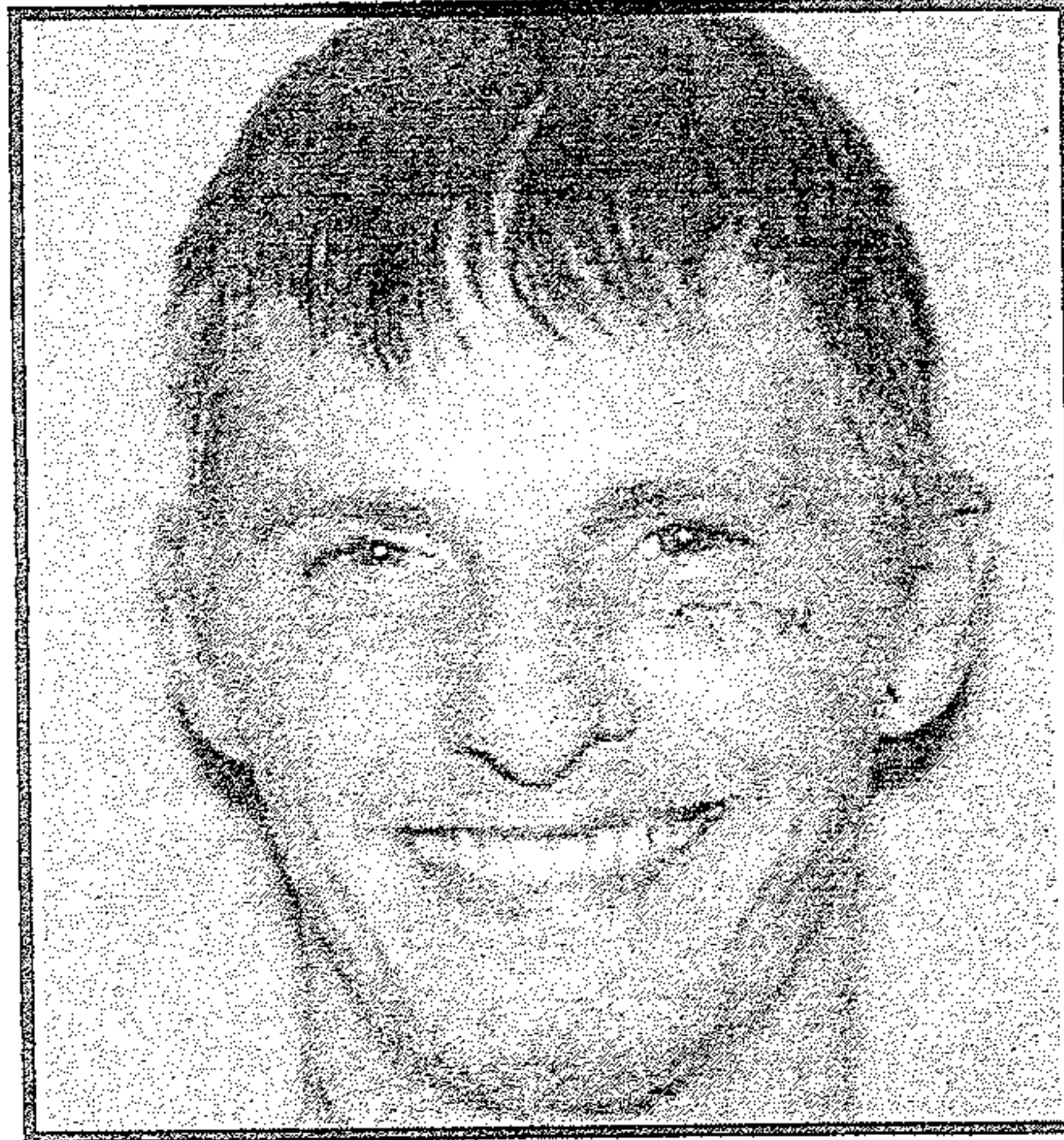


Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, August 23, 2019

Shooting over \$40 ends in murder and charges



Christopher C. Watson



John D. Dixon see Murder pg. 2

Human skeletal remains found along interstate I-75

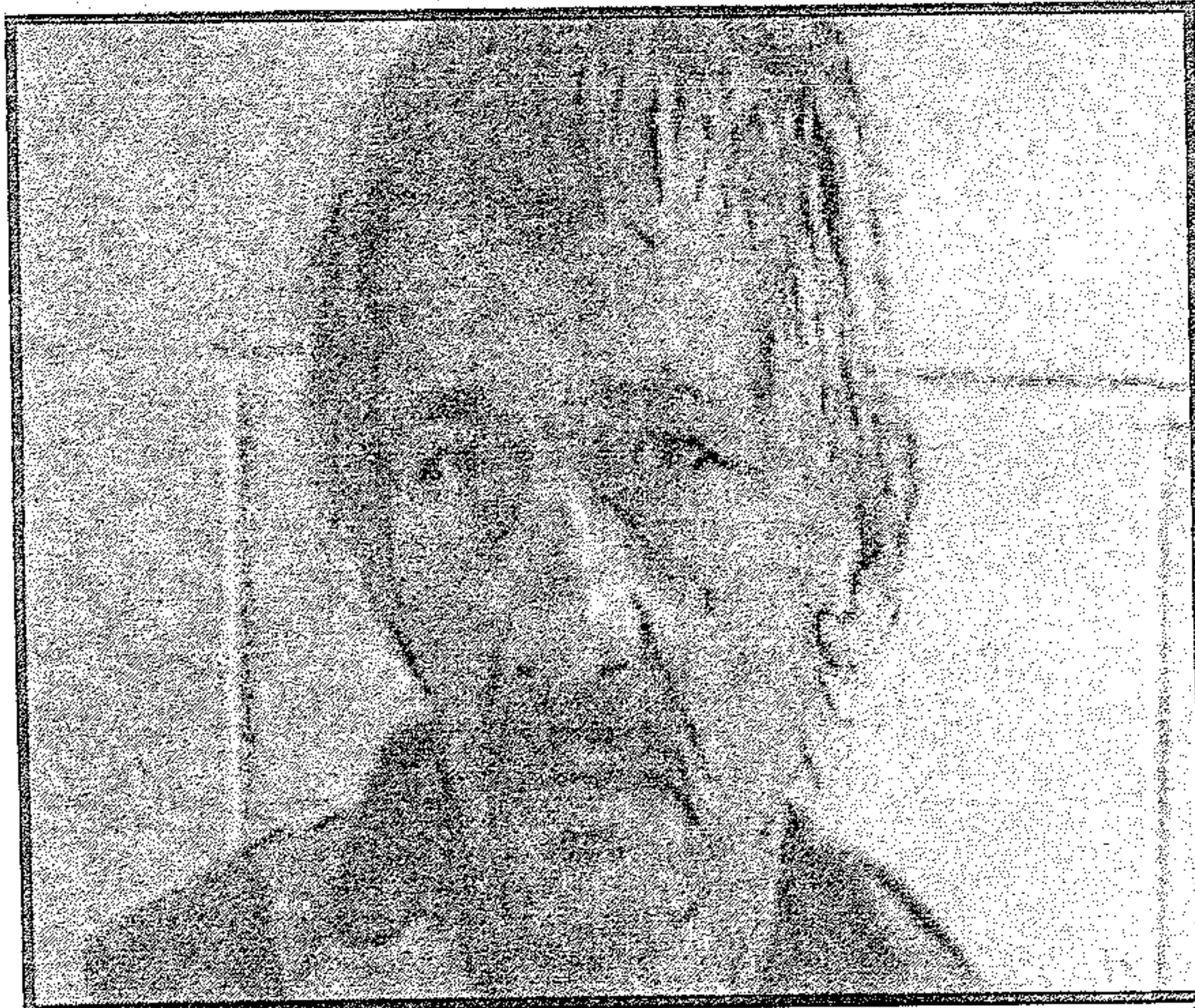
Around 5:14PM Tuesday. The remains were found just minutes after the shooting call came in, reports of human bones being found was reported at the other end of the county in Philadelphia at exit 68. County Investigators are providing more details of the human remains that were discovered

Tuesday. The remains were found by a TDOT (Tennessee Department of Transportation) Crew in a wooded area off of I-75 near the Philadelphia Exit. While the scene on Interstate 75 is still an active and ongoing investigation

see Bones pg. 3

Weed and Meth found after suspect leads police to his home during traffic stop

North Carolina woman charged for meth



Avery Sarten

see Home pg. 4



Maria Button

see Meth pg. 4

The Modern Evidence Trail The FBI's Regional Computer Forensics Laboratories Are Vital in the Digital Age

Technology and connected devices touch nearly every facet of modern life, and they often hold key evidence in criminal investigations. "Every single case now involves some sort of digital evidence," said FBI Supervisory Special Agent Steven Newman, director of the New Jersey Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (NJRCFL). Digital evidence can be on any device and can follow subjects almost anywhere they traverse in the cyber world. As such, digital evidence is key in Internet-enabled crimes, but it is also critical in cases that range from terrorism to fraud.

In May 2018, three

See FBI P.4



Verse of the Day

I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.

—Jeremiah 31:25

Wazzup

A Huge Shout Out To ALL Law enforcement, Dispatchers<

Fire And Ambulance Personnel for your dedication and service!

Weather

Today: Scattered storms. High of 83F.

Tonight: Partly Cloudy. Low 69F.

Saturday: Cloudy. High of

88F

Saturday night: Cloudy. Low of 71F.

Sunday: Rain. High of 83F

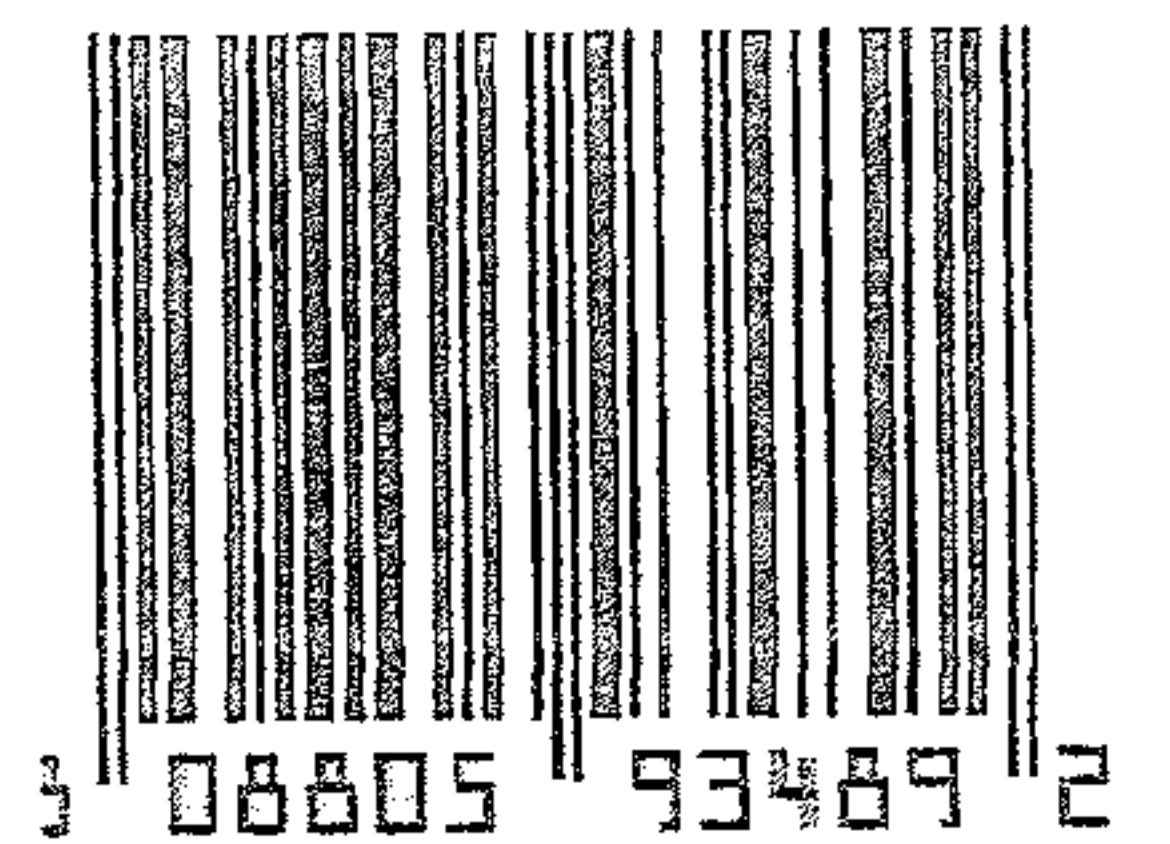
Sunday night: Thunderstorms. Low of 66F

Horoscopes

Virgo 8/23-9/22

Bite your tongue if you catch yourself about to dish unsolicited advice. Save the oversharing for another day when your mood is lighter. Your candor may be a bit much for others to handle under

(Continued on page 6)



Murder

On Tuesday at 5:11pm authorities receive a call of a shooting that occurred on Tinnel Lane in Lenoir City just around the corner from Highland Park Elementary School. Investigators arrived and met with ambulance personnel who had tried to

perform CPR but was unsuccessful and the victim died at the scene. At that time a suspect was named and within minutes the vehicle and two occupants were detained by LCSO. Detective Lt. Patrick Up-ton stated that according to witnesses and after several interviews it

was determined both men were at the Tinnel Road location at the suspects vehicle when a single shot rang out and the victim fell to the ground. It was also reported the argument between the two was over

\$40 that was owed by the victim. Investigators did recover a shell casing at the scene that matched the gun found. The gun was located in an area where a witness reported it being
Murder ctd. to pg. 3

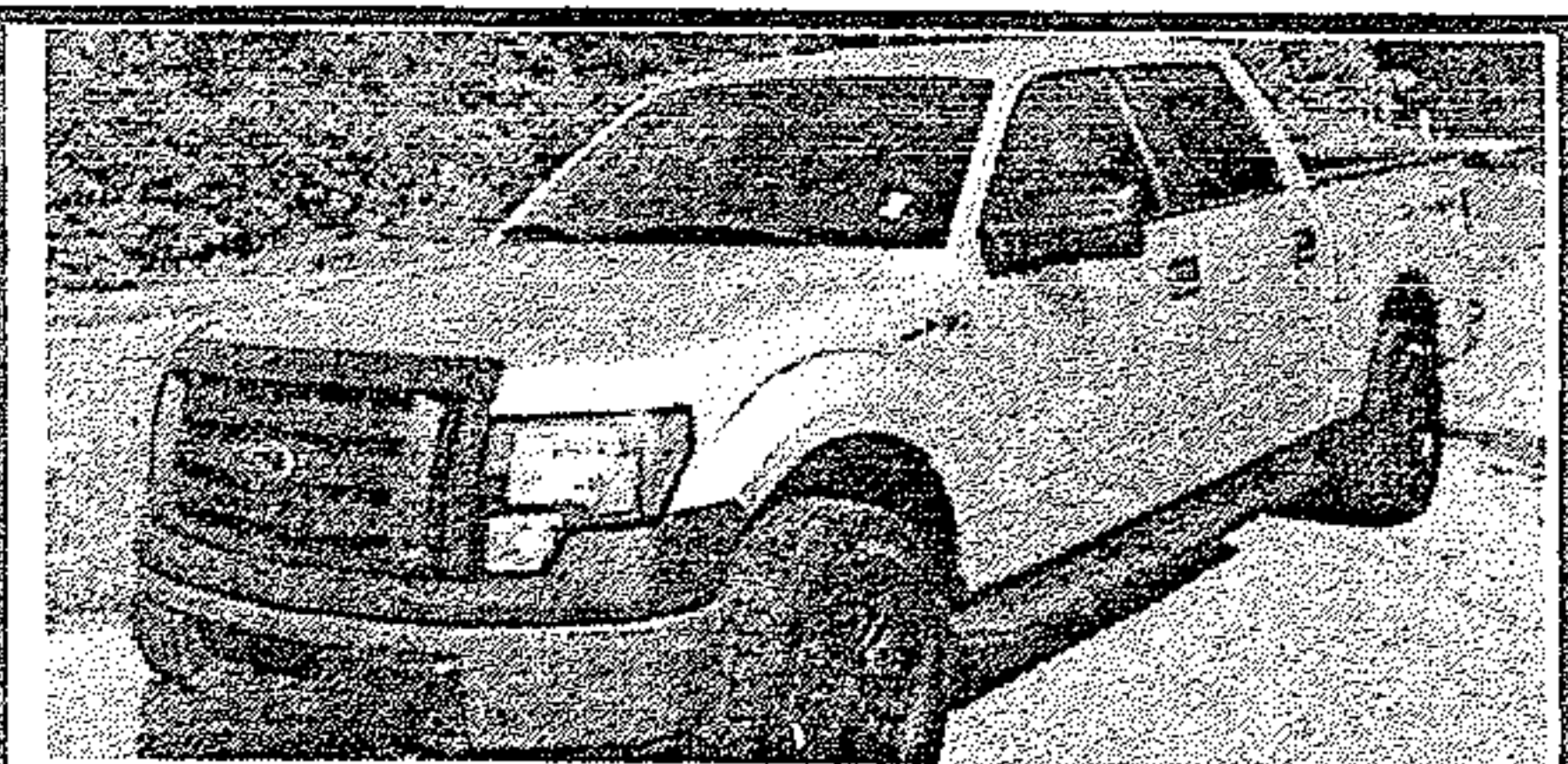
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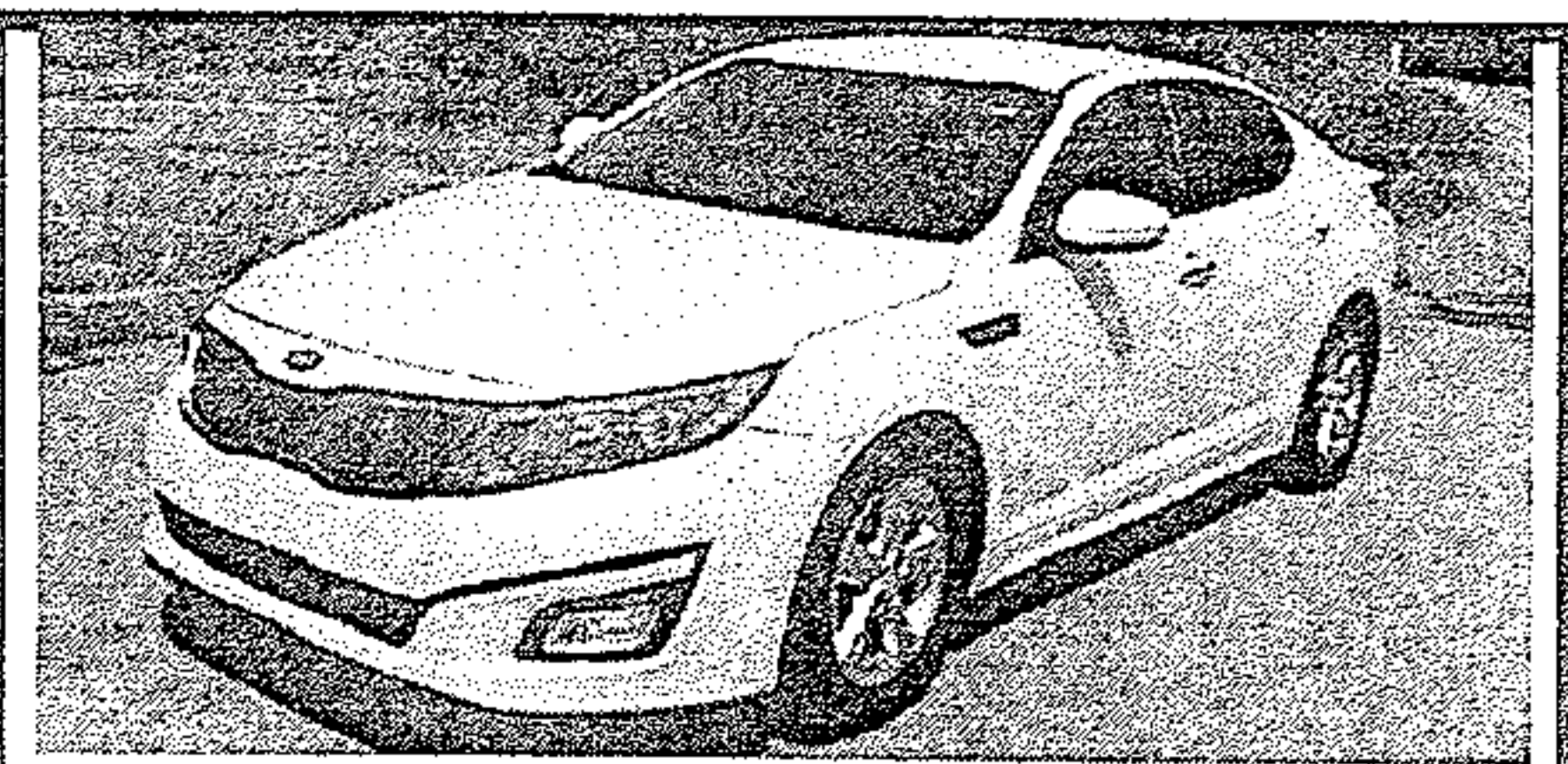
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Murder etd from 2
thrown by the suspect.
The victim was identified as Christopher Charles Watson, 34 years of age, of Lenoir City.. The suspect was identified as John Dixon Jr., 41 years of age, from Lenoir City. Sheriff Tim Guider announced that criminal charges against a Lenoir City man, who is accused of shooting another man to death, have been officially filed.

Loudon County Detective Sergeant Charlie Cosner charged John Duwayne Dixon Jr. with 1st Degree Murder in the shooting death of Christopher C. Watson. Sheriff Tim Guider, along with Criminal Investigation Division Detectives, have confirmed that the victim of the shooting did die from gunshot wounds. Patrol Deputies located the suspect vehicle on Martel Road and took two suspects into custody

shortly after the initial call was received by Loudon County E-911. A female who was with Dixon when he was captured was one of the two individuals initially detained for investigation but she has since been cleared as a witness only and released.

Dixon also faces an additional charge of Felon in Possession of a Handgun. His bond has been set at \$850,000.

If anyone has information regarding the case please contact the Criminal Investigation Division of the Loudon County Sheriff's Office.

Bones

tion, preliminary evidence is consistent with that of someone authorities believe to be a male and possibly a homeless transient or hitchhiker. UT forensics came in and found no bullet wounds. Evidence shows that the victim could have died 1 year to 5-6 years ago, and believe this individual may have died from natural causes or exposure to the elements, our Criminal Investigation Division

continues to carefully process the scene so that we can rule out any other possibilities. At this time foul play is not suspected.

They are still looking for missing persons or any way to find his identity. Nobody should have to die like this and not have his family notified.

Also want to point out that this is not related to any other cases or any other bodies found.

LCSO will continue to provide us with additional updates as they get them.

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FBI ctd from P3

New Jersey men were sentenced to prison for conspiring to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), which is designated by the United States as a foreign terrorist organization. The FBI became aware of the men's activities through a tip from an informant, according to Special Agent Suzanne Walsh with the FBI's Newark Field Office.

Once that tip was deemed credible, digital evidence became key to investigating the men's motives. The digital evidence left on the suspects' computers and phones was crucial to showing criminal intent in the actions the men took—from planning to travel overseas to viewing ISIS propaganda online.

Alaa Saadeh, who was 24 at the time of sentencing, was given 15 years for his crimes. The evidence investigators uncovered showed he was actively planning to join ISIS and had supported his brother's travel, both financially and logistically, to pursue that same goal.

Alaa's brother, Nader Saadeh, 23 at sentencing, was given 10 years; and a third man, Samuel Rahamin Topaz, 24 at sentencing, was given eight years. The evidence showed all three had viewed ISIS materials, maps, and videos, including videos that depicted executions. Their communications also

contained evidence that showed their desire to join ISIS and revealed some of the efforts they took to conceal their activities.

"Without digital forensics, it would be hard to get a conclusion in a lot of cases," said Walsh, who noted the very nature of modern communications makes the work of the FBI more challenging. "Suspects aren't talking on the phone anymore and our technical techniques are not working as well because so much more is encrypted. I pull in the NJRCFL very early in my investigative strategy."

Within two decades, digital evidence went from a specialty handled by a few FBI personnel with the technical know-how to be digital forensics examiners to an absolute necessity in law enforcement agencies large and small. The FBI now has digital forensics experts in every field office and supports a network of digital forensics laboratories.

The FBI's 17 RCFLs are strategically located throughout the country to support state and local agencies in the proper handling and examination of digital evidence, along with reporting and providing expert testimony on what is found. The newest RCFL opened just last month to better serve agencies in New England. RCFLs will take cases from non-participating

agencies that are within their service area and sometimes non-participating agencies outside their service area, as

See FBI ctd. to pg. 5

Meth

Maria Button, 32, Joy Drive Cherryhill, NC., was charged with Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. Of Meth, Simple Possession, and Driving on Roadways laned for Traffic. Cpl. Z. Frye LCSO, observed a vehicle traveling south on I-75 at 55 mph. Once behind the vehicle Cpl. Observed the vehicle to cross the fog line multiple times and fail to maintain its lane of travel. Cpl. initiated a traffic stop at the 72 exit ramp. Cpl. Made contact with the driver Maria Button and the passenger. Maria stated they were coming

from Knoxville and headed to Philadelphia. Maria appeared to be very nervous. Consent to search the vehicle was given and located in Maria purse was a small baggie containing 1.68 grams of a crystal substance (meth), one small baggie containing 1.4 grams of a leafy substance (marijuana), and one rolled blunt of marijuana weighing 1.4 grams. Maria Button was placed under arrest, and the passenger was released from the scene.

Home

Avery Sarten, 55, Pardue Lane Lenoir City, was charged with Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. Of Meth, Evading

Arrest, Driving on Revoked /Suspended License, Poss. Of Drug Para., and Financial Responsibility. Cpl. Z. Frye LCSO, observed a grey vehicle traveling in Martel Estates. Once behind the vehicle it turned and went into a driveway on Cattleman Drive. A few minutes later Deputy observed the same vehicle traveling on Old Midway Road. A check of the vehicle registration came back not on file. Deputy initiated a traffic stop at Shaw Ferry and Shaw Ferry Lane. The vehicle failed to stop and continued down Shaw Ferry Road, and turned onto Hwy 11 then onto Pardue Lane the driver residence. Upon contact Deputy identified the driver as Avery Sarten. A check through

See H ome ctd. to pg. 7



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Home ctd. from pg. 4

dispatch revealed his license were revoked for DUI. Consent to search the vehicle was given and located between the driver seat and center console was a sock and inside the sock was a crystal like substance believed to be meth in two small bags. The two bags weighed 2.11 grams. Also in the center console was a grinder used for marijuana an a small amount of marijuana inside the grinder. Avery Sarten was placed under arrest.

Obituaries

Bonnie Pruitt Walker, 79, beloved daughter, wife, sister and aunt passed away peacefully at home on August 20, 2019. She was born in Centerville, IN on March 23, 1940 but spent most of her life in Loudon County, Tennessee. She was a graduate of Lenoir City High School and retired from Yale Locks facility in Lenoir City after many years as a bookkeeper. She was married to James R. Walker of Loudon, Tennessee. Bonnie was musically gifted and was passionate about her musical gifts. She began playing piano at an early age and continued playing and performing all of her life. She was a member of the Tennesseans Quartet, auditioned for the Speer Family and was well known in the Southern Gos-

pel circuit. Bonnie's family adored her and are so thankful for the many Christmas's gathered around her piano. She was loved for her vivacious personality and was the light in her family's life.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Virgil Pruitt; husband, Jimmy R. Walker and great niece, Savannah Claire Pruitt. She is survived by her mother, Sarah Elizabeth Pruitt of Oak Ridge, TN; sisters, Shirley Shelton (Buddy) of Raleigh, NC and Glenda Jenkins (Gary) of Oak Ridge, TN; brothers, Richard Pruitt (Jane) of Dayton, OH and Ralph Pruitt (Susan) of Fayetteville, NC. She is also survived by nieces and nephews, Gina Timmons, Dayton, OH, Cindy Evans (Wayne), Raleigh, NC, Nicole Caldwell, Lenoir City, TN, Joshua Pruitt (Rebecca)

of Fayetteville, NC, Amanda Starling (Steven) of Clayton, NC and Casey Johnson (Sherry) of Maryville, TN; eight great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, August 24th at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City, TN. The family will receive friends from 11:00 - 12:00 and services immediately following. Burial will be follow at Loudon Co. Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Amedisys Hospice Care in Sweetwater, TN or the hospice of their choice.

The family would like to thank the special caregivers involved in Bonnie's life that provided her with much comfort and care.

Louise Knight, age 93, formerly of Oak Ridge, passed away on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 peacefully at home. She was a member of the Livingston Church of Christ

and Livingston Civic Garden Club.

Louise was preceded in death by her parents, Hoyt and Mary Belle Holder Blanks and her husband of 59 years, Richard F. Knight. They were co-owners of the Livingston Enterprise and Jackson County Sentinel Newspapers in Middle Tennessee before selling and retiring to Oak Ridge where they originally meet when their parents were sent there for the war effort.

She is survived by two daughters, Ann Lindsay (John) and Carolyn Swindle (David). She also leaves four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to express a special thank you to the River Oaks Place, Lenoir City, the nurses, aids and staff of University of Tennessee Hospice nurses and staff.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org).

Private family services will be held.

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FBI ctd. from pg. 4

resources allow.

Each RCFL works as a partnership, with participating agencies providing staff to the lab. In return, the entire participating agency is able to access the lab's full services, and the personnel who work at the lab gain invaluable training and expertise to bring back to their home department. "RCFLs are an enhancement in manpower," said Newman of his New Jersey facility. "The agency is not losing a person, but gaining many forensic experts."

Newman describes the role of the digital forensics examiner as a "dispassionate scientist" who offers results from the examination without bias or pre-

judgment. "Our role is to make the data understandable and available in a readable format for the investigator," he said. Walsh said in the case of the New Jersey men, she was in regular contact with the NJRCFL examiners to sort through and understand the evidence gleaned from the men's devices and computers.

The examiners also act as technical witnesses in courtroom testimony if the case reaches trial. "One of the more challenging jobs during testimony is to explain very technical information to a non-technical jury," said Newman.

The other challenge is staying on top of rapidly changing tools and technologies. Newman and Walsh

both said those who seek to break the law work hard to stay a step ahead of investigative techniques.

"Technology has changed what we do," said Newman. "It has impacted us in areas such as security and encryption, but it has pushed us to pursue the development of additional tools and techniques."

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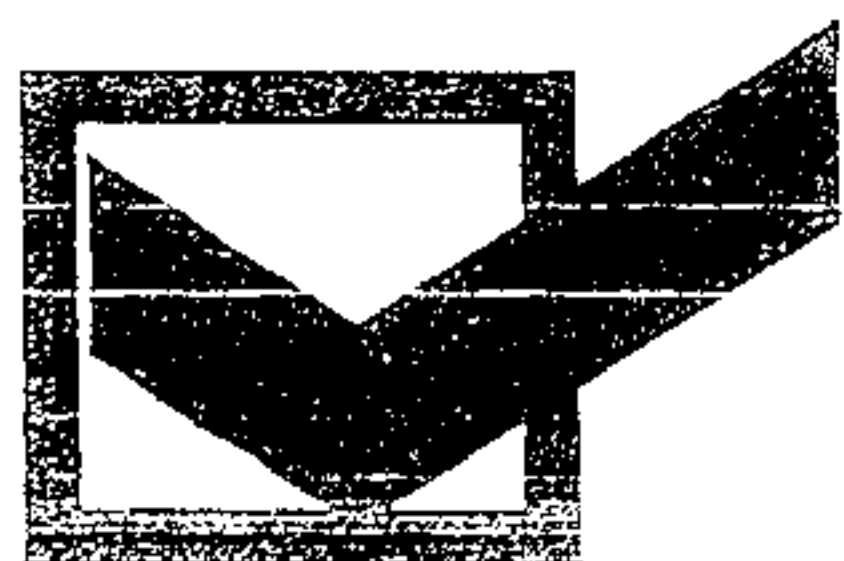
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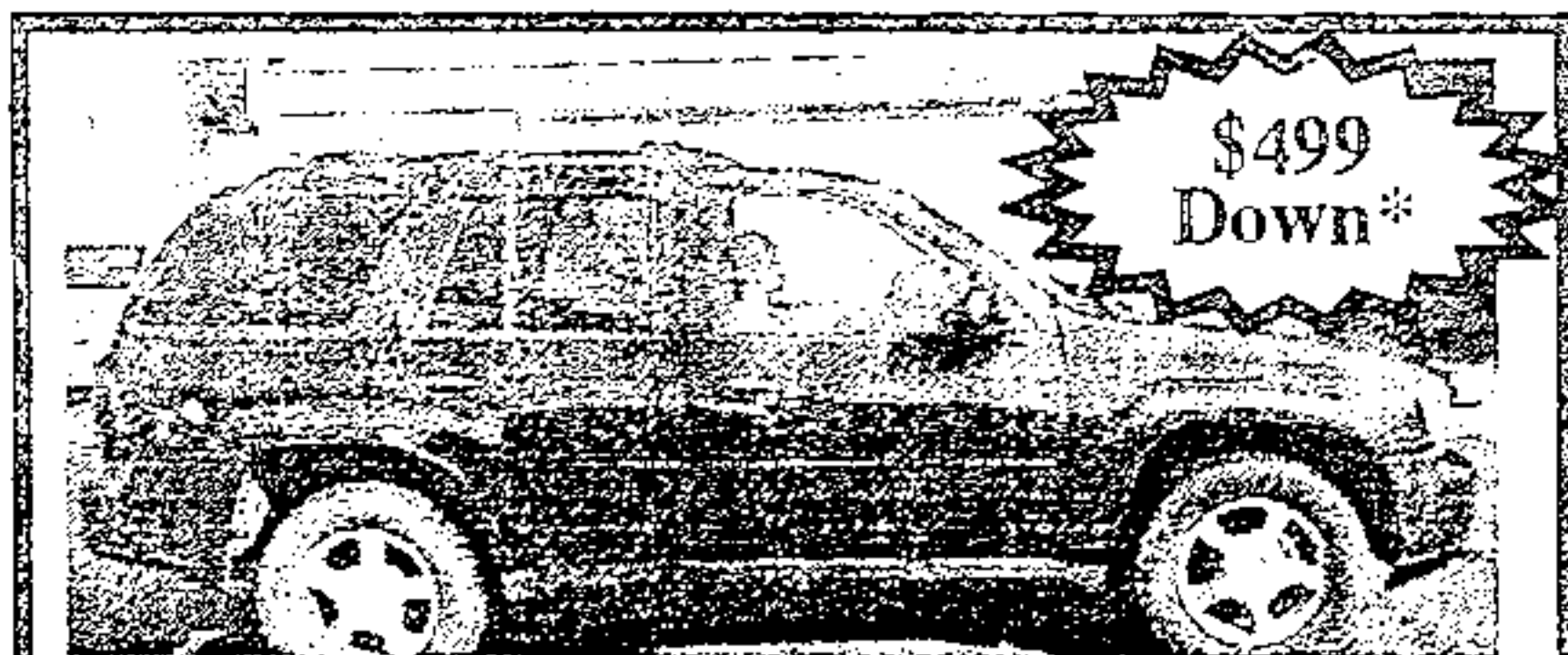
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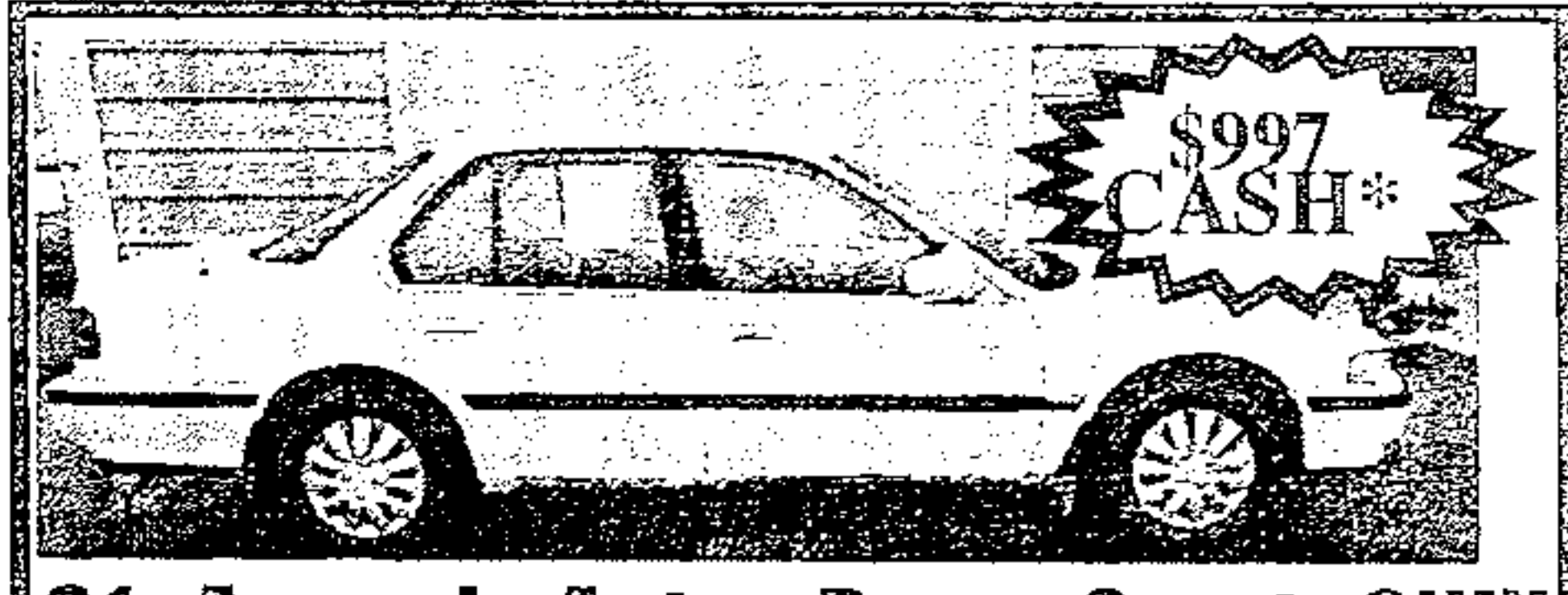
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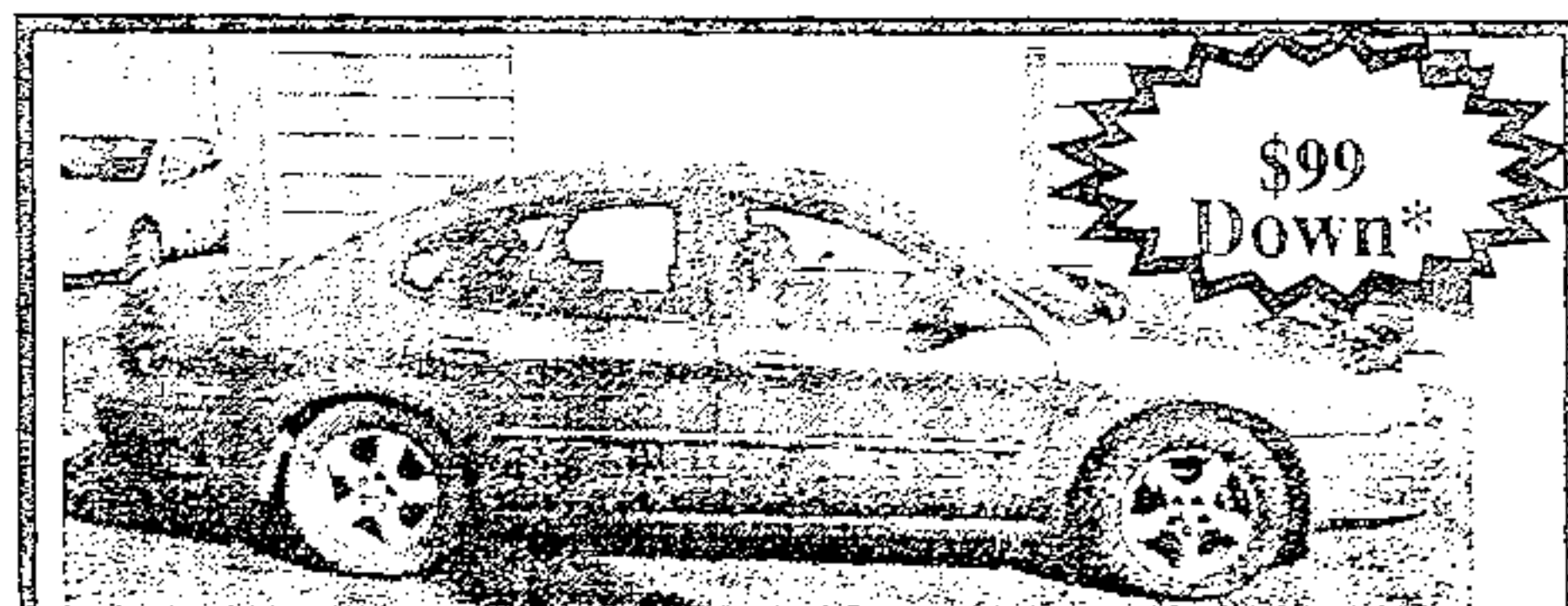
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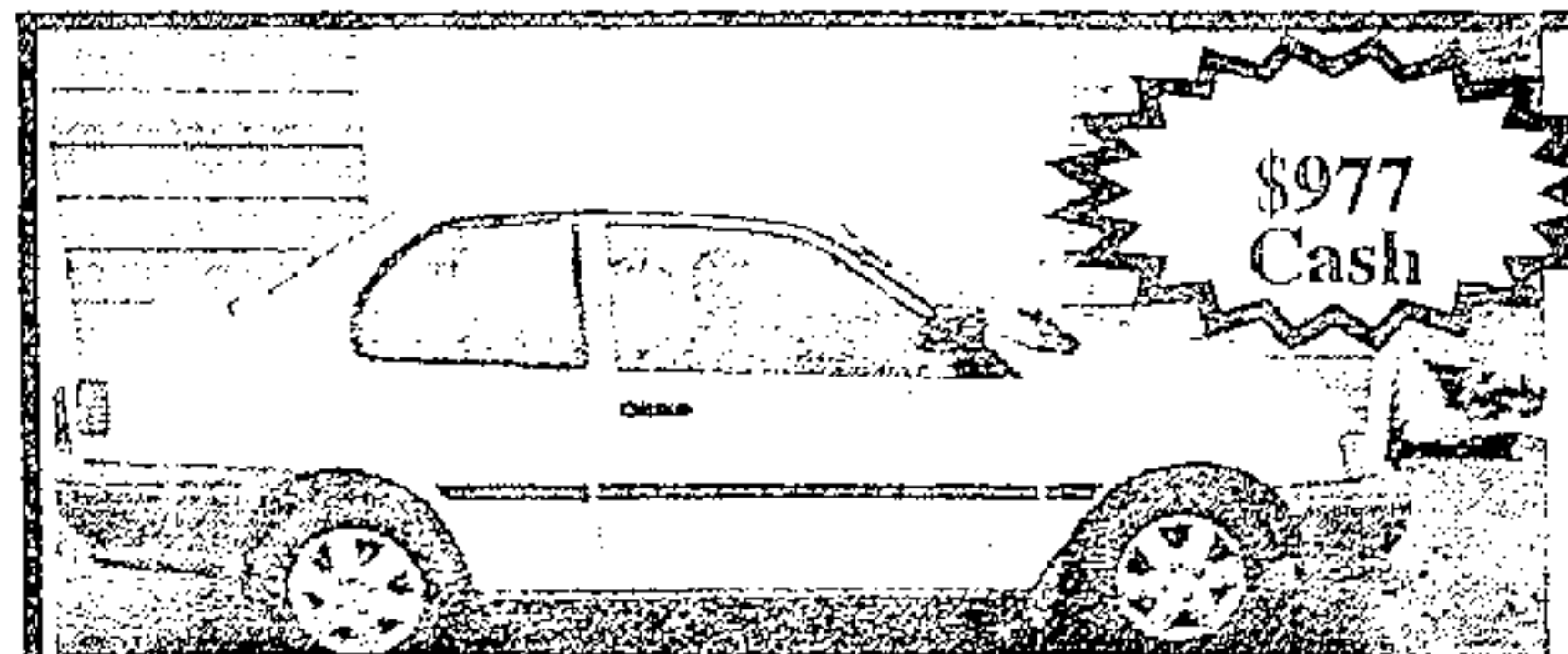
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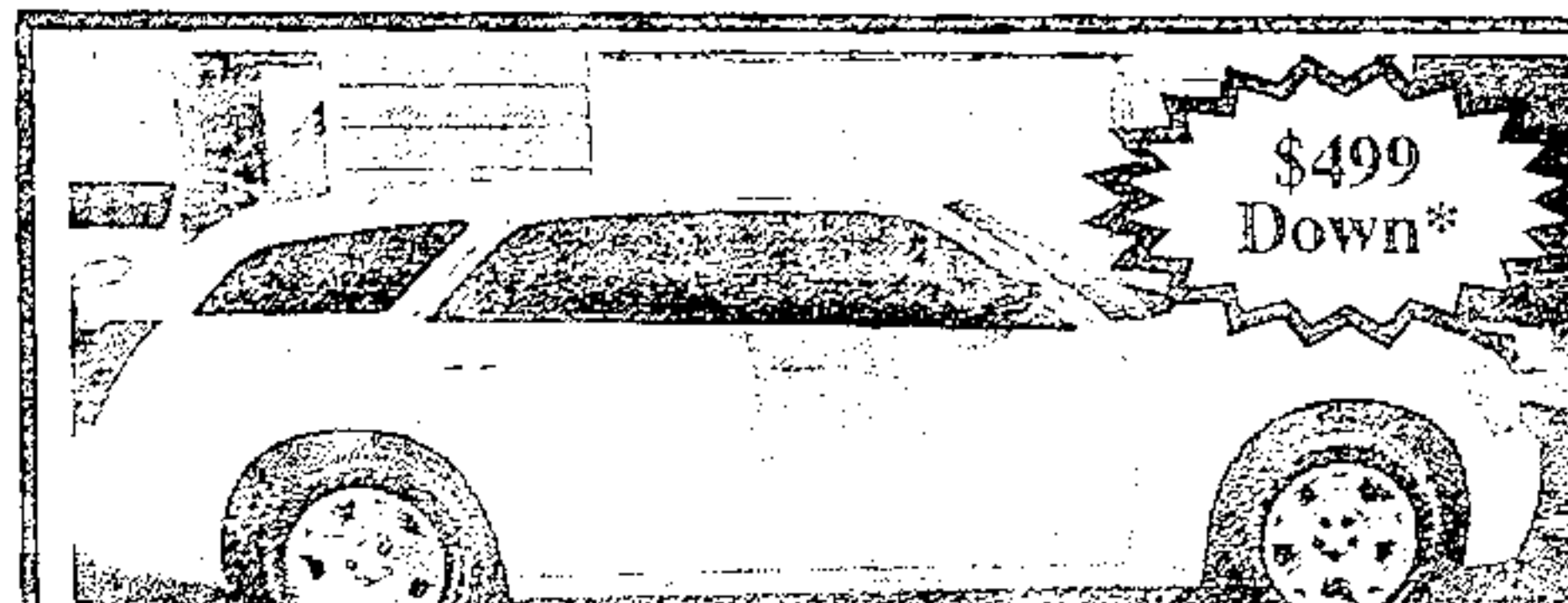
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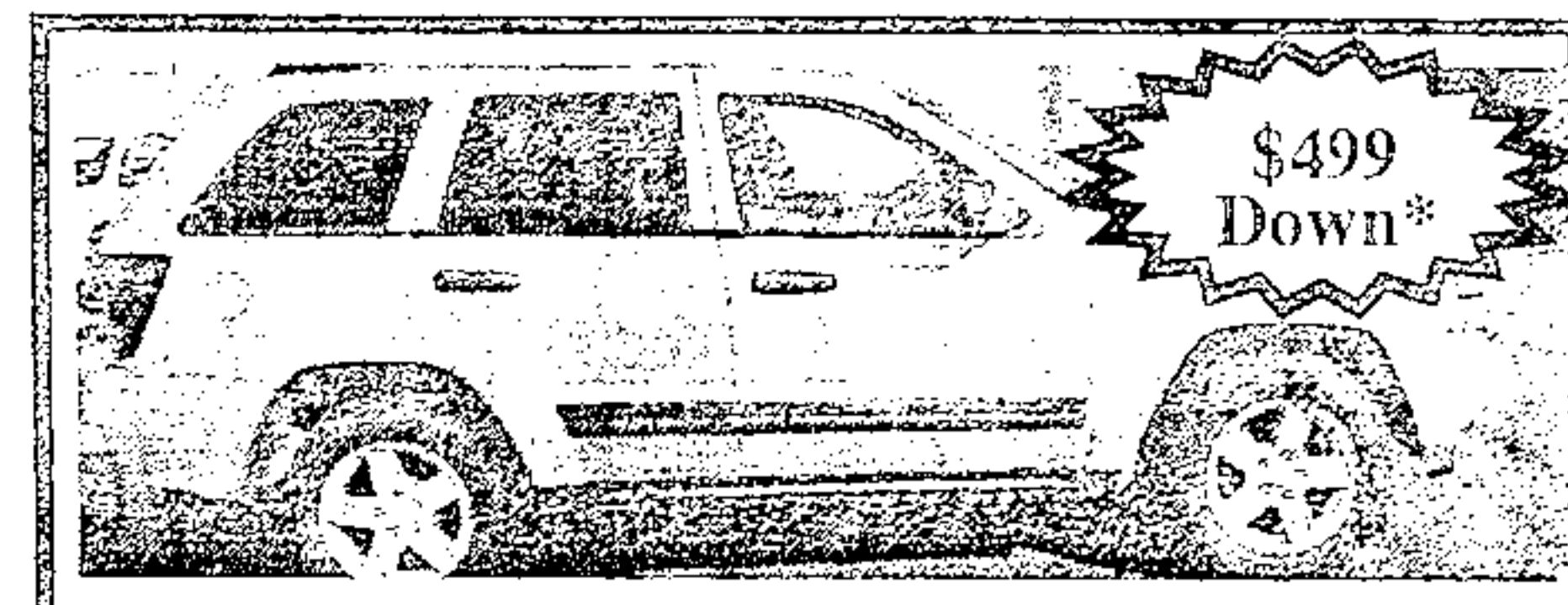
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