

## ALONG THE COAST

*From Herald Staff and Wire Reports*

### CHARGES DROPPED Hours before trial

**VERO BEACH** — Sexual misconduct charges against a psychiatric counselor were dropped Tuesday, just hours before he was to have gone to trial.

William Francis "Drew" Perry III resigned as an adolescent-psychiatric counselor at Rivendell last November, about a week before he was charged with lewd and lascivious conduct with a child under the age of 15.

The teen-ager was to have been the main witness against Perry.

The prosecution could not go to trial, said Assistant State Attorney David Morgan, because the teen-ager was too emotionally distraught to testify. The youth also was afraid that his identity would become known in the community, Morgan said.

Morgan said that charges may be re-filed against Perry if the teen-ager is able to testify.