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Local News

DEMO MATCH-UP OF THE DAY

Battle: Best Bakery

TASTY PASTRY AU PECHE MIGNON

Which will you vote for at the live event June 14 at the Centre of Tallahassee?

Get tickets at tickets.tallahassee.com.

See all the matchups at Tallahassee.com/Demo.

Williams case

Continued from Page 1A

The information Winchester provided led investigators to the location of Williams' buried body at the edge of Carr Lake in Leon County ending a 17-year mystery. By his own account, Winchester was the only person who knew where the body was because he put it there after shooting and killing Mike at Lake Seminole in Jackson County.

"After this many years, we had the opportunity to recover this man. I'm quite confident we would have never found him if I had not taken this step," Campbell said. "Everything that has happened to date would not have happened had we not played that card.

"It was a hard decision. I think and hope it was the right one. The other one was to go with the status quo we've had for 18 years."

The broad immunity deal also took off the table the potential for a life-prison sentence related to his August 2016 armed kidnapping of his estranged wife Denise Williams, who he said conspired with him to murder her then-husband so they could be together and collect a $1.75 million life insurance payout.

Winchester, 47, was sentenced in December to 20 years in prison for that crime. Denise Williams, arrested May 8, is in jail on charges of murder, conspiracy and accessory after the fact. Her defense attorney, Ethan Way, says she had nothing whatsoever to do with the killing.

In exchange for Winchester's proffer, which led to Williams' arrest, prosecutors also agreed to not bring up as evidence in the kidnapping case information about Winchester provided by a jailhouse informant.

The immunity deal was brokered by Tallahassee criminal defense lawyer, Tim Jansen, who represented Winchester.

Way called it a "Christmas present" to Winchester, and said Jansen's ability to get it was the best lawyering he's seen in his 20-year career.

Find more online

To read details of the confession, go to tallahassee.com.

Corrections

To report a correction, please contact Randi Atwood, Platform Editor, 509-2149, ratwood@tallahassee.com

Florida Lottery

Results are for tickets sold only in Florida

FLORIDA LOTTO
SATURDAY, JUNE 2 ... 15-20-21-23-28-52 (X3)
6 of 6: $4 million (0). 5 of 6: $7,302.50 (14).
4 of 6: $83 (842). 3 of 6: $5 (18,783).
2 (with XTRA): Free ticket (50,259).

POWERBALL
SATURDAY, JUNE 2 ... 23-25-37-44-64 PB: 7 (X4)
5+PB: $14 million (0). 5 of 5: $1 million (0).
4+PB: $50,000 (0). 4 of 5: $100 (21).
3+PB: $100 (58). 3 of 5: $7 (1,518).
2+PB: $7 (1,502). 1+PB: $4 (12,416). PB: $4 (31,000).

MEGA MILLIONS
FRIDAY, JUNE 1 ... 9-24-52-62-66 MB: 17 (X3)
5+MB: $97 million (0). 5 of 5: $1 million (0).
4+MB: $10,000 (0). 4 of 5: $500 (18).
3+MB: $200 (27). 3 of 5: $10 (868).
2+MB: $10 (700). 1+MB: $4 (6,273). MB: $2 (15,407).

Georgia Lottery results: Visit galottery.com or call 1-800-425-8259.

Florida Lottery results: Visit flalottery.com or call 850-921-7529.

LUCKY MONEY
FRIDAY, JUNE 1 ... 13-16-17-32 LB: 18
6+LB: $850,000 (0). 4 of 6: $2,685.50 (2).
5+LB: $367.50 (32). 3 of 6: $61.50 (568).
4+LB: $21 (1,156). 2 of 6: $3 (19,734).
1+LB: $3 (9,004). LB: Free ticket (24,019).

FANTASY 5
SUNDAY, JUNE 3 ... 3-6-10-26-34
5 of 5: $102,581.32 (1). 4 of 5: $122 (249).
3 of 5: $9.50 (8,288). 2 of 5: Free ticket (79,444).

PICK 2, 3, 4, 5
MONDAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 3
4-9 ... 8-2-5 ... 5-2-8-9 ... 1-1-9-2-7
EVENING, SUNDAY, JUNE 3
9-4 ... 6-7-3 ... 3-3-5-1 ... 4-8-3-1-9

CASH4LIFE
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Cops grilled wife on Williams' case

Jennifer Portman
Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Denise Williams' ex-husband, Brian Winchester, was sentenced to 20 years for armed burglary and kidnapping. JOE HONDONE/DEMOCRAT

Denise Merrell Williams was the victim the afternoon of Aug. 5, 2016, when she went to the Leon County Sheriff's Office to report her estranged husband, Brian Winchester, had held her in her car at gunpoint.

But in the middle of her nearly three-hour interview, it was Williams who was interrogated about what happened to her first husband, Mike, on Dec. 16, 2000.

In a video of the interview, obtained by the Democrat as part of a records request, she was candidly questioned by two law enforcement officers — her brother-in-law and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigator who's been working the Mike Williams' case the longest.

She was unwavering in her long-held belief that her husband of six years and father to her only child died in an accident at Lake Seminole. She said Winchester, who was Mike's best friend, had nothing to do with his disappearance, and all she knew — all she'd ever known — was Mike went hunting and never came home.

"I've never been proved anything different," she told FDLE Special Agent Mike DeVaney.

A year and a half later, much would be proved different. Winchester's arrest in the kidnapping case would be the turning point in the Mike Williams' mystery. Fourteen months later, as part of an agreement with prosecutors, Winchester confessed to killing his best friend at the lake that morning. He wouldn't have done it if not for Denise, who he said was instrumental in the planning and the 17-year cover-up.

Williams' attorney denies she had anything whatsoever to do with Mike's killing and that Winchester is lying about her involvement. However, his sworn statement — given after he was offered total immunity from being prosecuted for Mike's murder — was instrumental in her arrest May 8 on charges of conspiracy, murder and accessory after the fact.

Before the discovery of Mike's remains, Denise Williams was one of the only people who still insisted his death was accidental.

About 90 minutes into her recorded LCSO interview on Aug.5, 2016, her brother-in-law, Tallahassee police officer David McCraine, entered the small, drab room. It didn't take long for him to get to the point.

"I know Denise, he did it, and you know exactly what I'm talking about it," he told her, "and he held that over your head forever."

McCraine said he didn't think Denise was in any way involved but found it hard to believe she knew nothing about it.

"He was going to kill you so that you did not talk about him later, that is the truth," he said. "Fifteen years ago, he walked in and told you he'd done something, didn't he?"

"No, no," Denise said.

"This isn't going away," McCraine shot back. "He is going to try to stop people from talking about what he did."

Even after her kidnapping, she told McCraine she didn't believe Winchester killed Mike. She married Winchester because "he was living for the Lord and he was a Christian."

McCraine was adamant.

"We can't put it back in the bottle," he told her. "He killed Mike and I'm pretty sure the reason he was going to kill you today was he was afraid you were going to say something."

A few minutes after McCraine left, DeVaney came into the room. He calmly explained he'd dissected her life and knew everything there was to know.

"I've literally known you and known your family for many, many years," DeVaney began.

Williams started talking about her kidnapping, but DeVaney interrupted her, pivoting to the reason he was there.

"Where do you think Mike is buried at?" he asked her.

"I have no idea," Williams said.

"You don't really believe he died on the lake?" he asked.

"I do."

"Why?"

"I just always have, that's what I believe."

DeVaney said the body of every other person who ever drowned in Lake Seminole was recovered, except for Mike's.

"It's an impossibility he died on the lake," he told her.

"That just what I believe," she said again.

When DeVaney mentioned videos involving her, Winchester and his first wife, Williams said, "I'm starting to feel uncomfortable." DeVaney let it go, but retorted: "I've been uncomfortable for a long time."

When further grilled, Williams reiterated her belief Winchester was not responsible for Mike's disappearance.

"I do not, and I never have," she told DeVaney. "I never would have married him if I thought that. I never would have wanted so bad to have children with him."

After Williams repeatedly tried to redirect the conversation back to her abduction, DeVaney called it quits.

"I was hoping you could fill in some of the pieces of the puzzle. You haven't," he said. "We arrested Brian, he might, OK? Think about what I've said."

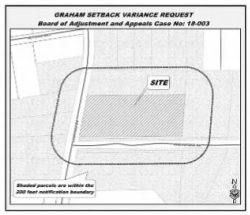
After DeVaney left the room, Williams leaned forward, massaged her neck and held her chin in her hands.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TALLAHASSEE-LEON COUNTY
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS (BOAA)
Renaissance Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room
435 N. Macomb Street
Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.

BOAA CASE No.: BOAA 18-003

Project Name: Graham Setback Variance Request
Applicant: Wendi Paige Graham
Parcel ID#: 32-16-12- A-002-0
Location: 4119 Louvinia Drive

The property owner is requesting a variance to reduce the side yard setback from 20 feet to 13 feet to allow the construction of an addition to the existing single-family home.



Project Coordinator: Nancy Garcia
GarciaN@leoncountyfl.gov
(850) 606-1361

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