

In the know

Tampa Bay Times

FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER

tampabay.com

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017 | \$1



FAMILY RESCUED AFTER GUNFIGHT WITH TERRORISTS

After five years of waiting, an American woman, her Canadian husband and their three children — all born in captivity — have been freed from a terrorist network in Pakistan. **World, 2A**

Visas for Cubans require long detour

The U.S. State Department says that Cubans seeking an immigrant visa will have to appear for an interview — in Colombia. **Nation, 2A**

New trial starts in double slaying

Former Jabil executive Patrick Evans was convicted and sentenced to death in 2012 for killing his estranged wife and her friend. But in 2015, the Florida Supreme Court overturned his convictions, citing errors in a detective's testimony and criticizing a prosecutor's remarks. **Local, 1B**

QVC will clean house at HSN

The top three executives at HSN will exit the St. Petersburg retailer when QVC's parent company, Liberty Interactive Group, completes the \$2.1 billion deal to take over the company, QVC officials say. **Business, 4B**

Bolts host champs

The Lightning look to improve to 3-1, but face a big challenge in the Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins. **For results, visit tampabay.com/sports.**

Storm costs still unpaid

A year after Hurricane Matthew, millions from FEMA are stuck in the state's red tape.

BY STEVE BOUSQUET

Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — After Hurricane Irma ravaged Florida, an impatient Gov. Rick Scott ordered counties to remove debris, reopen roads and restore normalcy as fast as possible.

Yet as the costs of Irma's Category 4 fury are still being calculated, North Florida cities and

counties hammered by Hurricane Matthew a year ago are still waiting to be paid for the cost of debris removal, road repair and police overtime.

Strangled in red tape, counties fault the state for persistent delays, noting that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has authorized tens of millions in reimbursement dollars that

Scott's administration still has not yet distributed.

"It's a bottleneck," said Larry Harvey, chairman of the Putnam County Commission in Palatka. "We don't have the resources to float these types of losses."

Putnam, a county of 72,000 east of Gainesville, has an annual budget of \$119 million and says it's owed \$1.3 million from Matthew.

It will get worse. The county now projects unplanned costs of \$1.4 million more for Hurricane Irma recovery, and \$300,000 from another storm, a nor'easter that blew through two weeks later.

Like other cash-strapped counties awaiting payment, out-of-the-way Putnam has a very slim property tax base, scarce rainy-day cash reserves and few new

jobs on the way.

Putnam is close to the state's 10 mill tax cap, or \$10 for every \$1,000 of taxable property value. It is one of 29 "fiscally constrained" Florida counties where a 1 mill tax hike generates less than \$5 million.

Fed up with the delay, Putnam County sent legislators a letter. **See MATTHEW, 6A**

EAT AND DRINK LIKE A WIZARD



Photos by DIRK SHADD | Times

Waypoint 6 Tavern & Geekery in Largo caters to fans of sci-fi and superheroes.

BY CHRISTOPHER SPATA

Times Staff Writer

LARGO — It happened not long after Tampa Bay's first "geek bar" opened its doors. Someone, perhaps one of the guys who frequented the Irish pub that used to be there, asked the question the new owners knew was coming: "Can you put the game on?"

Owner Kevin Daniels politely declined. Then he printed a sign — call it the bar's spiritual mission statement — and taped it to the front door.

"Please be advised ... Waypoint 6 Tavern & Geekery was designed by geeks for geeks to

enjoy all of their geeky delights," it read. "We will not be showing sports unless it is BattleBots, drone racing or quidditch. There are over eighty-seven sports bars in this area to choose from, but only one geekery."

When the Largo bar and restaurant posted a photo of that sign to its fledgling Facebook following, it was shared so widely that more than 700,000 people saw it. Delighted responses came from as far as California, England and Australia, many echoing a similar response: "We need one of those here!"

In an era when comic conventions draw **See GEEKERY, 6A**

Kathryn Daniels, 18, with her parents Kevin Daniels, 46, and Stephanie Daniels, 38, look out from behind the bar at Waypoint 6 Tavern & Geekery at 9057 Ulmerton Road in Largo. The Harry Potter booth is decorated with memorabilia from the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Waypoint 6 is getting notice for its geek-centric theme.

Cop's killer pleads guilty

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty in the Tarpon case.

BY LAURA C. MOREL

Times Staff Writer

LARGO — Marco Antonio Parilla Jr., charged with the shooting death of Tarpon Springs police Officer Charles Kondek in December 2014, pleaded guilty Thursday to first-degree murder.

Kondek's wife, family, and dozens of police officers watched as Parilla, 26, walked up to the lectern with his two defense attorneys. After Pinellas Circuit Judge Joseph Bulone accepted his plea, Parilla unfolded a one-page letter he wrote to Kondek's family.

"I'm writing this apology to ask you for your forgiveness. I didn't want to take the life of no one, let alone a hero," Parilla read. "I am not a monster and I'm sorry for causing pain to the community."

Parilla's guilty plea means there won't be a trial. During his sentencing, a jury will decide if he should spend his life in prison or be condemned to death row. Under a new **See GUILTY, 6A**



Marco Antonio Parilla Jr., top, shot Officer Charles Kondek in 2014.

TODAY'S WEATHER

Rain returns

8 a.m. 74° Noon 83° 4 p.m. 86° 8 p.m. 81°

40% chance of rain
More, back page of Sports

tampabay.com

Attack sounds?

The Associated Press obtained a recording of what some U.S. Embassy workers heard in Havana in a series of incidents later deemed to be deliberate attacks. The recordings are not believed to be dangerous to those who listen. Listen here: bit.ly/2hDKnNC

INDEX

Astrology	4F	Crosswords	4F
Business	4B	Editorials	8A
Classified	F	Lottery	2A
Comics	3F	Puzzles	4F

Vol. 134 No. 81

© Times Publishing Co.



Inmate recants his murder story

His confession withers, weakening efforts of the slain woman's husband to get a new trial.

BY ANASTASIA DAWSON

Times Staff Writer

BARTOW — Jeremy Lynn Scott hung his head and closed his eyes as he testified Thursday morning, avoiding eye contact with the courtroom crowd as he confessed to murdering Michelle Saum Schofield on a rainy February night in 1987.

But she isn't the only one Scott admitted killing.

In February, he wrote a letter to the State Attorney's Office confessing to "all 1987 to 1988 murders" in Florida. And after two hours on the stand Thursday, choking back tears as Assis-

tant State Attorney Victoria Avalon pointed out discrepancy after discrepancy in his story, Scott took back his latest confession.

"No, no, I didn't do that," Scott said, as Avalon demanded he open his eyes, turn his face and look at a photo of Schofield's body taken at the crime scene.

The about-face dealt a blow to an effort by Schofield's husband, 51-year-old Leo Schofield, to get a new trial in the case. A jury convicted him of first-degree murder in the death of his 18-year-old wife, and he was sentenced to life in prison in 1988. Schofield, who **See CONFESSION, 6A**



The Ledger

Leo Schofield Jr., center, stands next to his attorney Andrew Crawford after listening to Jeremy Scott's testimony Thursday.

Trump takes a shot at health care law

But experts say time will tell if his executive order delivers on better prices and choices.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Frustrated over setbacks in Congress, President Donald Trump wielded his rule-making power Thursday to launch an end run that might get him closer to his goal of repealing and replacing Obamacare.

Whether Trump's executive order will be the play that breaks through isn't clear.

Experts say consumers aren't likely to see major changes any time soon,

although the White House is promising lower costs and more options.

Some experts warned that hard-won protections for older adults and people in poor health could be undermined by the skinny lower-premium plans that Trump ordered federal agencies to facilitate.

Others say the president's plans will have a modest impact, and might even help some consumers who don't now benefit from financial assistance under **See TRUMP, 4A**