

# The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, March 5, 2018

## McTrouble for drug duo



Dustin Wampler



Miranda Lankford

Dustin Wampler, 34, Town Creek Circle Lenoir City, was charged with Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch. IV, Simple Possession Sch. II, Poss. of Drug Para., and Public Intoxication. Miranda Lankford, 26, Manis Road Lenoir City, was charged with Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch. IV, Simple Possession Sch. II, Poss. of Drug Para., Public Intoxication, Failure to Appear, and Assisting other Agency. Officer S Runyan

(see Duo pg. 2)

Teen charged with felony drugs for resale after damaging police cruiser following crash in violent, combative rage!



Tyler Montgomery

See Felony P.5

## Driver drinking with children in vehicle



Jessica Smith

see Charged p.4

## Serving minors will not be tolerated



Jessica Felty

see Alcohol pg. 3

## Sober Home and Drug Treatment Center Owner Sentenced. Facilities preyed on vulnerable adults struggling with addiction

Thousands of people struggling with drug addiction checked into Florida sober homes and drug treatment centers run by Kenneth Chatman in hopes of turning their lives around.

Instead, these vulnerable men and women—many of them young adults who had traveled far from their homes and families—were thrust into drug-infested flophouses. They were given no treatment, and many were abused and forced into

prostitution.

“You had vulnerable individuals trying to get away from years of drug use,” said Special Agent John Gerrity, who investigated this case out of the FBI’s Miami Division as part of a multi-agency health care fraud task force. “But when you went into one of these facilities, you had to turn over your identification, wallet, purse, and phones. Once the patients arrived and discovered the conditions, they had no way out.”

(see Center pg. 4)



### Verse of the Day

Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. — 1 Corinthians 13:6-7

### Obituaries

See inside p.4

### Wazzup

Election time in Loudon County is always the best time of the season because that’s when you get to eat some great food and actually meet your neighbors!

### Weather

Today: Overcast early with showers moving in. High of 60F.  
Tonight: Showers. Low of 45F.  
Tuesday: Rain. High of 57F.  
Tuesday night: Rain. Low

of 36F.

### Horoscopes

Pisces 2/19-3/20

Your natural tendency is to be trusting and open-minded, but its crucial not to let others influence you to make decisions that go against

(Continued on page 6)

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**DUO**

LCPD, was dispatched to the McDonald Parking lot on Hwy 321 in reference to a gold vehicle with 2 occupants who were nodding out. Upon arrival Officer found the female driver identified as Miranda Lankford, who was not awake behind the wheel of the vehicle with a needle , in plain view

laying in her lap, filled with a liquid that was tested positive, for methamphetamine approx. 4cc. A male passenger identified as Dustin Wampler, was not awake in the front passenger seat. After several attempts to wake both individuals, EMS was called to the scene to check the welfare of both individuals. While waiting on EMS Officer was able to wake

Lankford up and brought out of the vehicle at which time several needles and pills (oxycodone, alprazolam) were located in the driver seat where Lankford was sitting. Wampler was later woke up and detained. EMS cleared both parties. During a inven-

tory search several drug para. items were located throughout the vehicle. Both were check through dispatch and Lankford came back with active FTA, and VOP from the US Marshals Service. Both were placed under arrest.

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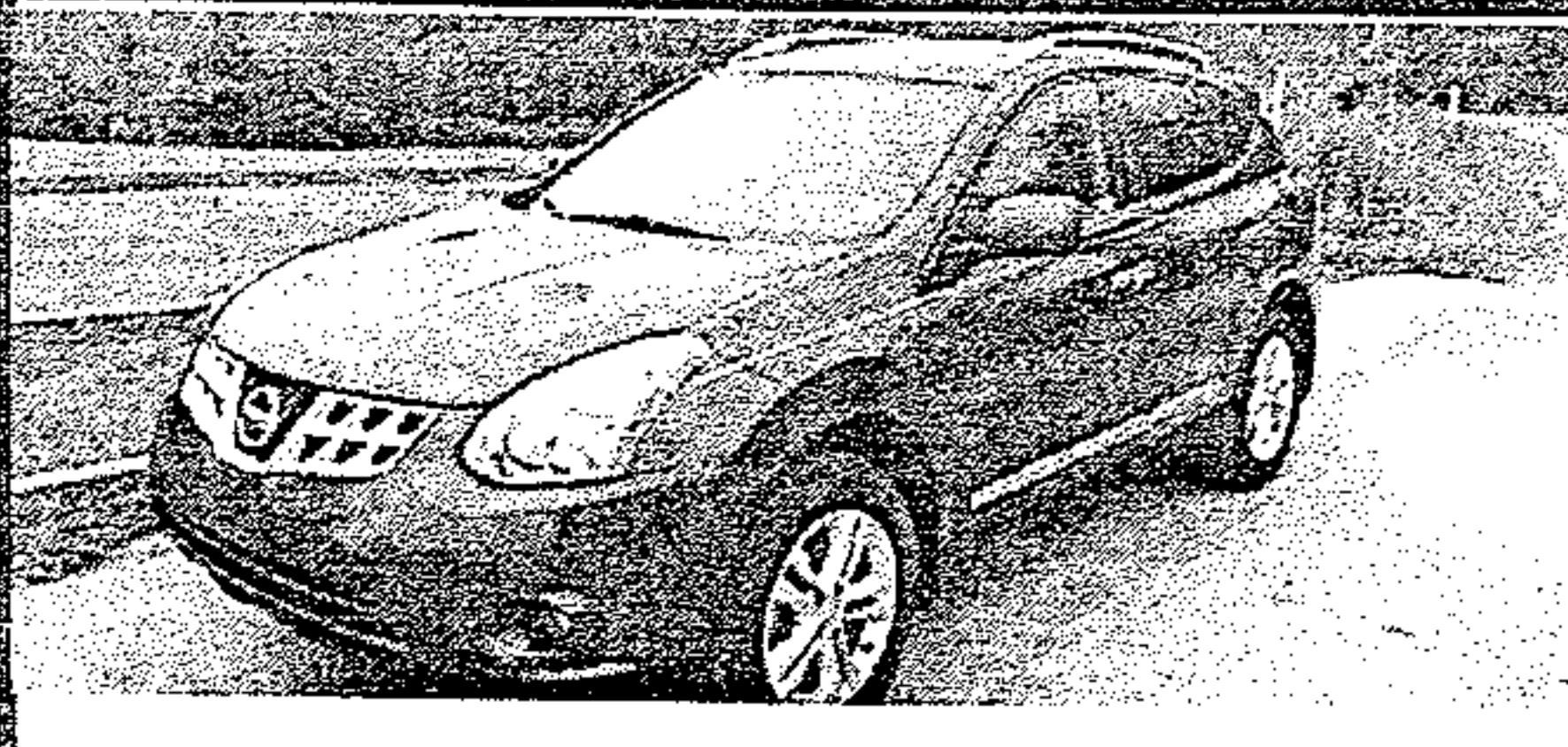


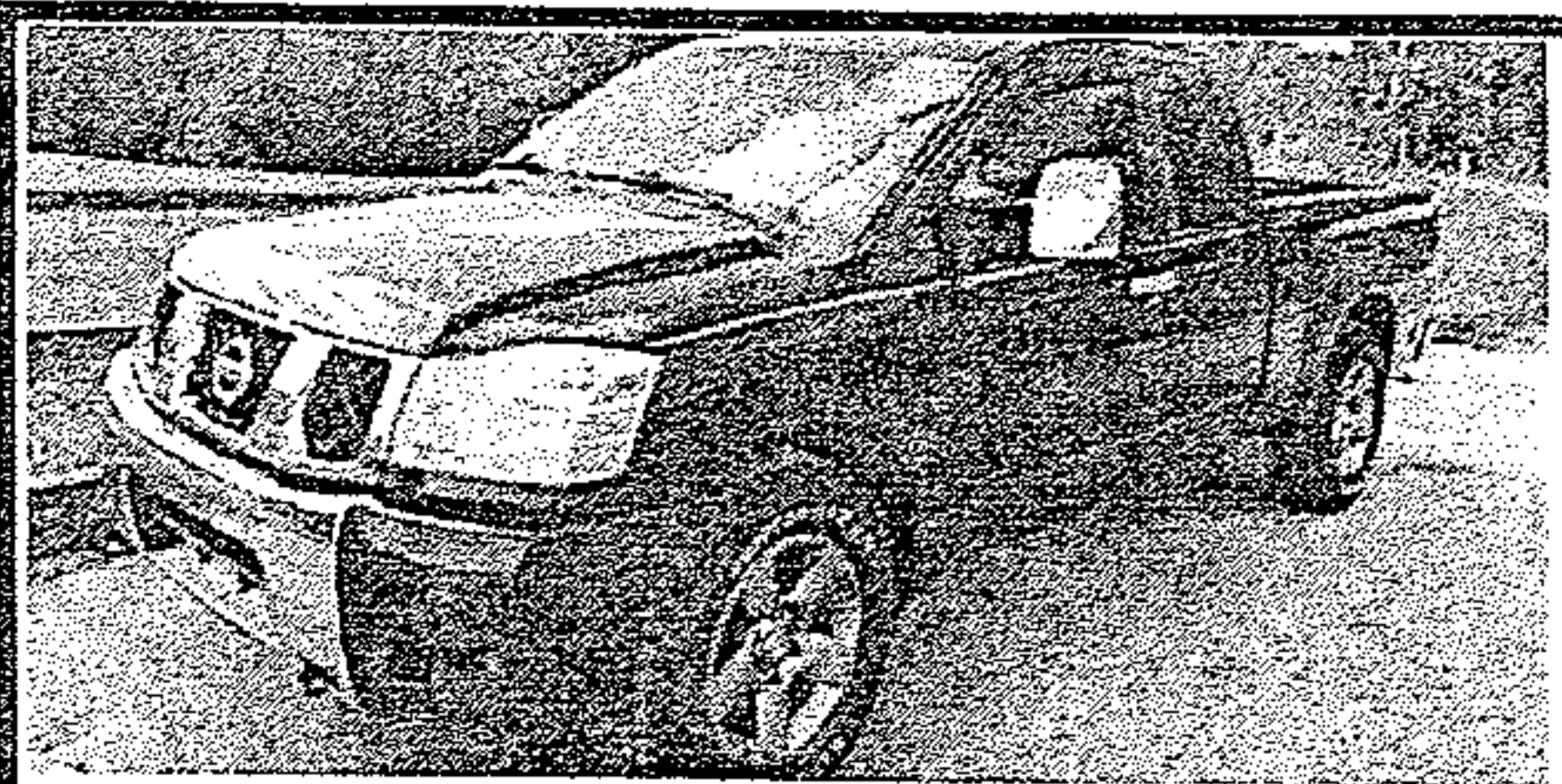

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**Alcohol**

Jessica Felty, 26, Hwy 11 W Lenoir City, was charged with Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor x3, and Simple Possession. Deputy TJ Scarbrough LCSO, was dispatched to Hwy 11 for a well fair check underage drinking. On arrival Deputy spoke to a female and advised why he was there and that he needed to speak with the juveniles at the residence. Deputy spoke to one juvenile that stated she had drank some four Loco Fruit Punch alcoholic beverage. Juvenile stated that Jessica Felty bought the alcoholic beverages and supplied marijuana. Marijuana was found in a fruit punch package on the cable box near the TV. Jessica Felty claim ownership of the marijuana and was placed under arrest.

“She has been acting kinda wierd the last few days”

Cassandra Lane 33, Foster Road Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault. Officer Christian Drag-on LCPD, was dispatched to Norwood Street on a Domestic. Upon arrival Officer

see wierd conc. pg. 5



Cassandra Lane

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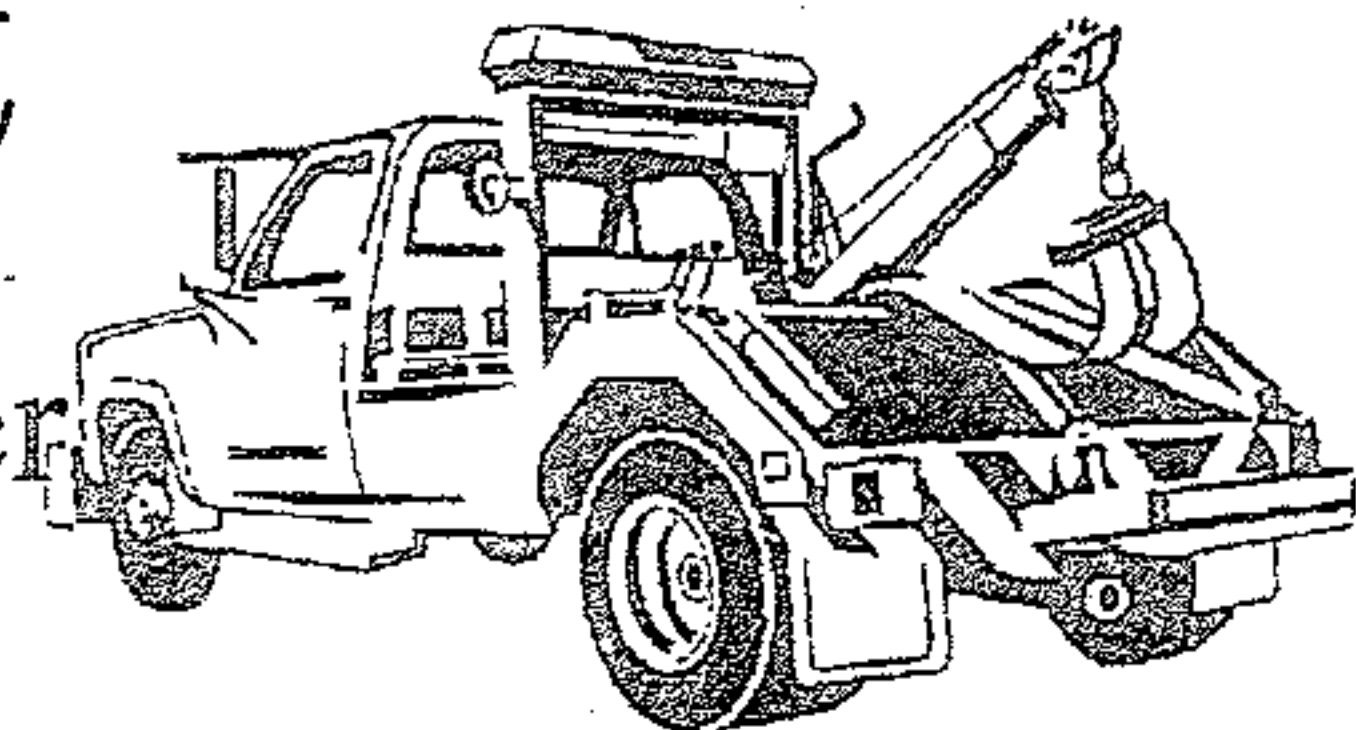
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## Charged

Jessica Smith, 34, Cave Creek Road Loudon, was charged with DUI, Driving on Revoked Suspended License, and Failure to Appear.

Deputy Brandon Pesterfield LCSO, witnessed a silver Chrysler van traveling on Highway 321 near Krystal's with a busted left tail-light shining white. Deputy performed a traffic stop on the vehicle in the Krystal's parking lot. Deputy then identified the driver of the vehicle as Ms. Jessica Smith. Deputy noticed Ms. Smith had slowed slurred speech and constricted pupils. Ms. Smith had a front seat passenger and two children back-seat. Upon check of Ms. Smith's ID she returned with a suspended license and an active FTA warrant out of Loudon County (#17-CR-1241) I asked Ms. Smith what she had taken today to which she stated she took Subutex, Clonazepam, and Aderall about 6:00 PM to which she stated she was prescribed all of these medications. Officer Morgan LCPD located an uncapped syringe inside Ms. Smith's purse when she was digging around in it and Ms. Smith stated she was attempting to inject Subutex earlier. Ms. Smith did have a fresh injection mark on her right arm

that was still bleeding. Deputy asked Ms. Smith to perform field sobriety to which she did Deputy had to terminate the walk and turn for Ms. Smith's safety and did not attempt the one leg stand. The field sobriety Ms. Smith performed she did perform poorly. Ms. Smith's children were picked up by her uncle a DCS referral will be made in relation to this incident. Deputy did place Ms. Smith in custody for driving under the influence 5th offense, and driving while license suspended. Ms. Smith has had 4 prior DUI convictions dating back to 2004. Ms. Smith did agree to give a blood sample. Ms. Smith was transported to Fort Loudoun Medical Center. Deputy then transported Ms. Smith to the Loudon County Jail without further incident.

## Center

Under Florida law, a sober home—a place for recovering addicts to live—operates under a typical landlord-tenant arrangement. The resident pays rent, and the landlord provides a place to live—but not actual treatment. In general, sober homes consist of communities of people who agree to live together in a drug-free environment. A drug treatment facility, however, is much more proactive and offers medical treatment, so it must be licensed.

And that's where Chatman's crimes began. Chat-

man was legally able to have the several sober homes that he owned and operated, but he was not allowed to own a treatment facility because he was a previously convicted felon, having served time for credit card fraud. After opening sober homes, he realized there was more money to be made in a treatment facility, so he opened one in his wife's name.

Once the treatment facility was up and running, Chatman began requiring patients to provide urine and saliva samples three times per week, even though he knew many were continuing to use drugs in his facilities. If a patient did not show up, he would have an employee give the samples, pretending to be the patient. Chatman received about \$5,000 for each sample from patients' insurance companies for the testing, and he would personally pocket \$2,500 of that payment. The labs also provided Chatman kickbacks in exchange for the business, in violation of Florida's anti-patient brokering law.

The FBI's investigation began with an insurance fraud tip, and concerns about Chatman grew when a man overdosed in one of the facilities.

"Everything he was doing with this testing had a cloud of potential legitimacy, but experts said these tests were excessive and not in the patients' best interest," Gerrity said. "Patients center ctd. pg. 7

## Obituaries

Ronald E. Herzog age 77 of Loudon, Tennessee passed away February 25, 2018.

He is preceded in death by his parents Henry and Helen Herzog, his brothers Richard and Gerald, and his sister Joann.

Ronald is survived by his wife Marsha A. Herzog. Survivors also include his daughter Stephanie (Steven) K. Daigle, his sons Scott (Holly) M. Herzog and David A. Herzog. He is also

lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Kyle L. Daigle, Kevin S. Daigle, Rachel C. Herzog, Trent M. Herzog and Jessica M. Herzog and many nieces and nephews.

Ronald was a proud US Navy veteran who served aboard a Destroyer during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. Ronald loved the sea, good friends, and family and will be dearly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:30 pm on May 12, 2018 at Click Funeral Home - Tellico Village Chapel, 145 Chota Centre, Loudon, TN

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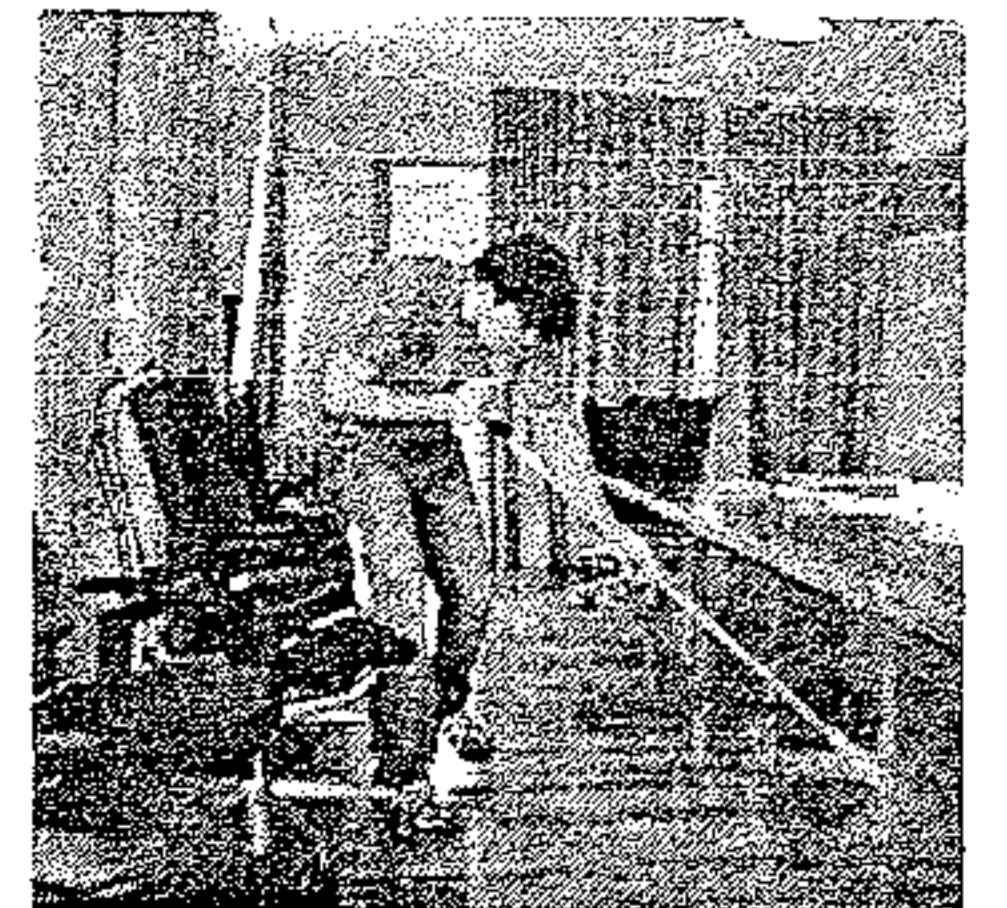
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**Felony**

A Loudon teen has been charged with felony drugs for resale after authorities responded to a vehicle crash that involved three people in the vehicle. Upon arrival, they found a passenger who was combative and belligerent toward officers. What they discovered was a felony amount of drugs for resale, according to the report, and the man's violent rage didn't stop there he even dented the police cruiser's hood.

Tyler Montgomery, 18, Blair Street Loudon, was charged with Man/Sell/Del/Resale Sch.VI, Vandalism, and Resisting Arrest.

Mr Montgomery was a passenger in a vehicle involved in an accident on Carding Machine Road in Loudon. While investigating the accident Officer could smell what he be lived to be marijuana emitting

from the 3 individuals at the scene. While speaking with Mr Montgomery, he became belligerent and combative to this officer. He refuse to follow directions and had to be restrained. During the struggle he deliberately dented the hood of a Loudon City Police Department. After placing Mr Montgomery into cuffs and conducting a pat down of his waist line a plastic baggy was found in his waist line containing a felony amount of marijuana. Sgt. Robert Newman LPD, made the arrest.

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**Assault**

met with victim, who stated that his girlfriend Cassandra Lane punched him in the face. Victim was bleeding from the left nostril of his nose. Victim stated that this assault occurred in the garage at the residence. Victim stated Lane had been acting weird the last days.

Lane stated she punched the victim unintentionally. Lane was placed under arrest.

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center conc. from pg. 4

were getting bills of up to a million dollars a year for all of this testing, and he was also billing for 'therapy' sessions that were just patients sitting in a room watching a movie." "It's incredibly rewarding that we were able to get someone like him off the streets, and the lengthy sentence really sends a message." John Gerrity, special agent, FBI Miami

Chatman would not have been able to commit this fraud without doctors signing off that they had reviewed the samples. So he hired some—including Dr. Joaquin Mendez, who worked in skilled nursing and had no background in addiction treatment—to rubber stamp the results.

"Through records, we were able to see that Dr. Mendez 'reviewed' 100 tests in a one-hour period. He clearly wasn't looking

at them. He was just going through and clicking to process these tests," Gerrity said.

Chatman and his associates defrauded insurance companies of an estimated \$24 million between 2013 and 2016. Chatman and his wife, Laura, lived a luxurious life thanks to their fraud proceeds, living in a \$1 million home and driving high-end cars.

Some of the more than 2,000 residents who lived in Chatman's facilities died of overdoses. He also forced some of the women into prostitution, giving the addicted women drugs and then with-

holding those drugs if they would not comply. He told the women the prostitution would pay their "rent" to live at his sober homes, and sometimes the prostitution would even occur within the homes.

Last year, Chatman pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit health care fraud, money laundering, and sex trafficking and was sentenced to 27 and a half years in prison. Laura Chatman pleaded guilty to making false statements and received a three-year prison term, while Mendez pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit health care fraud and was sentenced to four years.

The FBI's victim specialists played a critical role in this case by assisting the human trafficking victims with resources, as well as helping patients get legitimate drug treatment.

"It's incredibly rewarding that we were able to get someone like Chatman off the streets, and the lengthy sentence really sends a

message," Gerrity said. "We've met the mothers and fathers of the patients who came here thinking their sons and daughters would get clean. This is an incredibly important issue, and by investigating these types of cases, we're doing our part in addressing the national drug epidemic."

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