. Loving mother of Martha "Jane" (Jim) Drewniak and Richard "Harold"

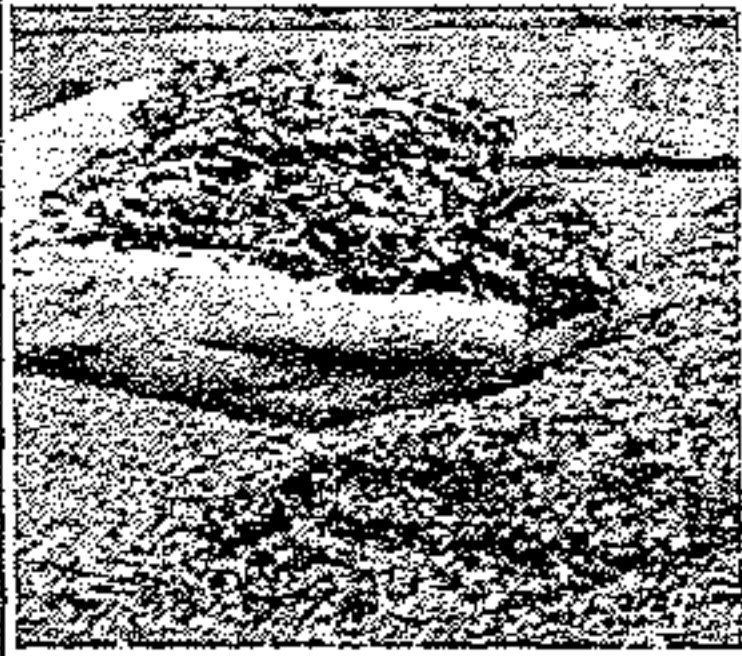
(Kim) Rodgers, of Whiting, IN, and James Edward (Cindy) Rodgers, of Highland, IN. Loving sister of Margie O'Connor, Lil Atteberry, and Howard Plemons of Whiting, IN and Arvine (Shirley) Plemons of Valparaiso, IN Devoted sister-in-law of Lawrence Rodgers, James (Maude) Rodgers and Wanda Rodgers, of Lenoir City, TN, and Joyce Plemons, of Whiting, IN Proud grandmother of Christopher Swinford Rachel (Garett) Remenschneider Eric (Fianc  , Mallori Madrinan) Drewniak Sarah Rodgers, and Scott Drewniak.

Dearest great-grandmother of Hailey Drewniak and Addison Creel. Fond aunt of many nieces, nephews, and good friends. Edna was born on April 3, 1925, and is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Thomas "Garland" Rodgers, of 58 years, five brothers: Harold Cleo (late Nellie) Plemons, Arthur Lee (late Grayce) Plemons, James (late Pauline) Plemons Jr., Frank (Joyce) Plemons, Jewel "Dude" Plemons, sister: Ruth (late Joseph) Cooper, and Henrietta Plemons, sister-in-law: Imogene "Emma" (Howard) Plemons, Henrietta McKee, brother-in-law: Bill O'Connor (Margie), and Jerry (Lil)


Atteberry. Edna married the love of her life, Garland Rodgers, on June 4, 1949. She was a retiree of Whiting High School (Operations Department 1984 - 1995). She was the third child of twelve, and the oldest daughter. She loved visiting with her children and their families, especially her two great granddaughters, all of whom brought her great joy, and always brought a smile to her face. She enjoyed watching wrestling, Chicago Cubs, Food Channel, Game Show Network, and her Whiting Oilers. Edna also loved attending her church (Assembly of God, in Whiting), having

(see obits ctd. pg. 8)

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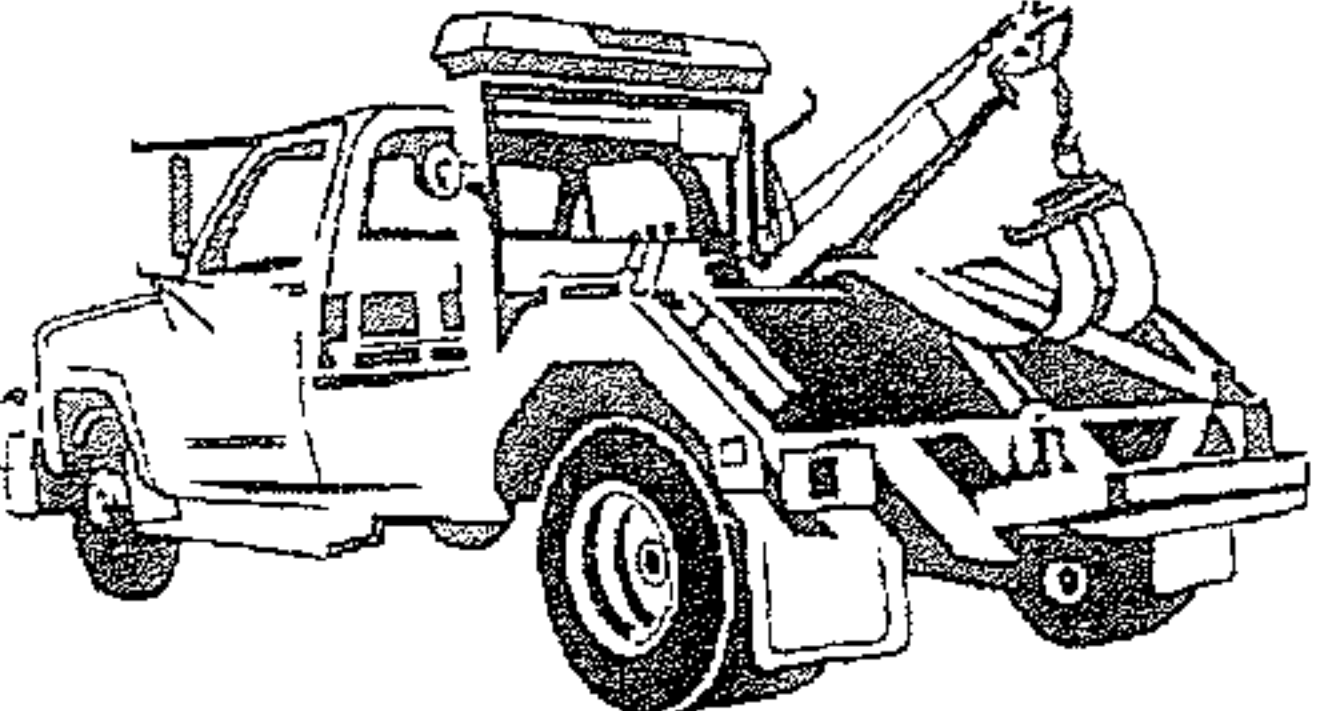
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*note: the "Rotation List" is a list of wrecker services that provide service for wrecks, DUI's, breakdowns, etc. and are on an on-call basis for service. This list is approved by the Sheriff.

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Gibson

ceive salary compensation totaling \$88,550 for time not worked. Several of these employee's claimed the former sheriff directed them to falsify timesheets.

◦ Former Sheriff Charles Arnold paid \$1,000 in drug funds to a confidential informant. The case number used by the sheriff cannot be found in any court documents, and the person noted on the drug form who witnessed the transaction says his signature was forged.

◦ 41 prescription drug purchases that were supposedly for inmates never reached the jail. Nearly all of these prescriptions were for controlled substances and were delivered to former

Chief Deputy Jeffrey Maitland's office. These drugs totaled \$1,107.

◦ In addition to prescribing painkillers to inmates without examining them, medical service provider Renea Terrell improperly inflated her invoices to the county by \$9,536. Ms. Terrell said she inflated these invoices at

the direction of former Sheriff Arnold and, in turn, paid him \$7,500 in cash.

◦ Former Sheriff Arnold exceeded his uniform allowance in 2013-2014 by \$923, and a county owned-handgun that was assigned to him, valued at \$979, could not be located.

Investigators also

questioned \$98,016 in payroll expenses to former Chief Deputy Jeffrey Maitland and the former sheriff's administrative assistant Darla Crenshaw.

At the end of his term in office, former Sheriff Arnold and other former employees also submitted false payment requests for

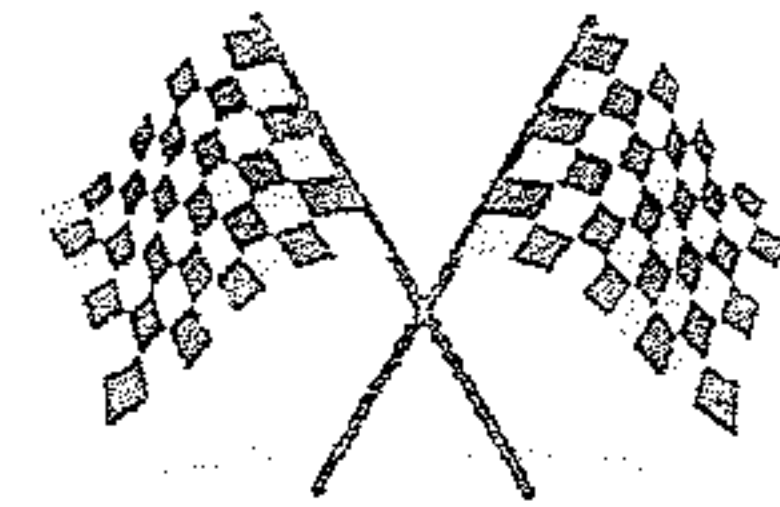
various leave accruals in the amount of \$62,041.

"I am proud of our investigators for their diligent work in uncovering these widespread issues," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "I encourage Gibson County officials to take immediate and (see Gibson ctd. pg. 7)

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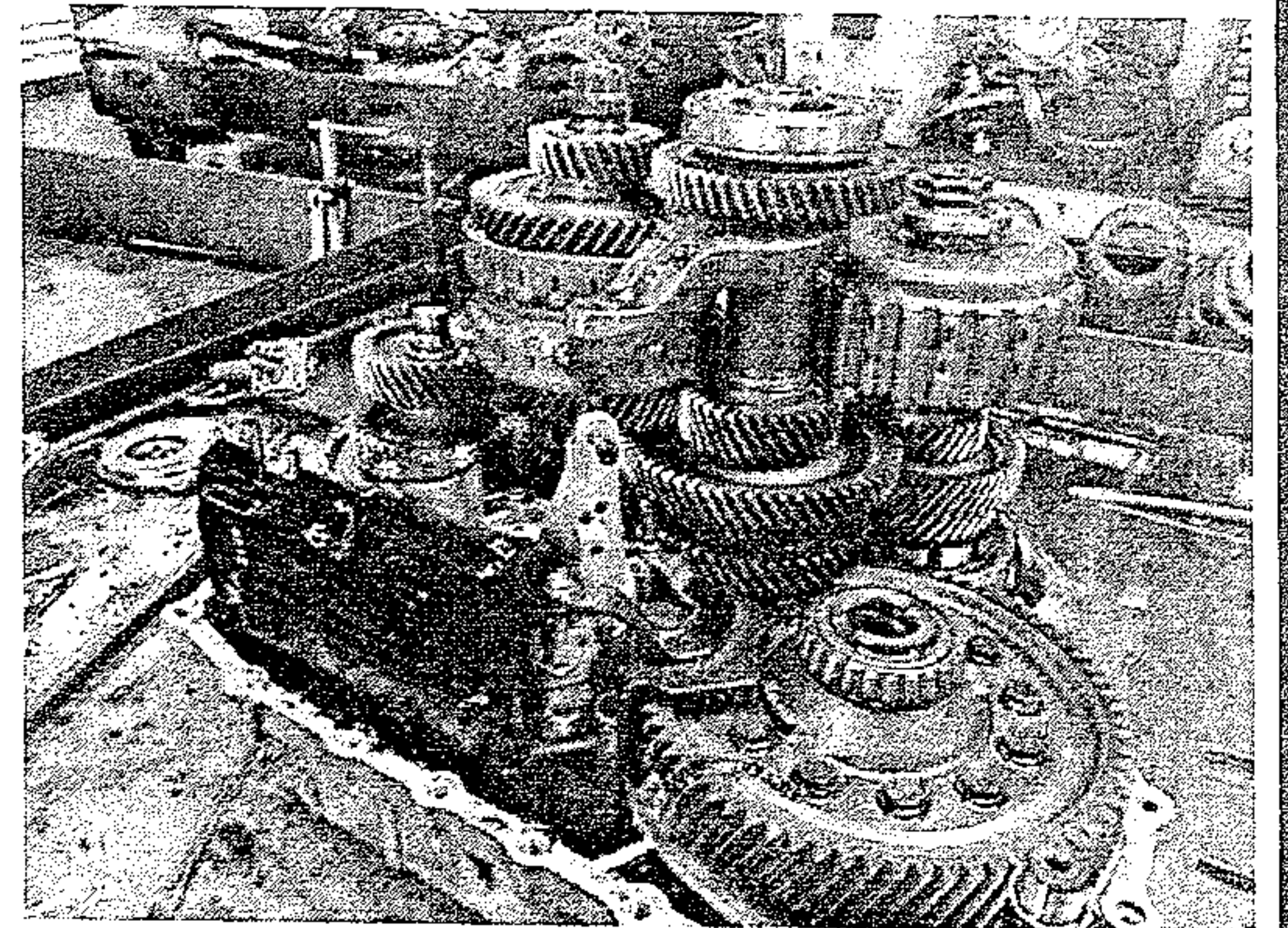
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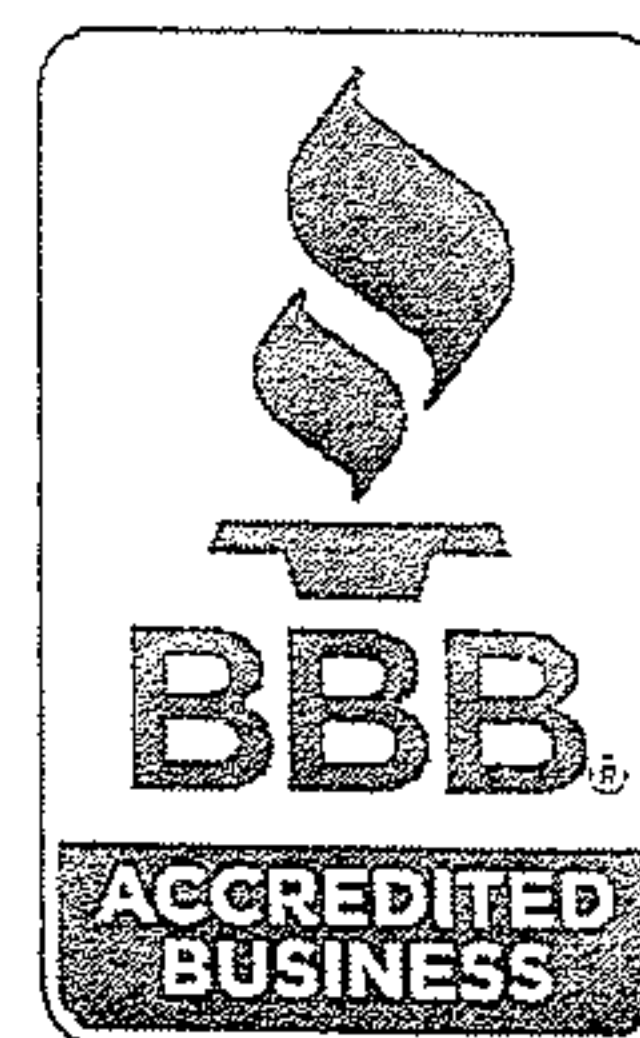
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drugs

commit money laundering. From approximately September 2010 through June 2012, he trafficked in synthetic drugs to include stimulants ("bath salts") and cannabimimetic substances ("fake weed" and "incense"). He operated first from locations in southwest Virginia and then through a business called Cloud

9 Emporium in Bristol, Tenn. Bickley subsequently opened additional Cloud 9 locations in Johnson City and Mountain City, Tenn., before the stores were closed as the result of law enforcement action in March 2012. He was also involved in a fourth business, White Cloud Emporium, located in Kingsport, Tenn., and operated by another

person. Bickley obtained the synthetic drugs from various sellers, but his primary suppliers were persons in the Largo/Holiday, Fla., area. During the less than two year period, he sold several million dollars' worth of synthetic drugs and used the proceeds from the drug sales to purchase real and personal property in the names

of other persons.

During the period in which Bickley was selling synthetic drugs, the Tri-Cities area experienced a public health crisis from the abuse of such drugs. Emergency rooms experience a surge of users of synthetic drugs, who exhibited extreme paranoia and psychoses; agitated and violent behavior; and

elevated heart rates, blood pressure, and body temperatures. While the trafficking in illicit drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin creates substantial risks to the public, trafficking in synthetic drugs brought a uniquely dangerous situation to the community. Medical treatment for the users of such drugs is complicated because there are no available antidotes, such as for opioid overdoses, and physicians often do not know what substance is involved. Synthetic drug products are often targeted at teenagers and young adults with colorful packaging with cartoon characters. A study by the Center for Substance Abuse Research identified synthetic marijuana as the third most reported substance used by U.S. high school students after alcohol and marijuana.

Agencies involved in this investigation included the Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, Bristol Tennessee and Virginia Police Departments, Kingsport Police Department, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Johnson City Police Department, and the First and Second Judicial District Drug Task Forces. Assistant U.S. Attorney Neil Smith represented the United States.

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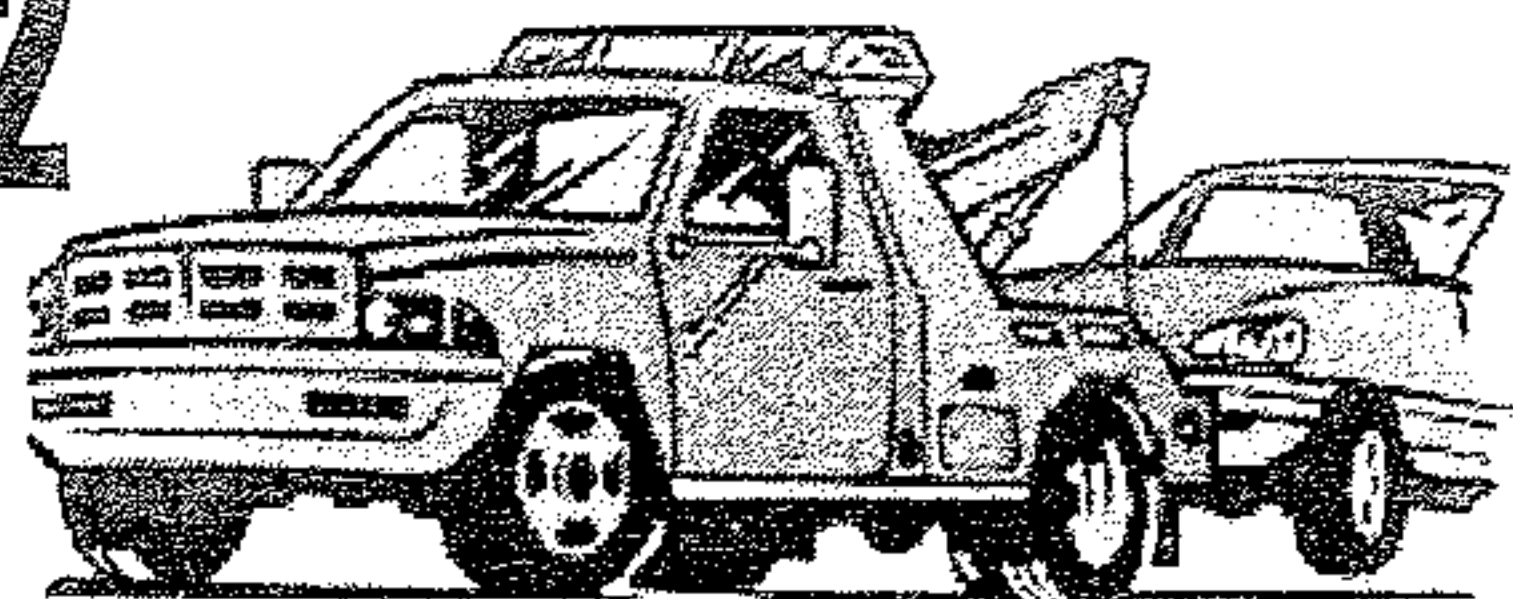
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wanted

and could not keep the vehicle in the lane of travel. Trooper made contact with the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop at I-75 north mm 78. Trooper made contact with the driver identified as Charles Ramsey who stated he was coming from Sweetwater Hospital and going to Children's Hospital to see his son. A check through dispatch revealed Charles license were suspended indefinitely, and a VOP out of Union Co. Trooper smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle.

Trooper asked if there was any marijuana in the vehicle

Charles stated no. Trooper located several marijuana roaches in a cigarette pack. Charles was placed under arrest. Sgt. Russell Smith THP. made the arrest.

Gibson ctd. from pg. 4

forceful steps to recover any stolen money or property, and evaluate internal operations to ensure these activities won't happen again."

For more information on the indictments, view the investigation online at: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, call the Comptroller's toll-free hotline at (800) 232-5454, or file a report online

at: www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline. Follow us on twitter @TN-COT

Loudon County Sheriff's Office Toys for Tots 2015

Thanks to the generosity year after year of the Loudon County residents, churches, businesses and industries, the Loudon County Sheriff's Office is once again able to offer the Toys for Tots program. We are beginning our 31st year of providing toys to the needy children of Loudon County, and thanks to generous contributions of time, money and gifts, we are able to make Christmas a more joyful time for more and

more children. In 2014, approximately 500 children were helped by the Loudon County Sheriff's Department Toys for Tots program through their partners. Even with the difficult economic times we are experiencing, we hope that the people of Loudon County will be there once again to help.

If your business or church would be willing to take names please call Debbie

Hines, Toys for Tots Coordinator at 986-4823.

Names are available through business and churches. If you are considering helping a child this Christmas, please be assured that applicants are thoroughly checked to make sure they require this assistance. Names are also compared with the school systems to make sure no one is receiving duplicate assistance.

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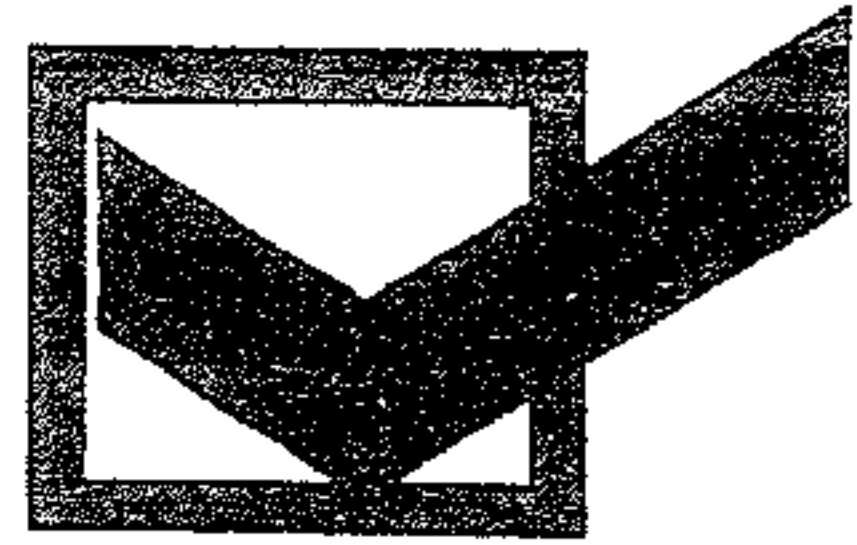
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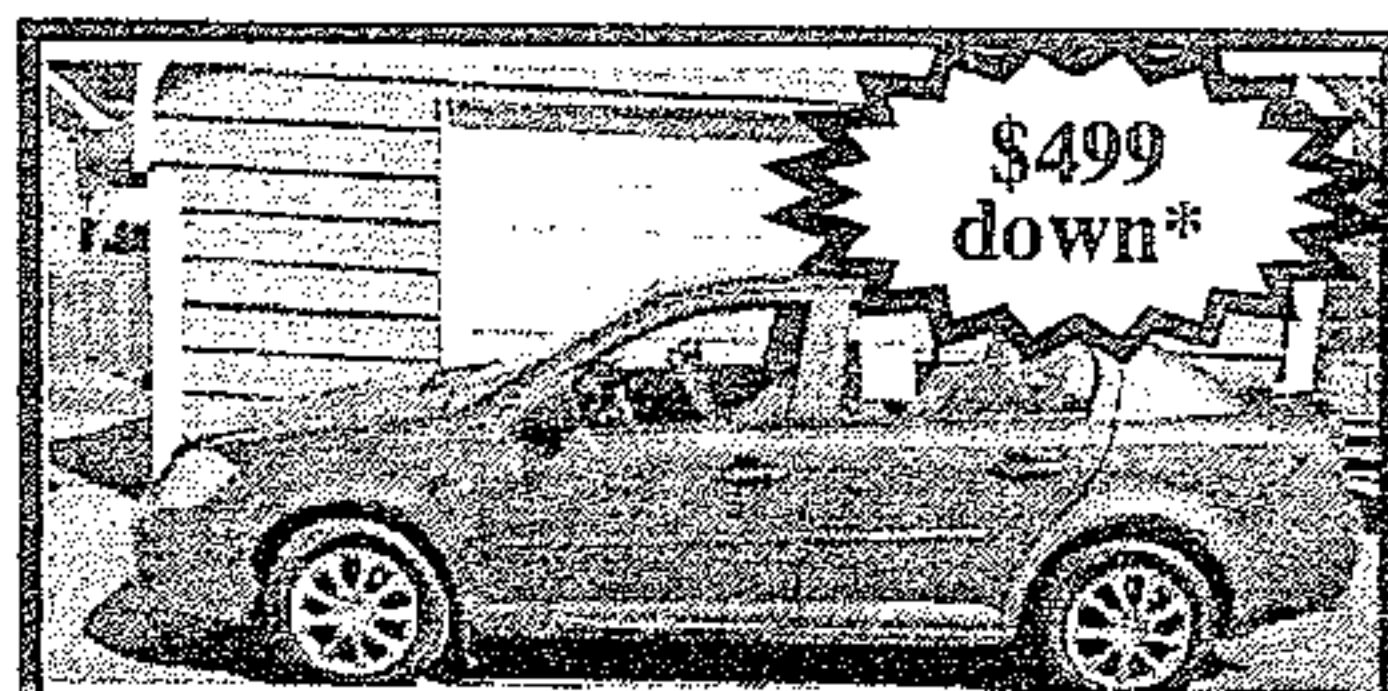
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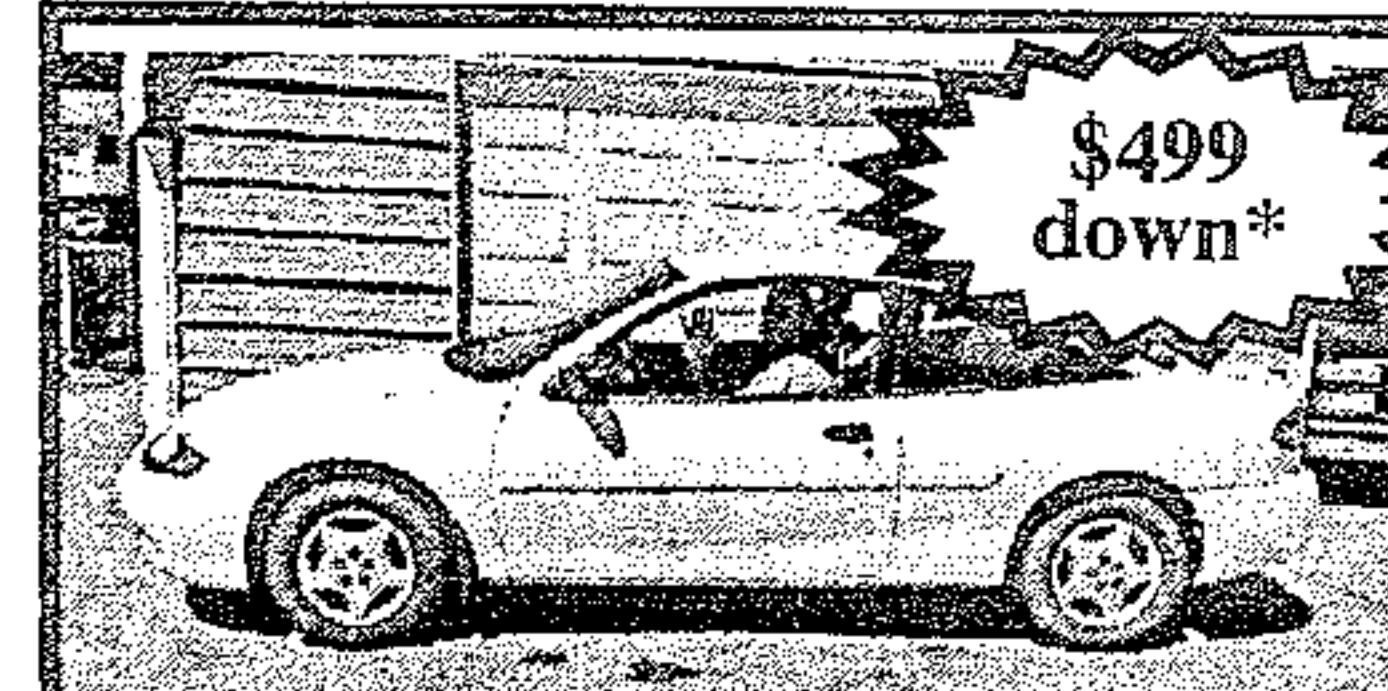
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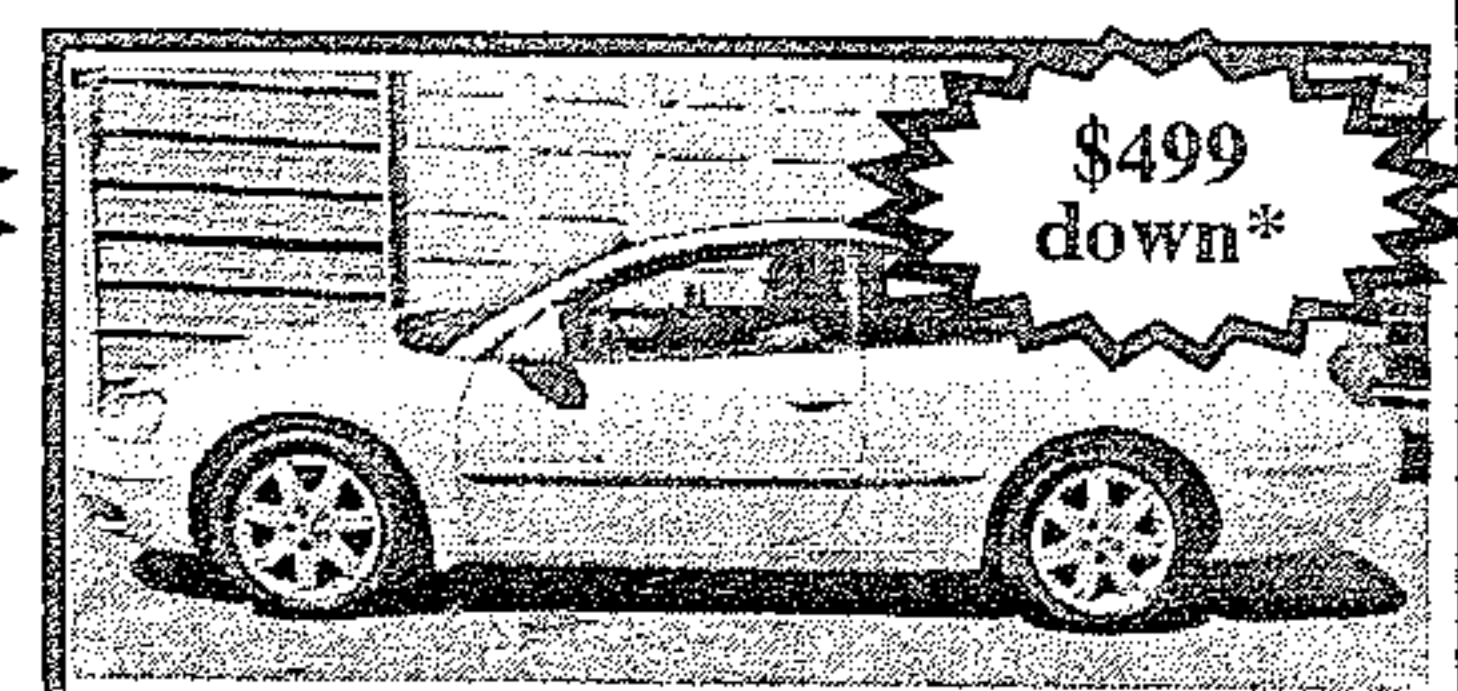
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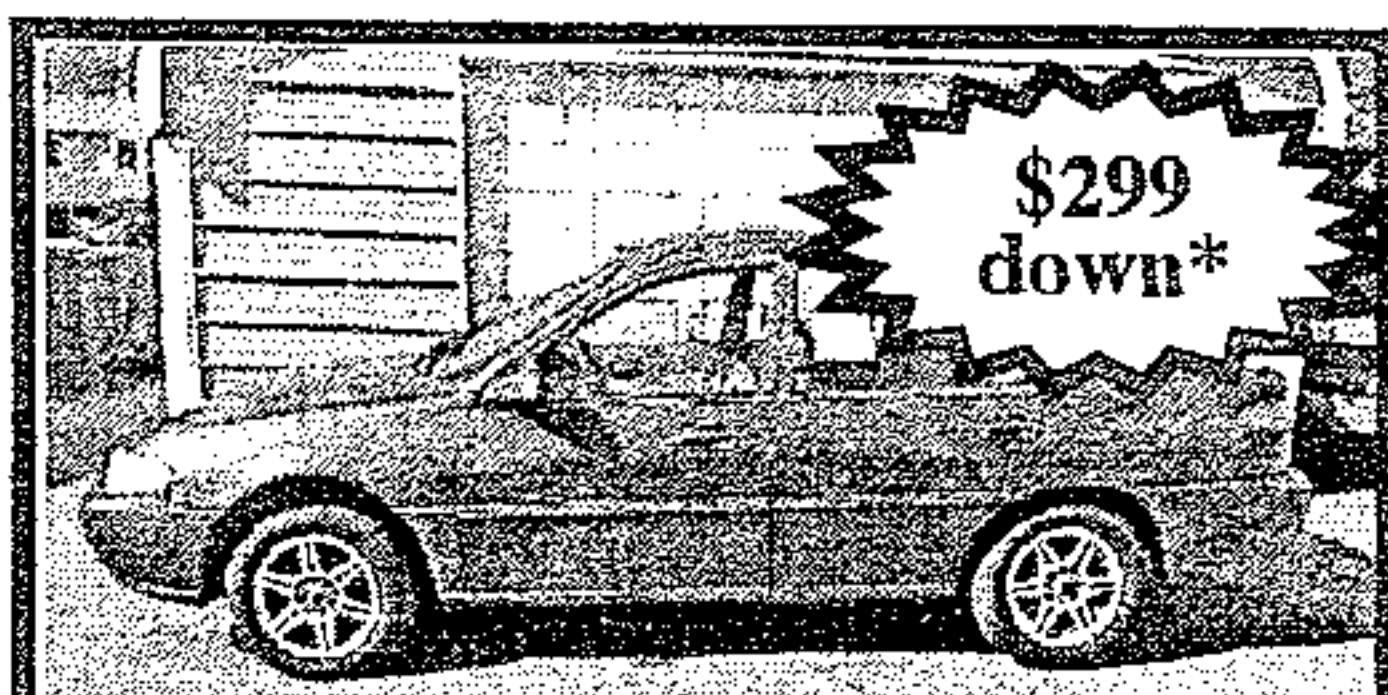
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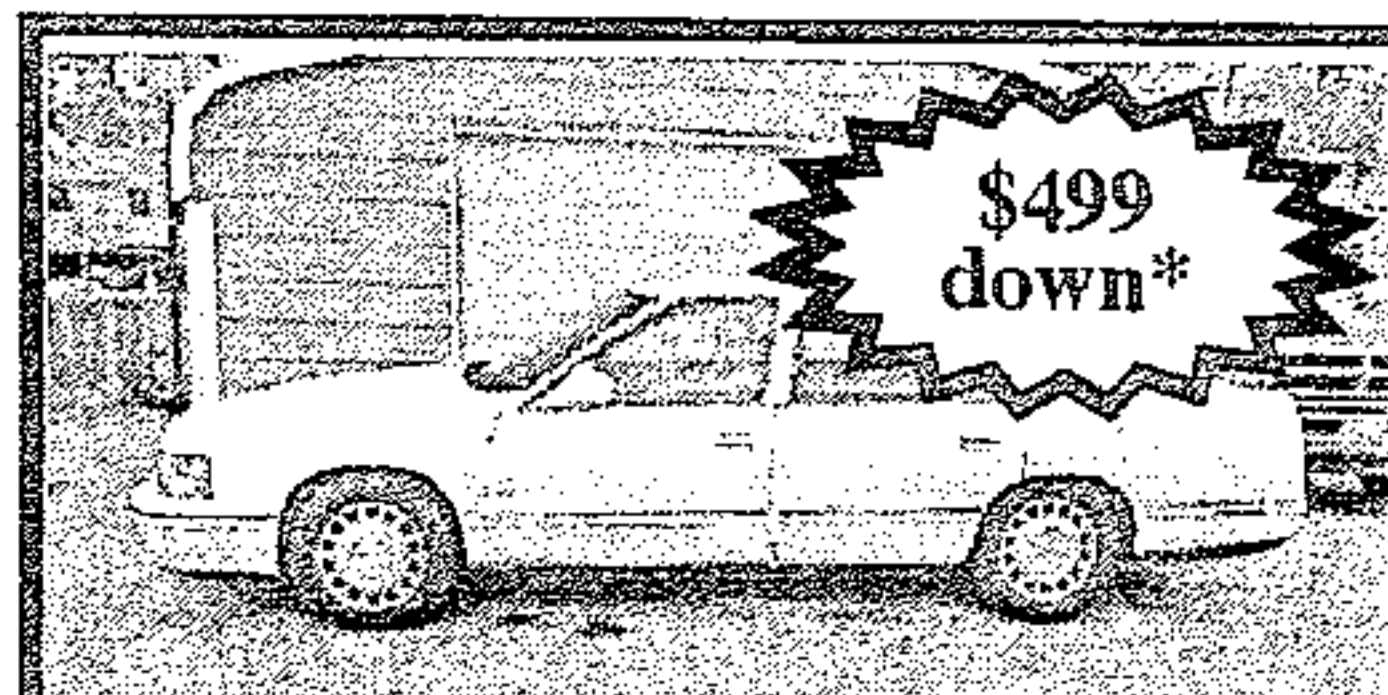
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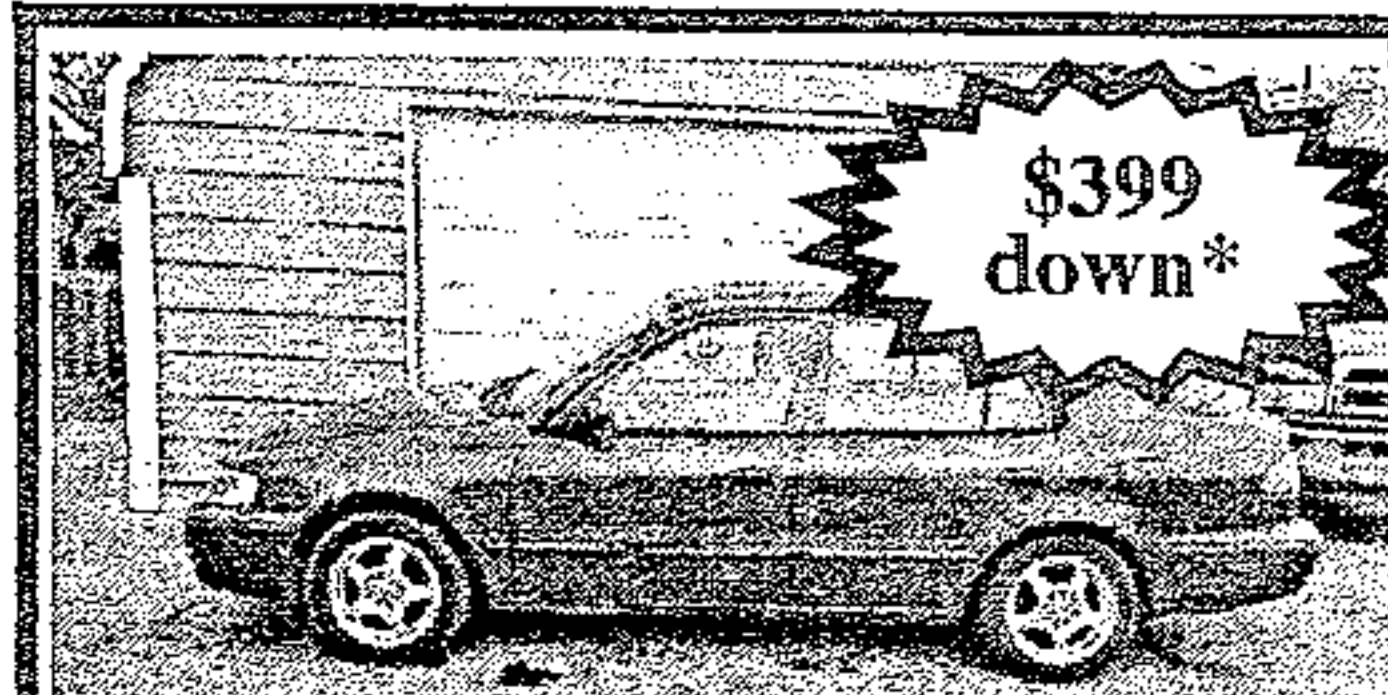
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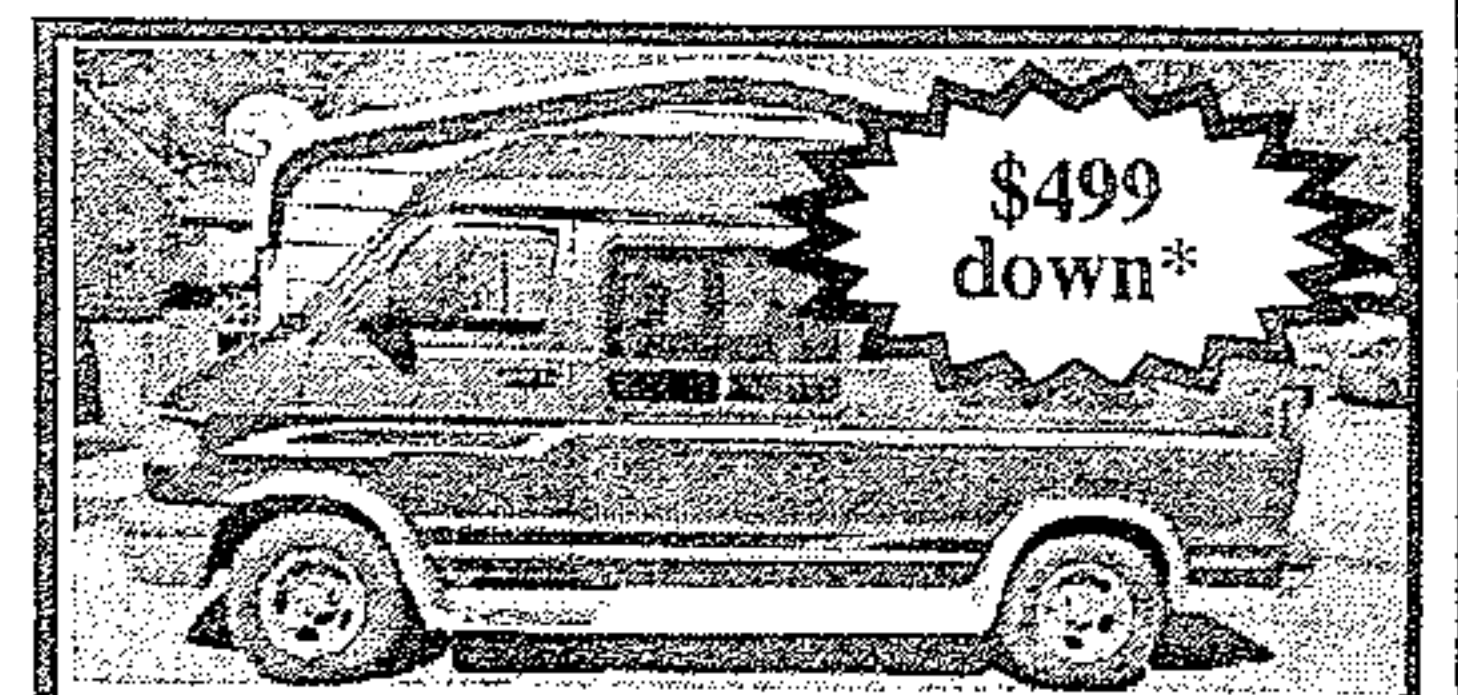
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