

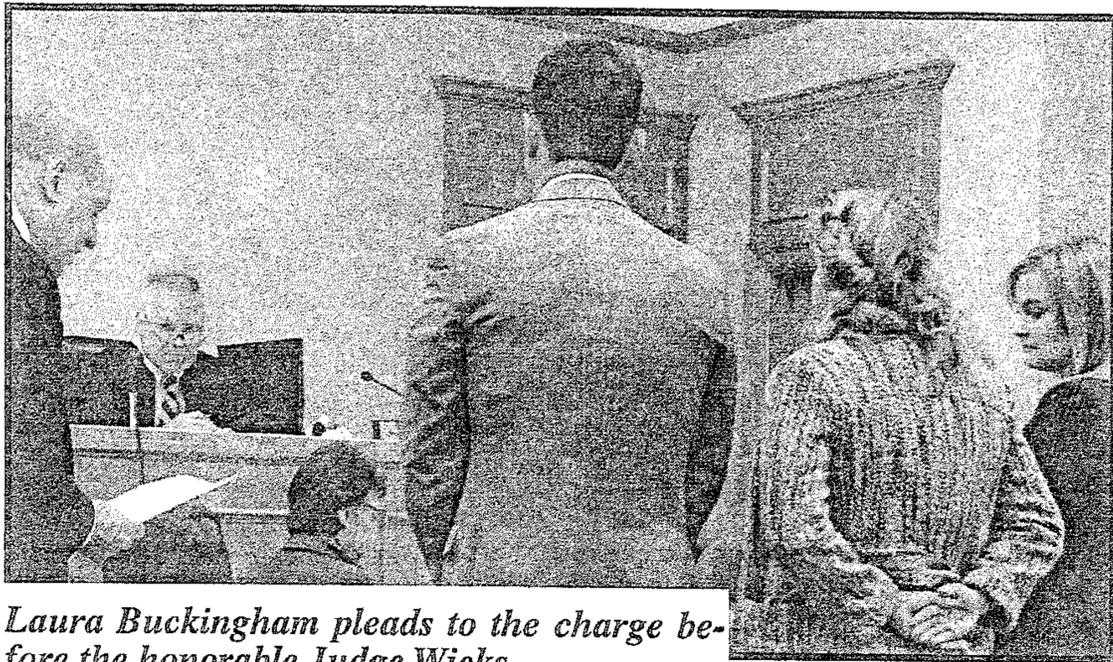
# The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

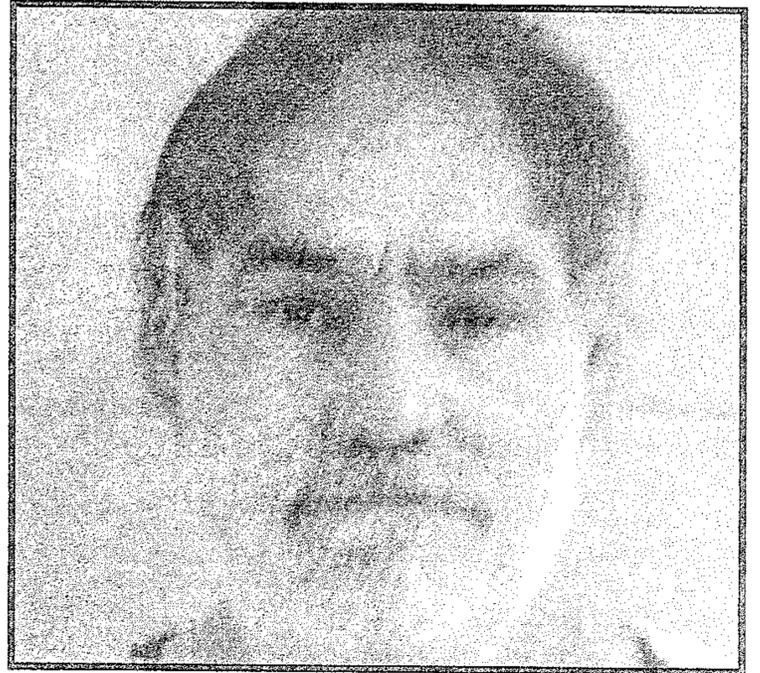
## Laura Buckingham Pleads As Charged To Solicitation To Commit First Degree Murder



Laura Buckingham pleads to the charge before the honorable Judge Wicks

see Murder pg. 2

## Man Charged With Capias In Vehicular Homicide Case



David Abney

see Capias pg. 3

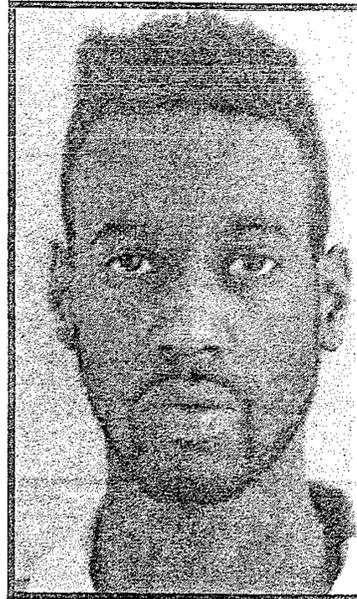
## Argument Over Gabapentin Leads To Arrest Of LC Man



Brandon Dilly

(see Pills pg. 3)

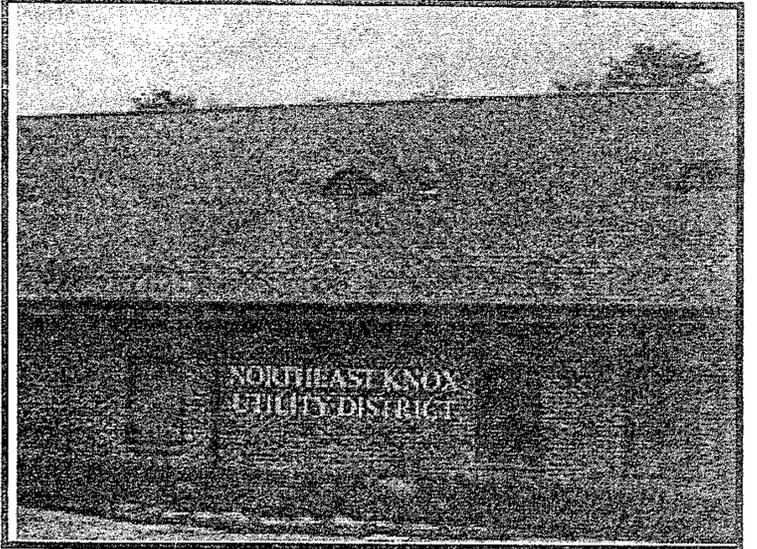
## Georgia Man Passing Counterfeit Money



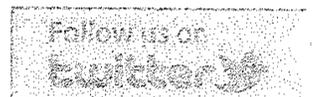
Demetrius Sutton

(see Counterfeit pg. 5)

## Former Northeast Knox Utility District Employee Indicted for Theft



See Theft P.4



### Verse of the Day

[Zechariah said] "Praise be to the Lord, God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant Da-

vid, as he said through his holy prophets long ago." — Luke 1:68-70

### Wazzup

Get your picture made with Santa at Fat Hats in Loudon Thursday at 6:00pm!!

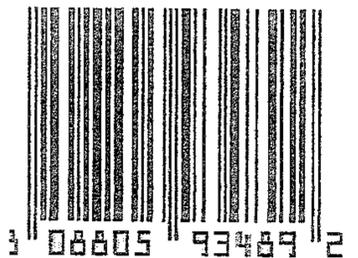
### Weather

Today: Sunny. High of 56F.  
Tonight: Cloudy. Low of 41F.  
Thursday: Rain. High of 49F.  
Thursday Night: Rain. Low of 41F.

### Horoscopes

Sagittarius 11/22-12/21  
You may be feeling hypersensitive today, and yet unable to figure out why. Your senses are overloaded while the perceptive Taurus Moon misaligns with bounti-

(Continued on page 6)



### Murder

Laura Buckingham entered a plea in Roane County Criminal Court this morning (Tuesday, December 11, 2018) before Judge Jeff Wicks to the charge upon which she was indicted - Solicitation to Commit First Degree Murder, a Class

B felony, which carries a sentence range of 8 to 30 years. Under Tennessee's Sentencing Law, however, in the case of someone with no prior felony convictions, such as Laura Buckingham, who in fact has no prior criminal history, the sentence range is only 8 to 12 years. The

State, in return for Buckingham pleading guilty as charged, agreed for her to receive a sentence of 10 years, in the middle of her range.

A sentencing hearing on this case is now set for

March 18, 2019, in order to give the TDOC time to conduct a presentence investigation and to prepare a presentence report at which point Judge

Murder ctd. to pg. 3

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



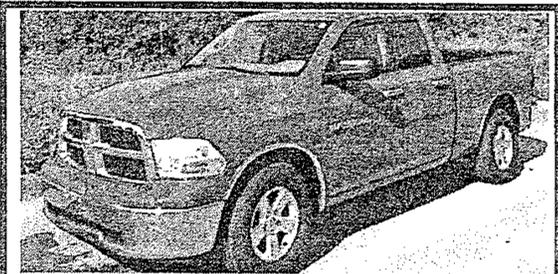
2012 GMC Terrain SLT Decked Out, Leather, Alloy Wheels, PS, PW, PL, Sunroof, Low Miles



2013 Nissan Frontier Alloy Wheels, Auto Torneau 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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Murder ctd. from pg. 2

Wicks will determine the mode of service for her ten year sentence.

Laura Buckingham admitted during today's plea hearing that over a period of time in February 2016 she contracted with a TBI undercover agent to have Brad Sutherland, a resi-

dent of New Albany, Indiana and the father of her three year old son, killed by the undercover agent. There are two separate covertly recorded videos with audio of the conversation between the undercover agent and Buckingham recording the conversation that took place to arrange

the 'hit' on Sutherland and then one following up where the undercover agent returned to show Buckingham 'proof' of the murder of Sutherland on a digital camera.

Buckingham's then live-in boyfriend, Joe Chamblin, a former marine sniper, had tipped off RCSO Investigator Bryan Walker that Buckingham was trying to get him to find someone to kill Sutherland, so District Attorney General Russell Johnson was contacted who, in turn brought TBI and the undercover agent in on the case to conduct the operation.

Soon after her arrest, in March of 2016, Buckingham was given a reduced bond by the Court in order to facilitate her release from the Roane County Jail which had asked for help in obtaining her release because the jail was overcrowded and not able to adequately provide for her medical needs as Buckingham was pregnant with a daughter she is now raising.

Buckingham has been out on bond on supervised pre-trial release with an ankle bracelet since that time and will remain in that status until her sentencing hearing.

Assistant District Attorneys Bob Edwards and Jonathan Edwards (no relation) are prosecuting the case for the State. Defense Attorneys Joe Fanduzz and represent Buckingham. This case has been followed by Dateline and has been mention on ABC Good Morning America and Nancy Grace.

## Capias

David Abney, 53, Virtue Road Lenoir City, was charged with Criminal Court Capias (Vehicular Homicide). Officer Chance Gray Made the arrest of Abney on a warrant.

## Pills

Brandon Dilly, 37, West Lane Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault. Deputy Billy Lewis LCSO, responded to West Lane for a possible domestic. Upon arrival while approaching the house Deputy could hear a male subject screaming inside the house. Upon entering the house and traveling to the back bedroom Deputy observed Brandon Dilly standing over the victim screaming with both his fist clinched. Upon trying to speak with Brandon he was confrontational and would not answer any questions. Deputy then spoke with the victim who stated she noticed she was missing about 50 Gabapentin and upon asking Brandon to use some of his he yelling and arguing started between the two. Brandon stated he had consumed all 90 of his pills in a 10 day span. Deputy spoke with the victim who stated she was in fear and that she is always afraid to be around Brandon. Brandon Dilly was placed under arrest.

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## Theft

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office has released an investigation into the Northeast Knox Utility District that resulted in the indictment of former customer service representative Sonya Sherrow. The investigation began after the Comptroller's Office was notified that district officials had discovered unusual adjustments to customer accounts.

Investigators found that Sherrow misappropriated district collections totaling at least \$8,507 by using two separate schemes.

Most of the misappropriation came from fictitious adjustments totaling \$6,346 that Sherrow made to district customers' accounts. In many cases, a customer would pay his or her utility bill in full, and Sherrow would keep the money for herself. She would then adjust the customer's account records to indicate a zero balance. The district did not have a written policy for account adjustments, and the adjustment review process was inadequate.

Additionally, Sherrow employed a lapping scheme to conceal her misappropriation of district collections totaling at least \$2,161. In-

vestigators found that Sherrow did not always apply customer payments to the correct customer account. Instead, she stole the payment and later used another customer's payment to cover up her misappropriation in the accounting records.

Sherrow resigned from her position with the district on August 7, 2017. Following her resignation, she attempted to conceal her lapping scheme by purchasing over 100 money orders from various vendors and submitting them to pay the outstanding customer account balances. She delivered the money orders through the mail and the district's drop box.

"It is critical for districts to have solid policies and procedures for handling adjustments to accounts," says Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "District leaders should ensure that ratepayers are protected from fraudulent activity. It starts with strong oversight."

In August 2018, Sonya Sherrow was indicted by the Knox County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$2,500, two counts of forgery, one count of money laundering, and one count of official misconduct.

## Mule

The ask comes through a job posting or from someone you meet online. It seems simple and harmless enough: provide your bank account information and allow money transfers to flow into your account. Then move the money elsewhere and maybe earn a little cash for the trouble. Easy, painless, profitable. Right?

Wrong. You are likely aiding criminals by acting as a money mule, which can land you in prison and permanently damage your financial standing.

The FBI is joining with law enforcement partners worldwide to raise awareness of and curtail this illegal movement of funds, which is fueling the growth of crimes across the globe.

The FBI defines a money mule as a person who transfers illegally acquired money on behalf of

or at the direction of another. Money mules often receive a commission for the service or provide assistance because they believe they have a trusting or romantic relationship with the individual who is asking for help.

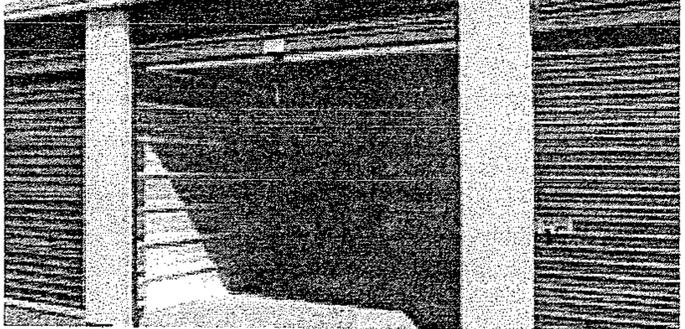
Much of the money moved through these third-parties is stolen through Internet-enabled frauds, thefts, and scams. Drug trafficking and human trafficking are also common sources of the money. While some money mules may be genuinely unaware of their involvement in a larger criminal

scheme, many fully understand they are moving money attained from unlawful activities. All mules, whether unaware or complicit, are committing a crime.

"Money mules are needed to help move stolen money from country to country, avert the scrutiny of financial institutions, and mask the identity of the individuals involved in these largely Internet-enabled crimes," said Special Agent James Abbott of the Bureau's Money Laundering, Forfeiture, and Bank Fraud Unit at FBI Headquarters. "Being able to easi-

Mule ctd. to pg. 5

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\*A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better. For a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. - Ecclesiastes 4:12

Mule ctd. from pg. 4

ly move the profits from these crimes contributes to their rapid growth and threatens the safety and security of everyone who has a presence online."

"It's crucial to understand that what may look to be the harmless movement of money from place to place is anything but harmless."

James Abbot, special agent, FBI Money Laundering, Forfeiture, and Bank Fraud Unit

The FBI recently conducted more than 300 interviews with individuals who had been flagged by financial institutions for activity that indicated they were acting as money mules. The stories they relayed to FBI agents help draw a picture of how these individuals, who span every race, gender, and age demographic, are recruited and used:

A female who worked in early childhood education met a man on an online dating site. He was kind to her and told her he worked for a children's charity. A few weeks after they began communication, the man asked her to receive some money into her account for his charity. Over the next several weeks, he attempted to wire a total of \$250,000 into her account. He then instructed her to wire the money into other bank accounts or obtain cashier's checks

and mail them to individuals at his direction.

On another dating website, a man met another man who claimed he was a captain in the U.S. Army, stationed overseas. The

"Army captain" told the man he was trying to arrange his travel home to the United States and needed the man's assistance in receiving some money and sending it elsewhere. The man had \$10,000 wired into his account and was instructed to withdraw the money in small chunks and send it to a woman in Texas.

A retired advertising executive who was looking to earn some extra money found a "work at home" opportunity online. He was hired and then directed to create a business and open a new bank account for that business. He was then told he'd receive a series of deposits and would be instructed where to send the money. He believed the business was facilitating importing and exporting.

These individuals were all likely unaware that what they were doing was illegal or damaging. The money they pledged to move, however, may have been funneled through phishing scams or business email compromise schemes, leaving untold victims in

their wake. "It's crucial to understand," Abbott said, "that what may look to be the harmless movement of money from place to place is anything but harmless."

## Counterfeit

Demetrius Sutton, 28, College Drive Georgia, was charged with Forgery, Resisting Arrest, and Criminal Simulation x2. DTF Agents with LCSO, were conducting the Retail Theft Task Force at Walmart. Agents were notified by Loss Prevention of 2 black male that were currently at the register attempting to purchase items with counterfeit \$100.00 dollar bills. The males were turned away and one male left the store. Agents attempted to stop the male in the parking lot to question him and the male refused to stop and took off running through the parking lot. The male was apprehended by Officers and was identified as Demetrius Sutton from Georgia. While searching Sutton Agents located one counterfeit \$100.00 bill in his pocket. Agents were able to back track Suttons movements before he came to Walmart and were able to back track his movements before he came to Walmart and were able to determine that he had also attempted to pass a counterfeit \$100.00 dollar bill at Home Depot right before coming to Walmart. Sutton is currently on felony probation out of Georgia for prior forgeries.

**The Good News**  
The Rev. Dr. Julius McCarter  
Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a

If you're engaged in some aspect of church ministry, perhaps there isn't much about being here at one week before Christmas Eve that feels much like peace. Even if you're not in a formal ministry position, you're likely busy planning and preparing for Christmas celebrations with family and friends, and doing some last-minute shopping. But as the prophet Micah foretells in this passage, the peace of the Lord is something that magnifies God's limitless power by breaking into the lives of everyone, even a little

clan of Judah.

Granted, the peace he was likely referring to wasn't a reference to relief from busy holiday schedules, but actual conflict with the neighboring Assyrians. Perhaps we know some aspects of conflict too well in our own context -- with neighbors abroad, or even next door. Pray with the whole church this Advent that the Lord may fill you, and even whoever or whatever causes you conflict, with hope for peace in all times.  
Prayer: Prince of Peace, in this time of waiting, give us the strength to do what should require little strength: to know and dwell fully in your peace. Amen.

## Public Meeting Notice

An Evaluation Committee (the "Committee") acting on behalf of Lenoir City Utilities Board's Purchasing Department will hold an open public meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in the Executive Conference Room of the LCUB Operations Building at 7698 Creekwood Park Boulevard in Lenoir City, Tennessee. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss, evaluate, score and rank the proposals received in response to LCUB's 2019-2022 Feeder Circuit Right of Way Clearing & Related Work RFP.