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Judge might review 2003 rape case

High court orders examination of new evidence

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Judge Peter Deegan

By Liz Shepard | Times Herald

James Grissom spends his days washing dishes and keeping to himself.

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The 54-year-old former Port Huron resident said he doesn't talk to many people outside prison walls, aside from his appellate lawyer.

"It's just hard," Grissom said by phone Tuesday from the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in Jackson. "Got to deal with a lot of craziness."

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Grissom was convicted of raping a woman in her van in the Fort Gratiot Meijer parking lot in 2003, a charge he says is false.

While he maintains his innocence, Grissom's case is getting attention by the justice system.

St. Clair County Prosecutor Mike Wendling filed a motion Wednesday with Chief Circuit Judge Daniel Kelly asking for the case to be reviewed in response to an opinion sent down by the state Supreme Court July 31.



Sara Ylen

Timeline of events

May 12, 2001: Sara Ylen tells her husband upon returning home Meijer in Fort Gratiot she was attacked. She does

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Supreme Court justices said the trial court needs to review the case to determine if evidence discovered after the 2003 conviction would have affected the verdict.

The Times Herald normally does not identify victims of sexual assault. Sara Ylen was identified as the victim in Grissom's case in a series of articles after approaching the newspaper to share her story in 2003.

Wendling said his office discovered after the trial Ylen has made other sexual assault allegations in the months following when she said she was attacked but before she

reported the attack to police.

Ylen told investigators she was attacked May 12, 2001. She didn't report the rape until June 2002.

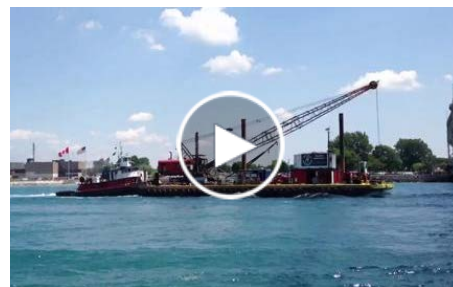
Wendling said his office turned the evidence over to the defense counsel when it was discovered.

Grissom believes if the evidence had been presented before his trial he wouldn't be in prison.

"All this evidence states she's a habitual liar and she's tried this on other guys before," he said.

Ylen could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Wendling's motion requests the evidence be reviewed by retired Circuit Judge Peter Deegan. The Supreme Court opinion states the presiding judge would be best able to determine if the evidence would affect the end result, having heard all the evidence during the trial.



Arthur J towed to Port Huron

Jul. 30, 2012



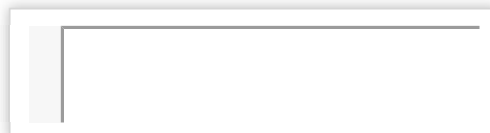
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