

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Woman found passed out with child in car at Pig in Philly



Jodi McDonald

see Passed out pg. 2

Traffic stop leads to meth, needles and BB gun



Amanda Cox

see Charged pg. 3

Former Lewis County Finance Officer Received Improper Benefits

The annual audit of Lewis County government found several problems, many of which can be tied to how county finances were managed by the former finance officer.

The audit report reveals the former finance officer, who also served as Lewis County's benefits

administrator, did not pay \$12,671 in personal insurance premiums. The former finance director received coverage for his entire family from January 2017 through October 2018, while only contributing premiums based on a single employee.

see Lewis Co. pg. 5

Would-Be Mass Shooters Sentenced Couple's Obsession Led Them to Plan Attack

Elizabeth Lecron and Vincent Armstrong were obsessed with mass shooters.

The Toledo, Ohio, couple immersed themselves in online subculture dedicated to the topic. In 2018, they traveled to Columbine High School to visit the site of the 1999 school shooting, where they took pictures of themselves dressed like the

shooters and posing with weapons. Lecron also wrote to one notorious mass shooter in prison to express her admiration for him.

But investigators say it wasn't just a morbid fascination.

The couple, led by Lecron, wrote detailed plans mak-

See Sentenced P.4

Best-selling Author Erik Larson to Speak in Knoxville February 25

'The Splendid and the Vile' Recounts Churchill's First Year as Prime Minister

Erik Larson loved his first book, The Naked Consumer, in which he described how companies spy on individual consumers. But, according to Lar-

See Feb. 25 P.4



Verse of the Day

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been

saved.

— Ephesians 2:4-5

Wazzup

For those in Loudon County that are upset about the county denying illegals please provide your address so those that do come here illegal-

ly have a place to go to and for someone to provide for them. Thanks

Weather

Today: Rain. High of 67F. Tonight: Rain. Low of 62F Thursday: Rain. High of 66F.

Tuesday night: Rain. Low

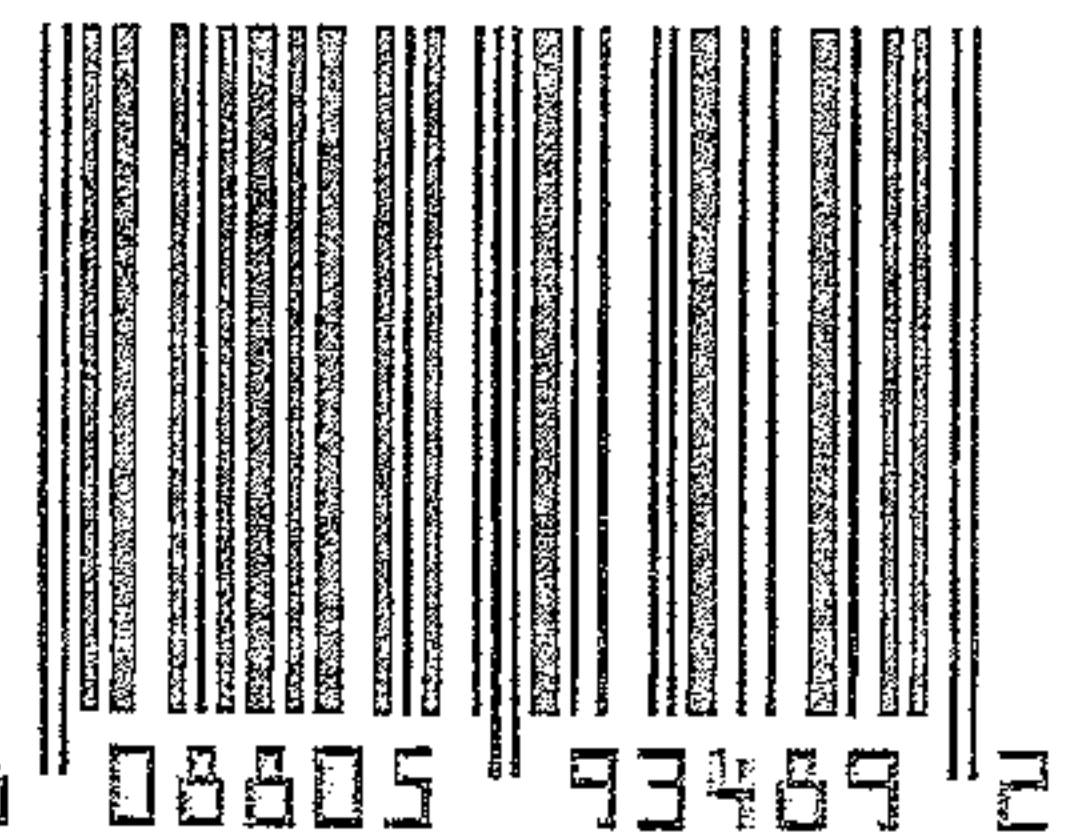
of 49F.

Horoscopes

Aquarius 1/20-2/18

Honesty is the best policy, even if it ruffles a few feathers. Despite this, interactions with those around you will

(Continued on page 6)



Passed out

Jodi McDonald, 35, Maple Hill Road Loudon, was charged with Child Endangerment, Identity Theft, DUI, Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch. II. Poss. Of Drug Para., and Resisting Arrest. Deputy Marshall Lynn LCSO, was notified by detective of a wanted person, named Jodi McDonald who was occupying a blue vehicle at the

Grizzly Pig. Deputy arrived on scene and located the vehicle, and noticed the female identified as Jodi McDonald passed out behind the wheel with the vehicle in drive and running and a juvenile in the backseat. Deputy stood by the vehicle window for several minutes and remained unnoticed. Deputy Huskins arrived and confirmed the warrant and the identity of

McDonald, Deputy gave several lawful orders to exit the vehicle, which she refused. Deputy then took McDonalds left arm and removed her from the

vehicle, where she continued to disobey commands. McDonald was placed in the patrol vehicle. A search of the vehicle for tow revealed

Passed out ctd. pg. 3

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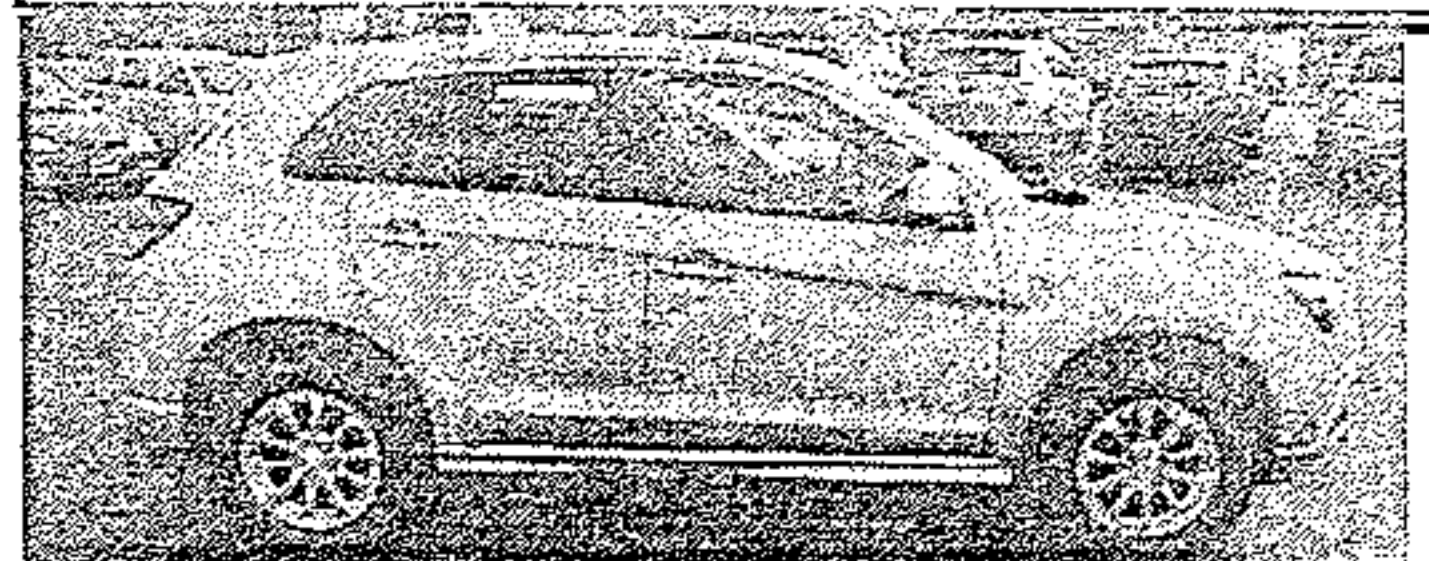
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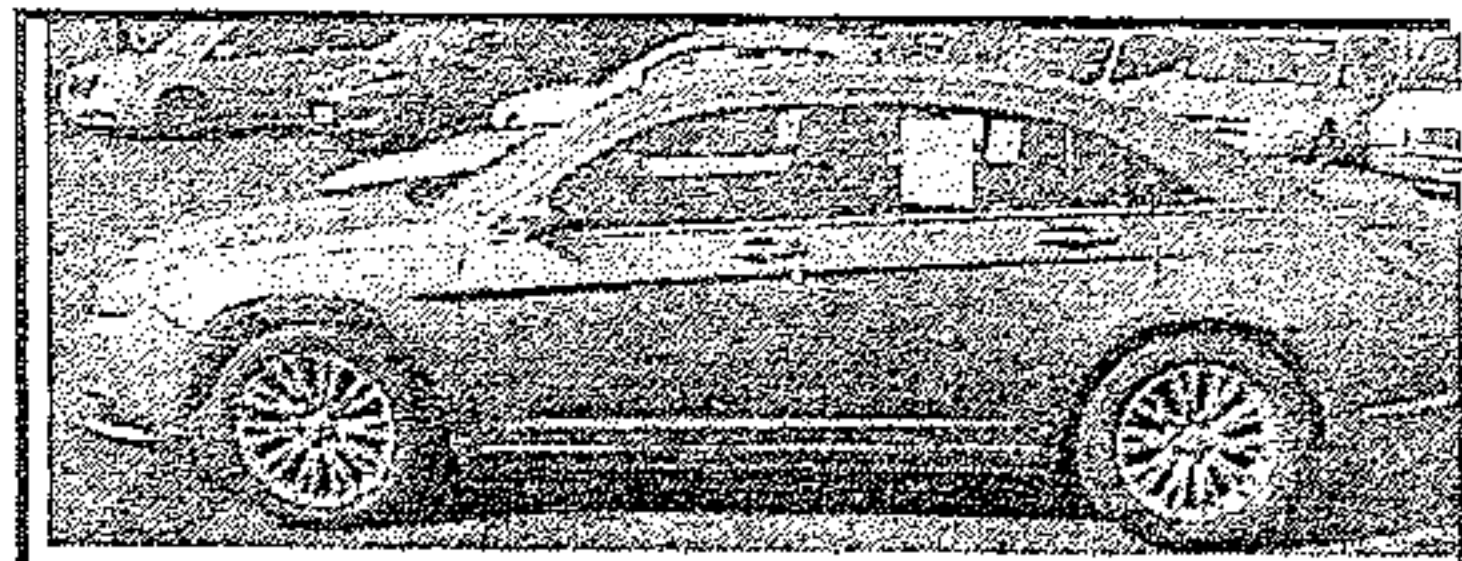
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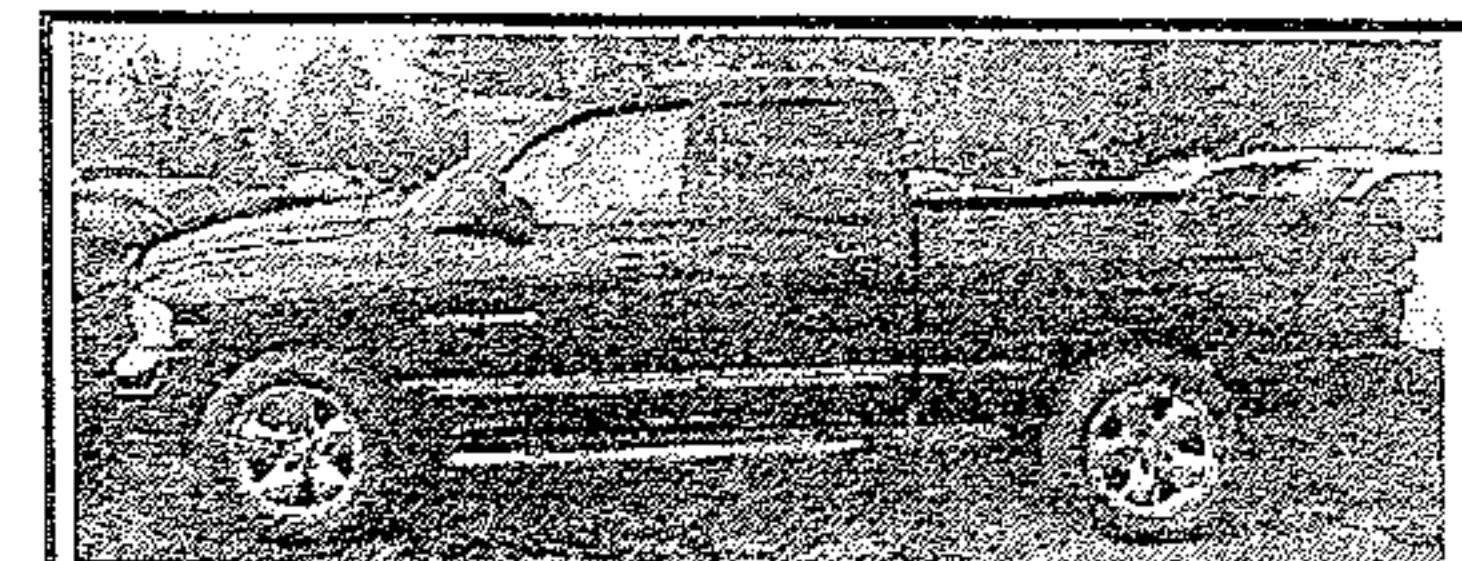
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Passed out ctd. from pg. 2
 a plastic bag containing 7 grams of a crystal substance that tested positive for meth, and four hypodermic needles, a straw, several baggies, and digital scale. Jodi McDonald was transported to the Loudon County Jail.

Charged

Amanda Cox, 37, Mashburn Road Sweetwater, was charged with Contraband in a Penal Institution, Man/Sell/Poss. of a Controlled Substance, and Poss. of Drug Para. Officer Jonathon Yates LCPD, was on routine patrol. Several vehicles had been burglarized last couple month at local hotel. Officer observed a van at Bimbo's with two occupants, who appeared to be nervous when Officer drove by. The driver went to the Econo Lodge and parked, and left the headlight on. Officer drove by the passenger was in the van the driver was not. The van left and made a right onto Hwy 321, and then made

a u turn and crossed two lane to go north on I-75. Officer conducted a traffic stop and identified the driver as Amanda Cox and a female passenger who stated they were visiting an aunt. Cox was reaching down in the door and both appeared to be very nervous.

Officer had Cox exit the vehicle, and the passenger stated the van was hers and gave consent to search. Officer located a baggie with white crystal substance with 1/2 wrote on it.

Officer also located another baggie with 23.3 grams, set of scales, and a realistic pistol BB gun with a bandana wrapped around the handle. Amanda Cox stated all the items were hers and she was trying to sell it as meth. Amanda Cox was placed under arrest and transported to the Loudon County Jail. Once at the jail Cox was searched in the jail and Deputy located 6 more baggies of meth 19.1 grams and two loaded needles were in her bra.

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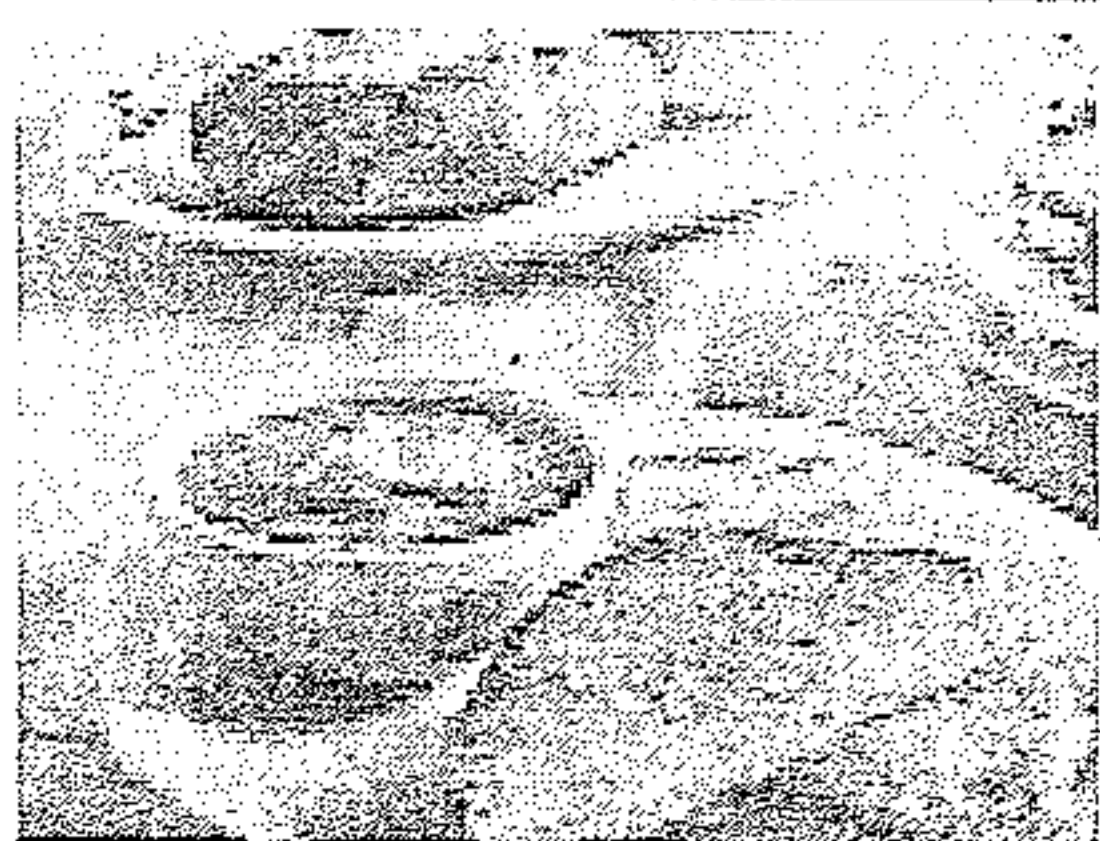
Public Notice

The City of Philadelphia Mayor and Board of Aldermen will have the first reading of the Ordinance No. 20200113 "Purchasing Policy" for the City of Philadelphia on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. located at the United Methodist Church of Philadelphia.

Public Notice

The City of Philadelphia Mayor and Board of Aldermen will meet in a regular scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. located at the United Methodist Church of Philadelphia.

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Feb. 25

son, no one else loved the book. Under-terred, he continued to write and is now the author of five nonfiction bestsellers.

Larson will be in Knoxville to talk about his latest book, *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*, on Tuesday, February 25, at 7 p.m. at the Bijou Theatre. The event is sponsored by Friends of the Knox County Public Library, Union Ave Books, the Knox County Public Library, and the East Tennessee Historical Society.

Tickets for the event are \$38 each and can be purchased online at knoxbijou.org or at the Tennessee Theatre Box Office located on Clinch Avenue. Each ticket holder will receive a copy of *The Splendid and the Vile*, and the author will be available to sign copies after he speaks.

In *The Splendid and the Vile*, Larson takes readers to “a time of true leadership, when, in the face of unrelenting horror, Churchill’s eloquence, courage, and perseverance bound a country, and a family, together.” The story he tells is one of political brinkmanship as well as a portrait of the lives of Churchill and his family during a critical year in history.

“What Larson brilliantly provides are the finer details of the effects on England as he focuses on the family and home of its dynamic, idiosyncratic, and indefatigable leader... Larson’s skill at integrating vast research and talent for capturing compelling human dramas culminate in an inspirational portrait of one of history’s finest, most fearless leaders.” — Booklist (starred review)

“If you’re a World War II/Winston Churchill buff — or maybe if ‘The Crown’ turned you into one — this book should be just up your alley... I have an early copy of this book on my desk and idly began reading the first pages — and suddenly time disap-

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peared.” — The Seattle Times, 5 of the most highly anticipated books in 2020

Located in the heart of downtown Knoxville in The Daylight Building, just two blocks from Market Square, Union Ave Books is a locally owned independent bookstore. For more information about the store, please visit unionavebooks.com.

Friends of the Knox County Public Library is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster a love of libraries, books, and reading in the Knox County area. The organization raises funds to sponsor community outreach programs, represent the interests of Knox County library patrons, and support a variety of services offered by the local library system that would otherwise not be available due to budget or staff restrictions.

Sentenced

ing it clear they intended to become mass shooters themselves. They expressed violent, anti-government beliefs and their plans to act on them.

“Unfortunately, we address these types of threats frequently,” said Special Agent Ryan Presley, who oversaw this investigation out of the FBI’s Cleveland Field Office. “The challenge is figuring out who is just talking and who is making serious plans.”

In this case, the would-be shooters documented their violent plans.

Thankfully, a concerned citizen who became aware of their activity called the Toledo Police Department, which shared the tip with Detective Louie Espinosa and FBI Special Agent Sara Pedersen of the Bureau’s Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

Public Notice
Loudon County Website Committee will meet February 19th at 5:00 PM at the County Office Building for a vendor presentation.

The JTTF learned that the couple’s plans were serious and that they had stockpiled weapons and bomb-making materials.

“This is an example of why the JTTF model works—everyone worked together to keep our community safe from a potentially dangerous threat.”

Ryan Presley, special agent, FBI Cleveland

Lecron and Armstrong had scouted out venues for their attacks. One was a Toledo business the couple frequented. They knew the business had few entrances and exits, which they thought would make it difficult for potential victims to escape. They discussed details down to the type of shoes they would wear and how to create a diversion at the scene.

With the overwhelming evidence against them, Lecron and Armstrong both pleaded guilty. Lecron admitted to providing material support to terrorism and was sentenced in November 2019 to 15 years in prison. Armstrong pleaded guilty to a lesser conspiracy charge and was sentenced in December 2019 to six years.

Lecron’s prosecution is believed to be the first time a material support charge—a very serious charge usually brought against international terrorism suspects—has been used in a domestic terrorism case. Presley attributed this to the work of the investigative team and partnership with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Northern District of Ohio.

And without the tip from the concerned citizen, this story could have ended in a mass shooting—instead, the two would-be shooters are behind bars.

“I can’t say enough good things about the Toledo Police Department,” Presley said. “They have created an environment in which citizens feel comfortable bringing these types of things forward. This is an example of why the JTTF model works—everyone worked together to keep our community safe from a potentially dangerous threat.”

Lewis Co.

Auditors have discussed this finding with the district attorney general, and they recommend that management seek restitution from the finance officer of the \$12,671 theft of insurance premiums.

The audit also reports that Lewis County had not reported or remitted federal employment taxes totaling \$153,539 for the period October 2016 through March 2019. This resulted in the Internal Revenue Service assessing \$132,433 in penalty and interest charges against the county. Lewis county paid its entire outstanding liability to the IRS in 2019.

Other findings in the report include misstatements in the county's accounting records and financial statements, expenditures exceeding approved budget appropriations, and not paying cafeteria invoices on time resulting in finance charges.

"I encourage Lewis County leaders to work closely with its audit committee and new finance officer to correct the problems noted in this report," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "It's important that Lewis County follow its corrective action plan to ensure citizens that county leaders are serious about their financial responsibilities."

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, call the Comptroller's toll-free hotline at 800.232.5454, or file a report online at: www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline. Follow us on twitter: @TNCOT

CDC Issues Federal Quarantine Order to Repatriated U.S. Citizens at March Air Reserve Base

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), under statutory authority of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, has issued federal quarantine orders to all 195 United States citizens

who repatriated to the U.S. on January 29, 2020. The quarantine will last 14 days from when the plane left Wuhan, China. This action is a precautionary and preventive step to maximize the containment of the virus in the interest of the health of the American public.

This legal order will protect the health of the repatriated citizens, their families, and their communities. These individuals will continue to be housed at the March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California. Medical staff will continue to monitor the health of each traveler, in-

see CDC ctd. pg. 7

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CDC ctd. from pg. 5
 cluding temperature checks and observation for respiratory symptoms. If an individual presents symptoms, medical care will be readily available. Even if a screening test comes

back negative from CDC's laboratory results, it does not conclusively mean an individual is at no risk of developing the disease over the likely 14-day incubation period.
 This legal order is part of a public health response that is necessary to prevent the transmission and spread of this virus in the U.S. The World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday declared a Public Health Emer-

gency of International Concern. The current epidemic in Mainland China has demonstrated the virus's capacity to spread globally. CDC is using one of the tools in our toolbox as a way to contain the potential impact of this novel virus on the United States.



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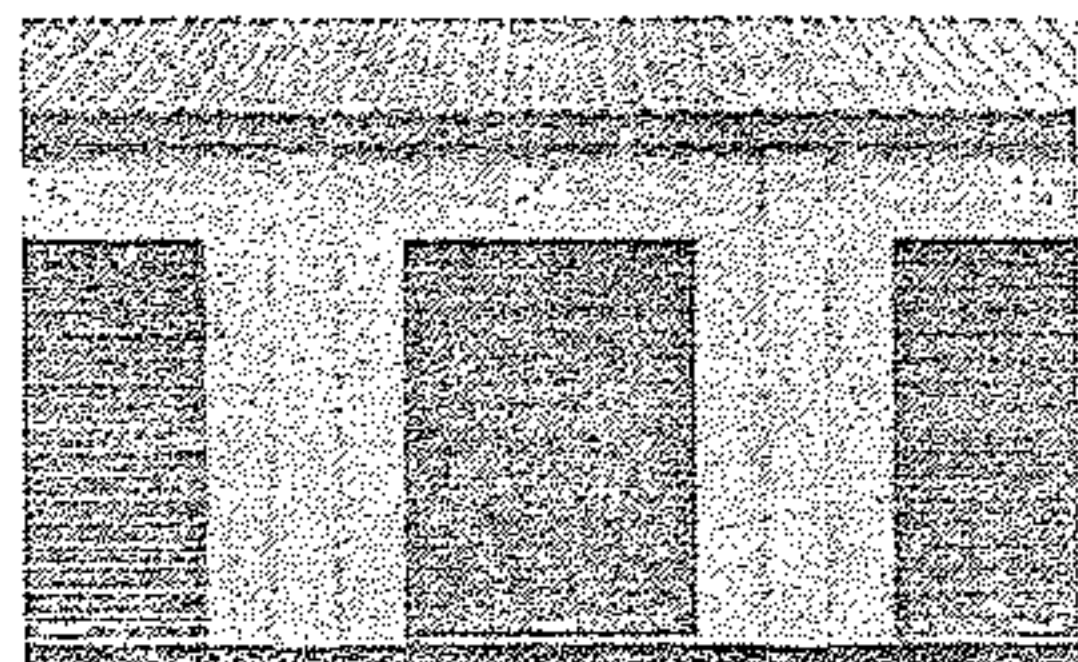
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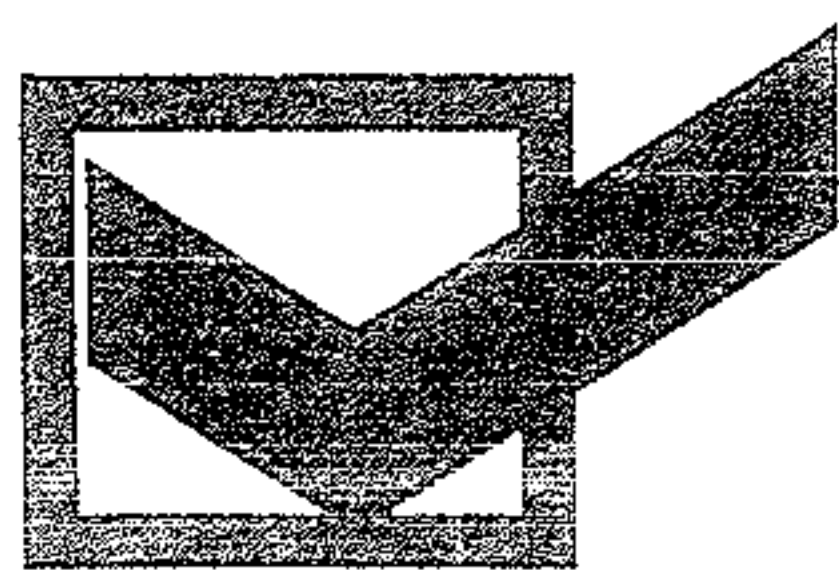
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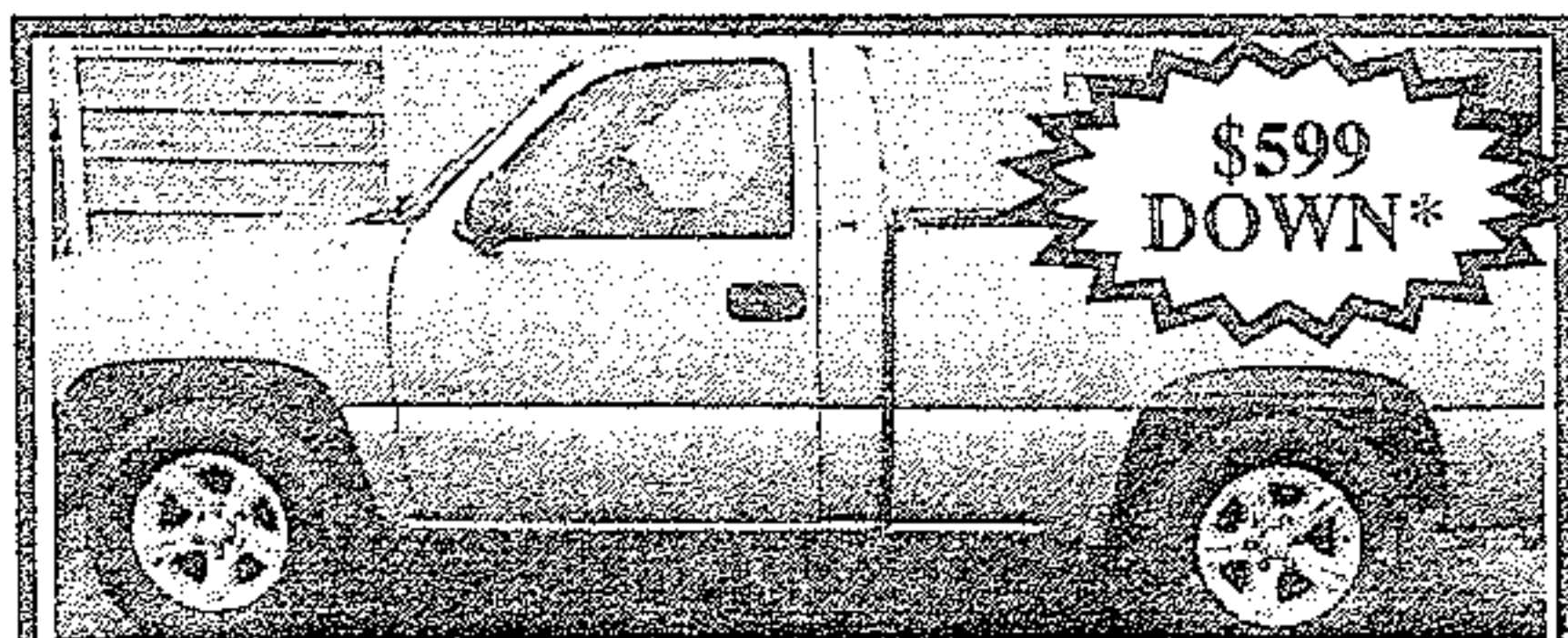
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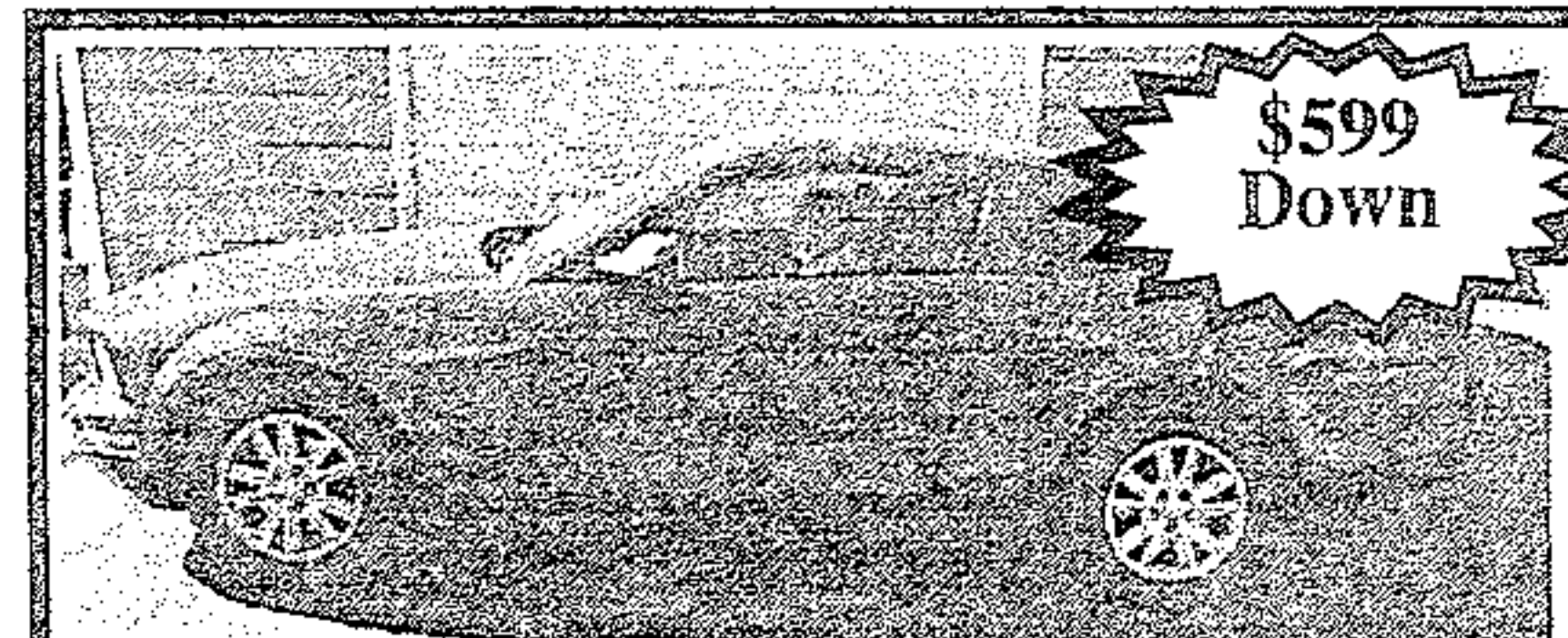
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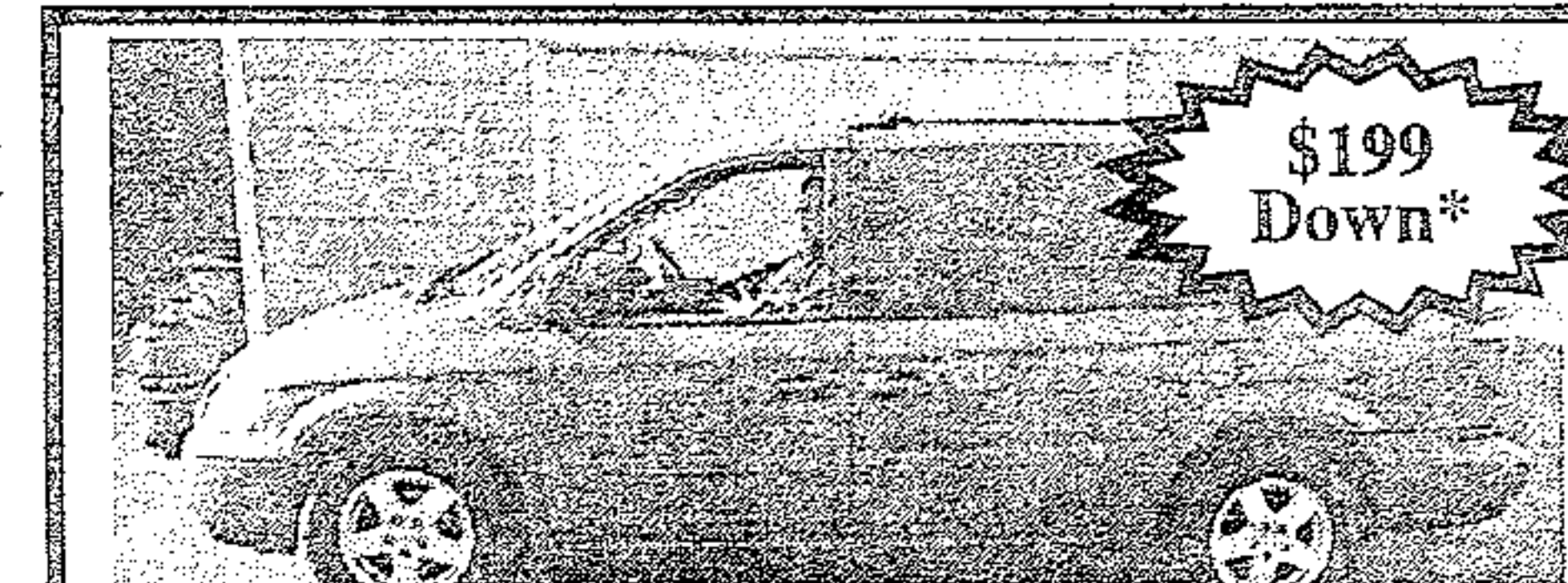
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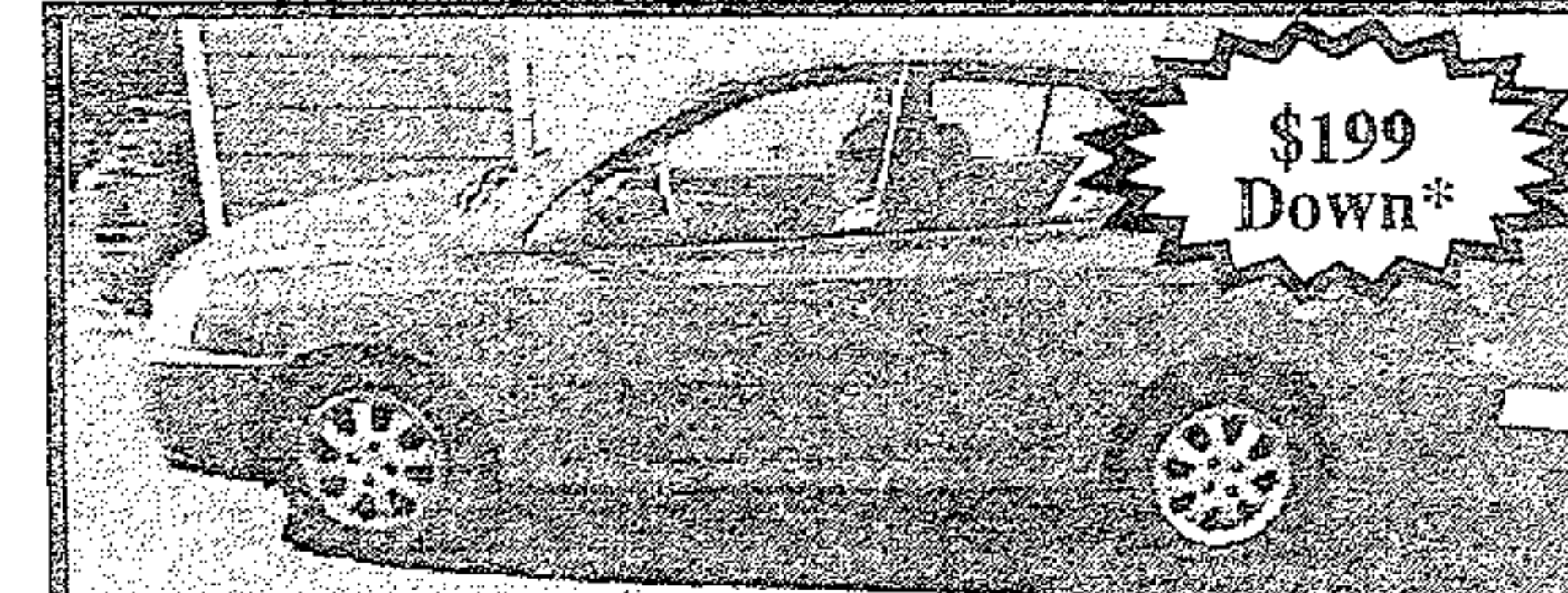
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