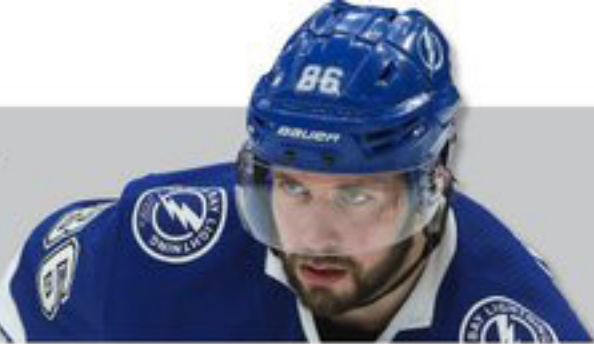


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'Dangerous hit' gets Kucherov a suspension. **Sports,1C**



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Using data to fix Fla. prisons

A landmark law lets the state track people as they go through the justice system.

BY NICOLE LEWIS
The Marshall Project

Florida has one of the largest and most expensive prison systems in the country. Each year, the state spends nearly \$2.4 billion to keep roughly 100,000 people behind bars. And the system is rife with racial disparities: Black people make up 17 percent of the state's population — and almost half of its prisoners.

Lawmakers are split over which is the more pressing problem: the high cost of locking so many people up or the overrepresentation of black people in prison. But they do agree that to address either issue, they need more data.

Last year, the Sunshine State became the first in the country to require its jails, prosecutors, public defenders, courts and prisons to coordinate data collection, enabling lawmakers and the public to track how someone moves through the entire criminal justice system, from arrest to release. The new information will be sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which will publish it online.

Supporters of the new law hope it will bring transparency to an opaque justice system, illuminating where racial disparities begin while testing the merits of Florida's strict sentencing policies. Research shows that long sentences increase prison costs, without improving public safety. Now, backers say, the legislature can craft reforms that are informed by facts.

"This new data is going to allow us to see whether reforms are working or whether the criminal justice system is working, instead of just going by 'common sense' or folksy thoughts," said Benjamin Stevenson, staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida.

» See **JUSTICE, 15A**

FLORIDIAN Michael Connelly is back with 'Bosch'

The author with Tampa connections talks about the latest season of his series, *Bosch*, returning Friday on Amazon, his true-crime podcast — and his next novel. **1E**

LOCAL A vinyl dream come true

Early risers Saturday got exclusive releases, live music and a first look at Daddy Koof's relocated St. Petersburg store. **1B**

BUSINESS Foreign buyers love us

Global upheaval has caused a dip in foreign investment in Florida real estate, but not here. Steadfast Canadians join buyers from around the world. **1D**

A passing shower
8 a.m. Noon 4 p.m. 8 p.m.

76° 83° 84° 78°
55% chance of rain
More, back page of Sports



Vol. 135 No. 264
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All Children's works to restore faith as families struggle to move forward.

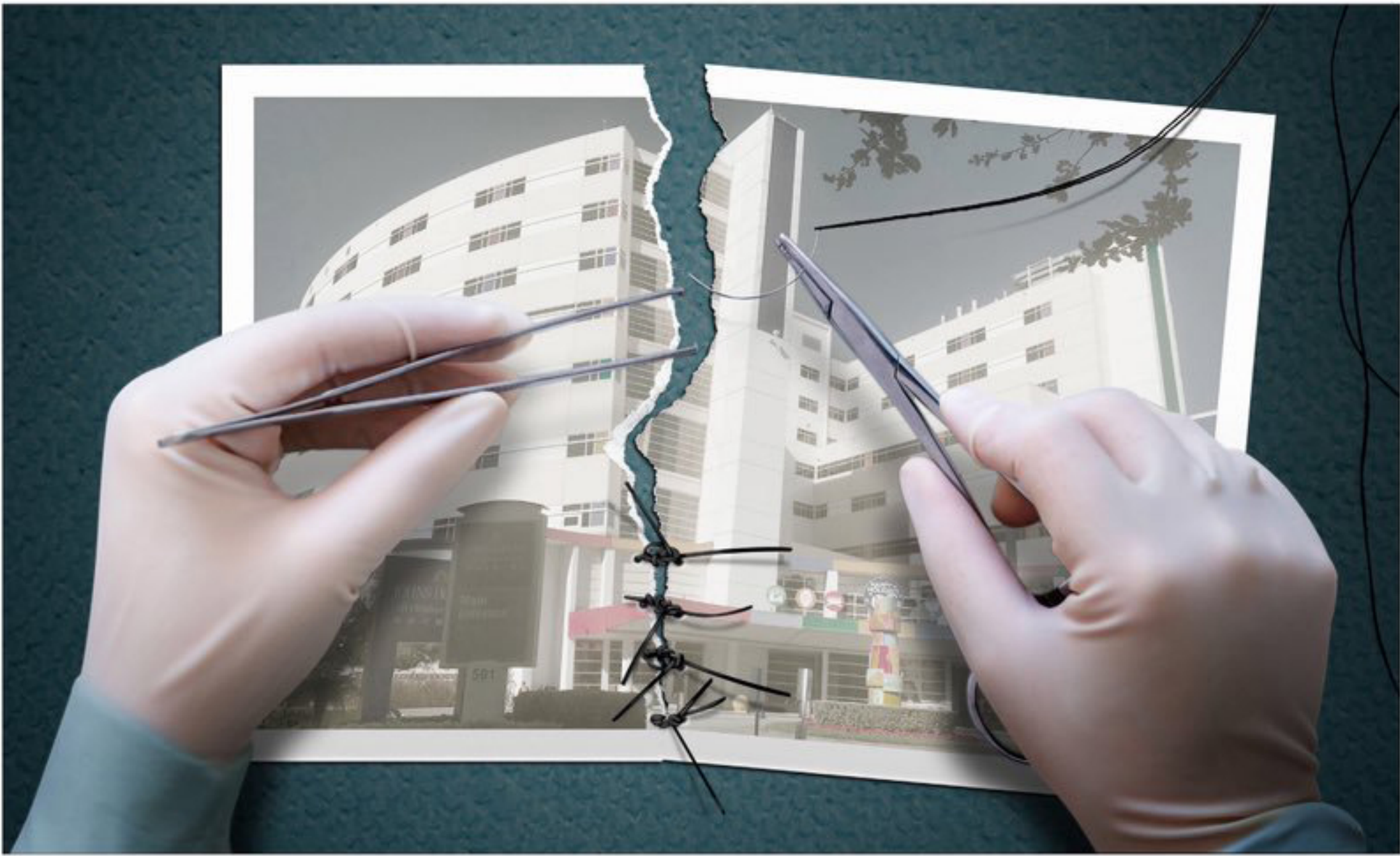


Illustration by RON BORRESEN, photo by SCOTT KEELER | Times staff

OPEN WOUNDS

BY KATHLEEN McGRORY AND NEIL BEDI
Times Staff Writers

Sandra Vázquez received the letter in the beginning of January.

The president of the Johns Hopkins Health System was writing to say there had been "failures" in her son's care at All Children's Hospital in 2017. He asked for a meeting "to discuss ways we would like to help your family as a result of what we've learned."

The thought of her son Sebastián, who died at the hospital, brought Vázquez to tears.

Three months later, she still hasn't been able to reply.

"I feel like they want to negotiate Sebastián's life and death," Vázquez said.

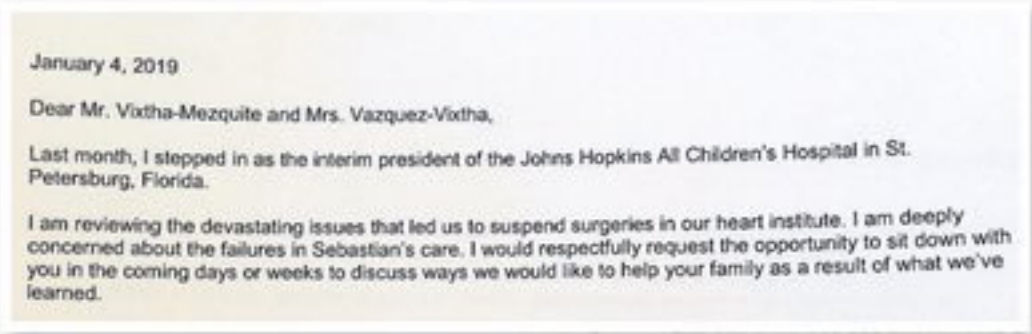
Indeed, Johns Hopkins wants to discuss settlements with the families of children who died or were injured at the All Children's Heart Institute. In at least 11 cases, the health system has agreed to do so before the families file suit, "admitting our liability in most cases," its leaders recently disclosed to investors in bond documents.

That some parents are too angry to accept the overture is only the latest setback for All Children's.



Times (2018)

Sandra Vázquez holds a photo of her son Sebastián Vixtha, who died at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in 2017. Hospital leaders have reached out to Vázquez, but she has not yet been able to reply.



In just a few months the region's most-prestigious hospital has fallen into a state of near-constant turmoil.

The slide started in November, when a *Tampa Bay Times* investigation revealed that problems in the heart surgery unit had led to a spike in the death rate.

In December, the hospital's chief executive officer and two other top leaders resigned. Then, at the end of January, federal inspectors exposed deep problems that went beyond the Heart Institute, including a governance structure where extraordinary power rested with Johns Hopkins' handpicked CEO.

In February, distrustful employees openly challenged the health system's president in a town hall meeting that became public.

Johns Hopkins, which absorbed the century-old hospital in 2011, has taken aggressive steps to stabilize the situation. The system's president, Kevin Sowers, personally took over at All Children's for a time after the December resignations and quickly apologized to patients, their families and the staff, as well as the broader community.

» See **HOSPITAL, 4A**

Jan Killilea of Boca Raton, at left, and Kelly Jarvis of Tarpon Springs help Blake Taylor out of the Clearwater courthouse after her divorce hearing in March. Killilea started the First Wives Advocacy Group for women struggling with alimony and divorce.



LEONORA LAPETER ANTON | Times

For first wives, wedding vows give way to alimony woes

Bitter legal fights erupt if ex-husbands refuse to pay what often is a lifetime commitment.

BY LEONORA LAPETER ANTON
Times Staff Writer

The judge stood in the windowless courtroom in Clearwater and stretched his back, attempting to sort through the latest accusations in the six-year divorce case of Dr. Mark Flood and Blake Taylor.

Taylor sat in a wheelchair, her

face pale and thin, as her lawyer outlined her husband's failure to pay alimony for a year. Flood had started sending the payments again, but they were always late. He'd allowed her health insurance to lapse, and she has a circulation condition that causes her to faint often.

Flood, in a dark blazer and

blue oxford shirt, looked ready to jump out of his chair. His temporary alimony payment of \$22,000 a month seemed extraordinary but apparently not when compared with the former Laser Spine Institute surgeon's million-dollar income.

"She's just trying to con another month out of me," he said angrily of Taylor.

"She's not sick," said David A. Maney, his attorney. "She's a faker."

» See **DIVORCE, 7A**