

Former Boone USPS Supervisor Sentenced

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A former Boone US Postal Service employee has been sentenced to 16 months in Federal prison for fraud in seeking and receiving workman's compensation for an alleged on the job injury. Tuesday, September 3rd, U.S. District Judge Richard Voorhees sentenced Joseph Catone, Jr., a former supervisor with the U.S. Postal Service in Boone to the 16 month term for submitting false information on a 2008 workman's compensation benefits application. Joseph Catone, Jr., 58, of Boone, was convicted in March 2012 by a federal jury for lying on an application in order to receive workman's compensation benefits claiming a stress-related condition as a result of excessive driving in the performance of his duties. But in evidence presented at trial and yesterday's sentencing hearing, the government submitted evidence showing that in 2008 Catone had worked for and received a salary as a custodian for Angelo Nigro, doing business as Angelo's Maintenance, from around August 2006 to August 2008. Witnesses testified that they regularly saw Catone vacuum, pick up trash, and perform other cleaning services at the Hayes Performing Arts Center in Blowing Rock. The government's evidence also showed that the defendant received \$132,214.31 (gross amount) in worker's compensation from April 2007 to September 2009. In handing down Catone's sentence, Judge Voorhees stated that the defendant had "reaped financial benefits" from his dishonesty and that he imposed 16 months imprisonment because of "the need to deter others from similar conduct." In addition to the prison term, Judge Voorhees also ordered Catone to serve three years under court supervision after he is released from prison, and to pay \$106,411.83 as restitution. Cantone is to turn himself in to begin his sentence.