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SS1218

Repairman accused of grand theft and assaulting homeowner

By Chris Perkins
South Florida Sun Sentinel

LIGHTHOUSE POINT — A Deerfield Beach man has been charged with battery and grand theft after repeatedly grabbing and touching a woman who hired him to home repairs and scamming her out of thousands of dollars, police said.

Michael Bellefeuille, 54, was arrested Saturday.

According to the arrest report, the woman hired Bellefeuille to make repairs on her home in Lighthouse Point. She wrote a check to him for \$11,000, which he deposited into his personal account on Nov. 6, 2020.

Later that day, Bellefeuille told the woman he needed

to inspect the roof and asked her to go up with him. On the way back down the ladder, Bellefeuille grabbed her hands and wouldn't let her go even after being asked.

He then began stroking her forearms and telling her, "I love you, I miss you, you can be my mama," according to the report.

Four days later, on Nov. 10, Bellefeuille went back to the woman's house to begin work on her roof. While setting up his equipment, he began making inappropriate comments to her, the report stated.

At that point, the woman became uncomfortable, requested Bellefeuille refund her the \$11,000 and asked him to leave her home. Belle-

feuille reacted by punching his car.

The woman called police and Bellefeuille left.

Bellefeuille returned to the woman's home on Nov. 16 to give her a refund check for the \$11,000.

After he got out of his car, he grabbed her by the hips and waist, saying "I love you, baby; I miss you, mama," according to the arrest report.

When the woman eventually took his check to the issuing bank, she was told the check was nonnegotiable because the account had been closed.

Bellefeuille is facing charges of battery, grand theft, and writing a worthless check for more than \$150.

Jury acquits driver in death of college student in explosive wreck

By Marc Freeman
South Florida Sun Sentinel

A Palm Beach County jury on Tuesday acquitted a driver in a crash that instantly killed a college soccer player from north Broward over four years ago.

The panel decided Kevin Brown, 29, is not guilty of vehicular homicide in the death of Eric Tarmey, 23, ending a retrial centered around a dispute over speed calculations. The six jurors reached the verdict in less than two hours of deliberations.

Over the three-day trial, prosecutors argued Brown was speeding 90 mph recklessly on Military Trail near West Palm Beach before slamming into the passenger side of Tarmey's car with explosive force. That's twice the posted 45 mph speed limit.

"This was not an accident in no way, shape or form," Assistant State Attorney Amy Berkman said in her final words to the jury. "This was a violent crash. This was a devastation."

But the defense contended investigators severely miscalculated Brown's speed during a reconstruction of the accident, relying on a scientifically unreliable method.

"We don't convict on junk science," Brown's attorney, Greg Rosenfeld, said in his closing arguments, slamming the use of a measurement tool called a dragsled.

Brown's actual speed was between 50 and 60 mph, he said.

"Not every tragedy is a crime," Rosenfeld said. "This tragedy is absolutely not a vehicular homicide. It was a bad accident."

Kevin Brown, 29, of West Palm Beach, listens to jury selection July 15, 2019, for his first trial on a vehicular homicide charge in the Feb. 3, 2017, death of Eric Tarmey, 23, of Lighthouse Point. Brown was acquitted Tuesday, following a retrial. MARC FREEMAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

It happened on the night of Feb. 3, 2017. Brown was heading home from work, driving his 2010 Nissan Maxima northbound on Military. Tarmey, from Lighthouse Point, was in the southbound lanes in his 2010 Volkswagen GTI. He was making a left turn to head east in the entrance of Keiser University, where he studied sports management and was on his way to visit friends.

Prosecutors Berkman and Storm Tropea said Brown zoomed around a car in front of him, moving at 120 feet per second before slamming into Tarmey at 9:39 p.m. Tropea said the damage made it appear Tarmey's car had been "dropped from a plane."

Brown testified that he hit the brakes but couldn't avoid the car turning in front of him. He suffered leg and head injuries from the T-bone crash.

"We're really dealing with a speeding case here," Rosenfeld argued, contending the prosecution could not prove it was reckless driving.

The defense heavily criticized the investigation, which relied on a drag

sled, a device that resembles a tire cut in half with weights. It's pulled across a road to obtain the amount of friction existing between a moving vehicle and the ground.

Engineering formulas are then used to come up with the speed of a car that was in a crash.

Rosenfeld urged the jury to reject the official finding about Brown's speed, while the prosecutors said the calculation was based on a long-used method.

There are other ways that investigators find out speed on impact. For one, they can tap into a car's computer system, and check a "black box" similar in nature to those on airplanes. But the box in Brown's Maxima apparently was destroyed.

Tarmey is remembered fondly by friends and family as a young man with great potential. Cardinal Gibbons High in Fort Lauderdale has established a \$3,000 scholarship to honor the memory of the student who graduated in the class of 2011.

"Convicting Kevin Brown of a crime he didn't commit isn't going to bring Eric Tarmey back," Rosenfeld said.

FLORIDA'S LOTTERY

Selected Wednesday
Fireball: 8
Pick 2 (midday): 0-0
Pick 3 (midday): 5-9-6
Pick 4 (midday): 6-3-5-5
Pick 5 (midday): 7-7-8-7-5
Selected Tuesday
Fireball: 5
Pick 2 (midday): 0-0
Pick 3 (midday): 5-9-6
Pick 4 (midday): 6-3-5-5
Pick 5 (midday): 7-7-8-7-5

For more results, call 1-850-921-7529

Selected Tuesday
Fantasy 5: 21-24-25-28-34

Mega Millions:
10-26-30-52-57-10-x2

JackPot Triple Play:
1-2-15-18-21-22

Cash 4 Life:
7-14-51-55-58-4

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
TENTATIVE BUDGET AND ASSESSMENTS
OF SOUTH BROWARD DRAINAGE DISTRICT
FOR THE 2021/2022 FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING
OCTOBER 1, 2021**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all landowners owning land within the boundaries of the South Broward Drainage District that the Board of Commissioners of the South Broward Drainage District will hold an in-person and virtual public hearing at 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, July 29, 2021. This public hearing is for the purpose of discussing and adopting the tentative budget and tentative assessments for necessary operations of the South Broward Drainage District for the 2021/2022 fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021 and to hear all objections to the tentative budget and tentative assessments and make such changes as the Board of Commissioners deem necessary. Members of the public may attend the public hearing in person at the offices of the South Broward Drainage District located at 6591 SW 160th Avenue, Southwest Ranches, Florida 33331. In addition, members of the public may attend the public hearing virtually via Go-to-meeting by accessing the District's website @ sbdd.org. Call Kevin Hart, District Director at (954) 680-3337; Ext 206 for any questions regarding the tentative budget and tentative assessments.

Any member of the public wishing to comment publicly on any matter, including items on the agenda, may also submit their comments by e-mail to kevin@sbdd.org. All comments submitted by e-mail, if read orally, are three minutes or less, shall be read into the record. All comments submitted by e-mail shall be made part of the public record. If any member of the public requires additional information about this public hearing, or has questions about how to submit a public comment at the meeting, please contact Kevin Hart at: kevin@sbdd.org or 954-680-3337; Ext 206

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this public hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose he/she may need to insure that a verbatim recording of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Florida Statutes Section 286.26, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this public hearing should contact the District at (954) 680-3337 at least 48 hours prior to the proceedings for assistance.

SOUTH BROWARD DRAINAGE DISTRICT

By: _____

Scott Hodges, District Chairperson

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