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University of South Florida St. Petersburg.
Congratulations Class of 2014
Redevelopment project to house entrepreneurs

By Tyler Killette  | Staff Reporter

There are around 800 boarded-up houses sitting vacant in St. Petersburg, along with about 5,000 in some state of foreclosures. Imagine if each of these homes was processed up and handed over to a local entrepreneur or artist at one-third to one-half less than market rate. Frank Wells sees the potential, and he’s working to make it happen.

The concept grew out of a personal initiative by City Councilman Karl Nurse, who has spent years rehabbing houses in St. Petersburg’s Old Southeast and Midtown neighborhoods. After having success in small quantities, the idea of expansion arose.

Wells, experienced in gaining and managing investments as chief executive of World Power and Water, saw a chance to take Nurse’s model and make it bigger. With more private funding at a larger scale, the project could turn out more refurbished homes, and subsequently, more thriving entrepreneurs and artists.

On a whim, Wells signed up to present a 90-second project pitch at the FloridaNEXT Foundation’s St. Petersburg Impact Forum a few months ago. Admittedly under-prepared, having to come up with a name for the project on the spot, he delivered a first place-winning pitch. In 90 seconds, St. Pete Venture House became a reality.

According to Wells, the goal of Venture House is to give entrepreneurs the tools they need to develop and grow a business and help working artists who want to foster the local arts community advancement in their careers. In turn, the redevelopment will “end up revamping the entire community it serves,” he said.

In mid-January, Wells began talking with Mayor Rick Kriseman and other St. Petersburg officials, receiving the official “on-board” from the city.

Now, the plan is to put together enough funding to refurbish 100 houses, to be worked on five to 10 at a time, Wells said. He is looking to get $10 million from banks for the redevelopment, as well as private donations to cover operational costs.

“We have to have the big to really make a difference,” he said.

Bartlett Park, just south of downtown, and Palmetto Park, near the Warehouse Arts District, will be the first neighborhoods of focus. Ideally, each targeted neighborhood will be within biking distance to its corresponding commercial district, Wells said.

Property will be owned by the Bright Community Land Trust, though program participants will have the opportunity to purchase their homes. Venture House participants can rent or buy their homes, but properties will always be recycled to other members when one leaves or decides to sell.

The criteria for renting or buying a Venture House residence is still being worked out, but those who aim to stay in St. Petersburg and create jobs in the community will have priority. The residences may dually function as work spaces for entrepreneurs and artists, but not as storefronts, Wells said.

In addition to small single family homes, the project will also target small multiplexes and apartment buildings. Down the road, Wells envisions eight-unit apartment complexes full of entrepreneurs sharing resources, and artists living in apartments above commercial strips with studios below.

Bright Community Land Trust, which will handle all the redevelopments, operates a nonprofit construction company that can buy building supplies tax free. A city apprenticeship program that trains skilled workers may also provide a source of labor.

To Wells, Venture House is a multifaceted project with potential to benefit the city on a variety of levels.

“There’s a great overlap of so many intersecting goals,” he said, citing revitalizing neighborhoods, supporting artists and entrepreneurs, fostering the arts scene, promoting sustainability, creating jobs and boosting the economy.

Rob Bocik, who owns Functionhouse Urban Lumber and Furnishings with his wife Zoe, will be using his experience in community redevelopment and disaster remediation to determine which houses are viable projects for Venture House.

“The ways in which Venture House will benefit the city are extensive,” Bocik said.

Along with Wells’ lists of potential benefits, Bocik adds, “return of tax roles to the city, less crime and better schools [and] the ability of [entrepreneurs] to have a large portion of their housing needs covered, so we can focus on our often sparse resources and always sparse time on building successful businesses that flourish for years to come.”

Venture House will also create “clusters of homes or apartment buildings dedicated to local start-ups that can feed off each others’ energy and knowledge,” Bocik said. “These will allow small business owners close contact with each other on a regular basis.”

In addition to low-cost housing, Venture House also aims to keep maintenance low for tenants. Bocik said they will replace older items like roofing, A/C units, plumbing and appliances where necessary and implement energy efficient insulation and windows, and “perhaps even solar panels and other renewable resources.”

Wells also wants to use locally sourced products, such as back splash tile or lighting fixtures created by local artists, rather than ones bought from home improvement stores like Home Depot or Lowe’s. He even has ideas for community gardens and Florida friendly landscaping.

USF St. Petersburg entrepreneur students have already shown interest. Wells sees potential for Venture House to serve as a pipeline for entrepreneurship students, giving them a way to start a business and stay in St. Petersburg after graduation. Wells sits on the board for USFSP’s entrepreneur program.

Venture House is currently working on building its online presence through designing a website and logo and is getting ready to begin a crowdfunding campaign in early May. Wells hopes to be working on houses by the end of the year.
Students, Sodexo support real food

BY JENNIFER NESSLAR
STAFF REPORTER

Twenty percent of campus food purchased from local or organic sources.

That’s what the Real Food Challenge, a national organization supporting universities in purchasing sustainable food, hopes to see on university campuses by 2020. And that’s what Student Government wants to see at USF St. Petersburg.

A resolution passed Wednesday at the SG General Assembly showed support for the Real Food Campus Commitment, a promise pledged by universities across the nation such as John Hopkins University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The commitment must be signed by USFSP administration in order to go into effect. If USFSP signs the commitment, it will be the first university in Florida to do so, according to Michelle Kurkowski, author of the SG resolution.

Because USFSP is a leader in sustainability, signing the bill would make a statement to other communities concerned with sustainable initiatives.

“It would show that sustainable food is really important to us,” Kurkowski said.

The definition of “real food” can cause confusion, Kurkowski said. The Real Food Challenge defines real food as local, sustainable, fair trade certified and organic.

How much the commitment would change USFSP food services is uncertain. Sodexo already purchases produce from local sources whenever possible, according to Louis Burns, general manager of Sodexo at USFSP. Sodexo’s Better Tomorrow Plan mandates that all its dining locations “source local, seasonal or sustainably-grown and raised products” by 2015, according to its website.

“It’s the most logical thing,” Duran said.

Before The Crow’s Nest reached out to Duran, he was unaware of the SG resolution. The term “real food” surprised him.

“We only cook real food,” he said, noting that students are always welcome to stop by the Reef and see how the food they eat is prepared.

If the university signs the commitment, Kurkowski will sit down with Duran and discuss how to uphold the commitment. At this point, Kurkowski is uncertain what will change because she has “no point of reference” on how well Sodexo is already meeting the commitment standards.

Resolution sponsor Justin Linn sees the commitment as important for Sodexo’s accountability.

“We want something to hold them accountable, other than their word,” he said.

Even if things do not need to radically change, Kurkowski thinks the commitment is worth it and will get students more involved in selecting their food, and talking about it.

The commitment will also verify where USFSP stands in purchasing sustainable foods.

“It’s easy to say we strive to do this. It’s another thing to show numbers saying we have done this,” Kurkowski said.

According to her, the commitment would in no way influence meal plan prices.

For more information about the Real Food Campus Commitment, log on to realfoodchallenge.org/commitment. To read Sodexo’s Better Tomorrow Plan, visit bettertomorrow.sodexousa.com.

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SG might cap spending on student events

BY AMANDA STARLING
STAFF REPORTER

Campus organizations give away tumblers, flash drives and even Beats headphones at their events. But as the 2014-2015 school year budget is formed, Student Government Sen. Enzo Ferrara seeks to address the costs of events.

Ferrara’s bill, “Setting a Cap,” would limit the amount of funding SG could allow to events hosted by campus clubs and organizations. Costs would set to a maximum of $10 per T-shirt purchased and $250 for prizes.

“Clubs kept requesting so many high-ticket items that we couldn’t afford,” Ferrara said. “We were allocating depending on what they were asking. We had a club requesting $600 for prizes at one point this semester.”

There are no current procedures concerning money allocated to clubs and organizations for event giveaways and prizes. In order to estimate the benefit that the allocated money would have on the student body, SG’s Committee on Special Funding took into consideration the attendance, date and time of each event.

The bill could impact the amount organizations, like the Harborside Activities Board, could spend on events.

Solange Gorleku, president-elect for HAB, does not think the bill will influence the organization’s events.

“We (HAB) have our own set budget already, and we plan ahead when it comes to wanting to give away items or promo,” she said. “I don’t think that bill will harm us in any way.”

HAB selects giveaway items and prizes based on each event they plan. According to Gorleku, the items can be themed according to the event being hosted, such as a character cardboard standee for a film screening. The USFSP Barnes and Noble and other campus organizations donate some items.

“We do not have to purchase a ton of new prizes. If anything, we work with what we have to offer,” Gorleku said.

HAB’s budget request, costs for events include giveaways and prizes. They are not budgeted as a separate part of the request. According to Jovanna Guevara, HAB graduate advisor, items are selected according to popularity.

Directors within HAB select the giveaway items with input from students. Items in the past have included PlayStation 4s, Beats by Dr. Dre headphones and more.

“We’re able to find prizes that students still want for under the price,” Guevara said. “That will limit the numbers of prizes that we can give out, but we can find ones that they want.”

Ferrara’s hope is to encourage clubs and organizations to fundraise for their own events.

“It encourages community and university relations between the students,” he said. “I don’t see it impacting the funding of events as severely.”

SG will vote on the bill this Wednesday during the weekly General Assembly meeting.

The tentative maximum spending on event giveaways or prizes, as suggested in the SG bill “Setting a Cap.”

- Costume rental/purchase: $500 per rental/purchase
- Trophies/plaques: $150 each
- T-Shirts: $10 each
- Polo shirts: $20 each
- Button-down shirts: $25 each
- Prizes: Will not exceed more than $250 per event

news@crowsneststpete.com
Things to do with your old copies of The Crow’s Nest

BY RYAN BALLOGG

As you, our dear readers, say farewell to another year of brilliant headlines, face-punching news and tear-inducing stories, we at The Crow’s Nest are left starting at a big pile of leftover newspapers. It got us thinking, what should we do with all these rags? Here’s our list of best ideas for repurposing your favorite student newspaper.

-- Starter for a bonfire – Watch the faces of students melt into a midsummer night’s blaze.
-- Paper hats, airplanes, origami – we are a craft-friendly bunch.
-- If, for some odd reason, you randomly find yourself in Colorado this summer, take your Crow’s Nests with you. There are whole new uses for them out there that we couldn’t legally recommend in Florida. You didn’t hear it from us. Cough, cough. Cough.
-- Tear off medium-sized pieces, wad them up and stuff them in the change return chutes of the campus vending machines. Come back in a week for payday!
-- Frame and hang ‘em in your own personal Crow’s Nest shrine room. Everyone should have one.
-- Take them camping. You know where this is going. Right up your butt.
-- Try to sell them for their weight in gold. Yup, we think that highly of our little publication.
-- Save them in a box in the attic. Then, one day you can be one of those parents when your kids ask you about your wild college days.
-- Leave them out in the yard so your neighborhood crow can use them as liner in an actual crow’s nest.
-- Our news was never recycled; our headlines, sometimes; our jokes, often. We won’t be offended if you recycle our paper.
-- If you’re graduating, offer them to family members as complimentary “economy tissues.” Then use them yourself when you realize you won’t be within walking distance of a Crow’s Nest stand anymore.

-- Decode the secret messages we’ve been printing in the paper all year. Did that just blow your mind or what?

Review: St. Pete Brewing Co.

BY RYAN BALLOGG
STAFF REPORTER

The first thing you may notice when strolling into St. Petersburg Brewing Co. is the whole establishment is very well-polished. All that shine makes a freshly poured brew look all the more appetizing, and maybe even unethically. In fact, you should feel like you’re in Valhalla (that’s Viking heaven, where the drink flows freely and everyone has a beard, for all you non-Vikings).

Located at 544 First Ave. N., St. Pete Brewing has been open just shy of two weeks, and business appears to be bustling.

Before you even get around to drinking, there’s a lot to admire in the brewery’s design. The painted branches of a banyan tree drape around the edges of the entrance, and an impression emblazoned sheet metal sign rests over the door.

Inside, a huge anchor and set of paddles hang on the wall behind the bar, with a shelf full of growlers (refillable glass beer jugs) below. A row of vintage-looking glass light fixtures dangle over the main bar, illuminating the whole scene.

On the back wall, framed bottle cap collages add a clever touch. Along with all of St. Petersburg’s brewerries, the brewing room is visible from the tasting room.

The woodwork for the bar and tabletops was done by Stine Custom Woodworks – the same guys behind the counters at Cycle Brewing and the boards at Local Longboarding Company. The wood is lighter and styled differently here though, creating an entirely different character. One of the support pillars in the room has three wooden black arrows that point in the direction of St. Petersburg’s other brewerries (Cycle, Green Bench and Three Daughters) as well as how far away they are.

The beer choices all looked delicious, and also better suited to craft beer beginners who aren’t sure what they like yet. There was a wide range of beer types, nothing too fancy, all with relatively low alcohol concentrations.

The St. Pete Orange Wheat and the Banyan Blonde Ale would make nice conversion drinks for those of you (dare we say it) who still drink crummy commercial beer. The Orange Wheat is even on draft at the door.

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Our impression: If you were going to take your parents on a crawl of St. Pete’s breweries, this would be the one to start at. If it doesn’t sound like your scene, stop by and get a growler filled, so you can try their brew in the comfort of your own home.

We tried: Pinellas Pale Ale
Recommendation: Liquid gold. Get your hands on some.

Thoughts from the crowd: Grunts of satisfaction from a biker-looking gentlemen next to me. No words needed!

Payment: Cash or credit.
Also on tap:
• St. Pete Orange Wheat
• Milo’s IPA
• Grateful Stout
• Banyan Blonde Ale
• Evacuation Route ESB (added since we were there)
Summer Plans: A Playlist

By Crow’s Nest Staff

The semester is almost over. You’re preparing to slay your finals like a sloth devouring shrubbery -- at around a mile an hour, with lots of slobber. But what will come after? You’d better be prepared.

“Stop” by Against Me!
Emerge into the light after days of typing, cramming and thinking. Contemplate what you want to do with your day/summer/life.

“Rattlesnake” by St. Vincent
Whatever you do, don’t step on one of these this summer -- or stingrays, jellyfish and old, crusty sunbathers who have become one with the sand.

“Trucker’s Atlas” by Modest Mouse
At 10 minutes and 58 seconds, this is a driving song if there ever was one. Get in your car, or astride the camel you’re renting this summer, and take off for uncharted lands. Just don’t fall asleep and hit a deer. Camel-deer collisions aren’t pretty.

“Anchorage” by Surfer Blood
Surfing + blood = Shark attack. Surfer Blood + anything = Groovy, right on, awesome, etcetera. Listen to Surfer Blood while you do something beachy. But only if you’re one of those people who actually likes living in Florida.

“Imaginary Places” by Busdriver
If you’ve got nowhere to go and nobody to go with this summer, that’s depressing. It’s time to get inventive and buy some imaginary real estate (read a book, play marimba, sit in a corner and cry).

“Aberdeen” by Cage the Elephant
Make it your goal to meet somebody with a weird name this summer (cats don’t count). Clovis, Gertrude and Obadiah are waiting for you … somewhere out there …

“Colorado” by Grizzly Bear
If we didn’t get this point across in the Margin, just saying, you might want to visit Colorado this summer before it’s lost in clouds.

“Summer Nights” from “Grease”
Ah, summer love. Summers are meant for arcade games, sweet lemonade and making out under docks.

“School’s Out” by Alice Cooper
“No more pencils, no more books, no more teachers’ dirty looks.”

NOW HIRING FOR THE 2014 -2015 SCHOOL YEAR

MANAGING EDITOR*
• Directs staff, content and coverage
• Proofs design, photography and content
• Must be available weekends, especially Sundays
• Writes content and assists staff and correspondents

SECTION EDITORS AND ASSISTANTS* (3 positions)
• News, Arts and Life, Opinions or Sports
• Develops story ideas for staff and correspondents
• Localizes national and international news
• Edits section stories and works closely with the managing editor and the editor in chief
• Assistants work alongside editors by writing stories and working on projects

PHOTO EDITOR*
• Collaborates with staff to produce photographs for stories each week
• Edits and proofs photographs for placement
• Works with writers to develop photo captions and subject names

COPY EDITOR
• Proofs all content and writes headlines
• Works with managing editor and editor in chief in proofing of content and design
• Weekend availability and knowledge of AP Style is recommended

CREATIVE DIRECTOR*
• Oversees newspaper layout and design
• Works with graphic designer to develop visual content
• Must be available Sundays
• Knowledge of basic design skills and Adobe InDesign is recommended

GRAPHIC DESIGNER*
• Collaborates with the creative director
• Produces graphics and illustration for stories
• Creates advertising content when required

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• Fills news stands with new issues
• Takes delivery from the printer
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• Must be available Monday afternoons and evenings

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• Communicates with creative staff regarding ad content and placement

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• Advertises and promotes the newspaper
• Collaborates with staff on projects to increase readership

*Position includes a small stipend

E-mail resumes and/or clips to: usfcrowsnest@gmail.com

News writers, photographers, cartoonists and opinion writers are always welcome at our weekly meetings. Stop by The Crow’s Nest office (SLC 2400) Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m.
If you’re graduating with a bachelor’s degree in two weeks and plan on returning for grad school next year, there’s a good chance you’ll be contributing to the estimated $127 billion the federal government will make in student loans in the next 10 years, according to Slate’s Jordan Weissmann.

In his research, Weissmann found that the majority of the Department of Education’s profit comes from graduate students, not undergrads. And to him, that’s acceptable. Though we initially disagree, siding with senators like Massachusetts’ Elizabeth Warren, who negates the idea of a profitable student loan program altogether disagree, the rest of Weissmann’s piece at least somewhat validates his opinion.

The estimated profit figure comes from the Congressional Budget Office, and is actually slightly lower than in previous reports. Still, $127 billion seems like a lot of money to make off 20-somethings seeking medical degrees that will likely end up stimulating the economy, making even Harvard—and many other universities—richer.

Graduate students are so profitable because they pay more for their education, which means they pay higher interest rates. They also default less often, according to Weissmann, which makes sense since many are probably older already have at least partially established careers. Weissmann calls grad students “low-risk and high-reward borrowers” for the government.

The most obvious question that arises is, should the government profit from student loans in the first place? But that’s a discussion for another time, and one that would require a lot more research. For now, let’s say yes, because things certainly don’t seem to be changing anytime soon.

As Weissmann writes, “there’s a strong argument that the government has an obligation to keep undergraduate education affordable, because it is quickly becoming a required stepping stone for life in the middle class.”

But does the government have an obligation to keep tuition prices low for graduate school, especially when the outcomes, usually, still outweigh the costs? Eh?

It may not be an ideal situation, but if we can only pick one, we’ll choose to keep undergraduate education as the more affordable. More people are going to benefit from that. And to add a little light, the government does offer loan forgiveness to some government and nonprofit workers, easing the pain of graduate school loans for those looking to do public service work.

Weissmann says the government profiting off graduate students it OK, as long it doesn’t change outrageous interest rates. If they did, he notes, the private sector would likely step in and steal the government’s business, anyway. This concept provides a bit of reassurance.

Another thing to consider is that jobs requiring master’s and doctoral degrees are less common than those requiring just a bachelor’s degree and require more talented professionals. If everyone had the ability to zip through 10 years of school and come out superiorly educated, competition for doctors, lawyers, engineers, etcetera would be crazy. That might sound like we’re saying that only the wealthy should have access to highest of education, but really it just means that those who receive it will be the ones who really want it.

The Tampa Tribune recently reported that USF now ranks second in the state in terms of achievement, falling short only the University of Florida. Per State University System data, our undergraduate tuition rates at USF St. Petersburg are the third cheapest in the state, and our graduate tuition rates are cheaper than half of other state schools. In the grand scheme, we don’t have much to complain about.

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Throwback

According to German mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler, the universe was created on April 27, 4777. Kepler is known as a founder of modern science and is best known for his theories on planetary motion.

In 1609, he published the first two of his three laws explaining that the planets revolved around the sun in ellipses rather than circles. Secondly, he explained that the planets sped up as they neared the sun and slowed down as they orbited away. Though Kepler’s research was slow to gain popularity during his lifetime, it was a major influence for famous mathematician Sir Isaac Newton.
Collateral damage in summer blockbusters

By Matt Thomas
Staff Columnist


When a movie does something new and is successful, audiences are plagued with imitators during the following years. Pulp Fiction gave us the down-to-earth hitmen who had casual conversations before and after killing people. The Matrix gave us the overuse of bullet time and characters walking around in black leather and shades. Avatar is the reason is why almost all action films to be dark and gritty, and a character smiling and patting each other on the back, congrats, you stopped the offensive thing is, the characters are off to their next adventure. It’s not good enough for Khan to just be an intimidating bad guy. He definitely went down in the middle of nowhere. But in this world, where audiences want their films to be dark and gritty, and a last minute heroic save is too campy, you either have follow through on the consequences of that darker world or not go there at all. This is a very uncomfortable middle ground to be in.

The characters of Pacific Rim especially fought to keep the giant monsters out of cities. When one eventually made it to the city, the civilians were given a decent amount of time to make it to a shelter. There’s no guarantee everyone was safe, but at least the filmmakers kept them in mind. I think this is all something we should keep in mind as the summer movie season approaches.

I’ll admit, fights in the middle of a city look cooler than fights in the middle of nowhere. But in this world, where audiences want their films to be dark and gritty, and a last minute heroic save is too campy, you either have follow through on the consequences of that darker world or not go there at all. This is a very uncomfortable middle ground to be in.

Surprisingly, the upcoming Godzilla film doesn’t bother me in this regard. He’s supposed to destroy everything. That’s his thing. It’s weird we’re excited to see it, but I’m not going to hold it against him.

Matt is a senior majoring in mass communications and entertainment critic. He can be reached at mattew17@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @mitchmms

How to engage as a commuter

By Kelly Mora-Romero
Guest Columnist

USF St. Petersburg is “a jewel by the bay.” We are lucky to have a campus with accredited programs, eye-worthy infrastructure and relaxed waterfront views. Students living on campus, either in Residence Hall One or the University Student Center, are able to enjoy these perks on a daily basis. Commuter students might not have a wholesome experience compared to students living on campus. This is, of course, if nothing is done about the matter.

I’m a commuter student who experienced detachment with USFSP for my first semester of freshman year. I only came to campus for my classes, and I didn’t know anyone. I knew I had to change things if I wanted to get the “college experience” and enjoy my time here.

Getting that experience is difficult if you commute, or if you have other obligations like a full time job. However, it is not impossible.

How can you enjoy USFSP and the college experience overall? Get involved.

USFSP has dozens of organizations such as the Harborside Activities Board, The Crow’s Nest, Student Environmental Awareness Club, the American Marketing Association, Psi Chi, Delta Sigma Pi, Her Campus and Marine Adventures Club (find a complete list at Orgsync.com). The question comes down to what organization to join, especially if you are limited because of other obligations. Join organizations that relate to your major, organizations that will allow you to grow as a person.

If you are a business major, your options include Delta Sigma Pi, the American Marketing Association, Entrepreneurship Club. Are you a writer? No problem! The Crow’s Nest, Her Campus and the Writer’s Club are a few choices.

You will make time if it is really important to you. It might be best to devote your time to one organization rather than to multiple ones wherever you may be absent.

Remember you will get back as much as you put in. Being involved in college will allow you to grow as an individual. It is also a resume builder, and a great networking opportunity.

It is never too late to make a change on campus. And it is never too late to make a change for yourself.

Kelly is a junior majoring in global business with a minor in mass communications. She can be reached at kelkellyiulie@mail.usf.edu.

St. Petersburg’s Breakfast Culture:
The egg of it

By Taylor Austin
Staff Columnist

I’m a two-egg medium style, hash browns with veggies and bottle of hot sauce kind of person. I sometimes get a side of toast or sausage gravy. Growing up in Lake Alfred, a small Florida town with good breakfast food, I brought my family’s tradition of going out to breakfast with me when I moved to St. Petersburg. When I was a kid, it was the usual. I’d see familiar faces at the same diner, and I’d listen to different versions of “the town talk.” When I moved to St. Petersburg in 2011, I kept ordering my usual. However, I never expected to get a side of soul food in a small town diner.

Emerging from behind the counter was a small woman. She was about my age and had a smile on her face. “What can I get for you?” she asked. “I’ll take the usual,” I replied. “Good choice,” she said. “What do you want for coffee?” She handed me a cup of hot chocolate and a side of bacon. “You’re going to love this,” she said.

For the next hour, we talked about the town and its history. She told me about the old diner that used to be there and how it burned down a few years ago. “It was a great place,” she said. “People used to come here for breakfast and stay all day. It was a great way to spend a Saturday.”

Eventually, we parted ways, and I left with a new appreciation for the town and its history. I still go to the same diner, but now I always order something different. It’s a small change, but it makes a big difference.

St. Petersburg’s Breakfast Culture: The egg of it.

By Taylor is a junior majoring in history and photo editor. She can be reached at tayloraustin@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @applemix.
USF Tennis up 2-love
South Florida tennis swept the American Athletic Conference Championships over the weekend. The women’s team beat seeded Houston 4-2 to capture the title. The men’s team beat Memphis 4-3 to complete the sweep.

USA! USA! USA! USA!

Rowdies
Upcoming Schedule
April 22
Rays vs. Minnesota, 7:10
April 23
Rays vs. Minnesota, 7:10
April 24
Rays vs. Minnesota, 1:10
April 25
Rays at Chi. White Sox, 8:10
April 26
Rays at Chi. White Sox, 7:10
April 27
Rays at Chi. White Sox, 2:10
April 28
Rays at Chi. White Sox, 8:10
April 29
Rays at Boston, 7:10
April 30
Rays at Boston, 7:10
May 1
Rays at Boston, 7:10
May 2
Rays at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05
April 28
Rays at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05
April 28
Rays at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05

Rowdies offer the best fan experience of any pro sports team in the area. Given the attendance numbers at Rays’ games, a solid case can be made that many people don’t know there is a Major League Baseball team in the area. But obviously, they do because television numbers for the Rays are great. So this summer, get off the couch and go down to the “old” ballpark for a game. Take in a game at the Trop because the sight lines are great and tickets are cheap, or go for no other reason than to end the talk about how people don’t attend games.

Summer is almost here. For some in the USF St. Petersburg community that means a lot of free time. While summer can be an excruciating experience with the heat and humidity, there are a lot of sports-related things to do to make summer a little less awful.

Some things to do when it’s not too hot
By MIKE HOPEY
STAFF COLUMNIST

By ANDREW CAPLAN
CROW’S NEXT CORRESPONDENT

Junior Shelby Bourgeois knows all too well the pressures of attending school full time and working. She has been plugging away at her classes at USF St. Petersburg while interning and working multiple jobs.

As if her plate was not already full enough, the 21-year-old mass communications major has been training as an Olympic-style tae kwon do competitor since she was 4 years old.

As a young girl, Bourgeois decided to quit dance and took interest in the sport after seeing her older brother train and compete.

She is now a fourth dan black belt. Dan is a Japanese ranking system used to measure expertise. Bourgeois said tae kwon do has taught her the value of hard work.

She recently finished second place in the 2013 National Taekwondo Championship for the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), and second place in Puerto Rico’s annual international championship called Los Gallitos, which is Spanish for “the tough guys.”

Throughout her career, Bourgeois said she has faced a good amount of adversity.

During her sophomore year in high school, Bourgeois was close to quitting the sport and walking away for good. While rehabbing a partially torn hamstring, Bourgeois entered a local competition and lost not only the fight, but also the respect of her former coach.

“It was embarrassing,” Bourgeois said. “I knew I could do better because I’ve beaten the girl before. My coach wouldn’t even shake my hand. It was so humiliating.”

Shortly after the fight, Bourgeois started training with a new coach, Dennis White of U.S. Best in Largo.

Bourgeois credits White for reinvigorating her competitive nature, and said the coaching change was a huge improvement.

However, after recently tearing two ligaments in one of her legs in a shadow sparring exercise, Bourgeois will be unable to return to the 2014 nationals with her coach.

The significance of her injury could keep her out of competition well past the 2015 qualifying dates as well, but she hopes to return to the sport once her leg heals.

“Any break from training has given Bourgeois time to think about life after tae kwon do fighting.

“I don’t want to be the older one fighting yet. And whichever path I go down, I’m going to be the best at it,” Bourgeois said. “Or I could work with a coach I know and shape their image and marketing or public relations.

“I could work with a coach I know and shape their image and present them to the world,” she said. “Or I could work with an organization, like AAU (Amateur Athletic Union), and work on promoting it. That’d be so cool.”

But Bourgeois is not finished fighting yet. And whichever path she chooses, she has a bright future ahead.

USF Sailing
SAISA Women’s Championship
Hosted by UNC Wilmington
Regatta featured two divisions

1. Charleston 21
2. Eckerd 24
3. South Florida 30
4. UNC Wilmington 53
5. New College 60
6. Jacksonville 72
7. N.C. State 76

Rays
Upcoming Schedule
April 22
Rays vs. Minnesota, 7:10
April 23
Rays vs. Minnesota, 7:10
April 24
Rays vs. Minnesota, 1:10
April 25
Rays at Chi. White Sox, 8:10
April 26
Rays at Chi. White Sox, 7:10
April 27
Rays at Chi. White Sox, 2:10
April 28
Rays at Chi. White Sox, 8:10
April 29
Rays at Boston, 7:10
April 30
Rays at Boston, 7:10
May 1
Rays at Boston, 7:10
May 2
Rays at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05
April 28
Rays at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05
April 28
Rays at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05

All games broadcast on SunSports.

Rowdies
Spring Schedule
April 26
Rowdies vs. Atlanta, 7:30
May 3
Rowdies at San Antonio, 8:30
May 10
Rowdies at Ottawa, 7
May 17
Rowdies vs. New York, 7:30
May 31
Rowdies at Carolina, 7:30
June 7
Rowdies vs. Minnesota, 7:30

Thank you, readers
Allow me, Mike the Sports Editor, to say thank you to the readers. Over the last two years as the sports editor, many of you have had kind words to say about this section. I’m proud to have served you and to have helped build this section. Good luck to the next guy or gal.

By MIKE HOPEY
STAFF COLUMNIST

Winter is almost here. For some in the USF St. Petersburg community that means a lot of free time. While summer can be an excruciating experience with the heat and humidity, there are a lot of sports-related things to do to make summer a little less awful.

Baseball: Given the attendance numbers at Rays’ games, a solid case can be made that many people don’t know there is a Major League Baseball team in the area. But obviously, they do because television numbers for the Rays are great. So this summer, get off the couch and go down to the “old” ballpark for a game. Take in a game at the Trop because the sight lines are great and tickets are cheap, or go for no other reason than to end the talk about how people don’t attend games.

Given the attendance numbers at Rays’ games, a solid case can be made that many people don’t know there is a Major League Baseball team in the area. But obviously, they do because television numbers for the Rays are great. So this summer, get off the couch and go down to the “old” ballpark for a game. Take in a game at the Trop because the sight lines are great and tickets are cheap, or go for no other reason than to end the talk about how people don’t attend games.

If downtown St. Petersburg is too far to travel for a baseball fix, then the Tampa Bay region offers a lot of other baseball options. Tampa, Clearwater and Dunedin all host Single-A affiliates for Major League Baseball teams. Tickets are cheap. Plus, given how rainy this area is during the summer, there’s a good chance that you’ll have to make many return trips to the parks to finally see a game before it gets rained out.

Last year, I went to see the Clearwater Threshers three times and only saw one game.

Soccer: Outside of the Tampa Bay Lightning, the Tampa Bay Rowdies offer the best fan experience of any pro sports team in the area. Take in a game before this summer’s World Cup to get a better understanding of the sport so you can fake enthusiasm when the World Cup starts in June.

Football: The Tampa Bay Storm also offer a fun experience. The on-field action is exciting, and the scoring is high. The games are also inside.

Go as far as you want, but don’t forget to take advantage of the sports-related things to do when it’s not too hot.