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### Doctor Pleads Not Guilty In Sex Case

By Rusty Garrett

TIMES RECORD • [RGARRETT@SWTIMES.COM](mailto:RGARRETT@SWTIMES.COM)

Clarence Arendall, an Alma physician accused of sexually assaulting female patients, pleaded not guilty to charges Wednesday.

Crawford County Circuit Court Judge Gary Cottrell appointed Public Defender Thurman Ragar to represent Arendall. He remained free on \$25,000 bond.

Arendall, 45, was charged with two counts of second-degree sexual assault. Court records state the incidents occurred Feb. 13 and Feb. 14.



Records of the Van Buren Police Department and Van Buren Prosecuting Attorney Marc McCune claim four complaints have been brought against the physician within a two-week period.

Each of the four victims has claimed the contact was unwelcome, and they occurred while Arendall was treating them at his Alma clinic.

Second-degree sexual assault is a class B felony carrying a prison term of 5 to 20 years if convicted and/or a \$15,000 fine.

Also Wednesday, Cottrell accepted not-guilty pleas from Clinton Hickey, 23, and John Byrd, 40, both of Van Buren, on drug charges.

Both are charged with possession of methamphetamine with intent to deliver, possession of drug paraphernalia and a second offense of possession of marijuana.

Byrd is also charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm and is charged as being an habitual offender.

The two were arrested after police executing a search warrant March 18 in Van Buren found the drugs, paraphernalia and a .22-caliber rifle.

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