

# The Daily Edition

50¢

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Monday, October 16, 2017

## Shoplifter calls ends with meth arrest and more

Jeremiah Downs, 40, Browder Hollow Road Lenoir City, was charged with Simple Possession, Contraband in a Penal Institution, Theft of Property, and Attachment.

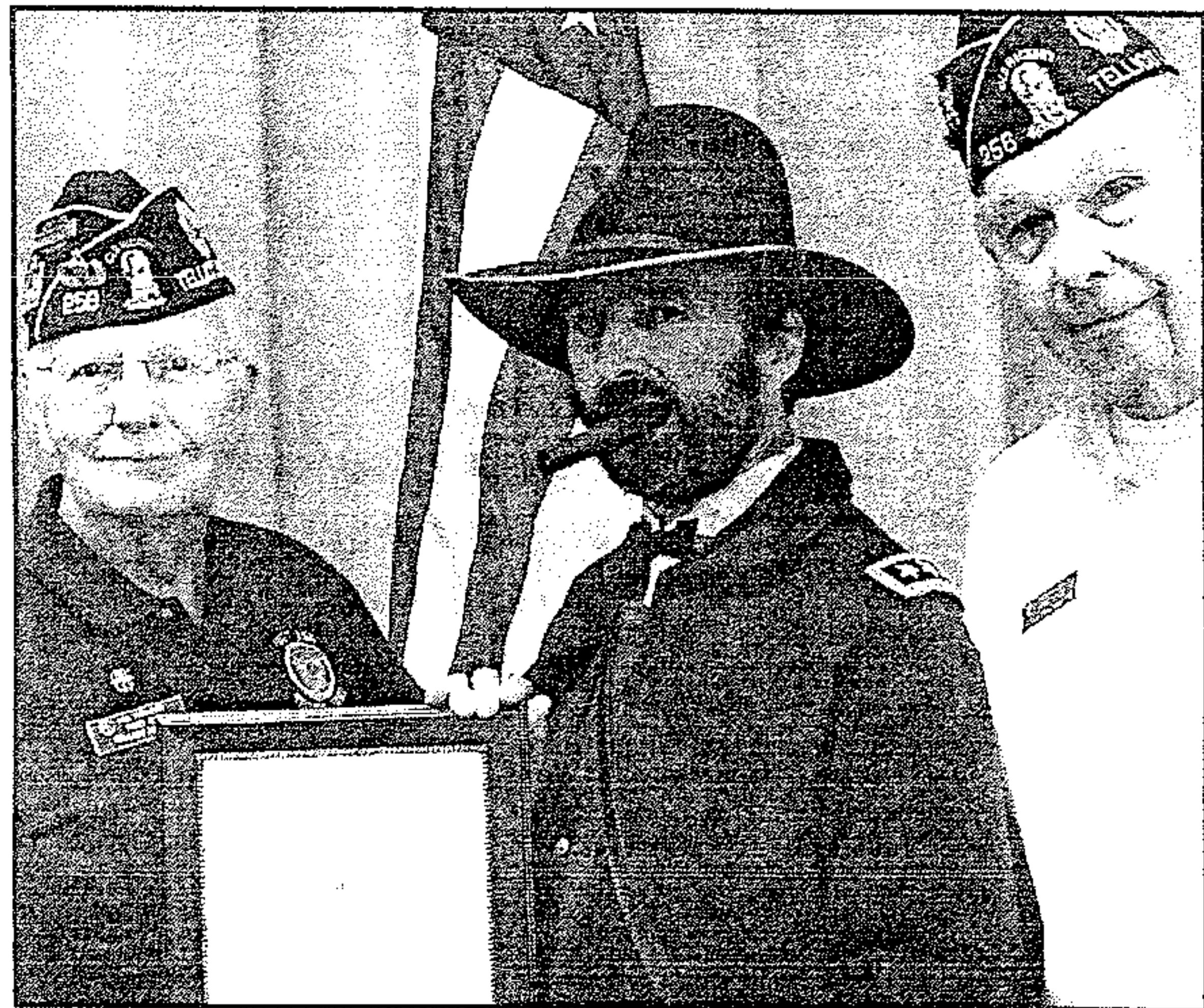
Affiant responded to 911 Hwy 321 in reference to a shoplifter. Upon arrival, Affiant made contact

(see meth pg. 2)



Jeremiah Downs

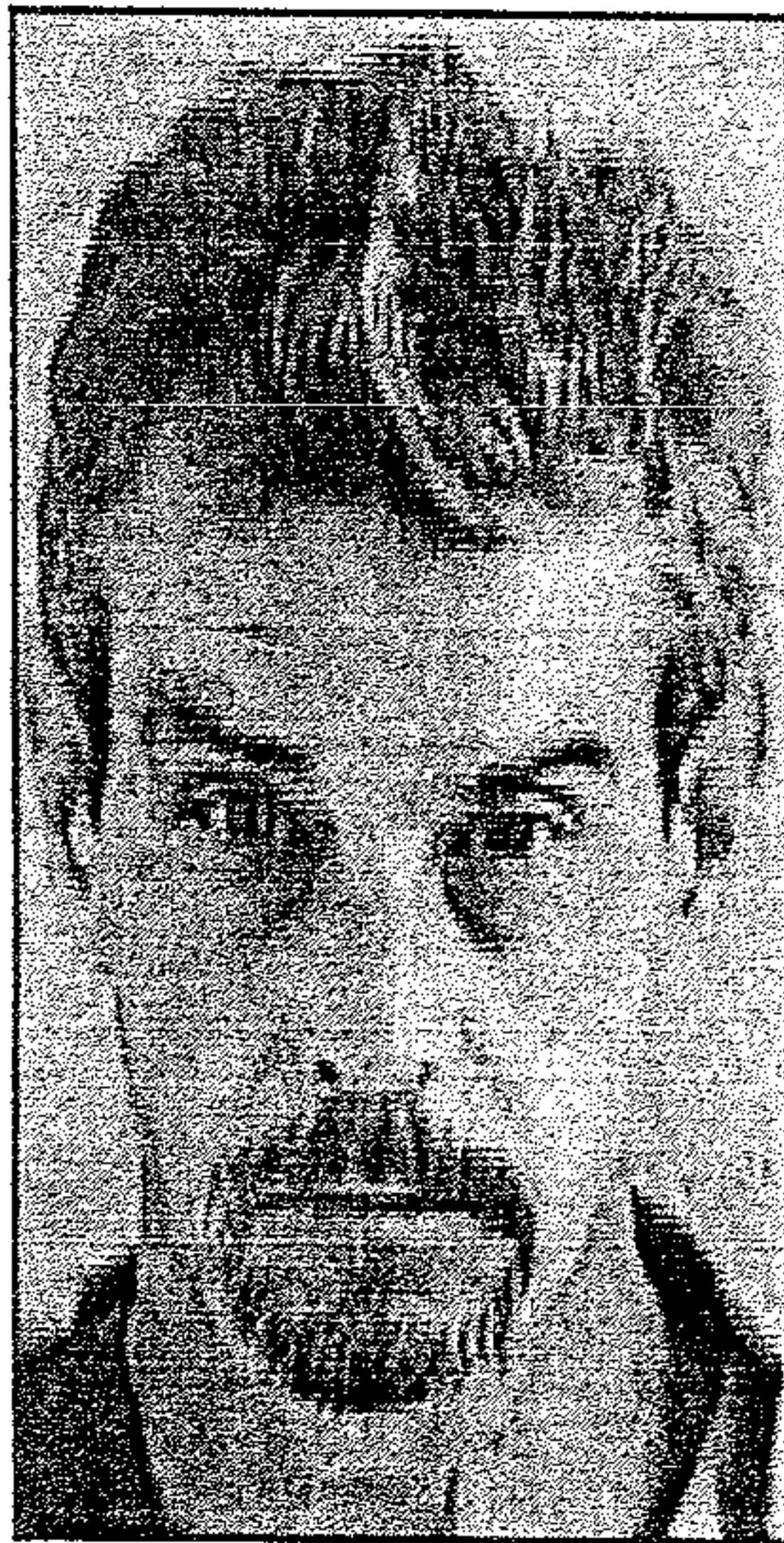
## American Legion Post 256 Revisits the History of the American Civil War



(L to R) American Legion Post 256 Commander Vic Vickery, Re-enactor Dr.E.C. (Curt) Fields, Post First Vice Commander, Robert Haldi

see Legion pg. 5

## Revoked driver charged after no tag displayed



Clifford Bracknell

see Tag pg. 7

## Escape attempt charge after domestic incident



see escape pg. 3 Courtney Brown

## Coup Attempt in The Gambia Military Action Violated Federal Neutrality Act

One of the vehicles used by conspirators—including several Americans—during an attack on The Gambia State House in 2014 as part of an unsuccessful coup attempt.

One of two cars used in a 2014 attack on the Gambian State House during a coup attempt in The Gambia. Several naturalized Americans from the West African nation helped plan and carry out the failed coup, violating U.S. federal law.

When a group of naturalized Americans from The Gambia tried to help overthrow the government of their West African homeland in 2014, they thought they would be hailed as heroes. Not only did they fail, they were charged in the United States under the Neutrality Act—a little-known federal law that prohibits Americans from waging war against friendly nations.

Two Americans were killed in the failed coup (see coup pg. 4)



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### Verse of the Day

Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. — Psalm 34:8

### Obituaries

see inside

### Wazzup

There sure are a lot of question that remain on the mass shooting in Vegas, LVPD needs to get it together and so does the FBI! Time to send our local boys to

get it done right!

### Weather

Today: Mostly sunny. Cooling down High of 64F.

Tonight: Overcast skies. low of 41F.

Tuesday: Sunny. High

of 67F.

Tuesday night: Clear Low of 42F.

### Horoscopes

Libra 9/23–10/22

You are preoccupied by an imbalance in relationship dynamics if someone sud-

(Continued on page 6)



**Meth**

with the Defendant who was found to have concealed in his pockets. Affiant noticed the items while speaking to the Defendant.

Affiant further searched the Defendant and located numerous other items stuffed down the front of the Defendant's pants. Walmart employees were who called for

police assistance. Items totaled \$98.41. While Affiant was searching the Defendant for other items, Affiant located two pills in the Defendant's pocket and the Defendant stated they were nerve pills. The Defendant volunteered that information prior to being Mirandized. Affiant then located substance that looks like rocks and are clear and believed

to be Methamphetamine. Dispatch also notified Affiant that the Defendant had an outstanding warrant here in Loudon County. The Defendant was placed in custody and transported to the Loudon County Jail where

upon being searched by Corrections Staff, another substance was located in the Defendant's right sock. The substance is also believed to be Methamphetamine. All of this did occur in Lenoir City, Loudon County, TN.

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2008 Nissan Altima, 3.5 V6, 6 speed, Leather, Sunroof, PW, PL, PS, Like New, Alloy Wheels



2012 Ford Escape Loaded, NAV, Sunroof, Leather, Alloy Wheels, Luggage Rack, MP3

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### Escape

Courtney Brown, 32, Donelson Road Philadelphia, was charged with Domestic Assault and Escape.

Deputy K. Palmer LCSO, was dispatched to a physical domestic at Donelson Road. When Deputy arrived on scene he made contact with victim. The victim stated that he and his wife Ms. Courtney Brown had been in a altercation. Victim stated that she was accusing him of cheating on him so he was just going to leave. Victim stated when he was trying to leave she grabbed him by his shirt and hit him. Deputy then spoke with Ms. Brown. Ms. Brown stated that her and victim was arguing and he grabbed her money and started to leave. Ms. Brown stated that she did grab him by the shirt trying to keep him from leaving. Dep-

uty asked Ms. Brown if he hit her or anything at which time she stated no. Deputy did observe victim shirt was ripped and his lip was bleeding consistent with what victim stated occurred. Lt. Yokley LCSO, also spoke with Ms. Browns father who stated that they were both arguing and when he tried to leave Ms. Brown grabbed him by the shirt and tried to keep him from leaving.

Witness stated they were both fighting back and forth. Witness stated Ms. Brown was hitting viictim trying to keep him from leaving and yelling about him owing her money. Ms. Brown was placed under arrest for domestic assault and placed in handcuffs and put in the back seat of my patrol vehicle. While leaving the scene Ms. Brown slipped one of her

cuffs and started hitting the back window. Deputy then stopped and tried to get the cuff back on Ms. Brown but she refused to listen and turn around so Deputy put it back on her wrist in front of her. Before Deputy was able to get to the Loudon County Jail Ms. Brown had slipped the other cuff off her other hand. Ms. Brown was transported to the Loudon County jail and charged with domestic assault and escape. This did occur in Loudon County TN.

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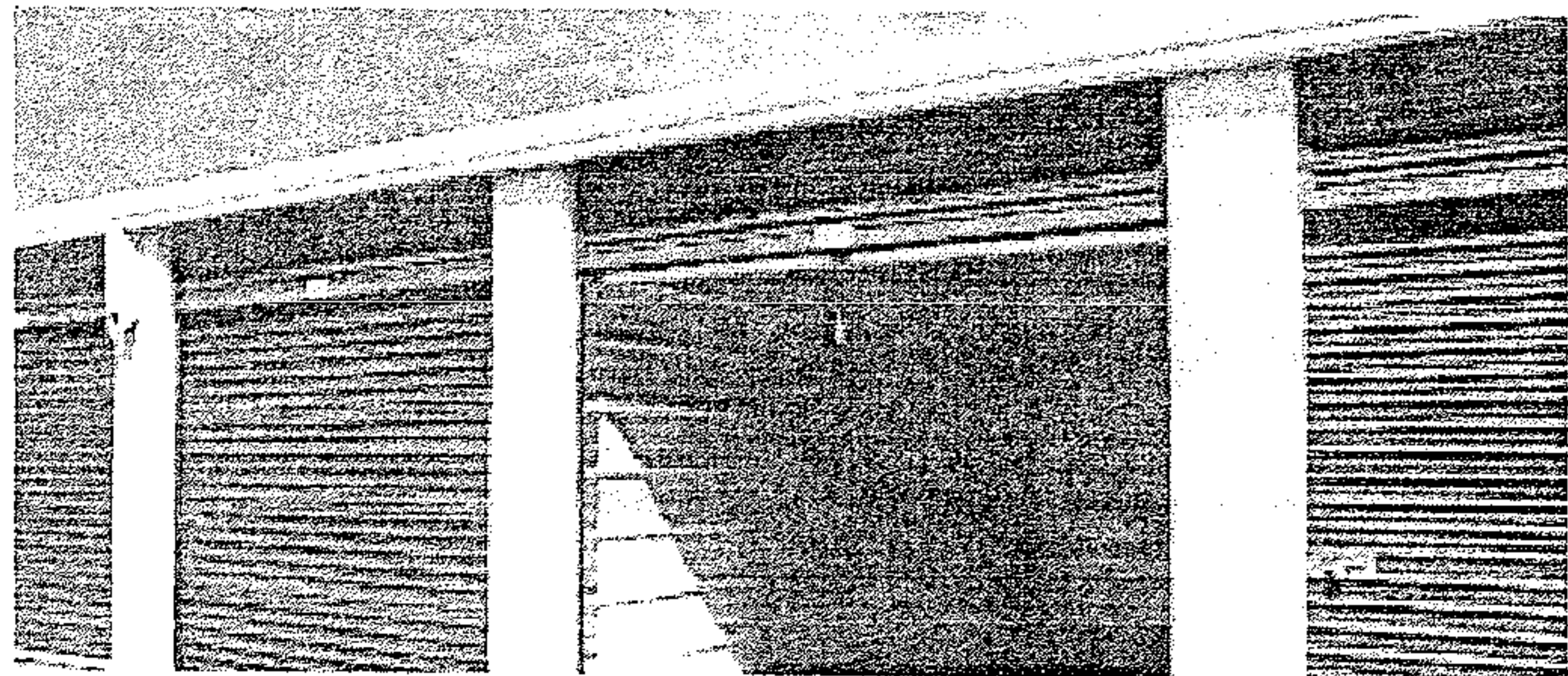
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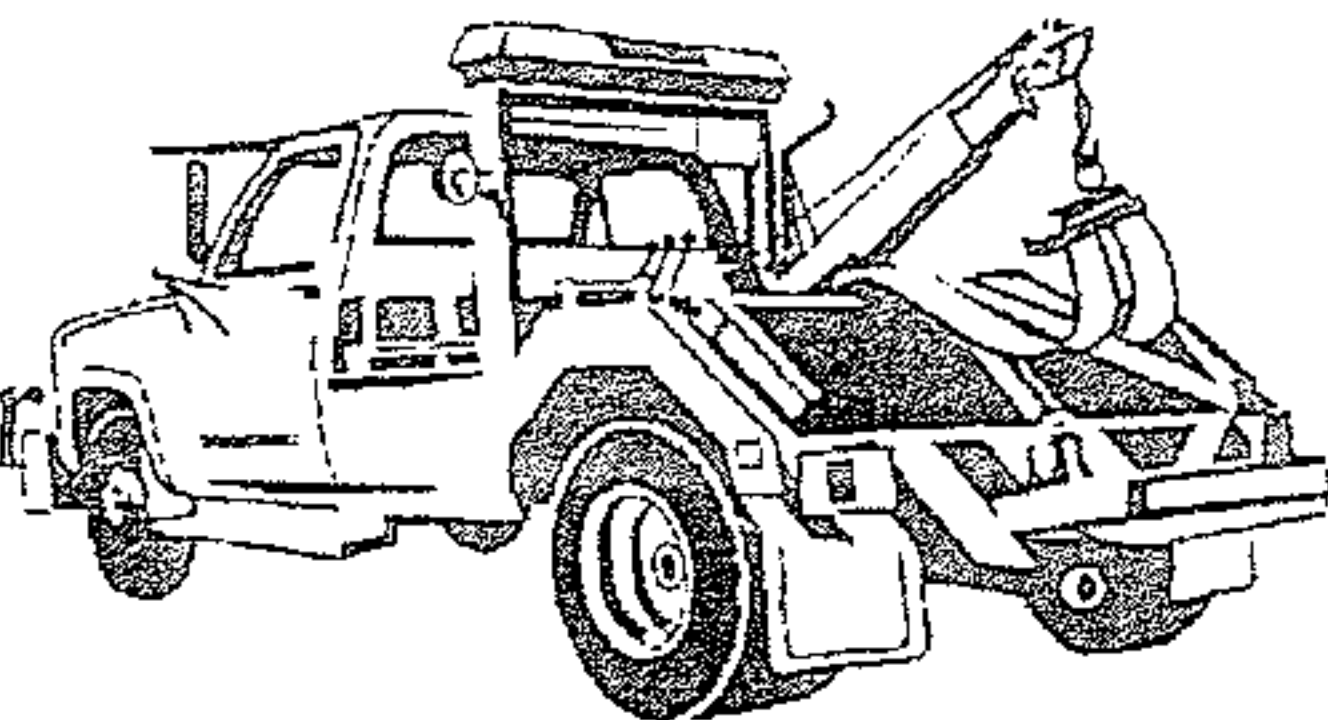
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\*note: the "Rotation List" is a list of wrecker services that provide service for wrecks, DUI's, breakdowns, etc. and are on an on-call basis for service. This list is approved by the Sheriff.

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**Sentenced**

on December 30, 2014. The next day, distraught Gambian-American Papa Faal entered the U.S. Embassy in neighboring Senegal.

“He said, ‘I need to get back to the United States. The Gambians are looking for me.’” said Special Agent Jeffrey Van Nest from the FBI’s Minneapolis Field Office. “When embassy staff asked why, Faal said he was part of the attempted coup. That’s when we got involved.”

Embassy staff immediately notified the legal attaché—the FBI special agent assigned to the U.S. Embassy. The legal attaché interviewed Faal, quickly determined there was a possible violation of the Neutrality Act, and notified the Department of Justice and the FBI office in Faal’s hometown of Minneapolis; Van Nest was the squad supervisor over the investigation.

Faal’s cooperation led to conspirators in other U.S. states, requiring involvement from FBI field offices in Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Louisville, Memphis, San Antonio, and Seattle. Agents also traveled to The Gambia, Senegal, and Germany. The FBI coordinated with other federal agencies, including the Department of State; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command.

FBI agents interviewed subjects, searched their computers, and reviewed financial, travel, and phone records. The evidence helped agents piece together the conspiracy.

Members of the Gambian diaspora who had formed the Gambia Freedom League hatched the plan in 2012 to overthrow then-President Yahya Jammeh. The group

included Gambians living in America, Europe, and Africa. Cherno Njie, a naturalized American who lived in Texas, planned to serve as the interim leader in The Gambia.

Njie also financed much of the operation and arranged for another conspirator to buy weapons for the coup. Njie kept meticulous financial records showing how much he paid for ammunition and weapons, as well as their serial numbers. The weapons were smuggled into The Gambia hidden by clothes inside 55-gallon barrels.

The attack plan, developed by a co-conspirator with U.S. military experience, had coup members meet at safe houses in The Gambia. Two teams—one of six men and one of four—armed with the smuggled weapons and wearing military gear, attacked the Gambian State House.

Gambian soldiers killed several of the attackers, including two Americans; others escaped or were captured. Security forces also collected numerous weapons and military equipment.

As part of the investigation, FBI agents from Minneapolis received permission to travel to The Gambia to look at the evidence—and the bodies of the two Americans killed in the attack.

The trip into The Gambia was tense because President Jammeh initially believed the U.S. military was behind the attack. Gambian military and intelligence officials escorted FBI agents during the visit.

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**Coup Attempt in The Gambia**

December 30, 2014

Five Americans were convicted for their roles in participating in the plot; two others were killed in the attempt.

Convicted of Conspiracy to Violate the Neutrality Act (ages as of 5/12/17)

Papa Faal, 48, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Also convicted of a firearms violation. Sentenced to time served.

Cherno Njie, 59, of Lakeway, Texas. Also convicted of a firearms violation. Sentenced to one year and one day.

Alagie Barrow, 44, of Lavergne, Tennessee. Also convicted of a firearms violation. Sentenced to six months.

Banke Manneh, 44, of Jonesboro, Georgia. Also convicted of a firearms violation. Sentenced to six months.

Convicted of Conspiracy to Export Defense Articles

Alhaji Boye, 46, (as of 3/27/17) of Raleigh, North Carolina. Sentenced to nine months.

Agents identified more than 20 weapons purchased by Americans using money Njie provided. They also examined the cars used in the attack as well as the safe houses, and they took DNA samples from the two dead Americans.

The FBI has investigated only a handful of violations of the Neutrality Act. Despite the investigative complications—with nu-

merous conspirators acting in several states and overseas—agents knew just how to proceed.

“The steps in these investigations are the same as for most cases, said Special Agent Margaret Thill, who also worked the case from the FBI’s Minneapolis office. “You have a potential violation, you gather evidence, you

see FBI etd, pg 5



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**Legion**

Guest speaker, Dr. E.C. (Curt) Fields, Jr., as a re-enactor of General Ulysses S. Grant, gave the members and guests of American Legion Post 256 a most convincing and true-to-life portrayal of General Grant. Dr. Fields appearance had everyone's full attention, his height and body type are the same as General Grant's; wearing the full period uniform, a beard and holding a cigar made a striking resemblance to photos seen of General Ulysses S. Grant. He spoke in the dialect of the period as he delivered quotes and statements that were from memoirs, articles and letters General Grant had written. His appearance and articulate familiarity of facts were captivating as he immersed everyone back to the Civil War and into the details that surrounded the history of the Confederacy. He was able to place the mesmerized audience into the house near Appomattox Court House and within the room where he (General Grant), General Robert E. Lee and their Generals negotiated the end of the American Civil War. Dr. Fields is a historian and has portrayed General Ulysses S. Grant in movies, documentaries and is known as an avid and lifelong student of the American Civil War. He holds a Master's degree in Education from the University of Memphis and a

Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Curriculum from Michigan State University. Post 256 has already ask Dr. Fields to return next year for a repeat performance. For additional information about the American Legion contact Commander Vic Vickery, 423-884-6476 and visit: [www.TellicoLakePost256.org](http://www.TellicoLakePost256.org)

Photo and article by James Patterson  
**Toys for Tots 2017 Applications Now Available**

Applications for the 2017 Toys for Tots program are now available at the Loudon County Sheriff's Office.

ALL applications must be returned to the Loudon County Sheriff's Department by 4 PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017. Applications must also include a copy of the parent or guardian's current income information. A current Tennessee Driver's License or State Issued ID is required from the parent, and a copy of the child's social security card is also required.

If you wish to take a name, they will be available beginning in mid-October through business and churches. Donations are also accepted at the Sheriff's office. If your business or church would be willing to take names please call Debbie Hines, Toys for Tots Coordinator at 986-4823.

FBI ctd. from pg. 4  
 build rapport with witnesses to elicit cooperation and information, and you work closely with the assistant U.S. Attorney who is prosecuting the case."

Five men ended up pleading guilty in the case: four were sentenced in 2016 on counts relating to the Neutrality Act, and a fifth was sentenced in March 2017 for buy-

ing weapons. None was sentenced to more than a year and a day in prison.

Short sentences notwithstanding, the successful investigation delivered several important messages, Van Nest said. "Rapid identification, arrest, and guilty pleas of those responsible ensured continued safety and security of American diplomatic personnel

posted to the region," he explained. "More importantly, the U.S. government capably reinforced accountability to the rule of law in a part of the world which has been cursed by cyclical violence between warring factions for generations."

Prosecuting an Unusual Crime  
 Admittedly, Andrew see FBI conc. pg. 7

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Tag

Clifford Bracknell, 57, Elm Grove Street Loudon, was charged with Driving on Revoked License, and Failure to Appear.

Officer Green LCSD, observed a White Dodge Ram 1500 traveling S. on Hwy 321 without a Tennessee Registration Plate displayed.

Officer conducted a traffic stop on this vehicle and spoke with the driver, Clifford Bracknell, who could not provide valid Identification. Officer ran a Drivers License status check and warrant check through dispatch which notified Mr. Bracknell had a warrant out of Loudon County for Failure to Appear.

Officer took Mr. Bracknell into custody and transported him to Loudon County Jail without incident. All the above occurred in Loudon County.

FBI conc.. from pg. 5

Luger was not entirely clear why he was part of a conference call on New Year's Day, 2015: He was speaking with his national security prosecutor, FBI agents from across the nation and globe, and representatives from the Department of State.

"I said, 'You're going to have to pardon me. This is my first coup—what's the crime? What

exactly did these people do that violated U.S. federal law?" said Luger, the former U.S. attorney for District of Minnesota. "And someone said, 'The Neutrality Act.'"

The Neutrality Act was enacted in 1794 and amended several times. The relevant provision—which prohibits American citizens from essentially waging war against a nation that is at peace with the United States—has been prosecuted fewer than five times.

One of the first tasks was to verify that the attack was not a covert operation launched or approved by the U.S. government. The Department of State verified it was neither.



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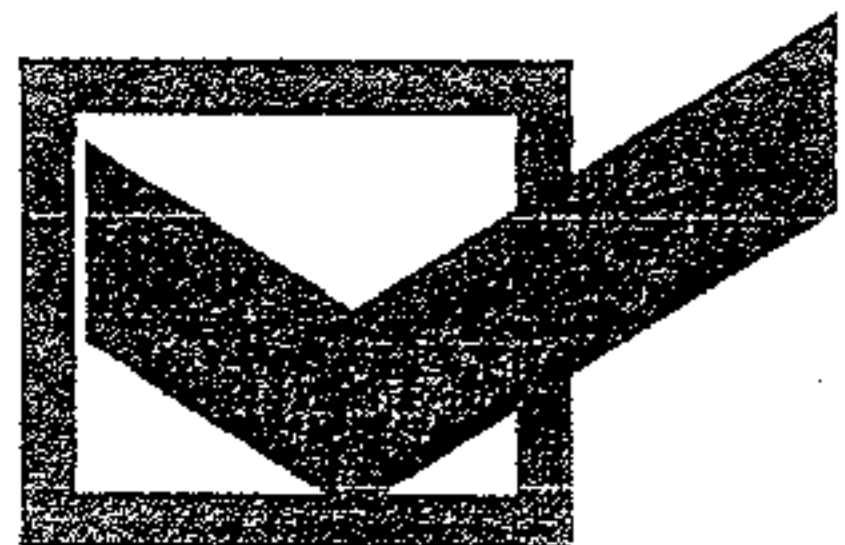
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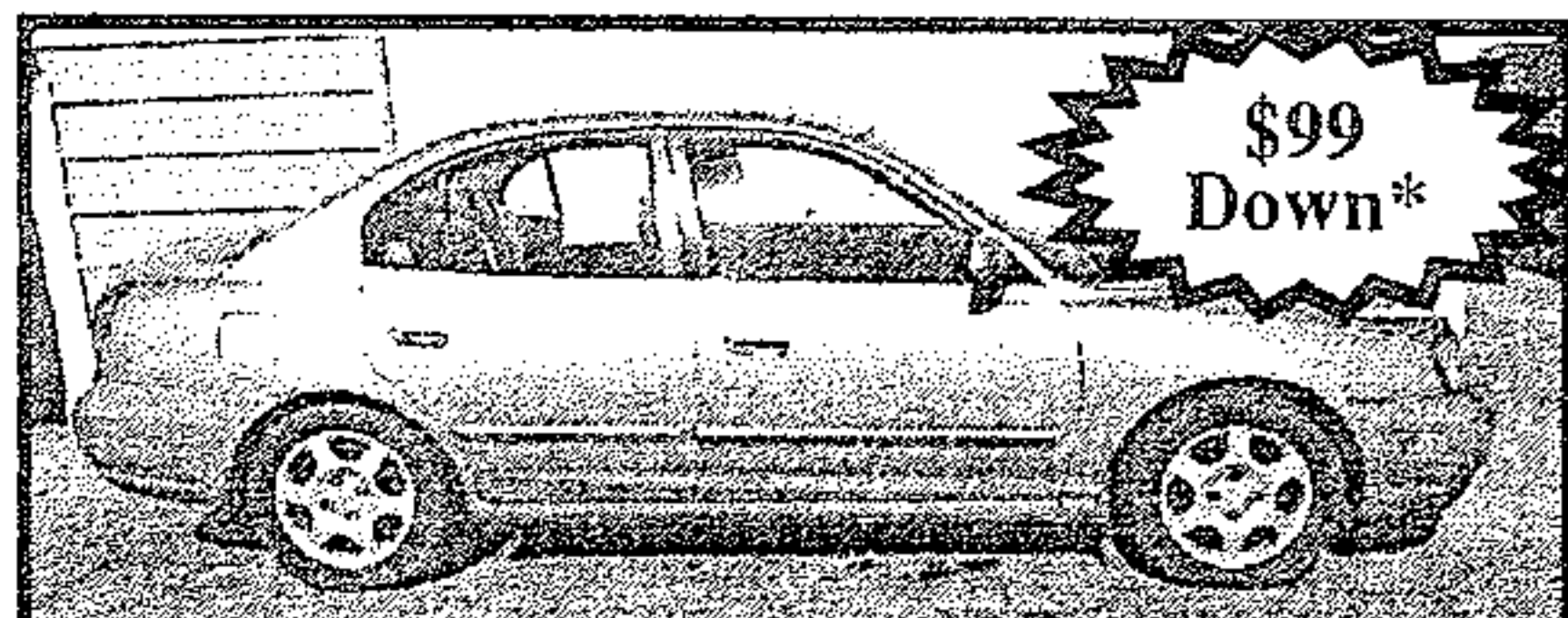
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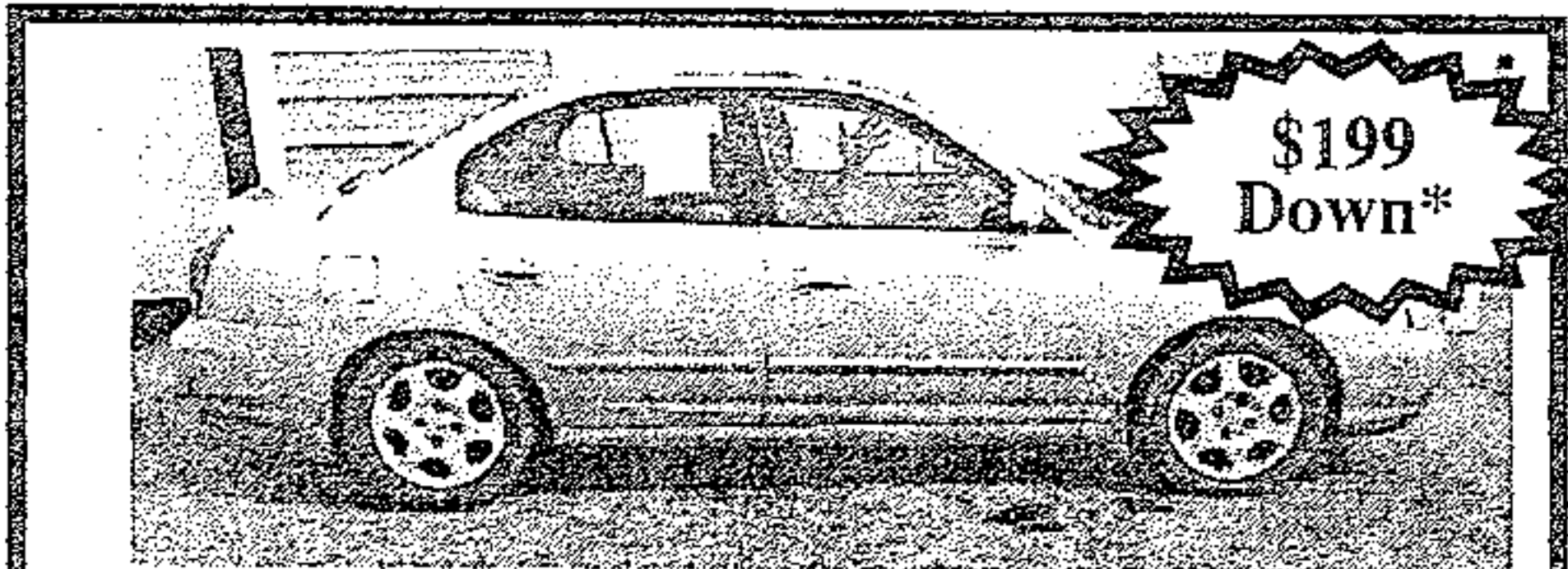
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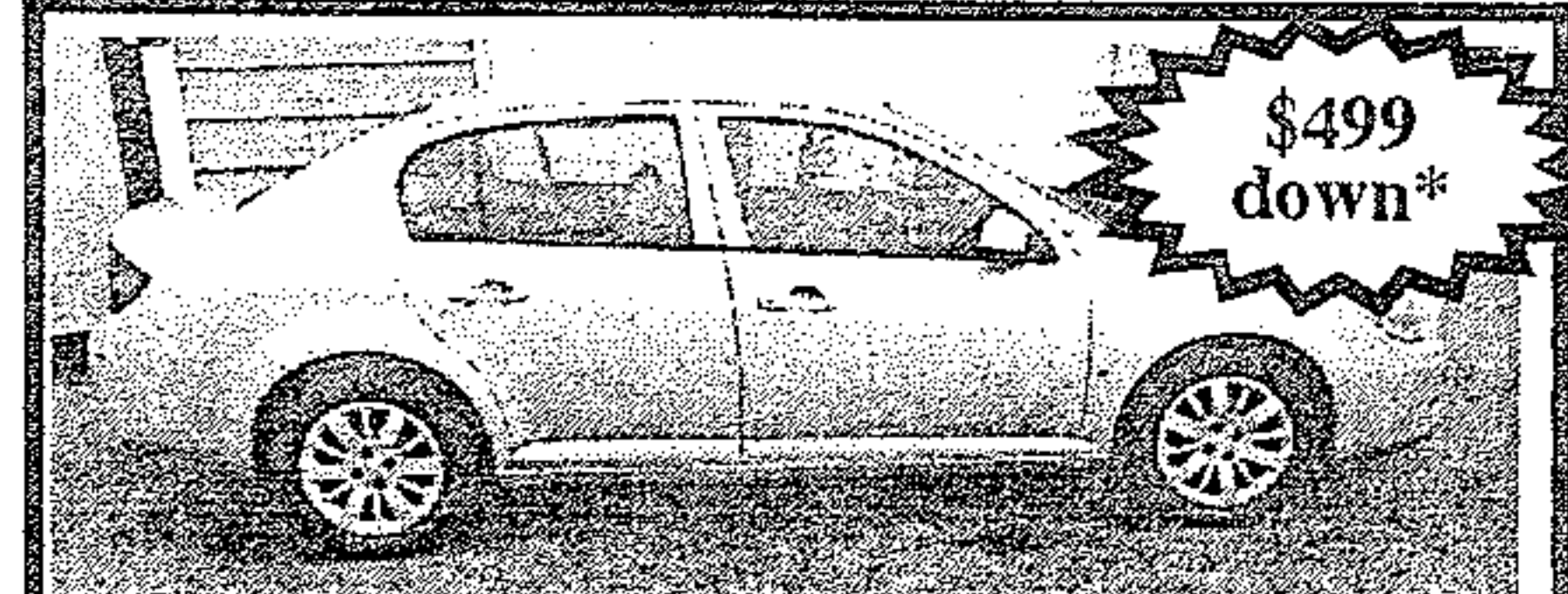
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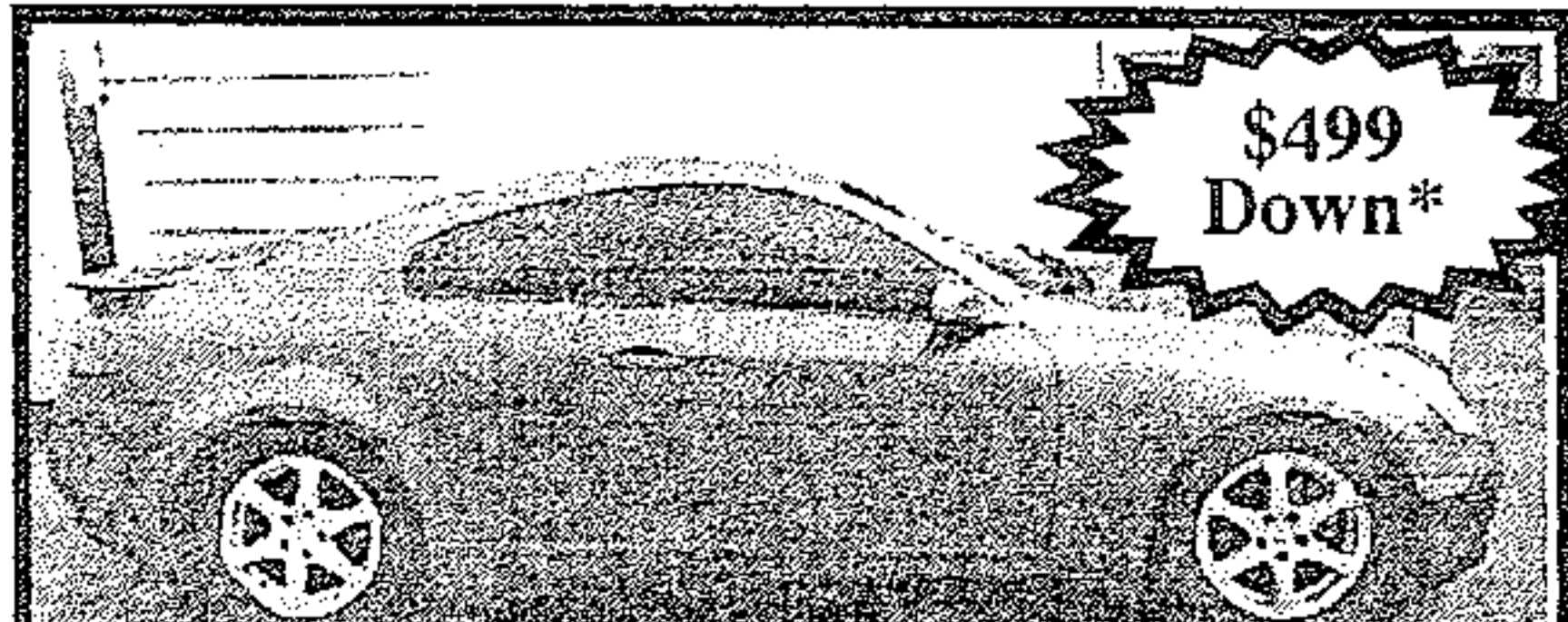
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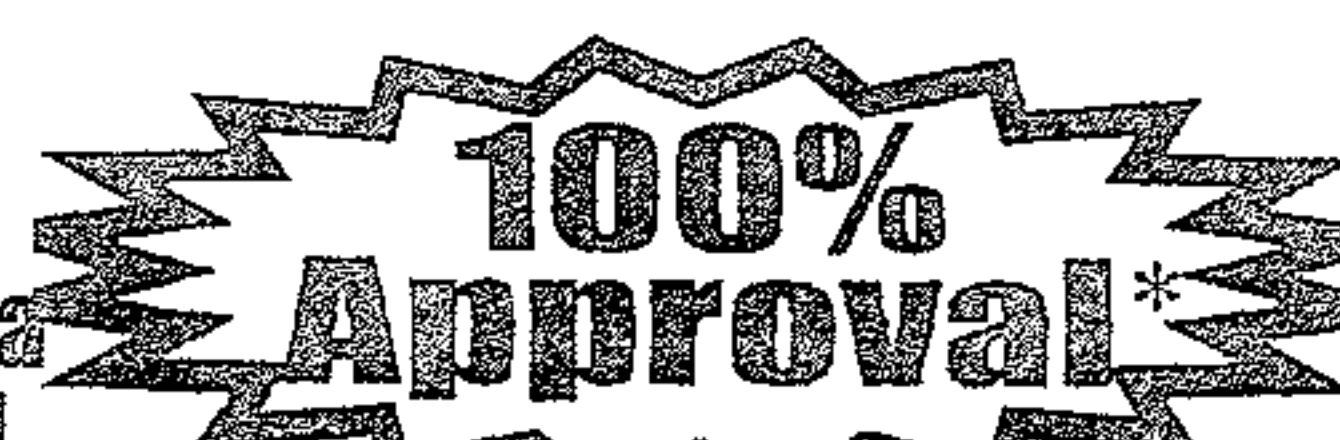
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