

The Daily Edition

50¢

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, August 15, 2016

Meth for resale found on revoked driver near Ldn motel

Paul Bovard, 29, West 1st Ave Lenoir City, was charged with DUI, Man/Sell/Del/Resale SCH.II, Poss. Of Drug Para., Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, Assisting other Agency, and Violation of Implied Consent.

Officer Jonathan Yates LPD, while on routine patrol, noticed a white Ford Mustang sitting in the parking lot of the America's Best

(see meth pg. 2)



Paul Bovard

LCEFAwards "Great Grants"

Kendra McCarter

The Loudon County Education Foundation has awarded its "Great Grants" for 2016. Those grants will directly benefit 3,591 local school students. The Great Grants are awarded each year, with between 15-20 teachers benefitting from them. This year, a total of 16 educators from across the county – teachers at Fort Loudoun Middle School, Eaton Elementary, Greenback, Highland Park, Loudon Elementary, North Middle, Philadelphia, Lenoir

see LCEF pg. 5

Health Care Fraud

Service Provider's Crimes Caused Patients' Deaths
Pelvic X-Ray

A Maryland health care provider was recently sentenced to prison for cheating insurers out of more than \$20 million and causing patient deaths as a result. Part of the fraud involved creating false radiology reports that were never interpreted by a physician. In this patient X-ray, the non-physician who interpreted the image failed to identify a large pelvic mass that was likely an infected bladder requiring immediate treatment. Because the ailment

see fraud pg. 4

The Good News

by: Rev. Dr. Julius McCarter

Scripture: Luke 12:49-56

Jesus' prophetic words often frighten us. What does he mean when he speaks about "fire"? What does he mean when he warns of "division"? We often shy away from his prophetic words because they call us to repen-

tance and change. Perhaps not such fun topics for a Good News devotion!

Yet if there's one word that many of us would like to experience in our lives it is reconciliation. No family is quite like the Brady Bunch. The popularity of TV shows

(see TGN pg. 3)

Headlight out leads to arrest of 2 in Loudon

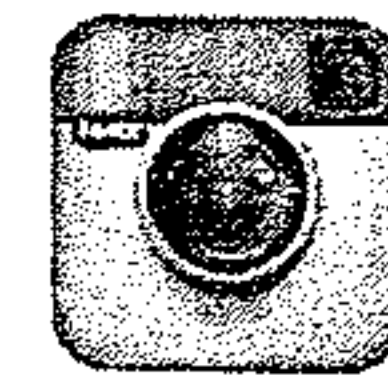


Isaac Lands



Austin Bennett

(see Loudon pg. 7)



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Verse of the Day

Jesus straightened up and asked her [the woman caught in adultery], "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now

and leave your life of sin."

— John 8:10-119

Obituaries

see inside

Wazzup

Happy 21st Birthday Jonathan Bell. Hope you have a great one! You sure are one great son!

Weather

Today: Some clouds and possibly an isolated thunderstorm in the afternoon. High 91F.

Tonight: A few clouds. Low 73F.

Tuesday Partly cloudy early. Scattered thunderstorms de-

veloping in the afternoon. High near 90F.

Tuesday Night Scattered thunderstorms. Low 73F.

Wednesday Scattered showers and thunderstorms. High 88F.

Wednesday Night Scattered thunderstorms. Low 72F.

(Continued on page 6)



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meth

Value Inn on Hwy 72. The vehicle had a Loudon county registration and was running. Officer approached and found it occupied by two people. The defendant, Paul James Bovard, was in the driver seat and male in the passenger seat. Officer detected the odor of an intoxicating beverage emitting from the vehicle. Officer asked for identifica-

tion and Bovard handed him a Tennessee identification card. Both subjects were moving around excessively and were extremely nervous. Bovard made several movements with his hands as if he were attempting to conceal something. Officer had him exit and sit on the curb. Officer noticed several items in the seat he was occupying that appeared to be illegal narcotics. The defendant was

detained due to his lack of driver's license and his nervous and erratic movements. He appeared to be under the influence of narcotics. Upon inspection of the substance in his seat, Officer found six

(see meth etd. pg. 4)

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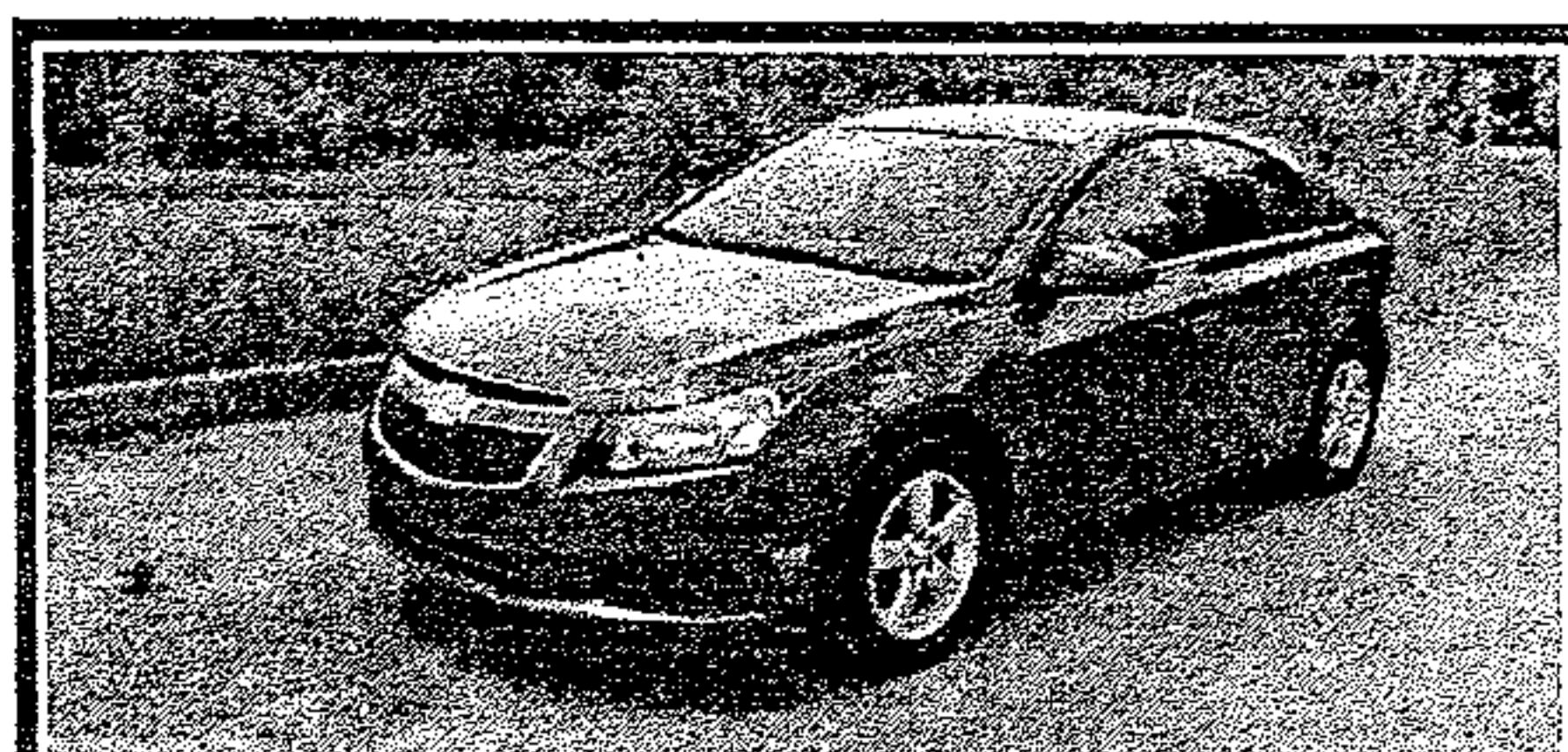
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2012 Hyundai Sonata Cruise, PW, PL, A/C, Alloy Wheels, Keyless Entry, AUX/USB Hook-up



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TGN

like "Black-ish" and "Parent-hood" demonstrate the pain, power and promise wrapped up in reconciliation. We want it, but we want it cheap and easy. Jesus makes the claim in our gospel reading that it will never be easy. In fact, reconciliation with God cost Jesus his life. We only need to look at the nail scarred hands and wonder. Where do you long for reconciliation? Do Jesus' prophetic words comfort because he will not let the status quo stand?

Prayer: Change me so I can be open to your healing work in the world. Amen.

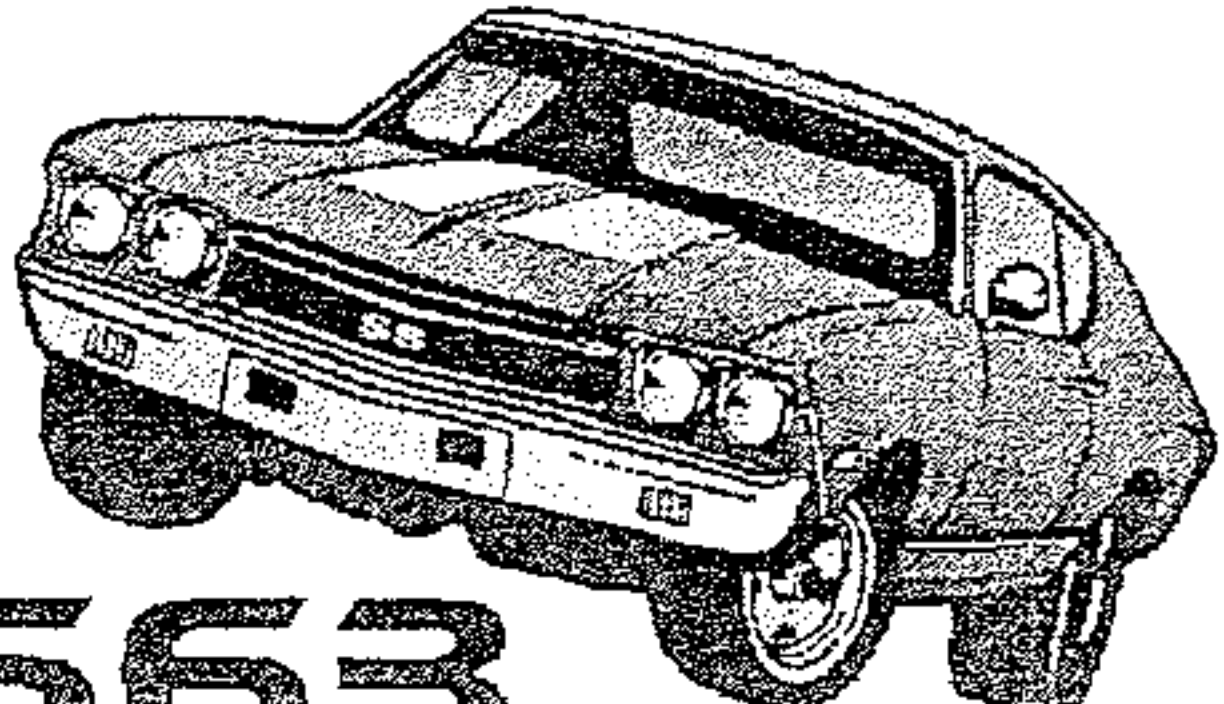
thieves ctd. from pg. 2

bundles of white crystal substance believed to be and con-


firmed by the defendant to be, methamphetamine. The items have a estimated total weight of 6 grams. Officer also found two glass pipes used to inject methamphetamine by smoking. Bovard's drivers license status was found to be revoked for multiple failures to satisfy and child support. He also has an active arrest warrant out of Monroe Co. Mr. Bovard was not given field sobriety tasks but due to his admission of using meth prior to my encounter, his inability to stand still and erratic movements, Officer felt he was too impaired to operate a motor vehicle and am charging him with DUI.

He refused a chemical test stating that he just used meth. He was transported to jail. Said happened in Loudon, TN.

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fraud

went undiagnosed, no treatment was provided, and the nursing home patient died the following day.

A longtime Maryland health care provider was sentenced to 10 years in prison recently for cheating Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers out of more than \$20 million—and causing patients to die as a result.

“This was an unusual case,” said Special Agent Keith Custer, who led the investigation from the FBI’s Baltimore Division. “Most health care fraud that results in injury or death happens when providers illegally bill for unnecessary procedures. This case wasn’t about providing unnecessary care, it was about denying people the care they desperately needed and deserved.”

Rafael Chikvashvili, a 69-year-old Baltimore resident, owned Alpha Diagnostics, a

company that provided portable X-rays and other examinations to patients primarily in nursing homes and retirement communities in the Maryland area.

Beginning in 1997, Chikvashvili conspired with others to defraud Medicare, Medicaid, and other insurers in a variety of ways, including by creating false radiology reports that were never ordered or interpreted by a physician. What caused at least two patient deaths, according to court testimony, was that Chikvashvili instructed his non-physician employees—including Timothy Emeigh, the company’s vice president of operations, who was a radiologic technologist but not a doctor—to interpret X-rays instead of sending them to licensed physicians.

A non-physician Alpha Diagnostics employee reviewed one nursing home resident’s chest X-ray images and failed to detect congestive heart failure. As a

result, the patient was not transferred to an acute care facility for treatment—which is standard practice—but remained in the nursing home, where she died four days later. Had the patient been transferred, experts said, her symptoms could have been addressed.

A second patient had a chest X-ray as a pre-operative test to determine if she could safely undergo elective surgery. The non-physician Alpha Diagnostics employee

who interpreted the X-rays failed to detect mild congestive heart failure. As a result, the patient was cleared for surgery, after which her congestive heart

see fraud ctd. pg. 5

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LCEF City Intermediate, and Lenoir City High — were awarded grants between \$200-\$5,000 each.

Total contributions this year were \$19,081.40, according to a LCEF press release.

fraud ctd. from pg. 4 failure worsened. She died six days later.

“The vast majority

of Alpha Diagnostic’s client base was from nursing homes and retirement communities,” Custer said. “This is an extremely vulnerable population,” he explained, “because it is not unexpected when they become sick and die. That was how Chikvashvili’s fraud was able to go on for nearly 20 years.”

“There is no telling

how many patients suffered or died because of these crimes.”

Special Agent Keith Custer, FBI Baltimore Division

In 2013, two Alpha Diagnostics X-ray technicians contacted authorities and said the company was up-coding—an illegal practice in which businesses bill insurance providers for more

expensive services than were performed. The employees also said they suspected Emeigh was doing X-ray interpretations at Chikvashvili’s instruction and that real doctors’ names were being used fraudulently.

Custer and investigators from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General began inter-

viewing doctors whose names were on the X-ray reports. “It was clear from the beginning that the reports were fakes,” Custer noted. One of the doctors was living out of the country when the reports with his name were created, and others confirmed that their names and provider numbers had been used fraudulently.

Chikvashvili, who holds a Ph.D. in mathematics but was never a medical doctor or licensed physician, claimed through his defense attorneys he was unaware of any wrongdoing and blamed the situation on actions by his employees. But a jury heard evidence to the contrary. In February 2016, he was convicted on a variety of charges related to the fraud and was sentenced in June. Emeigh, 52, had previously pleaded guilty to health care fraud and was sentenced to four years in prison.

Emeigh told investigators that prior to the fraud scheme being shut down, he was doing nearly 80 percent of Alpha Diagnostics’ X-ray interpretations in Maryland—readings that should have been done by a licensed physician. “He probably did tens of thousands of them over the course of the fraud,” Custer said. “There is no telling how many patients suffered or died because of these crimes.”

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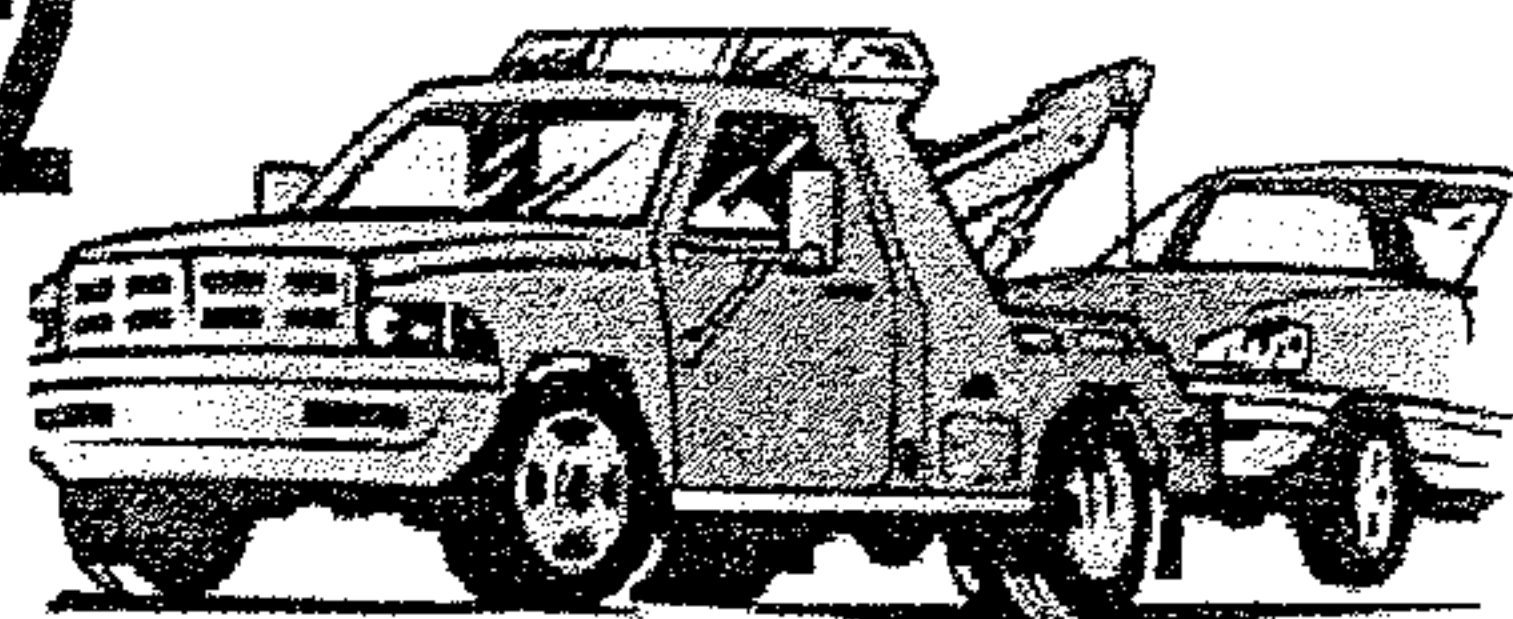
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Loudon

Isaac Lands, 19, Walnut Grove Road Kingston, was charged with Underage Consumption, and Simple Possession.

Austin Bennett, 19, Forrest Hill Drive Cartersville, was charged with Underage Consumption.

Officer Brandon Nix LPD, witnessed a Silver Scion traveling West on Highway 72. Officer then witnessed this vehicle to be in violation of the light law (head light out). Officer then traffic stopped the vehicle on Highway 72 at Butterscotch Lane. Officer approached the

vehicle, and identified the driver as Mr. Isaac Lands. While speaking with Mr. Lands, Officer could smell a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from inside the vehicle. Officer then asked Mr. Lands to exit the vehicle. While speaking with Mr. Lands, Officer could smell a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his breath and person. When asked if Mr. Lands had consumed anything alcoholic tonight, he stated he had 19 drank two and a half beers. Also while speaking to Mr. Lands, Officer noticed he was nervous. Officer asked Mr. Lands

if he had anything illegal inside the vehicle at which time he stated he had a small amount of marijuana in the middle consol. Officer then was able to locate a plastic baggy with a green leafy substance inside. Mr. Lands was then placed into custody. Also inside the vehicle was Mr. Austin Bennett. When Officer began speaking to Mr. Bennett, Officer could smell the strong odor of a alcoholic beverage coming from his breath.

Officer also noticed Mr. Bennett to have blood shot watery eyes. When asked if he had consumed any alcoholic beverages Mr.

Bennett stated he had a couple of shots and one beer. It was brought to this Officer's attention that Mr. Bennett is under the legal drinking age.

Mr. Bennett was then placed into custody. Both parties were then transported to Loudon County Jail. All the above actions did happen in The City of Loudon.

7 miles over limit gets driver stopped

Michael Murphy, 19, Lee Hi Street Lenoir City, was charged with Driving on Revoked/Suspended License. Deputy Kevin Dailey LCSO, observed a blue GMC Sierra on Highway 11 at Highland Park Dr going 52 mph in a 45 mph zone with use of moving radar. Upon stop at Lee Hi St Deputy came in contact with the driver Michael Murphy who was unable to provide insurance nor drivers license. After checking the subject through dispatch he came back to have a suspended drivers license. Mr. Murphy was taken into custody for Driving on Suspended and transported to Loudon County Justice Center without incident the truck remained on scene due to it being his mothers residence.

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