



Office of the State Attorney
Twentieth Judicial Circuit, State of Florida
Proudly Serving
Charlotte - Collier - Glades - Hendry - Lee

Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

The Russell Report



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Child Abuse Case

Cherie Landowski, 27, was sentenced to 10 years in prison followed by 20 years of probation for Aggravated Child Abuse. In 2010, in Naples, she hit a baby in the head with his bottle causing the baby serious permanent damage. Assistant State Attorney Steve Maresca handled the case.



Cherie Landowski

Beach Stabbing Case

Stephen Plein was sentenced for his role in a stabbing on a Sanibel beach on New Year's day of this year. The crime came about following an argument between two groups of college students. Plein was sentenced to 180 days in jail followed by 6 months of probation with a curfew of 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. He also has 24 months of community control and 4 and a half years of state probation.

He also paid \$2500 in restitution to the victim and must make future restitution to the victim's insurance companies. Plein must also complete 50 hours of community service and can have no contact with the victim. Assistant State Attorney Danielle Butler handled this case.

Economic Crime

Andrea Jennings was sentenced to 30 months in prison followed by 10 years of probation for embezzling by use of company credit cards. She had been a bookkeeper for a diversified drilling company.

As part of her sentence she also has to pay \$56,428.95 in restitution. She had been on probation on a previous Collier County case for 15 years for doing something similar. It was on her last week of probation that her new charges were filed.

This case was handled by Assistant State Attorney Amanda Hutchison of our Economic Crimes Unit.

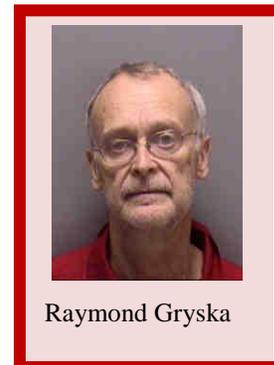
In another economic crimes case, Raymond Gryska was sentenced to 7 years in prison followed by 23 years of probation for Grand Theft. He had been a bookkeeper for two business on Fort Myers Beach. He wrote checks to himself and to corporations he was affiliated with.

As part of his sentence, Gryska must also pay the sum of \$290, 406 in restitution. He had previously been sentenced to 5 years in prison in Illinois for theft.

Assistant State Attorney J.D. Miller of our Economic Crimes Unit handled the case. So far in 2013, the unit has been able to retrieve more than \$1.5 million dollars in restitution for the victims of economic crimes in Lee County.



Andrea Jennings



Raymond Gryska



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Investigator of the Year

We want to congratulate Investigator Robert Tamras, who works with our Economics Crime Unit, with his recent award of Investigator of the Year. The honor was bestowed upon him by the Florida Office of Financial Regulation. This designation was given to him because of his incredible work on two big Lee County economic crimes case that ended in conviction and restitution for the victims. We want to thank Robert for his hard work and dedication to helping the citizens of Southwest Florida.

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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THE RUSSELL REPORT



Grand Theft Case

Keldrin Keon Jackson was found guilty of Burglary of a Conveyance and Grand Theft following a 2 day trial in Lee County. Jackson along with a co-defendant were trying to break into cars on Bonita Beach. They were caught following a car chase by sheriff's deputies.

Our prosecutors filed on Jackson as an HFO, or Habitual Felony Offender, due to his past criminal history. He now faces up to a 10 year prison sentence.

His co-defendant, Larry Bowman pled to the court while the jury was being selected in his case which was held prior to Jackson's case. Bowman was sentenced to 7 years in prison followed by 2 years of probation. Assistant State Attorneys Abe Thornburg and John Dommerich, Jr. handled the case.

False 911 Case

The 11-year-old Lee County boy who made seven false 911 calls has received a disposition in juvenile court. The boy claimed a house was on fire with a dog inside. He was charged with Misuse of the 911 System.

He is being sent to the Neighborhood Accountability Program, a program designed to allow members of the community to impress upon children the harm their actions caused. Assistant State Attorney Wendy Harrison handled the case.

Scam Alert

Many people have received a call on their cell phone from phone number 5595. When you answer, an automated voice states, "Your debit card has been locked. To unlock it, press 1." When you press 1, the automated voice tells you to enter your 16-digit credit card number. This is a scam.

A text is also going around stating it is from Suncoast Schools Federal Credit union advising their debit card had been locked and to call a 386 area code phone number to unlock it. 386 area code is northern Florida. If you call the number again, an automated voice will tell you to enter your 16-digit card number. This is also a scam.

SSFCU and their Fraud Department advised they received several calls about this scam. The criminals target areas where credit unions or banks do much business.

Since SSFCU is popular in Florida, the criminals used Suncoast's name in efforts to trick citizens. The e-mail related to the text in this case actually came from England, not Florida at all.

A similar text is now going around allegedly from Merrill Lynch. If you provide any of your card information you may actually give criminals enough information to clone your credit or debit card and drain your accounts. We want to thank the Collier County Sheriff's Office for details on this new scam.



THE RUSSELL REPORT

GUILTY VERDICTS

ASAs John Dommerich and Abe Thornburg: Burglary of a Conveyance, Grand Theft
ASAs Jennifer Toussaint and Cassie Quaglia: Battery- Domestic Violence
ASA Rosemary Harlem-Wood: Receiving for Lewdness, Engaging in Lewdness
ASAs Nicole Mirra and Lanna Belohlavek: Robbery – Possession of a Firearm (3 counts)
ASA: Rosemary Harlem-Wood; Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Paraphernalia
ASA Jody White: Burglary of a Conveyance, Grand Theft
ASAs Andreas Gardiner and Stephanie Russell: Second Degree Murder with a Firearm
ASAs Leena Marcos and Bianca Bentley: DUI
ASAs Joseph B. Howard and Tammy Wilson: Petit Theft
ASAs Garrick Soja and Andrew Woodliff: Contracting without a License
ASAs Maria DeMoya and Christina Berkowicz: Breach of Peace
ASAs Bob Lee and Stephanie Bendeck: Second Degree Murder
ASAs Cassandra Quaglia and Sara Miller: First Degree Petit Theft
ASA Jennifer Royal: False Verification of Ownership or Identification to a Pawnbroker, Dealing in Stolen Property
ASAs Abe Thornburg and John Dommerich, Jr.: Burglary of a Conveyance, Grand Theft
ASAs Stephanie Powers and Cynthia Rebholz-Rubin: Aggravated Assault with a Firearm – 2 counts, Improper Exhibition of a Firearm
ASAs Mara Marzano and Tom Gorman: Burglary with a Battery, Grand Theft, Attempted Burglary of a Dwelling, and Resisting without Violence
ASA Martin Holland: DUI
ASA Mara Marzano: Robbery with a Firearm- Discharge, Aggravated Assault with a Firearm



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JUNE 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 June employment anniversary dates:

- Amy Kosinski '02
- Andrea Canizares '03
- Patricia Hartman '03
- Jennifer Garcewski '05
- Lourdes Muina '05
- Noria Haas '06
- Mary Ellen Hughes '06
- Justin Chapman '10
- Jennifer Toussaint '10
- Pamela Fitzwater '11
- Kyle Stublen '11

SOMETIMES THEY MAKE IT EASY

Two men in Memphis are serious about their chicken wings. When they went through a drive-through and ordered some wings, the father and son realized they didn't get all the chicken they ordered. So they turned around and confronted the cashier inside. The cashier offered to give them their complete order but the 45-year-old father of the pair decided to point an AK-47 assault rifle at the cashier anyway. A co-worker called police and the two were taken into custody minus any of their chicken wings. There also weren't any chicken wings on the jail's menu either.

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A 37-year-old from Spring Hill, Florida was arrested for impersonating a deputy. He had been doing it since 2012 to reportedly impress his girlfriend, friends, and family. He got a real deputy's shirt by stealing it from his sister's boyfriend who is an actual Pasco County deputy. The man actually worked at Pizza Hut but would change into his stolen uniform before visiting anyone he knew. He made up stories about fake arrests and tales from the road. He got busted after real officers started hearing about his stories. Going to jail was about the closest he came to any real police action.