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4 bike thefts on campus since the new year

By Emily Wehunt
Staff Reporter

Four bikes have been reported stolen this year, and two were reported on the same day. On Feb. 24, the bikes were stolen outside Residence Hall One.

Although there are cameras outside RHO, they are outdated and don’t work as well at night, which was when the bikes went missing.

Lt. Reggie Oliver of the USF St. Petersburg Police Department told The Crow’s Nest that the information technology department has been informed of the problem with the cameras and are working to get them upgraded.

One of the stolen bikes was recovered on Feb. 22, a month after the theft was reported, from Pawn Max, located at 7561 49th St. N in Pinellas Park.

The owner of the bike, Mariah Ross, registered her bike with the university police, making it easier to track down. Ross did not return calls for comment.

When bikes are registered with the campus police department, according to Lt. Oliver, they record the make, model and serial number.

Student affairs administrator resigns from his position

By Emily Wehunt
Staff Reporter

After serving as USF St. Petersburg’s regional vice chancellor of student affairs for less than a year, Dr. Han Reichgelt has officially resigned.

On Feb. 27, Reichgelt sent a letter of resignation to Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska.

“I am no longer confident that I can serve you and this wonderful institution with the level of quality that you and the institution deserve,” Reichgelt said.

Wisniewska accepted his letter a few hours later, and in her announcement to the faculty and staff she said that “this resignation is effective immediately.”

In her acceptance of Reichgelt’s resignation, Wisniewska said Reichgelt would complete an off-campus faculty appointment through the Kate Tiedemann college of business, where he will participate in training “as identified by the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Equal Opportunity.”

No additional information has been released to explain Reichgelt’s resignation from the university’s leadership staff. He told The Crow’s Nest he has no further comments other than what was stated in his letter of resignation.

“As a practice, the university does not discuss personnel issues,” said Jessica Blais, USFSP’s communications director. “We will keep the community posted on the
**Gherman elected president**

By Emily Tinti

Gherman's ticket received 386 votes, accounting for 58.48 percent of the total votes, while Ziya Kardas and Kyle Uber received 274 votes at 41.52 percent. A total of 660 students voted.

In order to win, one ticket had to receive more than 50 percent of the votes.

Gherman told the Crow’s Nest that campaigning was intense for everybody involved. He said he and his team are already working toward fulfilling campaign promises, including the improvement of veteran services at USF St. Petersburg. Gherman said he has a detailed plan mapped out for his first day in office.

“I know we can do more to assist those who serve our country,” he said. “I want to find out what needs to be done immediately to get their services working in the most efficient way.”

Gherman said that moving forward, there must be trust between the student body and its elected officials. He intends to treat this new position like a full-time job. “Seeing as we campaigned on experience and vision, we’d like to put both to work right away by assembling an administration with the best fit people in this university who will help us hit the ground running, and realize the collective vision of the students,” said Gherman.

USFSP experienced a significant drop in initial voter turnout from last year’s elections, when roughly 1100 students voted the first time around, followed by about 450 in the runoff. This year, there were only 666 votes counted in the first round, but runoff votes were up from last year at about 660.

Current student body president Cody Boyer has some ideas as to why this may have happened.

Four presidential tickets as opposed to five in the race lessens voting power students have a minority segment of our voters.

This just goes to show, in addition to our on-campus students, active club leaders and student workers, our commuter students and non-traditional students play a big part at our school also. We just need to communicate with them more.”

**Registering bikes is important, police say**

Lots of bikes are stolen each year and are difficult to track down in the case of theft, police say.

Emily Wehun | The Crow's Nest

Campus police encourage students to register their bikes with campus police and use U-bolt locks.

**Students should lock their bikes with a U-bolt lock to prevent their bikes from being stolen, and they should register their bikes with university police services in case of theft, police say.**

Continued from p. 1

Once the bike is reported stolen, they enter the information into the National Crime Information Center and the Federal Citizen Information Center databases.

“When the pawn shop entered the serial number, it matched and was identified as stolen.”

Campus police is still working to track down the other stolen bikes, but they have yet to resurface.

“ ‘We would ask students to utilize high quality u-locks to secure the bikes in a well-lit area and to please register the bikes with the university police or the city police,’ said Chief Hendry of the University Police Department. ‘The recording of the bike serial number and description is very important in the recovery of a bike.’

U-locks cannot be broken with bolt cutters, making it more difficult for thieves to steal bikes secured with u-locks.”

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Reasons for resignation unknown

Han Reichgelt was hired this summer, but he resigned on Feb. 27. The cause for his resignation is unclear. In the interim, Mark Durand will fill in.

Continued from p.1

hiring process for the regional vice chancellor of academic affairs as we move forward." Reichgelt joined USFSP in late July after spending seven years as we move forward."

Han Reichgelt, who was hired at USF St. Petersburg in late July, resigned Feb. 27 from his position as regional vice chancellor of student affairs.

Wnisiewska included in her announcement that Dr. Mark Durand will be serving as interim regional vice chancellor of academic affairs.

Durand, who is currently working as a psychology professor at USFSP, said he had no part in the resignation. He was asked to fill in, and he accepted the offer.

"Having served as the regional vice chancellor for academic affairs from 2005 to 2007, it is exciting to see how USF St. Petersburg has grown in such positive ways," Durand said. "I am pleased to be joining a great team and am eager to help guide the implementation of the university's strategic goals."

English professor releases fourth book on civil rights issues

By Andrew Caplan

When Julie Armstrong isn’t busy exploring a wide range of literature as an English professor at USF St. Petersburg, she devotes herself to writing books on civil rights.

At the beginning of March, she released her fourth title, The Cambridge Companion to American Civil Rights Literature, an introduction to the key themes, aspects and genres of the subject.

Armstrong, who has a Ph.D. in English and American Literature, said nine of the 10 essays featured in the book were contributed by other scholars. She said the information in the book is relevant to past and present civil rights issues, such as the recent riots in Ferguson, Mo.

"In a larger way, to understand who we are and where we are now, we have to understand our relationship to our past and where we’ve been," Armstrong said. "It seems so very clear to me that we need more awareness; we need more discourse; we need more knowledge of ways that we can relate to one another in terms of these issues."

Armstrong, 53, said she received an email a few summers back from the senior editor at Cambridge University Press, asking her to edit the book. She originally thought it was a prank from a colleague, but after further research, she discovered it was legitimate.

When the cutest boy in school asks you to dance, what do you think?" said Armstrong, describing her initial reaction to the request. "I felt honored, and then I thought ‘oh wow, this is a big job’ so I actually have to do the work."

Armstrong said she was given free rein for her vision for the project’s subject matter. Her drafts and proposals, however, had to go through peer review before being accepted.

"Now I understand why their books are so well received," Armstrong said. "It’s because it’s very difficult; they really take you through the rigorous process of drafting and redrafting."

After the peer-review process was complete, Armstrong was able to reach out and contact potential contributors. She wrote the book’s introduction and the chapter “civil rights movement fiction.”

Despite being released in both digital and print formats, it was Armstrong’s first book that was edited entirely online “from start-to-finish.”

"If you think undergraduates procrastinate, professors are no different," Armstrong said. "It’s because it’s still much to learn about civil rights."

She feels that literature has the power to change people’s views. "Laws can dictate the way people are supposed to act," Armstrong said. "And you can change the law, but you can’t really change the way people feel or people’s hearts and minds. And that’s where literature and other art comes in."

Although she had an early interest in literature and American history, it was her upbringing in Birmingham, Ala., a beacon of the civil rights movement, that helped steer Armstrong toward the field.

She will use that inspiration for her next book, Birmingham Stories, a collection of essays and untold stories about “everyday people and places” in the iconic civil rights city. Armstrong defines it as her “heart book.”

"The civil-rights movement did not end in the ‘60s -- it is now," Armstrong said. "These issues are not dead. They are ongoing."

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World affairs conference: the war of imagery

By Caitlin Ashworth

The man kneaded on the ground, dehumanized by the bright, orange suit. A masked man in black waves a knife in the air, toying with his victim and terrorizing the audience before the inevitable beheading.

We’ve all seen the pictures, and the images are embedded in our brains. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria has become a household name, and a name to be feared.

The third annual St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs took place at the USF St. Petersburg campus from Feb. 26-28.

The conference discussed topics of concern in the world today, including a session on “Internet-Era War: videos, beheadings and asymmetric violence.”

New problems of international concern arise with new technology. “War of Imagery,” said Charles Campbell, a retired CIA senior intelligence officer and panelist at the session. "If a picture is worth 1,000 words, a video must be tens of thousands."

Terrorist propaganda continues to attract media attention. Clarence Juhl, a retired member of the U.S. Senior Executive Service and panelist at the session, said the press has a strong influence on the terrorist propaganda and drives public opinion.

The Internet increases the effects of propaganda as the images are constantly available. The terrorist images and videos grab attention and evoke emotion. "Real invisible war is in cyberspace," said Juhl.

Social media has become a battleground with war tactics in the form of a Twitter post. Piracy has modernized into internet hacking. Terrorists use social media for recruitment and enticing fear, while the U.S. government hires hackers to confront the cyberspace war zone.

Robert Shaefer, a U.S. Army special forces (Green Beret) and foreign area officer and a session panelist, said by watching a Twitter feed, Russia prevented a terrorist attack at the Olympics.

“We need an offensive strategy,” said Shaefer. “We are not the best players, but still have to fight back.”

Censoring the media and Internet is not an option. The panel agreed it is not the American way. “We live in a different era now,” said Campbell, “Violence has become more acceptable and beheading is less of a shock.”

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It's time to spring forward. We may lose an hour, but what we lose in minutes we gain in sunshine and flowers. Let the changing seasons be a wakeup call. It’s been said that the third quarter mark of any academic year is where students slack the most -- don’t let that happen. Work hard during the week, take some time off on the weekends to soak up the sun and fresh air.

By Emily Tinti
Staff Reporter

“Nothing’s Wrong” by Echosmith
“Walk like there’s nothing wrong.” Put spring flowers in each other’s hair. “Love the smell of the air.” You’re young and you live where people vacation. Take advantage of it all.

“Back to the Ordinary” by Kid Astray
Get back to where you were before spring break. Spring break is usually an excuse to stray from good habits, whether it was spending more time at the gym or eating cleaner meals, or something more personal. Get back at it!

“Island in the Sun” Weezer
There’s not much more to this song other than good times spent with the people you like, and not feeling bad anymore. Really, any song by Weezer captures the goodness and humor of life.

“Go Outside” by Cults
Don’t let others hold you back. Spring is the season of warmth, growth and new beginnings, so you can metaphorically join nature in growing out of dying relationships and habits. Go out when you have time to, and stay in to “sleep the light away” only when you absolutely have to.

“With a Little Help From my Friends” by The Beatles
Another cheerful Beatles hit to sway to. Spending time to yourself leads to work getting done, and can allow for untroubled relaxation after a long day. But when you’re really down and out of it, your friends can help you get by, and lift you up your day.

By Jennifer Nesslar
Welcome back from spring break!
I know, many of you are kicking and screaming to be back at school. It’s just getting warm, and … can’t we have one more day at the beach?
I understand, friends. So I’ve made this little countdown sheet for you. Anytime you feel discouraged, just keep the countdown going.
As of Monday, it’s...

45 days until the last day of classes. Don’t get too excited at that number. You still have exams after that.

52 days until the last day of exams. Now you can really celebrate, and go to the beach with a book that isn’t a textbook …

54 days until graduation. For those of you who are graduating, that is. It’s time to leave this whole college thing behind and head to the real world. For those of you who aren’t graduating, don’t feel too bad. At least you don’t have to look for a job just yet.

290 days until Christmas. Because everyone feels a little more merry and bright at Christmastime. If you don’t celebrate Christmas, there’s plenty of holidays around then to cheer you up a bit. If you don’t celebrate any holidays, at least you can benefit from the cheer of others. As long as you steer clear of shopping malls, that is.

370 days until Spring Break 2016. For all you spring break junkies, take courage. It will be back in 370 days. Oops, I think I just discouraged you…
Serving for spring break

Many people think spring break is a time to lounge at the beach or sneak in a trip to Disney World. But two groups of USF St. Petersburg students did things a little differently this year. They went to New Orleans and Asheville to serve the people in those areas. A Students from each tour journaled about their experiences and shared it with The Crow’s Nest.

Nearly ten years later, we cleaned damage from Hurricane Katrina

By Thomas Boyd
Crow’s Nest Contributor

I traveled to New Orleans with 11 USF St. Petersburg students for the Un-BULL-iveable spring break trip. We partnered with a non profit called Youth Rebuilding New Orleans, whose mission is to find homes damaged in hurricane Katrina and renovate them using mainly volunteer labor. Then they sell the homes to teachers at a discount.

Day 1

We arrived at USF St. Petersburg at 8:30 a.m.; a 2015 white Ford Transit van would be the transportation for the 11 people. The 11-hour journey to the Big Easy was uneventful. We stopped just outside Mobile, Ala. to have dinner at Papa’s Place, a small Italian restaurant. Judging by the owner’s reaction when we told him we were 11 strong, his establishment had never accommodated a party that large. When we passed into Louisiana, a thick fog enveloped the roadway, and it persisted all the way into the city. The fog was so thick that any cars that passed above us on overpasses appeared as glowing white orbs, like banhees in the swamp.

Day 2

It was the first day of work. The homes would be working on were located in the seventh ward, an area that experienced flooding between 3 and 7 feet. When we arrived on the job site, we were greeted by a shell of a home. It was composed of rotten wood. With one side missing and much of the interior ripped out, the lone baseboard floor was the rib cage of the dilapidated home. Our first day of work consisted of moving a pile of debris from an abandoned lot to a construction dumpster and constructing a set of stairs with a sledgehammer.

The work days ended around 3 p.m. After that, we would head back to the bunkhouse and head out to the town. After the first day of work, we headed to “Mother’s Restaurant,” a famous restaurant in the French Quarter. After dinner, we headed to the Mississippi river, and then to the Famous Cafe Du Monde and Bourbon Street.

Day 3

The third day matched the second day. The weather had become overcast and the temperature cooled. As far as construction went, we continued to destroy the concrete steps that surrounded the home and remove debris from it.

Day 4

By this time it was Wednesday and our half day of work. We spent this day removing the chimney from the home and processing the wood that could be reused in the home. At the end of the day, we went back to the bunkhouse and made tacos for lunch. That afternoon, we took a tour of Mardi Gras World, one of the factories that makes floats for the holiday New Orleans is famous for. That evening, the group went on a ghost tour of the French Quarter. The highlight of the tour for me was visiting the home that inspired the residence of a character from American Horror Story: Coven.

Day 5

On the final day of our trip, we were able to find an open market to do manual labor for the trip. That night we ended up going out to the “Cat’s Meow,” a famous karaoke bar on Bourbon Street.

My Asheville Adventure

By Tamiracle Williams
Staff Reporter

Instead of going to parties and watching Netflix during Spring Break, I decided to attend the UN-BULL-iveable Spring Break Asheville. The trip was an alternative spring break that focuses on an act of service. We worked for the YMCA of Western North Carolina to help increase access to sports and recreation. There were eight students who participated in the USF Asheville trip, led by a professional staff advisor, James Greene.

Day 1 and 2

While the children were in school, we assisted the sports coordinator. Our morning-timed task was to organize and take inventory of the sports equipment.

Once the children were out of school, we helped with the after-school program. A majority of our group played dodgeball and basketball with a larger group of students.

Day 3

Our next stop on our tour was the Biltmore Estates, but we weren’t told that it cost $55 to get in. After another epic fail of a tour, we decided to go shopping downtown, visiting several boutiques to find souvenirs for our loved ones. Following several hours of shopping, we found the Asheville Botanical Gardens and went for a hike.

Day 4 and 5

The last two days of our service project were spent at the Southern Conference for women’s basketball. Our tasks were simple both days. We ran the silent auction and sold programs. All the proceeds were going directly to a sport scholar-ship for students who want to play sports, but can’t afford the fees that come with playing sports. During our two day span we raised over $2,000.

I’m glad that I was able to attend the Asheville trip. It showed me that a small gesture of kindness can make a big impact on someone, even when I don’t realize it.

Tamiracle Williams shows her Bull Spirit in Asheville.

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Tamiracle Williams shows her Bull Spirit in Asheville.
Time to end time change

Editorial

Time jumped forward an hour this Sunday in response to daylight saving time, and if you’re here at USF St. Petersburg today, you likely noticed. Or you showed up at your 8 a.m. class at 9.

Daylight saving time has been around for nearly 100 years, as Woodrow Wilson signed it into law in 1918, according to The Atlantic. It probably isn’t going away for a while. But we wish it would.

In 1784, Benjamin Franklin wrote about daylight saving time in his essay “An Economical Project for Diminishing the Cost of Light,” suggesting it would save a “considerable number of candles,” according to The Chicago Tribune.

Saving electricity is both good for our wallets and the environment. But daylight saving doesn’t save us as much electricity as you may think.

In 2006, a study looked at electricity use in Indiana, a state that just started implementing daylight saving time. The study found that the electricity saved was actually negated by additional air conditioning and heating use, and in some cases, more electricity was used, according to The Atlantic.

It’s nice to be up during hours when the sun is shining. But as summer gets closer, the days get longer, especially in Florida. It seems that daylight saving time is not fulfilling its original purpose.

It also takes a hit on the economy. Every Monday after daylight saving happens, sleepy workers show up to their jobs and, due to lack of sleep, are unproductive. The Atlantic says this lack of productivity costs the American economy about $434 million a year.

We’re sipping our coffee right now, trying to stay awake. And we’re not sure the change is worth all that money.

We can’t ignore all the bizarre reports about daylight saving tolls when our bodies. A 2014 study in the journal Open Heart reported that heart attacks increase by 24 percent the Monday after the time change.

It may sound ridiculous, but daylight saving is messing with our sleep. And most of us are already sleep deprived enough. People sleep an average of 40 minutes less after the time change, according to The Chicago Tribune.

A September 2009 study in the Journal of Applied Psychology found that American workers are more prone to injury the Monday following the time change.

Sleep matters. Daylight saving is an argument that may last for years, as it already has. We argue that it should go away, but while it’s still here, we need to be responsible for our health. So be sure to go to bed a little earlier than you normally would, and be alert in the workplace and the roads. Your body will thank you.

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World Affairs

Kelly McBride, vice president of academic programs at the Poynter Institute, shares her thoughts on how media is changing to digital platforms during the World Affairs conference session “Breaking News: What the press didn’t tell us.” Joining McBride in the discussion was, from left, Moderator George Hamilton, Joshua Landis—blogger at Syria Comment, a well-known blog regarding Syrian news, and Jim Verhulst—perspectives editor at the Tampa Bay Times.

Submit a picture with a caption for photo of the week to jessular@mail.usf.edu by Friday at 5 p.m. The best photo submission will run next week.

Throwback

Soviet Union dictator Joseph Stalin was first buried on March 9, 1953, at Lenin’s Mausoleum in Moscow after dying from a heart attack four days earlier at the age of 74.

Around 1.5 million people visited his body before it was buried.

Stalin’s communist regime rose to prominence in the 1920s and was a major force in World War II.

After the August 1939 non-aggression pact between Stalin and Adolf Hitler was violated by a massive Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, Soviet forces waged war against Germany and helped capture the Nazi capital of Berlin in 1945.

The Soviet Union’s impact on the war seized its status as one of the world’s two superpowers along with the United States. During the Soviet Union’s de-Stalinization process, which sought to end forced labor in the region, Stalin’s body was moved on Oct. 31, 1961, from the mausoleum to the Kremlin Wall Necropolis.

Soviet Union dictator Joseph Stalin led a communist regime in the 1920s.
Eating healthy boosts your confidence

By Emily Tinti
Staff Reporter

Sometimes the reality of changing seasons hits people over spring break. Sometimes they realize their bodies aren’t “beach ready” and panic because the semester is more than halfway over, and summer is approaching. You look fine! You live in Florida -- you are always prepared for the beach.

But there’s nothing wrong with wanting to make a few dietary changes to feel good about yourself.

A healthy lifestyle is important, and not just for your pancreas’ sake; your brain uses food as fuel. So when you put things in your body that have little to no nutritional value, your brain can’t work up to its potential.

As college students, we should be concerned with how our brain functions. This organ helps us stay awake for unreasonably long hours and still manage to wake up for 8 a.m. classes, among many other things.

The transition to a healthier lifestyle doesn’t have to be constricting and drastic. Start by cutting out fast food and right there, your digestive system thanks you. Try to remove oily foods from your regular diet. This category includes: potato chips, French fries, assorted candies, pizza, burgers, fried chicken and to our dismay, most ice creams.

Your brain is just trying to trick you into craving the sweet and the salty, but I promise – your brain will stop the annoying banter after some time away from the junk.

Have you eaten some fresh, juicy strawberries lately? When was the last time you peeled an orange, ate every last bit and didn’t just suck out all the juice? These fruits are full of flavor and sweetness and definitely serve your body better. After eating cleaner for a few weeks, you’ll start to feel refreshed and may no longer feel attached to the junk.

If you want to get in shape for the summer sunshine, bask in the goodness of foods that will make you feel awake, focused and most importantly, good about yourself. Emily Tinti, a sophomore majoring in mass communications, is the arts and life assistant. She can be reached at emilyfaithti@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @emilytinti.

I’m becoming like my mother

By Jennifer Nesslar
Staff Columnist

It took a trip to Disney World for me to realize I’m becoming more and more like my mother. I haven’t been to Disney World in a few years, due to the increasing costs (that’s another story entirely) and the fact that life has just gotten busy. But on Thursday, I went back to visit a former roommate who is now in the Disney college program, and to spend time with a friend visiting from Indiana.

Returning to Disney reminded me of the days of my childhood when I rushed from ride to ride, trying to cram as many things in as I could. My parents walked at sonic speeds, so even with my eagerness, it was a struggle to keep up at times. My dad would accompany my sister and me on the rides, and sometimes my mom would have to sit the rides out because of her motion sickness. I always thought that was a bummer, and my thoughts went like this: “I’m glad I’m not like that.”

Later in the day, my mom would say: “Let’s see a show.” I dreaded those words. “A show? Why can’t we ride another ride?” I would mutter to myself.

One time it was the Carousel of Progress. Another time it was the Country Bear Jamboree. She pretty much dragged me to them. And they were alright, but I wanted to be on a ride even more.

Fast forward to last Thursday. My friends and I got on Space Mountain, perhaps the most intense roller coaster in the park. (If you’ve been to amusement parks, you know it’s rather mild compared to most coasters). I came off and felt a little dizzy.

I warded the dizziness off with a rootbeer float and Diet Coke, don’t worry. But when my friends suggested we go on Thunder Mountain (the second most, sort-of intense roller coaster in the park) I decided it wasn’t worth it. There was no use feeling nauseated for the rest of the evening.

Diet Coke in hand, I walked around the park, browsing the shops. When I arrived in front of the Hall of Presidents, I stopped. The Hall of Presidents was a show I’d seen as a child, dragged in by my mother, of course. All the presidents from the history of the U.S. are made into life-size figures, and they talk to one another.

“I should go in,” I thought, curious to see how they portrayed Barack Obama.

I rolled my eyes and realized how full circle things had come. I’m becoming like my mother.

I don’t think we are “doomed” to become like our parents. There’s a lot about ourselves that we can change, and if we don’t like the way our parents did things, we can be different. But for many of us, we have great parents that we should emulate in many ways. And there are a few things that are just genetic.

I don’t enjoy developing my mother’s tendencies to feel dizzy after a ride, during a road trip or even on an airplane. But my mother is an incredible woman. If becoming like her means I can’t ride roller coasters anymore, I think I’m OK with that.

Jennifer Nesslar, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the editor-in-chief. She can be reached at jnesslar@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @jnesslar.

Go to the Grand Prix--it’s in your backyard

Sean LeRoux
Contributing Columnist

As the crisp, cold air of winter gives way to the warmth of spring, St. Petersburg is undergoing a massive transformation once again. Roads will soon be closed, miles of fencing and cement barricades will be constructed and the sweet smell of ethanol will fill the air.

The screaming engines and squealing tires -- welcome by some, yet loathed by many -- can only mean one thing: The Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg has returned yet again.

Although the city sees its share of complaints every year as a result of the race, it is a benefit to St. Petersburg. The event draws in hordes of outsiders, putting more currency into the city’s circulation. Although the city sees its share of complaints every year as a result of the race, it is an asset to the city. Food vendors are abundant, alcohol is available around every corner, the people-watching is fantastic and the experience is unforgettable.

With such a major event happening less than a mile from campus, it would be a crime not to go.

Sean LeRoux is a senior majoring in mass communications. He can be reached at seanelroux@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @seanelroux.

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Coming to America

Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

It’s no easy feat adjusting to new city, let alone a new country. But that is exactly what Laura Ferreira had to do in order to play for USF’s women’s basketball team.

Ferreira, 19, came to the United States from Portugal in 2014 after being named the best player in her country for two consecutive years and helped the Bulls to their best season in program history.

Born in Lisboa, Portugal, Ferreira started playing basketball with her sister, Barbara, at 8 years old. Being two years younger than her sister, Ferreira learned the importance of speed and toughness. By the time she was 14, she joined the Portuguese national team, competing against other countries’ best players. Less than four years later, Ferreira’s U18 Portuguese team finished ninth place in Division A, the best classification for any women’s team in the country’s history.

She averaged 8.4 points per game in eight games and was named the country’s best current Portuguese player. “I improved a lot, especially on my physicality,” Ferreira said. “I was always tired,” Ferreira said.

“I was always tired,” Ferreira said. “But I loved both sports; I don’t regret it.”

In 2014, while leading her basketball team in points per game, averaging 13.8, the guard/forward repeated as the country’s best active Portuguese player. According to ESPN.com, Ferreira was rated a five-star athlete and was given a 96 scout grade.

The young star’s talents quickly gained the attention of USF head coach Jose Fernandez.

“There were two (international) kids ranked in the top 100, one went to Connecticut and Laura came to here,” Fernandez said.

“We’re going to try and get the best players for our program. It doesn’t matter where they’re from.”

Although she had the option to play professionally overseas, Ferreira wouldn’t have been able to go to college due to time constraints, so she began exploring her options outside Europe.

When she and her father visited USF, Ferreira was impressed by the school’s atmosphere and how friendly everyone was. So she decided Tampa would be her new home.

“The facilities are really good,” Ferreira said. “And compared to Europe, we don’t have this kind of program.”

Ferreira said it was difficult adjusting to her new home in the United States. She missed her family and her mother’s cooking.

“In the beginning it was a little bit hard,” Ferreira said. “It’s a completely different world. You have different cultures here, different style of life and you need to adapt.”

Her parents haven’t been able to attend a game at USF and see her play in person yet, but Ferreira said they watch the games on television and will probably attend one next season.

“They’re really supportive,” Ferreira said. “They say ‘Do your best and be happy.’ They don’t know much about basketball, but they’re always there for me.”

Currently a freshman, Ferreira is majoring in exercise science. She hopes that when her basketball days are over, she can still have a job related to sports, whether it is a strength and conditioning coach or an athletic trainer.

But until that day comes, Ferreira will continue her college career at USF with dreams of going pro after obtaining her degree. The Bulls (24-6) finished second in the American Athletic Conference during the regular season and will enter the NCAA tournament starting March 20 in hopes of winning a national championship.

“I just work hard at practice, out of practice, in the weight room,” Ferreira said. “I eat healthy and never regret anything. At this point I really don’t care about the individual goals. I just want our team to get to the best spot that we can ever be. I just want us to win.”

Wakeboarding

Campus Recreation is offering $20 wakeboarding lessons to USFSP students. Registration ends March 17. The next lesson is March 19 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

USF men’s basketball closes the season

Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

The USF men’s basketball team wrapped up their 2014-2015 season in disappointing fashion by losing 67-63 to a superior Tulane squad Saturday night.

Guard Troy Holston Jr led the team in scoring with a career-high 21 points in the loss, followed closely by Nehemias Morillo’s 16 points.

After being down 11 points at halftime, the Bulls rallied to take the lead late in the second half before succumbing to Tulane’s offense, which has been the story the Bulls’ season.

“I think the first half was awful,” said Anthony Collins during the postgame conference. “If we played the first half like we played the second half, we would’ve been okay, but we dug ourselves into too big of a hole.”

After starting the season 5-1, the Bulls lost 21 of their last 25 games. Their leading scorer, Corey Allen Jr., was suspended for six games for accepting “impermissible benefits” from a prior institution to essentially end his college career. He was averaging 15.4 points per game.

The team’s second leading scorer, Chris Perry, missed nearly the final third of his season due to health issues, including chest pains. Perry averaged 10.8 points and 7.1 rebounds per game. He also held the team’s second best field goal percentage at .491.

The Bulls (9-22) won just three conference games in head coach Orlando Antigua’s first year and will now head into the conference tournament as the No. 11 seed. In the first round, the Bulls will take on the No. 6 Connecticut Huskies on March 12 at 8 p.m. on ESPNews.

“I think we have some confidence in us still,” Holston said. “Like I said, you can see a lot of growth as a team; you can tell everyone is getting better and still playing hard, giving 100 percent. I think that’s going to be key for us -- everyone playing hard, come conference tournament.”

The Bulls’ .621 total points per game ranked 303rd in the country, and their .434 field goal percentage ranked 186th.