

Deputy nabs stolen vehicle; along with uncooperative teen driver

Abe Sesay Visser, 19, NE Hoyte, MI, was charged with Reckless Endangerment, Criminal Impersonation, Evading Arrest, and Theft of Property.

Deputy Charles Huskin LCSO, was en route to shift change, and observed a tan Hyundai Elantra leav-



Brandie Manning

Abe Visser

Reckless pg. 4)

DUI charge follows LCSO stop



Cory Spoon

(see LCSO pg. 5)

Again! Do You Know Where Your Pills Came From?



Lydia Russell

(see Pills pg. 5)

The Good News

by Jeff Vittatoe



Changing Gears

Almost a year and a half ago Angie and I moved our lives to Helena, Montana, with a burden on our hearts to make the gospel of Jesus Christ known to those around us. We were initially supported by several local churches and many other Christians from Tennessee and be-

yond. Within the first year, God provided us both with great jobs that allowed us to meet our physical needs while still having the ability to invest in the lives of others.

During this time we have had the privilege of speaking at numer- (see TGN pg. 3)

A Ponzi Scheme Collapses Financial Crime Ring Uncovered, Criminals Brought to Justice

Nearly a dozen fraudsters who conspired to operate a \$40 million Ponzi scheme will be spending plenty of time behind bars after a joint effort by the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service, and the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of North Carolina. Among those now serving time is the scheme's mastermind, Keith Franklin Simmons, who was sentenced to 40 years in prison late last year. And just last month, the 11th and final defendant in the conspiracy—Jonathan D. Davey—was sentenced to more than 21 years.

The federal judge who sentenced Davey said the term handed down reflected the effects of the fraud on its 400 or so victims—mainly el-

(see Ponzi pg. 2)

Verse of the Day

For by him [Jesus] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things

were created by him and for him. — Colossians 1:16

Obituaries

see inside

Wazzup

Way to Go Eli Lindsey on your math scores!!!

New business coming soon in Loudon so stay tuned for details.

Weather

Today: Cloudy with occasional showers for the afternoon. High around 60F. Tonight: Periods of rain. Low 47F.

Tuesday Cloudy with periods of rain. High near 60F.

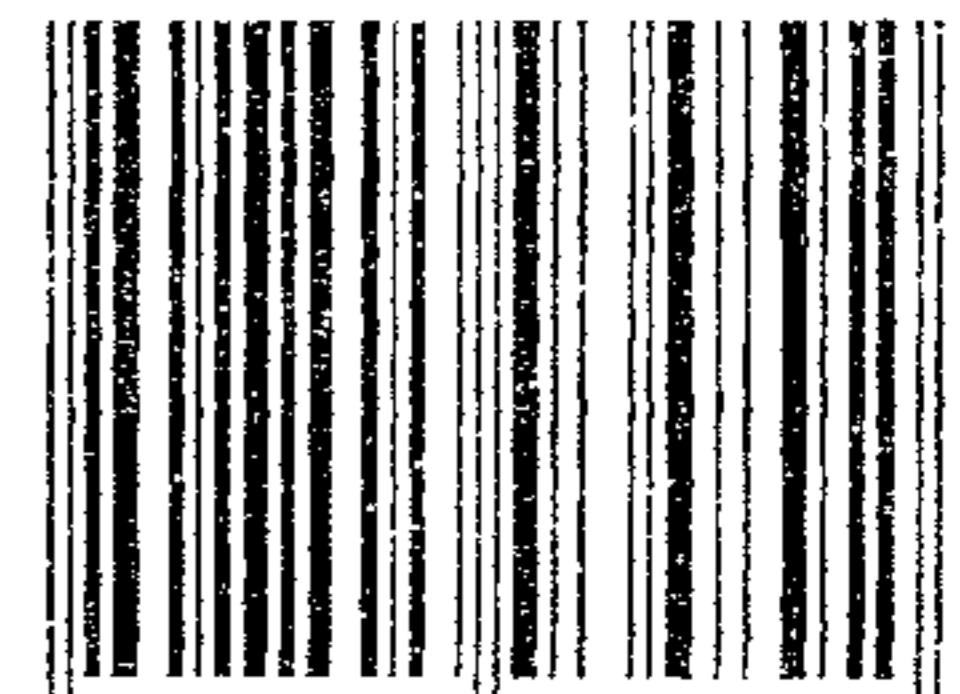
Tuesday Night Cloudy with periods of light rain. Low 49F.

Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20

Relationship dynamics continue to shift, making

(Continued on page 6)



088805 93489 2

Ponzi

derly and vulnerable—and that the scheme resulted in “life-wrecking damage” and caused victims to lose “life savings, trust, faith, and their sense of dignity.”

In 2007, Simmons—a North Carolina businessman looking for a way to make easy money—formulated an investment scheme called “Black Diamond,” which he advertised as a legitimate hedge fund involved in foreign currency trading. Black Diamond, according to Simmons, had significant safeguards in place to protect investors, was independently audited, and had consistently high rates of return. None of that, of course, was true.

To help solicit investors from around the country, Simmons—through a co-conspirator—recruited a number of individuals to serve as regional

managers of his hedge fund. Most of these “managers” had insurance experience and were well versed in selling annuity products, often to the elderly. So they solicited previous customers—as well as friends, family, and acquaintances. These early investors were promised financial compensation for bringing new investors on board, so they in turn praised Black Diamond and its high rate of return to their friends, family, and acquaintances. Unfortunately, not a single dollar of investor funds was actually invested.

Also brought on board to oversee the various hedge fund managers—and the money—was Davey, a certified public accountant and investment manager in Ohio. Davey controlled most of the funds from the scheme and published a website for investors that reflected false returns.

By the end of the scheme, the website showed that the value of investor accounts was more than \$120 million, but in reality, all of the accounts totaled less than \$1 million.

Black Diamond made the perpetrators—in particular

Simmons and Davey—very rich. And as long as new money was coming in, they were able to keep making some payments to their early investors while at the same time continuing to fund their

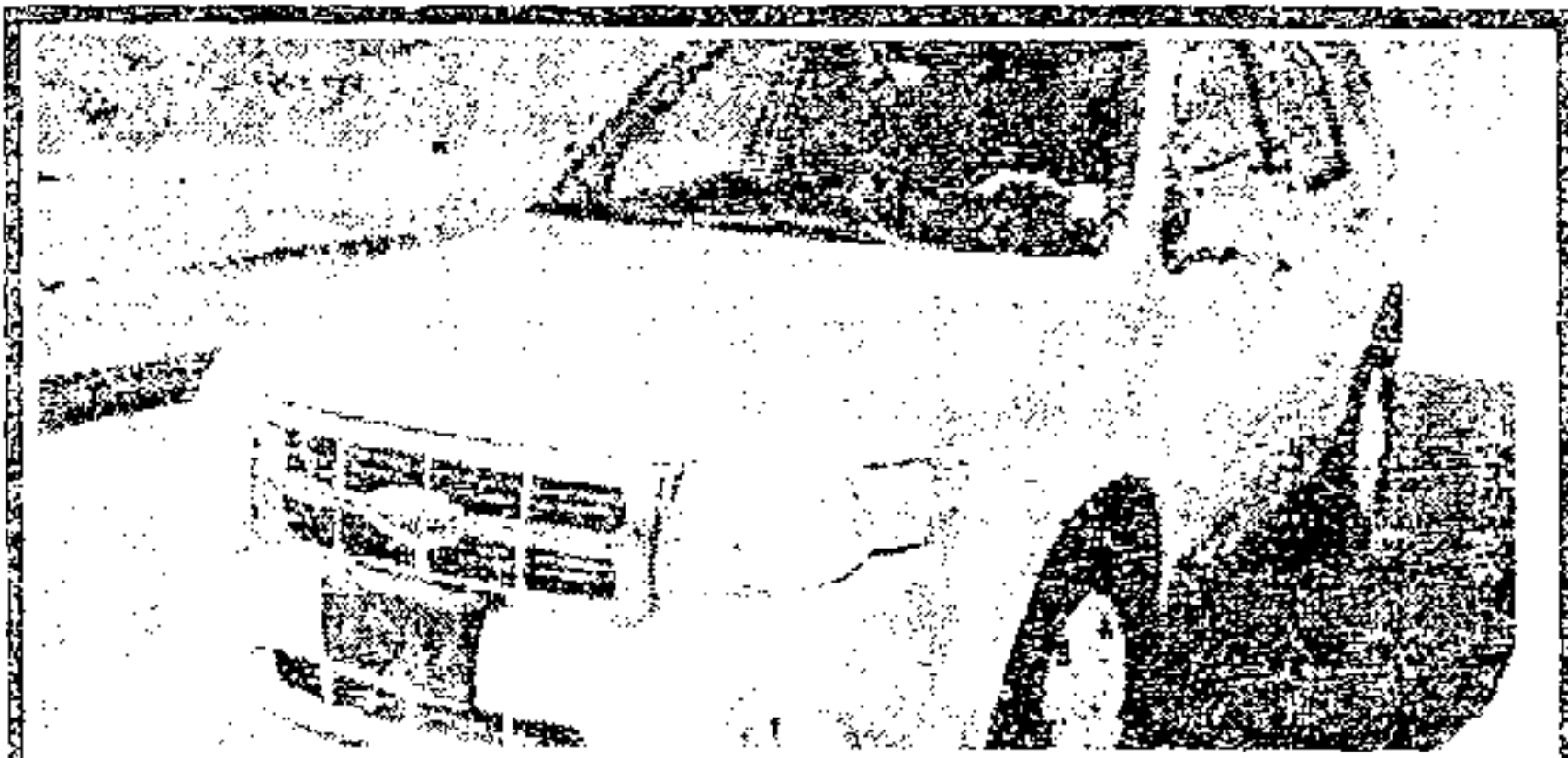
(see Ponzi ctd. pg. 7)

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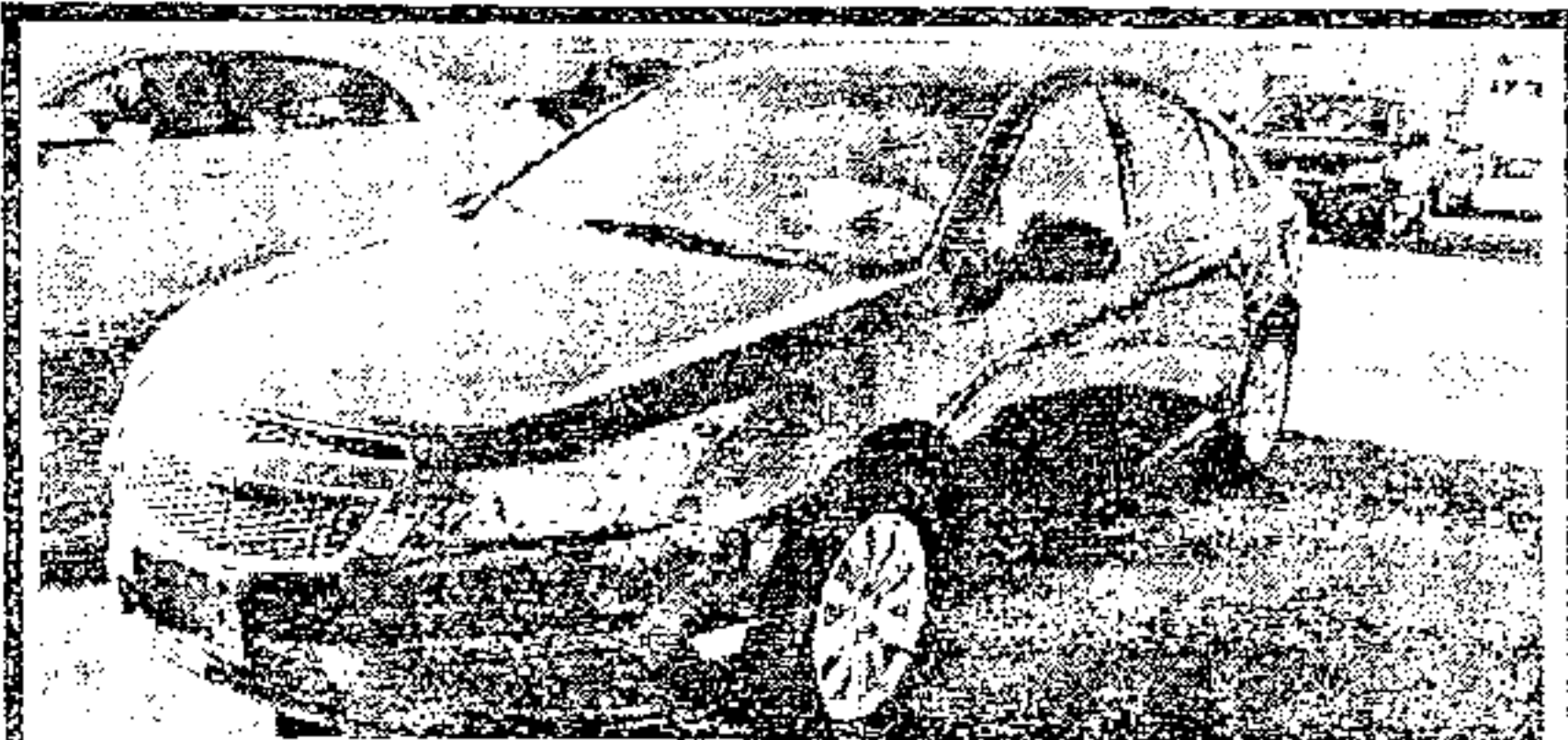
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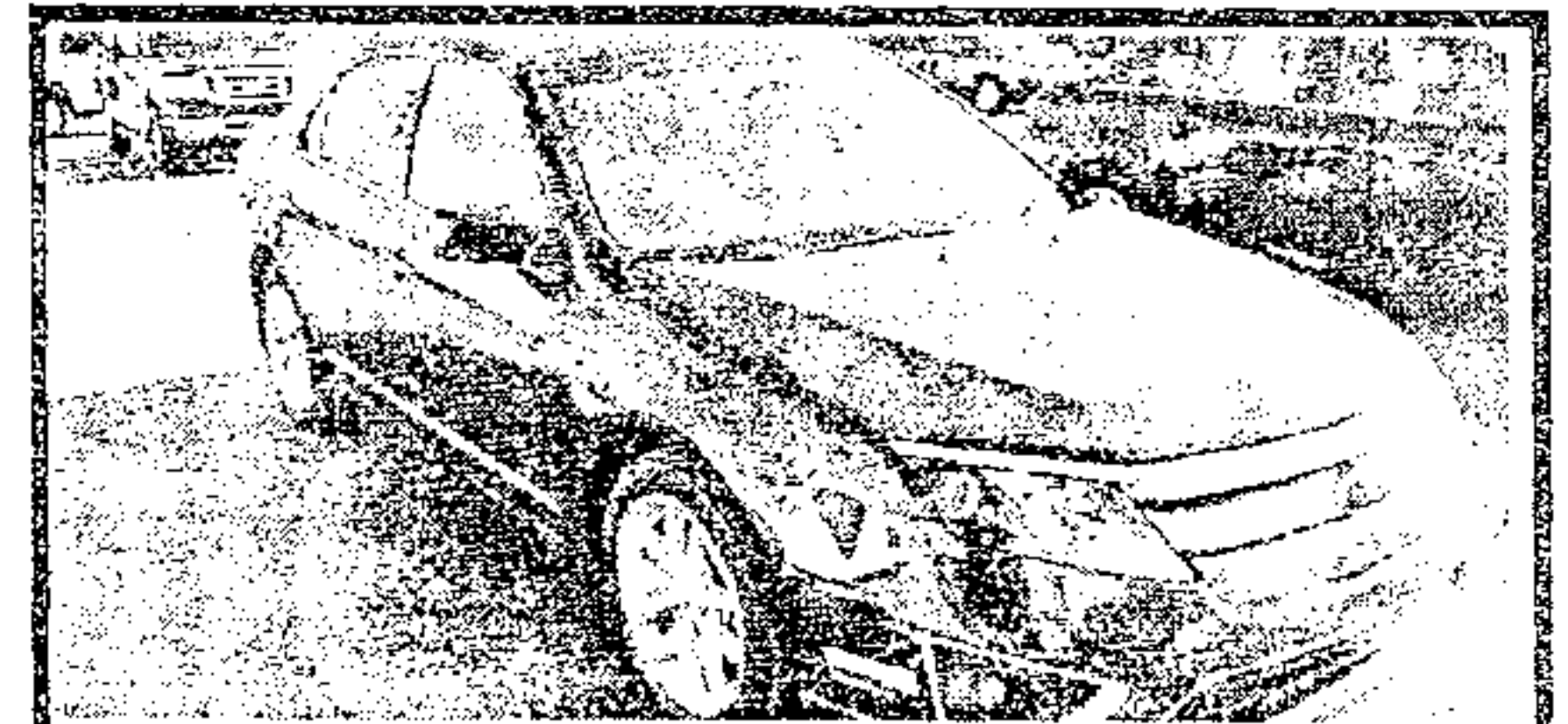
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2009 Dodge Caravan- keyless entry, dvd, pw, pl, low miles, a/c, heat



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2006 Jeep Cherokee, 4WD, tow pkg, auto, AC, luggage rack

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TGN

ous churches and to share our faith with friends, co-workers and even a few strangers. We enjoyed the opportunity to host a very successful small group in our home for several months and we recently had the pleasure of leading one lost soul to Jesus for eternal life. Angie has played the piano all over this city and I have been able to invest in the spiritual growth of numerous fellow Christians here in this community. To say it has been awesome would be an understatement! God has rewarded our willingness to serve just as He said He would.

We are now about to embark on the next phase of our exciting walk with Christ in a new setting, with new people, new opportunities and maybe even a few new challenges. I have been offered a promotion within my job that is based in

Missoula, Montana. Missoula is about twice the size of Helena and the undisputed most liberal city within the state of Montana. Missoula is home to the University of Montana, lots of Subaru driving tree huggers, and maintains a very accepting atmosphere for those of various sexual orientations. It is probably the last town one would expect to see a redneck from East Tennessee calling home, but at the same time an enormous mission field for anyone desiring to make the gospel of Jesus Christ known to the nations. In two weeks the Missoula area will be our new home and we are anxious, excited, and a little scared all at the same time.

We have chosen to hang our hats in a small community called Alberton, which is about twenty miles west of the city of Missoula. While Alberton is a tiny community

outside of the busy streets of Missoula, our jobs, our shopping, and our interaction with others will be located within a very unfamiliar and ungodly environment.

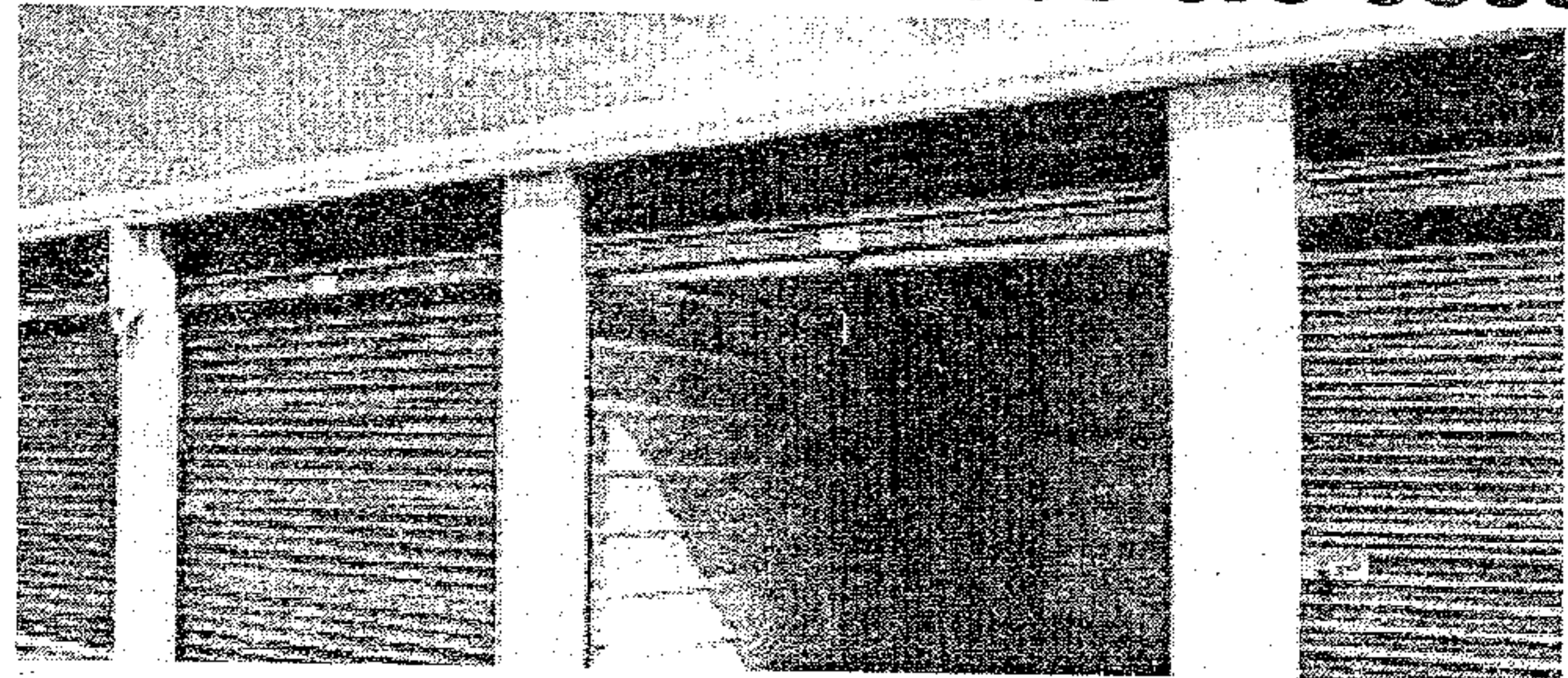
Yesterday we purchased a fifth wheel camper and will park it in a small campground on the banks of the Clark Fork River. I guess you could say we plan to be professional campers, living very simply while watching to see where

God is working and how He invites us to join Him.

We are praying for God to lead us to a new church family, to show us why this new opportunity presented itself to us and how we can honor the calling on our lives to love others as Christ loves each of us. As my preacher friend David Choate put it, "our location may have changed but our mission remains the same".

(see TGN ctd. pg. 4)

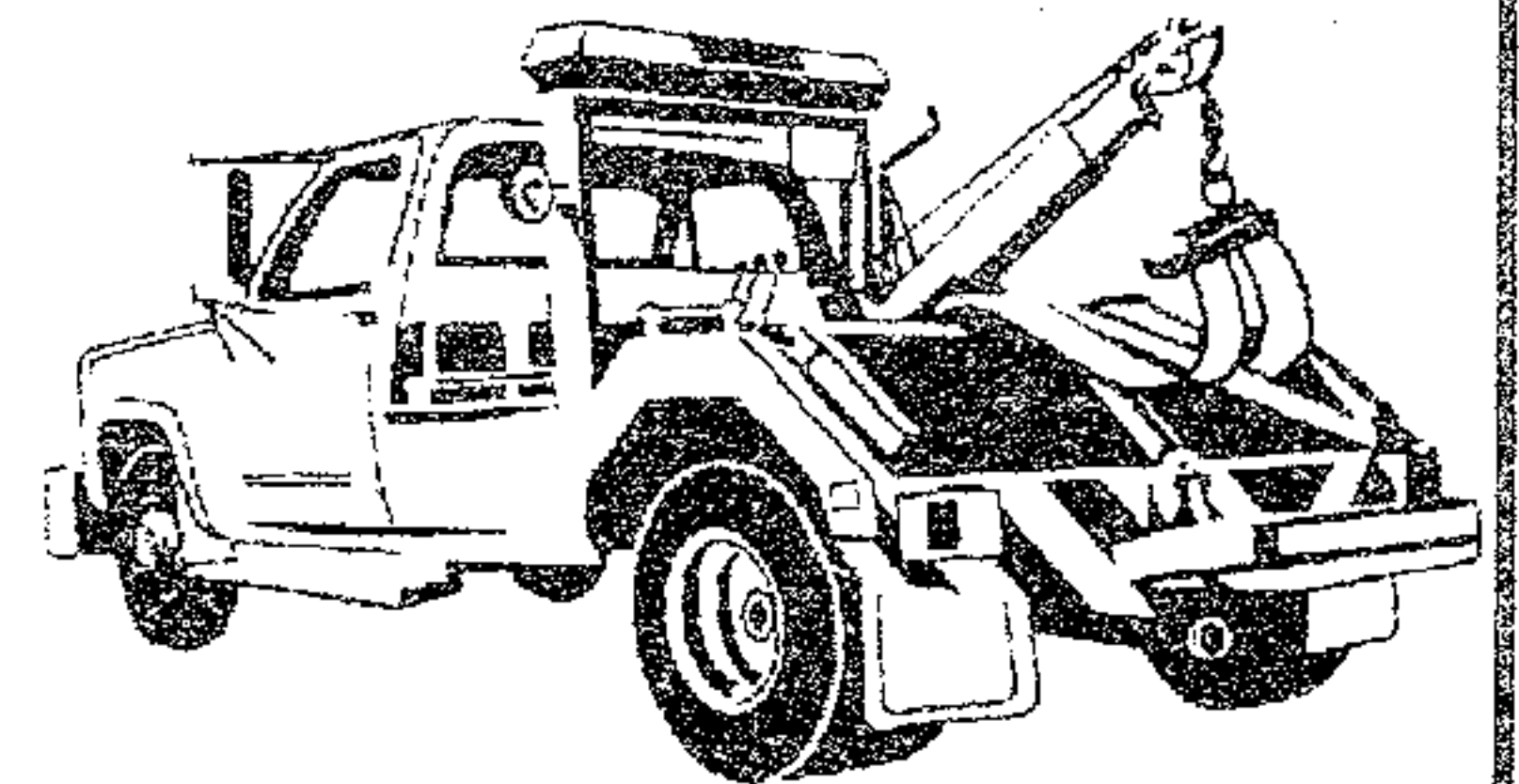
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Reckless

ing the Eaton elementary school lower drive. The vehicle turned onto hwy 321 heading south and was bearing tag #out of Wisconsin. Deputy ran the registration on the vehicle bearing tag, and the vehicle came back stolen out of Michigan. Deputy then made a traffic stop on HWY 321 at Bimbo's gas station. The vehicle did stop, and when Deputy made contact with the driver he did seem nervous, and fidgety. The driver then cranked the vehicle and drove off from traffic stop. Deputy pursued the vehicle and during the pursuit, the vehicle was confirmed stolen from Michigan. The vehicle traveled south on HWY 321 and turned right onto Town Creek RD. W. The vehicle then wrecked, resting on it's top. A black male was inside the vehicle trying to bust out the drivers rear window with his fist but was unable to escape the vehicle. Deputy and LCPD Bruce Padgett approached the vehicle at gun point, where Deputy did use his baton ASP and busted the window to get the suspect out of the upside down vehicle.

The suspect was being very uncooperative

about any information in regards to his identity, and gave several names as to who he was. He was later identified as Abe Sesay Visser of Grand Rapids Michigan. There was another white male in the vehicle, and once he was taken into custody by LCPD B. Padgett was cooperative and forth coming about any info that was asked of him. The passenger stated that the black male was Abe Sesay of Grand Rapids Michigan. Both suspect's stated that they were juveniles, and were transported to the Fort Loudon ER for medical observation, and were both cleared medically. The passenger was transported to the Loudon County Juvenile Center and Mr. Visser transported to the Loudon County Jail. Deputy Charlie Huskins LCSO, made the arrest.

TGN ctd. from pg. 3

We have made many valuable connections, friendships and have served with many fellow believers in Jesus while in Helena. Our

intention is not to abandon those relationships but simply to build on them as we continue to serve the Lord wherever He leads. Please continue to pray for us through this transition.

As we prepare to move, and have begun to pack up our belongings and sell some items that we will have no room for, a hint of doubt and confusion occasionally crossed my mind. In the midst of the chaos, I received an encouraging email from my dad's church in Maryville, Tennessee, and was reminded that Angie and I are not in this thing alone. Please read the email below sent by the "Fouch Ministry" of New Hope Baptist Church. I was encouraged by it and hope that you will be as well.

"My Dear Friends,

I hope you are doing well and having a wonderful day in the Lord.

Thank you for your dedication to the Kingdom of God.

There is a verse that comes to my mind as I type this, "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you." Nothing is more

important than sharing the gospel to the lost and dying who are broken without Christ. One day when this life is over how wonderful to know that when you are worshipping the one who died for you that you will be there with the ones that you took the time to share that love with, that you allowed God to use you in helping the ones who truly need unconditional love. Love that points them to Christ, love that knows no boundaries- that love can only come from God.

Thank you for seeking first the Kingdom and my prayer is that you know how much we at New Hope love you and pray for you.

Dear Father tonight

I pray for my brothers and sisters in the mission field. I pray for protection for them as they share your love, dear Father give them someone in their path today to show them that love in return. Thank you Lord for them. Bless them God as they have blessed so many. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.

Missionaries stand strong, you have a father in heaven who loves you who cares for you and is with you through the valley and mountaintops. He is coming soon to get his beloved redeemed children. Oh what a wonderful day that will be. Until that day we will work the fields of harvest."

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Pills

Lydia Russell, 48, Caldwell Road Loudon, was charged with SCH. II Drug x2., SCH. IV. x2. and Contraband in a Penal Institution.

Deputy Bengel was advised by Deputy Carter that a female was being brought into the facility by Deputy Craig Brewer LCSO. Deputy Bengel and Deputy Wilburn met

Deputy Brewer at the sally port door and took custody of Lydia Ann Russell. Deputy Wilburn asked Ms. Russell if she had anything that would be considered contraband or any other illegal substance on or in her person. Ms. Russell stated that she did not have anything.

While Deputy Wilburn was searching Ms. Russell, she found a small baggy in Ms. Russell's croch area.

The baggy contained 3 small round pink pills with K 56 imprinted on them, believed to be 10 mg Oxycodone. 3 small round yellow pills with R 34 imprinted on them, believed to be 1 mg Klonopin. 4 1/2 small round yellow pills with E 63 imprinted on them, believed to be 0.5 mg Klonopin. 4 small yellow pills with 54 210 imprinted on them, believed to be 5 mg Methadone Hydro-

chloride. A total of 14 1/2 pills were recovered from Ms. Russell. Deputy Craig Brewer LCSO, made the arrest.

LCSO

Cory Spoon, 22, Phelps Road Lenoir City, was charged with DUI.

Deputy Kevin Dailey LCSO, while traveling down Martel Road near Oakwood Estates subdi-

vision observed a white Pontiac sitting off the side of the road at the bottom of a driveway in the grass. While passing the vehicle Deputy did illuminate the vehicle with a spotlight it did appear empty. Deputy then turned around at that point the vehicle turned on its headlights on and turned onto Martel Road. Traffic stop was initiated and upon contact with the operator, identified as Corey Ozell Spoon, had blood shot eyes and a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage about his breath and person. Also, in the passenger side floor board was an open twelve pack of Bud Light and where the vehicle had been parked was an empty Bud Light beer can. Mr. Spoon stated that he had in fact had a drink earlier in the night. When asked about why he was parked there he stated that he believed his girlfriend to be cheating on him and was watching her house. He was then asked to perform the standardized field sobriety tasks, in which he performed poorly on. Corey Spoon was then taken into custody for Driving under the Influence. He was then read the Tennessee Implied Consent Advisement, at which time he did agree to blood draw. He was then transported to Fort Loudon Medical Center for blood sample to be sent to TBI for analysis. Deputy Kevin Dailey LCSO, made the arrest.

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theme etc. from pg. 2
 lavish lifestyles, which
 included mansions,
 luxury vehicles, and
 expensive trips.
 But as all Ponzi
 schemes usually do at
 some point, Black Dia-
 mond began to collapse
 on itself—there was
 not enough new money
 coming in to keep the
 investors satisfied
 to continue lining
 the pockets of the crim-
 als running the fraud.
 Around March 2009,
 a new Ponzi scheme
 was begun, but this
 time some of the mon-
 ey from investors in
 the new scheme went
 to make payments to
 the investors of the old
 scheme, and the rest
 went to the criminals.
 It was the beginning
 of the end, however.

Acting on allegations
 of suspicious financial
 activity, the FBI—with
 its partners—was al-
 ready investigating
 Black Diamond. By
 December 2009, ring-
 leader Keith Franklin
 Simmons was in cus-
 tody, and the arrests
 of his co-conspirators
 eventually followed.

**Don't Let a Ponzi
 Schemer Victimize
 You**

Today's financial
 scams are often more
 sophisticated than ever
 before. Here are a few
 tips to help you avoid
 becoming the victim of
 a Ponzi scheme:

- Be careful of any investment opportunity that makes exaggerated earnings claims.

- Don't be fooled into believing an in-

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 Scheme conc. pg. 8

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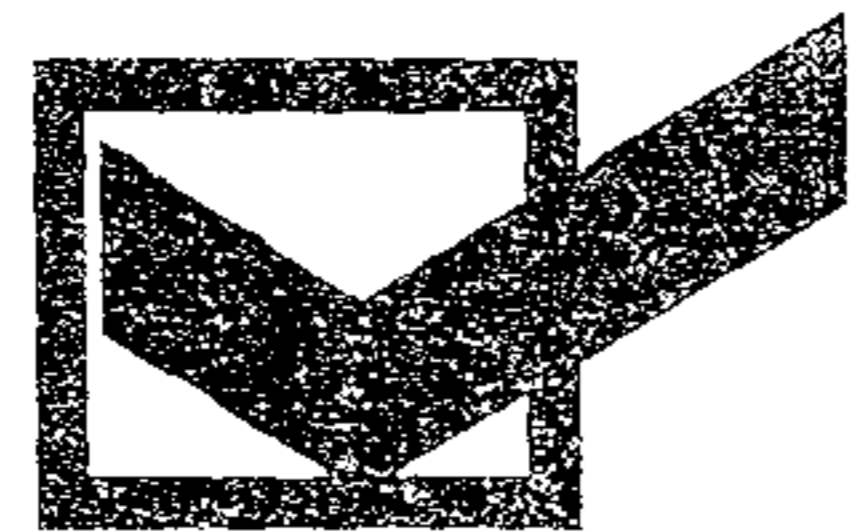
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Scheme conc. from pg. 7
ity scams” are one of the favorite methods used to lure people into Ponzi schemes.

- Exercise due diligence in selecting investments and the people with whom you invest—in other words, do your homework.

- Consult an unbiased third party, like an unconnected broker or licensed financial adviser, before investing.

- Take the time to check out investment offers by contacting your state’s securities regulator.

- Never put all of your eggs (investments) in one basket.

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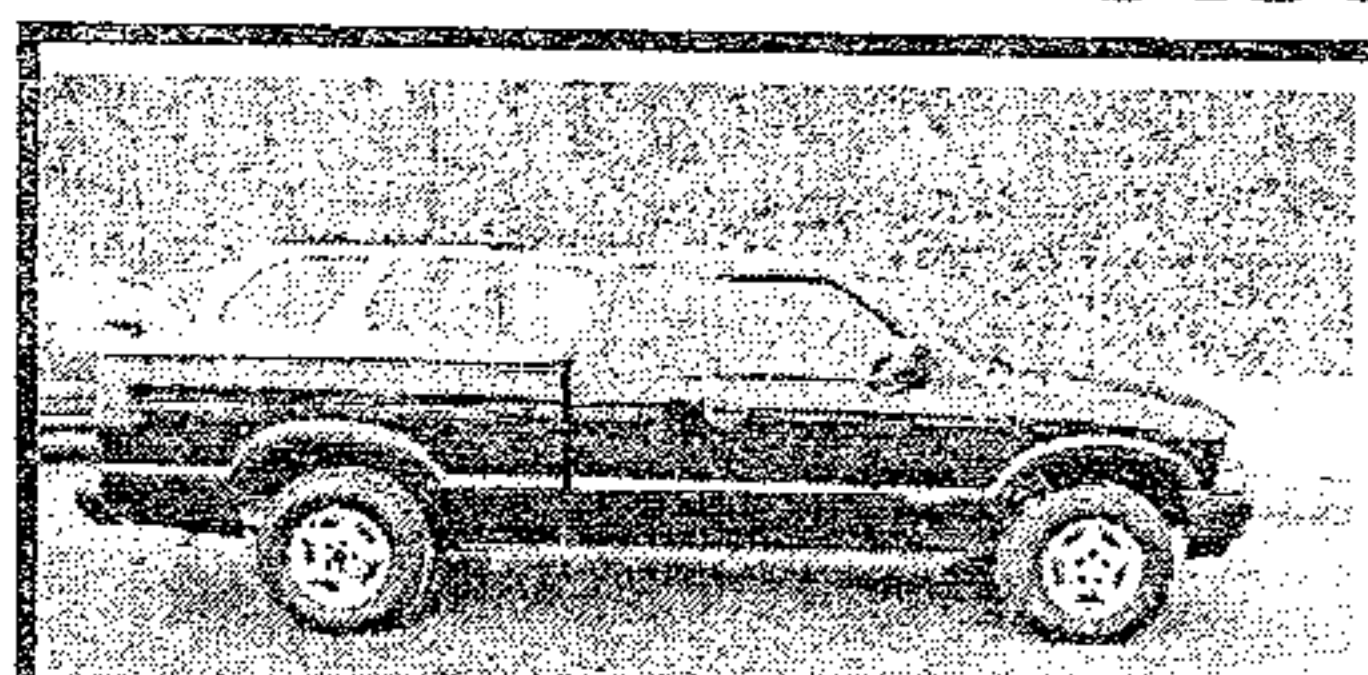
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2008 Saturn Astra, 2dr, sporty, hatchback 70k miles



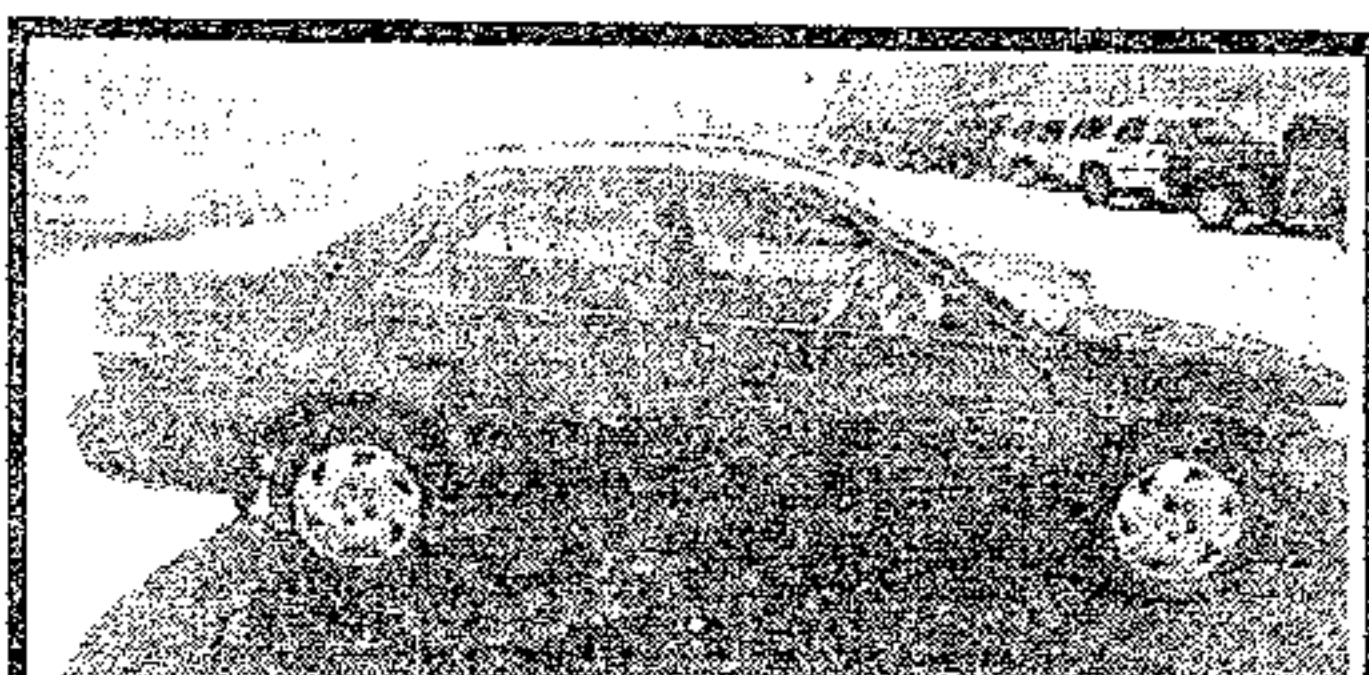
2003 Chevy S-10 pickup, nice truck, 112k miles



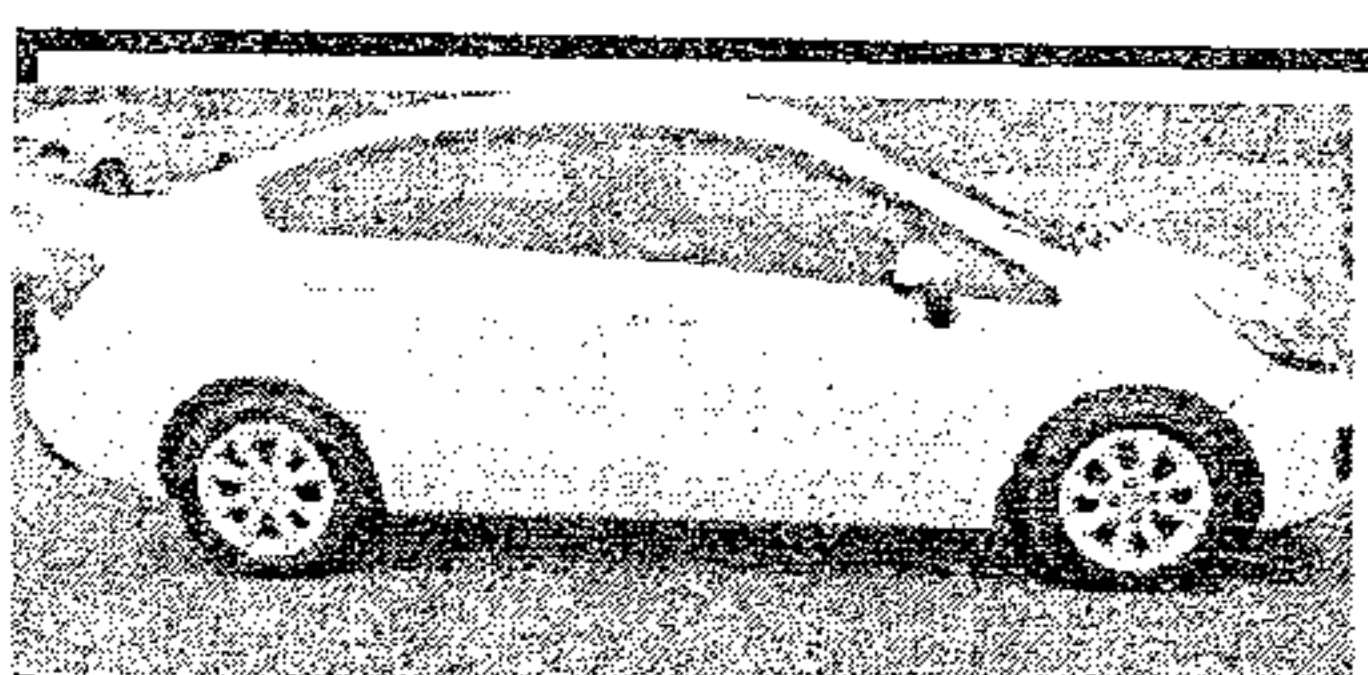
2007 Ford F150, 107k miles, Nice and Clean



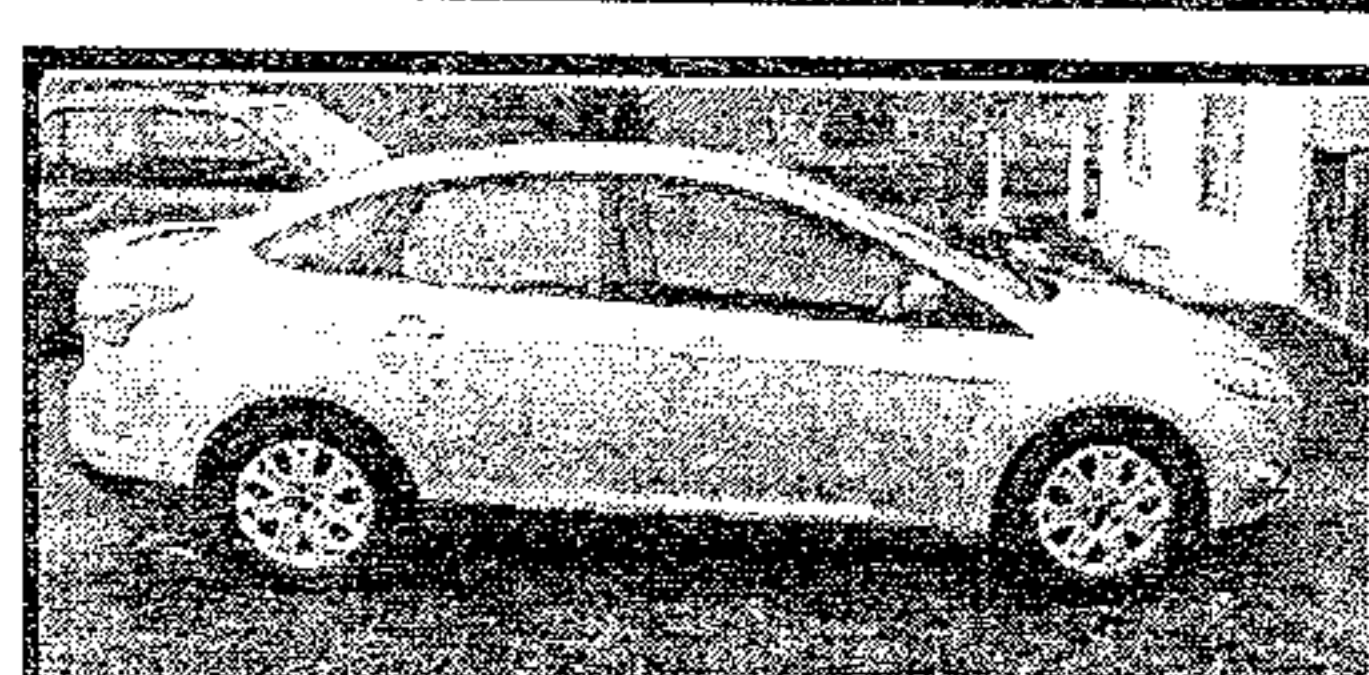
2004 Chevy 1500, green, clean, 110k miles



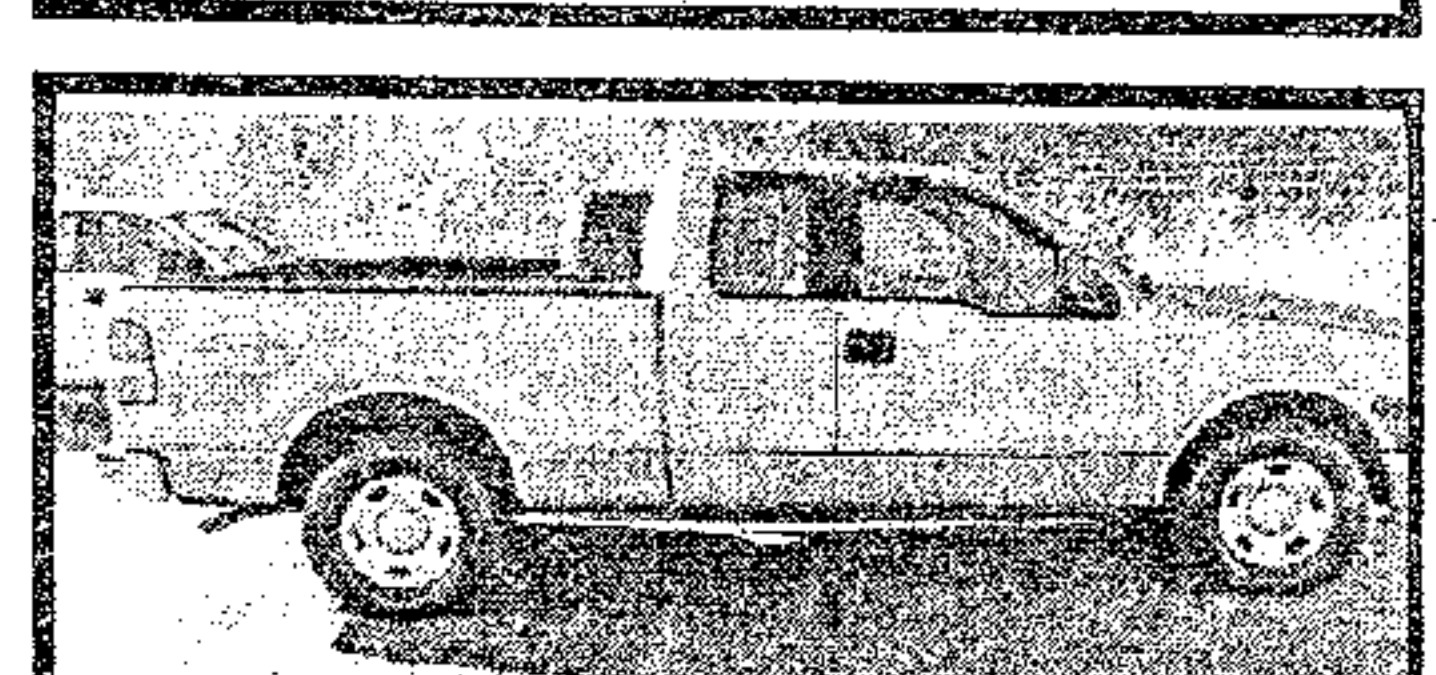
2002 Honda Accord, Only 96k miles, Pwr Everything



2012 Kia Rio, 85k miles, GAS SAVER



2012 Ford Focus, 47k miles, Great Gas Saver, Pwr Everything



2006 Ford F150, 2x Cab, 82k miles, Nice Truck!

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