

News Release

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Repeat Offender Found Guilty of Possession of Stolen Goods by Berkeley County Jury

Moncks Corner, S.C. – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that it took a Berkeley County jury only 30 minutes to find Shawn Avery Newell of Summerville guilty of Possession of Stolen Goods after a two day trial in Moncks Corner. Newell was prosecuted as a repeat offender, having been previously convicted of four counts of Grand Larceny, three counts of Breaking into a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle, and Burglary, 2d Degree. The Honorable J.C. Nicholson sentenced Newell to a sentence of five years in prison with 5 years of probation to be served upon once his release. Assistant Solicitors Ben Shelton and Ariel Pitman prosecuted the case for the Ninth Circuit Solicitor’s Office. Steve C. Davis represented Mr. Newell at trial.

Dorchester County detectives initiated the investigation after a twenty foot Stratus Bass Boat with a 175 horsepower Mariner motor was stolen from a boat repair shop in Summerville. The stolen motor was later found attached to the defendant’s boat in Berkeley County when both Berkeley and Dorchester County detectives responded to a tip from a concerned citizen. The stolen motor had been freshly painted black, and the SCDNR issued registration sticker and public vehicle identification number (VIN) had been removed. With the help of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, investigators identified the motor by locating the confidential VIN affixed to the engine. The defendant, who had asked the owner of Sheppard’s Marine about the boat multiple times before it was stolen, regularly worked on boats and was attempting to sell the boat along with the stolen motor when it was located.

Assistant Solicitor Shelton said, “This case is about a career criminal being held accountable despite his best attempts to conceal his actions. Multiple jurisdictions worked together and everyday citizens did the right thing to bring justice on behalf of the victims. We are very pleased with the verdict.”

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