

# Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Friday, January 31, 2020

## Phone games cause assailant to take phone and assault victim



James Norman

see Games pg. 2

## Charged after breaking window and throwing trash



Andrew Kotronias

see DV+ pg. 3

## Federal Jury Convicts Charles Edward Mason of Gun and Drug Charges

Following a four-day trial in the United States District Court at Knoxville, a jury convicted Charles Edward Mason, 53, of Clinton, Tennessee. Evidence presented at trial showed Mason was in possession of firearms and ammunition as a convicted felon,

possessed with intent to distribute 5 grams or more of methamphetamine, brandished firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking, and possessed firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking.

Sentencing is set for May 20, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in the United States District Court at Knoxville. See Mason pg. 5

## Pair of West Virginians to be sentenced for kidnapping elderly victims

Knoxville, Tennessee – The sentencing hearing of Joshua Small, 52, and Joni Amber Johnson, 36, both of Princeton, West Virginia, for their roles in a conspiracy to kidnap elderly victims and rob them, will continue Tuesday morning,

See W.VA P.3

## Former Crockett County Circuit Court Clerk Bookkeeper Stole More Than \$35,000

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has resulted in the indictment of April Hicks, a former bookkeeper in the Crockett County Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

A large white building automatically gener-

Hicks stole at least \$35,533.84 from the clerk's office between July 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019, the date she voluntarily left the employment of the office.

Investigators determined that Hicks used at least two See Bookkeeper P.4



### Verse of the Day

We proclaim him [Christ], admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. —Colossians 1:28

### Wazzup

If you haven't tried Tommy's Grill of Grove yet you definitely need to give it a try. The friendliest staff and some mighty good grub just over the river bridge in Loudon. Fried Bologna too!

### Weather

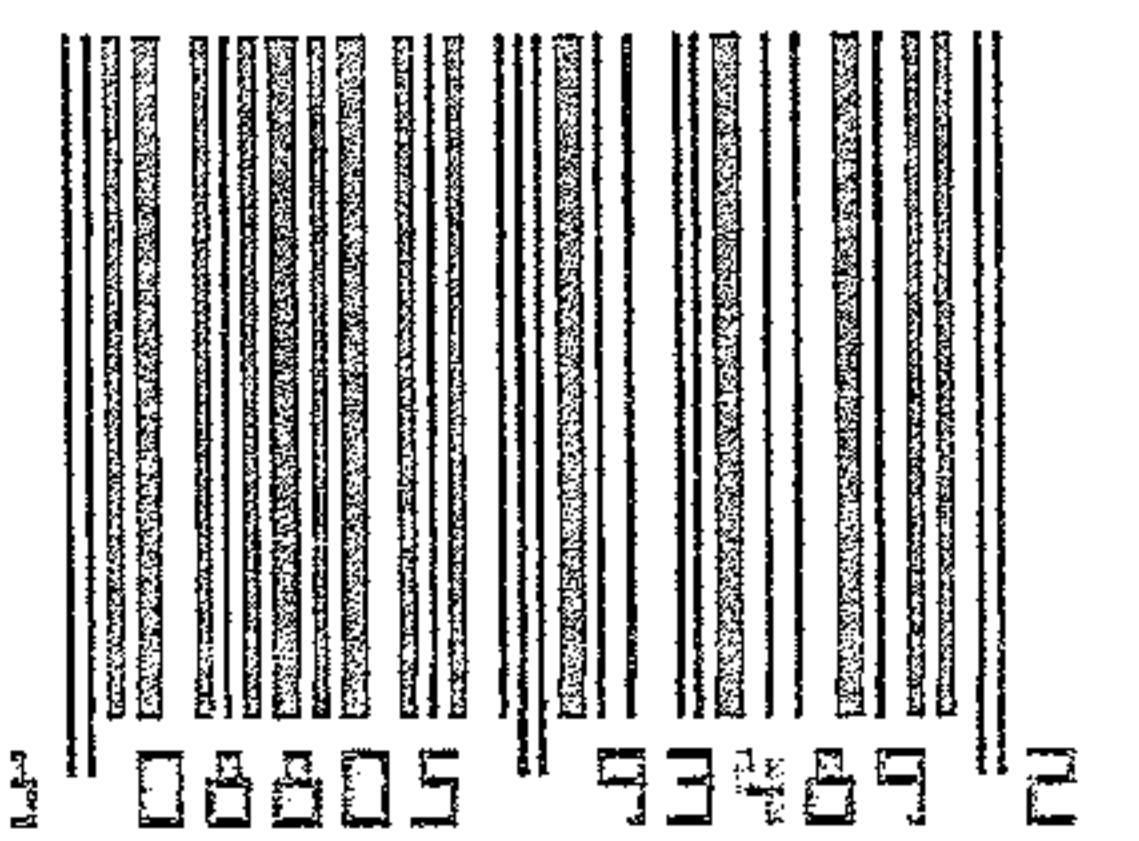
Today: Rain. High of 50F. Tonight: Cold. Low of 37F Saturday: Cool. High of 49F. Saturday night: Clear and cool. Low of 38F. Sunday: Clear. High of 57F.

Sunday night: Clear. low of 34F.

### Horoscopes

Aquarius 1/20-2/18 Nothing emboldens and encourages you like knowing you're not alone. You are willing to fight for an

(Continued on page 6)





**Games**

James Norman, 44, Vonore Road Loudon, was charged with Aggravated Assault. Deputy Cody Bengel LCSO, responded to Vonore Road in reference to an unruly juvenile. While en route dispatch advised they received another 911 call from a male who stated his life was being threatened. Once on scene Dep-

uty spoke with the complainant/victim who stated he son was acting up because of James Norman. Complainant stated the juvenile was trying to get his phone back from Norman. Victim stated he was playing games on his phone and Norman tried to take it. Norman then punched victim in the arm an a altercation ensued. Norman put victim in a choke hold

until he couldn't breath, and victim let go of the phone. Both parties got into another altercation in the hallway and busted a hole in the drywall.

Victim tried to get his phone back before leaving. Norman began to hit victim and refused to give the phone back, and got

Games ctd. pg. 3

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The Daily Edition is Loudon County's premier public interest and paid-advertising paper. The Daily Edition is produced and published daily Monday through Friday and is circulated throughout Loudon County and parts of Monroe and Knox Counties. Display advertising rates \$5.00 per column inch and quantity discounts available. Call for information on upcoming promotions and events.

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Games ctd. from pg. 2  
victim in a choke hold again, which the witness observed. Norman called 911 to report a verbal altercation. James Norman was placed under arrest.

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DV+  
Andrew Kotroni-  
as, 25, Waller Ferry

Road Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault, and Vandalism. Deputy Brandon Dishner LCSO, responded to Waller Ferry Road to a possible domestic. Upon arrival Deputy made contact with the victim who stated that Andrew Kotronias was in his room at which time he became very irate. Victim stated Andrew broke the bedroom window, and began throwing trash throughout the house, and the porch. Victim stated Andrew lunged at he in an aggressive manner and threatening to fight . Deputy did observe the broken window and trash through-

out the house. Andrew Kotronias was placed under arrest and transported to the Loudon County Jail.

West VA.  
January 28, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. before the Honorable Chief Judge Pamela Reeves in the United States Courthouse in Knoxville. Immediately following the

conclusion of the sentencing hearing in this matter, U.S. Attorney J. Douglas Overbey and FBI Special Agent in Charge Joseph Carrico will make a statement and take questions from the media outside the Courthouse. Assistant United States Attorneys Alan Kirk and Kevin Quencer represented the United States at trial and sentencing.

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# PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lenoir City Utilities Board conducts their monthly Board Meetings on the third Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m. The meetings are held in the Hamby-Smith Memorial Board Room of LCUB located at 7698 Creekwood Park Blvd., Lenoir City, Tennessee 37772. The schedule for 2020 is as follows:

- February 17, 2020 (Cancelled in Observance of President's Day)
- March 16, 2020
- April 20, 2020
- May 18, 2020
- June 15, 2020
- July 20, 2020
- August 17, 2020
- September 21, 2020
- October 19, 2020
- November 16, 2020
- December 21, 2020



### Bookkeeper

methods to steal money. She failed to deposit \$25,415.84 in money that was collected by the clerk's office. She also voided receipts in the office's accounting software totaling an additional \$10,118. This made it appear that the money had not been received, when in fact it had been collected.

In January 2020, April Hicks was indicted by the Crockett County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$10,000, five counts of official misconduct, and three counts of destruction of and tampering with governmental records.

"A number of internal control weaknesses within the Circuit Court Clerk's Office made it possible for this theft to occur," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "The bookkeeper was given sole responsibility over too many of the office's financial processes. The office also had issues with bank statement reconciliations, depositing funds within three days of collection, and sharing usernames and passwords."

To view the investigative report, go to: [https://comptroller.tn.gov/office-func-](https://comptroller.tn.gov/office-func-tions/investigations/find.html)

[tions/investigations/find.html](https://comptroller.tn.gov/office-func-tions/investigations/find.html)

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, call the Comptroller's toll-free hotline at 800.232.5454, or file a report online at: [www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline](http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline). Follow us on twitter: @TNCOT

#### *CDC, States Update Number of Hospitalized EVALI Cases and EVALI Deaths*

CDC announced the updated number of hospitalized e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury (EVALI) cases\* and EVALI deaths.

As of Jan. 21, 2020, 2,711 cases of hospitalized EVALI or deaths were reported by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

**EVALI Deaths**  
As of Jan. 21, 2020, 60 deaths have been confirmed in 27 states and the District of Columbia:

Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of

Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

More deaths are under investigation.

CDC, in coordination with FDA and states, continues to monitor and evaluate hospitalized e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury (EVALI) cases and EVALI deaths. For further updates, visit: [www.cdc.gov/lunginjury](http://www.cdc.gov/lunginjury).

\*As of Dec. 3, 2019, CDC only reports hospitalized EVALI cases. CDC reports EVALI deaths, regardless of hospitalization status.

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

Regarding the Estate of:  
DOUGLAS CANDLER SWAYNGIM, deceased DKT# 6024

#### 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 23rd DAY OF JANUARY 2020 Letters of Testamentary in respect of the estate of DOUGLAS CANDLER SWAYNGIM who died on the 4th day of May 2019 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 23rd DAY OF JANUARY 2020  
Steve Harrelson, Clerk  
BY: Robyn Shannon, Deputy Clerk

By Personal Representative(s)  
ANDREW J. TAYLOR

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: 01-24-19 & 01-31-19



# Mason

ed States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee at Knoxville. Mason faces a sentence of up to life in prison.

On April 24, 2019, officers responded to a 911 call alleging that Mason had threatened a woman with a handgun. During the initial encounter with Mason, officers discovered that Mason had two handguns and over 23 grams of methamphetamine. Mason subsequently brandished a third handgun, a revolver, and attempted to shoot the officers at the scene. The defendant pulled the trigger multiple times, however the gun did not fire because the hammer was caught on Mason's t-shirt. After a short struggle, officers retrieved the firearm from Mason before taking him into custody. The female complainant and a man who was on the scene before officers arrived testified at trial that Mason threatened their lives while holding a handgun, because Mason believed they stole methamphetamine from him.

In 2010, the defendant was previously convicted of reckless homicide in Anderson County, Tennessee.

"The combination of firearms possessed by a convicted felon and the distribution of illegal drugs is an inherent danger to our communities. The U.S. Attorney's Office will continue to work together with law enforcement to prosecute federal offenses relating to the unlawful distribution of illegal drugs," said U.S. Attorney J. Douglas Overbey.

"ATF's Crime Gun Intelligence, as part of Project Guardian, is focused on providing a safe environment to the communities that are affected by violent crime," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Marcus Watson.

The law enforcement agencies taking part in the joint investigation which lead to the indictment and subsequent conviction of Mason included the Anderson County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Knoxville Field Office.

## IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR LOUDON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Regarding the Estate of:  
RONNIE LEE PARRIS, deceased  
DKT# 6026

**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 27th DAY OF JANUARY 2020 Letters of Testamentary in respect of the estate of RONNIE LEE PARRIS who died on the 14th day of December 2019 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 27th DAY OF JANUARY 2020

Steve Harrelson, Clerk  
BY: Robyn Shannon, Deputy Clerk

By Personal Representative(s)  
RONDA F. TATHAM

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: 01-31-19 & 02-7-19

## IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR LOUDON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Regarding the Estate of:  
RICHARD JOHN PETERSEN, deceased  
DKT# 6022

**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 22nd DAY OF JANUARY 2020 Letters of Testamentary in respect of the estate of RICHARD JOHN PETERSEN who died on the 14th day of November 2019 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 16th DAY OF JANUARY 2020

Steve Harrelson, Clerk  
BY: Robyn Shannon, Deputy Clerk

By Personal Representative(s)  
KATHRYN PETERSEN SCHNELL

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: 01-24-19 & 01-31-19