



FEDERER BECOMES WIMBLEDON'S ALL-TIME CHAMP

Roger Federer, who first won tennis' premier event 14 years ago, captures Wimbledon for a record eighth time, defeating Marin Cilic in straight sets in Sunday's final. It was also Federer's 19th overall Grand Slam title, extending his own record. **Sports, 1C**

Another option for contractor trouble

In light of investigations that have shown the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board has been largely ineffective in addressing complaints from residents about unlicensed contractors, the county has another way to help: Pinellas' Consumer Protection department works with prosecutors to bring criminal charges against the worst offenders and helps homeowners recoup their losses. **Local, 1B**

Oscar-winning actor Landau dies

Martin Landau, who played a crafty master of disguise in the TV version of *Mission: Impossible* and later won an Oscar for his poignant portrayal of aging horror movie star Bela Lugosi in 1994's *Ed Wood*, died Saturday at age 89, his publicist said. **Nation, 2A**

Is Midtown crime up 30 percent?

In response to Mayor Rick Kriseman touting how much St. Petersburg's crime rate has dropped, former Mayor Rick Scott, who is challenging Kriseman for the city's top post, says crime has surged 30 percent in the past quarter in a predominantly black neighborhood. **PolitiFact Florida, 1B**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Afternoon storms

8 a.m. 79° Noon 85° 4 p.m. 88° 8 p.m. 83°

40% chance of rain
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Eugene Shannon, center, embraces Michelle Mosley, mother of Janessa Shannon, and Janessa's sister Jalyssa during a pray vigil Sunday in Palmetto. Janessa's body was found July 12 in a nature preserve. **LUIS SANTANA | Times**

Anger, grief answer futile search for girl

Janessa Shannon's parents say their daughter, who was found dead in a nature preserve, wasn't a runaway.

BY KATHRYN VARN, MEGAN REEVES AND PAUL GUZZO
Times Staff Writers

RIVERVIEW
Janessa Shannon had sneaked out of her mother's Bradenton home before. So Michelle Mosley wasn't happy when she found out her 13-year-old daughter had done it again, winding up at a boy's house.

As punishment, Janessa was returned to her father's home in Riverview a day early, Mosley said Sunday. It was the last time she would see her daughter.

Her father, Nahshon Shannon, grounded her that night. He checked

on Janessa the following day, he said, and found no one in her bedroom at his home at 11219 Cocoa Beach Drive. He reported her disappearance to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office on July 3, a Monday.

Nine days later, July 12, a hiker would come across the teen's decomposing body in the woods of the Triple Creek Nature Preserve.

The Sheriff's Office is treating her death as a homicide but released few other details. Agency officials never publicized her disappearance, later saying she was a habitual runaway, and the case



Janessa Shannon, 13, disappeared from her father's home in Riverview.

"Her face should've been on every news station on God's green Earth, but instead we're having to bury her."

Sabrena Remillard, longtime neighbor

No-bid pact for private prisons

Florida lawmakers quietly steered \$3 million to facilities run by the Geo Group.

BY MARY ELLEN KLAS
Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Department of Corrections Secretary Julie Jones was visiting Graceville Correctional Facility, the private prison in North Florida run by the Geo Group, when she spotted a paperweight with a picture of handcuffs imprinted on it and the words "Continuum of Care."

She was startled, and a bit angry, to learn that the company had started branding an idea developed by a member of her staff, Abe Uccello, and was using it to promote a new line of business.

"I said, 'You son-of-a-guns,'" Jones recalled of the meeting in late 2015. "They had taken a white paper of Abe's and stolen the entire thing — the content — and claimed to have patented it."

Jones was determined not to share anything again with the private prison vendor "because I don't want them to profit off of what we're trying to do," she told the *Times/Herald* in April. But Florida legislative leaders had a different idea.

In March 2016, legislators approved \$330,000 for the Geo Group to operate a pilot program to be run at Blackwater Correctional, using the ideas Jones said Uccello had developed for Florida's state-run system. This year, lawmakers expanded the program to \$3 million, with the money going exclusively to four of the Geo Group's five private prisons in Florida — Bay, Moore Haven, South Bay and Blackwater — "for the provision of enhanced in-prison and post-release recidivism reduction programs."

"They got it with no competition and no guarantee of performance," said Rep. David Richardson, D-Miami Beach, who has been a critic of the state's failure to determine if the private prisons are saving tax money as required by law.

Geo Group spokesman Pablo Paez said he wasn't aware of Jones' concerns about the company appropriating Uccello's "white paper." He said the company has been using the "Geo Continuum of Care" term since 2010, trademarked the idea in



Rep. David Richardson is a critic of the prison deal.

Studies link poverty, racism to dementia

African-Americans are especially at risk, research suggests.

Washington Post

A new group of studies into racial disparities among people with Alzheimer's disease suggests that social conditions, including the stress of poverty and racism, substantially raise the risks of dementia for African-Americans.

In separate studies, researchers found that conditions that affect blacks disproportionately compared with other groups — such as poor living conditions and stressful events such as the loss of a sibling, the divorce of one's parents or chronic unemployment — have severe consequences for brain health later on.

A study by University of Wisconsin researchers found that stress literally takes years off a person's life in terms of brain function: an average of four years for African-Americans, compared with 1½ years for whites.

Another Wisconsin study showed that living in a disadvantaged neighborhood is associated with later decline in cognitive function and even the biomarkers linked to Alzheimer's disease, which is the most common form of dementia.

In another study, researchers with Kaiser Permanente and the University of California at San Francisco found a higher degree of dementia risk for people born in states with high rates of infant mortality.

These lifelong effects of stress and disadvantage could be direct, perhaps in line with previous research showing that sustained stress can physically alter the brain. Or the impact could

be the result of cascading effects, such as when a powerfully disruptive event affects a person's early schooling and limits achievement later on.

"No one's looking at the same kind of things, but the research all dovetails really well," said Megan Zuelsdorf, an epidemiologist with the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. "It is the social

Plant City shooting unfolds like Wild West

A report details how a family feud came to a bloody end in a Rocking V Ranch pasture.

BY TONY MARRERO
Times Staff Writer

PLANT CITY — Joanne Varn spotted the SUV barreling toward them in a cloud of dust and felt a sense of dread.

She hoped it wasn't her ex-husband, Milton Varn, a man with a temper who would be angry that she was there with her new husband and her former brother-in-law, Perry Varn. Moments earlier, the trio had rolled into a pasture on the Rocking V Ranch to look at a mare Perry Varn wanted to sell.

But it was Milton Varn. And he was angry.

Without a word, the weathered cowboy got out of the battered green Ford Escape armed with a pistol in each hand. He shot his brother, Perry, in the neck, killing him instantly. He then fired a round at Joanne's husband, hitting him in the shoulder.

Then he turned his guns on his ex-wife.

"I told you not to come back here," he said.

Moments later, Milton Varn

was dead, too.

These details, included in a Hillsborough Sheriff's Office investigation report released to the *Tampa Bay Times*, shed more light on the Easter weekend shooting that struck down a generation of a well-known Plant City family.

In that pasture, the report and other public records indicate, Milton Varn decided to end a long-simmering dispute with his brother and punish his ex-wife for daring to disobey him.

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It was supposed to be a quick visit, and they wanted to steer

clear of Milton Varn.

That day, April 15, Joanne Varn's son James invited her and her husband, George "Terry" Long, to see a barn James was building at his place on the north end of Rocking V, an 1,800-acre ranch on Varn Road, northwest of the city limits.

Joanne, a 62-year-old registered nurse who lives in Fort Meade, asked James if Milton was going to be there.

"Cause I don't wanna have any run ins with your dad," she told him. "He said, 'No, he's fine.' So I thought he was fine."

See SHOOTING, 4A



Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
Investigators say Milton Varn barreled into a Rocking V Ranch pasture in the green Ford SUV, center left, and fatally shot his brother, Perry, who was in the Polaris Ranger, center right.