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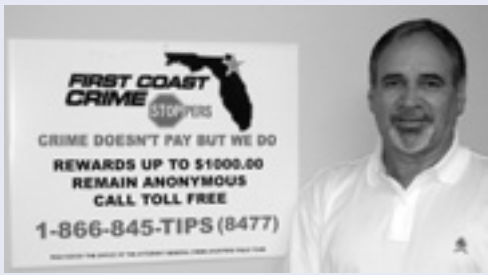
JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

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CrimeStoppers Anonymity is key to success



Executive Director Wyllie Hodges

by Shirley Shaw

On a recent News4jax story the mugshot of Daniel Jeffries was displayed with the following caption: Police ID suspect in two bank robberies. The story went on to say that JSO identified a man accused of holding up two banks in four days as 25-year old Daniel Jeffries, seen in surveillance photos during a robbery at the Bank of America on Arlington Blvd. They believed he committed a similar robbery at another BOA on Marsh Landing Parkway.

Jeffries previously served time in prison for armed burglary and grand theft auto, and police said they wanted to arrest him before he did it again. The article ended with these familiar words: **Anyone with information about Jeffries' whereabouts is asked to call CrimeStoppers at 866-845-TIPS.**

What the story didn't say is that police knew Jeffries was the crook thanks to a tip from CrimeStoppers. He was arrested two days later and gave a full confession.

This highly effective non-profit organization is making quite an impact in Northeast Florida as a welcome assistant to law enforcement agencies in their fight against crime. Executive Director Wyllie Hodges says since the inception of First Coast CrimeStoppers in 2004, it has become one of the most successful programs in the state. Tips have increased from 584 the first year to nearly 3,000 in 2008 – and YTD figures indicate that number will be much greater in 2009. (See sidebar for more statistics.)

There are three ways to contact CrimeStoppers: phone, the Internet and text messages. All are guaranteed non-traceable. Visit www.fccrimestoppers.com for more information.

The nationwide CrimeStoppers organization was started in Albuquerque, New Mexico, 32 years ago. Hodges says the simple premise of its operating procedure is what makes it so successful: **anyone can give**

CRIME STOPPERS... CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Senseless murder shatters family's dreams

Albanian immigrants sought freedom and opportunity

by Shirley Shaw

Two years ago one of the many murders that shocked and saddened our city was that of Kristo Binjaku, an Albanian immigrant who in 2000 had moved his family to this country, looking for the opportunity to advance financially and for his children to get a better education. After working hard at various jobs, he finally owned his own business, a Laundromat near Powers Ave. and University Blvd.

Then one night, a despicable, conscienceless hoodlum tried to rob Kristo (a policeman in Albania for 16 years), but when he resisted, Kevin Scott shot him in the face, killing him instantly. The victim's young son, Xhulio, witnessed the horrible crime.

Just a few weeks ago Scott was



convicted of the murder, and the jury recommended the death penalty. Assistant State Attorney Bernie de la Rionda, who successfully prosecuted the criminal, commented after the trial, "This man...supported his family, which has been distraught since then, financially and emotionally. The victim didn't want to give up his hard-earned money. As a result of that, he is dead. We started with an American dream.

We have the

American tragedy. [One bullet] is all it took for that man's dreams to vanish into thin air. He wanted a better life for himself and for his family. ...That dream came to an abrupt end because

MURDER... CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Empowered Parents and Camp Consequence

Program changes lives of parents and kids

by Shirley Shaw

The woman's voice on the telephone was excited and animated. "I have to tell you about this wonderful organization - it's something I think your paper would be interested in publishing. Every parent needs to know about it."

The caller identified herself as Kathy* and her story was one we hear too often these days. "A year ago my 12-year-old daughter's behavior was getting worse and worse. Her raging fits, throwing things and breaking stuff was escalating until I didn't know what to do. Janie had been diagnosed with ADHD as a young child and was on medication, but she was out of control. She got in trouble at school, and taking her to social functions or even to dinner was a total disaster. Too much of our family time was spent arguing, being angry over the last argument or waiting nervously for the next argument to begin.

Kathy continued her account of the upheaval in their



Glenn and Sheila Ellison. Glenn says there would be no Camp Consequence without the help of his devoted wife.

family. "Not knowing what to do with her one night, I took her to the hospital. After seeing Janie, the doctor at Nemours gave me a flyer about Empowered Parents and Camp Consequence. At the time I was being told I needed to put her somewhere like a residential behavioral school, so I was shopping around. I found one in Iowa offering the services I was looking for, but the price was

PARENTS... CONTINUED ON PAGE 11