



Wilder chooses FSU

Plant's James Wilder Jr. wants to be a running back and that's what the Seminoles want. **DETAILS, Sports, Page 1**

THE THURSDAY 8.19.2010 TAMPA TRIBUNE and The Tampa Times



The first to die

Cpl. Mike Roberts, shot a year ago today, was the first of three Tampa police officers killed in the past year. **Page 5**

Black males lag in Pinellas

The county's high schools rank last in the nation for the racial group's graduation rate, study says.

By DENNIS JOYCE
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TAMPA » Every sign is pointing toward progress in raising the graduation rates of black students in Pinellas County.

But this week brought a reminder of how far Pinellas has to go in bridging an achievement gap that feeds a cycle of crime, poverty and legal action against the district.

A study by the Schott Foundation for Public Education says Pinellas County graduates the lowest percentage of black males of any major school district in the nation.

Just one in five black males graduated from Pinellas high schools in the 2007-08 school year — less than half the nation-

al average, according to a report from the Schott Foundation, based in Cambridge, Mass.

One in two white males graduated in Pinellas during the same period, creating a gap of about 30 percent, the report said.

Pinellas officials disputed the findings, saying its own studies

put the local graduation rate for black males at 50 percent in 2007-08.

One reason for the discrepancy: The foundation counts only what it calls "college-ready" diplomas, which include standard high school diplomas, and doesn't count vocational diploma-

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Gap can't be bridged

On anniversary of UT runner's killing, pain and uncertainty still tear at those near him.



Staff photo by PETER MASA

A picture of Ryan McCall is on display in the office of University of Tampa cross-country coach Jarrett Slaven.



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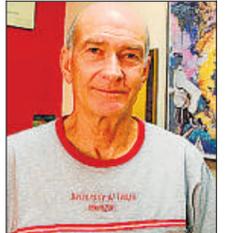
TAMPA » Ryan McCall was killed one year ago today, shot during a robbery attempt about 3 a.m. near the University of Tampa campus. For those closest to him, those 365 days seem longer than anything they have known before.

They have lived with a year of questions that may never have answers, of pain that won't subside. They endured a year of random images or words bringing McCall back into their consciousness. And they know that in the passing of days and emptiness of nights, a killer still roams the streets, despite a \$50,000 reward being offered for his capture.

"This (anniversary) will be like an open wound again," UT cross-country coach Jarrett Slaven said.

McCall, a member of Slaven's team, was 21 years old when he died near the base of the Eugene Holtsinger Bridge on North Boulevard. He and a friend were walking home from a birthday party at the Retreat when a man approached with a gun and demanded money. In an instant, a life filled with so much hope and promise was over.

See HENDERSON COLUMN, Page 6 »



"This (anniversary) will be like an open wound again."

JARRETT SLAVEN
cross-country coach

Iconic, aging Pier facing demolition

St. Petersburg City Council votes to tear down landmark.

By STEPHEN THOMPSON
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ST. PETERSBURG » The Pier's inverted pyramid appears to have been dealt a death sentence.

In a 5-3 straw vote, the St. Petersburg City Council agreed Wednesday to demolish the landmark structure that looms over Tampa Bay. Mayor Bill Foster thought it should come down, too.

"I think the council arrived at the same conclusion that I did," Foster said. "We can't afford to maintain the status quo."

The city had to decide what to do with the pyramid after engineers determined the 1,000-plus pilings undergirding its approach were coming to the end of their useful life.

Though the inverted pyramid is relatively young, built in 1973, the pilings holding up the approach date to the 1920s.

With about \$50 million available in

See PIER VOTE, Page 6 »



Staff photo by FRED BELLET

St. Petersburg has considered several options for the aging Pier, some of which were deemed too costly.

STRESSED OUT: Forbes ranks Tampa No. 4

By RAY REYES
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TAMPA » Feeling stressed out? Chewed up and worn down by the daily grind?

It's OK. So is everybody else in this city, according to a study released this week by Forbes.com. The magazine's website has

Tampa ranked fourth among the 10 most stressful, nerve-fraying cities in the United States. That's a higher ranking than Miami at No. 6, New York at No. 8 and Detroit at No. 10.

Forbes measured the 40 largest metropolitan statistical areas in the country, focusing on six factors that cause or are caused by stress: high

See HIGH STRESS, Page 6 »

INSIDE

HART to clarify choices

It will make transit recommendation, tell costs before November ballot. **DETAILS, Page 5**

Goodbye to Baghdad

The last U.S. combat brigade leaves Iraq, crosses border into Kuwait. **DETAILS, Page 10**



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