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The Palm Beach Post

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PBSO to pay \$18M to paralyzed man

Deputy's tase caused WPB teen to fall from a rooftop

Mike Diamond
Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has agreed to pay \$18 million to a West Palm Beach-area man who sustained paralyzing injuries four years ago after a deputy tasered him, causing him

to fall off a roof to the ground. Timme Lee Knox Jr., then 17, broke his spinal cord and is paralyzed from the neck down. Many lawsuits alleging police misconduct are settled confidentially, with the amounts rarely made public. Of those that have been made public, PBSO's payment is among the largest made nationwide. The Palm Beach Post learned of the confidential settlement through a public records request. A sampling of some re-

cent cases of national interest that were settled without confidentiality show how costly these payouts can be. • The city of Minneapolis paid \$27 million in 2021 to settle the George Floyd civil lawsuit. Floyd was killed by a police officer, Derek Chauvin, who kept his knee on Floyd's neck for more than 10 minutes while arresting him. Chauvin faced criminal charges and was found guilty of second-degree murder. • The city of Louisville, Kentucky, settled a civil lawsuit with Breonna Tay-

lor's family for \$12 million in September 2020. Taylor, an emergency room technician, was inside her apartment when she was fatally shot by plainclothes officers in March 2020 during a botched narcotics investigation. One officer was cleared by a jury and another was found guilty of using excessive force. • The estate of Eric Garner, who died in 2014 after a New York City police officer placed him in a chokehold, received

See PBSO, Page 12A

Epstein accusers call for release of all files



Marina Lacerda, victim of late financier Jeffrey Epstein, speaks during a press conference to discuss the Epstein Files Transparency bill, directing the release of the remaining files related to the investigations into Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, on Capitol Hill, on Sept. 3.

EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/REUTERS

Women speak out on abuse as House works on petition

Bart Jansen and Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — At an emotional rally and press conference Sept. 3, woman after woman spoke out, saying they were abused by Jeffrey Epstein and leaning on House members and President Donald Trump to release all the criminal investigative files in his case.

Epstein, a financier, died in jail in August 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. His associate, Ghislaine Maxwell, is serving a 20-year prison sentence. The House petition from Reps. Thomas Massie, R-Kentucky, and Ro Khanna, D-California, aims to force

See EPSTEIN, Page 12A

AI firm plans office in CityPlace

Commission OKs \$2M in incentives for company

Andrew Marra
Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

West Palm Beach city commissioners have approved \$2 million in incentives for an unnamed technology company that plans to open a regional office downtown employing more than 800 people. The California-based company, which city officials say provides cloud-computing services to businesses, would operate an "innovation hub" in an office tower being built in CityPlace. If the company expands to the projected level, it would become one of Palm Beach County's largest employers and potentially the largest private employer downtown. Kelly Smalridge, president of the county's Business Development Board, told commissioners Sept. 2 that the company's move would amount to the largest corporate expansion into the county in a generation. "I believe this is the largest relocation deal I have ever seen in over three decades of doing this," she said. Smalridge said the plan underscores the transformation of West Palm Beach's downtown, which has

See AI FIRM, Page 11A

Ladapo, DeSantis seek to end all FL vaccine mandates

Pediatrician: Move a risk to economy because more parents to miss work

Ana Goñi-Lessan
USA TODAY NETWORK — FLORIDA

Florida is moving to end all vaccine mandates in the state. "Every last one of them is wrong and drips with disdain and slavery," said Dr. Joseph Ladapo, Florida's surgeon gen-

eral, at a Sept. 3 press conference in Valrico, Hillsborough County. "Who am I to tell you what your child should put in their body? I don't have that right. Your body is a gift from God," Ladapo said. Vaccine requirements are in state law. Ladapo, the state's top public health official, said lawmakers will "have to choose a side." To those who don't want to get vaccinated, he said, "God bless you." The press conference was a chance



Ladapo



DeSantis

for Ladapo, Gov. Ron DeSantis, Lt. Gov. Jay Collins and other state leaders, in-

cluding Education Commissioner Anastosios Kamoutsas and state lawmakers to appeal to the growing anti-vaccination movement. Ladapo said the Florida Department of Health, which he heads, will repeal the rules within his purview that require vaccines, and that the governor and the Legislature will work to repeal the rest. According to Florida law, immunizations are required for polio, diphtheria,

See MANDATES, Page 11A

