



PRESS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Buckhannon Resident Sentenced on Mail Fraud Charge

ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA - A 42-year old Buckhannon, West Virginia, was sentenced on May 21, 2012, in United States District Court in Elkins by Chief Judge John Preston Bailey.

United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II, announced that **CHRISTOPHER JOHN THRAIN** was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release. **THRAIN** entered a plea of guilty on November 30, 2011, to one count of mail fraud. **THRAIN** devised a scheme to obtain money by false and fraudulent pretenses by staging motor vehicle collisions and then filing false insurance claims. **THRAIN** is an automobile body repair specialist and would solicit people to participate in staged collisions for which **THRAIN** and the other individuals would file false insurance claims. **THRAIN** admitted that he caused a letter to be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service containing a check in the amount of \$2,706.90 and payable to the order of "Chris Thrain" which was material to the scheme to defraud. **THRAIN** was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$35,962.31 to four different insurance companies. **THRAIN** was remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal pending designation to a Federal institution.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen D. Warner and was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the West Virginia Insurance Commission.

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