

# The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, March 6, 2020

## 'No Show' Hurley Continues to Be Absent while Missing Mom's Election

Loudon County Commissioner for the 2nd District, Julia Hurley, was a big 'no show' on Tuesday's Primary Election Day. Hurley was recently quoted in a front page article of a local newspaper that she was going to vote (at the War Memorial Building precinct) Tuesday in spite of District Attorney General Russell Johnson's letter to Hurley's attorney, T. Scott Jones, asserting that Hurley is no longer a resident of the 2nd District, from the West 5th Avenue home she



Commissioner Julia Hurley photo from Facebook profile

see Hurley pg. 2

## Call in from Chili's this time for woman urinating outside



Marla Cortez

see Dui pg. 3

## Man charged with failing to render aid following hit and run



Clifford Hunt

see Hit and run pg. 5

## DOJ Charges Unprecedented Number of Elder Fraud Defendants Nationwide and Launches Hotline

U.S. Attorney J. Douglas Overbey of the Eastern District of Tennessee joined Attorney General William P. Barr, FBI Director Christopher A. Wray, and Chief Postal Inspector Gary R. Barksdale today in announcing the largest coordinated sweep of elder fraud cases in history. This year, prosecutors charged more than 400 defendants, far surpassing the 260 defendants charged in cases as part of last year's sweep. In each case, offenders

allegedly engaged in financial schemes that targeted or affected seniors. In total, the charged elder fraud schemes caused alleged losses of over a billion dollars.

Two cases from the Eastern District of Tennessee: Joshua Small, 52, was sentenced to 30 years in prison and Joni Amber Johnson, 36, was sentenced to 25 years in prison, for their roles in

a conspiracy to assault, kidnap, and rob elderly victims. Christina Erin Myers, 37, pled guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of money laundering. The defendant admitted to engaging in a scheme to defraud elderly individuals by diverting funds for the purchase of real estate through marketing of non-existent senior com-

See Hotline P.4



### Verse of the Day

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.  
— Proverbs 3:5-6

### Wazzup

Let us know what you think about the Hurley controversy on our Facebook page or write a Letter to the Editor!

### Weather

Today: Clear. High of 45F.

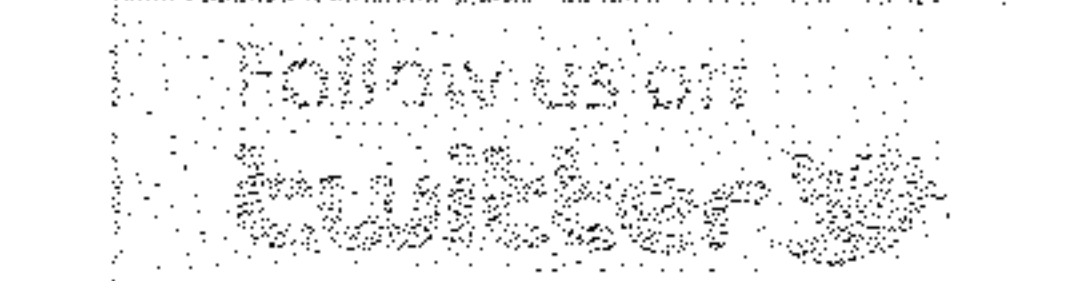
Tonight: Clear. Low of 37F  
Saturday: Clear. High of 50F.  
Saturday night: Clear and cool. Low of 32F.  
Sunday: Clear. High of 60F.  
Sunday night: Clear. Low

of 31F.

### Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20  
Creativity and romance add color to your life while the Moon in lush Cancer shines in your 5th House of Expression.

(Continued on page 6)





**Hurley**

apparently moved from last summer. Her not voting, according to District Attorney Johnson was, most likely, a product of the "sound advice of her attorney (Jones)" because "in order to vote in this or any election, each voter has to certify in writing with their signature, under penalty of perjury that they are still a resident of the address listed on their

voter registration". Johnson said, "if she had done so in the 2nd District, in my opinion, she would have been risking a possible charge of perjury if a grand jury had looked at the matter and determined that the 2nd District address was no longer her address and she misrepresented this information to the election officials and voted anyway."

"By not voting, I feel

that Ms. Hurley is acknowledging that she realizes she is no longer a resident of the 2nd District that she serves," Johnson stated. "I know that she was in Nashville

with other local officials on Monday night and Tuesday morning of the tornado, but there were several people that knew she left Nash-

Hurley ctd. pg. 3

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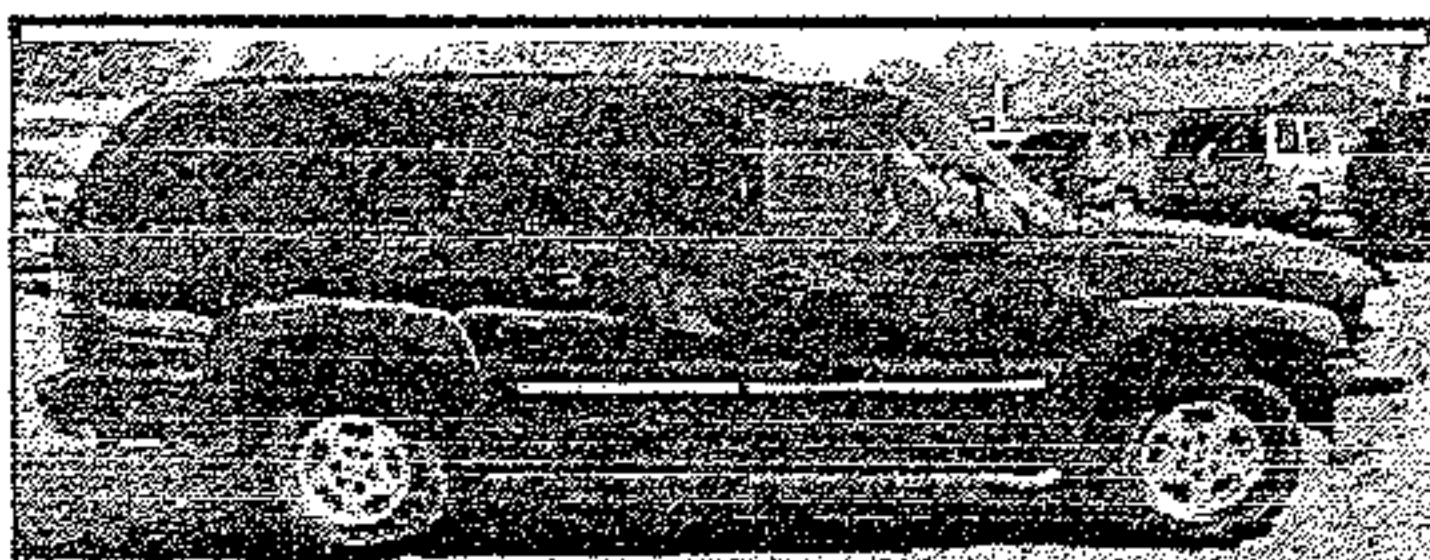
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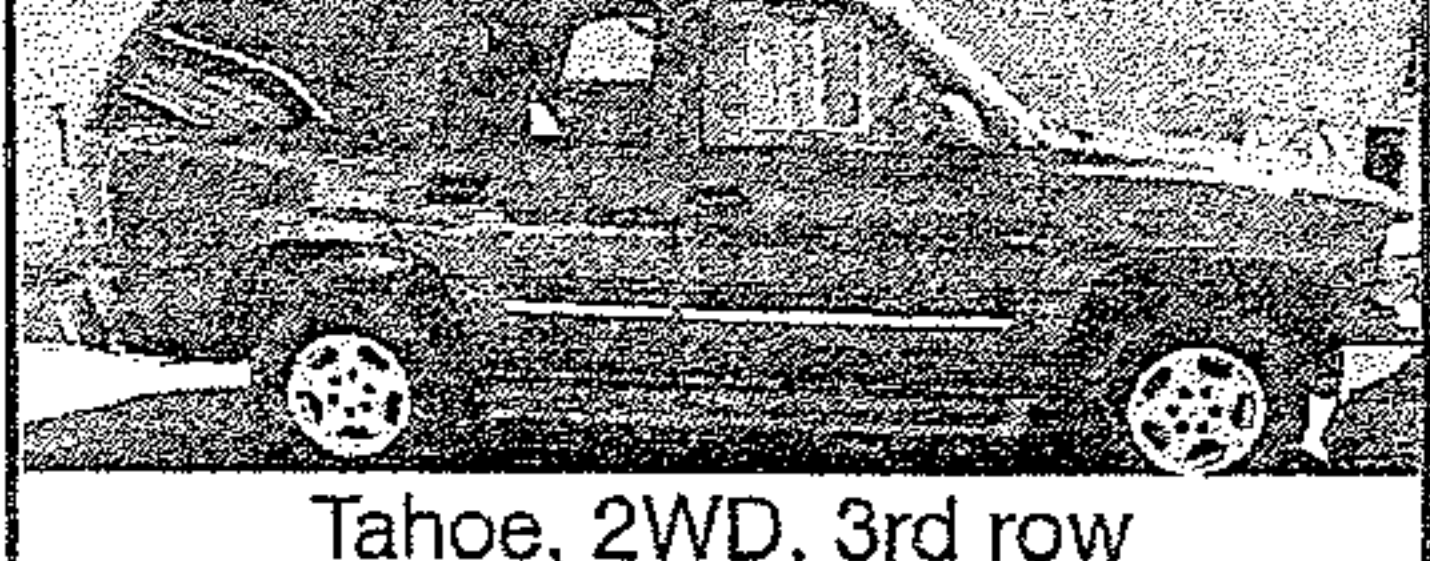
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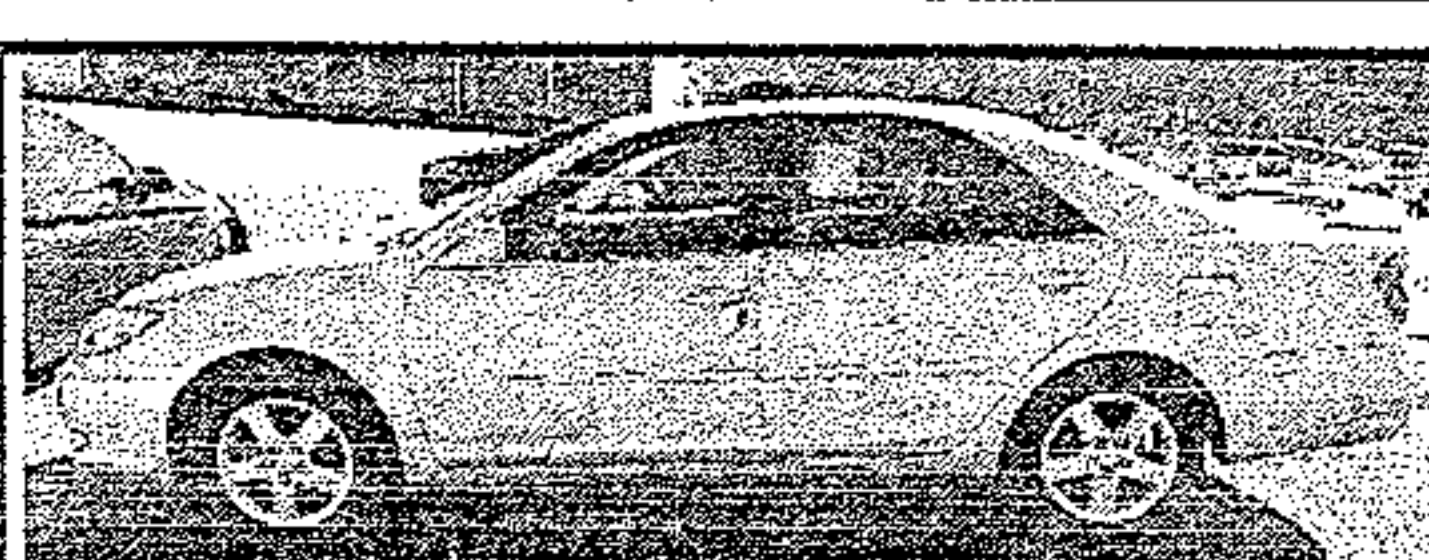
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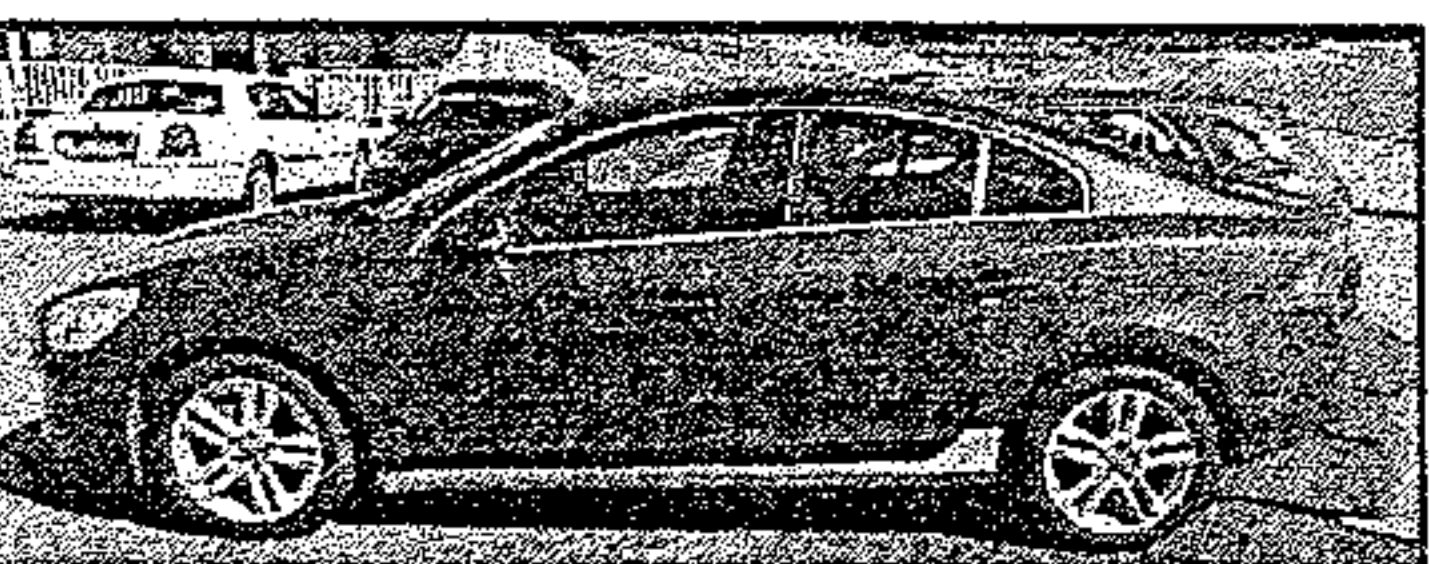
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Hurley ctd. from pg. 2

ville in plenty of time to return to vote (as these same people did). Besides that, she lives her life on social media and her postings show she was on her way home early Tuesday morning.”

The question remains, what now? District Attorney General Russell Johnson indicated in his letter to Attorney Jones that he would consider filing an ouster suit to have Hurley removed from her County Commissioner position if she did not resign or move back into the 2nd District by today Friday, March 6th.


Attorney T. Scott Jones has forwarded letters to Johnson and the County Mayor and Administrator of Elections asserting that Hurley’s move outside of the 2nd District is only a temporary move and, therefore, legal under the law - even though Hurley had leased out her former home when she purchased

see Hurley ctd. pg. 4

### Dui

Marla Cortez, 47, Howard Road Loudon, was charged with DUI, and Violation of Implied Consent. Officer Jamie Pistole LCPD, was dispatched to Chilis in reference to a subject that was intoxicated and was outside urinating on the wall of the building. As Officer was arriving on scene dispatch advised that the vehicle was leaving the parking lot and gave a description of the vehicle. Officer got behind said vehicle as it was leaving the parking lot. Due to the suspicion of an intoxicated driver Officer initiated a traffic stop in the back parking lot of Ft. Loudon Medical Center. Officer made contact with the driver who was later identified as Marla Cortez. Officer ask Cortez to exit the vehicle and Officer could smell an odor of alcohol coming from her person. Officer ask Cortez to perform sobriety test. Cortez did poorly on sobriety test and was placed under arrest. Cortez refused breath test. Marla Cortez was transported to the Loudon County Jail.

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### Hurley ctd. from page 3

the new one. The District Attorney, while acknowledging that the law does allow for temporary moves (such as someone assigned to military duty or a temporary work assignment), maintains that Hurley's move just across the 2nd District/5th District boundary was permanent in that she purchased a home of approximately \$350,000 in value with a principal residence mortgage that requires the home to be used as her principal residence.

County Commissioner Van Shaver of the 5th District is the one who pointed out to Hurley at a county commission meeting, soon after her home purchase and move into his district, that she had evidently made a mistake in not checking to see if her new home was still in the 2nd District or not. Hurley, at that time, seemed caught off guard and has missed numerous meetings since that time including the one Monday March 3rd.

Loudon County Attorney Bob Bowman was requested by Shaver and the other Loudon County Commissioners to look into the situation and a possible ouster suit, but Bowman wrote a letter to the County Commission declining to do so saying in part that state law on this issue was too vague as to the definition of what is a temporary move.

What is curious about Hurley not voting in this most recent Republican Primary is that she is a Republican, having served one term as a Republican State Representative, and working with the Republican State Executive Committee to require regular primary voting by elected Republican officials in order to be on the ballot as a Republican candidate. Also, Julia Hurley's mother, Julia Atchley-Pace, was on the ballot as a delegate for President Trump, so by not voting Julia Hurley did not vote for her own mother in this election.

### Hotline

munities and investment opportunities.

Attorney General Barr made the announcement at an event in Florida entitled "Keeping Seniors Safe," which outlined his vision for protecting older Americans from financial harm. The event focused special attention on the threat posed by foreign-based fraud schemes that victimize seniors in large numbers. During the event, the Attorney General declared "Prevention and Disruption of Transnational Elder Fraud" to be an Agency Priority Goal, making it one of the Department's four top priorities.

"Americans are fed up with the constant barrage of scams that maliciously target the elderly and other vulnerable citizens," said Attorney General William P. Barr. "This year, the Department of Justice prosecuted over 400 defendants, whose schemes totaled more than a billion dollars. I want to thank the men and women of the Department's Consumer Protection Branch, which coordinated this effort, and all those in the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and Criminal Division who worked tirelessly to bring these cases. The Department is committed to stopping the full range of criminal activities that exploit America's seniors."

"We have made great strides this year towards prosecuting those who seek to victimize some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens through scams and financial fraud," said U.S. Attorney Overbey. "I would urge the public to continue bringing instances of elder fraud to the federal government's attention. Protecting our seniors remains one of the top priorities for the U.S. Attorney's Office, and we will continue to work with our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to investigate and prosecute those who seek to cause harm to senior citizens within our district."

Elder Fraud Hotline  
Attorney General Barr also announced the launch of a National Elder Fraud Hotline, which will provide services to seniors who may be victims of financial fraud. The Hotline will be staffed by experienced case managers who can provide personalized support to callers. Case managers will assist callers with reporting the suspected

see Hotline ctd. page 7

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

Regarding the Estate of:  
JOYCE ANN HARRIS, deceased DKT# 6056

**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 3rd DAY OF MARCH 2020 Letters of Testamentary in respect of the estate of JOYCE ANN HARRIS who died on the 17th 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 3rd DAY OF MARCH 2020  
Steve Harrelson, Clerk  
BY: Robyn Shannon, Deputy Clerk  
Penny Glasgow, Chief Deputy Clerk

By Personal Representative(s)  
RANDALL HARRIS

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: 3-6-20 & 3-13-20



## Hit and run

Clifford Hunt, 24, Gateway Circle Philadelphia, was charged with DUI, Violation of Implied Consent, Vandalism, and Duty to Render Aid, and give Information. Deputy C. Green LCSO, responded to the area of Steekee Road in reference to a hit and run. The victim advised that a black mustang had struck a vehicle at a address on Steekee Road and continued driving. While enroute a second call came in advising a black mustang had wrecked into a fence on New Macedonia Road. Deputy arrived on scene and spoke with the driver of the black vehicle identified as Clifford Hunt. Hunt stated to the Deputy he could not recall how he wrecked. Hunt seemed very confused, while Deputy was speaking with him he observed Hunt to have slurred words, and bloodshot watery eyes. Deputy ask Hunt if he had anything to drink Hunt stated he had 2 Budweiser Beers approx.. 3 hours earlier. Deputy had Hunt exit the vehicle Deputy had to assist Hunt to his patrol vehicle because he was very unsteady on his feet, and Deputy could smell a odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his person. Hunt refused to perform

sobriety test, and blood and breath test. Clifford Hunt was placed under arrest and transported to the Loudon County Jail.

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5:00 p.m., Thursday,  
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Annex

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Hotline ctd.. from pg. 4

fraud to relevant agencies and by providing resources and referrals to other appropriate services as needed. When applicable, case managers will complete a complaint form with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) for Internet-facilitated crimes and submit a consumer complaint to the Federal

Trade Commission on behalf of the caller. The Hotline's toll free number is 833- FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311).

For the second year, the Department of Justice and its law enforcement partners also took comprehensive action against the money mule network that facilitates foreign-based elder fraud. Generally, perpetrators use a "money

mule" to transfer fraud proceeds from a victim to ringleaders of fraud schemes who often reside in other countries. Some of these money mules act unwittingly, and intervention can effectively end their involvement in the fraud. The FBI and the Postal Inspection Service took action against over 600 alleged money mules nationwide by conducting interviews,

issuing warning letters, and bringing civil and criminal cases. Agents and prosecutors in more than 85 federal district participated in this effort to halt the money flow from victim to fraudster. These actions against money mules were in addition to the

criminal and civil cases announced as part of this year's elder fraud sweep.

These outreach efforts have helped to prevent seniors from falling prey to scams and have frustrated offenders' efforts to obtain even more money from vulnerable elders.

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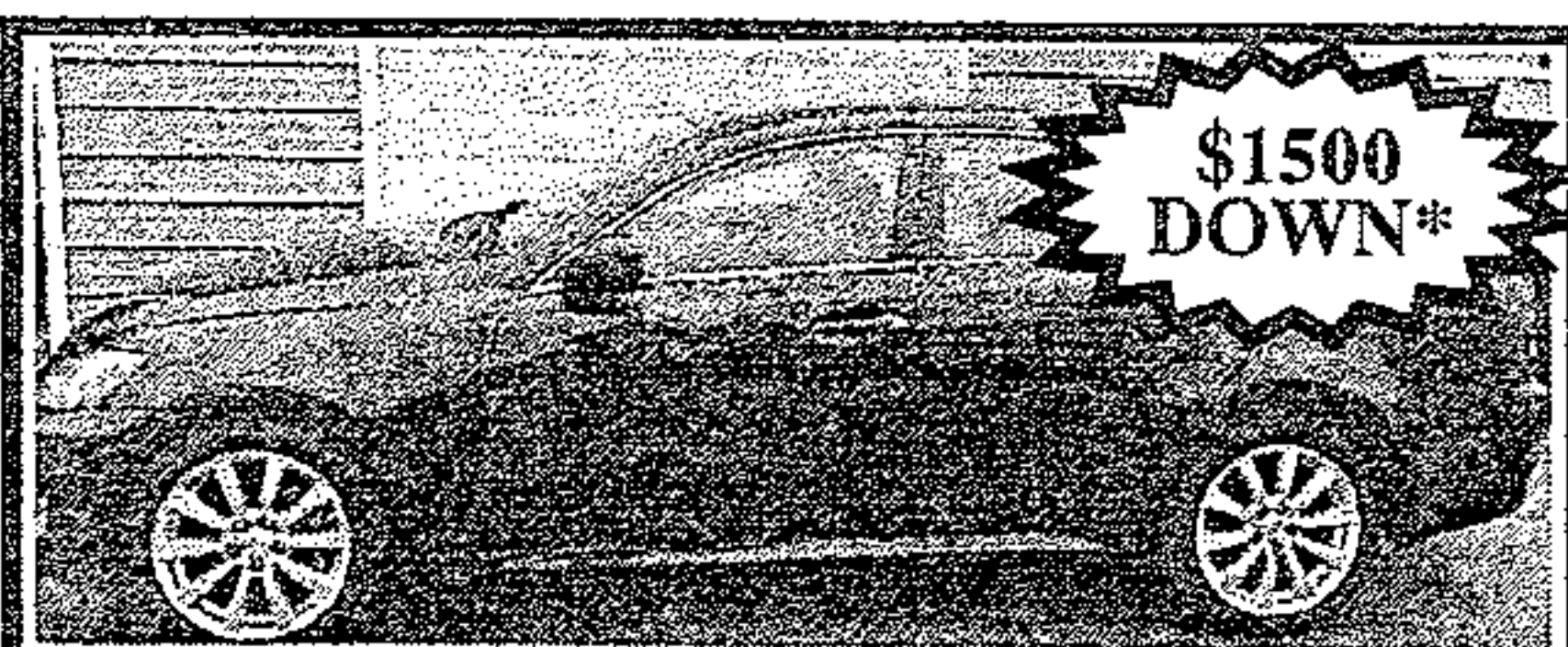
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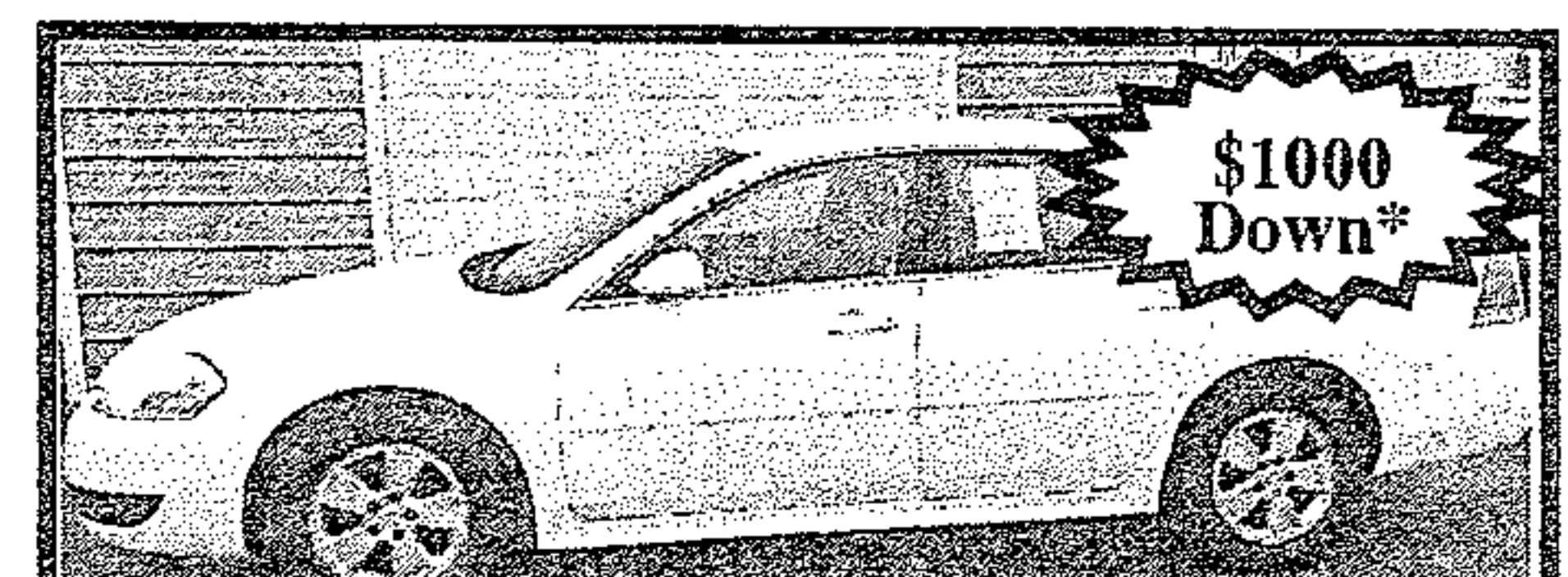
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