

The Daily Edition

50¢

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Friday, January 26, 2018

Known revoked driver charged along with wanted subject

Christy Whisenhunt, 36, Reed Springs Church Road Philadelphia, was charged with Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. of Meth, Contraband in a Penal Institution, Driving on Revoked License, Poss. of Drug Para., and Simple Possession x4.

Andy Ballard, 39, Comer Private Way Loudon, was charged (see Revoked pg. 2)



Christy Whisenhunt



Andy Ballard

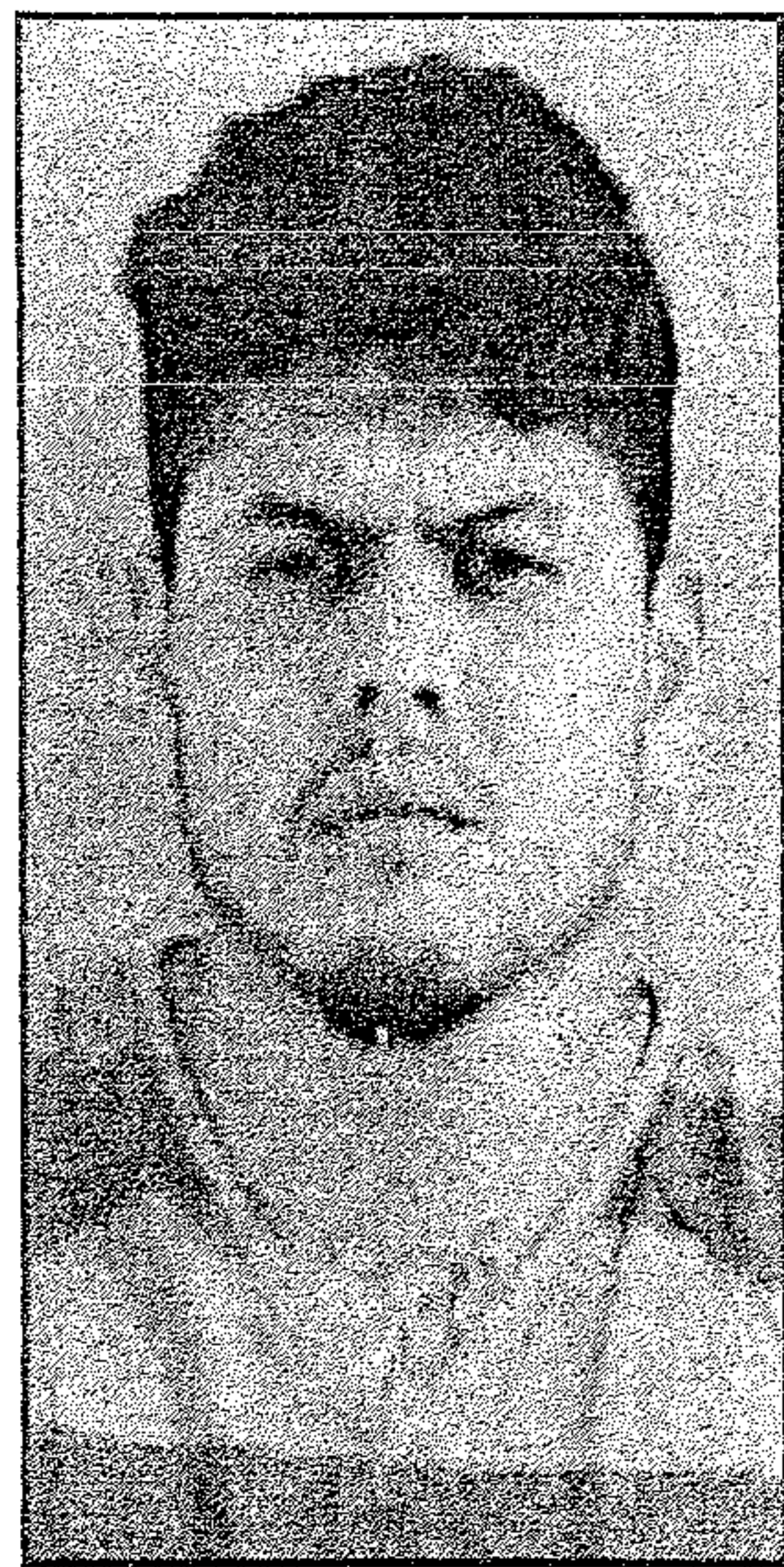
Woman charged after stabbing victim in agg. assault



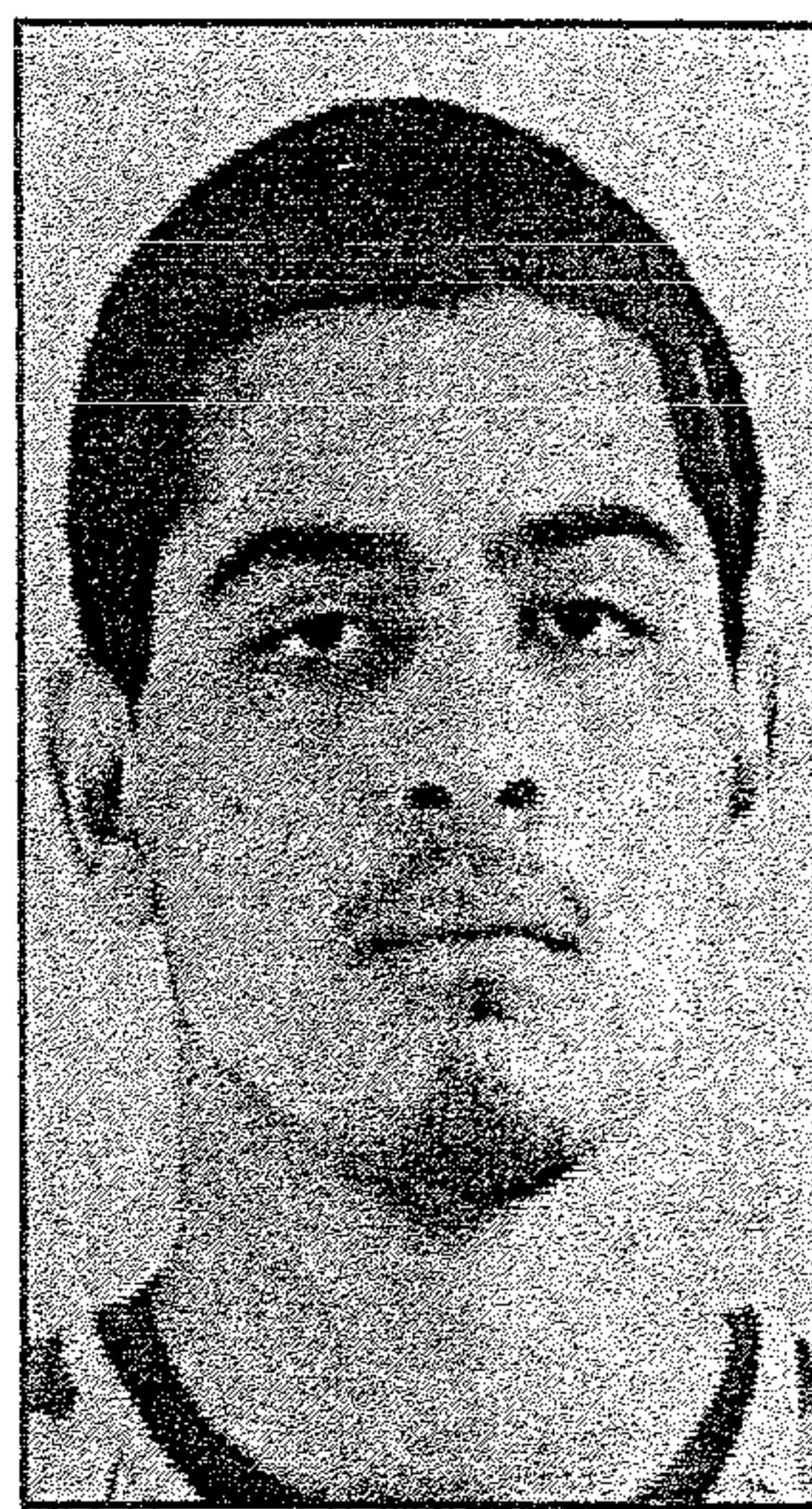
Erica Dunlap

see Stabbing pg. 3

Meth along with pipe found in traffic stop in I75; 2 charged



Bryant Aguilera



Freddie Mejia

see Meth pg. 5

International Fraud and Money Laundering Scheme Two Sentenced in Wide-Reaching Criminal Conspiracy

Globe and Money

A Texas businesswoman and a Texas lawyer were recently sentenced to lengthy federal prison terms for their roles in an international money laundering conspiracy that defrauded dozens of victims across the U.S. Both were also ordered to pay restitution of more than \$3.7 million to their victims.

Last October, Priscilla Ann Ellis—after being convicted by a federal jury—received 40 years in prison, while attorney

Perry Don Cortese received 25. Ellis' daughter, Kenietta Rayshawn Johnson—who took part in the conspiracy as well—was sentenced to 40 months. Three additional individuals were also indicted as part of the conspiracy—one pleaded guilty and two are awaiting extradition from Canada. And eight other individuals have been charged separately.

And for Ellis, as if a 40-year prison term wasn't long enough, she—while being temporarily held at a local jail right after her conviction in the money laundering conspiracy—tried to solicit other inmates to help her hire a hit man to murder several witnesses who had just testified against her at trial (and then attempted to undertake another financial fraud scheme to

(see Fraud pg. 4)



Verse of the Day

He [God] has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. — Micah 6:8

Obituaries

see inside **Wazzup**

Looks like is gonna be the pro bowl this weekend! Football is about to be over so soak it in while ya can we got one more week left!

Weather

Today: Partly cloudy. High of 56F. Tonight: Overcast. low of 37F. Saturday: Rain. High of 56F. Saturday night: Rain. Low of 41F.

Sunday: Rain. High of 47F. Sunday night: Rain. low of 28F.

Horoscopes

Aquarius 1/20-2/19 You seem to be a conversation starter today and are (Continued on page 6)

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Revoked

with Criminal Impersonation, Prohibited Weapon, and Safety Belt Law.

Deputy Cody Fritts LCSO, observed a silver Kia Optima traveling on Nelson Street. The front passenger was not wearing a seat belt. Deputy Identified the driver to

be Christy Whisenhunt and had prior knowledge her license was revoked. The vehicle pulled in a driveway at Nelson Street and Barn Hill Street. Deputy made contact with the driver Ms. Whisenhunt and the passenger identified himself as Matt Ballard (later identified as Andy Ballard). Deputy

asked Mr. Ballard for his social security number and he hesitated and stated he didn't know it. Deputy asked Mr. Ballard if he could search his wallet for ID and he handed him his wallet. Found in the wallet was a Georgia ID

with the name Andy Ballard who was identified as the passenger. Deputy asked Mr. Ballard who Matt Ballard was and he stated his brother. Andy Ballard gave his brother's identity in attempt to hide

see revoked ctd. pg. 4



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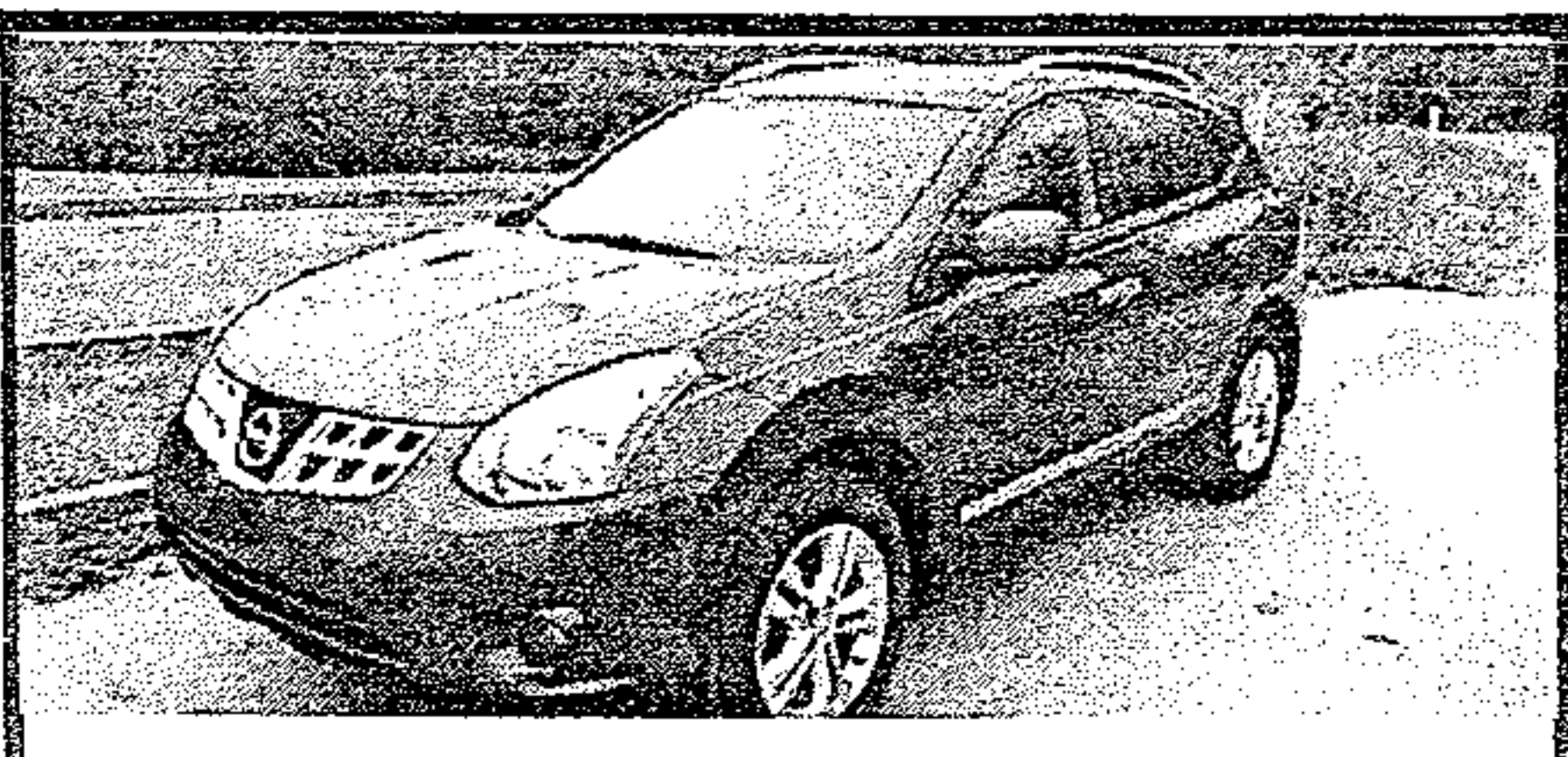




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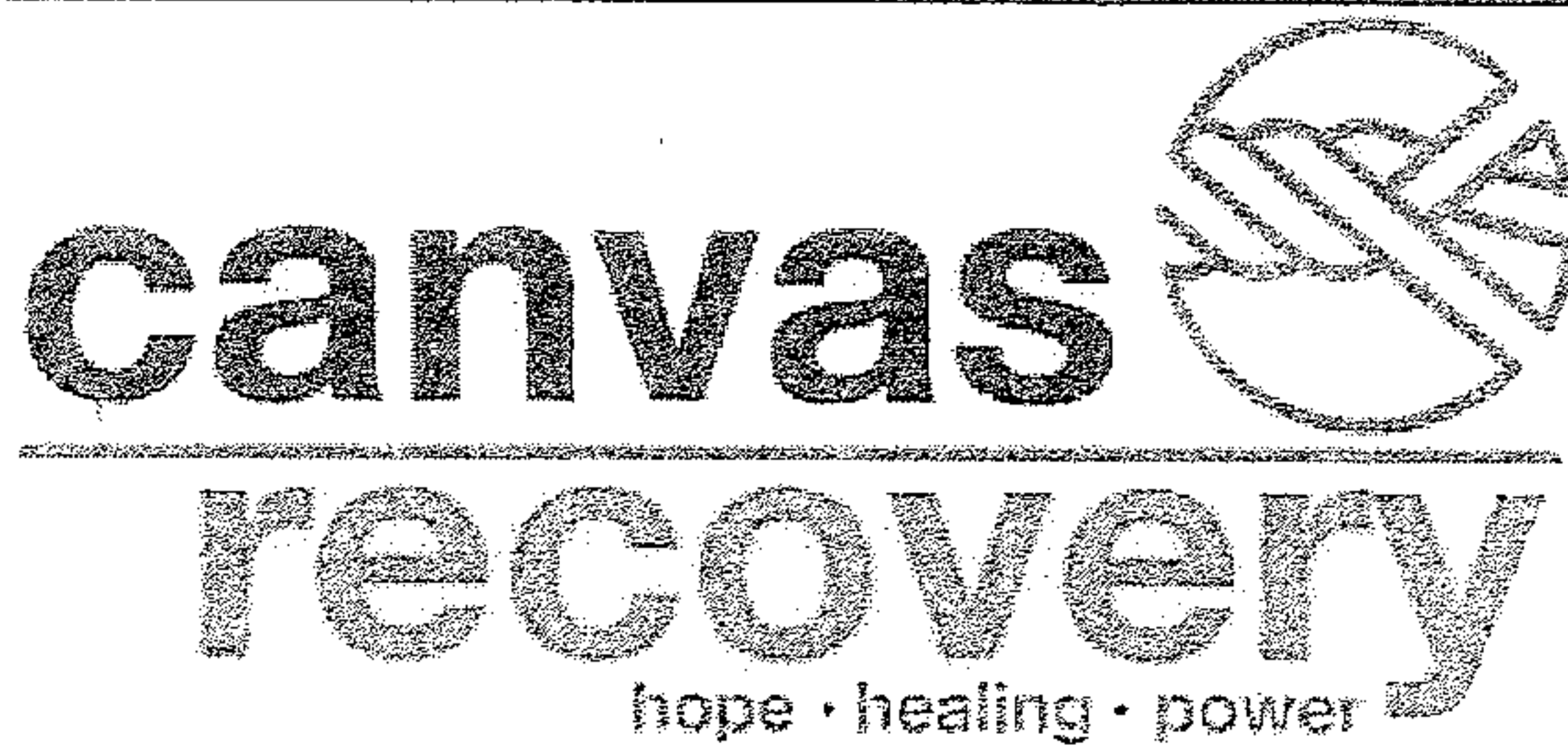
Stabbing

Erica Dunlap, 32, Highland Road Maryville, was charged with Aggravated Assault.

Deputy C Rogers LCSO, was dispatched to Highland Ave in reference to domestic assault. Upon arrival Deputy made contact with a male later identified as, the complainant/victim. Victim was standing in the driveway and advised that Erica Dunlap had stabbed him multiple times in the arm and was still in the residence. Victim did have visible puncture marks in his left arm. Deputy Z Frye

see stabbing ctd. pg. 7

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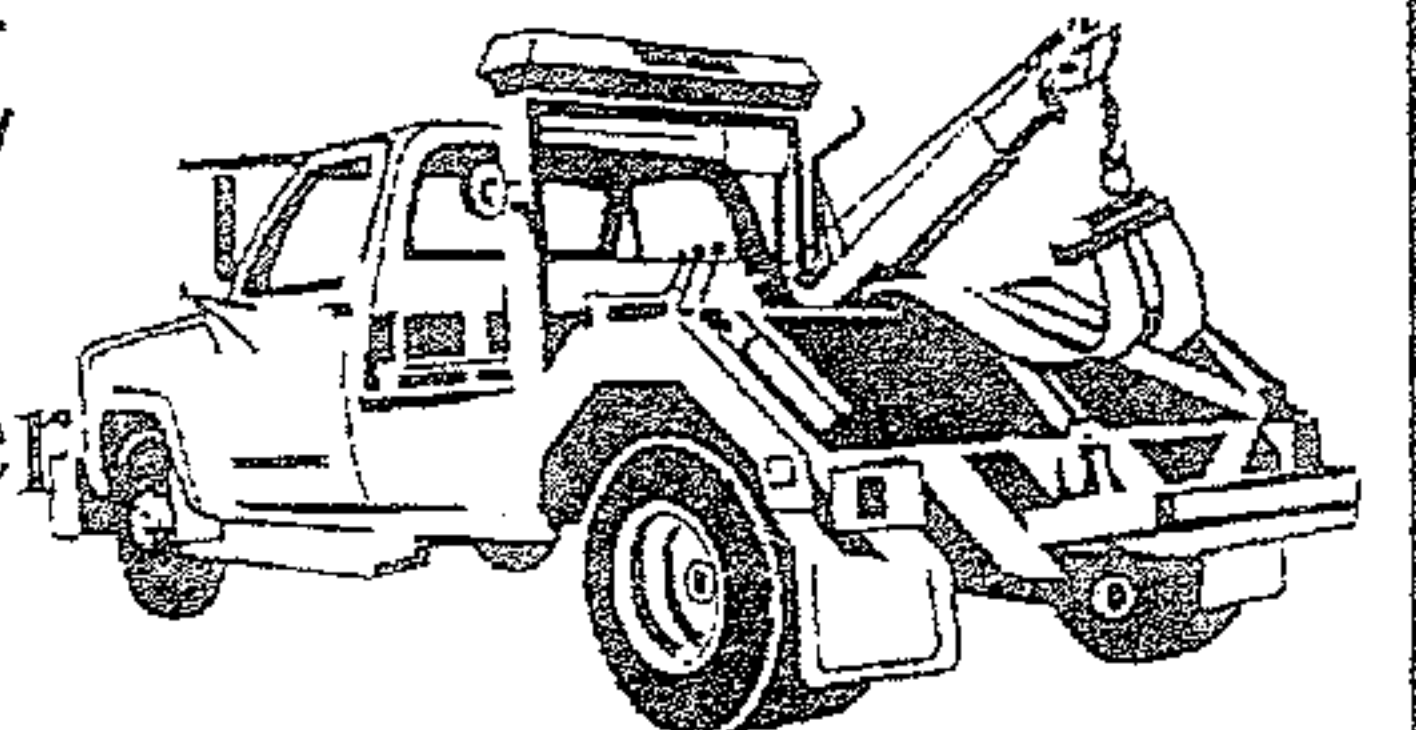
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Fraud

pay for the hit man). She was convicted on those charges in March of last year, and on January 4 of this year, she received an additional 65 years in prison—a term that will run consecutively to the 40 years she got for the original case.

The money laundering investigation was run by Special Agent Deven Williams out of the FBI's Tampa Field Office—one of the original subjects was operating out of the Tampa area and had opened more than 80 bank accounts there.

According to Williams, the investigation began when the FBI Atlanta Field Office—with a fraud victim who had wired money to a bank account in Tampa—sent a lead to Tampa requesting an interview with the owner of the bank account. "Also," explained Williams, "a law firm in Tampa had been targeted by fraud and it approached the Tampa Police Department, who then referred it to the FBI. From there, we were able to link the two together."

Here's what investigators uncovered:

From at least January 2012 to around September 2015, the conspirators defrauded dozens of victims across the United States and then laundered the funds, much of which were sent overseas.

The fraud schemes took many forms:

Many victims were law firms solicited online to perform legal work—they were sent counterfeit cashier's checks for deposit into the firms' trust accounts, and then were directed to wire money to third-party businesses that were actually shell companies whose bank accounts were controlled by the conspirators.

Others victims were title companies defrauded in phony real estate transactions.

Additional victims were targeted and defrauded by fake suitors on dating websites.

And hackers, employed by the conspirators, compromised both individual and business e-mail accounts, ordering wire transfers from brokerage and business accounts to shell accounts controlled by the conspirators.

The FBI-led investigation was successful primarily because of its effective and complex "follow the money" approach.

Ellis herself laundered several million dollars' worth of fraud proceeds through her bank accounts and other accounts under her control, and she also arranged for the creation of high-quality forgeries of checks and other documents used in the schemes. Her daughter, a bank employee in Virginia, helped create counterfeit cashier's checks and monitored the flow of money between accounts used by the criminals. And Cortese, a long-time lawyer with plenty of knowledge about how law firms operated, helped launder money through law firms' trust accounts and often met in person with individuals to pick up the cash withdrawn from receiver bank accounts.

"Victims were always instructed to wire money into U.S. accounts under the control of conspirators," explained Williams. "Then, money mules would physically withdraw the money and move it quickly to other accounts in the United States and, eventually—often using money transmitting services—to overseas accounts. And

all of this happened before victims even realized they had been defrauded." Conspirators in Canada, Nigeria, South Korea, Senegal, and elsewhere helped coordinate the fraud from abroad.

The FBI-led investigation was successful primarily because of its effective and complex "follow the money" approach, explained Williams, which included tracing the flow of illegal funds from beginning to end. Also playing a key role in the outcome of the case was assistance from other law enforcement agencies, including the Toronto Police Service.

The defendants in this case were more than amply compensated for their criminal activities, but according to Williams, Ellis lived an especially lavish lifestyle. "She owned a large home in Texas along with various businesses and other real estate, bought luxury vehicles and other expensive items, and traveled the world on the millions of dollars she made off the backs of her hard-working victims," he said.

And according to court documents, neither she nor Cortese ever expressed any remorse over the damage they left in the wake of their actions.

Revoked ctd. from pg. 2

his true identity. Andy Ballard was found to have a warrant out of Georgia. When Mr. Ballard was taken into custody brass knuckles were found in the back pocket of his jeans. Deputy asked Ms. Whisenhunt if he could search her vehicle and she agreed.

Found in Ms. Whisenhunt's purse was the following: 1 Syringe, a silver canister with 4 white pills with imprint 1 EP905 (Lorazepam 1mg) Sch IV, 1 medication bottle to Jeffery that contained 1 orange pill with imprint 153 (Buprenorphine Hydrochloride 8mg) Sch III, a white

see revoked conc. pg. 5

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Meth

Bryant Aguilera, 22, Webb Drive Loudon, was charged with Tampering/Fabricating with Evidence, Simple Possession x2, Poss. of Drug Para., and Contraband in a Penal Institution.

Freddie Mejia, 18, Highland Ave Loudon, was charged with Tampering/Fabricating with Evidence, Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. of Meth, Poss. of Drug Para., and Driving without a Valid License.

Deputy Kevin Dailey LCSO, observed a 2004 blue Lincoln Navigator on I-75 Northbound at mile marker 67 unable to maintain its lane. Upon traffic stop Deputy came in contact with the driver Freddie Mejia (whom dispatch confirmed to not have a drivers license) and one of the other passengers Bryant Aguilera who were both extremely nervous.

While speaking to the occupants Deputy smelled the odor of Marijuana in which everyone denied any knowledge of, however during a search Mr. Mejia in which he consented stated he had a Meth pipe in his right front pocket as well as stating the other Meth pipe was in the drivers door.

As Deputy was searching the vehicle he had previously asked Mr. Aguilera if there was anything in the vehicle, he stated no but Deputy found 2 syringes in the rear of the passenger seat in front of Mr. Aguilera who stated they were his.

During transport to the jail both subjects were moving around in the back seat and kept looking at Deputy to see if he was looking at them. After getting to the jail both subjects were informed of no contraband inside the jail and

both stated they didn't have anything on them. While Mr. Aguilera exited the vehicle a Gabapentin pill fell out onto the ground and he stated it wasn't his however during search of Deputy backseat he recovered 6 additional Gabapentin's behind the seat, also behind Mr. Mejia's seat was a small bag of crystal Meth (.4g).

After getting Mr. Aguilera inside located in his coat pocket was a bag of Marijuana (1.4g).

This all did occur in Loudon County, Tennessee with the vehicle being towed by James's Wrecker Service.

Revoked conc. from pg. 4

rock substance in cellophane (unidentified), one bottle that contained 10.5 orange pills with imprint 1 EP905 (Lorazepam 1mg) Sch IV and 2 green pills with imprint MC14 (Clonazepam 1mg) Sch IV. Digital Scales were also found in the driver floor board. Christy Whisenhunt and Andy Ballard were taken into custody and transported to the Loudon County Jail.

Upon arriving at the jail Ms. Whisenhunt was searched by CPL Snow and a small baggy of Crystal Meth was recovered from her bra. This did happen in Loudon county.

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Revoked etd. from pg. 3

then arrived on scene and began talking to victim, at this time Deputy entered the residence and made contact with Ms. Dunlap who was sitting in the kitchen. Ms. Dunlap could not sit still and very confused. Deputy then asked her if she knew anything about victim injuries to which she replied she did not. There were several knives laying in reach of Ms. Dunlap but the specific weapon used to stab victim could not be found. Ms Dunlap advised that she bonded out of jail on a violation of probation yesterday and was currently using meth. Ms. Dunlap also advised that she lives

off and on at this residence and had prior sexual relations with victim. Victim did give a statement which was written by Deputy Frye because victim advised he could not read or write.

Deputy Rogers then took Ms. Dunlap into custody for felony domestic assault and transported her to the Loudon County Jail without further incident. Said events did all happen in Loudon County, TN.

Comptroller's Office Releases Report Examining Educator Sexual Misconduct Involving Students in Tennessee Schools

The Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability

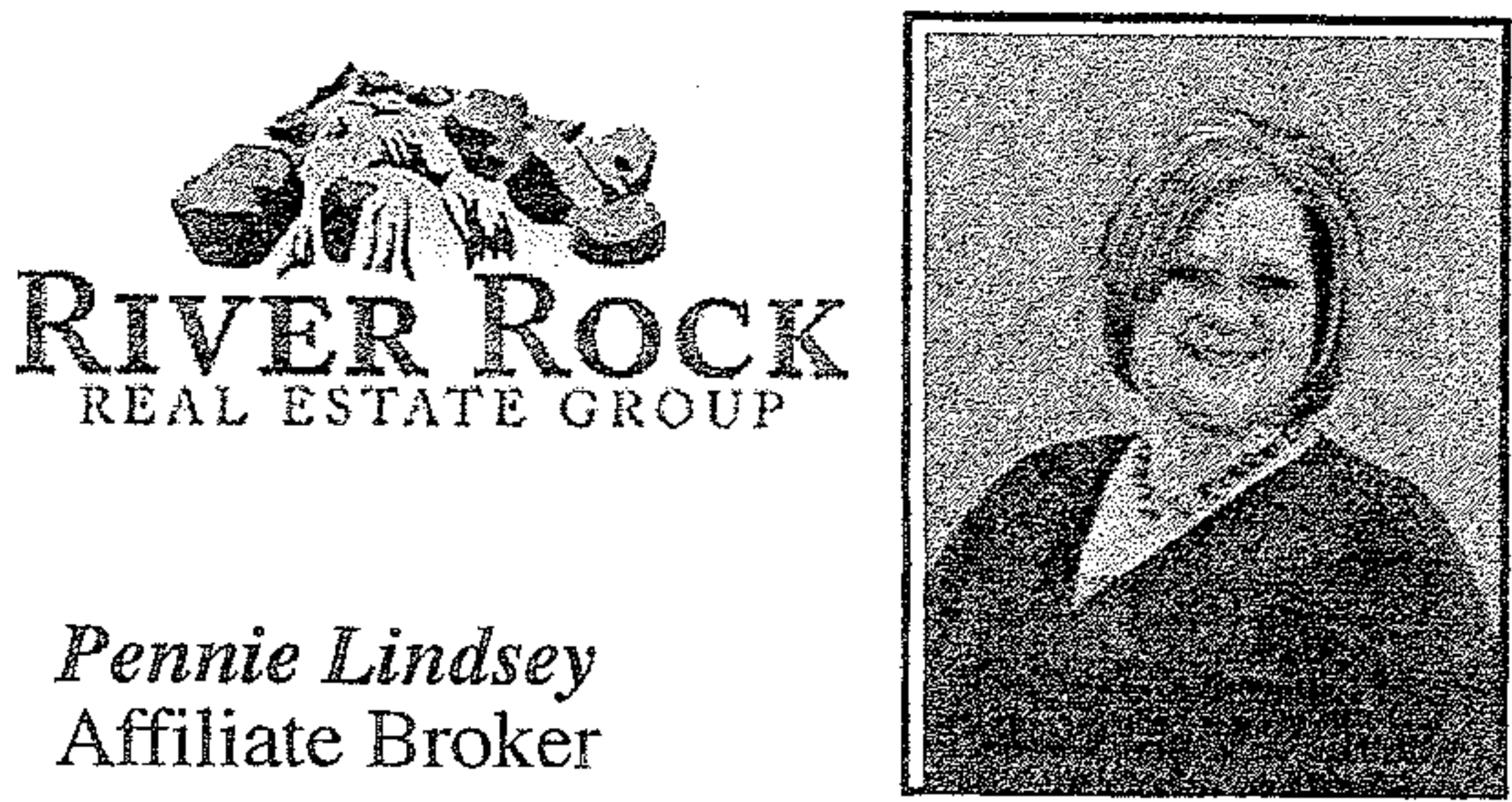
(OREA) has released a new report on educator sexual misconduct with students in Tennessee.

In recent months, news outlets in Tennessee have reported on at least four separate cases involving school personnel and sexual abuse of students. In 2016, USA Today graded Tennessee with an F following a national investigation of educator sexual misconduct in schools that looked at each state's efforts to reduce the chances that an employee with a history of sexual misconduct could move from one school to another without repercussions.

OREA examined Tennessee's relevant laws, policies, and practices to determine whether there are areas of risk or weakness that could be improved. The analysis focuses on hiring practices for school personnel

in Tennessee, including information about other states' practices; the state's records concerning teacher licenses and the actions taken against them for incidents of misconduct; a provision within the federal Every Student Succeeds Act that requires state or district action to prevent any teacher who has com-

mitted sexual misconduct involving a student from being able to seek employment in another school district; relevant state laws and school district policies, particularly about making school employees aware of expectations and responsibilities; and what children are taught in schools concerning personal safety.



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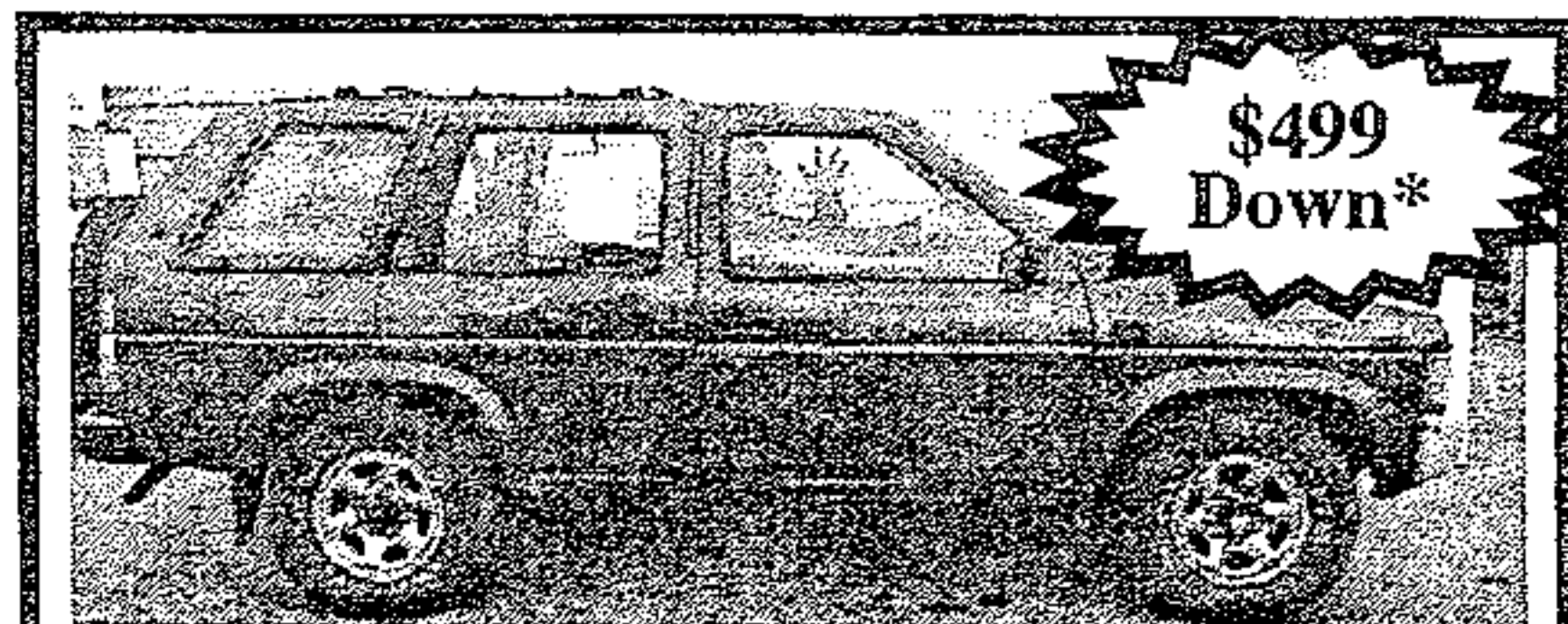
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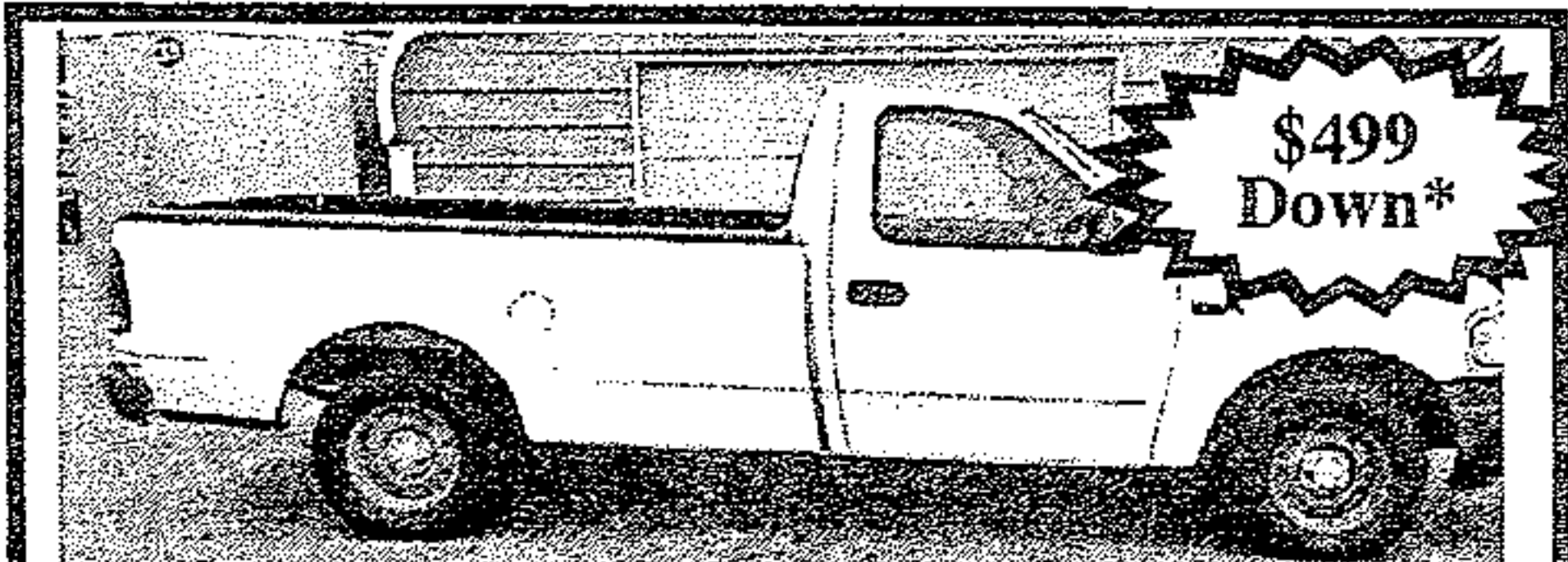
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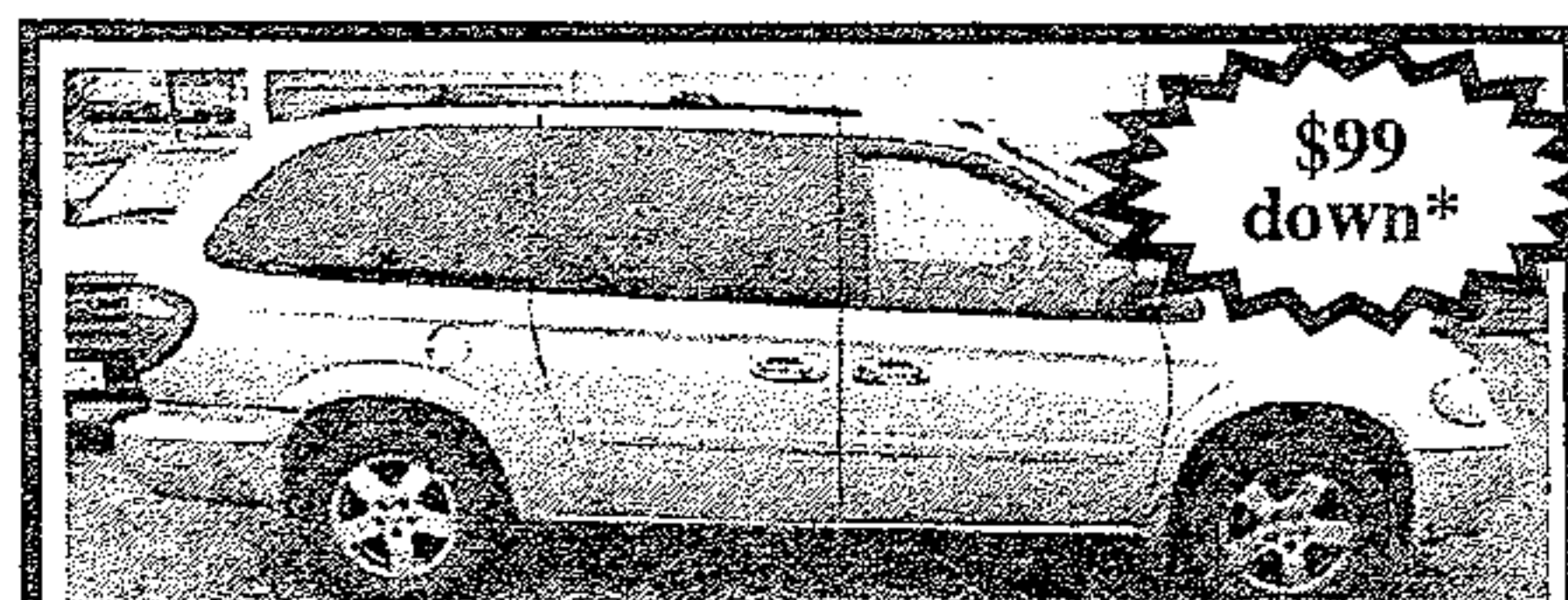
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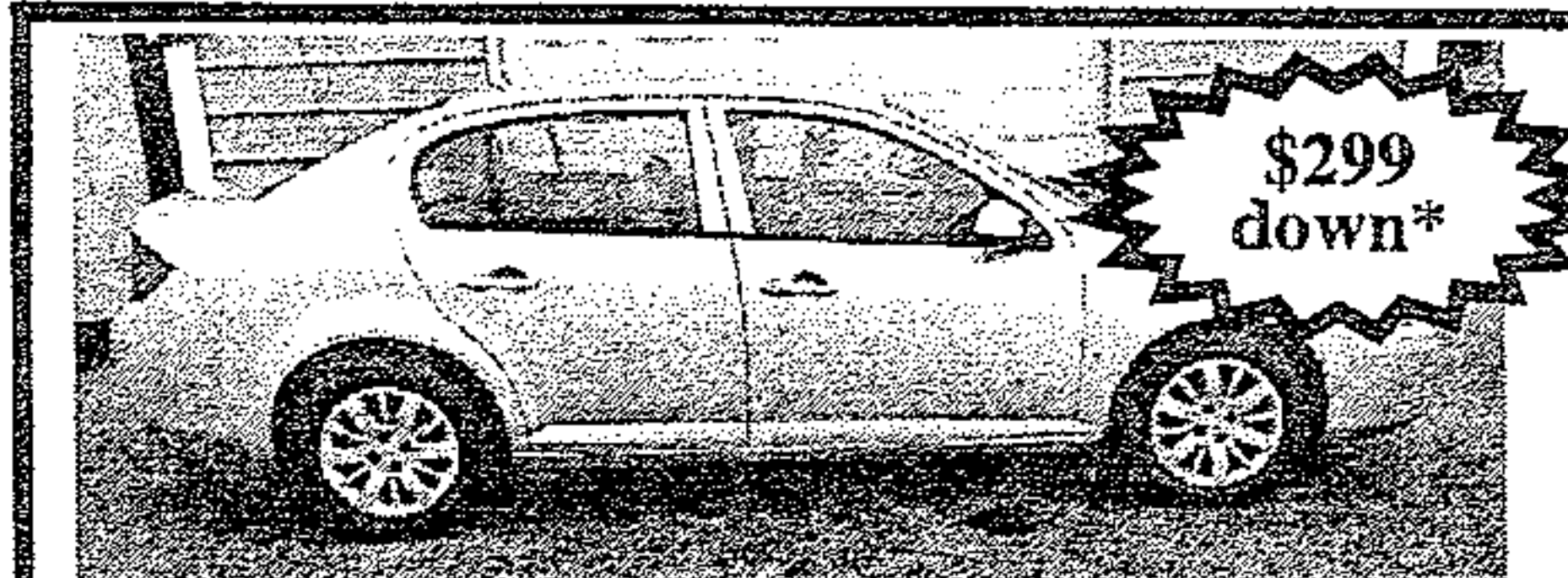
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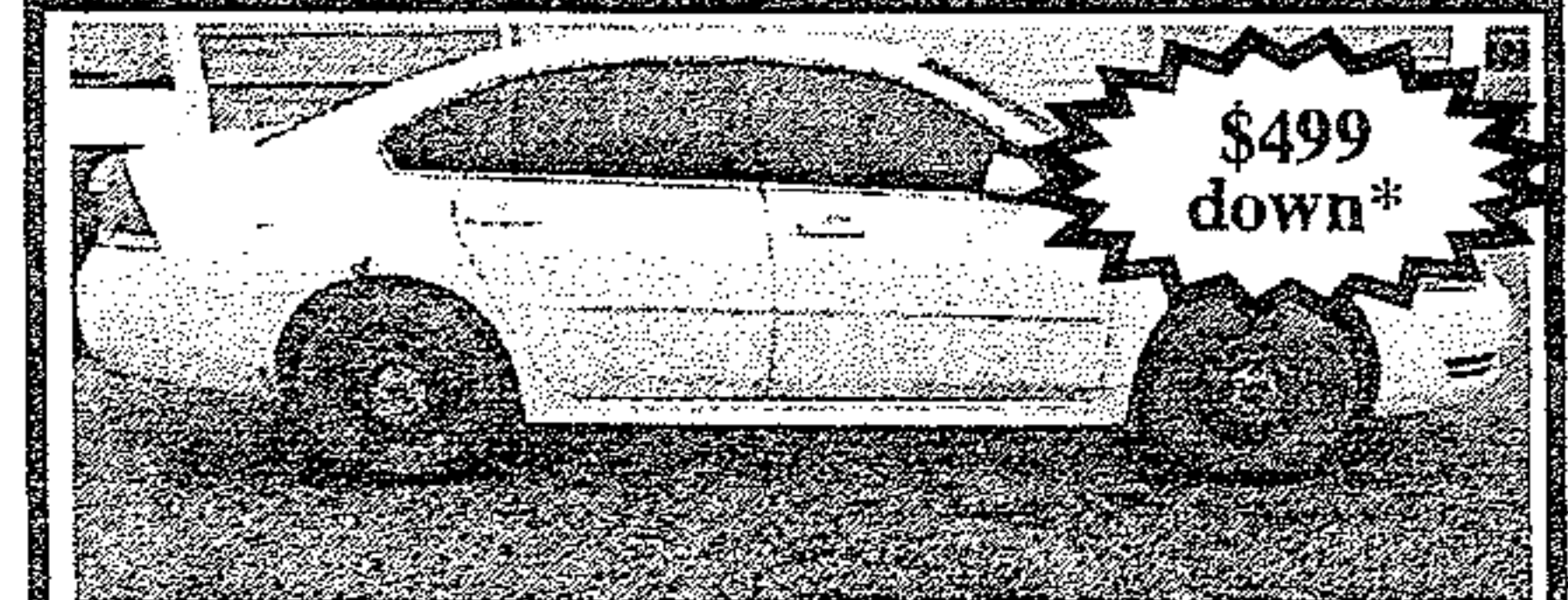
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