

In the know



RAYS MAKE IT SIX IN A ROW WITH WIN OVER YANKEES

Jonny Gomes, pinch-running for Cliff Floyd, scores the winner in the 2-1 game on a single by Gabe Gross in the 11th inning. **Sports, 1C**

Jeff Garcia seeks respect of new deal

The Bucs quarterback digs in his heels and says he may start skipping voluntary workouts if the team doesn't take another look at his contract. **Sports, 1C**

Clinton cruises to win in West Virginia

Hillary Rodham Clinton uses the lopsided win in the blue-collar state to bolster her argument that she has a better chance at winning the White House. **Times 2, 4A**

A big drug bust, but a bad warrant

A Tampa judge says he didn't initial a change on a warrant in a drug case, putting the arrest in jeopardy. **Local & State, 1B**

'Heights' picks up 13 Tony nominations

In the Heights, a Broadway musical about the life of Latino residents in Upper Manhattan, leads all nominees for the Tony Awards. **Entertainment, 2B**

Coke may move jobs from Brandon

The company considers sending an undisclosed number of jobs from its 6-year-old accounting center to India. **Business, 1D**

Sorenstam to retire from LPGA

In a surprise announcement, Annika Sorenstam reveals her plan to leave professional golf at the end of this season. **Sports, 1C**

Learning to cook, and starting early

The students in the culinary program at Tarpon Springs High School aren't angling for fame, just fulfilling their passion as they learn their chops. **Taste, 1E**

Get a preview of Taste's new flavor

Starting next week, our weekly Taste section will grow and improve as part of the changes taking place in the *St. Petersburg Times*. Get a preview of some of the new features you can look forward to. **Taste, 1E**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny

8 a.m. 70° Noon 84° 4 p.m. 88° 8 p.m. 80°
0% rain chance. More, 2A

tampabay.com

Couch potato alert

TV networks are beginning to announce fall schedules. Get the scoop on which of your favorite shows stay and which go at entertainment.tampabay.com.

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FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Brandon pastor dies in plane crash

The popular Baptist minister, piloting his own Piper amid high N.C. winds, is killed along with his son, 13.

BY S.I. ROSENBAUM AND JESSICA VANDER VELDE
Times Staff Writers

BRANDON — The call came Monday night: Pastor's plane is missing.

Beth McCrary put down the phone. "I'm going to church," she told her son. "I don't know if the doors will be open. I'll pray on the steps."

In the brand new, 3,450-seat sanctuary where the Rev. Forrest Pollock,

44, had preached only three sermons, McCrary huddled with about 100 other members of Bell Shoals Baptist Church. Praying.

Hours passed. It was Tuesday morning when they finally knew: Pollock and his son were dead.

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On Monday morning, Pollock lifted

his single-engine Piper from the runway at Rutherford County Airport in western North Carolina. His son, Preston, 13, sat with him in the cockpit.

Pollock, an experienced pilot, had gone to North Carolina to see his mother, said the Rev. George Thomasson, an associate pastor at Bell Shoals. He planned to swing by Arkansas to pick up a friend before heading to a conference of Christian leaders in

Texas.

It was 5 a.m., still dark, and windy. The National Weather Service had issued a high-wind warning for the Asheville area hours before, and there were reports of trees snapping in half in gusts up to 60 mph.

That early, the airport was empty of staff. Airport manager Greg Turner said later he would have told Pollock
» See CRASH, 7A



The Rev. Forrest Pollock of Bell Shoals Baptist was 44.



Special to the Times

Lisa Freiberg lived with her children Heather Savannah, 2, and Zachary, 7. Their bodies were found Monday.

'Players' ID'd in Lutz deaths

The Hillsborough sheriff says a killer is not at large in the slayings of a mother and her kids.



KATHLEEN FLYNN | Times

Firefighter Reggie Randall pauses Tuesday at a memorial down the street from where the bodies of Lisa Freiberg and her children, Zachary and Heather Savannah, were found Monday in a mobile home in Lutz. "It's hard to believe," Randall said.

BY CASEY CORA AND ABBIE VANSICKLE
Times Staff Writers

LUTZ — Lisa Freiberg's mom worried after she heard nothing on Mother's Day.

She broke into her daughter's locked mobile home Monday morning to find her daughter and two grandchildren, Heather Savannah, 2, and Zachary, 7, and the family's dog dead, mutilated and dismembered.

One person was decapitated. Hillsborough Sheriff David Gee released this information about the gruesome slayings on Tuesday afternoon.

No one has been charged, and officials have not mentioned a motive, but Gee said all the "players" have been identified

and investigators are confident no killer remains on the loose.

Deputies found Freiberg's live-in boyfriend under a pile of clothes in a closet at the home. He told them he had ingested something and remains under guard at University Community Hospital, Gee said.

Gee said the killer used more than one weapon, and the slayings occurred early Sunday.

Freiberg shared the mobile home at 1918 Mobile Villa Drive S with her boyfriend, Edward Covington, according to his father, Ronnie Covington, a Hillsborough sheriff's detention deputy at Falkenburg Road Jail.

Edward Covington, 35, told his proba-

tion officer about his relationship with the young mom. His father said the couple met online.

Covington was serving one year's probation for drunken driving and possession of a controlled substance, according to the state records.

He also was previously hospitalized under the provisions of the state Baker Act after officers found him in his kitchen with three dead, mutilated cats.

Before his DUI conviction, Covington had worked as a state prison corrections officer for a decade and interned at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in 1999,
» See SLAYINGS, 6A

Robert Rauschenberg | 1925-2008

Artistic pioneer dies

The Florida resident's mixed media creations transformed ideas on what is acceptable in art.

BY LENNIE BENNETT
Times Art Critic

Robert Rauschenberg, one of America's greatest artists, died Monday (May 12, 2008) of heart failure at his home on Captiva Island, near Fort Myers. He was 82.

Famous for pioneering the use of everyday objects to create art that fetches millions of dollars, Mr. Rauschenberg was known in the Tampa Bay area both for his international reputation and his loyalty to the University of South Florida's famed Graphicstudio.

"He taught me one shouldn't qualify anything," said James Rosenquist, an equally distin-



Robert Rauschenberg had a longtime relationship with USF's Graphicstudio.

guished artist and friend of 50 years who lives in Hernando County. "Just do it and be surprised. He was the most generous genius I ever met."

Rosenquist last saw Mr. Rauschenberg, whom he described as "my best art buddy," on May 5 in a Fort Myers hospital.
» See RAUSCHENBERG, 7A



Associated Press

A youth trapped inside a middle school waits Tuesday for rescuers in Beichuan county, about 99 miles northeast of the epicenter.

DEVASTATION: Survivors and rescuers struggle with the scope of the tragedy. **World in a Snap, 3A**

China forcefully tackles rescue

The death toll from Monday's earthquake exceeds 12,000.

Times wires

BEIJING — With surprising quickness, China dispatched some 20,000 troops to the region of Monday's deadly earthquake to help dig out the dead and injured.

Military planes and trucks ferried in another 30,000 reinforcements.

But the troops and civilian rescue workers were forced to struggle Tuesday against rainstorms and fog to reach thousands trapped under the rubble of schools, hospitals and residences. The death toll exceeded 13,000 Tuesday, state media said, and appeared certain to rise.

Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, who was on the scene directing rescue efforts, was seen bowing three times in a ritual of respect for the dead before
» See EARTHQUAKE, 12A