



## BOLTS' HEDMAN SIDELINED 3 TO 6 WEEKS

The Lightning is breathing a sigh of relief after fearing that All-Star defenseman Victor Hedman's lower-body injury could have been much worse. It looked like Hedman's season might have been over Thursday when he was involved in a knee-to-knee collision against the Calgary Flames. **Sports, 1C**

## Mayors strike back at Tallahassee

Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman and Clearwater Mayor George Cretekos push back against intrusions by the Legislature. **Local, 1B**

## Power plant could be converted

The parent company of Tampa Electric plans to seek regulatory approval to convert its Big Bend power plant, the site of an industrial accident that killed five workers last year, from coal to natural gas. **Business, 4B**

## 'The Commuter' is fairly pedestrian

Liam Neeson's nose for danger leads him into a train this time, but the action takes a while to get going. **Steve Persall review, 2B**

## Apartment tower sale sets record

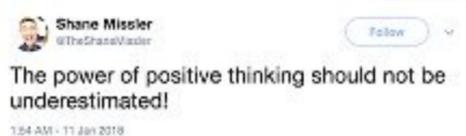
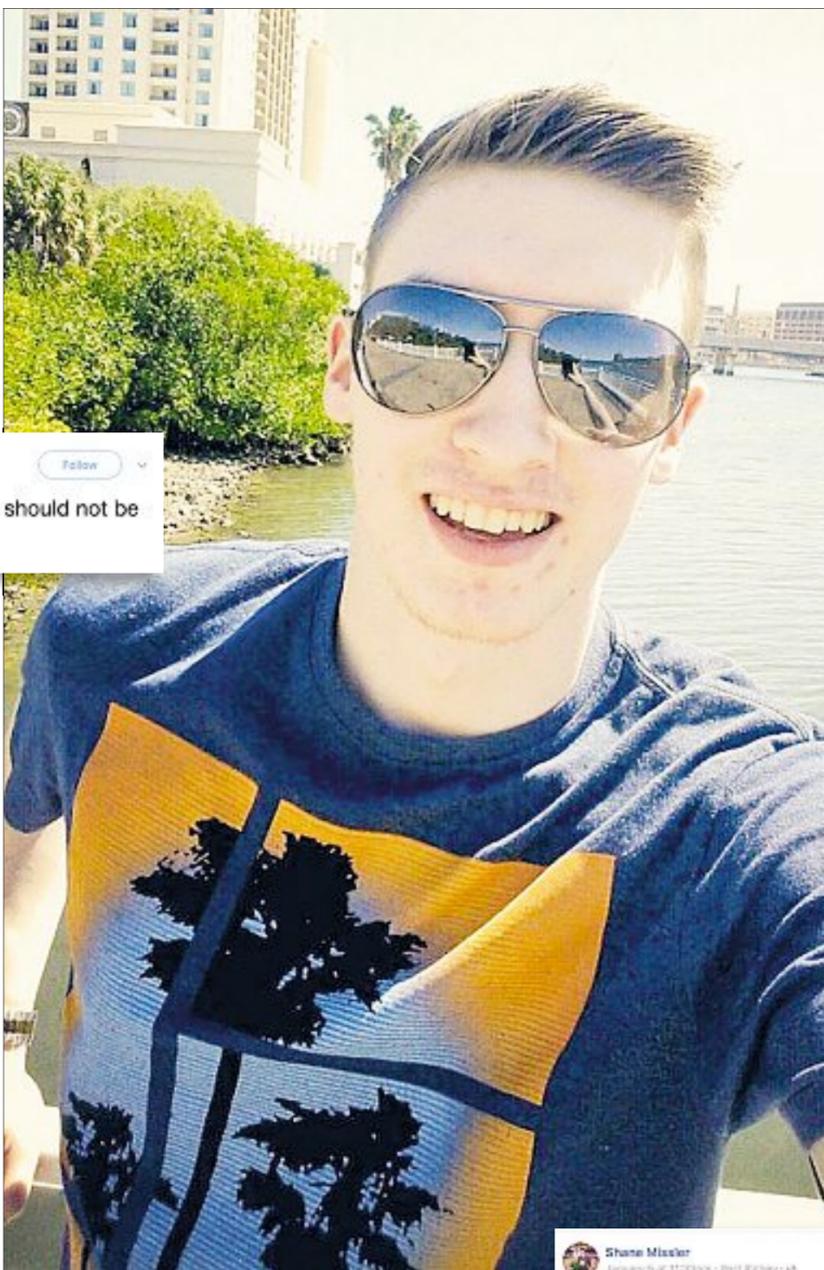
AER, a newly built apartment tower in downtown St. Petersburg, has been sold for \$127 million. **Business, 4B**

## South gets hit by wintry blast

The storm, an icy mix that turned to snow, forced schools and businesses to close in Tennessee and Kentucky. **Nation, 2A**

# 20-year-old wins \$451,000,000

The young man from Port Richey brought his ticket, his dad and a lawyer to claim the jackpot.



BY ZACHARY T. SAMPSON, EMILY L. MAHONEY AND TYLISA C. JOHNSON  
*Times Staff Writers*

TALLAHASSEE — About 1 a.m. Thursday, 20-year-old Shane Missler wrote on Twitter: "The power of positive thinking should not be underestimated!"

By that time he already knew he had won the lottery.

And not just any jackpot, but \$451 million, the fourth-largest amount in Mega Millions history.

Missler bought five quick-pick tickets last week at a 7-Eleven store in Port Richey, where his family lives. Missler, grinning widely and clutching a yellow envelope, turned in the winner shortly after noon Friday at Florida Lottery headquarters in Tallahassee.

He was with his dad and a lawyer, who released a statement on his behalf:

"If there is one thing I have learned thus far in my short time on this earth it is that those who maintain a positive mindset and stay true to themselves get rewarded," Missler said. "I look forward to the future."

Missler — not even old enough to celebrate his winnings with a drink — opted

» See WINNER, 12A

Shane Missler, 20, turned in the winning Mega Millions ticket on Friday and is taking a lump-sum payment.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**JACKPOT:**  
**\$451 MILLION**  
**LUMP SUM:**  
**\$281,874,999**

Facebook.com



After federal income tax withheld:  
**\$211,406,249.25**

**ALL-TIME RANK: Fourth-biggest Mega Millions jackpot ever**

# Trump calls his words 'tough'

The president sparks a worldwide backlash with his remarks in immigration meeting.

Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's comments about African countries and Haiti drew condemnation from around the world Friday, putting the White House and Republicans on the defensive while casting doubt on hopes of resolving disputes in the coming weeks over immigration legislation.

In a tweet Friday, Trump seemed to deny using the term "s---hole" to refer to some countries during a private White House meeting Thursday, but acknowledged he used "tough" language during the negotiations. Among Republicans, there were differing responses to the comments, but few of them outright condemned his remarks.

The lone Democrat present for the Oval Office encounter said that Trump's denial was false and the president "said things that were hate-filled, vile and racist."

"I cannot believe that in the history of the White House, in that Oval Office, any president has ever spoken the words that I personally heard our president speak yesterday," Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., told reporters.

In a sign that the outcry over Trump's remarks is unlikely to abate quickly, senior House Democrats said that they planned

» See TRUMP, 7A



"We're outraged. He doesn't know how important Haiti is to America."

Caleb Exantus, 26, enrolled at USF

More reactions, 7A

### TODAY'S WEATHER

#### Cooler

8 a.m. 52° Noon 58° 4 p.m. 54° 8 p.m. 49°

10% chance of rain  
More, back page of Sports

### tampabay.com

#### Lucky to be alive

A driver who rode a wave of muddy water down a twisting street in his car during a Southern California flood said he is lucky to be alive. "I was completely at the mercy of the flow of the water," he says. Watch the video at [bit.ly/mudcar](http://bit.ly/mudcar).

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# Scott's number: lifeline or false hope during Irma?

Most nursing homes find that not even the governor could immediately help.



Gov. Rick Scott's cellphone records show that facilities called his number 120 times. Most calls went to voicemail. An aide listened to the messages.

BY TERRY SPENCER, KELLI KENNEDY AND ADRIANA GÓMEZ LICÓN  
*Associated Press*

As Hurricane Irma bore down on Florida, Gov. Rick Scott gave out his cellphone number during a conference call with administrators of the state's nursing homes and assisted living facilities. He told them to contact him if they ran into problems, and he would try to get help.

So they did, 120 times according to phone records released this week. Nearly all the calls went directly to voicemail.

The Associated Press reached 29 of the callers this week, and found that in numerous cases, the governor's offer to

personally intervene may have slowed efforts to get help and fostered unrealistic and potentially dangerous expectations that Scott could resolve problems that were beyond his control. Only one said the governor answered himself — and she got the help she needed.

Irma knocked out power across much of Florida as its strongest winds swept from Key West to Jacksonville on Sept. 10 and 11, and most of the calls asked for help restoring electricity. But Florida is served by private electric companies and municipal utilities — none directed by the state. The governor's office could only request

that particular nursing homes be given priority.

Twelve patients later died of overheating at a nursing home that called Scott's cellphone three times. Its administrators say Scott's staff didn't get them help restoring their air conditioning. Scott, a former hospital executive, says their negligence caused the deaths.

"Even with the best of intentions, when you give a single number, you automatically create a potential bottleneck, and it's almost a guaranteed bottleneck if it's the governor's number," said Richard

» See SCOTT, 4A

# Golden era of radio returns to Ruth Eckerd

A star of WKRP in Cincinnati helps bring Mike Hammer to life.

BY ANDREW MEACHAM  
*Times Performing Arts Critic*

An actor famous for playing a radio station manager will star this week in the world premiere of a radio play.

Mike Hammer: Encore for Murder brings Gary Sandy, who played Andy Travis on WKRP in Cincinnati, to Ruth Eckerd Hall. And the star power was summoned to Clearwater by a phone

### IF YOU GO

#### 'Mike Hammer: Encore for Murder'

Opens Thursday and runs through Feb. 3 at Ruth Eckerd Hall, Murray Theatre, 1111 N McMullen-Booth Road, Clearwater. \$35 and up. (727) 791-7400. [ruteckerdhall.com](http://ruteckerdhall.com).

call from the very top.

The show brings Zev Buffman, who produced 41 Broadway shows, into the

creative end of a play for just the second time since he took over as Ruth Eckerd's CEO in 2012. It also represents an expanded use of the 200-seat Murray Theatre, now home to Hat Trick Theatre and youth productions, since it was refurbished two years ago. The theater has been one part of Ruth Eckerd's sweeping, multimillion dollar expansion, and so far, has been underutilized. Encore for Murder will introduce the "Mike Hammer Series," Buffman said, as well as expand the reach of the Murray.

» See HAMMER, 13A



Photo by Gregg McGough

Zev Buffman, CEO of Ruth Eckerd Hall, is producing the show with plans for more.



DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD | Times

Gary Sandy, playing Mike Hammer, rehearses recently at Murray Theatre of Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater.