



News from the Criminal Division

Message from Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

Labeled a lifetime offender, Donald Clayton, Sr., 52, has been arrested 157 times and has been in prison 12 times. He had a rough childhood, was raised in a children's home and became addicted to crack cocaine in his late 20's after being introduced to the drug by a family member.

This started a downward spiral that lasted more than two decades. One day after being released from prison, Clayton saw a young boy who was lost. He picked up the young boy, brought him to get something to eat and returned him to the local children's home where the boy was living. Clayton wanted to mentor the young boy, but was barred because of his extensive criminal history.

"We do believe people do change," Pastor Duane Crabbs of South Street Ministries said.

Clayton is on the path to changing because of the work of South Street Ministries. The ministry was founded by Pastor Crabbs and his wife, Lisa. The two truly wanted to make a difference, so they decided to move their family to the Summit area of Akron. After some hardships and some blessings, their dream to help the inner city became a reality with the opening of South Street Ministries. The center hosts a variety of programs such as a bike shop and a football camp. A big part of the ministry is the Front Porch Café.

The Front Porch Café started in 2011 when Pastor Crabbs began looking for a way to create jobs for people

trying to get their life straight. Armed with a grill and a few volunteers, the Front Porch Café served up lunch-time food to local business people and residents. The café serves around 150 people per week and relies on new customers to keep it in operation. It is staffed by people who are trying to turn their lives around.

The café is giving Clayton an opportunity to make a plan and get his life in order. He has been sober



I recently took my summer interns to lunch at the Front Porch Café.

since February 2013 and volunteers at the Front Porch Café by cleaning the dishes and sweeping the floors. When concrete needed to be laid, Clayton offered to do it because he is a construction worker by trade. If he is not working, he stays at the café and works on his homework or just talks to whoever walks in. Clayton says that although his entire life has been a struggle, he is happy in the new change

he sees in himself.

"Problems are a part of life. Unnecessary problems, like drugs, are not," Clayton said.

To find out more information about the Front Porch Café or South Street Ministries, please visit <http://www.southstreetministries.org>.

Stay safe,

Sherri B. Walsh



Summer Safety Tips

Summer has finally made its way to Northeast Ohio. Many people are focused on the hot days, barbecues and swimming that lie ahead. Most people do not think about a criminal taking advantage of the warm weather. Here are some summer safety tips to guard your home while you enjoy the summer months:



- Do not leave your home unlocked during the day while doing outside projects. Roughly one-third of all burglars get in the house through unlocked doors and windows.
- Close your blinds and curtains when you are not home. This will prevent a burglar from scoping out your home.
- Always close and lock your garage door at night. By leaving the garage door open, you allow perpetrators to hide and wait for you to come home.

- Install security lights with motion sensors around the perimeter of your home. If you have existing lights, you can buy battery operated add-on motion sensors that are cheap and easy to install.
- Encourage your neighbors to look out for one another and to report suspicious activity to the police. By looking out for your neighbors, you are helping the police keep your neighborhood safe.
- If you are leaving for vacation, do not announce it on social media websites like Facebook and Twitter. Burglars search for families who they know are not going to be home.

Tough Prosecution

These defendants will be out of our community for a lengthy period of time thanks to the hard work of my assistant prosecutors:

Richard M. Cabell, age 56

- Operating Under the Influence
- Cabell has eight prior OVI convictions
- **Sentenced to five years in prison**
- **Driver's license suspended for 10 years**
- **Fined \$1,350**

Edward South, age 70

- Operating Under the Influence (two counts)
- South has 11 prior OVI convictions
- **Sentenced to eight years in prison**

Larrence Major Clay, age 22

- Murder
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **Eligible for parole in 2031**

Christopher Lee Davis, age 36

- Rape (two counts)
- **Sentenced to 20 years in prison**
- **Tier III sex offender registration**

Guilty at Trial in May

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining guilty verdicts at trial last month:

Nik Buckmeier (2)

Pete Daly

Elliot Kolkovich

Greg Peacock

Angela Poth-Wypasek

Mike Rickett

Omar Siddiq

Brian Stano (2)

Great job, prosecutors!

Help us go green!

If you currently receive this newsletter on paper and would like to receive an electronic version instead, email Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

June Top Cop

Top Cop: Officer Justin Morris, Akron Police Department

Nominated By: Assistant Prosecutor Colleen Sims

The importance of a thorough police report cannot be overstated. When a police officer is on the witness stand, the State uses the officer's report to provide a factual account of the investigation. The report is also used to demonstrate how exhaustive the officer's investigation was.

The defense may use the report in an attempt to discredit the thoroughness of the investigation in the hopes of creating reasonable doubt.

Akron police officer Justin Morris wrote a report in January that lacked nothing. His report gave a clear picture of what occurred and why.

In early January, Officer Morris responded to a call about a male with a gun chasing people in the parking lot at Club Escape. Officer Morris' report listed the amount of time it took him to get from downtown to the club and that when he arrived, the crowd was pointing to a Dodge Durango that was exiting

the parking lot.

Officer Morris pulled over the Durango after following it for two blocks with his lights and siren on. In his report, Officer Morris noted that he observed the driver making furtive movements as he approached the vehicle, so he waited for backup.

The report further stated that the driver was uncooperative and refused to get out of the car. Another officer even had to unbuckle the driver's seat belt because he refused to do it himself.

The officers found a gun in the driver side door pocket. The driver, 32-year-old Kadocaus Watson, was also the owner of the car.

After arresting Watson, Officer Morris returned to Club Escape to identify and interview witnesses. His report contained detailed statements with identifying information for each witness.

Because the gun was not found directly on the defendant, the detailed police report could be used to show the circumstances that prove the

defendant possessed the gun, which is why he did not immediately pull over and why he refused to comply with commands to get out of his car.

Watson pleaded guilty on May 28 to Having Weapons Under Disability, a felony of the third degree, before the case went to trial. Judge Lynne Callahan sentenced Watson to 18 months in prison.

Assistant Prosecutor Colleen Sims credits Officer Morris' detailed report with helping to resolve the case before trial. She says she "couldn't have asked for more" in a police report.



Way to go, Officer Morris!

Do you have information about a crime or criminal activity? Submit an anonymous tip to Summit County CrimeStoppers. Your tip could be worth up to \$2,000!

Call: 330-434-COPS (2677)

Text: TIPSCO plus your tip to CRIMES (274637)

Online Tip Submission: www.tipsubmit.com/webstips.aspx?AgencyID=1156

Facebook: Summit County Ohio Crime Stoppers



Meet a Prosecutor: Chris Joyce



Hire Date: May 2013

Title: Assistant Prosecutor

Hometown: Hudson, Ohio

Fun Fact: I share a birthday with President Obama.

Education: I earned my bachelor of arts in English at Kent State University and my juris doctorate from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Background: I spent several months as a civil prosecutor in Geauga County before serving as that county's juvenile delinquency prosecutor for 18 months.

Job Duties: I prosecute felony non-support cases in the Child Support Enforcement Agency.

Most Memorable Case: I was the juvenile delinquency prosecutor in Geauga County during the criminal prosecution of T.J. Lane. Lane shot six fellow students at Chardon High School on February 27, 2012. Three of the victims died. I was able to assist on the case prior to it being bound over to the General Division of the Common Pleas Court.

Why I Wanted to Become a Prosecutor: Prosecution is the area of law enforcement in which I feel I can make the most difference to my community.

Agency Spotlight: Child Guidance & Family Solutions

Child Guidance & Family Solutions is one of the largest behavioral health care agencies in Summit County. It provides services to more than 4,000 children and 1,000 adults every year.

Child Guidance & Family Solutions was once two separate agencies. They merged in an effort to connect with more people who need their services. There are five locations throughout Summit County.

The staff is made up of approximately 160 licensed professionals including psychiatrists, clinical nurse specialists, psychologists, mental health counselors, social workers and case managers.

Child Guidance & Family Solutions staff treat conditions and problems such as: depression, ADHD, trauma, drug and alcohol addiction, sexual abuse and domestic violence.



The 4th Annual Growing Up Akron fundraiser to support Child Guidance & Family Solutions will be held Friday, August 16, 2013 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Thirsty Dog Brewing Co., located at 529 Grant St. in Akron.

For more information about Child Guidance & Family Solutions, call 330-762-0591 or visit <http://www.cgfs.org>.

Contact the Summit County Prosecutor's Office
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