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Late motions are revealing in Bridegan case

Former wife reportedly said of hit, ‘I don’t want this’

Scott Butler
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union
USA TODAY NETWORK

As the first of three trials in the Jared Bridegan murder case is tentatively two weeks away in Jacksonville, more revealing statements are coming out in

late motions being filed by attorneys. The latest is a pair of July 24 documents in conjunction with what is scheduled to be Mario Fernandez Saldana’s final pretrial hearing July 27. His jury selection is expected to begin Aug. 10, followed by his estranged wife, Shanna Gardner, on Aug. 31 and then the previ-



Bridegan

ously self-professed triggerman, Henry Tenon, next year on March 29. Bridegan, 33, was Gardner’s ex-husband, and the pair were mired in a lengthy, nasty custody dispute involving their twin children. Fernandez Saldana was Gardner’s new husband and Tenon was

his tenant allegedly hired to kill Bridegan. The couple is accused of setting up Bridegan, knowing exactly when and where he would be for one of his planned visits with his shared-custody children. He was ambushed shortly after dropping them off at Gardner and

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Iranians appear to test latest U.S. pause

Multiple countries in area see drone attacks

Nayera Abdallah, Elwely Elwelly and Eman Abouhassira
REUTERS

DUBAI – Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iraq reported drone attacks on July 27, two days after the United States abruptly suspended a two-week campaign of air strikes against Iran, as Tehran appeared to put President Donald Trump’s latest strategic U-turn to the test. Saudi Arabia said it shot down drones aimed at petroleum targets, some in its eastern province and others in the capital Riyadh. It said the drones had been launched from Iraq by Iran-backed militia, and it reserved the right to respond. Separately, Iran’s Houthi allies in Yemen said they had targeted transit sites carrying oil to Saudi Arabia’s main Red Sea oil port of Yanbu, in retaliation for what it said were Saudi drone incursions into Yemeni air space. Earlier, Jordan reported shooting down two drones, and Iraqi security sources reported a series of drone attacks on camps housing Iranian opposition Kurdish forces in northern Iraq. Officials did not identify the sources of those drones. Jordan and northern Iraq were the locations where four U.S. service members were killed during the two-week air campaign, which Trump suspended abruptly over the weekend after his top brass advised him that the

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Doug Adams, a researcher with the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, releases a bull shark in the Indian River Lagoon. PROVIDED BY FISH AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Miss Michalove, an 11-foot tiger shark tagged off South Carolina in May, has pinged off the northern Brevard County coast. PROVIDED BY OCEARCH

Finned sentinels tagged with weather instruments

Jim Waymer
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK

Discovery Channel’s Shark Week kicked off July 26 with a smorgasbord of shows highlighting the prehistoric fish’s predatory prowess. But scientists are finding sharks also make very promising hurricane hunters and sentinels of climate-change calamities to come. If the science pans out, sharks could save countless more human lives than they take. In a way, the methodology is straight-

forward: Just fasten on sensitive weather instruments and watch them go — as sharks let 450 million years of evolution be their guide. Tough to beat that track record of long-term ocean survival skills. Studies for years have been showing tagged sharks can improve hurricane predictions. And in more recent research, these finned sentinels are helping to fill the elusive deep-ocean data gaps needed to improve climate change predictions.

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AI spending boosts capital goods orders and shipments



Boeing reported it had received 121 orders for commercial aircraft, up from 27 in May. JENNIFER BUCHANAN/POOL VIA REUTERS FILE

Lucia Mutikani
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – New orders for key U.S.-manufactured capital goods increased strongly in June while shipments surged as businesses ramped up spending on artificial intelligence, suggesting the economy maintained a fairly strong pace of growth in the second quarter. The report from the Commerce Department on July 27 also showed upward revisions to the data for May.

The AI build-out is helping to limit the drag on the economy from the five-month war in the Middle East and the Trump administration’s tariffs on imports, propping up manufacturing. The increase in the so-called core capital goods orders and shipments was powered by robust demand for computers and electronic products as well as electrical equipment, appliances and components. “Equity markets are still wrestling with the valuations of many of these tech companies, but one thing is certain,

and that is the [capital] expenditures of corporate America are keeping the economy afloat despite caution in other sectors engendered by the Middle East war uncertainty and higher energy prices,” said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWDBONDS. Nondefense capital goods orders excluding aircraft, a closely watched proxy for business spending, rose 0.9% in June after an upwardly revised 1.9% increase in May, the Commerce Department’s

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