



Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

The Russell Report

In This Edition:

Page 1
* Major Convictions

Page 2
* Major Convictions

Page 3
* Major Convictions

Page 4
* Guilty Verdicts

Page 5
* Anniversaries
* Sometimes They Make It Easy....
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A Message from the State Attorney

I want to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year. As we look forward to 2014, I am asking my staff that we all recommit to serve the citizens of Southwest Florida with continued efficient, effective, and professional prosecution in enforcing our criminal laws with the goal of making our area a safe place to live, work, and visit.

Our goal requires a team effort involving everyone – and I’m extremely proud of our SAO Team, which has never been stronger.

Looking back briefly at 2013, our common efforts have resulted in tremendous success both in the courts and within the office. We had great results in trials and in disposing of cases in a commonsense, fair, and reasonable manner.

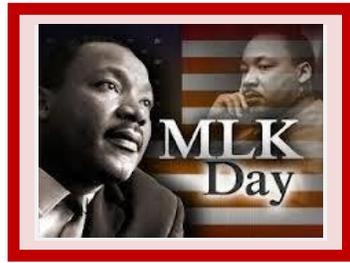
As is customary at the beginning of each new year, we pause and assess where we are and where we are going. In the office, we have made great strides in so many areas, such as Legal Information Technology.

In some sense our business is basic and constant. Yet, we are always making changes to provide better, more efficient, and less costly support systems and equipment to ensure the success of our work. I suspect 2014 will reflect that process again.

I have been blessed to find a career which provides great satisfaction through public service. For me, the sacrifices we necessarily must make working in government are far outweighed by the rewards. The most satisfying aspect of my job as State Attorney is working with so many great people who share similar values, dedication, and commitment. To all of our employees, law enforcement partners, and citizens, a Happy 2014!

Holiday Closing

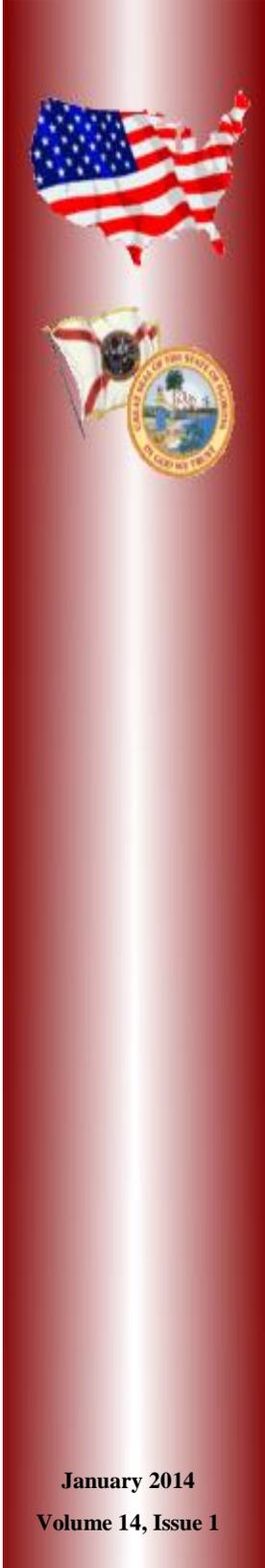
The State Attorney’s Office will be closed Monday, January 20th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.





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Phoenix Award Winners

We want to congratulate the emergency responders who were recently given the prestigious Phoenix Award. The award recognizes those who have helped save the lives of someone during an emergency response call. Tara Saunders, a Lee County Emergency Medical Technician pictured below is one of the recent people honored. Tara and her fellow EMT's assisted a man on Pine Island who collapsed and his heart stopped. Due to their quick actions, that man is alive and well today. We want to thank all of our emergency responders who devote their lives to the citizens of Southwest Florida when we need them most.



EMT Tara Saunders

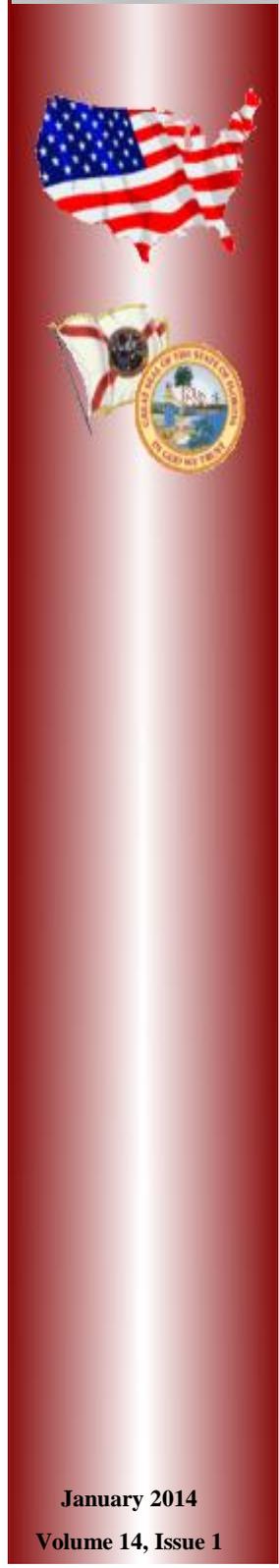
Learning About the State Attorney's Office

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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Life in Prison

Melissa Webb was sentenced to life in prison as a Prison Releasee reoffender. In December, she was found guilty as charged of Second Degree Murder with a Firearm for killing her boyfriend in 2011.

Webb's boyfriend, Brian Sorendino, was found a month later wrapped in a sleeping bag dumped near the Lee/Charlotte line. Deputies found blood spatter and other evidence inside the couple's home in Fort Myers, which led detectives to Webb.

Assistant State Attorney Andreas Gardiner from our Homicide Unit and Stephanie Russell handled the case.



Melissa Webb

Collier DUI Case

Assistant State Attorney Mara Marzano won a conviction as charged for Possession of Cocaine against defendant Agustin Cisneros.

The judge granted our motion for the Naples jury to take a look at the patrol car that Cisneros was transported in. His defense was that the cocaine found in the back seat was not his.

The problem with the defendant's defense was this was a new patrol car and he was the first person transported in it! He will be sentenced on January 24th.



Agustin Cisneros



THE RUSSELL REPORT

GUILTY VERDICTS

ASA Mara Marzano: Possession of Cocaine

ASA's Deborah Cunningham and Sara Hall: Sexual Battery of a Helpless Victim

ASA Alyssa Wolf: Sale of Cocaine within 1,000 feet of a School, Possession of Cocaine

ASA Alyssa Wolf: Burglary of a Dwelling, Dealing in Stolen Property, False Verification of Ownership to a Pawn Dealer

ASA Christopher Klink: Vehicular Homicide

ASA Mitchell Cooper: First Degree Petit Theft

ASA's Mitchell Cooper and Andrew Woodliff: DUI, Resisting an Officer without Violence

ASA's Cassandra Quaglia and Sabsina Karimi: DUI .15 or higher

ASA Cassandra Quaglia: Driving while License Suspended 2nd or More

ASA's Maria Berrette and Robert Siddall: Battery Domestic Violence

ASA Robert Siddall: Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer

ASA Christopher Klink: Battery – 2 counts

ASA's Caitlin Sorenson and Jillian Kuykendall: Battery (Domestic Violence)

ASA's Tracy Detzel and Scott Patterson: Shooting into a Dwelling – 2 counts, Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer with a Firearm – Possession and Discharge of Weapon, Resisting with Violence– Possession and Discharge of Weapon, Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer

ASA Robert Siddall: Resisting an Officer without Violence

ASA Maria Berrette: Resisting an Officer without Violence

ASA's Rosemary Harlem-Wood and Ron Smith: DUI

ASA's Amy D' Alessandro and R. Ian MacLaren: Trafficking in Illegal Drugs – 4 grams or more, Possession of a Controlled Substance

ASA Mitchell Cooper: Battery

ASA Michael Colombo: Violation/Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence



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THE RUSSELL REPORT

JANUARY 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 January employment anniversary dates:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Steve Maresca '86 | Cameron Siggs '09 | John Padron '13 |
| Celeste Lyons '90 | Jody White '10 | |
| Dave Scuderi '95 | Christine Cummins '10 | |
| Martin Stark '95 | Tracy Detzel '10 | |
| Kelly Worcester '96 | Maryann Malizia '10 | |
| Larry Justham '03 | Lisa Travis '10 | |
| Randall McGruther '03 | Steven Bentley '11 | |
| Steve Russell '03 | Kimberly Gobble '11 | |
| Connie Serrano '04 | Karen Matejkovic '11 | |
| Mark Moore '05 | Heather Searcy '12 | |
| Samantha Syoen '07 | Nabel Basit '13 | |
| Thomas Gorman III '09 | Angela Harris '13 | |
| Barry Lewis '09 | Agnieszka Osowicka '13 | |

SOMETIMES THEY MAKE IT EASY

A few amateur photographers captured themselves \$120 richer in fast food purchased using a stolen credit card. After a series of break-ins at a hotel parking lot, one victim noticed a large unknown purchase from Carl's Jr. Officers received a possible license plate number and a tip that the suspects posted an Instagram photo of themselves with their hot fast food. The officers were able to track down and arrest the hamburglars along with the other reported stolen merchandise. Wonder who got the privilege of eating the rest?

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A carjacking and kidnapping victim was able to outwit his kidnapper and escort him straight into a police station parking lot. After the suspect approached the victim claiming he had a gun, he ordered the victim to drive. The victim stealthily drove the car to the nearest police station and when the suspect realized where he was, he jumped out of the car and ran. Police caught the suspect a few blocks away and were not able to find a weapon. If he was trying to get a ride somewhere, the only place he'll be riding to now is to jail.