

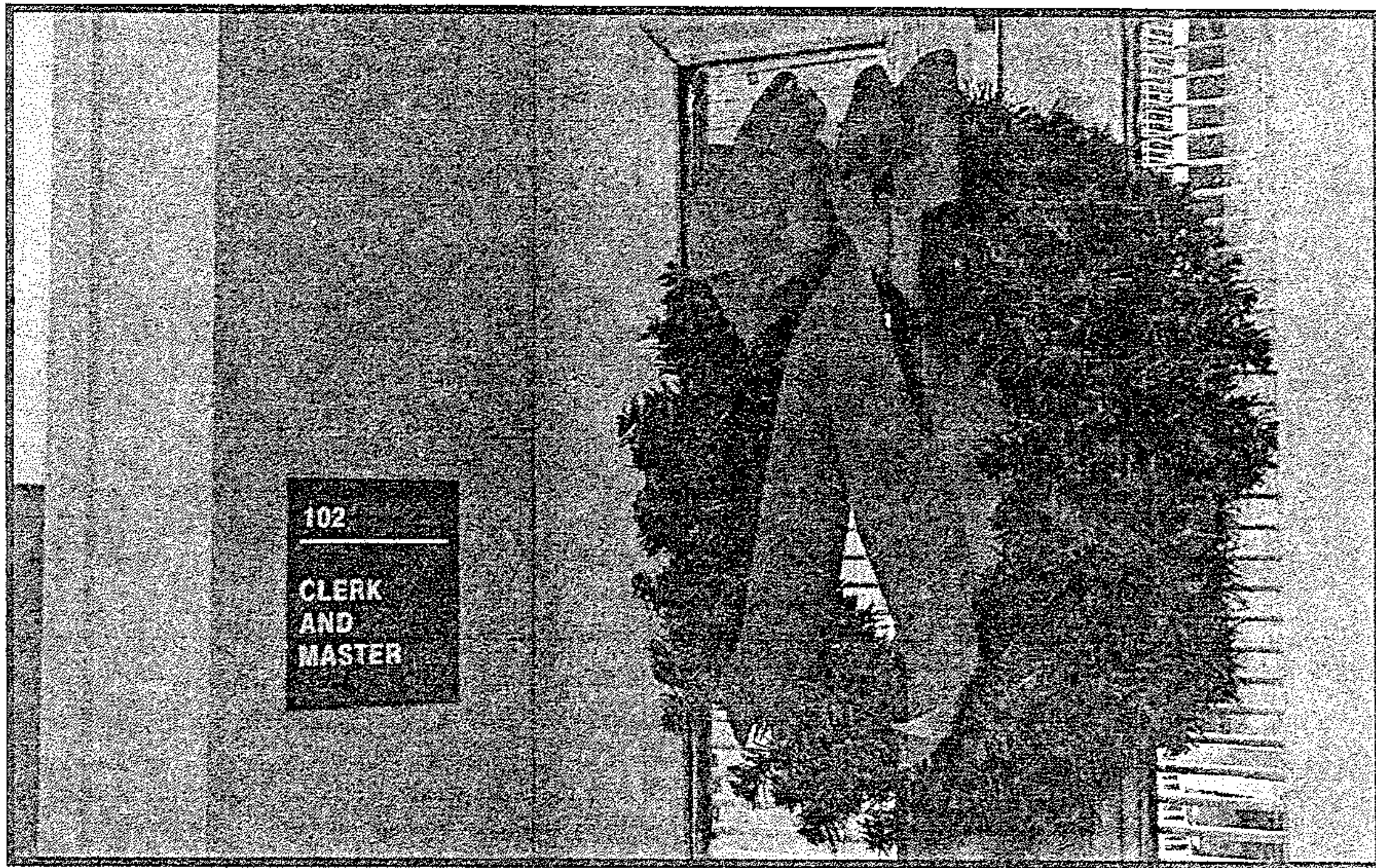
# The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, December 10, 2018

## Retirement Leads To Two New Office Holders



The Clerk And Masters Office At The Courthouse In Loudon

## Loudon Man Caught And Charged For Resale



Christopher Merrell see Resale pg. 3

## Loudon Woman Charged With Statutory Rape



Ashley Lohrer (see Rape pg. 3)

see Clerk pg. 2

Former Volunteer Energy Cooperative Accountant Stole Nearly \$1 Million The Tennessee Comptroller's Office, in cooperation with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, has completed an investigation resulting in the indictment of Jason Kittle, a former Volunteer Energy Cooperative

(see Energy pg. 5)

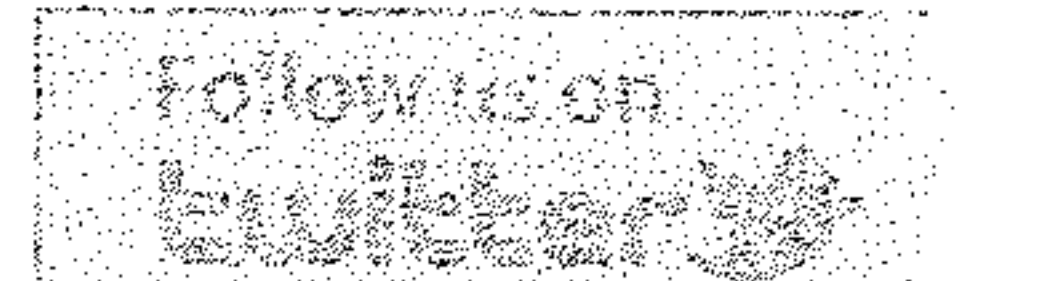
## Credit Card Cloners Stole Thousands, Fraudsters Used Overseas Hackers to Get Card Numbers

A prolific credit card scammer—who continued his crimes from behind bars—is now serving a lengthy sentence thanks to a multi-agency investigation into his card-cloning operation.

From 2014 to

2016, Syracuse, New York, resident Daquan Rice, 23, and several associates purchased credit card numbers online from hackers in Russia, Pakistan, and Ukraine, who sell the information they steal.

See Hacker P.4



### Verse of the Day

[Jesus said,] "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" — John

11:25

### Wazzup

Check out the Loudon City Parade starting @ 7:00. Line up will be at Loudon High School @ 6:00.

### Weather

Today: Cloudy. High of

43F.

Tonight: Clearing. Low of 25F.

Tuesday: Sunny. High of 45F.

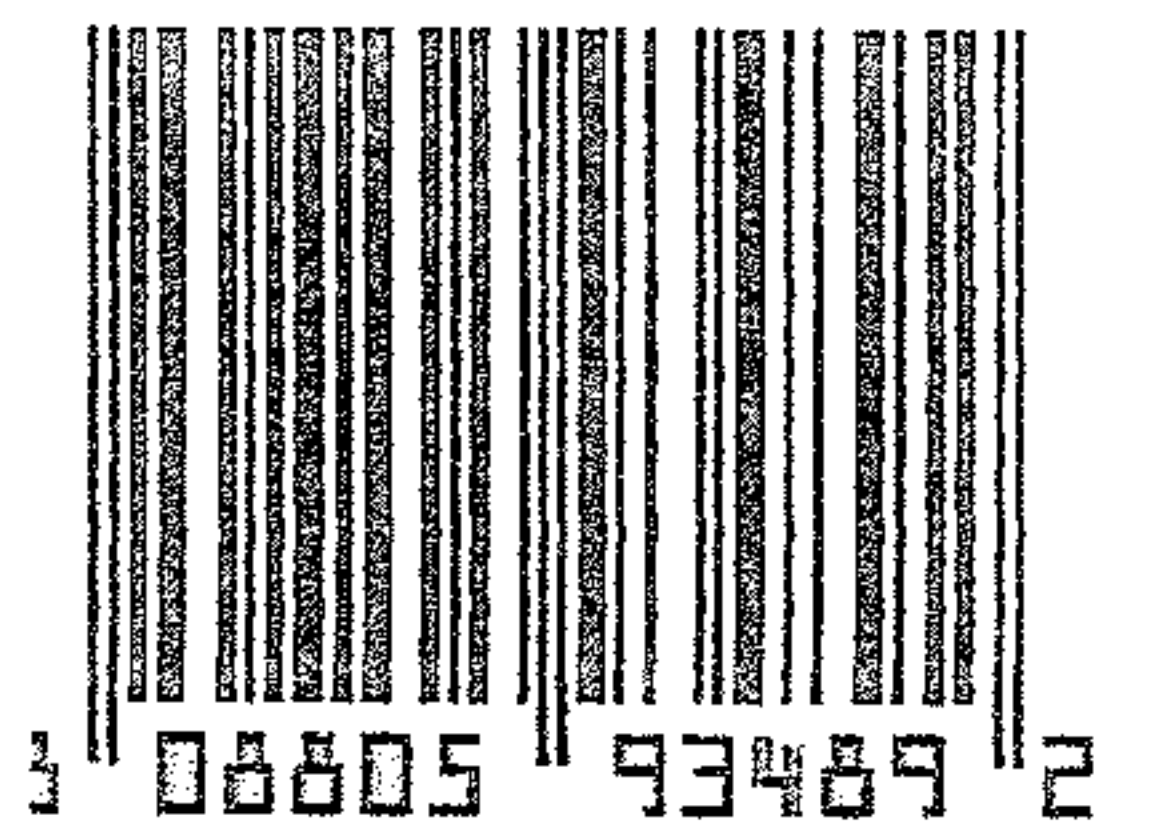
Tuesday Night: Clear. Low of 26F.

### Horoscopes

Sagittarius 11/22-12/21

Lucky you, its that time of year when you get to state big wishes and watch them manifest in front of your eyes. The New Moon in story-telling Sagittarius makes for a particularly potent ally. The universe is offering you the oppor-

(Continued on page 6)



### Clerk

The one and only Fred Chaney served honorably for 30 years as Clerk and Master of Chancery Court and retired just this past week. Taking his place is Lisa Niles who has served as Loudon County Circuit Court Clerk for the past 20 years. Ms. Niles has served with great sacrifice over those years and is now the Clerk

and Master of the Chancery Court. A well deserved position for Ms. Niles as she is without a doubt the best and only person to fill the office. She brings great expertise with her and will continue all the professionalism the office and her former office have had for years since she was elected.

Taking her position as Circuit Court Clerk will be Steve

Harrelson from Lenoir City. Steve is leaving his position with the city to undertake the single most demanding job in the county serving six courts in Loudon County. Steve brings with him his 20 years of experience from Lenoir

City and will serve until the next election.

Editor: I would like to personally thank Fred Chaney for his years of service to us all. He is a great man and has served with great dignity.

Clerk ctd. to pg. 3


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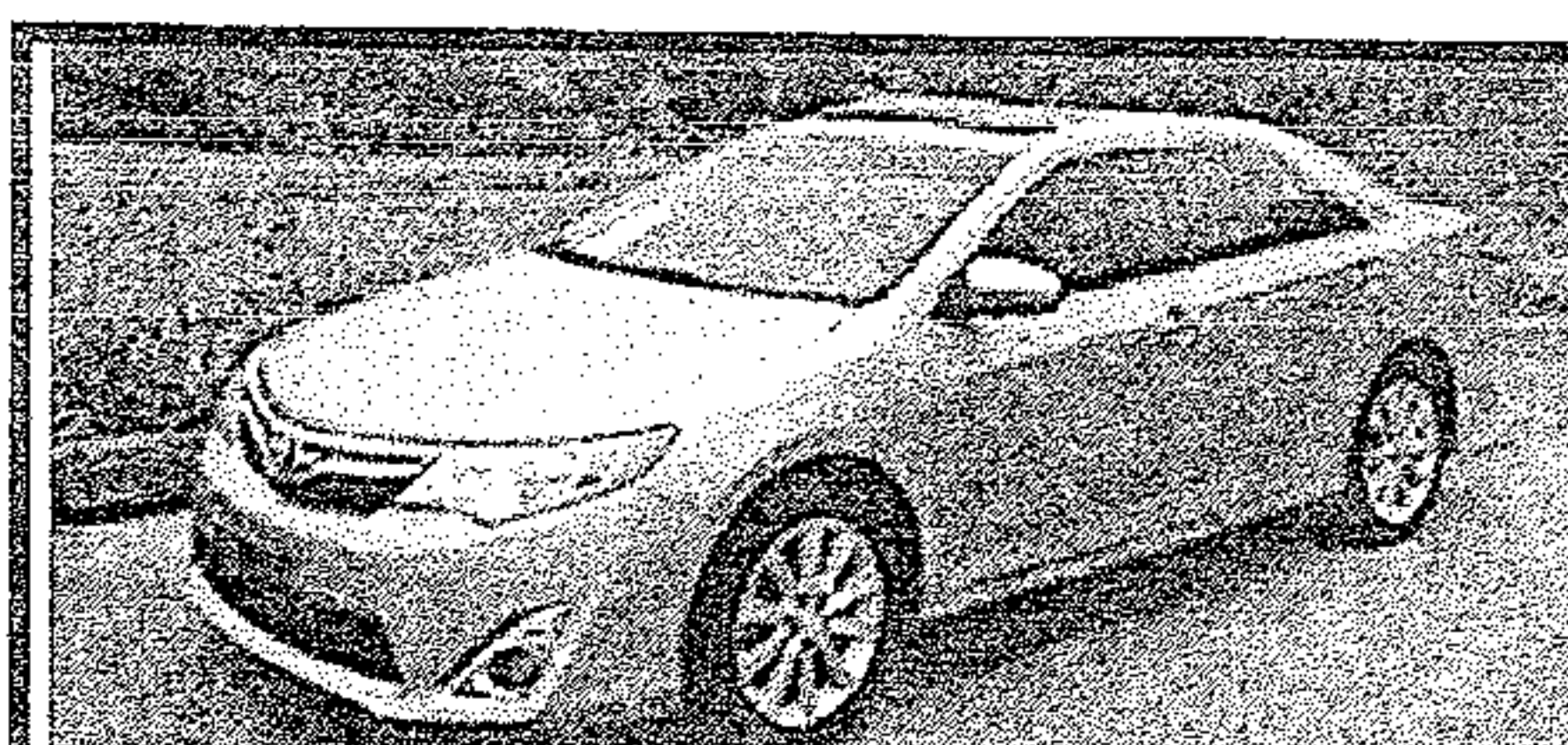
## Good Credit OK • Bad Credit OK • Bankruptcies OK • Repo OK \*




2012 GMC Terrain SLT Decked Out, Leather, Alloy Wheels, PS, PW, PL, Sunroof, Low Miles




2013 Nissan Frontier Alloy Wheels, Auto, Tonneau Cover, Tow, PW, PL, Cold Air, Great Miles




2012 Toyota Camry; 90k, Alloy Wheels, Gas Saver, Pristine Condition, Touch Screen, PW, PL



2012 Dodge Ram SLT, Crew Cab, Bed Liner, Tow, Alloy Wheels, V8, Low Miles, Spacious



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Clerk ctd. from pg. 2

I would like to say Congratulations and Thank You to Lisa Niles, who has served us for over 20 years and changed so many things from her inception. She is without a doubt one of the sweetest, kindest and most educated people I have ever had the pleasure to know. She loves this county with a passion that is un-

matched and she will serve in this new position with greatness as she always does. Sure do miss those chili cookoffs we all used to do too by the way!

Finally, congratulations to Steve Harrelson who won his nomination from the commission by a large majority. Steve has served the people of Lenoir City through the parks

and recreation department with great vigor, bringing awesome events like Rockin the Docks to our area. He without a doubt has now undertaken the hardest job in the county in my opinion and I wish him much success. He has been left with a great staff and will undoubtedly lead the office with excellence.

having sexual relations with Ashley Lohrer. The victim stated the two had sexual intercourse at the residence on 5 occasions. Asley Lohrer was interviewed where she admitted to having consensual sexual intercourse with the victim.

### Resale

Christopher Merrell, 19, Stone Gate Circle Loudon, was charged with Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch. I & VI. Officer Cory Fritts LCPD, observed a black vehicle run a posted stop sign at intersection of W 3rd Ave and Kingston Street. While behind the vehicle Officer paced the vehicle traveling between 39-42 mph in a 30 mph zone. The driver also appeared to be messing with something in the center console area and drifting back and forth in his lane of travel. Upon stopping the vehicle made contact with driver Christopher Merrell, Officer could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Officer was given consent to search and located in the center console was a plastic container that contained a baggy with 15.2 grams of a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana. The container also had 4 papers that contained 5.6 grams of hash oil, and \$3743.00 cash was located. Merrell was transported to the Loudon Jail.

### DUI Related Crash

Joseph Heaton, 25, Blockhouse Road Maryville, was charged with DUI. Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, answered a single vehicle crash on Hwy 411 at Black Road in Greenback. Upon arrival the driver of the crashed vehicle Joseph Heaton was sitting on the top of the vehicle. Deputy ask Heaton to come down so we could talk. Heaton had trouble climbing down, was unsteady on his feet, had the odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from his person, bloodshot eyes, and was confused. Heaton denied injury. Heaton performed poorly on sobriety test. Heaton was placed under arrest. Heaton did give breath sample and blew a .116g/21ol.



Joseph Heaton

### Rape

Ashley Lohrer, 28, Vonnore Road Loudon, was charged with Aggravated Statutory Rape. The victim reported to Sgt. Detective Jason Smith LCSO, and the Dept. of Children Services Investigator Rick Gaylor, that he had been

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# Hacker

Rice also bought credit card numbers from a friend who worked at a Syracuse restaurant who had skimmed numbers from customer credit cards on Rice's behalf.

Rice had an associate in New York City with a credit card cloning machine, and he would provide the numbers to the person to make new cards for him. Rice and his accomplices then used these cards to buy gift cards, which they would convert into cash or money orders.

"It's unfortunately not that hard or complicated to get your hands on stolen credit card numbers," said Special Agent Brandon Mercer of the FBI's Albany Division, who investigated this case along with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, New York State Police, and local law enforcement in the Syracuse area. "This information is readily available on the dark web from hackers and other criminals."

There was nothing a merchant could have done to stop the fraudulent transaction, because the thieves put the fake

cards in their own names. So even if a cashier asked for identification, the name on the credit card would have matched their IDs.

"It was a numbers game. They would print out hundreds of these cards. They would go to the register and swipe, and if it didn't work, they would just throw it away and use the next one," Mercer said. "A lot of these cards were only able to be used once because the cardholder noticed the fraud and shut down the card."

The fraudsters made about \$80,000 over two years.

After his 2016 arrest for credit card cloning, Rice tried to continue his scheme—from his jail cell. In 2017, he worked with an accomplice, who was not in prison, to put more than \$8,000 in funds stolen through credit card fraud on Rice's prison commissary account. Rice tried to use that account to write large checks, but the prison shut down his account for the unusual activity and contacted the FBI.

Rice pleaded guilty to wire fraud, money laundering, and aggravated identity theft,

and in October, he was sentenced to more than 11 years in prison. Several accomplices have also been sentenced for their roles in the scheme.

Mercer said large-scale credit card fraud schemes like this one are important investigations for the FBI because of the sheer volume of the crime, with hundreds of credit card numbers and thousands of dollars stolen.

It's also a reminder to the public to be vigilant about fraud.


"It's important to do the simple things—checking bank statements, checking your credit report regularly, and making sure you are signed up for any suspicious transaction alerts your bank or credit card issuer offers," Mercer said.

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**Public Notice**  
 The Loudon County Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2019 at the Loudon County Courthouse Annex to receive public comments regarding amending the Zoning Resolution of Loudon County, TN to amend Article 4. Supplementary Provisions Applying to Specific Districts by adding Section 4.250. Development Standards for Recreational Vehicle Parks.

**Public Notice**  
 The Loudon County Regional Planning Commission will hold a workshop to review the Loudon County Zoning Resolution on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Loudon County Courthouse Annex, 101 Mulberry St., Loudon, TN.



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## Energy

(VEC) accountant. VEC serves more than 115,900 customers and has its corporate office in Decatur, Tennessee.

Investigators determined that Kittle stole at least \$994,981 between June 2011 and December 2017. Kittle used three schemes to steal VEC money for his personal use. Kittle stole \$735,318 by making 242 transfers from a VEC account to his personal bank account.

Kittle stole \$229,293 by making 204 payments to his personal credit card account.

Kittle stole \$30,368 by making 48 payments to a credit card account in the name of a family member.

Kittle was able to his conceal his misappropriation by recording the fraudulent transactions in VEC's accounting

system as online payment fees, returns, or similar transactions. Kittle also managed and reconciled the statements of the VEC bank account, which allowed the theft to remain undetected for years.

Kittle admitted to VEC officials that payments were made to his personal credit card account from the VEC bank account. His employment was terminated on January 2, 2018.

In November 2018, Jason Kittle was indicted by the Meigs County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$250,000.

"This is one of the largest cases of theft that we have investigated," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "However, the weaknesses that allowed this activity to occur are not unusual. Financial responsi-

bilities must be separated between multiple individuals, so that one person isn't recording financial information and reconciling bank statements without oversight."

### The Good News The Rev. Dr. Julius McCarter

Scripture: Luke 1:68-79

Zechariah's blessing gives us a short synopsis of what we celebrate during Advent. At the heart of our celebration is the God of Israel, a God who cares for and redeems us by raising up a Savior from the line of David.

As the prophets promised, this God shows mercy by saving us from all the destructive patterns that damage and distort our lives. And this God empowers us to inhabit our lives with a holiness and a righteousness that buttress against further dysfunction. As this happens, we too, like John the

Baptist, become God's prophets. We announce and prepare the way for the Lord's coming. We give people knowledge of salvation: the forgiveness of sins that upends our destructive patterns. As God's mercy permeates the spaces of our lives, a new dawn breaks in, within, and around us. Light shines. Our destructive patterns are exposed and healed. What replaces them are practices that lead to peace.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to use this Advent season as a way to test and

exercise your promises in Jesus. Show us your mercy and save us from our destructive patterns so that we can serve you with holiness and righteousness throughout the day. Amen.

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