

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, March 19, 2018

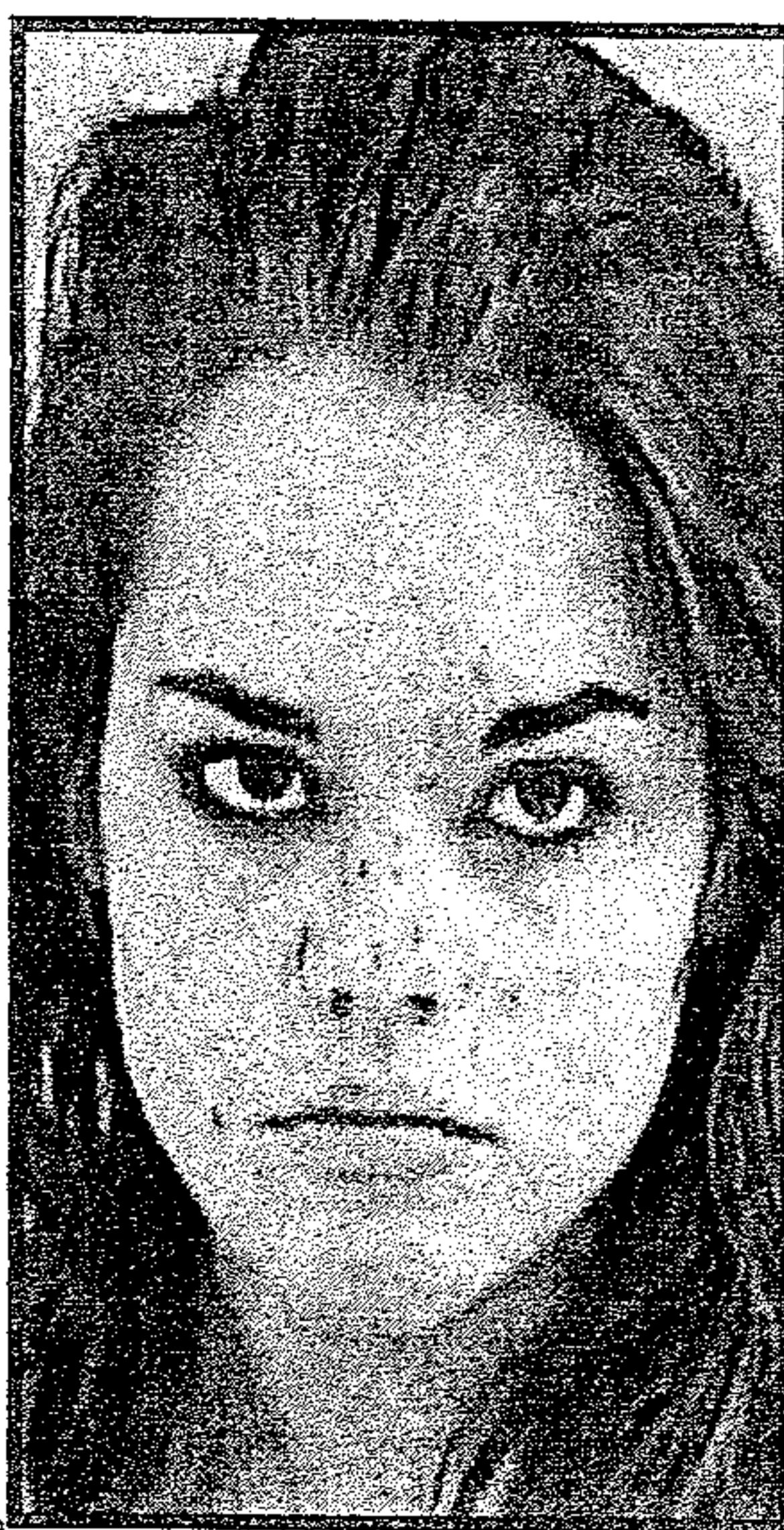
The Thieving Trio Strike Safe



Jacob Moretz



Carly Cusick



Kailee Cusick

(see Trio pg. 2)

International Criminal Communication Service Dismantled

Phantom Secure Helped Drug Traffickers, Organized Crime Worldwide

International organized crime and drug trafficking groups were dealt a blow by the takedown of an encrypted communication service they used to plan and commit their crimes, the FBI and its international partners announced yesterday.

Canada-based Phantom Secure was a crim-

inal enterprise that provided secure communications to high-level drug traffickers and other criminal organization leaders. The group purchased smartphones, removed all of the typical functionality—calling, texting, Internet, and GPS—and installed an encrypted e-mail system,

see Phantom pg. 3

Lake County Government Fails to Correct Problems

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office continues to see many problems within Lake County government including several significant weaknesses, deficiencies, and areas of noncompliance.

Comptroller auditors have released Lake County's fiscal year 2017 audit which includes 10 findings spread throughout several county offices.

Five of these problems were highlighted last year but have not been corrected. Lake County has had at least 10 findings in four of its last five annual audits.

Auditors had to make significant adjustments to the county's financial statements to ensure they were correct. They also noted problems such as expenditures exceeding appropriations, failing to reconcile accounts,

(see Problems pg. 4)

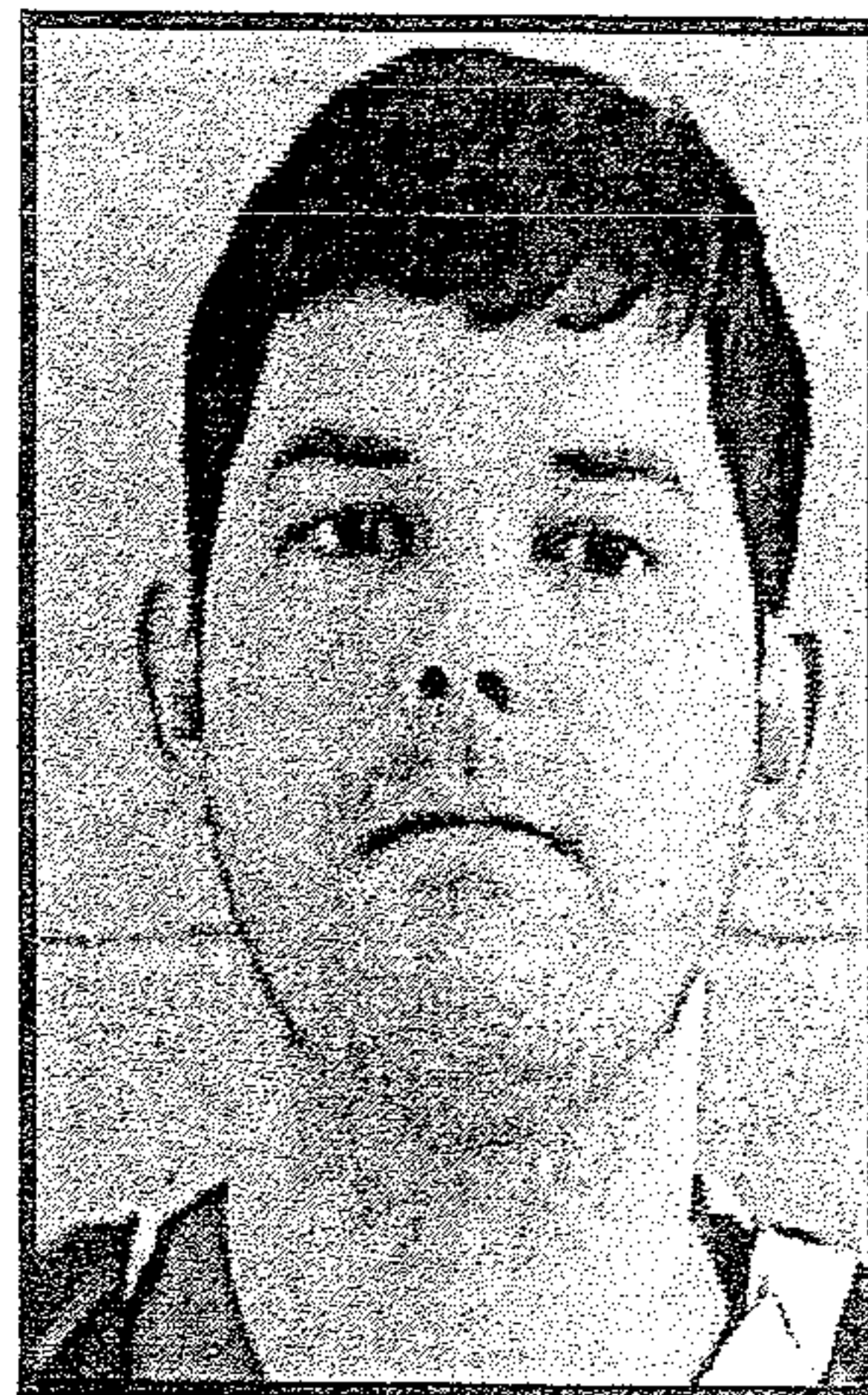
Watching the Game turns into violent assault



Pamela Thaxton

See Assault P.5

DUI and over limit



Jesse Kirby

See DUI p.4



Verse of the Day

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. — Romans 8:28

Obituaries

See Inside

Wazzup

What about that Vols win in March Maddness folks!

Weather

Today: Showers in the AM. High of 65F.

Tonight: Rain. Low of 50F.

Tuesday: Storms in the AM. High of 58F.

Tuesday night: Rain. Low of 38F.

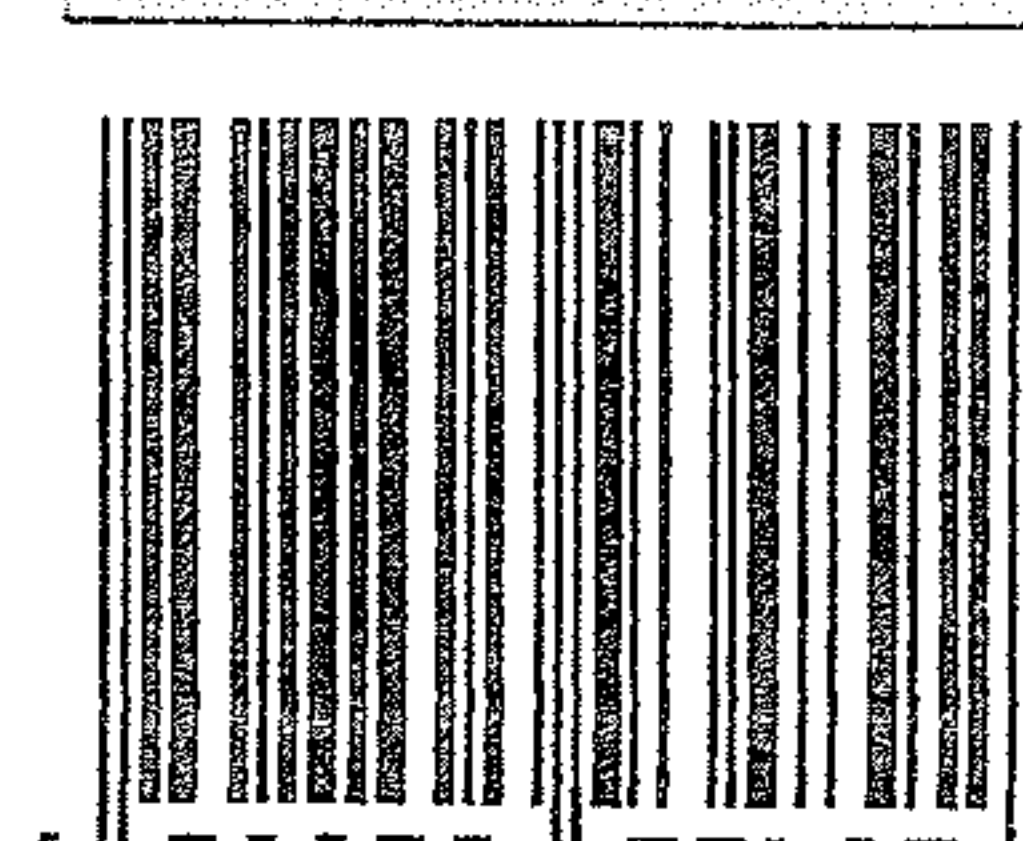
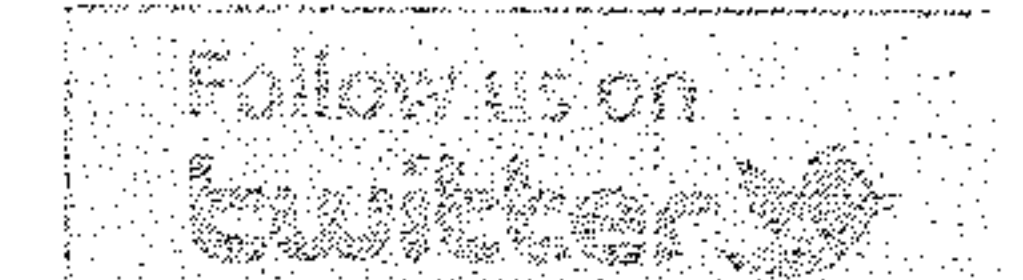
Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20

Although your current thinking may not be very practical, people enjoy being around

you because you can be so inspiring when you dream out loud. However, attempts to turn your thoughts into concrete plans could be a study in frustration today. Sometimes its a gift to be able to free your mind from the mundane

(Continued on page 6)



Trio

Jacob Moretz, 20, Browder Hollow Road Lenoir City, was charged with Theft of Property.

Kailee Cusick, 23, Browder Hollow Road Lenoir City, was charged with Theft of Property, Simple Possession,

and Legend Drug.

Carley Cusick, 19, Browder Hollow Road Lenoir City, was charged with Theft of Property.

On 3-5-18 Carly Cusick did knowingly and with intent to deprive owner without owner consent commit the offence of theft. Cusick was living with victim Cusick had knowledge

the victim had a safe bolted to the floor of her bedroom. Cash value of \$900, prescription medication, 2 cell phones, and keys to a vehicle total value of \$9139.00. Victim woke up and noticed her safe was missing and the vehicle was gone. Later this

date Knox. Co. Deputy sent a picture that he had taken at an address in Knoxville, that was the vehicle taken. The address belong to Jacob Moretz Cusick boyfriend. Carley Cusick, Kailee Cusick and Jacob Moretz were charged.

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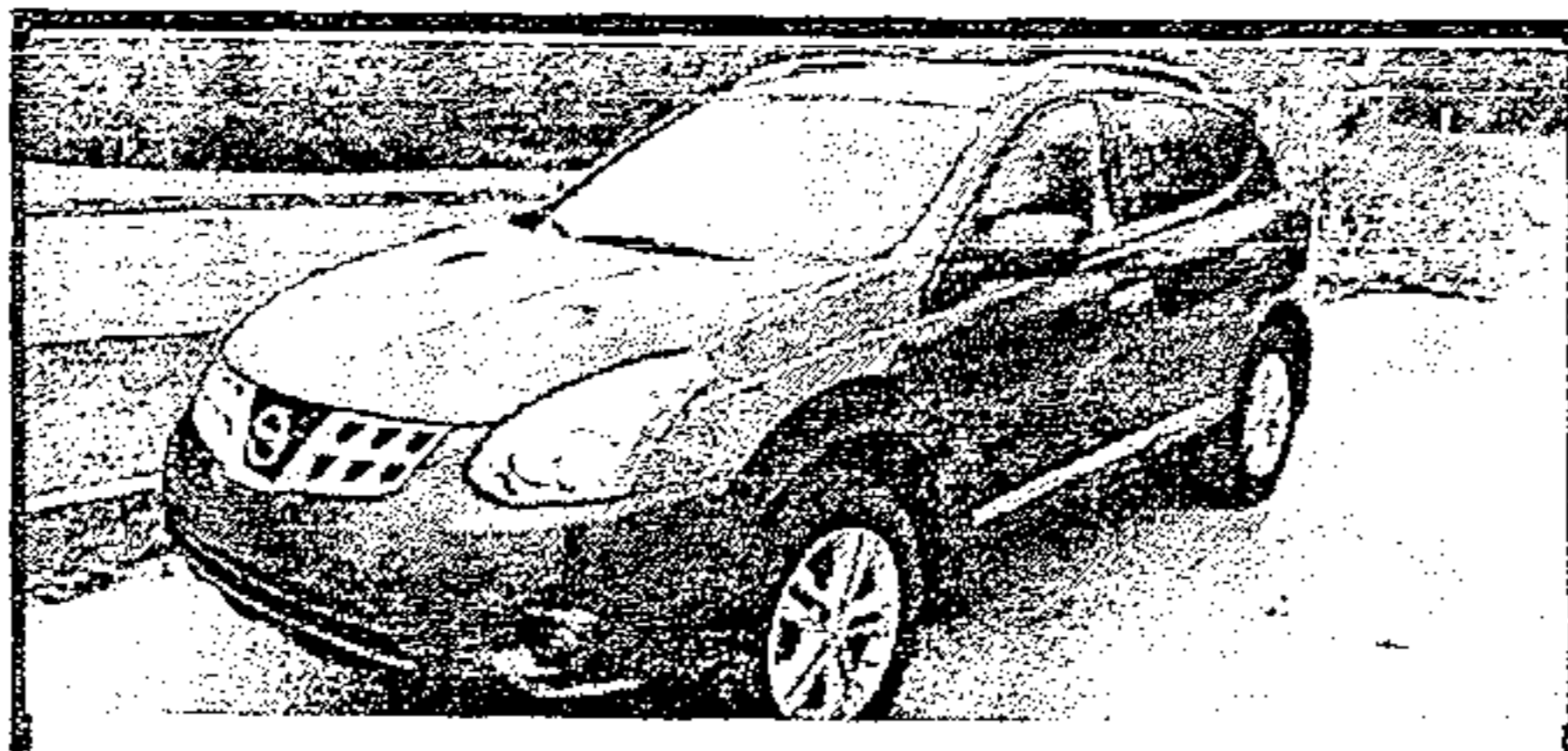
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Phantom

so the phones could only communicate with each other. If a customer was arrested, Phantom Secure destroyed the data on that phone, which is obstruction of justice under U.S. law. In an attempt to thwart law enforcement efforts, the company required new customers to have a reference from an existing user.

Given the limited functionality of the phones and the fact that they only operate within a closed network of criminals, all of Phantom Secure's customers are believed to be involved in serious criminal activity. Most of Phantom Secure's 10,000 to 20,000 users are the top-level leaders of nefarious transnational criminal organizations in the U.S. and several other countries, and the products were marketed as impervious to de-

ryption or wiretapping.

"Working with our international partners in Australia and Canada, we learned that these phones have been used to coordinate drug trafficking, murders, assaults, money laundering, and all sorts of other crimes," said Special Agent Nicholas Cheviron of the FBI's San Diego Division, who investigated the case along with U.S. and international counterparts. "By shutting down Phantom Secure, criminals worldwide no longer have that platform to conduct their dangerous criminal activities."

In collaboration with the Australian Federal Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and law enforcement agencies in Panama, Hong Kong, and Thailand, Phantom Secure's founder and chief executive

see Phantom ctd. pg. 7

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A screen containing flame can be obtained and destroyed, but two can't stand back-to-back and connect. There are even buttons for a high-contrast card to not easily break. - Ecclesiastes 4:12

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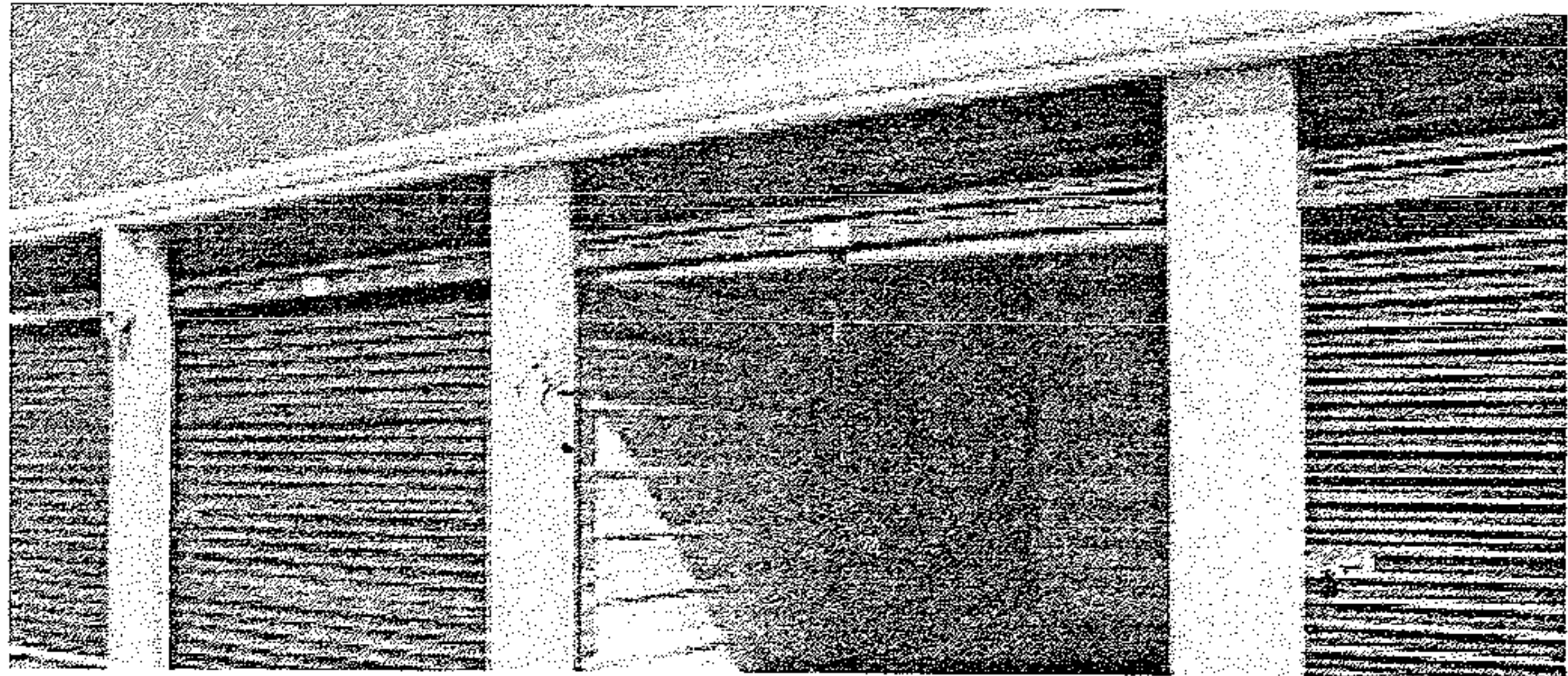
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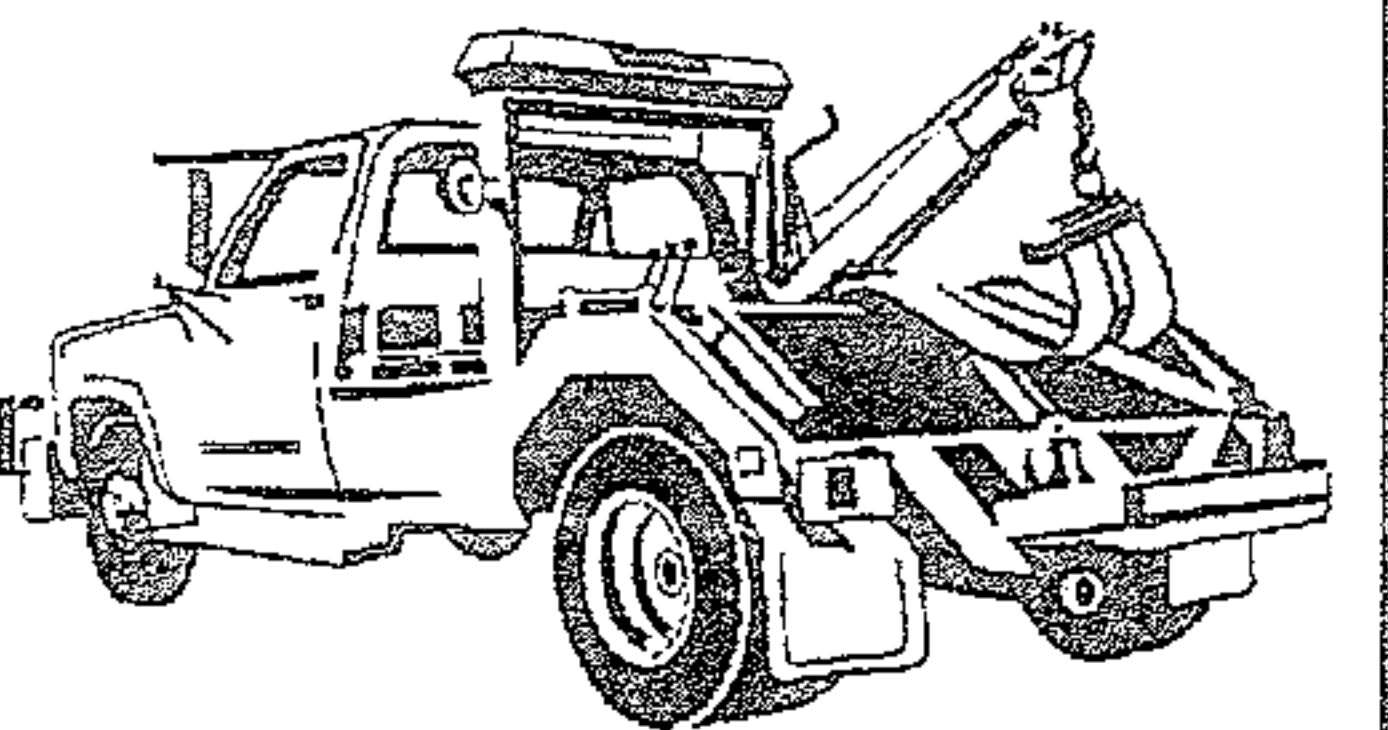
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*note: the "Rotation List" is a list of wrecker services that provide service for wrecks, DUI's, breakdowns, etc. and are on an on-call basis for service. This list is approved by the Sheriff.

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DUI

Jesse Kirby, 34, Cedar Street Loudon, was charged with DUI. Deputy JC Schultz, and Steve Holcomb LCSO, observed a vehicle traveling well above the posted speed limit of 45. The vehicle speed was verified at 66 mph with radar. A traffic stop was made at East Lee Hwy and contact was made with the driver identified as Jesse Kirby. Mr. Kirby had a strong odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from his person, glossy and blood shot eyes. Kirby had slurred speech and appeared lethargic. Kirby stated he was drinking earlier while he was dog sitting in Jefferson City. In plain view in the passenger seat was a liter of Smirnoff Vodka with approx. 2 inches of Vodka left in the bottle. Kirby did not have proof if INS. Kirby performed poorly on sobriety test and was placed under arrest. Kirby Intoximeter EC/II alcohol level was 170g/210L.

Problems

and not separating money handling responsibilities in several offices.

The audit also reveals the Lake County Commission violated the county's leave policy when it paid a former employee \$7,465 for 21 weeks of unused vacation leave. Auditors informed the County Mayor that this action would violate the county policy stating, "Vacation time may not be accumulated and car-

ried forward to the next year," but commissioners still approved this payment.

It was also discovered that Lake County's Road Superintendent did not subject certain employee wages to retirement withholdings and did not report those wages to the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. As a result, employees have not received the proper retirement credit, and the county could face penalties.

The Comptroller's Office recommends that Lake County adopt a centralized system of accounting, budgeting, and purchasing instead of allowing individual county departments to handle these processes separately. We believe this is a best practice to improve financial accountability and the quality of services provided to citizens.

"Year after year we see familiar problems and find new ones within Lake County," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "While most counties are making progress to reduce and correct audit findings, Lake County's situation remains largely unchanged. I cannot force a county government to change, but I highly recommend action."

It should be noted that several offices within Lake County government did not have any findings in this year's audit report. These offices include the County Clerk, Trustee, Clerk and Master, Register of Deeds, Assessor of Property, and the Circuit, General Sessions, and Juvenile Courts Clerk.

Obituaries

Aimee Jean Blackburn

age 41 of Lenoir City passed away Thursday, March 15, 2018. She was a loving daughter, mother and grandmother. Aimee was preceded in death by her mother, Faye Shelton. She is survived by her son, Jessy Shelton; daughter, Macie Johnson; grandchildren, Azalia Shelton, Zayne Shelton and Kylin Shelton; father, Marlin Shelton and his wife, Donna Shelton; brother, Mike Shelton; many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, March 19th at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. Funeral services will follow at 7 p.m. with Rev. Eddie Click officiating. Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Sherwood Memorial Gardens in Alcoa for graveside services. Click Funeral Home, 109 Walnut Street, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements.

Ruth Magill Pickel age 97 of Lenoir City passed away Thursday, March 15, 2018. Ruth

attended Lee Heights Magill of Waterford, Baptist Church. She MI, Ralph and Betty enjoyed being home Magill of Harriman, quilting, spending TN; several nieces and time with family, and nephews. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. to 12 noon death by her husband, on Saturday, March Boyd Pickel; parents, 17th at Click Funeral Ben and Dora Magill; Home in Lenoir City. sisters: Mae Littleton, Funeral services will Grace Robbins, Ethel follow at 12 noon with Freels, Irene Summitt, Rev. Jeff Parrott and and Jane Gann. She is Rev. Jimmy Riner officiating. Burial will follow and sisters-in-law in Woodlawn Cemetery in Lenoir City.

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Assault

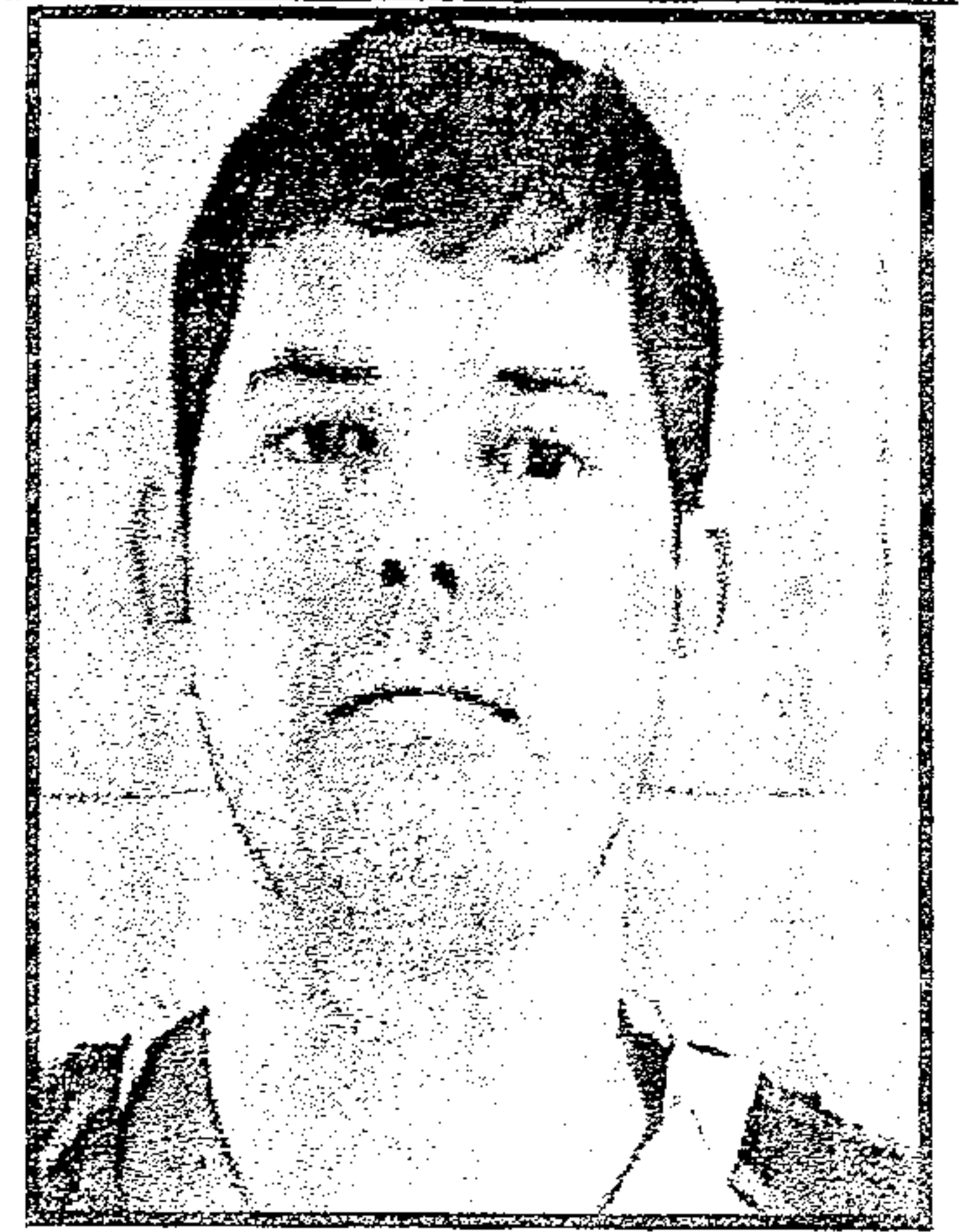
Pamela Thaxton, 49, Kimberly Lane Stevensville, was charged with Domestic Assault. Officer Shannon Runyan LCPD, was dispatched to Reeves Street to a domestic in which complainant/victim stated his girlfriend had driven her vehicle onto his vehicle causing damage to his vehicle and apartment. Upon arrival Officer spoke to victim who had very obvious injury to the left side of his face and was bleeding, from apparent fingernail scratches. Victim apartment was also vandalized. Victim stated Pamela Thaxton had dinner at Chili's went to buy beer then went to victim home to watch the ballgame. During the game an argument began and Thaxton became

violent and started pouring beer in the floor, and started throwing dishes, food and a bottle that struck victim. Victim ask Thaxton to leave and went out side and called 911. Victim stated Thaxton went into the kitchen got a knife and cut her forearm. Victim came back inside and Thaxton scratched victim face. Thaxton then got in her vehicle back out of the parking spot then put the vehicle in drive and rammed her vehicle into victim vehicle then left. Thaxton was located by Officer Rayfield and placed under arrest.

Loudon man is charged with drugs

Eddie Shelton, 37, Welch Ave Loudon, was charged with Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. of Meth, and Poss. of Drug para. Deputy Chance Gray

LCSO, was dispatched to the area of Hwy 11 and Sweetwater Valley Farms in reference to a male dressed in all black riding a bicycle in the roadway. Deputy then made contact with Eddie Shelton dressed in all black riding a bicycle on the white line on the roadway at Hwy 11 at the CO-OP. Deputy was speaking with Shelton who advised he was riding home. Deputy informed Shelton he was going to perform a pat for weapons. Before Deputy began the pat down he ask Shelton if he had any weapons on his person he stated 3 knives, and several syringes. Deputy located 8 syringes in Shelton jacket pocket and one in his sock. Shelton also stated he had meth on his person it was located in his left pant pocket. Also located were razor blades with residue. Shelton was placed under arrest.



Eddie Shelton

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Public Notice

The Loudon County Jail Construction Committee will have a special called meeting March 19th at 6:00 at the County Office building discuss and recommended a contractor for jail expansion with County Commission workshop to follow .

Public Notice

The Loudon County Commission will have a special called meeting on March 19th at the County Office building immediately following the Commission workshop to discuss and approve construction contractor for the jail expansion.

Phantom con. pg. 3

Vincent Ramos was arrested in Bellingham, Washington, on March 7. Four of Ramos' associates are fugitives. They are charged with conspiracy to distribute narcotics and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act violations.

This case is the first time the U.S. government has targeted a company and its leaders for assisting a criminal organization by providing them with technology to "go dark," or evade law enforcement's detection of their crimes.

"The indictment of Vincent Ramos and his associates is a milestone against transnational crime," said FBI Director Christopher

Wray. "Phantom Secure allegedly provided a service designed to allow criminals the world over to evade law enforcement to traffic drugs and commit acts of violent crime without detection. Ramos and his company made millions off this criminal activity, and our takedown sends a serious message to those who exploit encryption to go dark on law enforcement. I want to thank our partners at the Department of Justice, as well as our Australian and Canadian law enforcement partners, for their incredible work on this case."

The FBI takes an enterprise approach to transnational organized crime, taking down criminal organizations from the top using the RICO

Act. The sweeping investigation allowed the entire illicit operation—and its technological infrastructure—to be taken down at one time.

"We had to investigate the entire company and its leaders, both from a personnel and technology perspective," Cheviron said. "Without arresting the principals and seizing the technology, including more than 150 domain names, you wouldn't be able to disrupt the communication."




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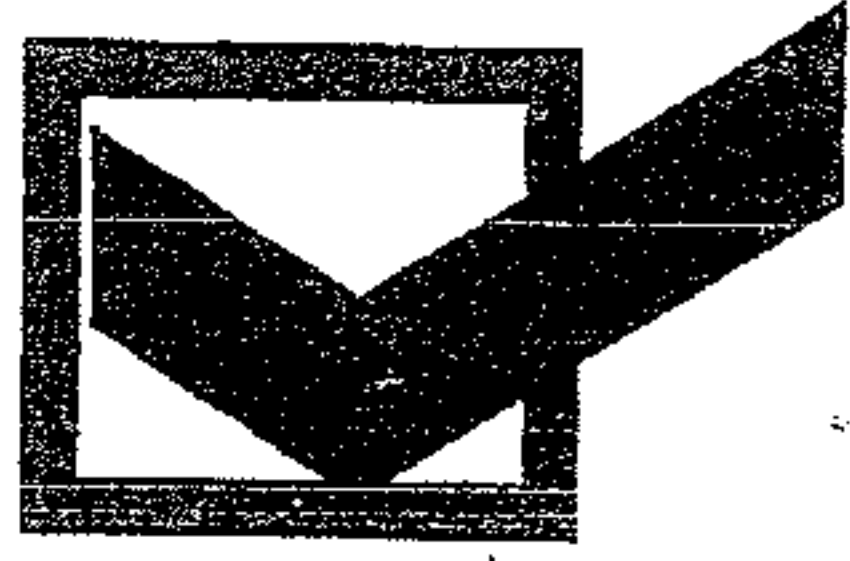
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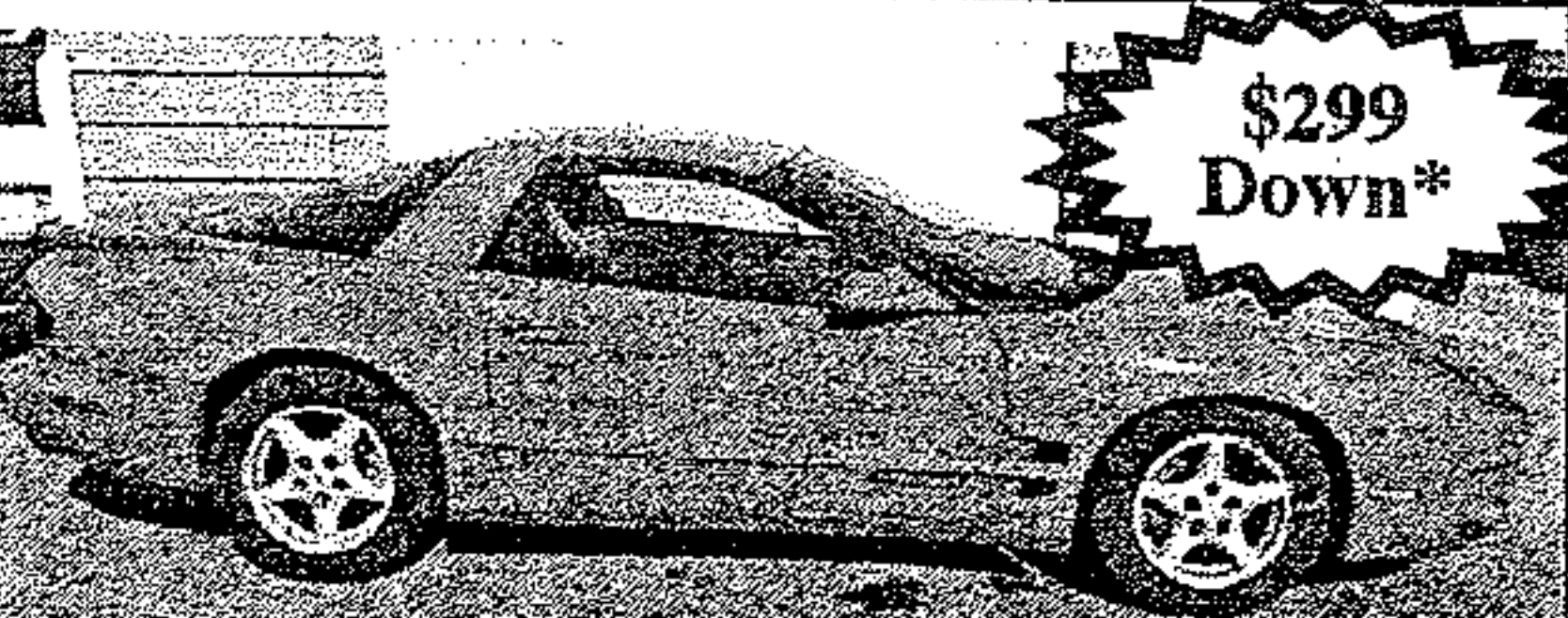
\$399 Down*

04 Tiburon, 5 speed, Sunroof, NICE, Only \$399 Down*



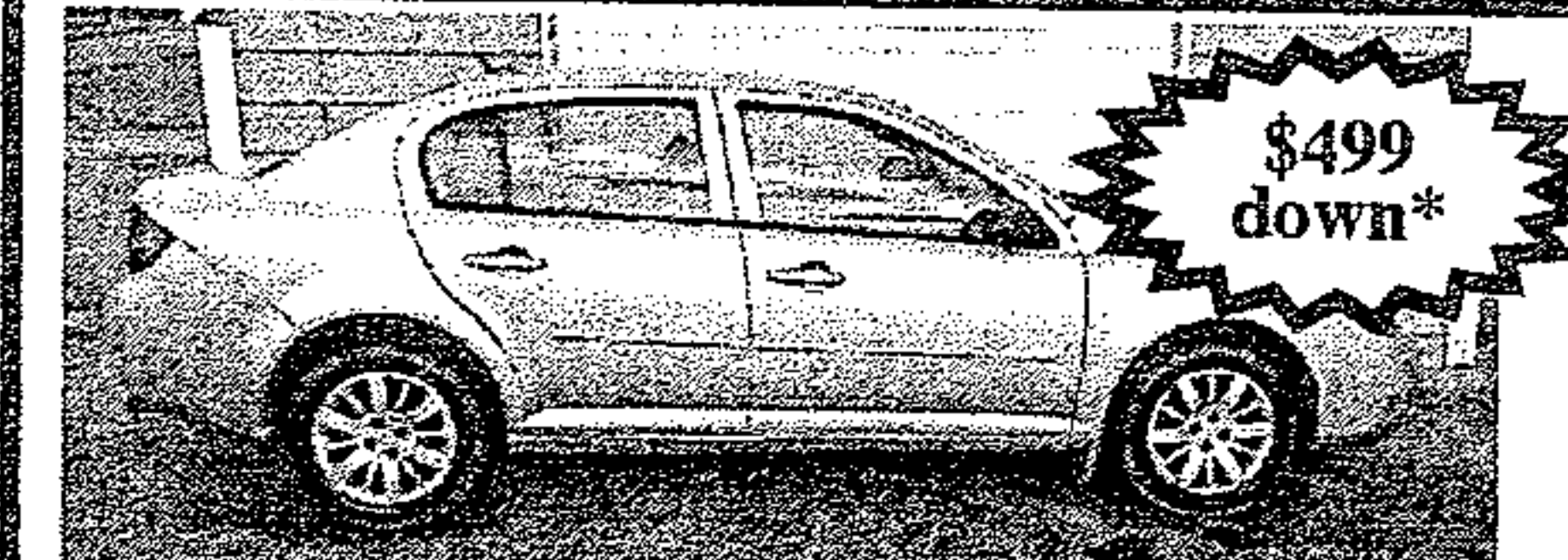
\$99 down*

2005 Dodge Caravan, auto, Loaded, Only \$99 Down*



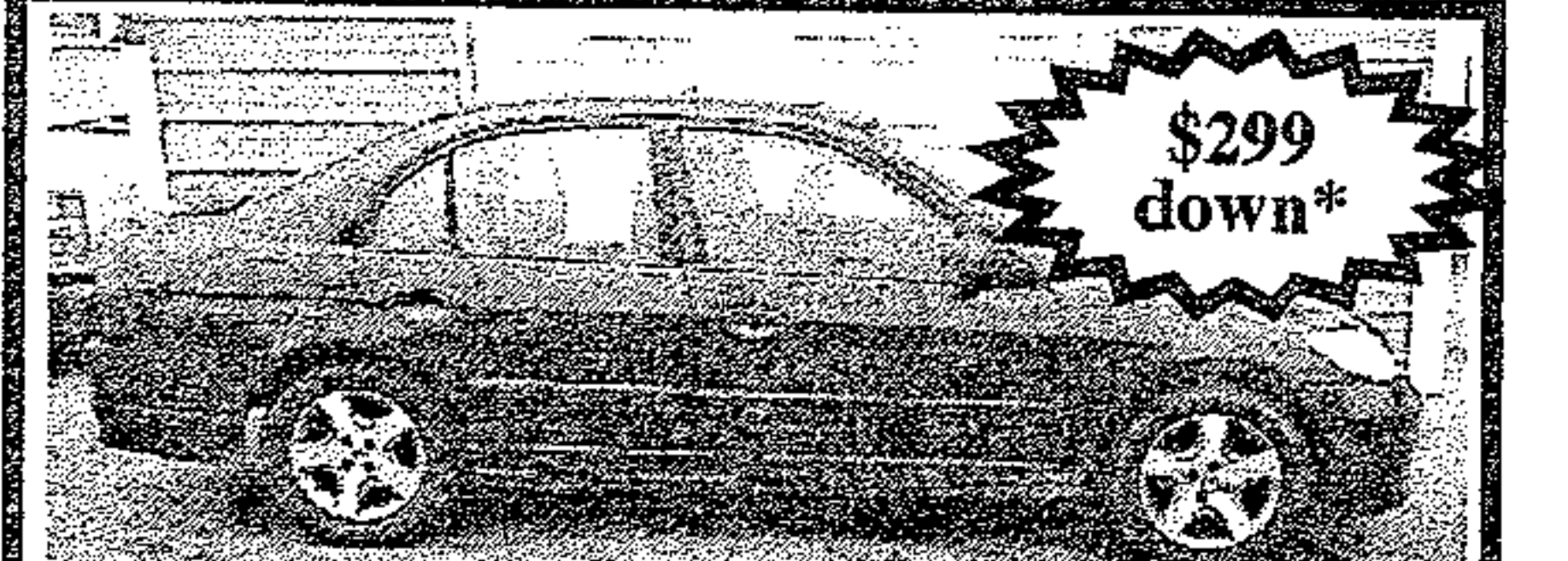
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