

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

EX-JEWELER CONVICTED OF SWITCHING STONES

SOURCE: By William C. Lhotka

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

DATE: July 1, 1993

EDITION: FIVE STAR

PAGE: 3A

PUBLICATION: St. Louis Post-Dispatch

SECTION: NEWS

Jim and Tammy Neal discovered that diamonds aren't forever - especially when someone switches the stone.

The Neals were stunned in October 1990 when they found out the diamond engagement ring Jim had bought Tammy was zircon - an imitation diamond.

On Wednesday, a St. Louis County Circuit Court jury convicted former jeweler Terry Crowder of felony theft for switching the ring stones.

The jury recommended a six-month jail sentence and a fine for Crowder, 46, of Bellefontaine Neighbors.

Prosecutor **Bret Rich** said Jim Neal, 27, had worked in the same strip shopping center in Florissant where Crowder's Jewelry was located. He bought the engagement ring from Crowder for \$1,500.

Neal thought he had a bargain when Crowder sent him an appraisal letter, saying the ring was worth \$4,600. Another jeweler appraised it at \$3,900.

When the ring didn't fit, the couple dropped it off with Crowder for sizing, Rich said.

Three months later, the couple decided to have the ring insured, Rich said. That's when they learned the diamond was now a zircon.

At the trial, Crowder denied the switch. Judge Susan Block will sentence Crowder on Aug. 13.

Caption:

Correction:

[Back to your search results](#) | [Back to the search page](#)

ShopSTL Marketplace
GMC

FOURTH OF JULY

18,199

0% financing

23,999

12,250

19,999

featured

Post-Dispatch Store

Photos & Reprints

Subscribe to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch