

The Daily Edition ^{50¢}

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, January 6, 2025

No Seat Belt Leads to Traffic Stop and Charges by LCPD



Erica Helton

(see Stop pg. 4)

911 Hangup Call Leads to Charges for GB Man



Christopher Johnson

see DA pg. 2

Gun Found on Reckless Driver Following Traffic Stop



Christopher Vavao

see Gun pg. 3

LabCorp and University Health System Agree To Pay \$388,667 To Resolve Alleged False Claims Act Violations

Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings ("LCAH"), Laboratory Corporation of America ("LCA"), Labcorp Tennessee, LLC ("LCTN") (collectively, "LabCorp"), and University Health System, Inc. ("UHS") have paid \$388,667.17 to resolve allegations that they violated the False Claims Act by delaying the submission of physician orders for certain

laboratory tests by Caris Life Sciences, Inc. ("Caris") to enable improper billings to Medicare for those tests.

During the relevant timeframe, Medicare's Date of Service or "14-Day" Rule prohibited laboratories from separately billing Medicare for tests performed on specimens if a physician ordered the test within 14 days of the patient's discharge from a hospital stay either in an outpatient or inpatient setting. If

the test was performed more than 14 days after discharge, then Medicare's 14-Day Rule permitted laboratories to bill Medicare directly for the test. If the test was performed within the 14-day window, the laboratory must instead bill the hospital facility.

UHS operates University of Tennessee Medical Center ("UTMC"), and LCA

see False Claims pg. 5



Verse of the Day

...and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

—Ephesians 4:24

Wazzup

For the month of January we will be put-

ting out a Monday Paper only!!!

Weather

Today: Cloudy. High of 38F.

Tonight: Showers. Low of 35F.

Tuesday: Cloudy. High of 45F.

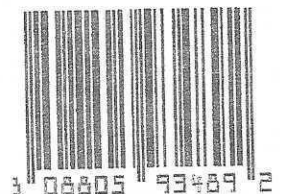
Tuesday night: Overcast. Low 24F.

Horoscope

Capricorn 12/22-01/19

For the past several weeks you've felt like you've been dragging your heels, Capricorn.

Decisions may have been hard to make and people may have seemed wishy-washy. There's a major energy shift tonight that will spark things back into action. Once again you will be



DA

Christopher Johnson, 46, Highway 411 Greenback, was charged with, Domestic Assault, Vandalism, and Simple Possession.

Deputy Harrison LCSO, was dispatched to Highway 411 for a 911 hang-up that was later changed to a domestic. The victim's son stated his dad grabbed his mom by the hair, threw her to the ground, and broke the door. His dad had left and taken the phone in a tan Honda Ridgeline. While en route, Dispatch received a crash notification for the victim's phone in the area of East Coast Tellico Parkway and Morganton Road. The vehicle passed him on National Campground Road where the deputy was able

to turn around and traffic stop the offender identified as Christopher Johnson. The deputy had Johnson exit the vehicle and step back to the front of his patrol car to question him about the incident. Johnson stated he did put his hands on the victim, to remove her from his vehicle after he stated she refused to get out. Consent to search the vehicle was given, and during his search, the deputy located a plastic bag containing needles and 3 bottles of 200mg Drostanolone Enanthate, x2 bottles 250mg testosterone cypionate, and x2 bottles 300mg TPP/NPP/MP-300 anabolic steroids. When asked about the steroids Johnson stated he was not prescribed the substances. Deputy Slattery arrived on the scene at the residence

to speak with the victim and her two children who were witnesses. The victim stated she allowed Johnson to come to the residence on 12-24-24 but did not allow him to come inside the home. At approximately 18:00 the victim stated Johnson kicked the front door in after Johnson requested to come in the house and gather belongings. Deputy Slattery did observe the door and door frame to be damaged estimated at \$1,000 under \$2,500. Once he entered the residence he began grabbing clothes from the laundry room and went outside to sleep in his truck. On this date, the victim allowed Johnson in the residence to

watch their young daughter open presents. During this time the two got into a verbal altercation. Johnson grabbed the victim phone, walked out, and left the residence. A short time later, Johnson returned and that's when the victim noticed her phone was missing. She walked outside to look for her phone in his vehicle at which point Johnson grabbed her by her hair and threw her to the ground. On this date, during the altercation, Johnson also threw a pipe at the victim car causing damage. Based on the physical evidence at the residence and victim and witness statements, Johnson was placed in custody.

Public Notice

The Lenoir City Beer Board will meet Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Room. For consideration of an on-premises permit for the following item(s):

1. Spice Hut
1204 Highway 321 N.
Lenoir City, TN 37771


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The Daily Edition also serves Monroe, Knox, Anderson, Roane and Blount counties and serves 30,000 readers weekly. Send mail to PO Box 1240, Lenoir City TN 37771. 865-771-2249. email: dan1204us@yahoo.com

The Daily Edition is Loudon County's premier public interest and paid advertising paper. The Daily Edition is produced and published 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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Gun

Christopher Vavao, 45, Old Columbia Trail Knoxville, was charged with, DUI, and Poss. of Handgun while Under the Influence.

Deputy Ryne Miller LCSO, received a 911 call for a reckless driver in a Silver Dodge Ram travelling southbound on I75 near the 81 exit. The deputy located a vehicle matching that description on Route 321, getting ready to turn onto the entrance ramp to I75S. While behind the vehicle, the vehicle was unable to maintain lane, crossed the fog line, slammed on his brakes, and was unable to successfully navigate the merge lane onto the interstate.

A traffic stop was initiated on the vehicle on I75S, mile marker 80.8. While approaching the vehicle, the vehicle began to roll forward and then stop once commands were given.

The driver, later identified as Christopher Vavao, was slow to comply with commands, taking several seconds to roll down the vehicle window. Once the vehicle window was rolled down, Vavao was observed

to have slurred speech, bloodshot eyes, an odor of alcoholic beverage about his person, and unable to form intelligible sentences. Vavao admitted to deputies he had been drinking and smoking weed. Vavao was asked to exit the vehicle and in doing so, was unsteady on his feet, unable to keep his balance, and attempted to walk to the front of his vehicle when advised to walk back toward the cruisers. Vavao was so unsteady on his feet, that deputies had to assist him in walking.

Deputies attempted to conduct Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST's) but due to the unsafe nature, they were not performed. At this time he was placed under arrest for DUI. An inventory search of his vehicle yielded a loaded Springfield Hellcat .9mm in the center console. Vavao was read implied consent but refused to provide a sample of blood.

He was transported to Loudon County Jail and charged with DUI and unlawful possession of a handgun.

This occurred in Loudon County TN.

IN THE JUVENILE COURT FOR ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

Petitioner
NO. 2012-JC-146

vs.
TINA SHELTON A.K.A. TINA EDGIN

WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

Respondent

IN THE MATTER OF:

Jasper Shelton DOB: 08/01/2007
Child Under Eighteen (18) Years of Age

MOTION AND ORDER FOR SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

It appearing to the Court from the allegations of the Petition for Temporary Custody and Motion for Summons by Publication and the Affidavit of Diligent Search that the whereabouts of the Respondent Tina Shelton, A.K.A Tina Edgin is unknown and cannot be ascertained by diligent search, therefore, the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon Tina Shelton, A.K.A Tina Edgin. It is therefore, ORDERED that said Respondent be served by publication of the following Notice for four (4) consecutive weeks in the The Daily Edition, a newspaper published in Loudon County, TN.

TO RESPONDENT: TINA SHELTON, A.K.A TINA EDGIN

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 37-1-125, § 21-1-203 and § 21-1-204, you are hereby summoned to appear on the 10th day of March, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., and defend the above-entitled action in the Roane County Juvenile Court, at 200 E. Race Street, Kingston, Tennessee, and answer the Petition filed by the State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, and thereby serve your answer on the Petitioner. In case of your failure to do so, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the Petition, which has been filed with the Clerk of the Roane County Juvenile Court located at the Roane County Courthouse, 200 E. Race Street, Kingston, Tennessee 37763.

ISSUED this 18th day of December 2024.

DENNIS HUMPHREY
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE

APPROVED FOR ENTRY:
Sarah Watson, BPR # 033615
Attorney at Law
Assistant General Counsel
TN Department of Children's Services
111 Union Valley Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
(865) 425-4400

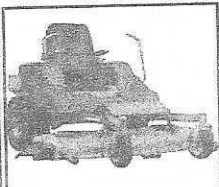
published December 23, 2024, December 30, 2024, January 6, 2025 and January 13, 2025

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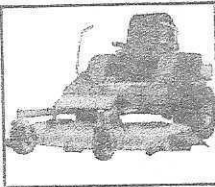
Lenoir City Lawn



Robert Wilson

865-317-1762

865-443-0649



Stop

Erica Helton, 20, Upper Street Loudon, was charged with, Mfg/Del/Sale or Poss. of Meth, Simple Possession, and Poss. of Drug Para.

Officer R. Miller, with the Lenoir City Police Department, was conducting traffic enforcement in the area of the 400 block of West Broadway in Lenoir City, TN. During his enforcement duties the officer observed a black in color Mazda sedan traveling east on Broadway. While observing the vehicle the officer visually observed the front seat passenger later identified as Erica Helton (defendant) not wearing her seatbelt while the vehicle was in motion on a public roadway. The officer then ini-

tiated a traffic stop on the Mazda sedan in the area of 2nd Avenue at A Street. Upon the traffic stop the driver was identified and the rear seat passenger was identified. During the traffic stop while filling out a citation and waiting for central dispatch to return with information pertaining to the traffic stop, the officer was granted verbal consent to conduct a search of the vehicle from the driver. During the consented search of the vehicle, the officer noticed a strong odor of marijuana emitting from the inside of the vehicle. Once the odor of marijuana was noticed, Officer T. Eldridge, who was assisting on the traffic stop was handed a small bag containing a green leafy substance believed

to be marijuana from the front seat passenger, ERICA (approximately 1.79 grams). During the subsequent search of the vehicle, the officer located a pink in color bag that was sitting in the passenger's side front floor board inside of the vehicle where ERICA was sitting. Located inside of the pink bag was a glass pipe which was black/

charred on the bowl of the pipe. The glass pipe that was located is commonly used to smoke methamphetamine with. Also recovered from the pink bag was a bag containing a crystal-like substance believed to be methamphetamine (less than half a gram) along with another bag which contained a crystal-like residue.

Public Notice

Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission Workshop January 9 5:00pm County office building

Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission January 16 6:00pm Loudon County Annex



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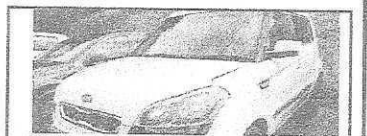
10 Hybrid, Loaded Up!!!
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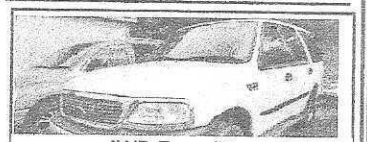
08 7 Passenger, Leather, Loaded!!!
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False Claims

provides clinical laboratory services through LCTN at UTMC's outpatient laboratory. According to filed documents, between March 2012 and November 2023, UHS and LCTN caused the delay of the submission of physician orders for Caris testing, by either holding orders for submission or cancelling and resubmitting orders, until 14 days after a Medicare beneficiary's discharge from the hospital to circumvent Medicare's Date of Service Rule, which allowed the submission of claims to Medicare. The United States contends that, in doing so, UHS and LCTN violated the Date of Service Rule and knowingly caused the submission of false claims for reimbursement to Medicare. UHS and LabCorp cooperated with the United States' investigation and resolution thereof. Caris, for its part, previously agreed to pay \$2.8M to resolve allegations in the East-

ern District of New York of its related conduct on a nationwide scale.

This settlement resolves, in part, a lawsuit filed under the qui tam, or whistleblower, provisions of the False Claims Act, which permits private parties to sue on behalf of the government for false claims and receive a share of any recovery. The qui tam case is captioned United States ex rel. Kim Vo v. Caris Life Sciences, Inc. et al., No. 3:20-CV-509 (E.D. Tenn.). Relator Kim Vo received \$73,846.76 of the proceeds from the settlement. UHS was not a party to the qui tam case but participated in the settlement.

The investigation and resolution of this matter illustrates the government's emphasis on combating health care fraud. One of the most powerful tools in this effort is the False Claims Act. Tips and complaints from all sources about potential fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement can be reported

to HHS at 800-HHS-TIPS (800-447-8477).

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Alexa Ortiz Hadley and Jeremy S. Dykes represented the United States, with assistance from the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General and Trial Attorney Robert C. K. Boyd of the Department of Justice's Civil Division, Fraud Section.

The claims resolved by this settlement are allegations only, and there has been no determination of liability.

Vandalism

Andrew Katronias, 30, Waller Ferry Road Lenoir City, was charged with, Domestic Assault, and Vandalism. Deputy Broderick LCSO, received a 911 call for a domestic disturbance at Waller Ferry Road.

Upon arrival, deputies immediately noticed the destruction of the home, blood all over the floor and walls, and heard screaming from the back bedroom. Deputies located the suspect, Andrew Kotronias, lying face down on the floor screaming, he was de-

tained at this time.

Deputies spoke with the victim/father, who stated that he and Andrew had been arguing all day and that Andrew had been actively taking pills. He stated the two got into a verbal argument after Andrew purposefully broke a lamp and the light switch panel. The victim stated he left the residence briefly and then returned home to find the kitchen destroyed, the dishwasher broken, several broken glasses, a shattered bedroom window, and blood everywhere. He stated when he questioned Andrew about it, he lunged at him twice, making him fear he was going to be physically assaulted. Deputies asked Andrew what happened but he said he didn't know why we were there. It was apparent that Andrew was under the influence. Andrew was taken into custody for domestic assault and vandalism. NCIC confirmed Kotronias had an outstanding warrant out of Roane County for FTA. Estimated value of damage is \$1200. This occurred in Loudon County TN.

Bad Credit

Divorce

Fixed Income

Repos

Bankruptcy

No Credit

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Horoscopes

on center stage. Be yourself and smile.

Aquarius 1/20-2/18

The morning might find you sitting like a stick in the mud, Aquarius. People might be getting down on you for not contributing, but tell them to be patient. You will be raring to go by nightfall. The catalyst may come from an outside source. Be on the lookout for a challenge.

Pisces 2/19-3/20

Things are moving your way, Pisces. As the day progresses, you will find that the energy intensifies. Conflicts may arise near sundown, but don't worry about it too much. See it as a call to jump-start your motor. Visit an antique shop and chat with the people around you.

Aries 3/21-4/19

You should enjoy the intense energy of today, Aries. The mud is finally beginning to clear away. Expose the truth in every issue and get ready for the gremlins that may be unEarthed. Connect with nature today and spend some time with animals if you can.

Taurus 4/20-5/20

Today marks the beginning of a new cycle for you, Taurus. Collect and consolidate your recent ideas and focus them outwardly. The time is right for you to act. Improve your surroundings and adjust your bed so that it faces east/west. (A north/south placement aligns you with Earth's magnetic field and causes you to lose energy at night.)

Gemini 5/21-6/20

Take a cold shower to jump-start yourself today, Gemini. It's fine if you laze around a bit in the morning, but by evening, you should be working at full capacity. You will be called into action whether you want to be or not.

Cancer 6/21-7/22

Today may start out sluggish for you, Cancer, but by the end of the day the energy will move fast and furious. Your thoughts will be buzzing around your

head like bees around a hive. An introspective and contemplative morning has filled your brain with a new wave of thoughts, which you will be eager to share with anything that has ears tonight.

Leo 7/23-8/22

Enjoy the calm morning, Leo, because things are going to get crazier and more energetic as the day goes on. Emotions will run high, and people will be more opinionated than usual. A conflict may arise from which you just want to extricate yourself.

Virgo 8/23-9/22

You will experience an intense amount of energy today, Virgo. Your dream state will be more active than usual, and you will find that people are drawn to you like moths to light. Make sure you keep your fiery emotions in balance and don't cross any boundaries with others.

Libra 9/23-10/22

It's time to get up and get moving, Libra. You have tremendous ideas and vision for the future. You have all the information you need. Now all you have to do is act. Step up to the plate and hit one over the fence. Getting out of your box and further into the world at large will do you a great deal of good.

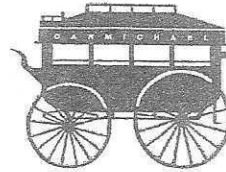
Scorpio 10/23-11/21

The early part of the day might find you sluggish and indecisive, Scorpio, but later you should be psyched up and ready to go. Today marks the beginning of a new period in which you should set your ideas in motion. Action is the key. Think before you speak and use caution when talking about other people.

Sagittarius 11/22-12/21

Today's energies will get progressively more intense as the day goes on. In the morning, you may be in an easygoing, dreamy state, Sagittarius, but you will be itching to take action by nightfall. Take what you've learned from your sensitive, meditative state and share it with others.

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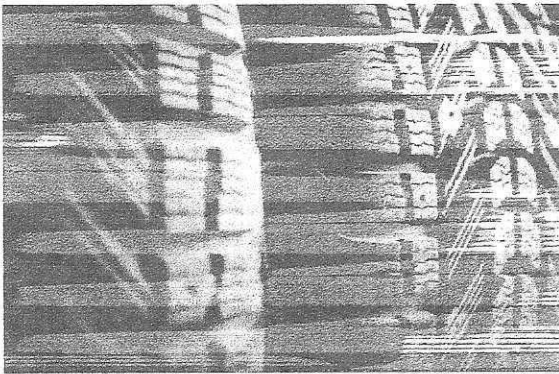
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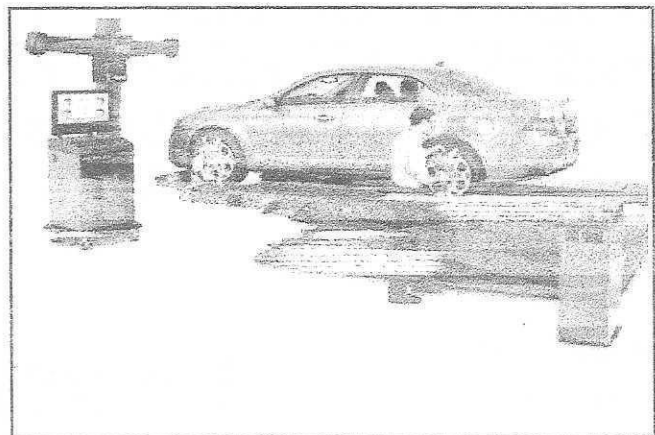
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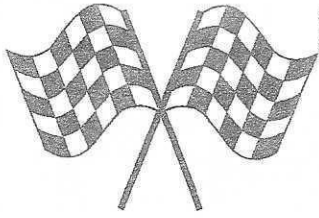
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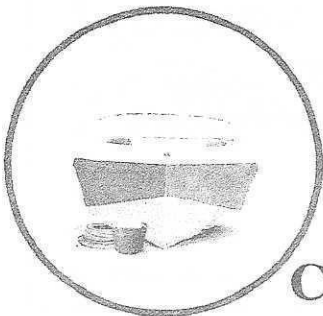
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