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Year of hard work pays off for detective



Ken Barton, investigator in the Scott murder case.

By ROBIN POLLACK News-Press Staff Writer
PUNTA GORDA — For the past year, Detective Ken Barton has been...
He traveled 3,000 miles. He interviewed more than 100 persons...
On Thursday, his efforts paid off.

case helped lawmen nab suspected murderer Bradley Phillip Scott, 26, of West Palm Beach...
The 38-year-old detective, who has been involved in police work since the mid-1970s, said he looks forward to driving into new cases...
"Nothing can beat the thrill of solving this case," the Englewood resident said.

Page Field plan OKs leasing land for business use

By TOM BUTLER News-Press Staff Writer
Lee County commissioners can't look the lack of general plans out of Page Field in the near future...
But commissioners, mindful that Page Field also was used in the growing part of Fort Myers...
Fort Myers residents who have set up and lobbied to the south of passing airplanes also would like to see an alternate airport built somewhere — especially those who set up and lobbied in the middle of the field.



Map shows how Page Field in Fort Myers will be divided between aviation and commercial use according to a 20-year plan...
regional airport's southeast-southwest corner...
"This does not mean I am advocating the abandonment of Page Field," Eastwood said.

Accused murderer came off as pleasant, acquaintances say

By CHUCK TOBIN News-Press Staff Writer
PUNTA GORDA — People who have known him say accused murderer Bradley Phillip Scott comes off in conversation as pleasant, agreeable and bright...
But some of those same people speculated Friday that Scott's demeanor is a front, covering the scheming mind of the cold-blooded killer that lawyers say he is...
Scott, 26, was arrested Thursday in West Palm Beach as a Charlotte County warrant charging him with killing 13-year-old Lucia Pizarro to death in 1974...
Pizarro's charged body was found in October 1976 in the wooded area of a home in the Palm Beach area...
Lawrence said they have known that Scott killed Pizarro, but were unable until now to build a strong enough case against the man to take to court.

A short distance from the spot where the body was found is the site where, two months later, Scott allegedly tried to rape a 15-year-old girl...
Scott was arrested in December 1974...
Cgt. John Davenport, corrections commander for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department, said Scott was a well-behaved prisoner...
"He was a good inmate. I don't remember any problems with him here," Davenport said.

Schools need more mental health services, superintendent says

By BARBARA L. COMPTON News-Press Staff Writer
PUNTA GORDA — The need for mental health services in Charlotte County schools is exceeding the supply...
The county's superintendent of schools, Dr. Robert L. Adams, said he has requested that the school district double its current financial allocation to the clinic in order to provide the additional services, as well as to reassign the way the service is delivered.

contracted number of hours, there are still not able to meet the needs of the district, Bedford said...
The board gave preliminary approval Wednesday to a measure that would provide an additional mental health staffer to work within the district...
The Charlotte County Mental Health Clinic Inc. requested that the school district double its current financial allocation to the clinic in order to provide the additional services, as well as to reassign the way the service is delivered.

With 225 open cases, staff clinicians do not have time to leave the office to visit schools, he said...
By sending clinicians to the schools, their time could be used more wisely by seeing some students in groups and consulting with teachers and administrators about some students it may not be necessary to see individually, Christopher said...
The clinicians each would spend one-half day a week in each school in the cluster, said Dr. Marie Dixon, program consultant for Exceptional Student Education...
She said the decision to seek the mental health service is totally up to the families of the students involved.

Firefighters contain blaze in preserve

By CAROL PUGH News-Press Staff Writer
BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE — Firefighters have contained the blaze that charred more than 1,000 acres here, fire officials said Friday night...
The fire is now 90 percent contained and of tonight (Friday), said Coker Merna, a spokeswoman for the National Park Service...
By Friday night, the fire was within its primary boundaries south of Alligator Alley, east of State Road 30 and west of Turner River Road, Monroeville...
By today, firefighters predicted the fire will be easily within its control lines, and then it will slowly die out...
About on Friday, one firefighter sprained his ankle when he slipped off a piece of equipment, Monroeville...
On Thursday, federal firefighter Peter Roth, 23, of Ocala, suffered back spasms while fighting the fire...
Merna said there was also an unconfirmed report of a firefighter who suffered some burn injuries. Merna had no further details of the injury...
Firefighters used a helicopter that dropped chemicals to set a back fire. The back fire was set along Alligator Alley in order to burn the brush south, so the advancing fire would not be able to reach the highway...
Although the fire had stopped Alligator Alley SR 200 in the north, traffic was stopped at about 11 different points along the road where smoke was heavy, Monroeville...
The fire started two days ago



Studying a map of the area where a fire was burning Friday in the Big Cypress National Preserve in Collier County, Fla. (from left) firefighters Lloyd Brown of Lexington, N.C., Grady Nolan of Clarksville, Ga., and Charles Wood of Rocky Mount, N.C.

Board hires manager for school jobs

By BARBARA L. COMPTON News-Press Staff Writer
PUNTA GORDA — Contractors for two new elementary schools to be constructed in Charlotte County by next September may think they're seeing double...
That's because they are. Superintendent Bedford said...
Preliminary plans for the two schools are almost identical, which should allow for discounts in costs through combination of building projects, Bedford said...
The board awarded a construction management contract Friday for the two schools to B.E. Rutledge & Son Inc...
Bedford said the \$155,000 contract covers both schools, which will cost a total of about \$3 million...
A construction manager acts as a liaison between subcontractors and the school district, school board attorney Mike McKinley said...
He supervises and reviews the work of all of the subcontractors," McKinley said...
The district has made use of construction managers on projects the past five or six years, he said...
Land was acquired last month for Vanden Elementary School, which will be constructed in Rutledge...
The cost of that land, purchased from Cape Cove Corp., was approximately \$180,000 for 20.7 acres...
The board approved an emergency Friday that will allow McKinley to pursue purchasing an additional lot of that area to provide separate entrances to the school for bus and parent traffic...
McKinley said an agreement should be reached with General De...
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