

Daily Edition

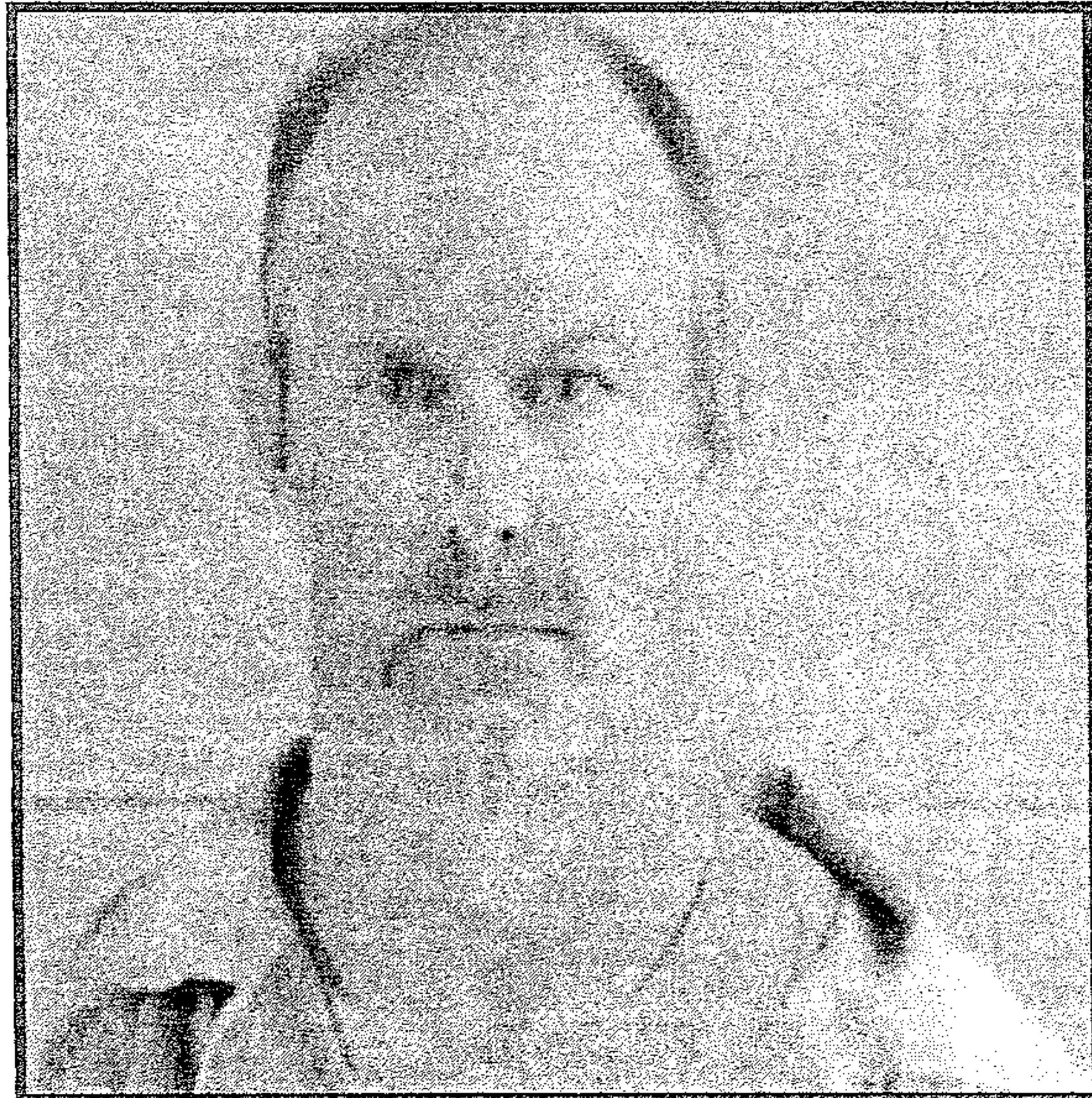
Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Double domestic over tax refund check!

William Sedler, 50, Keaton Road Lenoir City, was charged with Domestic Assault x2.

Deputy Brian Smith LCSO, did respond to Keaton Road in Loudon County for a call of a Domestic Assault. Upon arrival Deputy made contact with Mr. William Todd Sedlar that stated to this officer he and his wife (victim) had been in an argument about their tax return check. Mr. Sedlar stated to



William Sedler

(see DVx2 pg. 2)

Former Upper Cumberland Development District Employee Steals Thousands

A special investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury has revealed that Matthew Lynn, a former finance department employee of the Upper Cumberland Development District, stole at least \$16,566 from the agency during November and December 2014. This investigation was completed in conjunction with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

(see kidnapping pg. 5)

Wind Farm Investment Scam

Texas Man Sentenced to 15 Years in Federal Prison

In the midst of growing local, national, and international concerns for the environment, wind energy is one of several types of renewable energy technologies being touted as environmentally friendly. Wind energy is known as a clean, sustainable fuel source that is cost effective and widely available domestically.

So when a Texas businessman (see scam pg. 4)

Couple passed out; drugs found after search



Charles Minnear

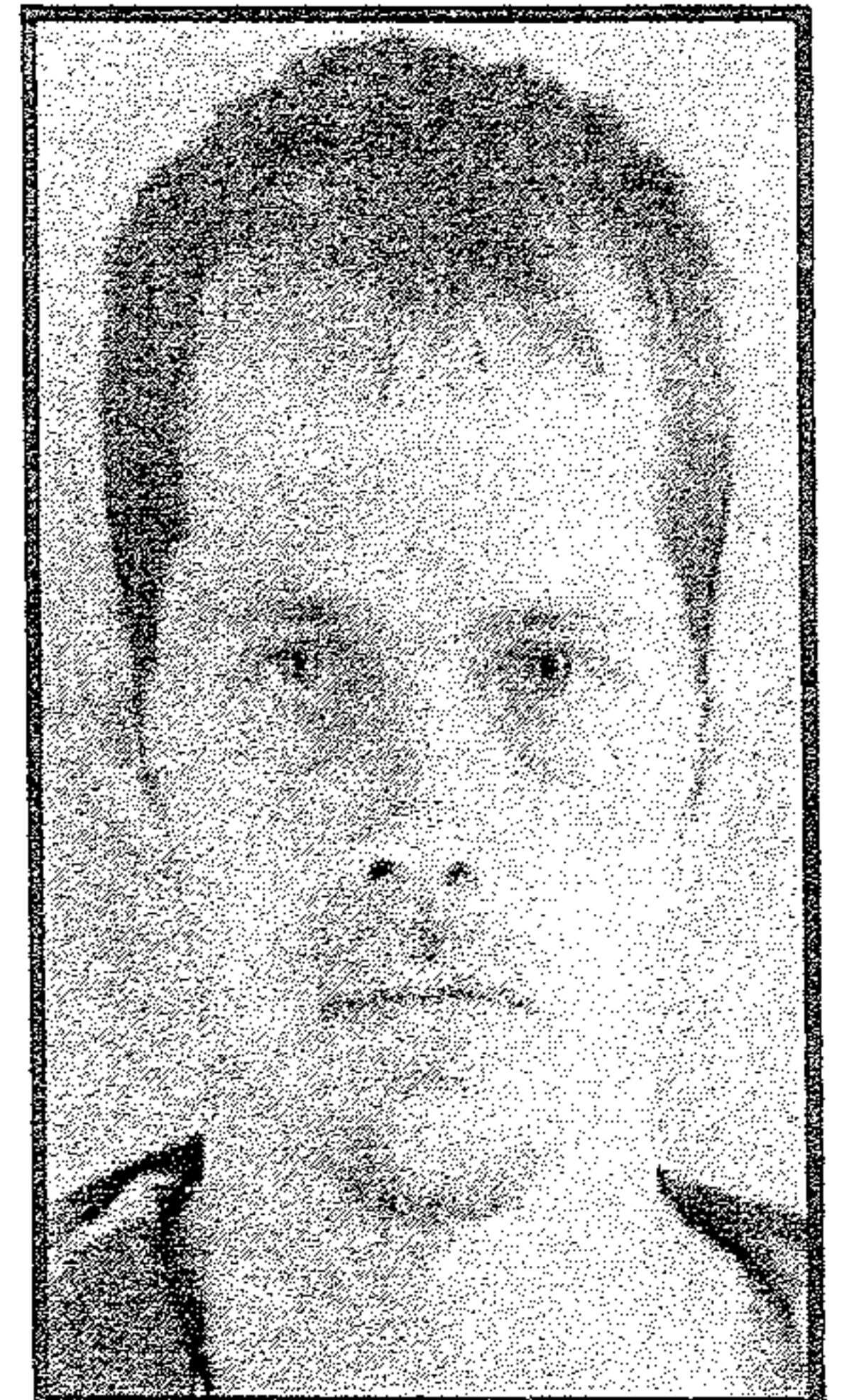


Sara Bilbrey (see passed out pg. 5)

Motel meth search ends with 2 charged



Heather Newman



Christopher Ward (see meth pg. 3)

Verse of the Day

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

— Colossians 4:5-6

Obituaries

see inside Wazzup

What was up with Knox County Sheriff's Department running emergency traffic (lights and sirens

going) down 321 Monday?

Weather

Today: Partly cloudy skies, with gusty winds developing during the afternoon. High 68F.

Tonight: Cloudy with periods of rain. Thunder possible. Low 46F.

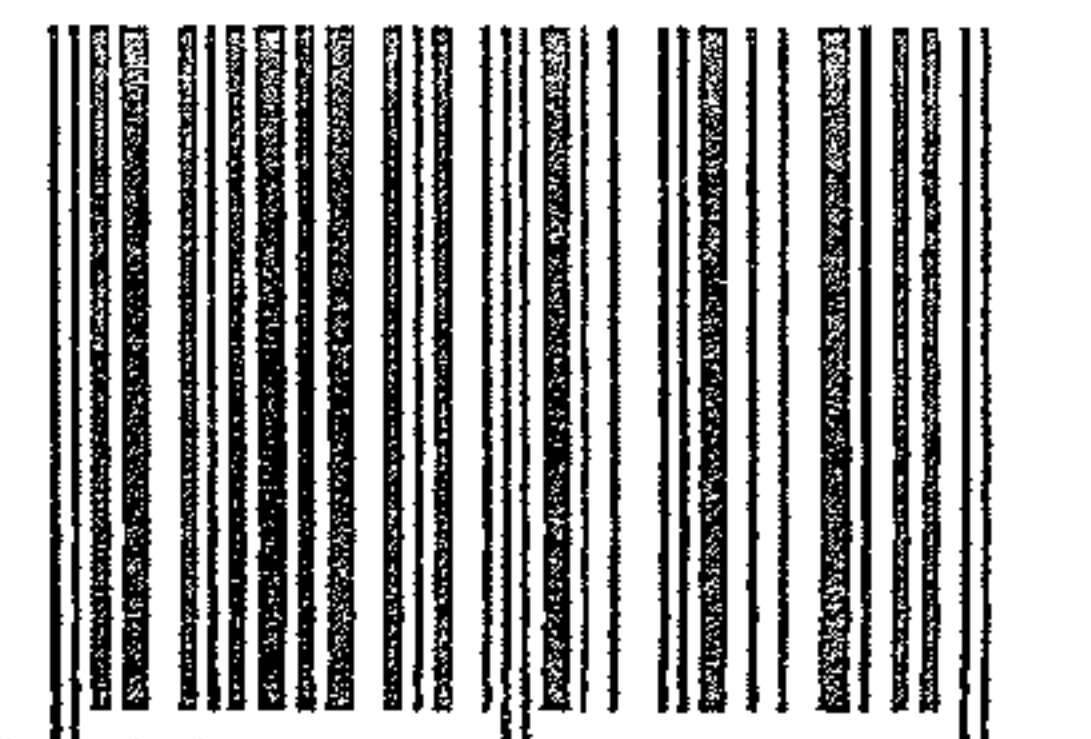
Thursday Partly cloudy. High near 65F.

Thursday Night Occasional light rain. Low 43F.

Horoscopes

Aries 3/21-4/19

You may be so anxious about your future that it's challenging to pay attention. (Continued on page 6)



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DVx2

this officer he had got the fire extinguisher to put a fire out that was outside and he sprayed it in the house but not at anyone. Deputy then made contact with victim that stated her and Mr. Sedlar had been in an argument when he grabbed the fire extinguisher and sprayed victim 2 in the face. Victim 1 also stated Mr.

Sedlar started chasing her through the house trying to spray her with the fire extinguisher placing her in fear of being harmed. Deputy Smith did notice a yellow powder in the laundry room, living room, kitchen and dining room. Deputy also made contact with victim2 that stated to this officer Mr. Sedlar and his grandmother had been in

an argument when Mr. Sedlar got the fire extinguisher. victim2 stated Mr. Sedlar sprayed him in the face with the extinguisher placing him in fear of being harmed. Victim 2 stated he went outside then came back in to check

on his grandmother when Mr. Sedlar walked outside. Deputy was able to determine Mr. William Todd Sedlar to be the primary aggressor and placed him in custody for Domestic Assault. Deputy Brian Smith LCSO, made the arrest.

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meth

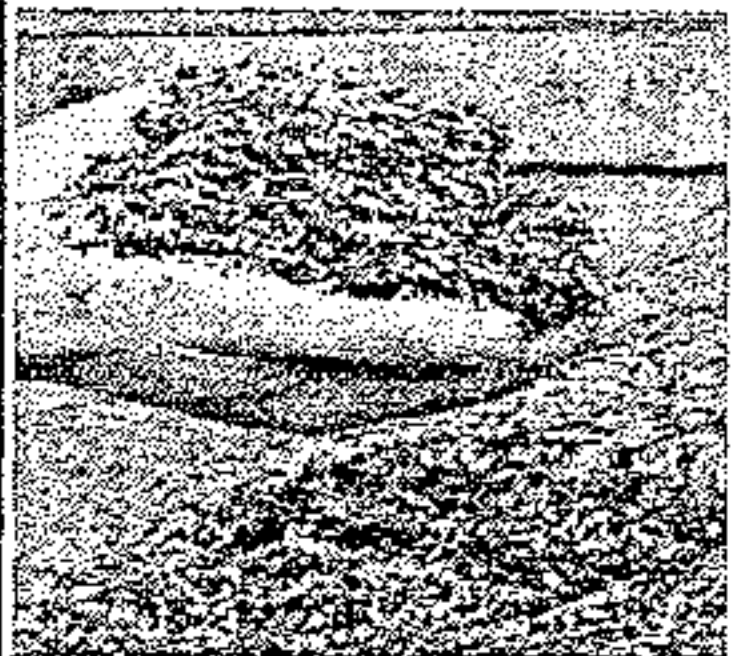
Heather Newman, 28, Oakland Ave Lenoir City, was charged with Poss. of Drug Para., and Man/Sell/Del/Re-sale SCH. II & VI.

Christopher Ward, 29, Oakland Road Lenoir City, was

charged with Poss. of Drug Para., and Man/Sell/Del/Re-sale SCH. II & VI.

Several Officer conducted a consented search of a room at the Knights Inn, in Lenoir City. The room was rented by Christopher Ward and Heather Newman. Both Christopher and Heather gave consent to search. Officer located a backpack hanging in a closet that contained baggies of suspected methamphetamine, as well as marijuana. Also found in the backpack were 6 rolls of clear plastic zip lock bag, digital scales, 7 un-used syringes, 1 filled with a clear liquid, and a glass pipe with residue. Both were placed under arrest. Investigator Brad Brown LCPD, made the arrest.

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scam solicited investors for his renewable energy company, Wind Plus, Inc.—whose stated business goal was to find and develop land suitable for wind farm construction—he had no problem raising \$3.7 million from nearly 100 individuals in 11 states. Unfortunately for the investors, that businessman—David Lyman Spalding—was not exactly environmentally conscious, and he had no intention of following through on his business plan. Instead, he took their money and stuffed the majority of it into his own pockets.

From at least 2003 through April 2011, Spalding worked to convince people to invest with him—sponsoring happy hours, hosting parties at his home, offering bonuses (never paid) to investors already on board who could bring in new investors. He handed out professional-looking brochures and even created a slideshow presentation for prospective investors. He explained that his company obtained land leases and the proper permits for wind farms, conducted meteorological studies to collect wind data, performed environmental studies, and ob-

tained agreements with power companies who would have the wind farms built.

In return for their investments, Spalding offered his clients promissory notes that said he would repay the principal back within two to 12 months, offer 10 percent interest if repayment didn't happen within that time frame, and offer shares of stock in his company if and when it went public. Unfortunately, those promissory notes weren't worth the paper they were printed on.

Spalding used most of his investors' money to fund his extravagant lifestyle—he purchased a new home, luxury vehicle, expensive jewelry, trips for him and his wife to the Caribbean and Europe, spa treatments, dinners at expensive restaurants, designer clothes, etc.

These types of schemes usually run their course when the money runs out. How-

ever, even after Wind Plus filed for bankruptcy in 2009, Spalding was able to solicit new investors for a similar renewable energy company called Baseload Energy, LLC, which purportedly focused on geothermal energy and supposedly developed land for natural gas turbines. Like Wind Plus, Baseload Energy was just a means to an end, and that end involved Spalding scamming as many victims as possible.

Of the \$3.7 million he received during the life of his scheme, Spalding only paid out a small fraction of that back to investors—and only did that to try to keep clients from demanding their entire investments back or from filing complaints.

But eventually, one of his investors had enough and made a complaint to the FBI's Dallas Field Office in late 2010. Because of the number of victims, the financial losses,

and the interstate nature of Spalding's activities, the Bureau opened a case.

Investigators conducted numerous interviews of victims and of Spalding's former employees (who had quit because they weren't getting paid). But according to the investigating agent, "financial analysis is what really made this case." She explained that since Wind Plus had no corporate records to review, FBI financial analysts went through Wind Plus bank records. These records showed that Spalding—who had no personal bank account—used company funds almost exclusively for his own benefit.

Spalding was indicted in federal court, and in April 2015—following a seven-day trial—was convicted by a jury. Last month, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$3.3 million in restitution to his victims.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Loudon County Corrections Partnership Committee will meet April 13, 2016 at 12:00 at the Justice Center to discuss future plans.

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passed out

Sara Bilbrey, 26, Walter Reed Road Cookeville, was charged with Theft of Property, Man/Sell/Poss of Controlled Substance, Poss. of Drug Para, and Criminal Impersonation.

Charles Minnear, 30, Plantation Drive Cookeville, was charged with Simple Possession, Man/Sell/Del/Resale SchVI with

intent to resale, Theft of Property, and Poss. of Drug Para.

According to the reports, Officers Jason Arden and Rick Eubanks LCPD, responded to the Exxon gas station on Hwy 321 for a suspicious person slumped over the toilet in the men's bathroom, and a female passed out in a vehicle in front of the store. Upon arrival Officer made contact with the male identi-

fied as Charles Minnear sitting on the toilet in the men's restroom with a syringe in his lap. Officer also found a white crystalline substance in a container that spilled across the floor. Officer located the female identified as Sara Bilbrey in a red vehicle. Deputy Chris Hutchens LCSO, K-9 gave an alert on the vehicle, which lead to a search inside the vehicle. Upon search re-

vealed approx.. 87.6 grams of marijuana compressed in cellophane, and approx. 72.1 grams of marijuana in a clear plastic jar, a set of scales, clear plastic baggies, a food saver vacuum sealer machine, cellphone, laptop, surveillance camera and equipment, multiple cell phones. The laptop came back stolen. Investigator Brad Brown LCPD, made the arrest.

fraud

Investigators determined that Mr. Lynn kept the proceeds of 33 fraudulent district checks that he generated and transacted. Mr. Lynn's scheme involved creating and printing checks made payable to legitimate agency vendors. He also fabricated invoices and submitted them, along with the checks, for management's review and approval.

Mr. Lynn used the checks for his own benefit after the signed checks were returned to him for delivery to the vendors. Examples of the checks can be found in the Comptroller's report.

In March 2016, Matthew Lynn pled guilty on an information to one count of theft over \$1,000. Mr. Lynn has also paid \$16,566.85 in restitution to the Upper Cumberland Development District.

"I am concerned about any theft of public money," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "Our investigators recommended that UCDD improve its financial processes, and I'm pleased to note that agency leaders have corrected the situation."

To view the special investigation online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>

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. Follow us on twitter: @TNCOT

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