

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Hispanic man charged with 2 counts of aggravated rape of 14 year old

Jose Aguilar, 29, Spring Street Philadelphia, was charged with Aggravated Statutory Rape x2.

Deputy Craig Brewer LCSO, started conducting an investigation into sexual assault with the victim being 14 in reference to information given from unknown source. Upon speaking with victim she stated that her sisters boy friend
(see rape pg. 2)



Jose Aguilar

You really showed up snockered to pick up your child? Wow!



Nicholas Zeller

see intoxicated pg. 7

Update: Circle of Life Gathering to be held Friday for William "Billy" Roberts

According to family members of Mr. William "Billy" Roberts, at his request there will be no obituary run.

On Friday there will be a gathering "Circle of Life" for Mr. Roberts

at Lenoir City Park. The event will be at 2pm and is open to all family and friends. This event will help with closure for the family so all are invited.

Correction: In the murder story in Monday's Daily Edition the inside headline read Meth and should have said Murder. There was no meth involved in the crime at all. We regret the error and are happy to correct it.

Romance Scams Online Imposters Break Hearts and Bank Accounts

They met online. He said he was a friend of a friend. The woman, in her 50s and struggling in her marriage, was happy to find someone to chat with. "He was saying all the right things," she remembered. "He was interested in me. He was interested in getting to know me better. He was very positive, and I felt like there was a real connection there."

That connection would end up costing the woman \$2 million and an untold amount of heartache after
see scams pg. 4

Transaction witnessed at gas station; 2 charged

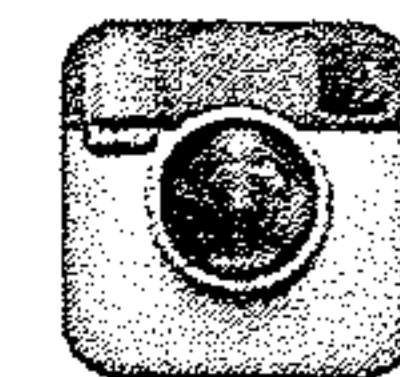


Cory Adkins

(see two pg. 4)



Lana Marsh



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Verse of the Day

And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

— 1 John 4:21

Obituaries

see inside

Wazzup

Why is it so hard for a doctors office to call you back. Remember when a doctors office visit was simple? Now it's just GREED!!!

Weather

Today: Areas of patchy fog early. Showers in the morning, then cloudy in the afternoon. High around 65F.

Tonight: Partly cloudy skies during the evening

will give way to cloudy skies overnight. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. Low 51F. Thursday Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 73F. Thursday Night A mostly clear sky. Low 52F.

(Continued on page 6)



Rape

Jose Aguilar who lives at the same residence Spring street Philadelphia Tn had placed his fingers inside her private area on two occasions . The first was in the early part of August 2017 on the morning that her sister was gone to

work . During this contact he also had her place her hand on his private part and move it up and down . The second time was closer to the month of November 2017 early in the morning around 3 am and he came into where she was sleeping and pulled back the blanket and started rub-

bing her leg and then placed his finger under her pants and inserted them in her and moved them around . Given this information Deputy interviewed Mr Aguilar and after being read his rights he admitted that he did in fact

commit these acts that victim had said and the details was the same as what she had stated. Mr Aguilar is 29 years of age and victim is 14 years of age. This did happen in Loudon County Tn.

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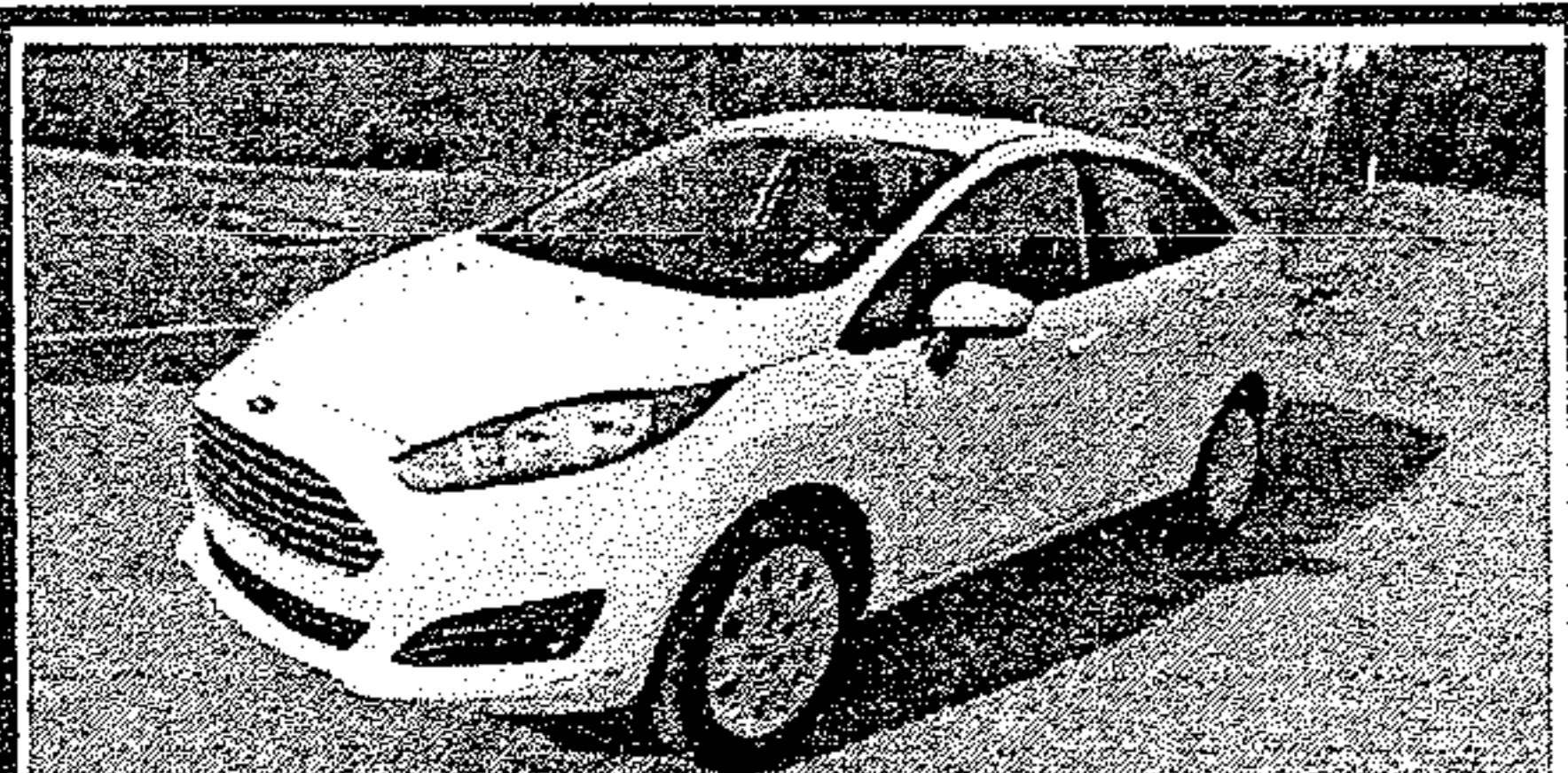
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Two

Cory Adkins, 30, Arnold Street Maryville, was charged with Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, Poss. of Drug Para., and Simple Possession.

Lana Marsh, 36, Arnold Street Maryville, was charged with Simple Possession, and Poss. of Drug Para.

Officer Scott Newman LPD, observed a red vehicle perform a hand to hand transaction with the occupant of another vehicle in the parking lot of the BP Gas Station on Grove Street. Sgt. Newman stopped the vehicle and identified the occupants as Lana Marsh and Cory Ad-

kins. During the traffic stop Sgt. Newman observed the driver Cory Adkins attempt to throw a small amount of marijuana under the vehicle. Adkins license were ran through dispatch and came back revoked. Adkins had in his possession a metal pipe used to smoke marijuana. A search of Lana Marsh purse resulted in finding a used hypodermic needle which she failed to disclose to Officer, and also located a prescription bottle for 8 Buprenorphine which contained 3.5 pills that was just filled on this same date. Marsh stated she had just sold one of her pills for 40.00. Officer located a water bottle

lid containing part of a white pill and liquid that Marsh stated she had just shot up before being stopped by Officer. Both were placed under arrest.

Scam

the man she fell in love with—whom she never met in person—took her for every cent she had.

It's called a romance scam, and this devastating Internet crime is on the rise. Victims—predominantly older widowed or divorced women targeted by criminal groups usually from Nigeria—are, for the most part, computer literate and educated. But they are also emotionally vulnerable. And con artists know exactly how to exploit that vulnerability because potential victims freely post details about their lives and personalities on dating and social media sites.

Trolling for victims online “is like throwing a fishing line,” said Special Agent Christine Beining, a veteran financial fraud investigator in the FBI’s Houston Division who has seen a substantial increase in the number of romance scam cases. “The Internet makes this type of crime easy because you can pretend to be anybody you want to

be. You can be anywhere in the world and victimize people,” she said. “The perpetrators will reach out to a lot of people on various networking sites to find somebody who may be a good target. Then they use what the victims have on their profile pages and try to work those relationships and see which ones develop.”

In the case of the Texas woman who lost everything, it was her strong Christian faith—which she happily publicized on her Facebook profile—that gave “Charlie” an incredible advantage when he began courting her.

“I’m very active on Facebook,” said the woman, who agreed to share her story in the hopes that others might

avoid becoming victims. “I thought it was safe.” After she friended Charlie—without verifying his bogus claim that they had a mutual friend—“he would read my wall, I would read his wall. We would post things, he would like things. Then it got to where we would share e-mails. We started sharing pictures.”

According to Beining, this is standard operating procedure for romance scammers, who assume other people’s identities to trick their victims. “They make themselves out to be average-looking people,” she said. “They are generally not trying to build themselves up too high.”

The scammer’s intention is to establish a relationship as quickly as

see scam ctd. pg. 5

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Scam ctd. from pg. 4

possible, endear himself to the victim, gain trust, and propose marriage. He will make plans to meet in person, but that will never happen. Eventually, he will ask for money.

According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), which provides the public with a means of reporting Internet-facilitated crimes, romance scams—also called confidence fraud—result in the highest amount of fi-

nancial losses to victims when compared to other online crimes.

In 2016, almost 15,000 complaints categorized as romance scams or confidence fraud were reported to IC3 (nearly 2,500 more than the previous year), and the loss-

es associated with those complaints exceeded \$230 million. The states with the highest numbers of victims were California, Texas, Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania. In Texas last year, the IC3 received more than 1,000 complaints from victims reporting more than \$16

million in losses related to romance scams.

'I was Looking for Happiness'

When she first encountered Charlie in 2014, the Texas woman recalled, "I was in an emotionally abusive marriage, and things had not been good for probably at least 10 years." Her new online friend seemed to come along at just the right time. "I was looking for happiness," she said. "I thought I could find that with Charlie."

Romance scammers often say they are in the building and construction industry and are engaged in projects outside the U.S. That makes it easier to avoid meeting in person—and more plausible when they ask their victims for help. They will suddenly need money for a medical emergency or unexpected legal fee. "They promise to repay the loan immediately," Beining said, "but the victims never get their money back."

Charlie claimed to be in the construction field. "He was trying to finish up a job in California," the woman said, "and he needed some money to help finish the job. I thought about it long and hard. I prayed about it. I've always been a very giving person, and I figured if I had money ... I could send him some [money]. And he promised to have it back within 24 to 48 hours. I thought, 'I could do that.' It was kind of a statement of faith, too."

She wired him \$30,000. A day passed and then another, and she didn't get her money back. "I still thought everything was okay," she said, "just that he was the victim of some bad luck." And then Charlie needed another \$30,000.

Empty Promises

For the next two years, the woman believed Charlie's stories after each new request for

see Scam conc. pg. 7

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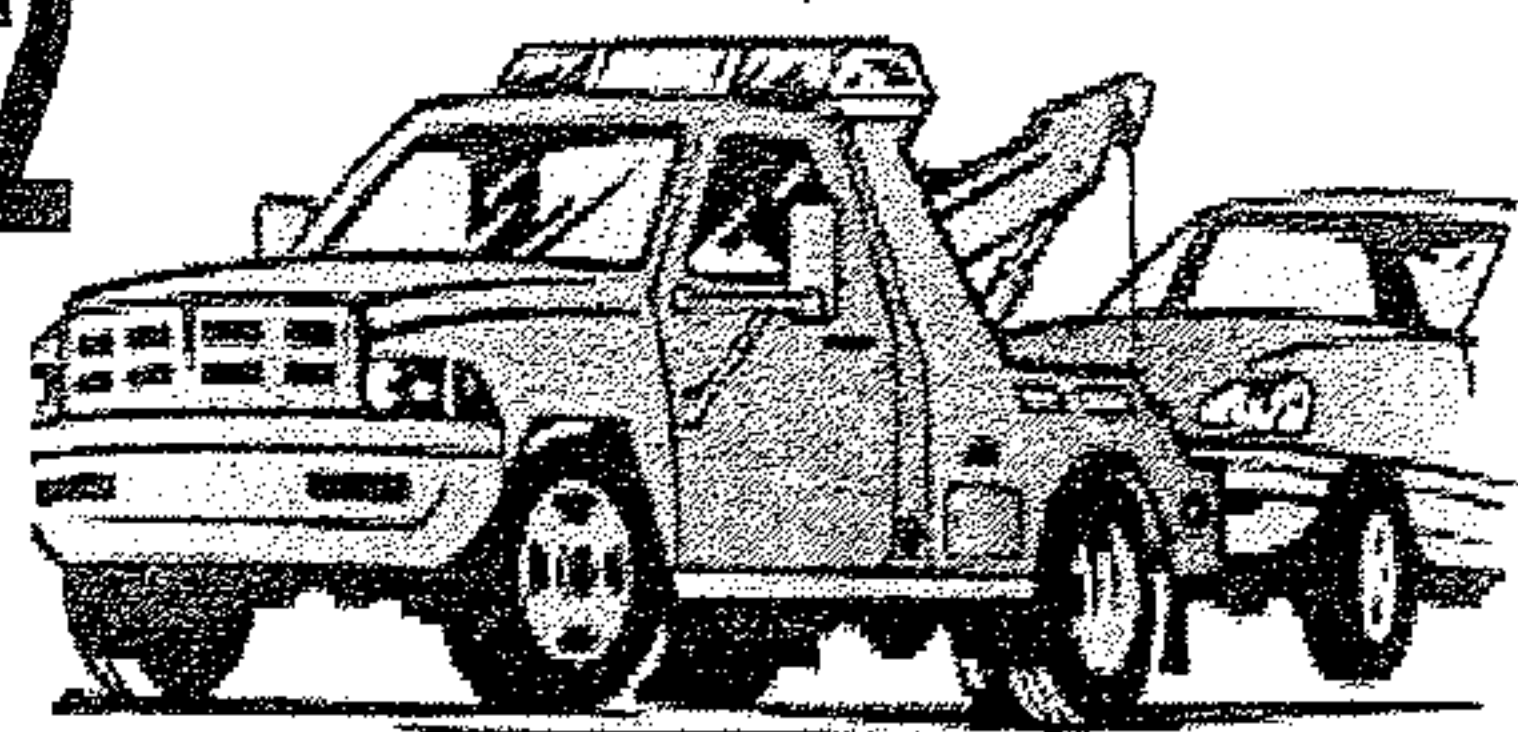
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Intoxicated

Nicholas Zeller, 37, Hines Valley Road Lenoir City, was charged with Public Intoxication, and Resisting Arrest.

Cpl Chad Estes LCSO, was working as the SRO officer at Eaton's School. When school was letting out the vice principal notified Deputy by radio that their was a male subject picking up his child from school and he could not stand up on his on . Principal tried to talk to him but he refused and went out side into the parking lot . when Cpl Estes approached the subject an off duty Oak ridge police officer was trying to speak with him . as Deputy got close to the suspect he noticed he was very unsteady on his feet and could smell a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage about his person .As Deputy attempted to speak with the subject he had slurred speech and he had to lean against a car to stand up to keep from falling. Deputy asked for his identification and he refused and attempted to walk off and refused sev-

eral commands to stop walking way Deputy attempted to stop him by grabbing his arm he then attempted to pull away and resist after a scuffle he was placed under arrest and identified as being David Nicholas Zeller . He is also charged with resisting arrest this happened in Loudon county Tn .

Scam conc. from pg. 5

funds. Everything he said made sense, and, after all, they were in love. Eventually, the woman's financial adviser became alarmed about her steadily dwindling accounts and, suspecting fraud, urged her to contact the FBI.

The subsequent investigation led by Beining resulted in the arrest of two Nigerians posing as South African diplomats who had come to the U.S. to collect money from the woman on behalf of Charlie, who claimed he was paid \$42 million for a construction project he completed in South Africa. The woman believed she would be paying to have the money—including the repayment of her \$2 million—transferred to the U.S. from South Africa, where Charlie was still supposedly working.

In July 2016, the two Nigerian co-conspirators pleaded guilty in connec-

tion with their roles in the scam, and a federal judge sentenced them each to 36 months in prison last December. But Charlie is still at large, presumably in Nigeria, and there may be little hope of bringing him to justice.

"This is a very difficult crime to prove," Beining said. "When someone is using a computer to hide behind, the hardest thing to find out is who they are. We can find out where in the world their computer is being used. It's identifying who they actually are that's the hard part. That is why this individual remains a fugitive."

It also explains why romance scams are on the rise: It's a lucrative and easy crime to commit, and easier still to remain anonymous and beyond the reach of authorities. "It's not like going in a bank and holding a gun to the teller," Beining explained, "because there are so many leads that you provide law enforcement when you do that. Even if you are able to get out of the bank, we can probably find out who you are and track you down. But with an Internet crime like this, it's much more difficult."

As for the Texas woman, she came forward "because I don't want this to happen to anybody else. I not only invested money in this man but there is a big, huge piece of my heart that I invested in

him," she said. "It's not just the finances, it's the emotional part, too—being embarrassed, being ashamed, being humiliated."

Even now, though, she remains conflicted. A part of her still wants to believe that Charlie is real and that their relationship was real—that the e-mail exchanges about church and the phone calls when they sang together and prayed together meant as much to him as they did to her. She even holds out hope that one day Charlie will repay her, as he promised to do so many times.

Otherwise, there is no doubt that he is a heartless criminal who robbed her and broke her heart—and who is almost certainly continuing to victimize other women in the same way.

"I can't even imagine a man, a person, that could be this bad," she said. "I can't think of him that way. ... There can't be a man in this world that could be this horrible to have purposefully done what he's done to me."

Don't Become a Victim

The criminals who carry out romance scams are experts at what they do. They spend hours honing their skills and sometimes keep journals on their victims to better understand how to manipulate and exploit them.

"Behind the veil of romance, it's a criminal

enterprise like any other," said Special Agent Christine Beining. "And once a victim becomes a victim, in that they send money, they will often be placed on what's called a 'sucker list,'" she said. "Their names and identities are shared with other criminals, and they may be targeted in the future."

To stay safe online, be careful what you post, because scammers can use that information against you. Always use reputable websites, but assume that con artists are trolling even the most reputable dating and social media sites. If you develop a romantic relationship with someone you meet online, consider the following:

Research the person's photo and profile using online searches to see if the material has been used elsewhere.

Go slow and ask lots of questions.


Beware if the individual seems too perfect or quickly asks you to leave a dating service or Facebook to go "offline."

Beware if the individual attempts to isolate you from friends and family or requests inappropriate photos or financial information that could later be used to extort you.


Beware if the individual promises to meet in person but then always comes up with an excuse why he or she can't. If you haven't met the person after a few months, for whatever reason, you have good reason to be suspicious.

Never send money to anyone you don't know personally. "If you don't know them, don't send money," Beining said. "You will see what their true intentions are after that."

If you suspect an online relationship is a scam, stop all contact immediately. And if you are the victim of a romance scam, file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.



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