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document the life of the area in a simpler time.

Chris Sawicki, president of the Museum, and Doug Arbeau, a volunteer, took me around the building to see some of the more than 10,000 artifacts, many of them donated by pioneer families, which show what life was like when pineaplife was like when pineap

George Parks became a Gulf Oil distributor and saddle wheelers would come, bringing oil prod-ucts."

Bad freezes and compe-tition from Cuba spelled the end of the pineapple industry by the end of

D See MUSEUM, AR



Mitch Kloorfain / chief photographer
Stuart Heritage Museum, located at the end of Flagler Avenue in downtown Stuart, is a
small wood frame building built in 1901. It is one of the last of its kind remaining on the
southeast coast of Florida.

## Investigator intern program helps public defender's office

## Program helps Public Defender's Office and saves taxpayers money

772-546-3606

By NEVA NEWTON

When teacher, author, and private investigator Brandon Perron first thought of creating the Public Defender Investigator Intern Program, he already was working on high profile capital cases as an investigator for Public Defender Diamond Litty.

Many cases in Litty's juris-

Martin County • Friday, October 12, 2007

diction, which covers a four-county area, were not get-ting an investigator assigned because of a lack of funding.

"My proposal to Ms. Litty in 1994 to create the intern program was designed to provide a bridge between the public and private sec-tor and to assist indigent clients accused of a crime," Mr. Perron said.

"The public defender's

office needed an effective way to handle the majority of misdemeanor and felony cases that weren't getting investigative assistance."

Mr. Perron's business, Investigative Support Specialists Inc. in Stuart, also runs the Center for Investigative Studies which provides the interns for the program.

gram. His students volunteer as His students volunteer as interns after classroom study. Assisting a staff of 33 attorneys in trial prepara-tion, they conduct inter-views with defendants, witsses, victims and police

They also photograph and diagram the crime scene, compare it to the police report, locate witnesses, check criminal records, serve subpoenas and gather other vital information.

Aside from his other accomplishments, Mr. Perron has also created the Criminal Defense Investigation Training Council to act They also photograph and

**Brandon Perron** 

onal criminal defense

fessional criminal defense investigators. Sandra Warner has been with the public defender's office 21 years. As chief investigator of the public defenders office she has a regular staff of one parttime investigator. She credits the intern program with improving the efficiency of the department.

"It's very important to the resolution of a case," she said.

said.

"The interns can cover all four jails in our district and do the intake interviews right away, making sure the correct information is in the files, so that the lawyers can get started on the case. This frees them from that duty and speeds up the whole process, otherwise the attorneys might be in court and have no time to prepare for the next case. It's on-the-job training, we have two classes in Stuart and Fort Pierce with 15 interns. There's a waiting list to participate," she said.

Ms. Litty's office handled over 21,000 criminal cases last year with one full-time and one part-time staff investigator.
"I can't say enough about how great this program has been," Ms. Litty said. "The interns have saved the tax-"The interns can cover all

"Justice sometimes comes to those who can afford it. Our interns help ensure that indigent defendants get a fair trial."

## Brandon Perron Private Investigator

payers so much money, with-out the volunteers contribut-ing their time and hard work we couldn't be as effective.

"Many people who are accused are innocent. The criminal justice system is able to run smoothly and the entire trial process is expedit-ed due to the work provided

by the interns."

Added Mr. Perron: "Justice sometimes comes to those who can afford it. Our interns help ensure that indigent defendants get a fair trial."

Mr. Perron, whose text-book on criminal investigabook on criminal investiga-tion is part of the curriculum at Boston University, views investigation as an art, not a

investigation as an art, not a science.

He's an old fashioned gumshoe, using the old school methodology.

"Computers are just a tool and technology is not a typical factor in criminal investigation. Experience, intellect, and instinct followed up with facts are the ways to find the truth. The eyewitness account and good old-fashioned leg work are still the best way to solve a crime," said Mr. Perron.

Although he doesn't enjoy divorce cases, he sometimes does that type of work. The Internet has created new problems. It's a virtual world with virtual relationships and

with virtual relationships and ecople think that their pouse has been cheating. "It doesn't make sense to

me, but people go online and fall in love with someone in a chat room. I find out they've never even met that person. I have to tell the spouse I've found absolutely nothing to

indicate that their partner has cheated, only to have them disagree. You never know what someone's agen-da is, they may just be looking for an excuse to get out of an unhappy marriage," he

an unnappy marriage, ne said.

The most interesting case he has worked on involved Micky Hicks, a 17-year-old from Fort Pierce, who was arrested along with a group of young men charged in the Aug. 19, 2005 beating death of Julio Paxtore, a Guatemalan national.

Partly because of the work of Perron's investigative firm, charges against Mr. Hicks were dropped and he was released from jail.

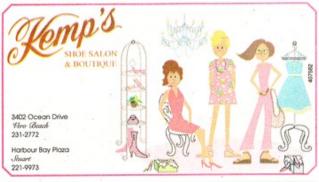
anu ne was reseased from jail.

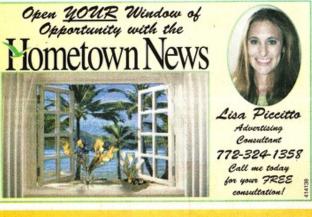
One of his best students is Amy M. Kreyling, CCDI, now a licensed private investigator. Kreyling who began as a student and intern, got a job at Mr. Perron's agency as a secretary and learned the business.

"She had a great work ethic and a passion for the job and she is now a licensed private investigator and director of training coordinator for the intern program," Mr. Perron said.

For further information about Mr. Perron's training program and the Criminal Defense Investigation Train-ing Council go to www.defenseinvestigator.co

m Investigative Support Spe-cialists Inc. and the Center for Investigative Studies are located at 800 S.E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart, FL, 34994; call toll free at (800) 465-5235.





## Bounty

From page A1

officer, Dan Gilroy, had used excessive force against 15-year-old Shelwanda

Riley.
"My wife and my baby girl would have had that girl on the ground and in handcuffs in the time it took him to get his pepper spray out," Mr. Chapman

told publisher Steve

told publisher Steve
Erlanger, who returned his
phone call late Monday
night.
"Now, don't get me
wrong. I love cops. Cops are
my heroes, and I've been
busted by a lot of them, but
this is just sad," he said.
There's a fine line

between vigilantism and justice, he said, and it disturbs him that people's perception of police will be colored by the videotape. "That's the kind of action

"That's the kind of action that gave cops the name 'pigs," he said. "I can't see any justification for this. By the way, don't you guys have any real crime in Fort Pierce, like hookers and felons?"

Fort Pierce Police Chief Fort Pierce Police Chief Sean Baldwin, who defended Officer Gilroy's actions, said Tuesday he didn't want to comment on the Dog's assertion that Officer Gilroy didn't have proper training. The Dog said he called Hometown News because he has a friend in the local area who told him the community newspaper has

community newspaper has a reputation for fair news

a reputation for fair news coverage.

The arrest incident is currently under internal investigation. The girl's family is interested in meeting with the police, but said through a spokeswoman they want to talk to a lawyer first.

Shelwanda, who has been charged with battery on a law enforcement officer, is facing a court date next month.



