



Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

The Russell Report

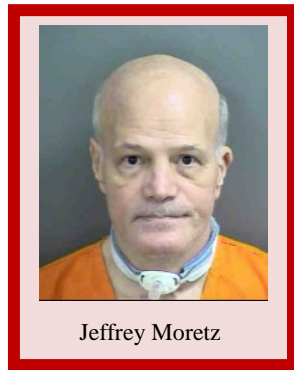
Hospital Murder Case

Jeffrey Moretz was convicted of Second Degree Murder for the shooting death of his wife. He shot and killed her in a hospital room at Physician's Regional Hospital in Naples as she was visiting a sick friend. He then shot himself in the face but survived.

The jury took only an hour to deliberate on the 2011 crime after coming back with a guilty verdict.

Assistant State Attorneys Mara Marzano and Erik Leontiv handled the case.

This case made headlines across the county due to the defendant coming into a hospital with a gun to commit a crime. It has led to some changes in security at hospitals throughout Southwest Florida.



Jeffrey Moretz

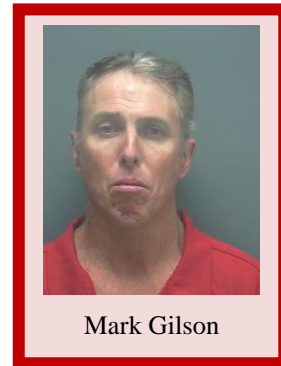
Justice Served

After winning an appeal, the State Attorney's Office has successfully concluded a trial against Defendant Mark Gilson for the second time. His original conviction was overturned back in 2004 because his attorney admitted ineffectiveness in not requesting a continuance to subpoena witnesses for the first trial. A 2005 trial was dismissed by the court after it was learned some evidence no longer existed.


Gilson was found guilty as charged for the June 20, 1994 Attempted First Degree Murder of Captain Mark Cohen of the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

He was sentenced according to the guidelines in 1994 so he received the maximum of 40 years. He was sentenced immediately upon the guilty verdict coming back.

Assistant State Attorney Marilla Pauly handled the case. We want to thank the many prosecutors and other personnel from our office who have devoted their time to this case over the years.



Mark Gilson



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Mock Trial Win

We want to congratulate several members of our Charlotte County office. Some of our prosecutors have helped coach the Charlotte High Mock Trial team and they have won at the circuit level. That means their next stop is the state competition! This is the first team that Charlotte High School has ever had that made it to the state level. Assistant State Attorneys Kyle Stublen, Stephanie Powers and Kathryn Horst are all part of the event. Thanks for your help coaching some of our area's future leaders!

Learning About the State Attorney's Office

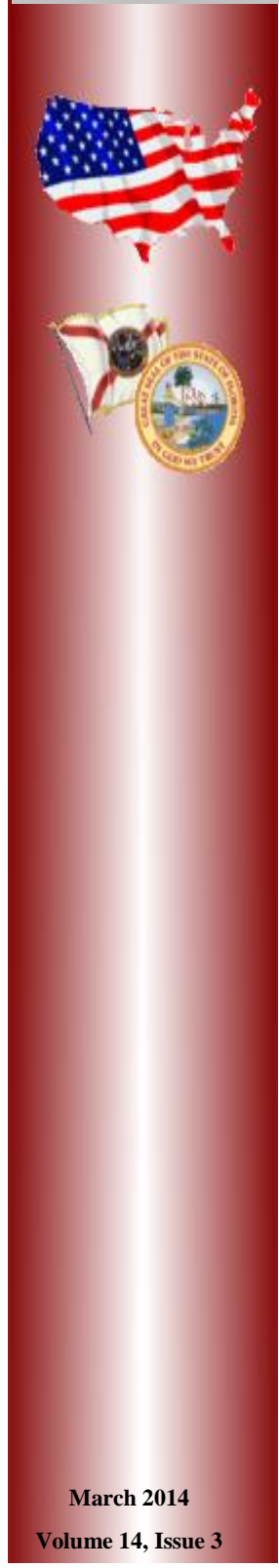
Staff members of the State Attorney's Office are available to speak to local students. Throughout the year we visit local classrooms and teach kids about what our office does and how the law works in Florida. We also invite local college students to volunteer at one of our offices throughout Southwest 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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Bowling Alley Shooting

Sydney Gartrell and Christopher Davis were arrested for a violent robbery that took place in a Fort Myers bowling alley on Fowler Street in April 2012.

During the robbery, shots were fired inside the crowded business and during their getaway, shots were fired from their vehicle towards bystanders. The criminals stole cash prizes meant for a bowling league.

At a recent trial Gartrell was found guilty as charged for Robbery-Possessing a Firearm and nine counts of Aggravated Assault with a Firearm. Davis was found guilty as charged for Robbery-Possessing a Firearm and six counts of Aggravated Assault with a Firearm.

Sentencing is scheduled for the end of March. Assistant State Attorneys Devin George and Francine Donnorummo handled the case.



Christopher Davis



Sydney Gartrell

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Saturday, May 3rd is the 12th Annual State Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Softball Tournament. Hundreds of law enforcement officers from dozens of agencies will compete against each other for the Upper and Lower Division trophies.

This is a very big event at the Lee County Sports Complex. It's free and the public is welcome. There will be food, a carnival for the kids, amazing silent auction items and more!

All of the proceeds go to Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers. This is their biggest fundraiser of the year. Crime Stoppers helps all law enforcement and the community by getting some of the most wanted criminals off of the streets.

We are currently seeking business sponsors for this important event. If you would like to find out more information, contact State Attorney's Office Communications Director Samantha Syoen at 239-533-1000.





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GUILTY VERDICTS

ASA's Tyler Lovejoy and Hanna Renna: Sexual Battery on a Child less than 12 years of Age, Lewd or Lascivious Molestation – 2 counts, Lewd or Lascivious Conduct – 2 counts

ASA's Mara Marzano and Erik Leontiv: Second Degree Murder

ASA's Francine Donnorummo and Devin George: Robbery- Possessing a Firearm, Aggravated Assault with a Firearm – 9 counts

ASA Jill Kuykendall: False Imprisonment, Battery 2nd or More

ASA's Mitchell Cooper and John Grochowski: DUI

ASA Mitchell Cooper: Petit Theft (Retail)

ASA Stephanie Bendeck: No Valid Driver's License

ASA's Cassandra Quaglia and Nabeel Basit: DUI

ASA Matthew Roepstorff: Burglary of a Structure, Second Degree Grand Theft

ASA's Leena Marcos and Alyssa Wolf: Trespass in a Structure

ASA Stephanie Bendeck: Sale of a Controlled Substance within 1,000 ft. of a Park, Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell within 1,000 ft. of a Park

ASA's Will Grauel and Nabeel Basit: DUI

ASA Nathan Zahrt: Battery – Domestic Violence

ASA Agnieszka Osowicka: DUI

ASA Robert Siddall: DUI

ASA Richard T. Simpson: Battery on a School Employee

ASA Richard T. Simpson: Resisting and Officer without Violence, Escape from Custody

ASA Robert Siddall: Driving While License Suspended or Revoked

ASA's Caitlin Sorenson and Mitchell Cooper: DUI (2nd within 5 years)

ASA's Tyler Lovejoy and Jennifer Royal: Lewd or Lascivious Molestation

ASA Molly Tandy: Trespass on Property Other than Structure or Conveyance



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Twentieth Judicial Circuit, State of Florida

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MARCH 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 March employment anniversary dates:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dan Feinberg '93 | James Miller '07 |
| Tina Thigpen '93 | Lisa Henning '09 |
| Anthony Kunasek '95 | Brittany Pernice '09 |
| Katherine O'Neill '96 | Valerie Tocco '09 |
| Hamid Hunter '99 | Lucy Casamassima '10 |
| Betty Warchol '01 | Kari Laroche '10 |
| Pamela Luckfelt '03 | Jessica Perez '10 |
| Cynthia Ross '03 | Robert Siddall '12 |
| Kristyn Whitlow '04 | Garrick Soja '12 |
| Heike Larke '05 | Jaleisce Williams '12 |
| Darrel Spivey '06 | |
| Denise Kiser '07 | |
| Andrea Lenhardt '07 | |

SOMETIMES THEY MAKE IT EASY

A Mount Dora, Florida man burglarized several businesses and a car before making his way into a neighborhood home where he decided to get comfortable. The homeowner heard snoring coming from her living room and found the man fast asleep and all tucked in on her couch. He even helped himself to a beer from the refrigerator before his snooze. Police arrived and woke the burglar by lifting the blanket and saw he was holding a butcher knife. Maybe he will be able to catch up on some sleep while he's in jail.

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In Chicago, a man attempting to carjack a vehicle, entered the victim's garage and demanded the keys to her vehicle. After handing him the keys, the victim closed the garage door and locked him inside. When police arrived, they found the would-be carjacker stuck in the garage in the driver's seat with the keys in the ignition.

