

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Daughter charged after bizarre murder attempt of parents in Village

Kimberly Hopkins, 50, Sherman Street Medford OR., was charged with Theft of Pproperty x2, Fraud x2, and Attempted First Degree Murder.

Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, answered a theft and fraudulent use of credit card call at Qua-

see Att. Murder pg. 2



Kimberly Hopkins

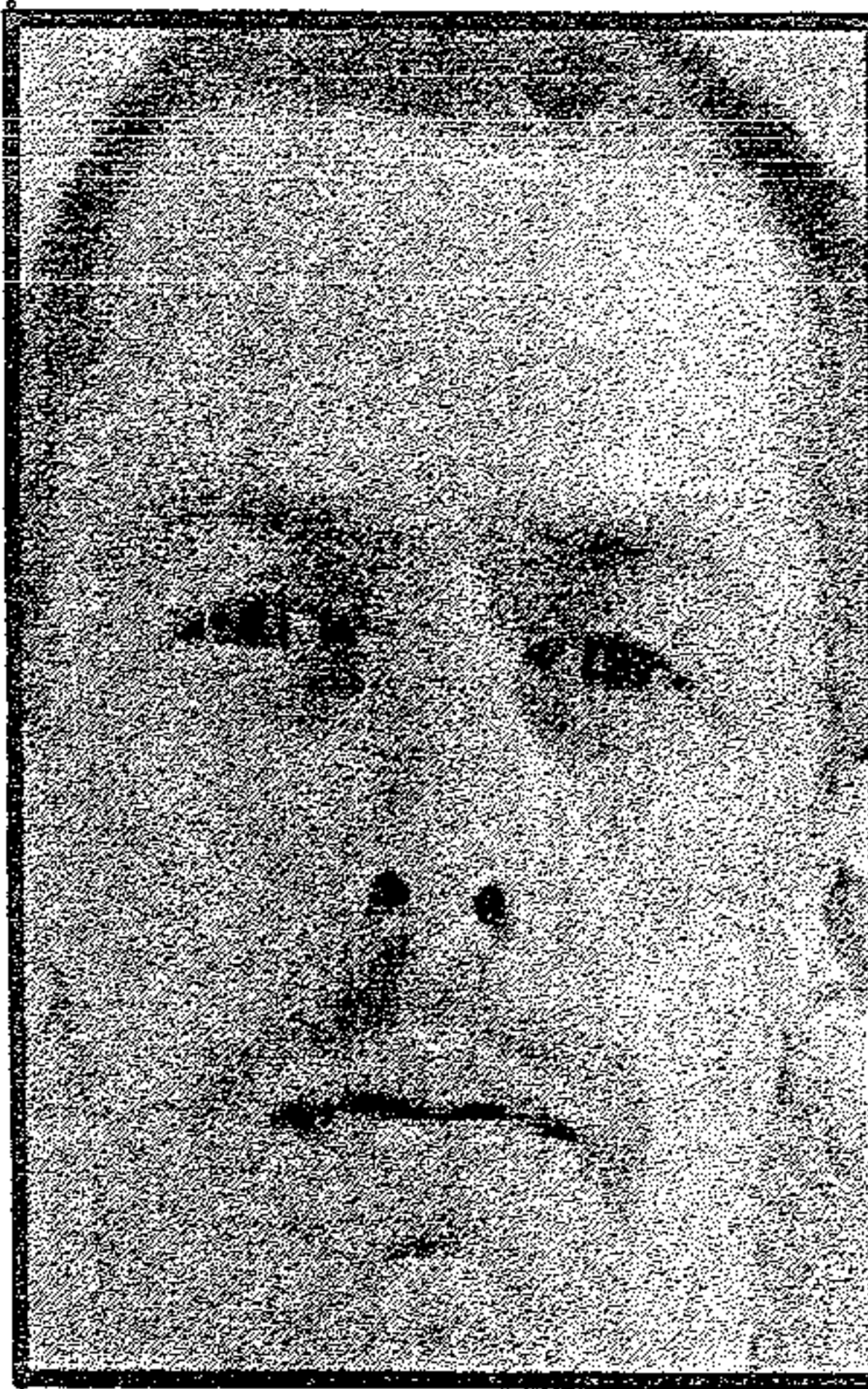
Imaginary land leads to Imaginary car to REAL Jail



Monica Murphy

See Theft P.4

DUI follows speeding stop



Kevin Murphy

see DUI pg. 4

California Fraudster Sentenced Ponzi Scheme Resulted in \$10 Million in Losses for Investors

In July 2008, special agents from the FBI Sacramento Field Office executed a search warrant at the residence of a suspect and interviewed other individuals in connection with a mortgage fraud investigation.

In addition to finding evidence for their own case, investigators uncovered ties to what appeared to be a separate mortgage fraud

scheme, and FBI Sacramento opened another case, working in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Criminal Investigation.

The main subject of the second case was Lee Loomis, president of Loomis Wealth Solutions, a company based in Roseville, California, but operating in about half a dozen

see Ponzi pg. 3

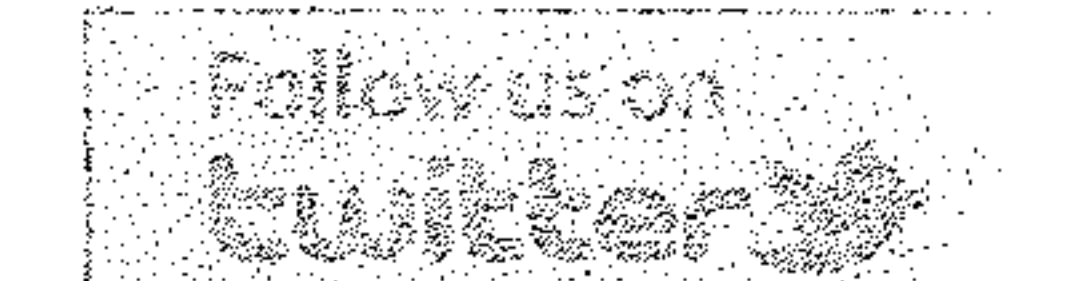
Help Police Find the D.C.-Area Hotel Rapist

From 1998 to 2006, a man attacked and raped women in the Washington, D.C. area, often threatening them with weapons. Although the attacker has not yet been found, the rapist's DNA profile has been indicted by a grand jury in Washington, D.C., thanks

to DNA scientific advances since the crimes occurred. This is the first time a John Doe DNA profile has been indicted in Washington, D.C.

Local police departments and the FBI are offering a reward up to \$45,000 for information that leads to an ar-

(see FBI pg. 4)



Verse of the Day

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. — Leviticus 19:18

Obituaries

None reported

Wazzup

How is your summer going? Let us know on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram!

Weather

Today: Thunderstorm. High of 85.
Tonight: Showers. Low

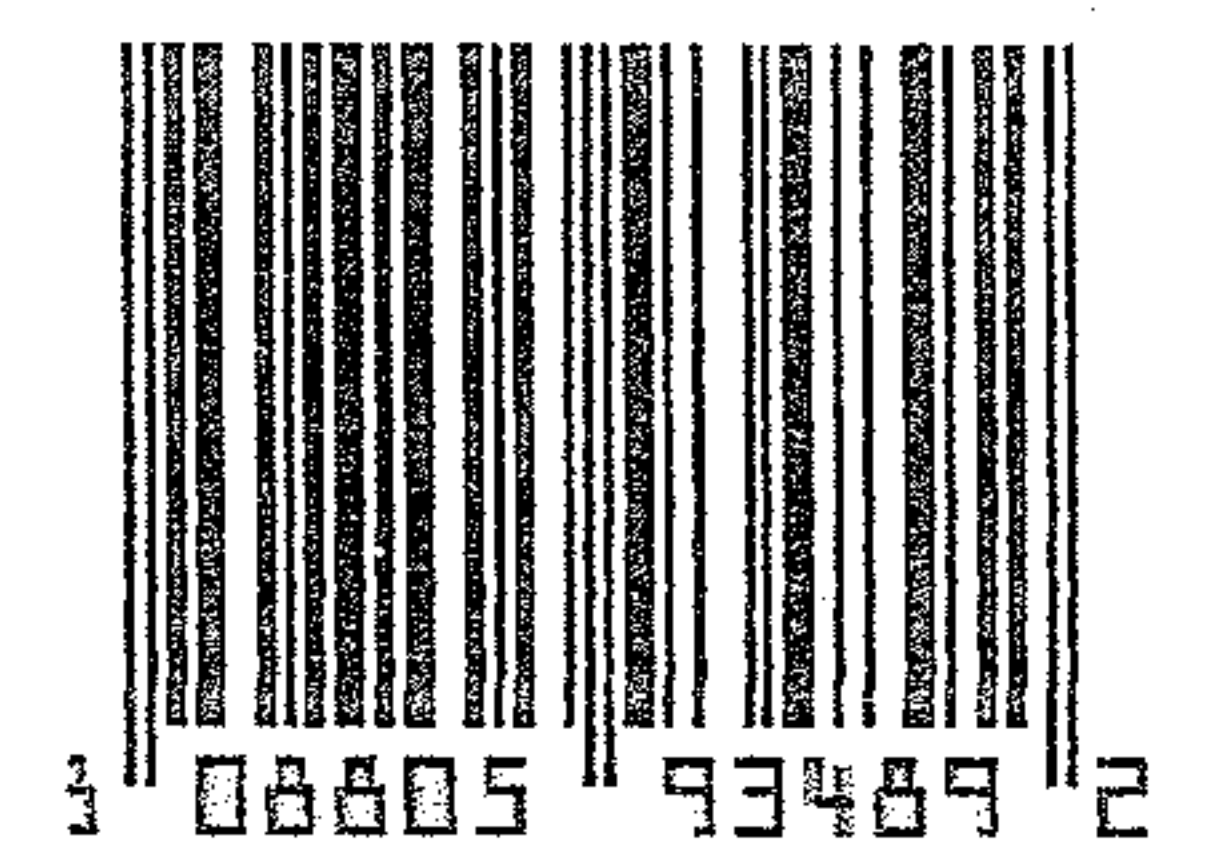
of 70F.

Thursday: Morning showers. High of 91F.
Thursday Night: Clear. Low of 72F.

Horoscopes

Cancer 6/22-7/22
You might not be able to avoid revisiting a complex relationship issue involv-

ing shared property today. However, you may need to temporarily remove yourself from the drama to regain control of the situation. Unfortunately, your current lack of confidence could interfere with your progress especially if you try to be
(Continued on page 6)



Att. Murder a gold alexandrite ring
 paw Circle in Tellico (valued at 250.00, be-
 Village. longing to victim) and
 Upon arrival com- made several fraudulent
 plainant/victims both purchases on the couples
 gave written statements card since her arrival on
 that said their daughter, 14 June of this year. Vic-
 Ms. Kimberly Martin tim placed a hold on the
 Hopkins had taken the card after his daughter
 couples visa card and had a cylinder of helium

and two other boxes shipped their daughter per-
 to the residence. Ms. Hop- mission to have the
 kins tried to use the card items. The couple
 again in Maryville Tn on this further stated that
 date and visa notified vic- their daughter told
 tim of this fraudulent usage. her mother she was
 Both claim they did not give see Att. Murder ctd p.7

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2010 GMC Yukon V8 Power, Leather, PS, PW, PL, 3rd Row, Rear Air, Remote Start, Sat Radio



2013 Chevy Malibu Low Miles, LTZ, Leather, PS, PW, PL, Alloy Wheels, Heated Seats, A/C



2010 Ford F150 Platinum PKG, Power Run. Boards, NAV, Ent. PKG, Leather, Heated/Cooled Seats



2007 Chevy Suburban LTZ Alloy Wheels, Leather, 3rd Row, Sunroof, Luggage Rack, PW, PL, DVD, NAV



2008 Nissan Titan, Leather, PS, PW, PL, Heated Seats, Torneau Cover, Alloy Wheels, V8 Powe

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Ponzi

states. And it wasn't long before FBI and IRS investigators realized they were dealing with a much broader criminal scheme, and that mortgage fraud was just the tip of the iceberg. After a long-term and complex investigation by law

enforcement, Loomis was charged, pleaded guilty, and sentenced earlier this year for running a multi-faceted investment fraud/Ponzi scheme that caused millions of dollars in losses to more than 183 investors.

By reviewing voluminous amounts of evidence—including personal and company records, real estate re-

ords, bank records, financial statements, etc.—and questioning victims, employees of Loomis-owned entities, and others, investigators learned that from 2006 through 2008, Loomis offered what he called a “wealth-building program.” During seminars about his company held at hotels and casinos, he boasted of unusually high rates of return for anyone who invested with him, and he advertised individualized financial family planning to help prospective clients earn money for college tuitions and retirement. Those attending the seminars were then asked to submit financial information including tax returns, pay stubs, copies of bills, and information concerning their home equity. Loomis would analyze this information and—targeting families with substantial home equity and good credit—invite them to a

private two-day workshop. At these workshops, Loomis offered three different levels of investing:

Tier 1 investors had to purchase a whole life insurance policy indexed to the stock market. What Loomis never told his clients was that he received a referral fee of approximately \$25,000 per policy from the life insurance company he dealt with.

Tier 2 investors were strongly encouraged to refinance their homes, taking out all their equity and investing it—as well as the funds in their retirement accounts—in Loomis' Naras Funds. Loomis even arranged for the refinancing of his investors' primary residences but often times steered them into question-

see Ponzi ctd. pg. 5

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Theft

Monica Murphy, 28, Beals Chapel Road Lenoir City, was charged with Burglary of a Motor Vehicle.

Officer was dispatched to Highland Park Elementary School, Highway 11 E, Lenoir City, TN 37772, on a call of a person caught going through a vehicle that was not hers. Upon arrival, Officer spoke with the complainant, and the driver of the vehicle. Both work at the school.

Complainant advised that she saw a woman with black leggings and socks, going through a vehicle in the parking lot.

She knew that the vehicle, a 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer, did not belong to the female that was looking through it. Complainant told victim, who came outside to the vehicle. Victim stated that when he encountered the female, she had taken everything out of the glove compartment of the vehicle. The female in question was on scene when Officer arrived. The female told him that her name was "Lily Fries", when Officer first asked what her name was. That female was later identified as Monica Murphy. Ms. Murphy stated that someone told her that the vehicle was hers. The person that supposedly told her was not there to verify. She stated that she had played on the school playground all night in an "imaginary land". Ms. Murphy had a Weigel's name tag with the name "Lily" on it, pinned to

her shirt.

She was a former employee at Weigel's, and the name tag was hers. Ms. Murphy was placed into custody and transported to the Loudon County Jail, where she was charged with burglary of a motor vehicle. This did occur in Loudon County.

FBI

rest of the suspect.

The attacks followed a similar pattern: As housekeepers were cleaning hotel rooms, a man would enter the rooms, close the door, and violently assault—and in many cases, rape—them. There are up to nine known victims of the same assailant, and six of the attacks have been linked by one man's DNA.

"The suspect is someone who knows the routine in hotels and is familiar with how they operate," said Special Agent Erin Sheridan of the FBI's Washington Field Office. "The attacks often occurred during the day, when there were not many guests and the cleaning staff were going in and out of the rooms."

Sheridan, who is assisting local police departments in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia in investigating these cases, added, "Hotels are transient places, with people coming and going. If he looked like an employee or a guest, he could have easily blended in."

An additional chal-

lenge for investigators at the time was that hotel security cameras were not as advanced and prevalent as they are now, so investigators do not have a reliable image of the suspected attacker in the hotels' lobbies, hallways, or stairwells, Sheridan said.

Although this investigation is being handled at the local level, the FBI is providing support to local police departments as needed, such as creating a behavioral analysis profile of the subject.

In addition to publicly identifying the suspect's DNA, the Montgomery County Police Department partnered with a private laboratory to create a composite sketch of the suspect, both at the time and age-progressed to today, based on his DNA information.

"In many cases like this where you have a serial criminal, police departments band together, along with the FBI, to put all of our resources and information

together to work the case," Sheridan said.

The FBI and local law enforcement are asking for the public's help to solve this cold case. There are currently no active leads, and investigators are relying on the public's attention—or a DNA match—to help identify a suspect. Although the attacker is not known to law enforcement, the indictment of the DNA profile means that he can be prosecuted in the future if he is found, even though the statute of limitations for rape is 15 years in Washington, D.C.

"We're asking the public's help to solve these horrific crimes. Although this is a cold case from years ago, the FBI and local law enforcement never give

up. We still want to get justice for these victims," Sheridan said. "We're asking the public's help to look at the photos, look at the details, and if you have anything that jogs your memory, please let us know."

Sheridan added that the public should not be afraid to come forward with information because if a person is not guilty, they can be cleared with DNA testing.

Anyone with information on these attacks should contact the Washington Metropolitan Police Department by calling (202) 727-9099 or sending a text message to MPD's text tip line at 50411. Tips may also be submitted online to the FBI at <https://tips.fbi.gov>. All tips can remain anonymous.

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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

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FBI ctd. from pg. 4

able loans. Tier 3 investors were invited to purchase additional homes in areas like California, Arizona, and Florida—especially selected for them by Loomis—with Loomis agreeing to pay the mortgages and taxes and investors getting at least a \$300 a month return on each property. What he didn't tell them was that he had arranged for inflated appraisals on the properties, leading investors to think they were paying a below-market price. To help him carry out his scheme, Loomis recruited his own father-in-law and six other individuals—all of whom were charged. Five were ultimately sentenced, including his father-in-law, but the sixth person named in the indictment passed away before his sentencing could occur. Loomis' scheme was typical of any Ponzi scheme—he used some of the money he received from newer investors to pay back

original investors, but he also used investor money to help pay business operating expenses and to line his own pockets and the pockets of his co-conspirators. Very little investor money was actually invested. Eventually, running out of money and impacted by the 2008 financial crisis, Loomis was unable to keep his operation afloat. Clients—old and new—began complaining. And the scheme began to collapse in on itself. FBI and IRS investigators talked to a number of clients, who all told similar stories about the big promises Loomis made to them that were never kept, and of losing their life savings, retirement accounts, and even homes in some cases. Law enforcement executed a search warrant on Loomis' office and home in August 2008. It took a while to conduct the exhaustive investigation into all of Loomis' financial affairs, but by September 2012, a federal indictment was unsealed against Loomis and

his co-conspirators. In January 2016, Loomis pleaded guilty before a federal judge. He returned to court in July 2016 to face his sentencing, but instead fired his lawyer, asked to represent himself, and—claiming that he had been under duress at the time he accepted a plea agreement—asked that his previous guilty plea be thrown out. Eventually, the judge rejected Loomis' request to have his plea set aside, saying he saw no evidence to support Loomis' claim that he had been under duress. And finally, in February 2018, Loomis appeared in court and was sentenced to 12 years in federal prison. "The FBI," said Sacramento Special Agent in Charge Sean Ragan after the sentencing, "remains committed to working with its partners to ensure that people who defraud the American people—often devastating their financial future in the process—face justice."

DUI

Kevin Murphy, 31, N A Street Lenoir City, was charged with DUI, Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, and Speeding 21 MPH over the Limit. Sgt. J. Bowen LCSO, did stop the above vehicle for speeding. Sgt. then made contact with the driver later identified as Kevin Murphy. Mr. Murphy had a strong odor of alcohol coming from his person. Sgt. then asked him for his license and he provided a Tn ID. Sgt. then ran his Id and it came back Revoked for DUI out of Loudon County 08-31-2011. Sgt. then asked Mr. Murphy if he would perform field sobriety and he did and performed poorly on the task. Sgt. then placed Mr. Murphy under arrest for DUI and Driving in a Revoked License. Sgt. then

read him a copy of the implied consent and he did consent to a breath test at the Loudon County Jail. Sgt. then waited the allotted 20 minutes and he did blow a .131. This did occur in Loudon County.

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Att. Murder ctd. from pg. 2

giving her a manicure, took her in the bedroom, and shut both doors then placed lotion and gloves on her hands. Ms. Hopkins then zip tied the gloves to her mothers hands and zip tied her mother's wrists together. She then placed tape on her mother's mouth and placed a plastic bag on her mother's head and stated "I have your alexandrite ring". Victim stated she struggled and tried screaming for her hus-

band, who heard the noise and came to her rescue. Victim cut his wife free and Ms. Hopkins "went nuts" (according to her father) then took the box with the bags and the helium tank and fled the scene before Deputy arrival. Inv. Chris Bowen LCSO, responded. At 1946 hrs, Deputy responded back to the scene because Ms. Hopkins had returned to her parents home and they called 911 in fear of her. She did have the stolen items in her possession and placed

them in the passenger seat of her mother's suv in the garage. She was arrested on scene and transported to the LCSO Jail without further incident. Inv C. Bowen did place a hold on her. This did occur in Loudon County, TN.

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