

Daily Edition

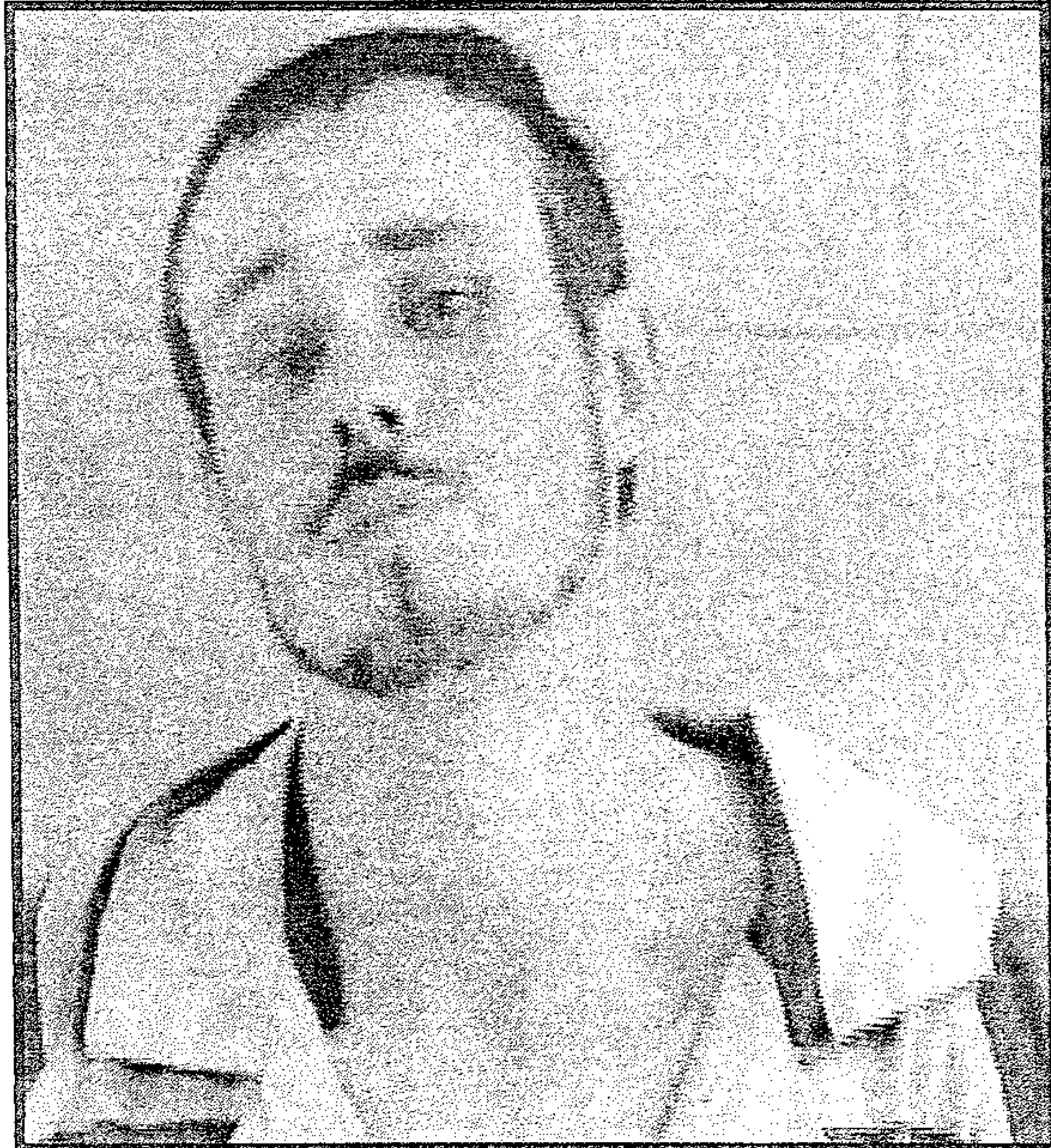
Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, April 1, 2016

Church of God Thief Charged; Over \$6000 stolen

A Lenoir City man has been charged by Investigator Brad Brown, LCPD with the burglary and vandalism of a local church. The thief broke in and reportedly crawled through ventilation to get to items totaling over \$6000. After stealing the church owned items the thief then involved a witness who reported they were told the items came from a demolition job.

(see church pg. 2)



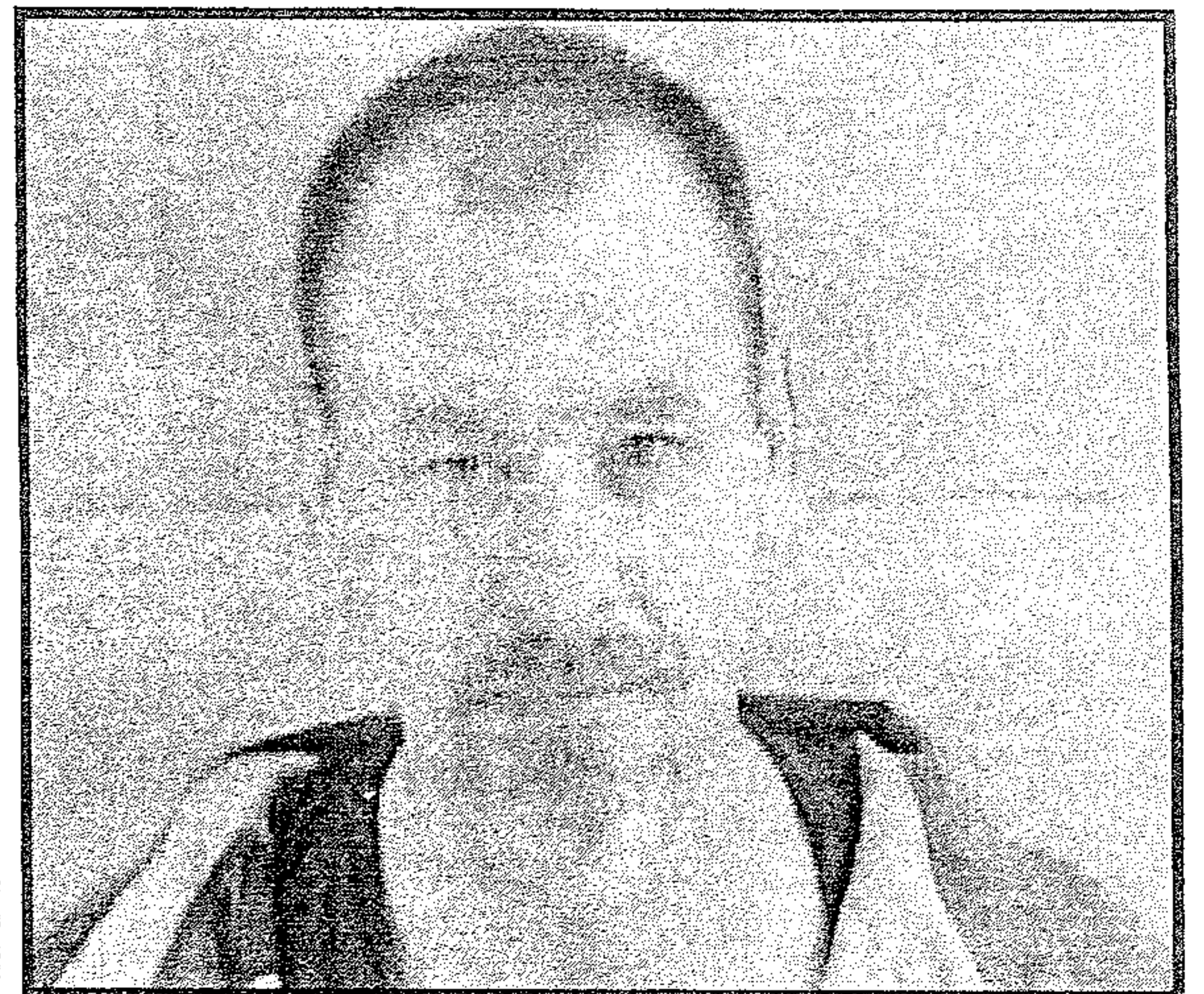
Brandon Deaton

Sex offender charged at community center



Michael Vickers (see sex offender pg. 5)

Victim choked and bruised in aggravated assault



Fredrick Hall

(see assault pg. 3)

Financial Fraud

Pharmaceutical Executive Sold Fake Stock in Medical Research Company

Greg Ruehle liked to gamble—the only problem was that he did it with other people's money. In the process, the pharmaceutical executive not only swindled his friends and people from his hometown out of millions of dollars, he injured the reputation of a legitimate medical research company.

Ruehle, a California resident who

(see fraud pg. 5)

Comptroller Report Examines Virtual Schools in Tennessee

A new report from the Comptroller's Offices of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) examines the way virtual schools are funded in Tennessee.

In 2011, the Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation allowing school districts to establish full-time virtual schools,

(see report pg. 4)

Verse of the Day

Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways, for the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence. — Proverbs 3:31-32

Obituaries

see inside **Wazzup**

Good Job Lenoir City and Loudon County Bus Drivers for keeping our kids safe! Glad we don't have them Knox County

drivers...just saying!

Weather

Today: Scattered thunderstorms in the morning. Partly cloudy skies late. High 76F.

Tonight: Cloudy skies. Low 49F.

Saturday Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 63F.

Saturday Night A mostly clear

sky. Low 39F.

Sunday Sunny. High 64F.

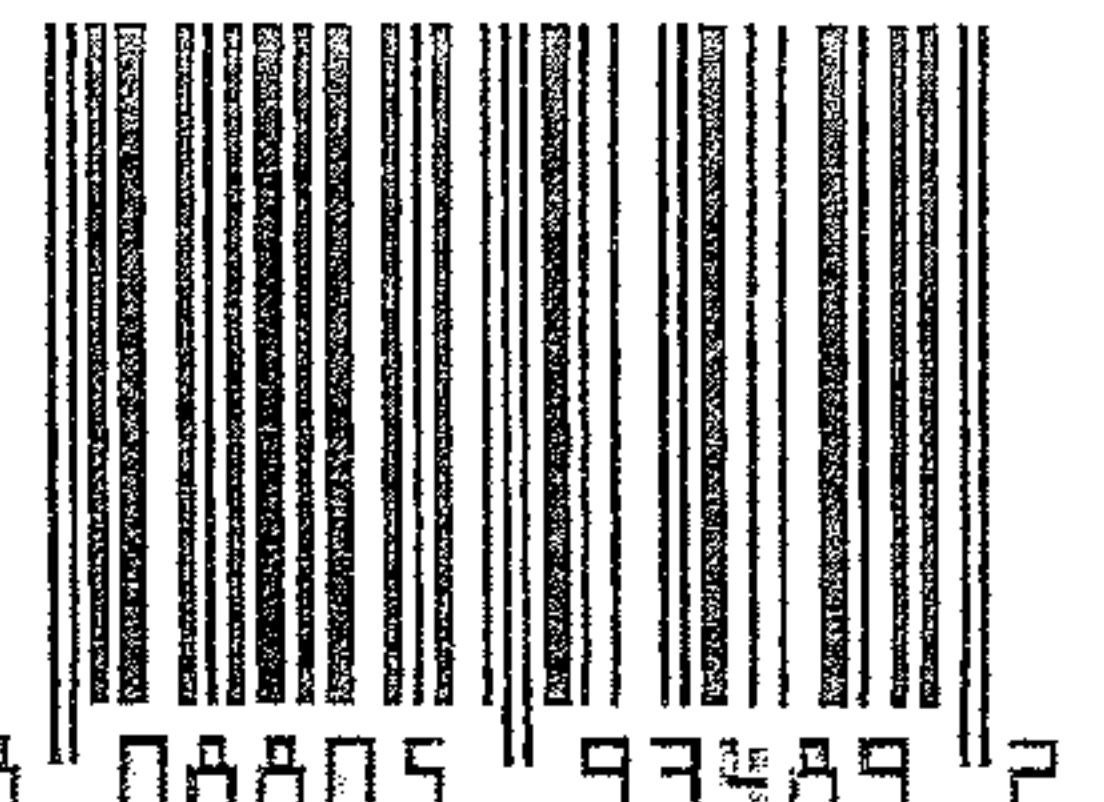
Sunday Night Clear. Low 41F.

Horoscopes

Aries 3/21-4/19

Your focus is internally directed today, even if your day is filled with a variety of activities. You might

(Continued on page 6)



church

Brandon Deaton, 25, North A Street Lenoir City, was charged with Vandalism, Burglary, and Theft of Property. Brandon Deaton did enter a building other than a dwelling without the owners consent, for the purpose of committing a theft. Deaton forced entry into a building at Sixth

Ave Church.

Entry was made by breaking out a window and crawling through. After gaining access to the building, Deaton removed numerous items. The total on items was approx. \$6186. Investigator Brad Brown discovered that Deaton had sold some of the items to Cash America in Knoxville.

Witness stated Deaton told him he obtained the items in a building demolition job and ask witness to help store the items. Investigator Brad Brown LCPD, made the arrest.

To Get a Burning Permit:

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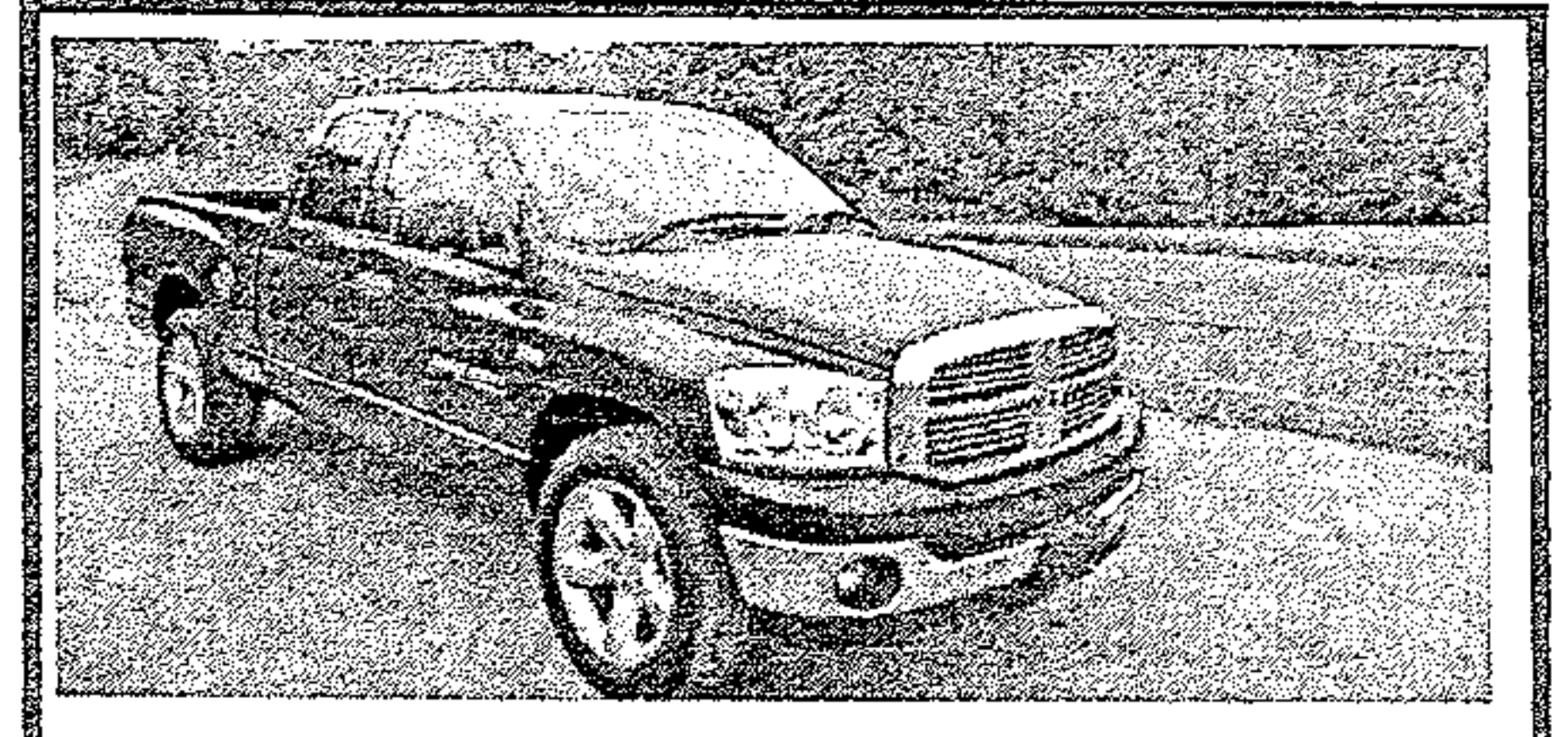
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2010 Kia Soul Sporty, 4 cyl, Auto, PW, PL, A/C, Great On Gas, Like New




2010 Ford Escape Limited Leather, Alloy Wheels, Heat, A/C, Luggage Rack, 79K,



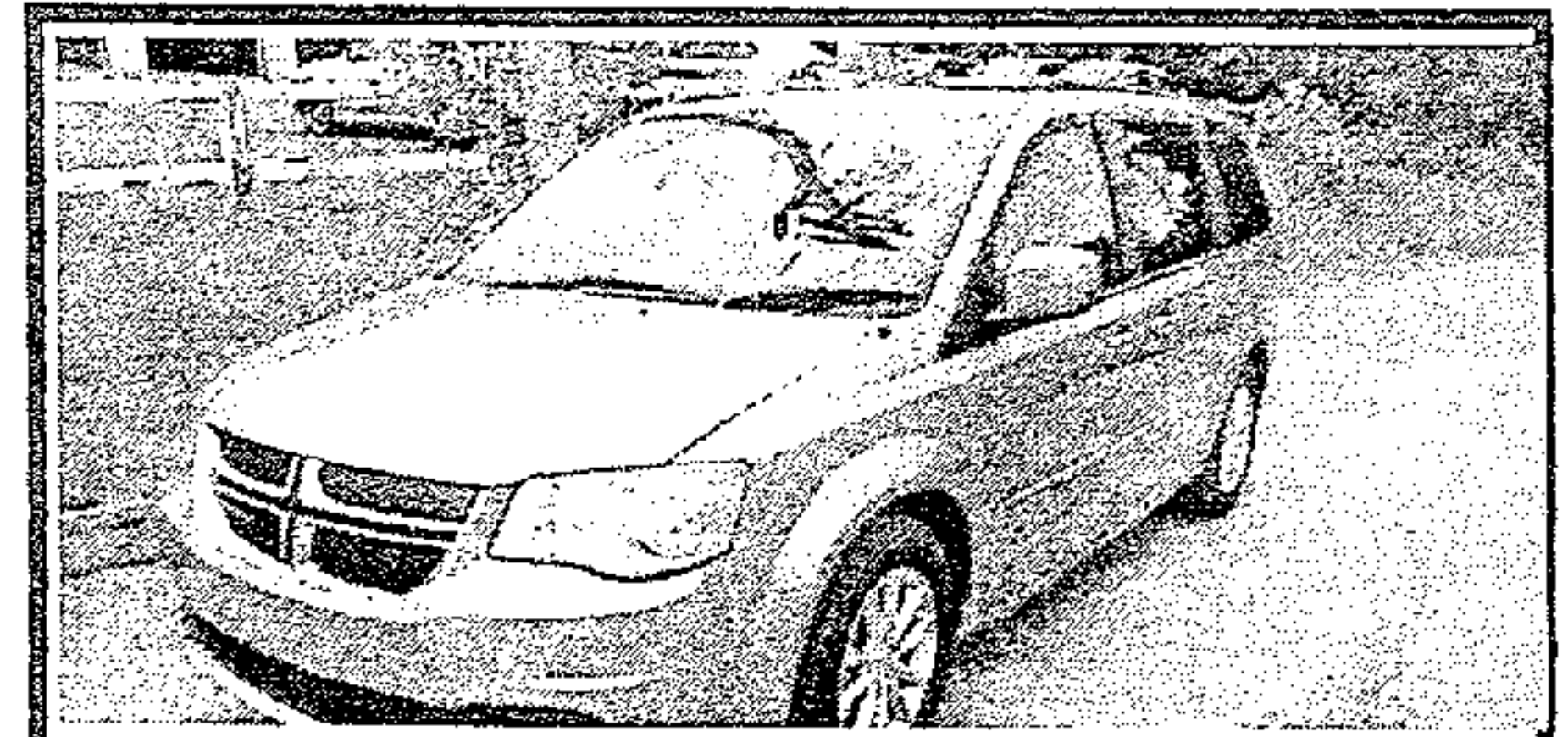
2007 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab, Thunder Road PKG, 20 in. Wheels, Low Miles, Hemi



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



2011 Ford Ranger Low Miles, Tow Pkg, New Tires, A/C, Heat, Bed Liner.



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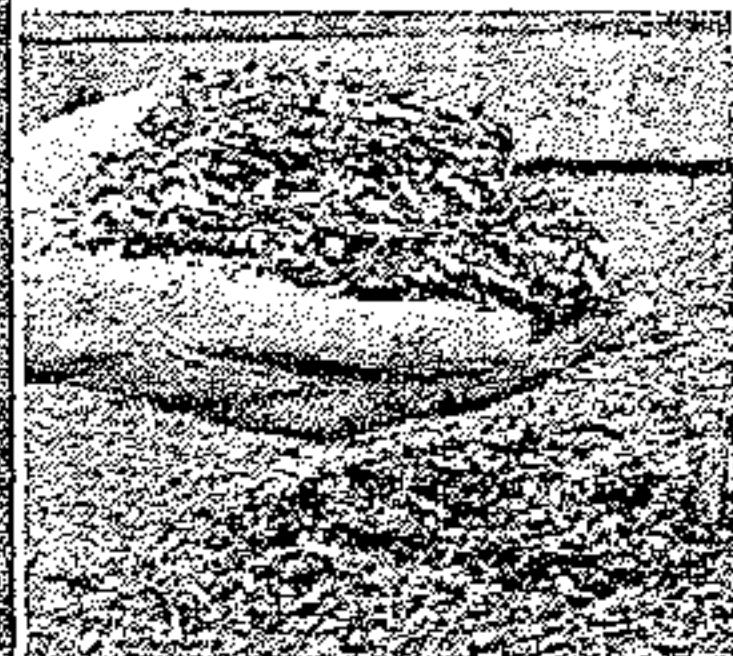
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assault

Fredrick Hall, 43, Sharp Drive Lenoir City, was charged with Aggravated Assault. Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, responded to West Lee Hwy on a domestic vio-

lence call. Upon arrival Deputy came in contact with victim who stated verbally and written that Fredrick Hall did choke and hit victim, then threaten to kill her. Deputy did photograph bruising on victim neck consistent with being choked and bruising to the face. Officer Keith Sennett LCPD, made contact with Fredrick on West Broadway, and took him into custody for Deputy. Deputy JC. Schultz LCSO, made the arrest.

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report

which must be provided resources as any other public school in the state. Since 2011, nine school districts have established virtual schools: Bradley County, Bristol City, Hamilton County, Metro Nashville, Robertson County, Shelby County, Union County, Washington County, and Wilson County.

The Comptroller's Office surveyed the virtual schools last year to learn how they operate and how school districts have allocated funding to them. A profile of each virtual

school, which includes funding information, is included in the report.

Most virtual schools have small enrollments as a percentage of their school district's enrollment, though Union County's Tennessee Virtual Academy is the exception: in 2014-15, virtual school students made up 33 percent of the district's enrollment. Collectively, the nine virtual schools served about 0.21 percent of the total state-wide K-12 enrollment in SY 2014-15.

Funding for virtual schools is most affected by student enrollment, including

the number of students served, whether students are full- or part-time, and whether students originate from other districts. Some virtual schools charge tuition for part-time students that live outside the school district in which the virtual school is operated.

School districts may manage their own virtual schools or contract for services with nonprofit or for-profit entities. Two districts, Robertson and Union Counties, contract with for-profit providers to operate their virtual schools.

The report also examines the academic performance of Tennessee's virtual schools. Student academic growth scores are generally lower for virtual schools than the scores of the school districts that established the schools. The report notes that virtual school performance may be affected by the number of students who enroll in virtual schools for short periods of time, and that enrollment changes in virtual schools with small enrollments can affect academic outcomes.

Virtual schools that perform "significantly below expectations" for growth in student achievement for any three consecutive years may have their student enrollment capped or be closed, subject to a decision by Tennessee's Commissioner of Education.

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Public Notice

Notice of Meetings:

Loudon County Budget Committee meeting schedule:

The following meetings will begin at 4:30 at the Courthouse Annex:

Monday, April 4th

Monday, May 2nd

The following meetings will begin at 4:30 PM at the County Office Building:

Wednesday, March 30th

Thursday, March 31st

Tuesday, April 5th

Monday, April 11th

Wednesday, April 13th

Thursday, April 14th

Wednesday, April 20th

Thursday, April 21st

Monday, April 25th

Wednesday, April 27th

Thursday, April 28th

Wednesday, May 4th

Thursday, May 5th

Monday, May 9th

Wednesday, May 11th

Thursday, May 12th

The regular April and May monthly meetings will proceed as previously scheduled, on Monday April 18th and Monday May 16th, 4:00 PM at the County Office Building.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Purchasing and Budget Committee Meeting

The Lenoir City Purchasing Committee Meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2016 has been rescheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 9:30 A.M. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider/discuss items originally slated for the April 7th meeting.

The Lenoir City Budget Committee will hold a meeting at City Hall, in the small conference room, on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 10:30 A.M. The purpose of the meeting will be to begin discussion/consideration of the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget.

The public is encouraged to attend.

BUDGET

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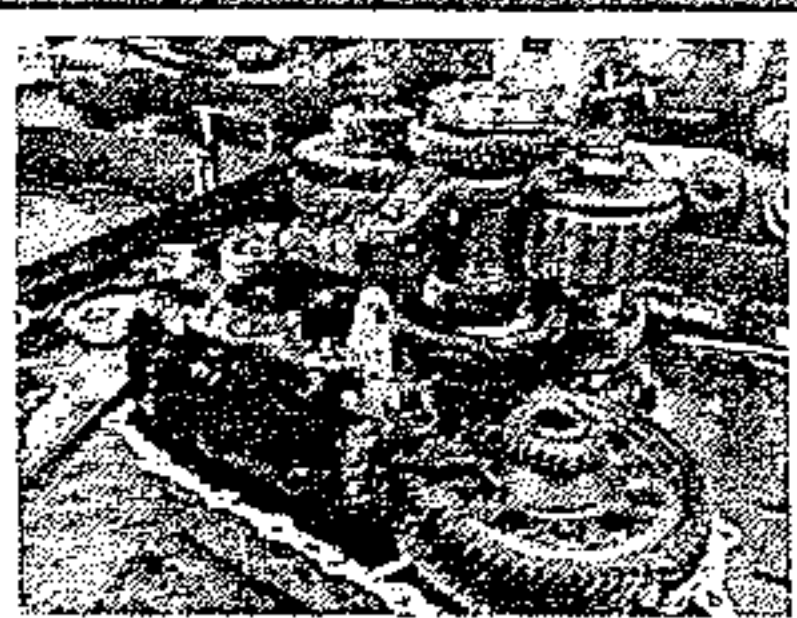
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sex offender

Michael Jefferson Vickers, 38, of Buck Creek Road, Kingston, was charged with violation of sex offender registry.

Deputy Craig Brewer LCSO, responded to Hickory Creek Road Lenoir City Tennessee to a report of a registered sex offender being on the promises with multiple children around. On arrival

Deputy found Mr. Michael Vickers Jr. was at the community center working there. On checking he was not there for religious service but there was a festival going on. On checking there where multiple children present in the building and the area where Mr. Vickers Jr. was in. On talking with Investigator Cosner and Mr. Vickers Jr.'s Probation Officer in Roane

County it was found he was in violation of his sex offender registry. This did happen in Loudon County Tennessee. Deputy Craig Brewer LCSO, made the arrest.

Obituaries

Jesse Ray Costner, age 75, a lifelong resident of Loudon, went to be with his heavenly father on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He served in the

U.S. Army, and proudly served on the City of Loudon Police Department for 30 years. Jesse loved his family and community. He spent his final years under the loving care of his daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and Jakub Avramov. Jesse is preceded in death by his parents, Sam Henry and Mary (Presley) Costner, and his sister, Jerri Costner Gentry. He is survived by his loving children, Kim (LeRoy) Haun, Sam (JoAnn) Costner, Jessica

(Jakub) Avramov, Brandi (Jeremy) McNally, and Paige Tramell; his sister, Sammie (Jim) Nix; grandchildren, Dallas, Andrea, Blake, and Blair Haun; Christina and Faith Costner; Kaelyn Russell and Luke Avramov; Haley and Brady McNally; as well as many nieces, nephews, family members and friends. The family would like to extend special Thanks to Covenant Hospice, especially Glynis Moore. Funeral service will be Saturday, 7:00 p.m., Loudon Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Jon Henson and Rev. Chris Farmer officiating. Graveside service Sunday, 2:00 p.m., Loudon County Memorial Gardens, with military honors provided by the Loudon County Veteran Honor Guard. Family will receive friends 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Saturday, at the funeral home. Arrangements provided by Loudon Funeral Home. www.loudonfuneralhome.net

fraud

worked in the biotech industry, was hired by the medical research firm ICB International (ICBI) to identify investors who could fund its research. The San Diego-based company is developing technologies for early diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

"Basically, the company's founder invested his blood, sweat, and tears trying to come up with a cure for Parkinson's disease," said Special Agent John Roberts, who investigated the case from the FBI's San Diego Division.

(see fraud ctd.. pg. 7)

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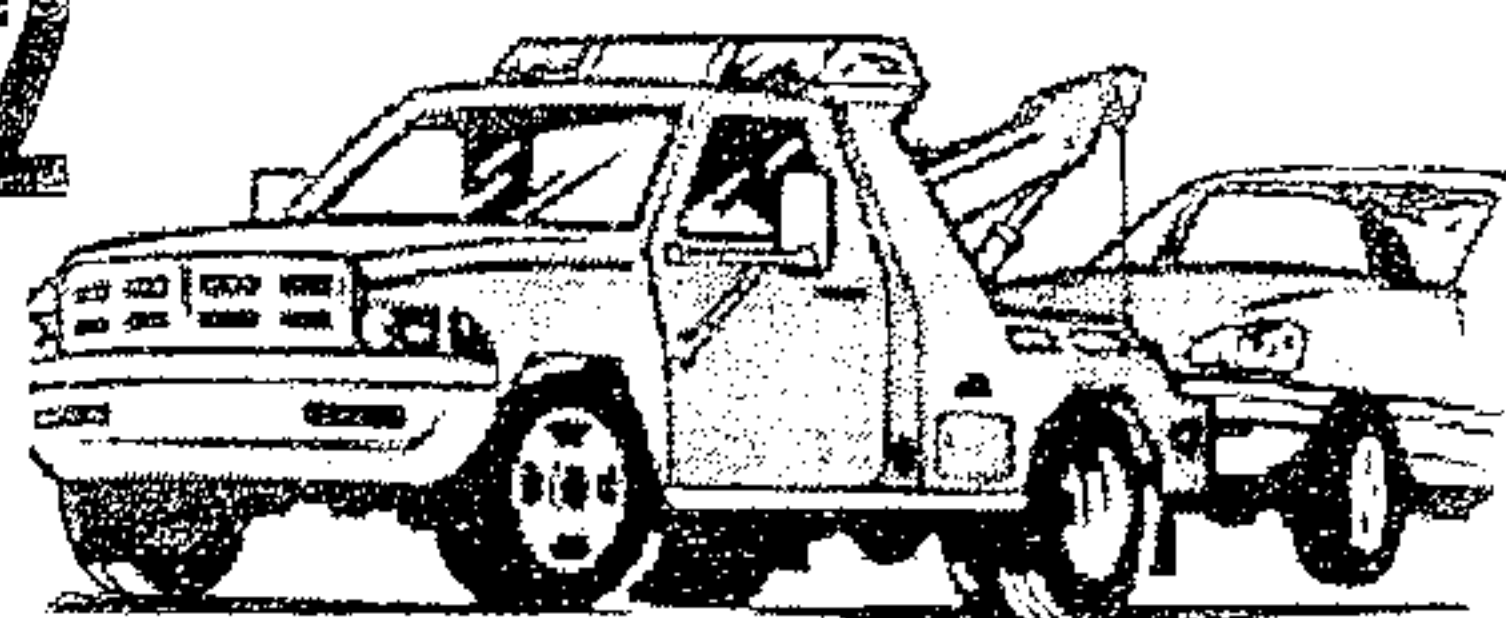
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fraud ctd. from pg. 5

“He was relying on Ruehle to help raise money to move the company forward.”

Instead, explained co-investigator Special Agent Bridgid Cook, Ruehle “collected nearly \$2 million and used the money for gambling and other personal expenses.”

Ruehle was not a licensed broker. He was supposed to be a finder—someone who would introduce investors to the company, and then ICBI would take it from there. But Ruehle took advantage of his hometown friends, who relied on him to provide in-

formation about the company’s financial future. He took investors’ money and issued them fake stock certificates, none of which he reported to ICBI.

“There were a lot of victims in this case—more than 160,” Cook said, “and a major betrayal of trust.” Ruehle’s investors were mostly friends from Minnesota, where he grew up, and they were not wealthy. Many contributed \$5,000 or \$10,000. “He preyed upon people from his hometown,” Cook explained. “They relied on his expertise and knowledge of the industry.”

“Investors thought

they were getting in on a great deal,” Roberts added. But not one of Ruehle’s investors saw a penny—and neither did ICBI. To make matters worse, the company had no idea its investment “finder” was collecting money and issuing fake stock in the company.

In 2015, some of the investors asked for proof that their money was being used at the company. In response, Ruehle sent them a letter on what appeared to be ICBI letterhead, allegedly signed by the company’s CEO. In truth, the letter was a forgery—Ruehle even misspelled the CEO’s name.

“ICBI was completely innocent in the fraud,” Roberts said, “but they were made to look bad. Certainly there was damage done to the company, which was trying to do a good thing.”

Worried investors eventually contacted the FBI, and within four months, Cook and Roberts had unraveled the scheme. Last month, Ruehle pled guilty to securities fraud. In addition, he admitted to possession of a stolen firearm—discovered during the execution of a search warrant—and acknowledged that he owned three stolen firearms, all unregis-

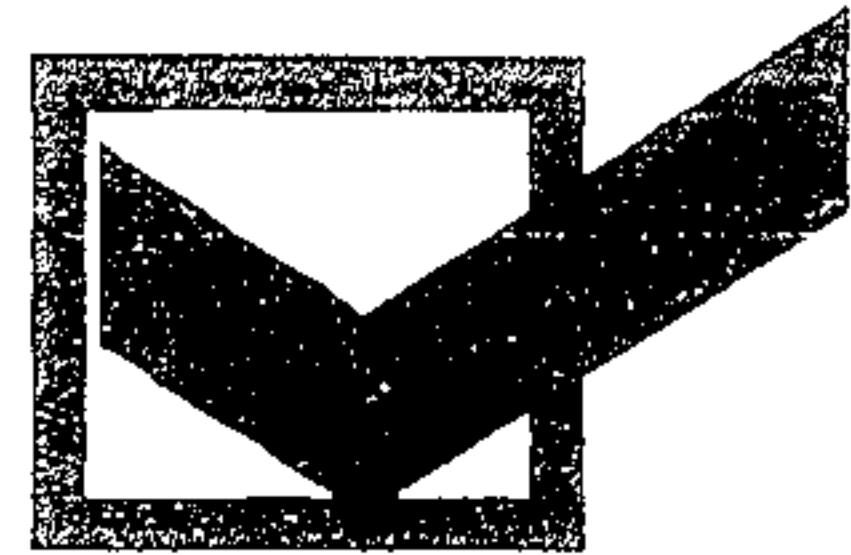
tered. “There was no reason for him to be buying guns off the street when he could have been buying them legitimately from a dealer,” Cook said, adding that the 64-year-old Ruehle is typical of many financial fraudsters. “He was charismatic and a natural salesman, but he used those skills to trick people. And then he used their money for gambling, to buy expensive cars, and to live on a waterfront property.”

Ruehle is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court later this spring.

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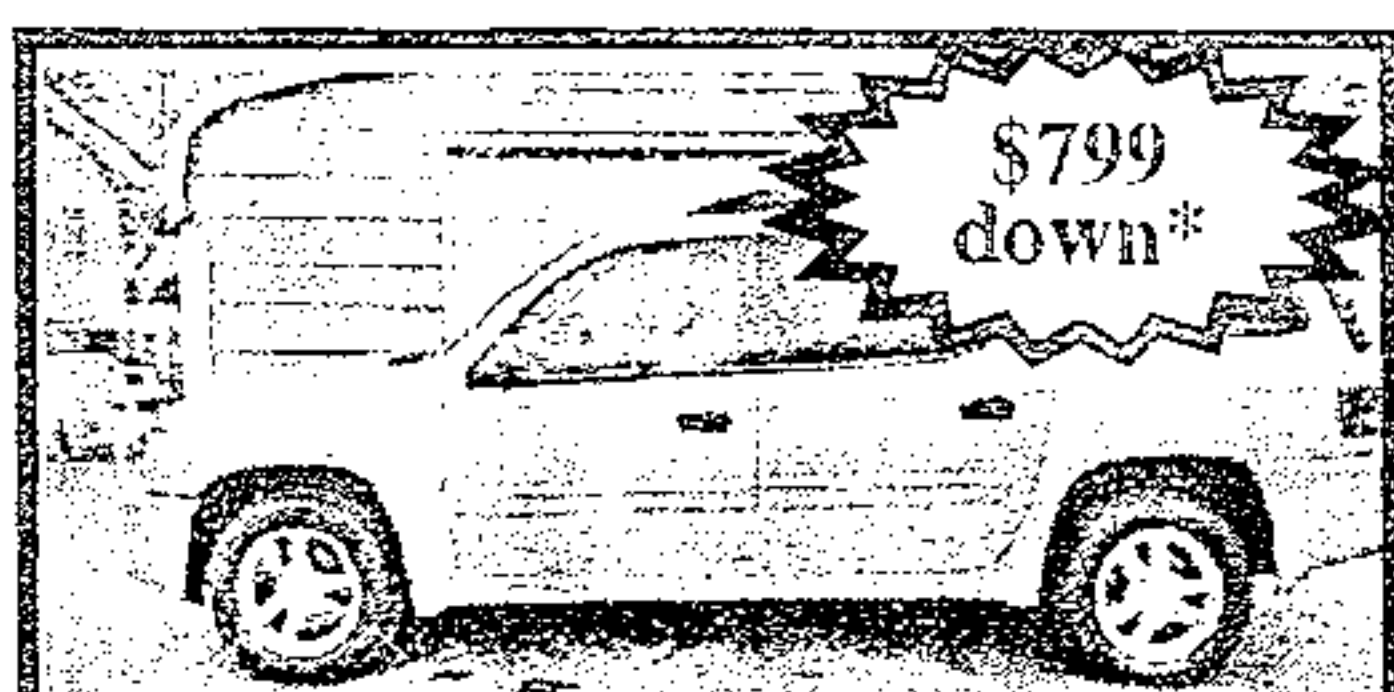
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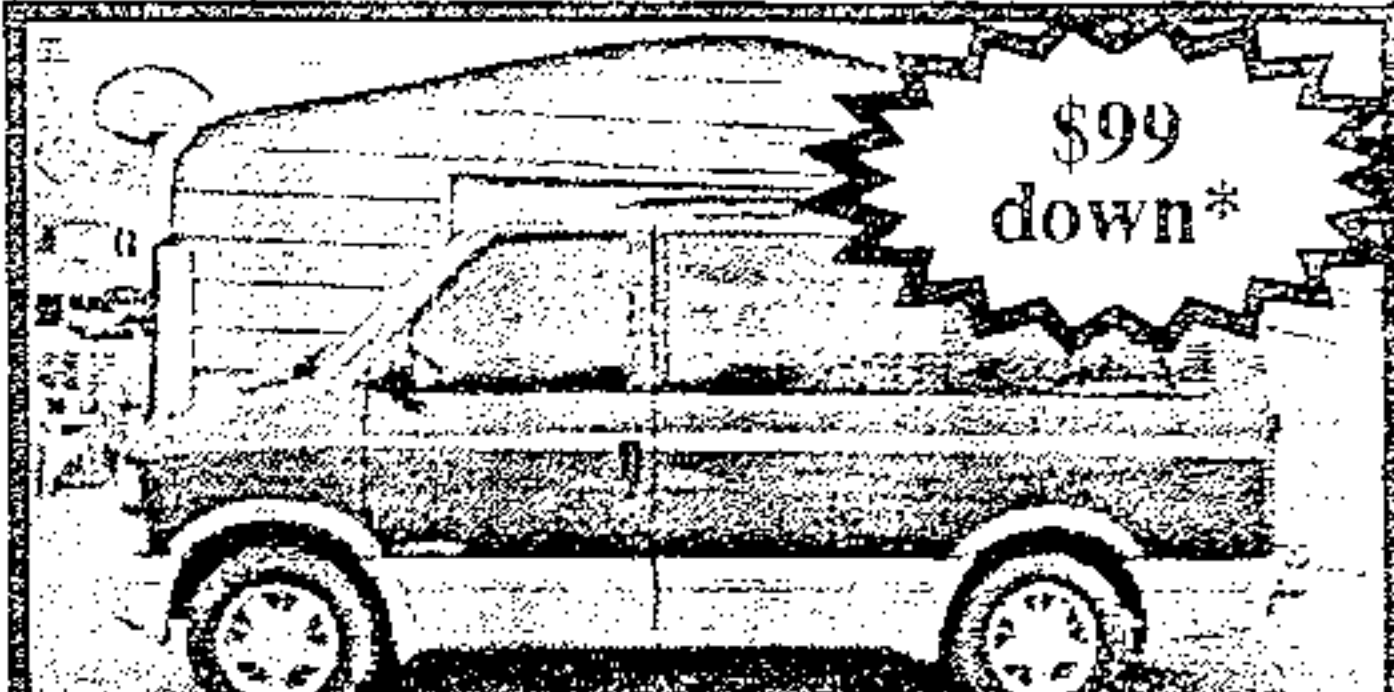
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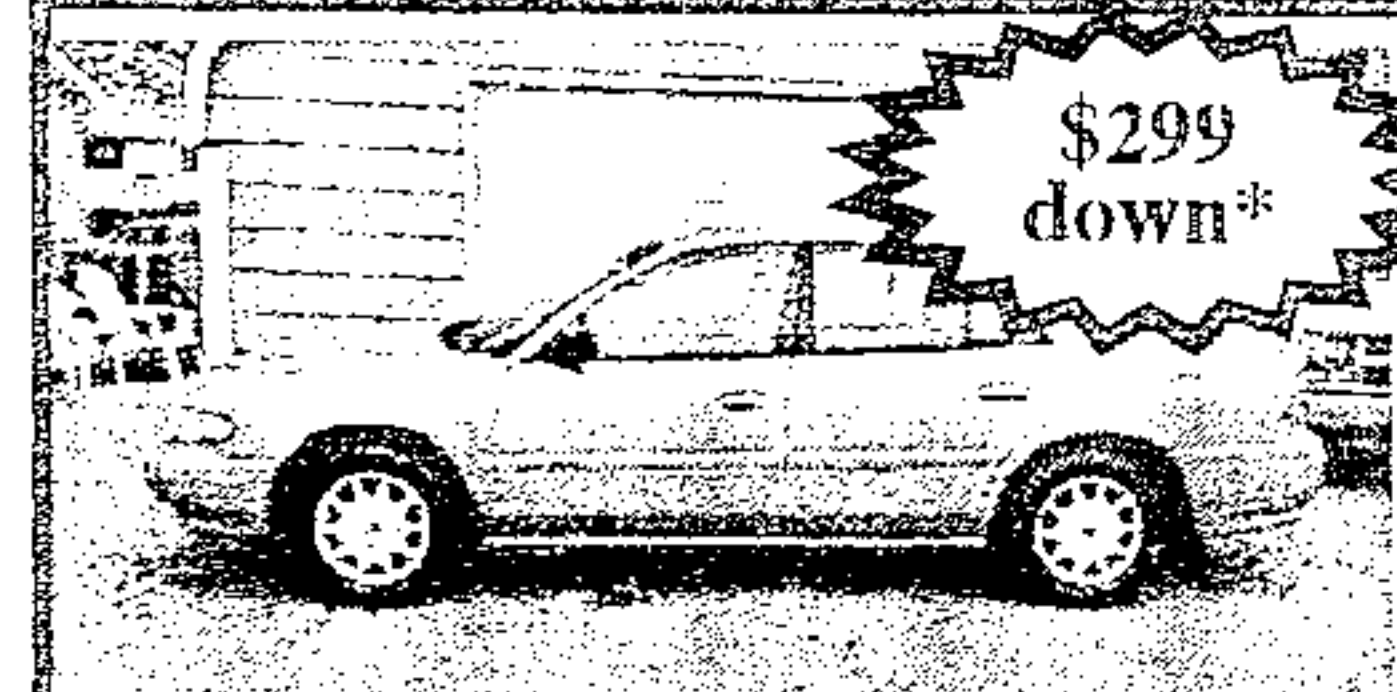
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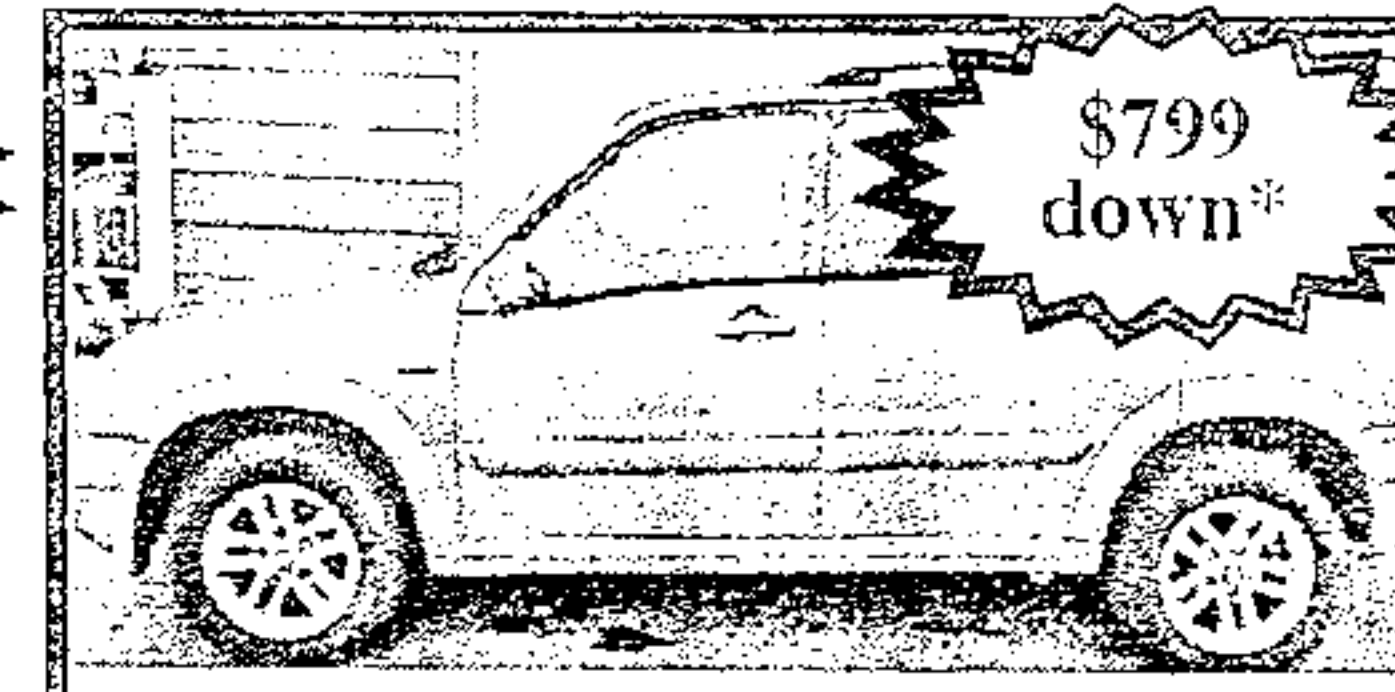
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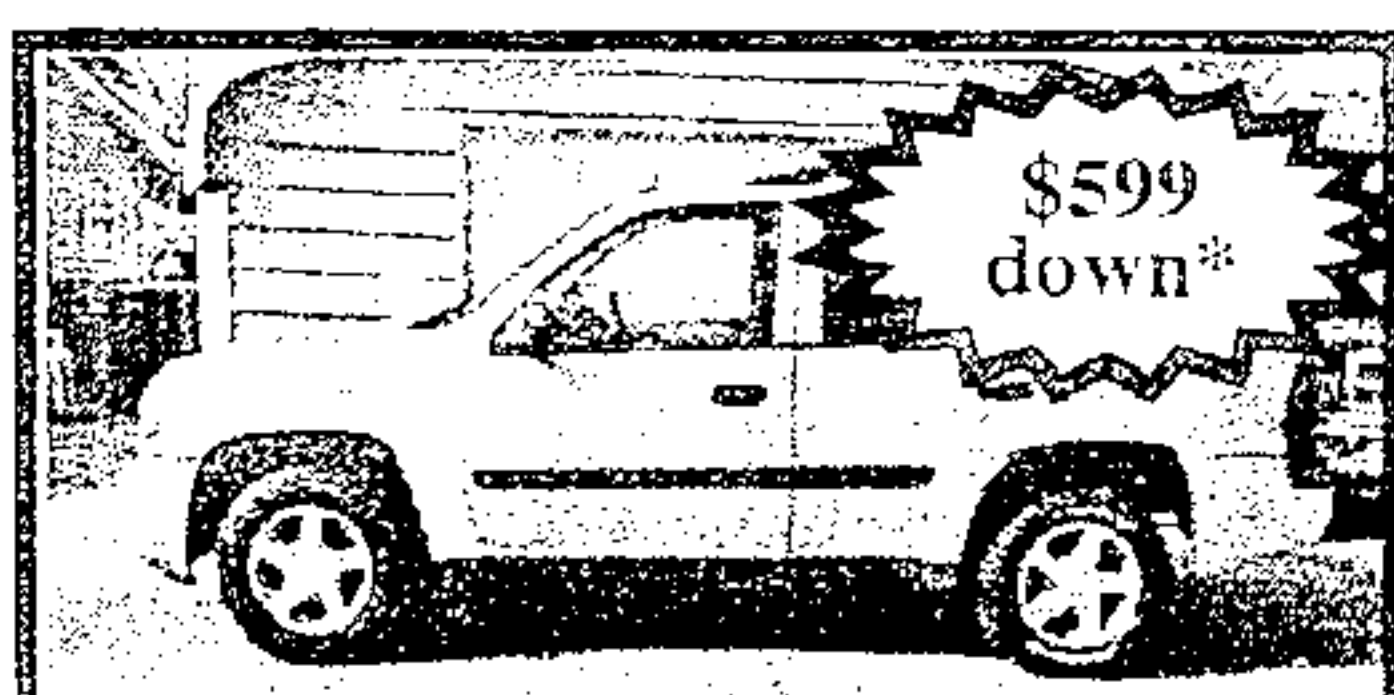
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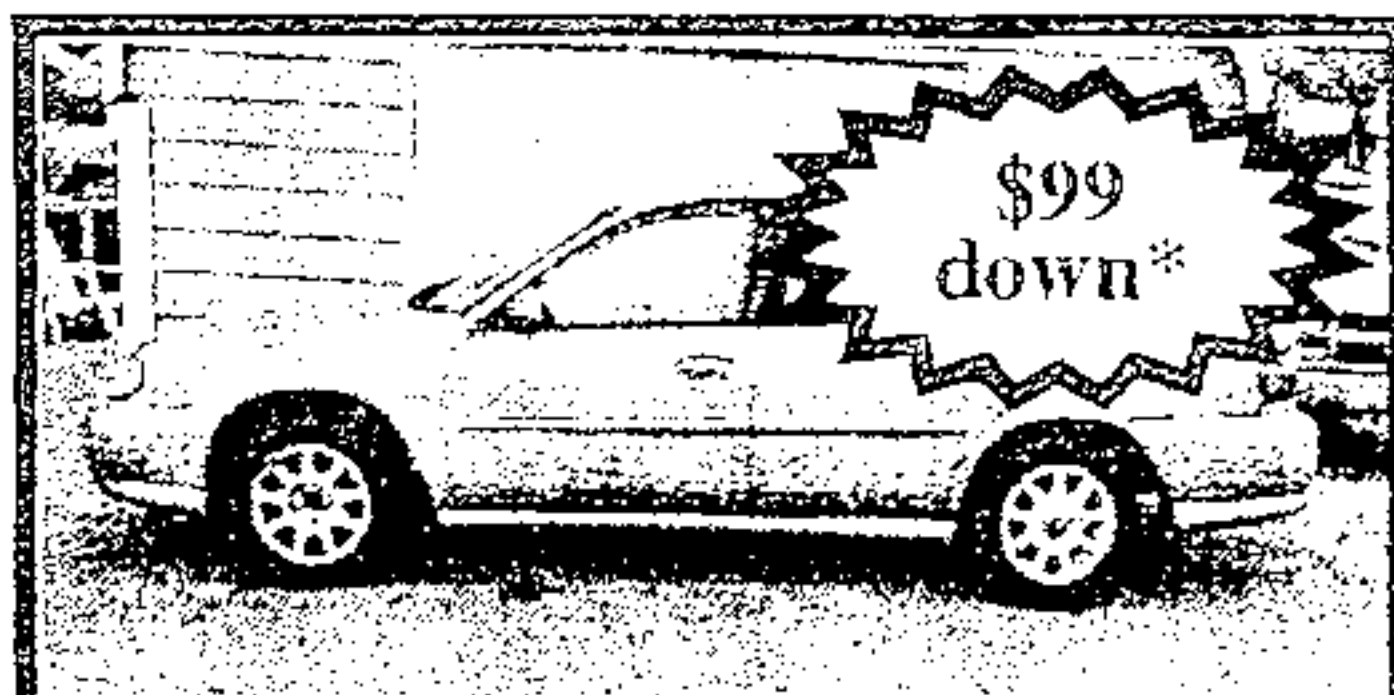
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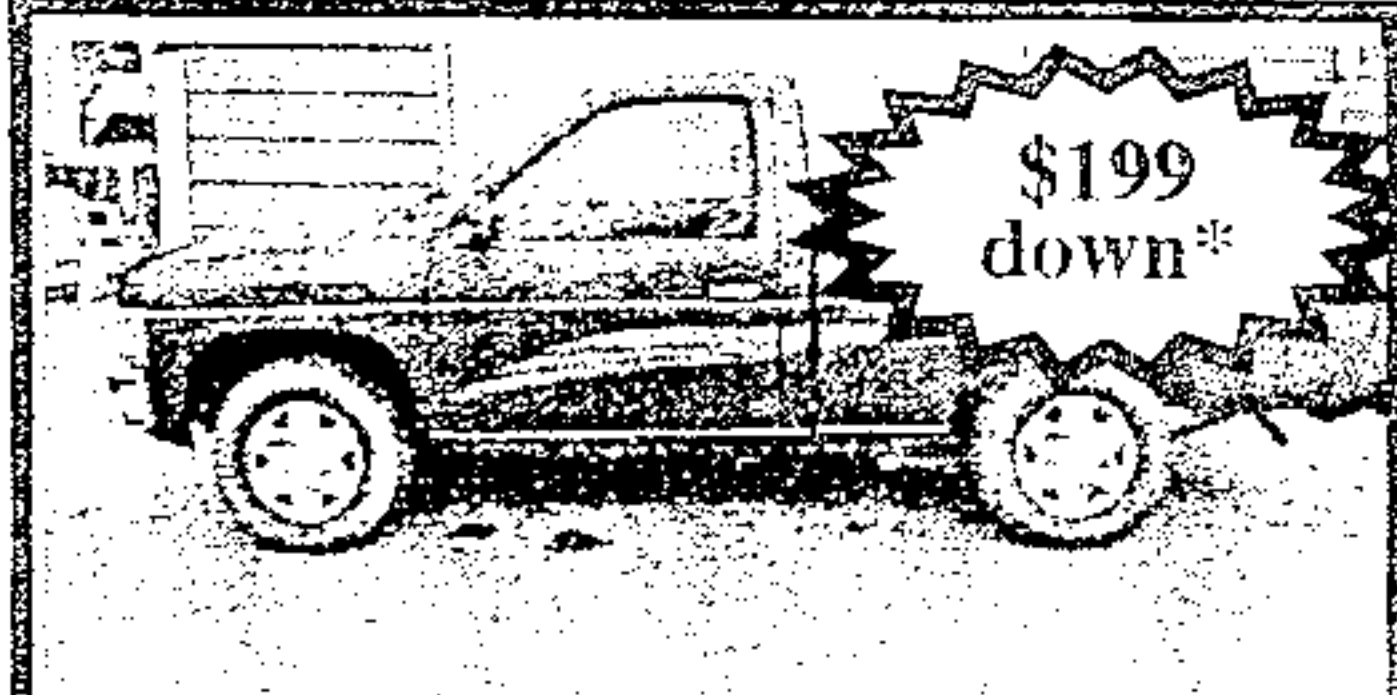
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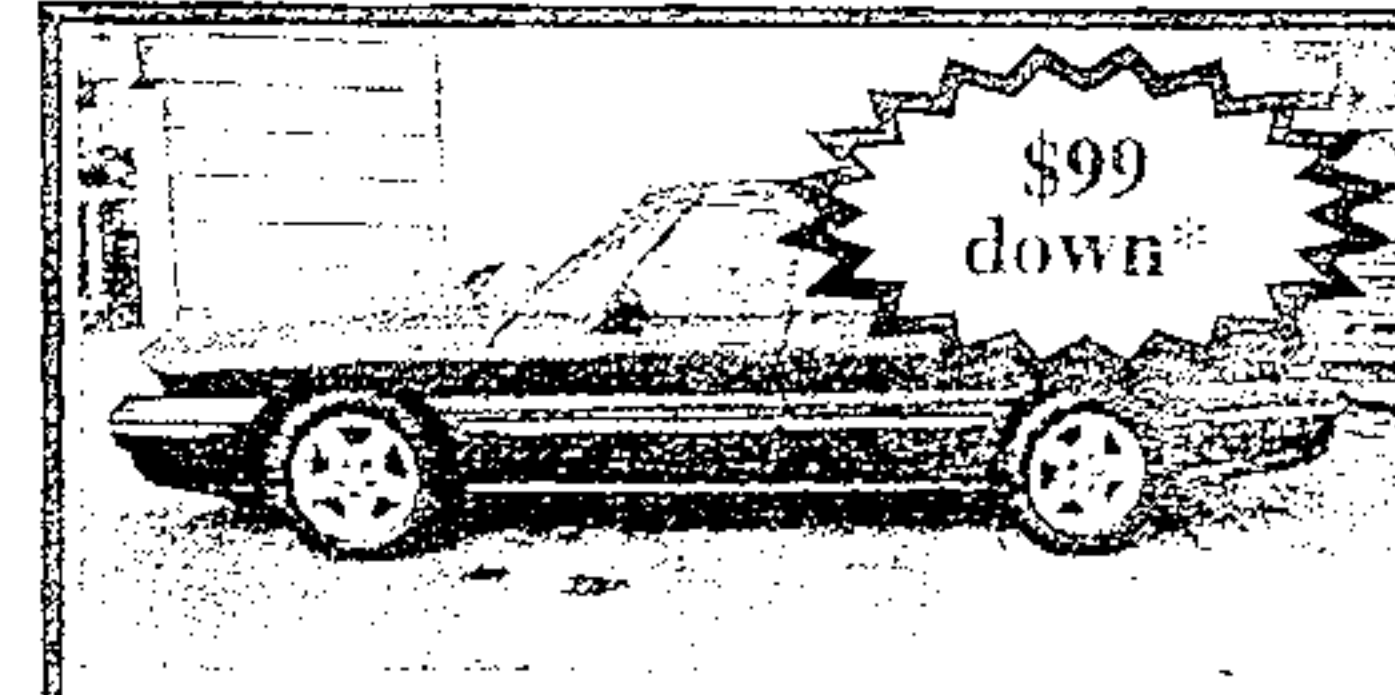
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