

Woman files suit against salesmen Series: STATE DIGEST

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FORT LAUDERDALE - Car salesmen are known for high pressure tactics, but a Boca Raton woman says two of them practically held her hostage and she's suing them and the dealership. Ms. Mouer, who is in her 60s, filed suit against Harbor Chrysler-Plymouth in Pompano Beach and salesmen Phillip Seal and Robert Vets, charging false imprisonment, assault and battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress. The suit filed Tuesday asks an unspecified sum for false imprisonment and \$250,000 in punitive damages. Ms. Mouer of Boca Raton said the salesmen wouldn't return the keys to her Cadillac until she promised to buy a new Chrysler New Yorker. Seal denied mistreating the woman. "We're not that type of operation," he said. "We don't do things like that. Things like that aren't done in a free country."

Man found guilty of raping 83-year-old

TALLAHASSEE - A Tallahassee man has been convicted of raping an 83-year-old woman just 19 days after he was released from prison. A Leon County circuit jury took only 80 minutes Tuesday to find Willie Lee Smith, 29, guilty of sexual battery using slight force, burglary of a dwelling with a person assaulted and attempted robbery. Smith, who has been to prison four times since 1979, will be sentenced next month. The attack occurred March 4, two and a half weeks after Smith was released from prison. He had served only two years of a 10-year sentence on a burglary conviction.

Workers killed by fumes

SANFORD - Two workers were killed at a sewage pumping station near Sanford Wednesday and three firefighters and another worker were treated for breathing difficulties after inhaling toxic fumes, fire officials said. The two victims' bodies were found submerged in 6 feet of water in an 8 1/2-foot-deep tank that forms part of a lift station for sewage treatment, said Gary Kaiser, director of public safety for Seminole County. They had been testing equipment and operation of the lift station when they were overcome by fumes from "some sort of a sealant used in construction of the project," said one official. The three firefighters and the third worker were treated for chest pains and released from nearby hospitals, Kaiser said. Prosecutor accused of election violation

MIAMI - The Democratic Party has accused U.S. Attorney Dexter Lehtinen of violating federal election law by appearing in the congressional campaign ads of his wife, former state Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee accused Lehtinen of violating the Hatch Act, which bars federal employees from taking an active part in partisan campaigns. Lehtinen, the highly visible chief federal prosecutor in South Florida, appears with his wife and children in campaign ads. He called the complaint "an attempt by the Democrats to politicize and attack the U.S. attorney in the administration of justice when it is clear that all legal avenues have been followed." Ros-Lehtinen is one of four Republicans seeking the House seat of the late Claude Pepper. [Straight says it has fixed problems](#)

[TAMPA - A Straight Inc. drug treatment center in Orlando, criticized for methods used to restrain and monitor patients and for inconsistent record keeping, says it has fixed the problems. The center filed a report Tuesday saying it had addressed the criticisms cited last month after an inspection by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services \(HRS\), the Tampa Tribune reported Wednesday. HRS found similar problems at a Straight treatment center in Pinellas Park, according to a site visit report. Straight filed a written report last week saying those problems were being corrected, the newspaper said. After state inspections, the centers' operating licenses were renewed for only three months instead of the standard one year renewal. Alachua bans paddling in schools](#)

School officials in Alachua County on Tuesday voted unanimously to ban paddling in that county's schools. "We are voting to remove corporal punishment as a method of discipline in the schools," said Peg Nattress, School Board chairwoman. Officials in Pasco, Palm Beach and Dade counties have also voted to ban spanking since the state

legislature gave local school boards that option. Polk County has suspended paddling pending disposition of abuse investigations by the state against some principals who spanked students. In Hillsborough, a committee on Tuesday recommended keeping corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure only with parental permission, only through the ninth grade and only as a last resort. - Compiled by DAVID CONYERS from wire reports

[Illustration]

Compiled from Wire Reports

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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