




Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

The Russell Report



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Child Porn Case

Brian Leitschuh was found guilty of five counts of Possession of Child Pornography following a two and a half day trial in Lee County. Leitschuh had more than 1,500 images depicting child pornography that he had downloaded.

The 39-year-old was arrested at his North Fort Myers home by FBI Child Exploitation Joint Task Force Agents with assistance from the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

Sentencing is scheduled for August 1st. Leitschuh faces up to 5 years in prison on each count. Assistant State Attorney William Grauel handled the case.



Brian Leitschuh

Woman Attacked

Joseph Matthew Kelley was found guilty as charged of Sexual Battery with Great Force and Aggravated Battery. The jury deliberated for a little more than half an hour.

Kelley beat and raped a woman behind a Wal-Mart in Fort Myers. He faces up to 25 years in prison when he is sentenced on July 25th.

Assistant State Attorneys Tyler Lovejoy and Anthony Kunasek handled the case.



Joseph Kelley

Multiple Charges

Kenny Bronson was found guilty of Fleeing to Elude a Law Enforcement Officer at a High Speed or Wanton Disregard, Possession of Marijuana, Resisting or Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer without Violence, and Driving While License Suspended or Revoked.

The jury deliberated for less than 5 minutes following the Lee County trial. Assistant State Attorneys Hanna Renna and Jose Nunez handled the case. Sentencing is scheduled for August 16th.



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Seniors Fight Back

The event the State Attorney’s Office co-hosted with the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, “Seniors Fight Back” on June 15th brought a lot of awareness to the issue of elder fraud and senior exploitation. There were vendors from many different agencies from throughout Southwest Florida and the state. They included the Florida State Guardianship Association, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Lee Elder Abuse Prevention Partnership.

State Attorney Steve Russell, members of the Lee County Sheriff’s Office and various other experts on the topic were guest speakers. We would once again like to thank iHeart Radio for hosting the event at their studios in Fort Myers.

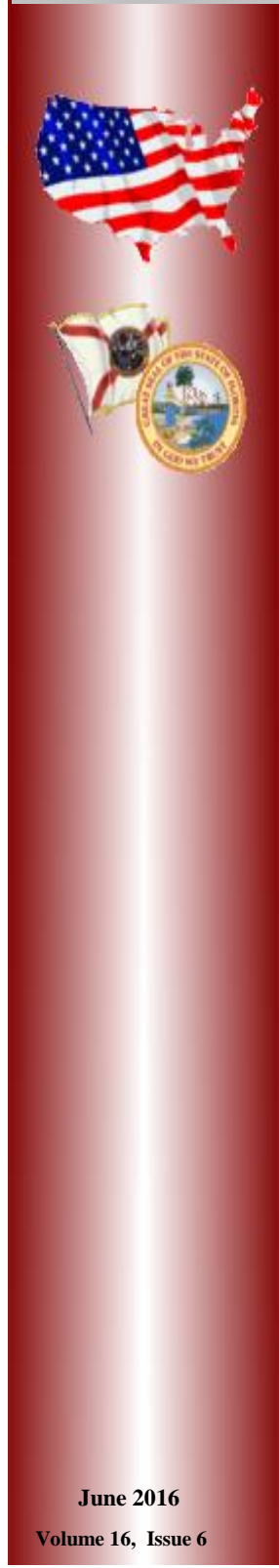
Learning About the State Attorney’s Office

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 an 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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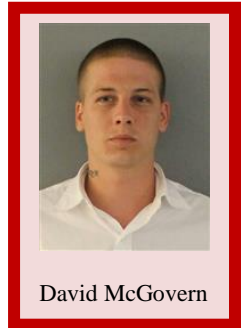


Vehicular Homicide

David Bruce McGovern was found guilty of Vehicular Homicide following a two and a half day trial in Charlotte County.

McGovern had been speeding at more than twice the speed limit in a residential neighborhood and lost control of his car. The car hit a man on a sidewalk. The victim had been riding his bicycle to work and was killed in the crash.

McGovern faces up to 15 years in prison when he is sentenced on August 1st. Assistant State Attorney Martin Stark of our Homicide Unit and Cynthia Rebholz-Rubin handled the case.



David McGovern

Burglary Case

Chachi Jenkins faces up to 15 years in prison after pleading to his charges just before his trial began. He was charged with Burglary of a Dwelling and Petit Theft for breaking into a woman's home and stealing several items.

He qualifies as an Habitual Felony Offender and a Prison Releasee Reoffender. Sentencing is scheduled for July 21st in Charlotte County. Assistant State Attorneys Kyle Stublen and Garrick Soja handled the case.



Chachi Jenkins

Habitual Felony Offender

Sherman Myers was sentenced to 10 years in prison as a Habitual Felony Offender. He was found guilty by a Lee County jury of Tampering with Physical Evidence, Possession of Heroin, and Resisting an Officer without Violence. Assistant State Attorney Michael Colombo handled the case.



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GUILTY VERDICTS

ASA's Martin Stark and Cynthia Rebholz-Rubin: Vehicular Homicide

ASA William Grauel: Possession of Child Pornography – 5 counts

ASA Michael Colombo: Sale of a Controlled Substance within 1,000 Feet of a Public Park, Possession of Heroin

ASA's Jennifer Royal and Natalie Savino: Failure to Register as Sexual Offender

ASA's Tyler Lovejoy and Anthony Kunasek: Sexual Battery with Great Force, Aggravated Battery

ASA's Christine Cummins and Mary Anderson: Sale or Delivery of a Controlled Substance within 1,000 Feet of a School, Possession of Cocaine

ASA's Kathryn Horst and Ronald Smith: Sale or Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Paraphernalia

ASA Michael Colombo: Burglary of a Dwelling, Grand Theft

ASA Geoffrey Leskie: Trespass after Actual Communication

ASA's Hanna Renna and Jose Nunez: Fleeing to Elude a Law Enforcement Officer at a High Rate of Speed or Wanton Disregard, Possession of Marijuana, Resisting or Obstructing a Law Enforcement Officer without Violence, Driving While License Suspended to Revoked

ASA's Martin Holland and Natalie Savino: Aggravated Stalking-Violation of Order

ASA's Paul Thomas and Heather Searcy: First Degree Burglary with Assault or Battery

ASA's Connie Serrano and Andreas Canizares: Sale or Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Controlled Substance

ASA Geoffrey Leskie: Petit Theft

ASA's Lindsay Scott and Ashley Hubble: DUI



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JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:

In recognition of service to the citizens 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 June employment anniversary dates:

Andrea Canizares '03

Steven Scalici '15

Skye Castillo '15

Kyle Stublen '11

Yolanda Cruz '14

Jennifer Toussaint '10

Pamela Fitzwater '11

John Truitt '15

Jennifer Garczewski '05

Patricia Hartman '03

Amy Kosinski '02

Michael McNeese '13

Scott Miller '13

Lourde Muina '05

Stanley Ragin '15

Sometimes They Make It Easy

A 23-year-old was arrested in Arizona trying to smuggle a pound of methamphetamine into the U.S. via burritos. A drug sniffing dog alerted to the bag she was carrying where customs officers found more than her lunch. The drugs were stuffed inside the tortillas! She was arrested and her drug filled burritos were taken into custody.

Food and drug smuggling seems to be a theme. In Texas police confiscated 2,000 coconuts stuffed with more than 1,400 pounds of marijuana.

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