

WEATHER HIGH 90, LOW 77 There is a 50% chance of rain.

TBO.COM Keyword: Historic Sites, to see where history was made in the area.

Fawcett fought till the end

Actress Farrah Fawcett, 62, influenced millions with her style and sensuality in the 1970s and '80s, and as her life drew to a close, she inspired millions more through her strength in battling cancer.

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Walt Belcher column, Page 2



THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

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THE THRILLER

IS GONE Known for both his musical mastery and controversies, Michael Jackson dies at 50.



Associated Press file photo (1991)

Michael Jackson died at a hospital in Los Angeles on Thursday after suffering what may have been cardiac arrest.

By LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES » Michael Jackson, the sensationally gifted child star who rose to become the "King of Pop" and the biggest celebrity in the world only to fall from his throne in a freakish series of scandals, died Thursday. He was 50.

Jackson died at UCLA Medical Center after being stricken at his rented home in Holmby Hills. Paramedics tried to resuscitate him at his home for nearly three-quarters of an hour, then rushed him to the hospital, where

doctors continued to work on him. "It is believed he suffered cardiac arrest in his home. However, the cause of his death is unknown until results of the autopsy are known," his brother, Jermaine, said. Police said they were investigating, standard procedure in high-profile cases.

At Jackson's peak, he was the biggest star in the world and has sold more than 750 million albums.

From his days as the youngest brother in the Jackson 5 to his solo career in the 1980s

See MICHAEL JACKSON, Page 18 »

INSIDE Jackson legacy in music undeniable

His career goes beyond the phenomenal sales. Page 18

A close encounter with King of Pop

Jackson had a way of making fans feel special. Page 18

Rays pound Phillies in 10-4 win
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Utility bills default rate up

Layoffs, foreclosures, bankruptcy often cited.

By BAIRD HELGESON
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TAMPA » More people are falling behind on their utility bills as the recession drags on in the Tampa Bay area.

Roughly 24,180 customers in Tampa don't pay their utility bills on time each month, about 2,480 a month more than in 2005, according to the city utility department.

Hillsborough County water officials report a similar increase. In 2008, the county sent out about 4,000 disconnection notices a month, double the amount it sent each month the year before.

Last year, the county cut off about 570 water meters a month for nonpayment. Three weeks into this month, the county al-

See UTILITY BILLS, Page 6 »

Tampa to conduct streetcars' finances

It will handle endowment hammered by recession.

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
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TAMPA » With the fund that keeps Tampa's electric streetcars running nearly exhausted, the city's taxpayers might find themselves in the trolley business in a couple of years.

On Thursday, the city council approved an agreement aimed at preventing that, for the time being, by taking control of the streetcar system's finances. Under the deal, the city will be allowed to put money from the endowment fund in a cash management fund to make low-risk investments on things such as treasury bills and certificates of deposit.

If the city's investment gurus can boost the fund balance, the rationale goes, the city can

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