



Stephen B. Russell, State Attorney

The Russell Report



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Anniversaries

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Triple Murder Case

Wesnel Isaac was found guilty as charged of three counts each of Second Degree Murder, Kidnapping, and Conspiracy to Commit Kidnapping or Murder following a trial in Lee County. The jury deliberated for just under 5 hours.

The 2007 crime involved three men being kidnapped from a home who were later found shot to death in a car in Lehigh Acres. Isaac fled the country and was found in Haiti and extradited for the crimes in 2014.

Sentencing is scheduled for February 13th. Assistant State Attorney Robert Lee of our Homicide Unit and Assistant State Attorney Brenda Wade handled the case.



Wesnel Isaac

Life in Prison

Frederick Edouard was sentenced to life in prison for Second Degree Murder with a Firearm plus 15 years for Shooting Into a Dwelling.

The murder happened on September 5, 2013 in Fort Myers. Edouard was hired to murder Jerry Norvilus. The defendant was given a gun and then went to the home of the victim and fired numerous shots into his house killing him.

He was found guilty of all charges following a trial that began at the end of October. The sentences will run concurrent.

Assistant State Attorney Andreas Gardiner of our Homicide Unit and Assistant State Attorney Cassie Quaglia handled the case.



Frederick Edouard



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A Real Life Saver

This month we are recognizing 911 operator Kevin Gingras for winning the Phoenix Award. He has worked for Lee County Public Safety for 9 years and is the son of Jane Gingras, a clerical support member of the State Attorney's Office in our Special Victims Unit.

Kevin works nights from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. handling emergency calls. One recent shift, in the middle of the night he got a call from a gentleman who said his mother was having difficulty breathing. Kevin stayed on the line as she wasn't fully responsive, he adds "her situation continued to deteriorate." Kevin start breathing diagnostics over the phone with the caller. He explains, "I told the caller to say the word "now" when she takes a breath. There was too long a period of time before breaths. I told him to get her to the floor, a hard surface, get everything out from beneath her head, and I began CPR instruction." While Kevin was doing this, he was watching a live map on his computer tracking emergency units to see when they would get to the patient's residence. It was an apartment complex and he needed to be sure that they got to the right unit swiftly.

Kevin stayed on the phone giving life saving instructions until paramedics arrived and took over. It took a few minutes to revive the woman. The chest compressions Kevin gave instruction on kept the blood flowing through her heart until the rescuers got on scene. The woman's heart was shocked back into a rhythm and she was alive and awake when she arrived at the hospital.

Kevin received the Lee County Department of Public Safety's Phoenix Award at a recent ceremony along with paramedics who were on scene. The award recognizes first responders and others who help rescue and resuscitate patients from cardiac arrest.

We commend Kevin Gingras for helping to save a woman's life by remaining calm and providing life saving instructions to her son. We know his mother, Jane, is also very proud of him.



Kevin is pictured in the center

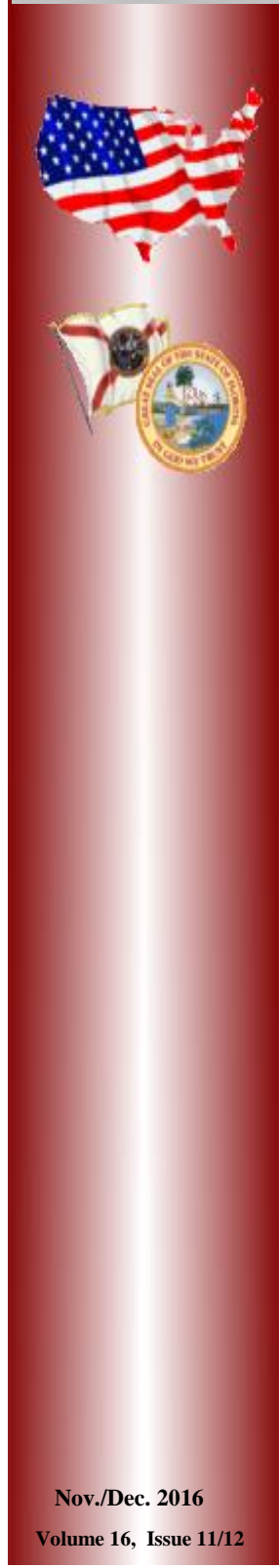


Phoenix Awards Ceremony



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Funeral Grand Theft Case

Andrew Johnson was sentenced to 364 days in jail followed by 4 years of probation after being found guilty as charged of Grand Theft. Johnson, a former funeral home director in Fort Myers, stole jewelry that was taken off of the body of a deceased teenager instead of providing it to her family.

Following the two day trial, the jury deliberated for only 10 minutes before coming back with a guilty verdict. The state called 19 witnesses which included the airline employees who took custody of the deceased as she was being flown to Missouri from Florida for burial.

Assistant State Attorney Mike Colombo Jr. who prosecuted the case said “The victim’s family was extremely thankful for this resolution.”



Andrew Johnson

Learning About the State Attorney’s Office

Staff members of the State Attorney’s Office are available to speak to local students or groups. Throughout the year we visit classrooms and organizations to teach people 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.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

The date is set for the 2017 State Attorney’s Office Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Softball Tournament. April 1st, 2017 it will be held at the Century Link Sports Complex next to Hammond Stadium in Fort Myers.

The event is free and open to the public. Gates open at 8 a.m. It’s a day of fun as many different law enforcement agencies compete against each other on 4 fields in an upper and lower division softball tournament.



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GUILTY VERDICTS

ASA Marilla Shoemaker: Attempted Second Degree Murder with a Firearm, Child Abuse with a Firearm

ASA's William Grauel and Francine Donnorummo: Sexual Battery on a Child Less than 12 years of Age – 2 counts

ASA Francine Donnorummo: Sexual Battery on a Child Less than 12 Years of Age, Lewd or Lascivious Molestation

ASA Brenda Wade: Robbery with a Firearm

ASA James Stewart: Burglary – 2 counts

ASA's Deanne Vella and Natalie Heiderscheit: DUI

ASA Erik Leontiev: Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon

ASA Daniel Setlow: DUI, Resisting an Officer without Violence, Fleeing or Attempting to Elude a Law Enforcement Officer

ASA Agnieszka Osowicka: Grand Theft

ASA James Stewart: Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Marijuana (not more than 20 grams)

ASA's Garrett Cutler and Sabsina Karimi: Battery

ASA Michael Colombo: Grand Theft

ASA Natalie Savino: Sexual Battery

ASA James Stewart: Battery on an Emergency Medical Care Provider

ASA Kate Rumley: Sale or Delivery of Cocaine and Possession of Cocaine with Intent





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NOVEMBER 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 November employment anniversary dates:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Sue Anderson '98 | Jessica Rimes '13 |
| Lisa Buck '12 | Daniel Santiago '05 |
| Laura Ferrell '06 | Daniel Setlow '06 |
| Dawn Finger '09 | Ashley Williams '13 |
| Joshua Fredrickson '13 | |
| Mara Marzano '00 | |
| Keith Munzert '08 | |
| Scott Patterson '08 | |
| J Purdy '99 | |

DECEMBER 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 December employment anniversary dates:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Courtney Berke '06 | Francine Donnorumoo '98 | Janet Lee '11 |
| Martin Bowman '97 | Jennifer Forsythe '11 | Michelle Mathis '12 |
| Clifton Bush '15 | Malcam Godwin '14 | Jennifer Navarro '10 |
| Stacey Carlton '95 | Ingrid Gomez '15 | David Ness '15 |
| Kelsey Chaney '11 | Stephen Iorio '09 | Lisa Nodarse '06 |
| Catherine Cothrane '15 | Ellen Itzel '15 | Elizabeth Percival '14 |
| Nancy Cruz '95 | Chelsie Jones '05 | Abigail Reeves '15 |
| Ronald Dente Jr. '14 | Rebecca Jones '10 | Sonia Rodriguez-Gomez '11 |
| Barbara Rogers '03 | Mayra Talarico '14 | Amanda Zych '09 |

