

Tampa Bay Times

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★★★ TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017 | \$1



OTTO WARMBIER, HELD IN N. KOREA OVER A YEAR, DIES

The University of Virginia student's parents say Warmbier, 22, died Monday, less than a week after being returned to the United States unable to speak, unable to see and unable to react to verbal commands. Last week, Fred Warmbier denounced what he called the "pariah" North Korean regime that brutalized his son. **World, 2A**

Redner sues state, wants to grow pot

Outspoken Tampa strip club entrepreneur Joe Redner, a lung cancer patient, is taking the state to court over its medical marijuana laws in an effort to be allowed to grow his own marijuana plants. Those in Florida's expanding medical marijuana industry say Redner, 77, could be one among many to challenge the state's laws on pot. **Local, 1B**

Autopsy finds array of drugs in Fisher

Cocaine, heroin, other opiates and ecstasy were determined to be in *Star Wars* actor Carrie Fisher's system when she died at age 60 in December, but investigators could not determine what impact the drugs had on her death. **Etc, 2B**

Housing wealth deepens U.S. gap

A new study shows home values are rising far faster in the country's most expensive areas than in cheaper metros. **Business, 4B**

Rays battle Reds

Tampa Bay was back home Monday looking to build on a winning streak. **Results at tampabay.com/sports.**



Boaters head across Boca Ceiga Bay near St. Pete Beach as thunderstorms approach from the west off the Gulf of Mexico. Two tropical storms will likely dump widespread showers and some heavy rain on the Tampa Bay area this week. **SCOTT KEELER | Times**

Storms brewin'

The tropical systems won't hit Florida's coast, but are expected to bring plenty of rain to the Tampa Bay area.

BY ANASTASIA DAWSON
Times Staff Writer

Strong winds reaching speeds of 40 miles per hour in the Gulf of Mexico and the west Atlantic gave birth to the first tropical storm systems of the 2017 hurricane season Monday evening.

The storms will stay well away from Florida's coastline, but will likely dump widespread showers and intermittent heavy rains on the Tampa Bay area today and Wednesday before sending drier air through the region for the weekend, said 10Weather WTSP meteorologist Bobby Deskins.

The first upgraded storm of the 2017 hurricane season, Tropical Storm Bret, was cruising west-northwest through the Atlantic at speeds of about 30 mph, the National Hurricane Center said in a 5 p.m. advisory.

The Caribbean storm brought heavy rain bands to Trinidad and Tobago by 8 p.m. Monday, and was expected to move near or over Trinidad and the eastern coast of Venezuela early today, a National Hurricane Center advisory said.



Source: National Hurricane Center

But Deskins said Bret will likely dissipate by late tonight or early Wednesday morning, before winds exceed 50 mph or push it toward Cuba's coastline.

"Storms need light winds and thunderstorms to make it spin and keep growing, but if winds get too strong and start blowing across the center of the storm, they blow the storm apart," Deskins said. "That's why we call it wind sheer, because it's sheering the tops right off the storm."

Bret shouldn't pose a threat to the United States, but could **See STORMS, 5A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Scattered showers



40% chance of rain
More, back page of Sports

tampabay.com

Get up and go

In the mood for something fun but don't know what's going on locally? Worry not. We provide a rundown of all area events at **tampabay.com/things-to-do.**

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Amalie Arena officials noticed varying pronunciations of the venue and have sent a news release with the correct one. **SKIP O'ROURKE | Times (2014)**

Wait, how do you pronounce it?

With big events coming up, Amalie Arena sends a little reminder. (It's like "family.")

BY CHRISTOPHER SPATA
Times Staff Writer

Amalie Arena wants to get something out of the way.

Before going any further with major concerts by legendary performers or nationally televised sporting events, there's the simple matter of the downtown Tampa arena's name and how to say it.

Amalie, apparently, should rhyme with family, though some people have been saying it so it rhymes with homily. They've been saying it like Amélie, the sprightly protagonist in the 2001 French film of the same name.

The arena's communications team has noticed the creep of ah-mil-lee instead of AM-uh-lee for a while now, said Amalie Arena events marketing manager Angela Lanza.

And, like many of us with uncommon names, they cringed a little inside upon hearing it the wrong way, but did so silently, politely, since no one was actually stopping to ask if they were saying it right. In the wake of big announcements like July's Paul McCartney concert and January's NHL All-Star Game, they **See AMALIE, 5A**

Charges made in charter case

A businessman who managed 15 schools is accused of diverting public funds.

BY COLLEEN WRIGHT
Times Staff Writer

A businessman whose companies managed 15 charter schools in Florida, including six across Pinellas and Hillsborough counties, was charged Monday with racketeering in what prosecutors said was a scheme to steer public education money his way using huge markups, bogus invoices and a web of related corporations.

From 2007 to 2016, according to an affidavit, charter schools controlled by Marcus Nelson May and his company, Newpoint Education Partners, received more than \$57 million in public funds — including more than \$1 million he used for personal expenses and to purchase residential and business properties in Florida.

The sum does not include the 18 percent fee and other reimbursements that Newpoint received under generous management agreements that May secured with inexperienced local charter school boards, the affidavit states.

Warrants have been issued for May's arrest and the arrest of an associate, Steven Kunkemoeller, who operated Red Ignition and **See CHARTERS, 7A**

Russia elevates tension in Syria

After the U.S. shoots down a Syrian jet, Russia issues a threat of retaliation.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States shoots down a Syrian fighter jet for the first time. Syria attacks America's allies against Islamic State militants. Iran fires missiles into Syria. Russia threatens to target U.S. coalition planes.

As Syria's complex war ramps up, the Trump administration is scrambling to tamp down tensions and avoid open hostilities with the Russians.

This past weekend's fast-paced developments bring new urgency to easing escalating strains between Washington and Moscow, who are both fighting in Syria but with opposing objectives. It's an effort made more complicated by the increasingly messy battlefield in the Arab country, which includes deepening Iranian involvement — its first missile foray into Syria occurred Sunday — and an ongoing investigation in the United States into Russian meddling in the presidential election.

In the first high-level U.S. public comments about the situation, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Monday that the former Cold War foes are in delicate discussions to restore normalcy to communications and maintain focus on fighting ISIS **See SYRIA, 7A**

Holocaust survivor gets redress

A Pinellas woman receives money from France for its railroad company's part in the genocide.

BY CHRISTOPHER O'DONNELL
Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — The Nazis came for Betty Goldberg's father when she was just 9.

They took him from Paris to Auschwitz, the largest World War II death camp, where 1.1 million people died. She survived thanks to a railroad stationmaster who hid her for three years with his family in an apartment above a small station.

horrific time are undimmed.

Her fear of capture was so great that she was sure the Nazis could hear her breathe. She was separated from her mother and had no idea of her father's fate.

He was one of an estimated 76,000 French Jews taken to camps in state-owned SNCF trains and survived only because the camp commandant liked his singing. About 74 years later, in 2015, the French government acknowledged its railroad's part

in the Holocaust with the creation of a \$60 million restitution fund for French survivors and their heirs.

Goldberg learned recently she is one of the recipients. The "significant" award will help her stay in her Pinellas County home and pay for home help, she said.

But her first act was to make a \$10,000 donation to the Holocaust Survivor Program run by Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services.

The group, which assisted in her application, supports about 260 Holocaust survivors in Cit **See SURVIVOR, 6A**



Betty Goldberg, left, is thanked by Renee Baseman before Goldberg gave \$10,000 to a Holocaust survivor program. **JAMES BORCHUCK | Times**