

Morning A19
 Crossword B11
 Dining & Entertainment ... B1
 Dining Guide B2
 Support Groups A5
 Horoscopes B1
 Police Report A5
 Sports B8
 Travel A12
 Viewpoint A6
 Week in Review A3

BELIEVE YOUR MEMORY CAN 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 pineap-

George Parks became a Gulf Oil distributor and saddle wheelers would come, bringing oil products."
 Bad freezes and competition from Cuba spelled the end of the pineapple industry by the end of



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.

See MUSEUM, A8

A2
 Martin County - Friday, October 12, 2007 - www.HometownNewsOL.com

Investigator intern program helps public defender's office

Program helps Public Defender's Office and saves taxpayers money

By NEVA NEWTON
 For Hometown News

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 jurisdiction, which covers a four-county area, were not getting 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 sector 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.

His students volunteer as interns after classroom study. Assisting a staff of 33 attorneys in trial preparation, they conduct interviews with defendants, witnesses, victims and police officers.

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



Brandon Perron

"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, without the volunteers contributing 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 expedited due to the work provided by the interns."

Sandra Warner has been with the public defender's office 21 years. As chief investigator of the public defender's office she has a regular staff of one part-time 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.

"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-

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

Partly because of the work of Perron's investigation firm, charges against Mr. Hicks were dropped and he was released 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 Training Council go to www.defenseinvestigator.com

Investigative Support Specialists 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 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 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 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 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.

MARINE SERVICES
FREE Estimates 772-546-3606
 Quality trained Technicians.
 Family owned & operated.
 B&G, Furuno, Garmin, ICOM, Lowrance, Northstar, Ocean LED, Raymarine, Simrad, Si-Tec, and more.
Thru Hull 18550 SE Federal Hwy Hobe Sound, FL 33455
 Marine Electronics
 Computer Integration
 Transducer Install
 Electrical Systems
 Marine Carpentry
 Entertainment Systems
 Underwater Lights
 Charting Center
 Vessel Security
 Plastics/Fiberglass
 Vessel Monitoring
 Mobile/Drive Up Service.
FAST, PROFESSIONAL, AFFORDABLE SERVICE.

Kemp's
 SHOE SALON & BOUTIQUE
 3402 Ocean Drive
 Fort Beach
 231-2772
 Harbour Bay Plaza
 Stuart
 221-9973

Open YOUR Window of Opportunity with the
Hometown News
 Lisa Piccitto
 Advertising Consultant
 772-324-1358
 Call me today for your FREE consultation!
 414188

A Brand New Station playing a Unique Blend of America's Best Music.
 Frank Sinatra
 Tony Bennett
 Barbara Streisand
 Sammy Davis
 Everly Brothers
 Nat King Cole
 The All New
Seaview am 960 Radio
 Barry Manilow
 Dean Martin
 Neil Diamond
 Anne Murray
 The Carpenters
 Elvis Presley
 Now Streaming in Full Stereo on www.seaviewam960.com
 All the great songs and all the great memories are on AM 960

GOT A RANT?
 CALL OUR RANTS & RAVES LINE!
Hometown News