

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, January 03, 2020

Madisonville woman runs at victim with her car and takes out mailbox



Sharon Shelton

see Assault pg. 2

Man drives drunk, wrecks car and leaves the scene



Darryl Rose

see Wreck pg. 3

Step-father and Step-son duke it out at Food City parking lot



Timothy Montgomery

see Fight pg. 3

Stolen credit cards used at Jack's Auto



Cody Chastain

See Jack's P.2

Scammer Sentenced Woman Part of Group that Staged Car, Home Accidents for Insurance Payouts

Swerving to avoid a deer. Tripping over a dog and falling down the stairs. Losing control on a dark road and hitting another car. These all seem like strokes of bad luck. FBI investigators, however, determined the series of

“accidents” were scams designed to collect insurance payments. The elaborate ploy wasted first-responder resources and cost innocent homeowners, motorists, and taxpayers millions of

See Scam P.4



Verse of the Day

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
—Genesis 1:1

Wazzup

Hope everyone had a safe and happy New Year!!! 2020 is Here!!!

Weather

Today: Rain. High of 57F.
Tonight: Rain. Low of 49F
Saturday: Rain. High of 52F.

Saturday night: Clearing.
Low of 31F

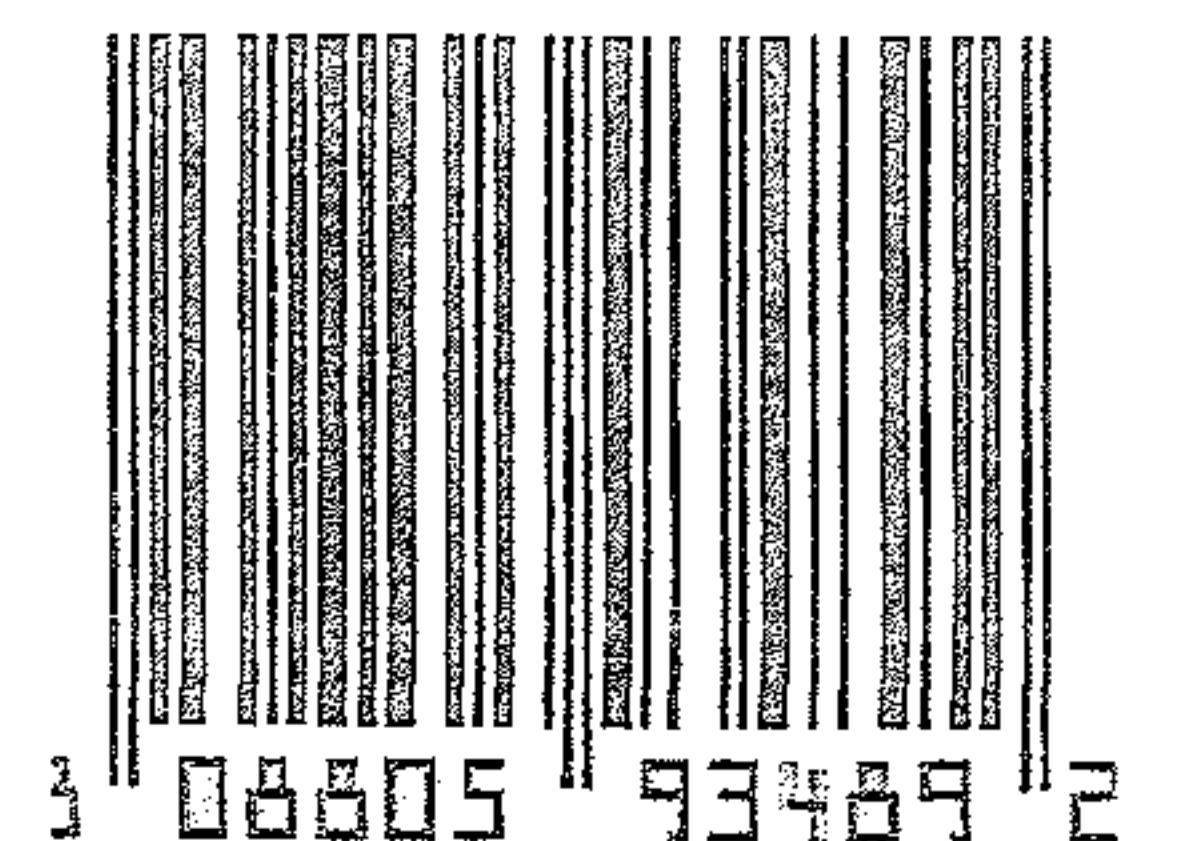
Horoscopes

Capricorn 12/22-01/19

Establishing dialogue is a two-way street. No shallow, superficial conversations for you now since you either want to talk about serious, heartfelt topics or nothing at all. You may be especially interested in

connecting with people who make your world feel familiar and relatable, like siblings, close relatives, or friends. But to experience the emotional depth you want

(Continued on page 6)



Assault

Sharon Shelton, 50, Swainson Street Madisonville, was charged with Aggravated Assault, Reckless Endangerment x3, Criminal Trespass, and Vandalism. Deputy C. Bengel LCSO, responded to East Lee Hwy to a harassment/vandalism call. Deputy arrived on scene and observed the mail-

box to the residence laying on the ground next to the post. Deputy made contact with the victim, who stated she came home and found Sharon Shelton at her mailbox. Victim stated Shelton ripped off the mailbox and threw it to the ground, and began to make threats to kill the victim. The victim stated Shelton stated she was going to cut her throat, then Shelton got

in her vehicle and started to drive towards victim vehicle that had 3 juveniles inside. Victim then pulled a gun and pointed it at Shelton, victim stated Shelton then attempted to hit victim with the vehicle and caused victim to dive off the road into the yard. Shelton then left the scene. Warrants were issued for Sharon Shelton arrest.

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Wreck

Darryl Rose, 76, Roberts Circle Lenoir City, was charged with DUI, Vandalism, Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, Violation of Implied Consent, and Leaving the scene of an Accident. Deputy Keith Swinney LCSO, along with Sgt. Hutchins, were dispatched to a wreck on Roberts Circle. Upon arrival Deputy made contact with Darryl Rose at Roberts Circle the wrecked vehicle was registered to Rose. Sgt. Hutchins spoke with a neighbor who gave Rose a ride from the wrecked vehicle to his home. The neighbor wrote a statement to what she seen. When Deputy spoke to Rose he stated that was his vehicle in the victim yard, and he had been drinking a lot and was driving the vehicle. Based on witness, and Rose statements Darryl Rose was placed under arrest.

Fight

Timothy Montgomery, 59, Highway 70 West Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault. Officer Runyan LCPD, was dispatched to Market Drive Food City to a domestic in progress between a stepfather and son. The complainant stated that Timothy Montgomery had punched victim in the face, and had him in a head lock. Upon arriving on scene and speaking with several witnesses. Timothy Montgomery was found to be the primary aggressor. It was learned that Montgomery was angry due to him having to pick the victim up at Food City. A bystander that witnessed the attack stopped to separate the aggressor from the victim and did sustain marks on his arm and possibly was spat on by Montgomery. Timothy Montgomery was placed under arrest.

Jack's

Cody Chastain, 28, Rocksprings Annex Lenoir City, was charged with Aggravated Assault, Resisting Arrest, Illegal Possession/Fraudulent use of Credit Card, and Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch. IV. Deputy Scarbrough LCSO, was dispatched to the area of Jack's Auto Parts on Hwy 11 to a subject using a stolen credit card. On arrival Deputy spoke with the owner who stated that a male subject came in and attempted to buy a pair of gloves. The owner ran the credit card and it came back stolen. The male subject wearing a gray t-shirt and blue jeans ran out of the store and across the street. The owner called 911. After a brief search the male was caught and identified as Cody Chastain. Deputy M. Tinnel LCSO, transported Chastain to the Loudon County Jail.

Charges Placed in Illegal Killing of Elk on North Cumberland WMA

A Caryville man has been charged with violations related to the illegally killing of an elk on the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area in Campbell County

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency wildlife officer Brenden Marlow charged Sean Doney, 33, of Caryville, with five violations after he admitted to illegally killing an elk cow on the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Charges include Hunting Big Game in Closed Season, Hunting Without a License, Hunting without Hunter Education, Illegal Take of Big Game, and Failure to Retrieve Game on a WMA. Wildlife officers also seized a high-powered rifle from the defendant who is scheduled to appear in Campbell County General Sessions Court on Feb. 20, 2020 at 9 a.m.

Elk ctd from P.5

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Scam

dollars. Sandra Talento and her family members were part of the long-running scheme staging accidents for insurance payouts. "It was a tight-knit group of family and friends," said Special Agent Ryan Butler, who worked the case out of the FBI's Seattle Field Office. "They recruited others—often people they knew needed money." In the case of car accidents, the group would pre-arrange who would be the "at-fault" driver and who would be the "victim" driver. The crashes were staged at night, when there would be no witnesses. To increase the insurance claims, there were multiple passengers. The scammers went to great lengths to make the passengers appear injured. Participants would also have their heads cut with razor blades or their bodies bruised in advance

of the crashes. The group occasionally used car crash "victims" who had pre-existing but unaddressed injuries. "Sometimes they would say, 'If you need to get that knee or shoulder fixed, go along with us, and we'll get it fixed for you,'" Butler explained. After arriving at the hospital via ambulance, participants then lied about their symptoms and pursued as much medical care as possible. "It's all complete greed. And when the insurance companies make these payouts, it raises premiums for everyone." Ryan Butler, special agent, FBI Seattle Talento herself often played a victim, using different names. She also ensured the other participants went to as many follow-up doctor appointments as possible. This drove up the value of the insurance settlements. The insurance

companies paid out large settlements to the participants—about \$5.6 million over six years. They staged at least 33 accidents during that time frame, both in the Spokane area, where Talento lived, and in surrounding states. FBI investigators worked closely with the National Insurance Crime Bureau to examine claims. Investigators also reviewed participants' financial records. Lower-level participants agreed to cooperate with the FBI and plead guilty. And while the participants were paid, Talento and her husband reaped most of the rewards. They lived a lavish lifestyle, owning a large home, fancy cars, and a yacht. The government will pursue asset forfeiture to recoup some of the couple's ill-gotten gains. "Fortunately, in this case we're not aware of anyone being seriously injured in any of these crashes, and everyone was a willing participant," Special Agent Butler said. "But it's a dangerous practice, and it

does happen where they will hit innocent third parties." Talento, 58, pleaded guilty to mail fraud, wire fraud, health care fraud, and related charges. She was sentenced to nearly six years in prison in November. Her husband, the accused ringleader of the group, faces charges but is currently considered a fugitive, according to court documents. "It's all complete greed," Butler said. "And when the insurance companies make these payouts, it raises premiums for everyone. The fake accidents also take police officers and EMTs away from real emergencies."

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Public Notice
The City of Philadelphia Mayor and Board of Aldermen will hold a public hearing at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 400 Church Street to receive public comments regarding amending the 2007-01 Philadelphia Floodplan Ordinance be replacing it with the Amended Philadelphia Floodplan Ordinance. This will be the third and final reading of the amended Philadelphia Floodpan Ordinance. Questions can be directed to the Floodplan Administrator at 865-458-4470

Elk ctd from P.2

Doney was identified as a suspect by members of the general public after the Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association and Pine Mountain Longbeards Chapter of the NWTF offered a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the responsible person(s).

The elk was found lying dead in a food plot in the Red Ash area of NCWMA on Dec. 23. The cow elk was wearing a GPS collar as part of a 3-year elk research study with the UT Dept. of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. A necropsy by the UT College of Veterinary Medicine concluded the animal had been shot and a bullet was recovered from the carcass.

Unemployment Sits Below 5 Percent in Nearly Every Tennessee County

Unemployment dropped in more than one-third of Tennessee's 95 counties in November, according to newly released data

from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD).

Rates decreased in 38 counties, remained the same in 24 counties, and unemployment increased in 33 counties during the month.

The new data shows there are 91 counties across the state with rates less than 5 percent and only four counties with rates greater than 5 percent.

"It's very encouraging to have so many counties with unemployment rates below 5 percent during November," said TDLWD Commissioner Jeff McCord. "As we moved closer to the busy holiday season, more Tennesseans were taking home paychecks, which is the ultimate goal."

Williamson County has the state's lowest unemployment rate at 2.2 percent. That figure is down 0.1 of a percentage point when compared to October.

Davidson County has the second-lowest unemployment rate for the month.

Its current statistic of 2.3 percent mirrors the rate from the previous month.

Cheatham and Rutherford counties both have a rate of 2.4 percent. For Cheatham County, which represents an increase of 0.1 of a percentage point, Rutherford County's rate did not change between October and November.

Clay County experienced an increase in unemployment, giving the county the state's highest unemployment rate. Its rate jumped from 5.2 percent in October to 5.9 percent in November. Hancock, Hardeman, and

Bledsoe counties follow Clay County with rates of 5 percent. Hancock County's rate dropped one-half of a percentage point, Hardeman County is down 0.1 of a percentage point, and Bledsoe County is up by 0.3 of a percentage point.

Statewide, seasonally adjusted unemployment was down 0.1 of a percentage point when compared to October, setting the November 2019 rate at 3.3 percent.

The United States' unemployment rate for November is 3.5 percent, 0.1 of a percentage point lower than it was in October.

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Public Notice
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 5:00 p.m.,
 Tuesday, January 14, 2020
 Loudon County Office Building