



Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

The Russell Report



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December 2012

Volume 12, Issue 12

Daycare Murder Case

Robert Dunn was found guilty of First Degree Murder, Armed Burglary and Child Abuse. The jury deliberated for just under 3 hours. The case involves the murder of Dunn's wife in 2008 at a Cape Coral daycare. Dunn shot 36-year-old Christine to death in front of their 2-year-old daughter in a daycare full of children.

He will be sentenced in January after the same jury recommended life in prison for the defendant during the sentencing phase of the case. This follows an approximate 5 week trial. The first 4 weeks consisted of picking a jury for the case.

Assistant State Attorneys Bob Lee and Marie Doerr of our Homicide Unit have put in years of extensive effort and work to see this case come to a resolution. We want to commend them for their perseverance.



Robert Dunn

Life Sentence

Tremaine Bailem was sentenced to life in prison for the shooting death of a Fort Myers man in 2011. Bailem was found guilty of Second Degree Murder with a Firearm, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon and Aggravated Assault with a Firearm.

Throughout the course of this case, the defendant went back and forth between deciding to represent himself and having counsel. During the trial itself, Bailem had counsel represent him and then he represented himself. For closing arguments, he once again chose counsel.

The jury came back with the guilty verdict after less than one hour of deliberating, following the two and a half day trial. Assistant State Attorneys Andreas Gardiner and Marie Doerr of our Homicide Unit handled the case.



Tremaine Bailem



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Law Enforcement Softball Tournament

The 11th Annual State Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Softball Tournament is May 11th, 2013. All of the proceeds from the event go to support Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers. If you are interested in being a business sponsor please contact Samantha Syoen, Communications Director for the State Attorney's Office at 239-533-1125.



Learning About the State Attorney's Office

Staff members of the State Attorney's Office are available to speak to local students. Throughout the year we visit local classrooms and teach kids about what our office does and how the law works in Florida. We also invite local college students to volunteer at one of our offices throughout Southwest Florida. We have many volunteers who get to work closely with our prosecutors and get a real life education about the criminal justice system. If you would like to learn more about our programs, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Cruz at ncruz@sao.cjis20.org or call her at 533-1000.



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Alligator Case

Wallace Weatherholt plead no contest and was sentenced to one year of probation for violating a state law that prohibits feeding alligators. The airboat tour captain's license was suspended for the period of probation. He also has to pay \$525 in fines and court costs.

According to witnesses and photographs from the scene, Weatherholt was feeding the alligator in front of tourists on an airboat tour near Everglades City. While enticing the alligator, it bit off the victim's hand.

This photo shows how close the alligators were able to come to the tourists on the shallow boat due to being fed by the captain. This photo was taken by one of the tourists sitting nearby.



This activity not only seriously injured the defendant but also put the people on the airboat at risk. Assistant State Attorney Juan Escobar handled the case.

Steal a Stove – 15 years in Prison

Yuri Diaz was sentenced to 15 years in prison as a prison release reoffender after being found guilty of Burglary of a Dwelling and Grand Theft.

Diaz was arrested after a 911 call reported suspicious activity at a vacant house. When his SUV was pulled over a stove was found inside. Diaz claimed he bought the stove in Miami but it was identified by the homeowner as coming from the vacant house.

Diaz has a long criminal history and had just been released from prison less than a year ago after serving 17 years for armed robbery in Miami-Dade County.

Assistant State Attorneys Erik Leontiev and James Stewart from our Naples office handled the case.

Holiday Closure

The State Attorney's Office will be closed December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday.





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GUILTY VERDICTS

ASAs Marie Doerr and Bob Lee: First Degree Murder, Armed Burglary, Child Abuse

ASA Andreas Gardiner: 2nd Degree Murder with a Firearm, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Aggravated Assault with a Firearm

ASAs Christina Berkowicz and Maria DeMoya: Battery

ASA Alyssa Wolf: Resisting

ASA Alyssa Wold: Resisting without Violence

ASAs Cynthia Rebholz-Rubin and Molly Tandy: DUI 3rd within 10 years

ASAs Michael Colombo and Amy D'Alessandro: DUI

ASAs John Dommerich Jr. and Stephanie Russell: DUI Manslaughter, Driving While License Suspended Causing Death

ASAs Erik Leontiv and James Stewart: Burglary of a Dwelling, Grand Theft

ASA Ashli Stewart: Burglary of a Conveyance

ASA Jill Cabai: Sexual Battery on a Child Less than 12, Battery

ASAs Garrick Soja and Caitlin Sorenson: Resisting Merchant's Efforts, Obtaining Food/Lodging with Intent to Defraud

ASA Scott Patterson: Battery

ASA Leena Marcos: DUI .15 or higher

ASAs Erik Leontiv and James Stewart: Robbery with a Firearm, Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon

ASA Jody White: Battery on a School Board Employee





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DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

In recognition of service to the people of Southwest Florida, and dedication to their jobs with the State Attorney's Office, a heartfelt thank you goes to the following people on their December employment anniversary dates:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stacey Carlton '95 | Robert Jaffarian '09 |
| Nancy Cruz '95 | Stephen Iorio '09 |
| Martin Bowman '97 | Amanda Zych-Mansour '09 |
| Francine Donnorummo '98 | Brenda Evensen '10 |
| Barbara Rogers '03 | Rebecca Jones '10 |
| Chelsie Jones '05 | Janet Lee '11 |
| Courtney Berke '06 | Jennifer Mohart '10 |
| Amanda Brown '07 | Kelsey Chaney '11 |
| Jill Cabai '07 | Jennifer Forsythe '11 |
| Lisa Nodarse '06 | Sonia Rodriguez-Gomez '11 |
| Jennifer LaDelfa '08 | |

SOMETIMES THEY MAKE IT EASY

A Duval County woman turned to cans of spray paint to mend her broken heart and it ended up costing her big! She was in the middle of a divorce and was not happy with how the divorce proceedings were going so she spray painted broken hearts and profanity all over the new multi-million dollar courthouse! She also did the same at her husband's place of business. The 35-year-old was arrested for her actions and still has to go through a divorce.

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A 23-year-old Pasadena man was apparently bored and decided to do something unusual. He called 9-1-1, not to report an emergency but to scream profanities at the operator, including calling him a "punk b*tch." He was arrested for knowingly making a non emergency call to 9-1-1 and for his harassing statements. When he was arrested, he had trouble keeping his eyes open for his mugshot so literally had to have them held open for him to get the picture taken. The man has a history of drug arrests.