



An impromptu memorial shared online brings students bearing flowers near the center of the Florida State campus in sight of the Student Union building, Tallahassee, Fla., Thursday, April 17, 2025.

Shooting rampage at Florida State that left 2 dead lasted less than 5 minutes

BY KATE PAYNE AND CURT ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Students stood in prayer circles and piled balloons, candles and teddy bears along a sidewalk Friday near Florida State University’s student union, where two people were shot and killed and six others were wounded during a rampage lasting less than five minutes.

The gunman, identified as the son of a sheriff’s deputy, arrived on

campus an hour before the shooting Thursday and stayed near a parking garage before he walked in and out of buildings and green spaces and firing a handgun just before lunchtime, police said.

In roughly four minutes, officers confronted 20-year-old son Phoenix Ikner, a Florida State student, and shot and wounded him, Tallahassee police said.

Officials have not identified the two men who died, but family members said Robert Morales, a univer-

sity dining coordinator, was one of them. He worked at Florida State since 2015 and studied criminology there in the early 1990s, according to his LinkedIn profile.

The other was Tiru Chabba, 45, a married father of two from Greenville, South Carolina, who was working for food service vendor Aramark, said Michael Wukela, a spokesperson for attorneys hired by the family.

Police have said five

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SCHOOL BOARD: 169 SHS students took dual credit in the fall

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Thomas with RBS Design Group, the fees for such things as inspections will bring the total cost of the project to around \$30 million.

The board also passed a resolution to issue bonds to fund the majority of the project, although Dwight Salsbury of RSA Advisors told the board that “I think it’s worth noting the cash components you’re putting in are a combination of Building Fund cash that you have, some General Fund cash, and then the gap funding that was approved a month ago in this last legislative cycle that contributed a little over \$5 million.

“That put us over the finish line. That allowed you all to be able to take some of those alternates that Craig talked about. Really, it was kind of the final piece that we needed to complete this entire project,” Salsbury said.

Also at Tuesday’s meeting, Somerset High School principal Jeff Wesley gave his annual report to the board about the school, including a look at last year’s assessment scores.

Wesley pointed out that despite the school scoring “High” in Graduation Rates; Science, Social Studies and Writing; Reading and Mathematics; and Postsecondary Readiness, as well as scoring “Very High” for School Quality, that all somehow averaged out to a “Medium” overall score in the state’s rankings.

“I’m not sure how that works,” Wesley said.

“...I can tell you that is not where we want to be. That is not where we will be,” he continued, saying that he would work harder to improve the school’s score.

One aspect in the scoring that Wesley was proud of was that the students themselves ranked the school as “Very High” for Quality

of School Culture.

“What that indicates overall, in short, is that kids feel safe. They want to be at our school, which I appreciate that. Glad to hear that from their voice,” Wesley said.

Wesley also reported that this year the school’s Carnegie Academy will graduate 21 people, which is a record high for the program and an increase of 11 graduates over last year.

The program helps students take Advance Placement courses and dual credit courses, helping them earn college credits while still in high school.

Speaking of dual credit courses, Wesley said that the school continues to expand the number of dual credits offered, having 16 courses taught in-house and “a slew of courses online.”

Wesley said that in the fall semester, 169 students took at least one dual credit course, and 110 took at least two. That is out of roughly 530 total students, he said.

There was even more good news to come out of Tuesday’s meeting for SHS seniors, as well as the district’s fourth and eighth grade students, as the board voted to allow those students to keep the Chromebooks they have been using over the past four years.

Superintendent Kyle Lively explained, “It gives them a sense of ownership to do this, plus they take care of it over the course of four years.”

Without giving students those devices, the school would have to get rid of them in some form anyway, he said, as they were at the end of their school service lives.

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YEA!: Jonah Collins was runner-up with mobile truck washing business

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and Kentucky Living Magazine.

He also grew concerned about the decline of the honeybee population due to habitat loss, pesticides, and diseases, and the threat that poses to the world’s food supply. In particular, Coe put a focus on mitigating the damage caused by the Varroa destructor mite, and is developing a way of producing mite-resistant queen bees that can be sold and introduced into new hives, calling it “the future of sustainable and chemical-free beekeeping.”

Runner-up was Jonah Collins, a sophomore at Pulaski County High School, whose business was JC’s Mobile Truck Wash, offering convenient cleaning of one’s larger vehicles, including semis and bucket trucks, at the client’s location. He won a \$1,500 scholarship to the college of his choice, courtesy of Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital, and will have the chance to go to Rochester if for some reason Coe is unable to do so.

“I don’t even know how to describe it,” said Collins of his high finish in the program. “I’m excited — I finally can breathe. ... It’s just amazing that I had the opportunity to even do this, to be able to ... get wisdom poured into you and try to start running your own business.”

Both Coe and Collins also received the \$1,000 in start-up money they requested from the investors present Thursday, who also funded each of the other eight business ideas on the evening.

The investors included Ron Hart of Ikerd Holdings, Eddy Williams of Performance Food Group, Jason Irvine of UGN Auto, Inc. Kevin Newton of South Kentucky RECC, Shawn Daugherty of Citizens National Bank, Brian

Denney of Team Modern, Chris Girdler of SPEDA, Seth Atwell of Evans Harville, Atwell & Company CPA’s, David Morris of Modern Systems, Jennifer Roberson of Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital, Mike Whitaker of Eagle Realty, Paul Hoffman of Alton Blakley Family of Dealerships, Matt Salmons of United Cumberland Bank and Donnie Slagle of TTAI.

Coe said that the program was “awesome,” though added, “I will have to say, it’s some work. ... There’s a lot of work involved but it’s all worth it in the end, every single bit of it.”

He said he “had some confidence” going into the final pitch to the investors Thursday night, but added, “I am not trying to brag. I have watched for the past month and a half, two months, every single one of these kids here, and all their speeches were awesome.”

Other participants were Noah Burton and Lucas Marlow, Northern Middle School seventh-graders, with their business L&N 3D Prints which makes 3-D printed phone stands; Landon Conner, a freshman at Somerset Christian School with his tech support business Tech Nerds; Norther Middle eighth-grader Levi Elliott, who has the business You Deserve a Brake, which focuses on brake pads, as well as other car maintenance services; Southern Middle eighth-grader Isabella Loiacano, whose business Wild Sole makes personalized sneakers; Southern Middle seventh-grader Rylan Simpson, whose business Solar Sync makes solar-powered phone chargers; Sophie Spears, a Northern Middle seventh-grader, who makes handcrafted fidget toys in fun shapes like animals with Sophie’s Sassy Stitches; and Somerset High



Participants in this year’s YEA! program await the announcement of the winner and runner-up on Thursday at the Somerset Energy Center.

School sophomore Bella Woodroof with Dream Days, an app that helps one plan activities for a day full of fun.

YEA! Program Manager Reci Shook was full of pride about the students and their presentations following the conclusion of this year’s program.

“They’re amazing, every one of them,” said

Shook, noting that they are all ultimately winners for completing the YEA! course successfully. “I think they’ve got great futures ahead of them. I think there’s going to be a lot of entrepreneurs that are going to pursue the businesses that they’ve pitched (for the investors).”

Shook said the stu-

dents are typically “full of nerves, all the way through it,” and the program helps them get used to public speaking and being in front of others. “The reward is watching them present and seeing someone come out that I haven’t seen the whole 18 weeks.”

Specifically about Coe,

Shook said, “Gunnar is an amazing young man. He’s so knowledgeable. If anybody wants to know anything about a bee, he is the guy that’s going to tell you.”

Told that Coe said he wanted to save the world with his business, Shook added, “I think he’ll do it.”

THE WEATHER REPORT

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SOMERSET FIVE-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
83°	58°	81°/63°	73°/52°	74°/49°	79°/57°

ALMANAC DATA

Somerset through 2 p.m. Fri.

Temperature	
High	82°
Low	54°
Normal high	71°
Normal low	49°
Precipitation	
24-hour total	0.00"
Month to date	4.76"
Year to date	21.96"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:59 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:17 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:02 a.m.
Moonset today	11:11 a.m.

REAL FEEL TODAY

The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive composite index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.

8 a.m.	Noon	4 p.m.	8 p.m.
63°	78°	81°	72°

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

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INDICES

UV Index Today

4 The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. 0-2 Low; 3-5 Moderate; 6-7 High; 8-10 Very High; 11+ Extreme.

Golfing Today

6 The Golf Forecast considers past and current weather effects on the greens and on your own safety and comfort to describe how suitable the day will be for golf. 0-2 Poor; 3-4 Fair; 5-6 Good; 7-8 Very Good; 9-10 Excellent.

Arthritis Today

0 The Arthritis Pain Forecast combines weather factors that may affect arthritis sufferers, and summarizes potential likelihood and severity of weather-related arthritis pain.

Asthma Today

4 The Asthma Forecast combines the effects of asthma related environmental factors to provide a scale showing the overall probability and severity of an asthma attack.

Arthritis and Asthma ratings: 0-2 Beneficial; 3-4 Neutral; 5-6 At Risk; 7-8 High; 9-10 Extreme.