

# TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

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## 'The Shape of Water' is dripping in movie magic

LIMELIGHT, INSIDE

## Healing BY HELPING

A search for a murder victim's killer leads to food for the homeless



Karl Esters Tallahassee Democrat | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

**V**anessa Henry's journey to feeding homeless men and women in a Frenchtown parking lot began with the search for her niece's killer. She knew Tiffany Nance worked as a prostitute near Dewey Street, part of the "D blocks," a series of streets in the neighborhood with names that start with the letter D and are among Tallahassee's most drug and prostitution-plagued areas. So that's where she began. She walked the streets asking if anyone knew anything about how Tiffany's body ended up in some woods in northwest Leon County.

"We just assumed that because of the lifestyle she lived, it was someone out here on the streets and something had happened," she said.

That quest has blossomed into Henry spending about an hour every evening standing in the parking lot of the Time Saver gas station on the corner of McComb and Forest streets.

On a recent blustery evening when Tallahassee's temperatures were forecast to dip near freezing, hungry people patiently waited in line as Henry and a few volunteers handed out platters of hot food and drinks.

"We took to the streets because we didn't know who took her life or what happened to her when they found her body," Henry said. "We began to talk to

these people every day and I realized how much hurt and pain there is out here."

Henry held a Thanksgiving dinner this year. She fed 60 people in just over an hour.

### Partners in hunger

Henry partners with Hope House, whose director, Michael Hines, met her while he worked giving out food outside the Journey Center.

"She came through the line and I recognized her with the boys who had lost their mother," said Hines who runs the male-only prison re-entry program at

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The body of Tiffany Nance, 23, was found in January. PHOTO BY SUZANNE NANCE

**TOP:** Vanessa Henry, in pink, and Petra Perry hand out hot meals in Tallahassee's Frenchtown.

KARL ESTERS/DEMOCRAT

### PUBLIC EDUCATION

## Ineligible employees rewarded at LCS

'Best and Brightest' bonuses were misused

Ryan Bailey  
Tallahassee Democrat  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Leon County Schools incorrectly paid more than \$850,000 in Best and Brightest bonuses to 27 ineligible teachers and other employees who have had to repay the money, according to a report by Florida's Auditor General.

Among the seven findings in the 2017 operational audit of Leon County Schools released earlier this week, auditors also raised concerns about the district's lack of competitive bidding to select health insurance companies and the accuracy of personal information for more than 250,000 former and current students.

In order to be eligible to receive Best and Brightest money, teachers must have scored at or above the 80th percentile on college entrance exams and have been evaluated as "highly effective" based on the model laid out by the state.

According to the auditors, \$413,105 in scholarship money was paid to 21 teachers who were not evaluated as highly effective for 2015-16.

Six district employees who were given scholarship money totaling \$40,902 did not meet the state's definition of classroom teacher - five were employed as guidance counselors and one was a media specialist.

Three charter school teachers, all of whom were found to be eligible for receiving money under both criteria, have had to forfeit their scholarships. Auditors said LCS "had not established procedures to verify that scholarships are only awarded to eligible charter school classroom teachers who were evaluated as highly effective."

In its response to the finding, LCS said the teachers who were incorrectly given bonuses were made to repay the district via one of three repayment options, LCS will, in turn, reimburse the state Department of Education.

"Several employees have fully repaid the District and others are participating in a payment plan suitable to their specific circumstances," the audit found.

### Student Social Security Numbers

Auditors also found that 903 district employees had access to view students' Social Security Numbers. As of June 2017, the district's management information system maintained the SSNs of 259,700 former and 25,400 current district students, the audit found.

District personnel further indicated  
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## Mike Williams' remains located in Leon County

### Mother grappling with proof of son's murder

Jennifer Perlman  
Tallahassee Democrat  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The remains of Mike Williams, the 31-year-old real-estate appraiser murdered 17 years ago, were found in northern Leon County off Meridian Road on the

eastern shore of Carr Lake, an extension of Lake Jackson, sources confirmed Thursday to the Tallahassee Democrat.

His body was found at the end of dead-end Gardner Road, about five miles away from the home where he grew up and where his mother still lives.

"I'm shocked, because for 17 years my son has been alive to me," Cheryl Williams said.

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Mike Williams' remains were found at a heavily excavated site at the edge of Carr Lake. He was once thought to have gone missing in Jackson County. RYAN BAILEY/DEMOCRAT

USA TODAY

Fatal accidents hurt America's reputation as White House questions its funding. 1B

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