

# The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

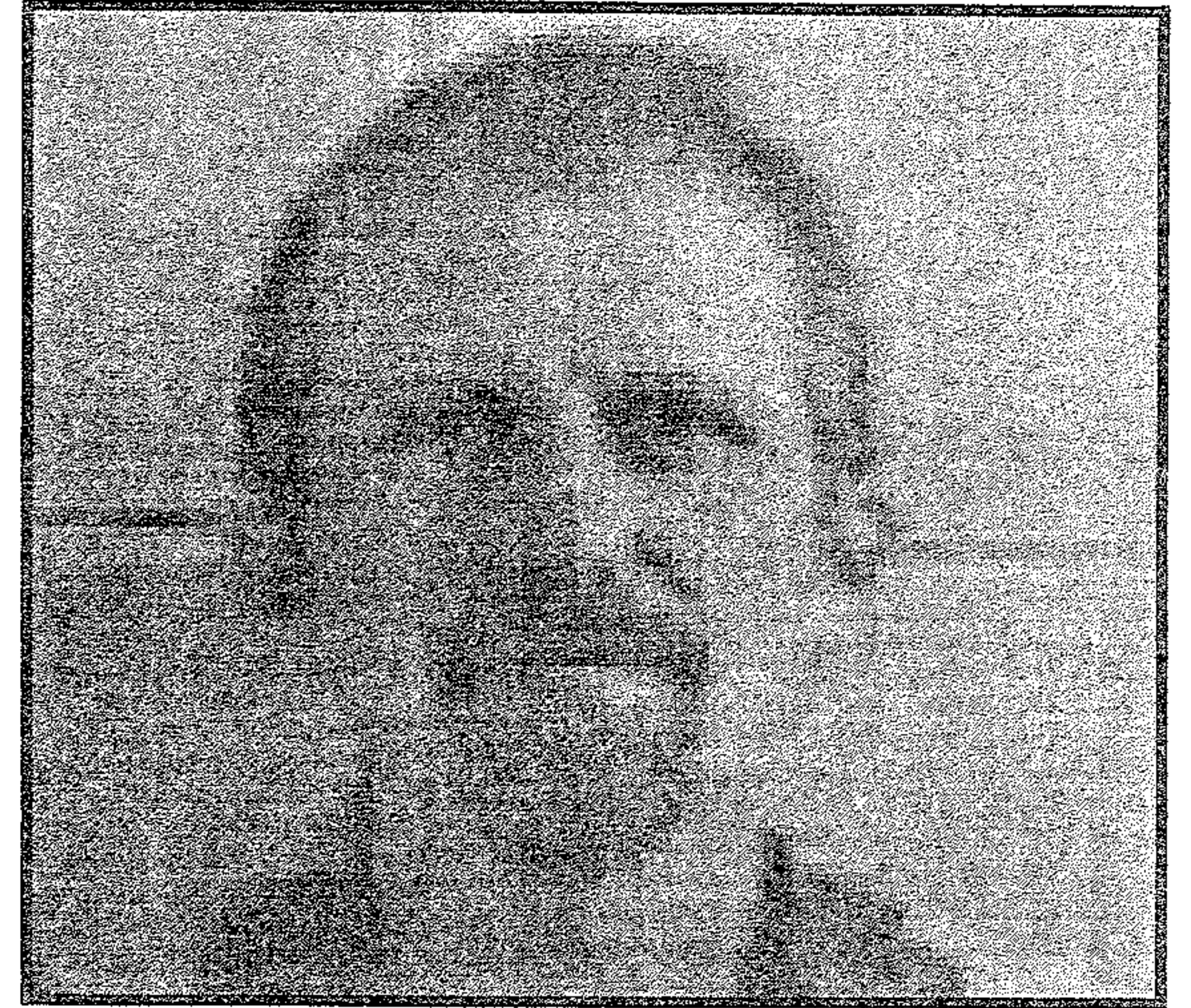
## Violent Attack Leads Officers to Charge Loudon man with Aggravated Assault



Christopher Shook

see assault pg. 2

## No tag gets LC man stopped; DUI follows



Christopher Dula

see Dui pg. 3

## Deputy Chance Gray locates man walking away from accident scene; charges follow



Aaron Bennett

see Walking pg. 5

## Robbers Who Targeted Elderly Sentenced

West Virginia Couple's Violent Robbery Spree Thwarted by FBI, Local Partners

In 2018, a 74-year-old Tennessee woman was attacked in her home by a pair of robbers who ransacked her house and stole her sense of safety.

Days later, a 72-year-old Tennessee man with dementia was attacked outside his home by the same assailants. They forced him inside and threw him down a

stairwell after robbing him of a few possessions. Among the items stolen was a bomber jacket from the man's service in Vietnam. It was an irreplaceable keepsake that investigators never found.

In all, Joshua Small and his girlfriend, Joni Johnson,

robbed—and in some cases violently assaulted—seven senior citizens in West Virginia, Virginia, and Tennessee during a short period in the summer of 2018.

In several cases, they subdued their victims by punching or hitting them

See Robbers P.4



### Verse of the Day

You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

—1 Corinthians 3:3

### Wazzup

If you need a place to book your next event look no further than our own Country Kinfolks in Lenoir City! They have an awesome barn and several settings for

photos for any event check em out!

### Weather

Today: Clear. High of 59F. Tonight: Clear. Low of 42F

Thursday: Rain possible. High of 55F.

Thursday night: Light

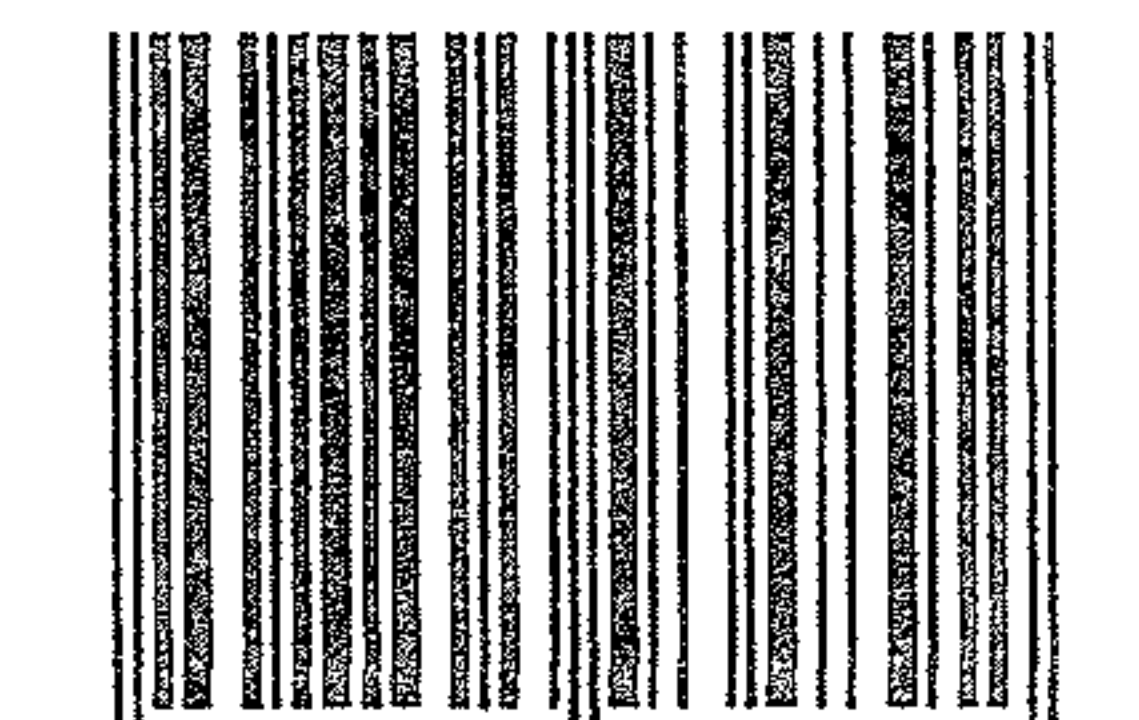
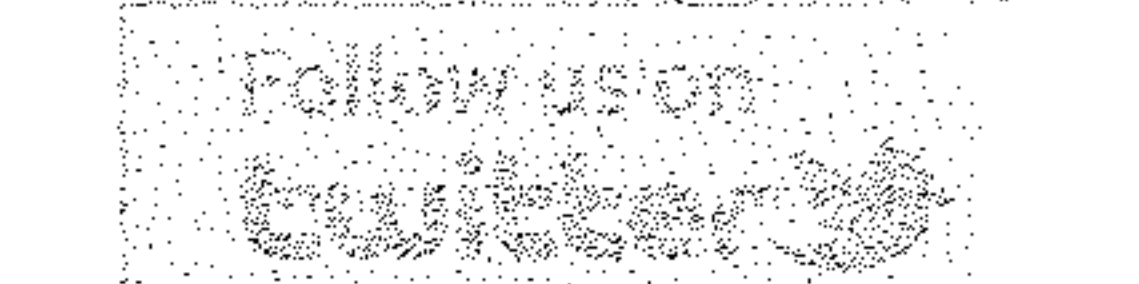
chance of rain. Low of 45F.

### Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20

What you want and what the group wants may be at odds right now. Venus in your 2nd House of

(Continued on page 6)



3 08805 93489 2



### Assault

Christopher Shook, 31, Vonore Road Loudon, was charged with Aggravated Assault. Deputy B. Dishner LCSO, responded to Vonore Road to an officer investigation. Dispatch advised that a female caller was calling due to her boyfriend not returning her car keys. Dispatch advised that the female stated he had gave her keys back and wanted

to cancel the call. Once on scene Deputy made contact with the victim standing outside the residence with her boyfriend. The victim stated she was fine and everything was ok. Due to previous knowledge of Christopher Shook Deputy ask victim again if anything physical had occurred tonight, she then stated yes. Deputy ask the victim to step inside the residence while he spoke

with Christopher Shook . While attempting to speak with Shook he became agitated, and attempted walking away from Deputy. At that time Deputy brought

Shook to the front of his vehicle. Once Deputy Bengel arrived on scene Deputy went inside to speak with the victim, who stated that she was laying in the

Assault ctd. pg. 3

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Assault ctd. from pg. 2

bed while they were arguing. Victim stated Shook came into her room then grabbed her by the throat and smacked her across the face. Victim also showed

Deputy text messages that Shook sent to her threatening to kill her and rearrange her face. Deputy then placed Christopher Shook under arrest and transported him to the Loudon County Jail.

### Dui

Christopher Dula, 43, Goweli Trail Lenoir City, was charged with DUI, Violation of Implied Consent. Deputy W. Jenkins LCSO, traffic stopped a silver vehicle on Hwy 411 at Cope Rd. due to it not displaying a tag. Upon traffic stop Deputy made contact with Christopher Dula who was driving the vehicle. Dula had bloodshot eyes, a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from his person, and slow lethargic speech. Dula could not provide registration of proof of insurance. Deputy had Dula perform sobriety test. Dula could not maintain the starting position and refused to complete the test. Christopher Dula was placed under arrest and transported to the Loudon County Jail.

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### Robbers

and then tying them up while they ransacked their homes. The robbers held some of their victims at gun-point or threatened them with guns.

“One victim’s son told us, ‘This is a small town. Everyone here knows me or my dad,’” said Special Agent Wesley Leatham, who investigated this case out of the FBI’s Knoxville Field Office along with FBI Task Force Officer Mark Webber of the Knox County Sheriff’s Department. “It really caused a lot of worry and concern in these communities.”

A break in the case came when a tipster saw a couple driving a rental car that matched the description of the robbers’ car and told local police. Pawn shop employees also confirmed that Small had been seen pawning stolen jewelry and other items.

Investigators found overwhelming evidence against the couple once they were identified, including incriminating evidence on their cell phones. Several victims also identified Johnson and Small based on photos.

The couple lived in West Virginia, and they used Small’s employer, a family paving business, to find some of their elderly victims. In other cases, investigators aren’t certain how the robbers targeted their victims, but they were all in their 70s, 80s, or 90s.

“Everyone really wanted to see justice for these victims, especially given their ages and the level of violence they suffered.”

Wesley Leatham, special agent, FBI Knoxville

With multiple sheriffs’ offices involved, the FBI played a key coordinating role. The Bureau also

see Robbers conc. page 7

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#### IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR LOUDON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Regarding the Estate of:  
JENNIE ELIZABETH LONG, deceased  
DKT# 6054

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
(As required by Chapter No 180, Public Acts of Tennessee 1809  
As Amended by Public Chapter 806 on 05/09/2012)

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd DAY OF MARCH 2020 Letters of Testamentary in respect of the estate of JENNIE ELIZABETH LONG who died on the 1st day of January 2020 be issued to the undersigned by the Loudon County Probate Court of Loudon County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred:

- (1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or
- (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent’s date of death.

THIS THE 2nd DAY OF MARCH 2020  
Steve Harrelson, Clerk

BY: Robyn Shannon, Deputy Clerk  
Penny Glasgow, Chief Deputy Clerk

By Personal Representative(s)  
SARA JANE MCCLENDON

Notice to Creditors:  
All Claims must be submitted on a claim form, notarized with invoices/statements; in triplicate, with a fee of \$11.00 to Loudon County Probate Court, 12680 Highway 11 West Ste. 3, Lenoir City, TN 39471

Run date: 3-4-20 & 3-11-20

#### IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR LOUDON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Regarding the Estate of:  
Betty Cole Magee, deceased  
DKT# 6035

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
(As required by Chapter No 180, Public Acts of Tennessee 1809  
As Amended by Public Chapter 806 on 05/09/2012)

Notice is hereby given that on the 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2020 Letters of Testamentary in respect of the estate of Betty Cole Magee who died on the 20th day of AUGUST 2019 be issued to the undersigned by the Loudon County Probate Court of Loudon County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and nonresident, having claims, matured or unmatured against the estate are required to file the same with the Clerk of the above named court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claim will be forever barred:

- (1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this notice to creditors at least sixty (60) days before the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the notice to creditors if the creditor received the copy of the notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or
- (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent’s date of death.

THIS THE 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2020  
Steve Harrelson, Clerk

BY: Robyn Shannon, Deputy Clerk  
Penny Glasgow, Chief Deputy Clerk

By Personal Representative(s)  
Michael Lamar Cole

Notice to Creditors:  
All Claims must be submitted on a claim form, notarized with invoices/statements; in triplicate, with a fee of \$11.00 to Loudon County Probate Court, 12680 Highway 11 West Ste. 3, Lenoir City, TN 37771

Run date: 2-26-20 & 3-4-20



**Walking**

Aaron Bennett, 32, Chamberland Ave. Rockwood, was charged with Simple Possession, Tampering/Fabricating with Evidence, Leaving the scene of Accident, and Poss. Of Drug Para. Deputy Chance Gray LCSO, observed a gold vehicle off an embankment. Upon making contact with the vehicle to check for injury's, Deputy found the vehicle to be locked with no one in it or around the vehicle. After clearing the accident dispatch was able to locate the driver license of the registered owner which came back to Aaron Bennett. Deputy began checking the area for subject walking in the area. Deputy located Bennett walking on Martel Road approx.. one mile from the accident. Upon pulling up to Bennett and activating his blue lights Deputy observed Bennett throwing a clear bag with a green leafy substance into the grass beside him. Deputy ask Bennett what he had threw in the grass Bennett stated marijuana. Bennett was then detained. During a search of Bennett person Deputy located a cigarette pack with a glass pipe with marijuana residue inside located in his right pant pocket. Deputy recovered the clear bag with approx.. 8.1 grams of marijuana. Bennett stated he left the scene because he had the marijuana on him. Bennett stated he was in the

bushes watching law enforcement the whole time. Aaron Bennett was placed under arrest and transported to the Loudon County ail.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

*Personnel Committee Meeting*

The Lenoir City Personnel Committee will meet at City Hall, in the small conference room, on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider filling vacancy in the Street Department.

Thank you.

**Thank You**  
**For Your Vote and Support**

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Robbers conc. from pg. 4

brought resources to the case, including the ability to press federal charges.

"We had great local partners in this case," Leatham said. "Everybody came together with outstanding coordination. Every-

one really wanted to see justice for these victims, especially given their ages and the level of violence they suffered."

In July 2019, the couple was convicted of kidnapping charges. In January, Small was sen-

tenced to 30 years in federal prison, and Johnson was sentenced to 25 years.

Investigators hope the outcome brought some closure to the victims and communities that were traumatized. One victim died before the tri-

al and some others were unable to travel to it, but their relatives gave powerful impact statements.

"We've heard from the victims' families since then that this has destroyed

their sense of safety. They're constantly checking the door to make sure it's locked. Visitors have to call before they come over," Leatham said. "It's really had a lasting effect on a lot of people."

## New Storage Facility

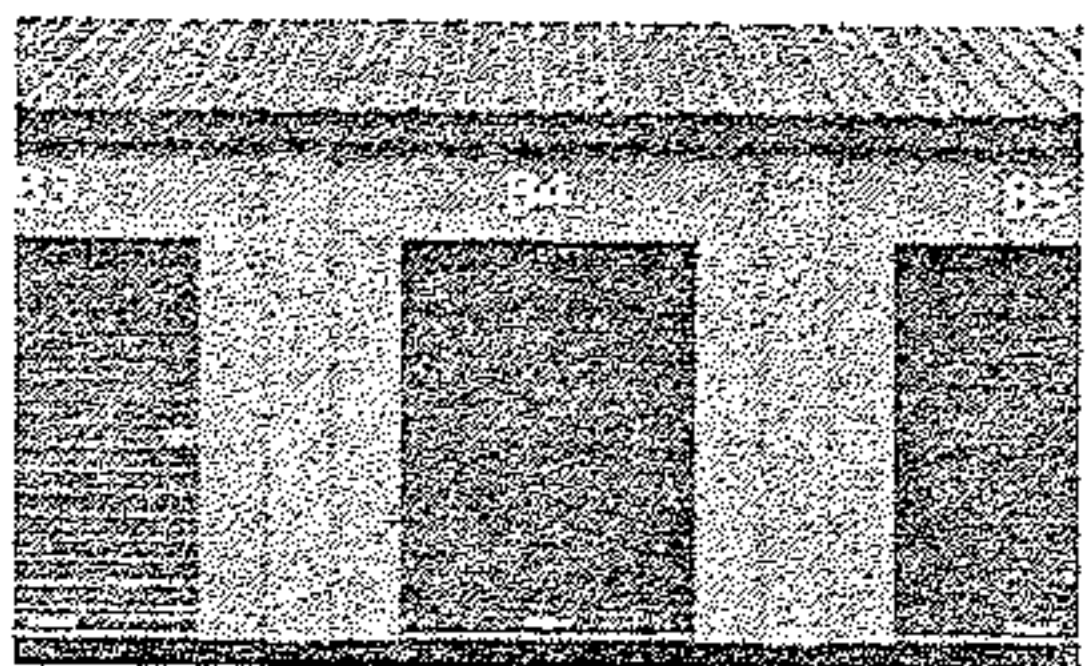
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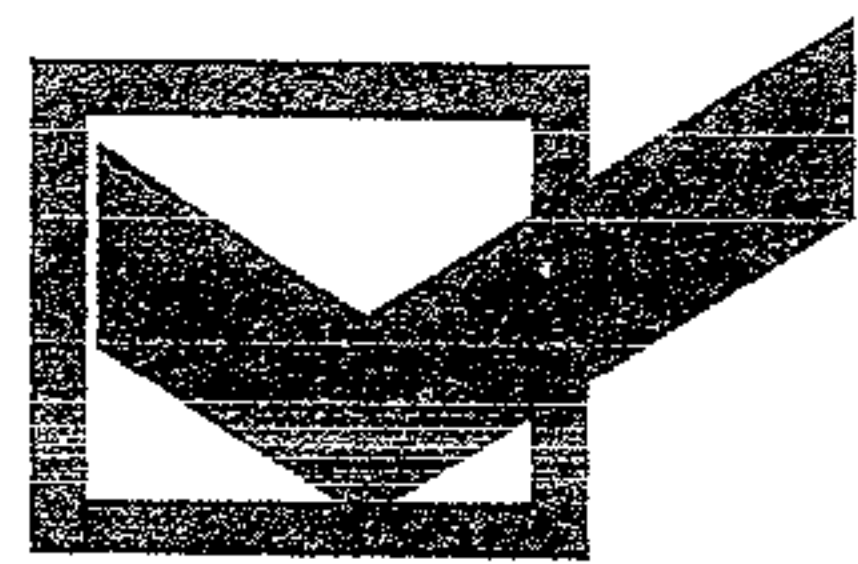
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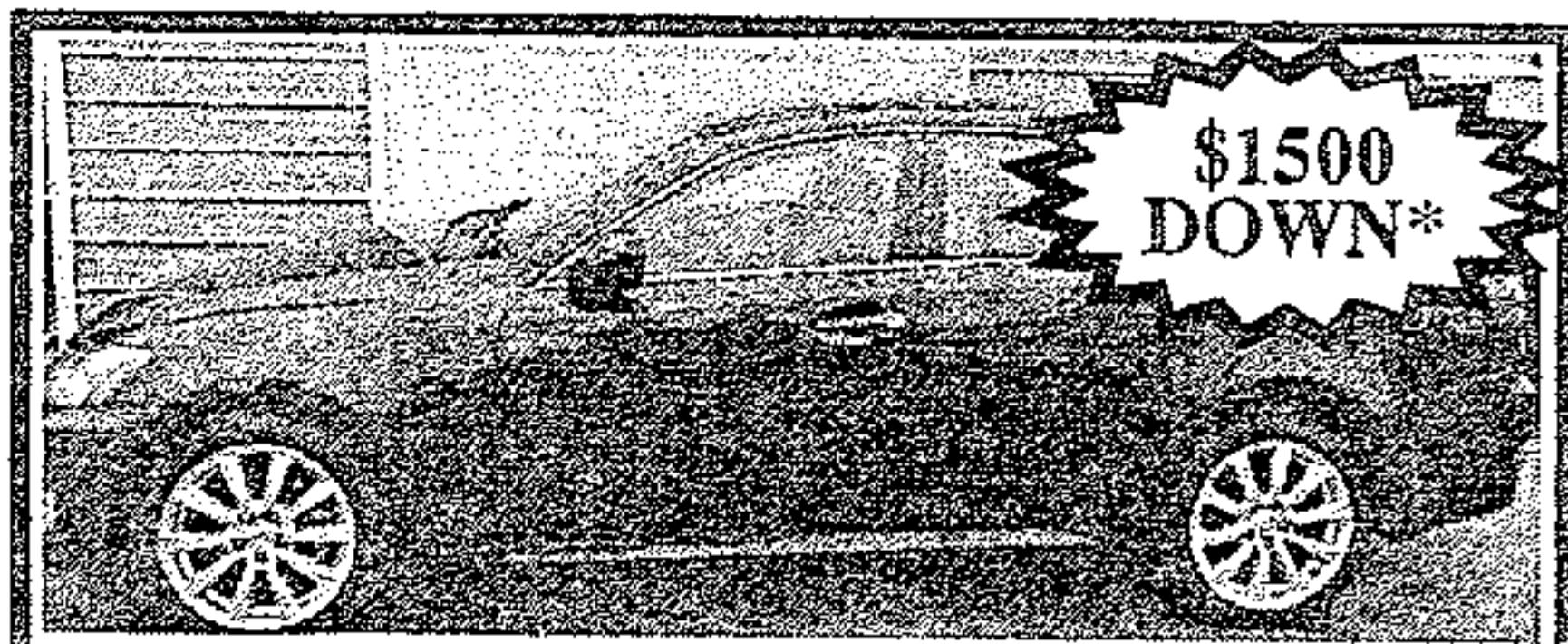
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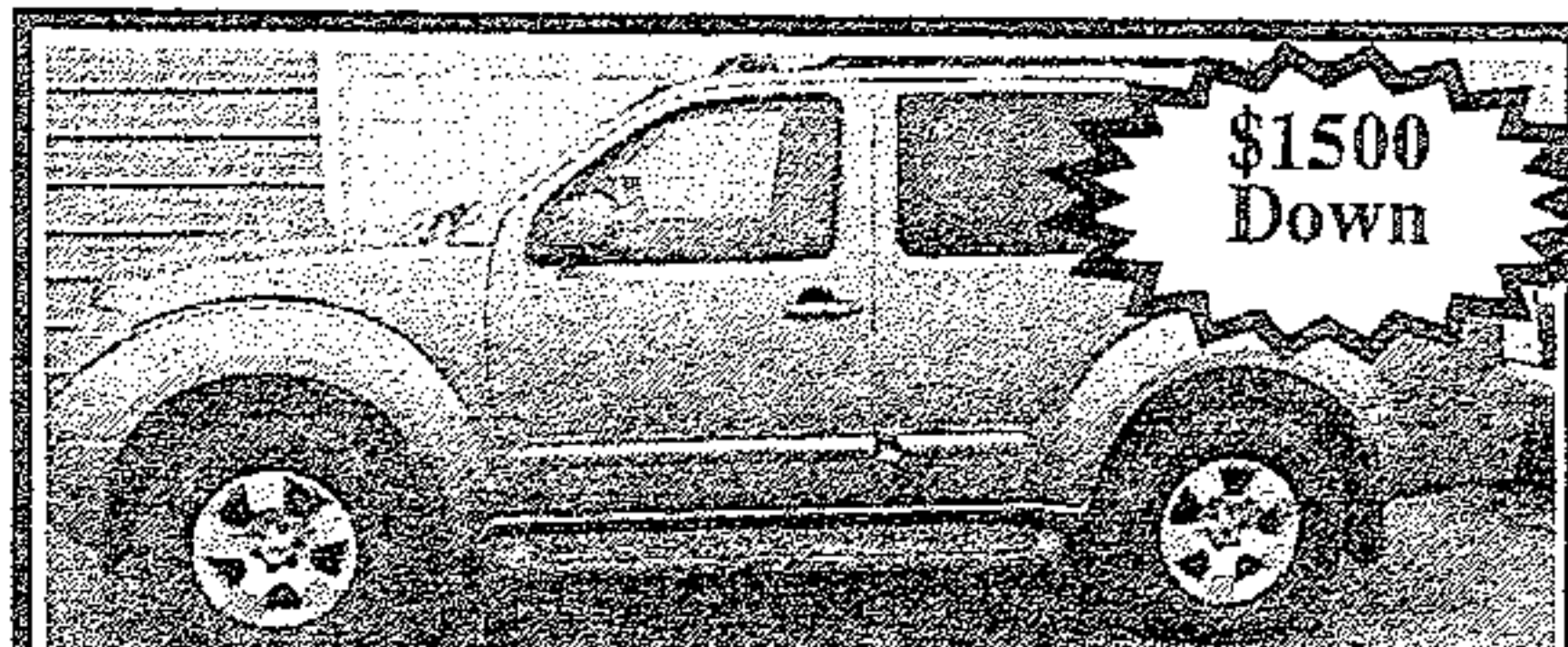
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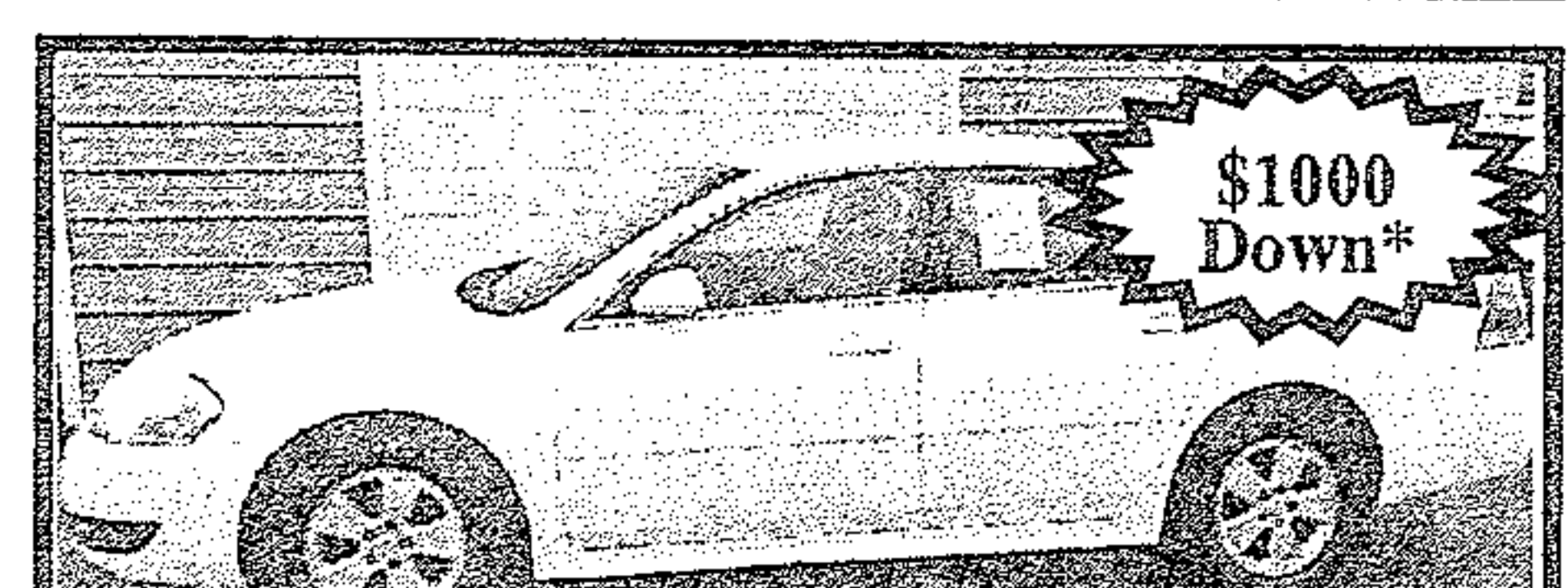
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