



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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Anniversaries

<http://www.sao.cjis20.org/>

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Life in Prison

Defendant Michael Sheeley was sentenced to life in prison for a murder in Charlotte County.

He was found guilty of Second Degree Murder, Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle, Dealing in Stolen Property and False Verification of Ownership/ID to a Pawnbroker.

In this case Sheeley murdered a 75 year-old man. He attacked him and then stole his car, used his credit card and pawned the victim's jewelry. He was caught after trying to cash a check at the bank in his name on the victim's account. The bank called the daughter to let her know they were suspicious and she found her father unresponsive on the ground. He died a week later.

The trial in Charlotte County lasted 4 days and the state called 17 witnesses. Assistant State Attorneys Andreas Gardiner of our Homicide Unit and Jennifer Garczewski handled the case.



Michael Sheeley

Murder Sentencing

Abraham Eckman was sentenced to 25 years in prison for a murder in Collier County in 2012. Eckman fired a gun through a window killing a 25 year-old who was asleep.

The victim was in a relationship with Eckman's former girlfriend and mother of his child. 27-year-old Eckman plead guilty to Second Degree Murder with a Firearm. Assistant State Attorney Lisa Mead handled the case.



Abraham Eckman

Gambling Case

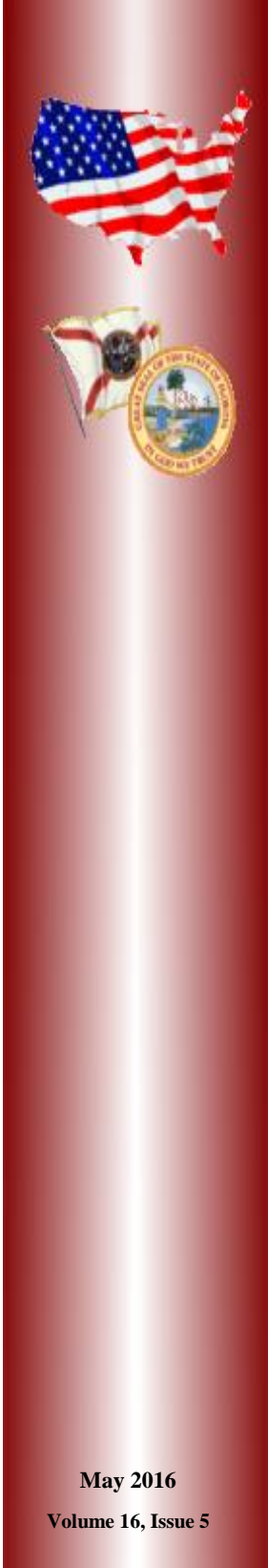
Clifford Wayne Davis was found guilty of Maintaining a Gambling Establishment. Casino style gambling machines and high stakes poker games were part what was found at a Fraternal Organization in Cape Coral. A special agent with the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco investigated. They then served a search warrant and seized items including a poker table, chips and cash.

The Lee County jury deliberated for 20 minutes before returning the guilty verdict. Sentencing is scheduled for June 13th. Assistant State Attorney Simon Eth handled the case.



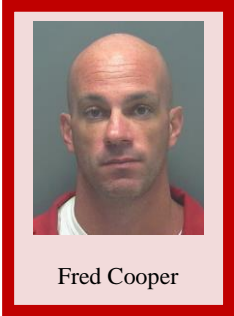
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Fred Cooper Case

The Second District Court of Appeals denied Fred Cooper’s post conviction motion challenging the effectiveness of his attorneys. The same appellate court previously affirmed the conviction and sentence. In 2005 Cooper murdered Steven and Michelle Andrews in their Gateway home in Lee County. He was sentenced to three life sentences after being found guilty of the two counts of First Degree Murder and one count of Burglary with an Assault or Battery While Armed. Cooper had been indicted by a grand jury.



Fred Cooper

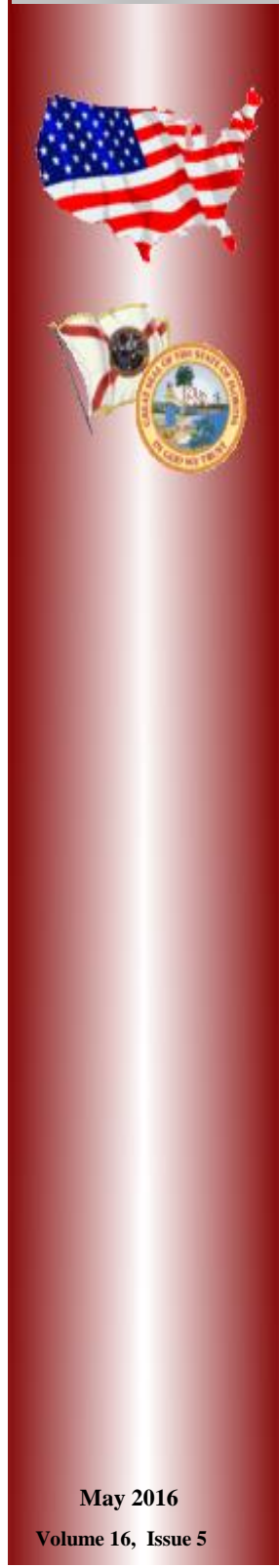
Learning About the State Attorney’s Office

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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“Seniors Fighting Back”

In recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th, the State Attorney’s Office, the Lee County Sheriff’s Office and IHeart Radio will join together to present “Seniors Fighting Back” Expo and Symposium.

The event, which is open to the public, will be held at IHeart radio studios located at 13320 Metro Parkway from 10 a.m. to 1:00pm, with limited seating available.

“Seniors Fighting Back” is geared specifically to older adults, caregivers, and community members concerned about elder exploitation and abuse that have the desire to better understand this complex issue.

Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott and State Attorney Steve Russell will be guest speakers, along with members of their respective Economic Crimes and Elderly Fraud Units.

Local organizations involved in the prevention of and response to elder abuse will also be on-hand to answer your questions and provide information.

Among the government, social service agencies and community organizations participating in “Seniors Fighting Back” will be Adult Protective Services, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Seniors vs. Crime, Florida State Guardianship Association, The Alvin Dubin Alzheimer’s Resource Center, the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys, Lee Elder Abuse Prevention Partnership, Senior Service Representatives from the Sheriff’s Office, Southwest Florida Security Association, Area Agency on Aging Southwest Florida, and the State of Florida Ombudsman Program.

This is a free event with wheelchair accessibility and plenty of parking. Light refreshments will be served.

Special thanks to iHeart Radio for hosting this event to serve the community.





THE RUSSELL REPORT

GUILTY VERDICTS

ASA's Lindsey Scott and Carrington Lewis: DUI

ASA's Laura Mason and Lisa Difilippo: Domestic Violence Battery

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

ASA's Joshua Fredrickson and Jose Nunez: Felony Battery

ASA Mike Colombo: Sale or Delivery of a Controlled Substance within 1,000 ft. of a Public Park, Possession of Heroin

ASA Connie Serrano: Leaving the Scene of a Crash

ASA William Grauel: Battery with special findings- Domestic Violence and Defendant intentionally caused harm to the victim

ASA Martin Holland: Sale or Delivery of a Controlled Substance within 1,000 ft. of a School, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Paraphernalia

ASA John Dommerich: Lewd or Lascivious Battery - 3 counts

ASA's Kimberlee Mitton and Abe Thornburg: Criminal Mischief

ASA's Jasmine Hawthorne and Clark Cary: Failure to Obey Lawful Order

ASA's Heather Searcy and Sara Schmidt: DUI 3rd or more

ASA's Garrett Cutler and Stephen Dommerich: DUI 2nd or more, Breath Refusal

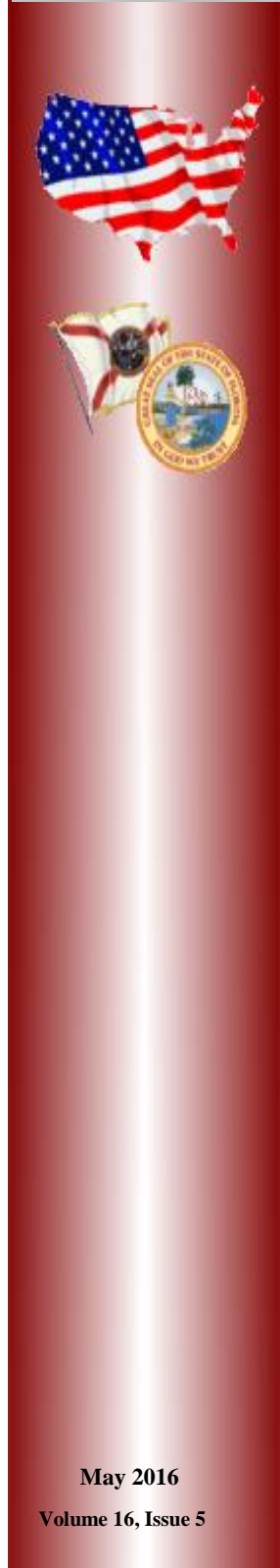
ASA's Christine Cummins and Mary Anderson: Sale or Delivery of a Controlled Substance within 1,000 ft. of a School, Possession of Cocaine



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Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties

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MAYANNIVERSARIES:

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 May employment anniversary dates:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Rosemarie Mitchell ‘90 | Marie Berrette ‘13 |
| Faith Hall ‘02 | Amber Datko ‘13 |
| Christopher Klink ‘03 | Erica Carr ‘13 |
| Shannon Doolity ‘04 | Simon Eth ‘15 |
| Ronald Smith ‘05 | |
| Ketty Martinez ‘06 | |
| Amanda Lasher ‘09 | |
| Abraham Thornburg ‘09 | |
| Joseph Howard ‘11 | |
| Erin Lee ‘10 | |
| Michael Colombo Jr. ‘12 | |

Sometimes They Make It Easy

A South Carolina man posted an ad on craigslist detailing the locations and prices he would sell drugs. The ad was titled “POT... I SELL WEED - \$200” and included his phone number and picture. Police became aware and an officer texted the man to ask if it was real. The man called back and a location was set to purchase marijuana. When the man arrived he was arrested and taken into custody. The only thing the drug dealer gained that day was a trip to jail.